

Weekly Press Review

May 28-June 3, 2011

The views expressed in this review are those of the named media and not necessarily representative of the Delegation of the European Union to Zimbabwe.

Politics/International Relations

War in Zuma's backyard

[NewsDay, May 30, 2011](#)

The three political parties in the inclusive Government have intensified lobbying of SADC countries ahead of the Summit scheduled for June 11 in Johannesburg, South Africa. Welshman Ncube of MDC-N said he believed the Summit would endorse the roadmap as well as the Livingstone resolution to appoint a committee to work with JOMIC to ensure the implementation of the GPA.

I'll miss Zim: Outgoing UK envoy

[The Herald, June 2, 2011](#)

OUTGOING British ambassador to Zimbabwe Mr Mark Canning yesterday bade farewell to Vice President John Landa Nkomo at his Munhumutapa Offices in Harare after finishing his tour of duty.

Briefing journalists after meeting VP Nkomo, Mr Canning, whose Government imposed illegal sanctions on Zimbabwe, said he would miss Zimbabwe.

In a shocking shift from the usual Western rhetoric, Mr Canning praised Zimbabweans as good people adding that the inclusive Government formed by Zanu-PF and the two MDC formations was the best opportunity to move Zimbabwe forward.

Mr Canning claimed that his Government had assisted Zimbabwe in many ways since he was posted to Harare. This is despite the fact that the European Union and United States sanctions block any development or economic aid to Zimbabwe.

The purported assistance has been directed through Western controlled non-governmental organisations since the imposition of illegal sanctions.

On the sanctions, Mr Canning said they were reviewing the embargo adding that early this year the European Union removed some names of people on the sanctions list.

However, most of the people who were removed from the sanctions list have died while others are spouses of senior Government officials while the economic embargo which blocks development or economic aid remain in force.

China exploiting Africa-Germany

- **Zimbabwe mortgages diamonds worth \$100 million to China in exchange for military help**

[DailyNews, June 3, 2011](#)

The outgoing German Ambassador to Zimbabwe, Albrecht Conze, says China's dealings with African countries such as Zimbabwe are unbalanced and exploitative, adding that he was concerned that Zimbabwe's trade agreements with China did not seek to give Zimbabwe real value for its resources.

Conze said Germany offered positive engagement that would benefit Zimbabwe, for example, a bank from his country had come up with a proposal to fund infrastructural development in Zimbabwe at a cost of US\$700 million over 10 years as long as there was guarantee that German buyers would not be excluded from Zimbabwe's mineral market.

West's double standards

[The Herald, June 3, 2011](#)

THE West has tipped its hand about its vested interest in the country's internal politics with envoys representing two of the Western hemisphere's biggest economies proclaiming interest in the forthcoming extraordinary SADC summit to be held in Johannesburg, South Africa next week.

Speaking at different forums, US Ambassador to Zimbabwe Charles Ray and his Germany counterpart Albrecht Conze - whose countries have been at the forefront of the regime change agenda - professed respect for Zimbabwe's internal politics and support for SADC-led mediation efforts. They said Zimbabweans deserve a chance to determine their own destiny, even as

they expressed support for the illegal economic sanctions that are a blatant form of economic intrusion.

Mr Conze, on the other hand exposed the meddling hand of the West in Zimbabwe's internal affairs when he said he was interested in the outcome of the forthcoming SADC Summit to be held in Zimbabwe adding he had been engaging South African president Jacob Zuma on the issue.

Political Violence/Elections

Chaos in Harare

[DailyNews, May 30, 2011](#)

- **Policeman dies in Glen View violence**
- **MDC denies its activists were involved**

Political violence claimed one policeman in Glen View at the weekend. Police claimed that the policeman was stoned and beaten up by MDC youths and died on admission to Harare Central Hospital. Police spokesman, Supt Andrew Phiri, said MDC youths were dispersed in Glen View 4 and re-grouped in Glen View 3 where the violence occurred. Meanwhile, the MDC claims that some of its supporters were displaced by Zanu PF vigilantes over the weekend and they are now homeless.

Don't politicise cop murder-JOMIC

[NewsDay, June 2, 2011](#)

The Joint Monitoring and Implementing Committee (JOMIC) says it condemns in the strongest terms the attack on two policemen in Glen View 3, Harare, which led to the death of Inspector Petros Mutedza. JOMIC also expressed concern over the "gratuitous apportionment of blame" for the crime by the media saying this would politicise and trivialise violence against the police. The committee also urged the police to carry out thorough investigations.

MDC under attack

[DailyNews, May 31, 2011](#)

Police yesterday launched a massive crackdown on the MDC in Glen View and arrested dozens of the party's officials and supporters suspected to be involved in the violence that resulted in the death of a policeman at the weekend.

The MDC accuse the police of trying to portray them as a violent party, adding that the arrests were designed to beef up Zanu PF's propaganda ahead of the SADC Summit to be held in South Africa in two weeks time.

MDC-T grandstanding ahead of summit: Zanu PF

[The Herald, June 2, 2011](#)

THE recent murder of a police inspector in Glen View in Harare this week by suspected MDC-T hooligans is part of the party's grand plans to create scenes of violence ahead of major summits, Zanu-PF has said.

An extraordinary session of SADC will convene on the sidelines of the Second SADC-Comesa-EAC Summit in South Africa from the 11th to the 12th of this month.

The death of Inspector Petros Mutedza was followed by the arrest of over 17 MDC-T supporters and among them, 10 were fingered as suspects in the murder.

The other seven were interrogated and released.

Zimbabwe will be discussed on the sidelines of the summit after the issue was deferred at the extraordinary summit in Windhoek, Namibia, last month.

Cops on political meetings to be heavily armed

[The Herald, June 2, 2011](#)

POLICE deployed at political meetings and rallies will now be heavily armed to defend themselves from attacks as 17 suspects have been picked in connection with the murder of an inspector.

Co-Minister of Home Affairs Kembo Mohadi yesterday said the decision was taken after Inspector Petros Mutedza was killed in Glen View by suspected MDC-T supporters on Sunday. Insp Mutedza (42) died after being attacked by suspected MDC-T supporters while his colleague sustained injuries. The pair had gone to investigate an illegal meeting MDC-T youths were holding at Glen View 3 Shopping Centre.

Minister Mohadi said police had been approaching groups of people, especially those holding illegal political meetings, unarmed.

The minister warned the perpetrators of Sunday's attack who were still at large not to waste

the force's time but to surrender themselves. He said they would hunt them down and bring them to book.

Residents charged with murder

[DailyNews, June 3, 2011](#)

Lawyers say police have charged 24 Glen View residents with murder following the stoning to death of a police officer at a bar in the suburb last weekend. Police Commissioner General Augustine Chihuri has vowed to punish the offenders. The residents were only allowed access to their lawyers yesterday before being charged. The lawyers said some of the residents had been assaulted while in police custody as police sought to induce confession.

President slams Biti

[The Herald, June 3, 2011](#)

President Mugabe says elections should be held this year or early next year to terminate the inclusive Government because some in the administration are frustrating people-centred programmes and even trying to usurp presidential powers. Mugabe singled out Finance Minister Tendai Biti, saying he is working hard to frustrate programmes aimed at empowering people, such as the agricultural sector.

GPA meant to facilitate free, fair elections

[The Herald, June 3, 2011](#)

Deputy Prime Minister Arthur Mutambara has told the House of Assembly that the Global Political Agreement (GPA) was established to facilitate free and fair elections and should not go beyond 2013. The DPM, however, said the GPA was not properly drafted as it gave an impression that its lifespan was only two years

Zanu PF hit men jailed for 15 years

[NewsDay, May 31, 2011](#)

Five Zanu PF supporters who killed an MDC-T activist at the height of the 2002 presidential polls were jailed for a combined 15 years after they were convicted of culpable homicide yesterday after the court established that they assaulted Charles Sibanda, an MDC supporter, during the 2002 presidential elections.

The incident occurred on March 1, 2002 in Zhombe, Midlands province.

In passing sentence, Gweru regional magistrate Joseph Mabeza said the five had taken the law into their own hands and infringed against the deceased's constitutional rights.

Arson victims still at MDC-T provincial offices

[NewsDay, May 31, 2011](#)

Seven families in Cashel Valley whose homes were torched by suspected Zanu PF supporters are staying at the MDC-T provincial offices, a month after the arson attacks.

Pishayi Muchauraya, the MDC-T Manicaland provincial spokesperson, yesterday said housing political victims had become a burden for the party's provincial offices arguing they were too small to accommodate the victims.

He accused the Joint Monitoring and Implementation Committee (JOMIC) of failing to take action on cases of political violence.

Muchauraya said the police were also to blame because they were not arresting perpetrators of violence even where suspects were known.

Nyikayaramba throws Zanu PF into crisis

[The Standard, May 29-June 4, 2011](#)

Senior Zanu PF party officials have distanced themselves from statements by army commander Brigadier Douglas Nyikayaramba that President Mugabe should stay in power for life. The MDC-T has reacted to Nyikayaramba's utterances by saying it was an admission that the military had taken over running the country, adding that security sector reforms are critical before the holding of any election in the country.

Electoral reforms welcome but...

[The Standard, May 29-June 4, 2011](#)

Analysts have said the electoral reforms approved by Cabinet last week still fall far short of the minimum conditions for a free and fair poll. The reforms would speed up the release of results and bar police from polling stations. Analysts say some good electoral laws have been developed and promulgated in the past but lack of political will has rendered these laws ineffective.

Polls must reflect people's will-EU

[DailyNews, June 2, 2011](#)

The European Union (EU) Ambassador to Zimbabwe Aldo Dell'Araccia says regional leaders must insist on Zimbabwe meeting the basic SADC principles governing the holding of democratic elections to avoid a repeat of the 2008 election bloodshed. Dell'Araccia said implementation of the SADC principles would ensure that the polls are respectable and reflect the will of the people. Ambassador Dell'Araccia said EU-Zimbabwe relations would normalise only after the restoration of the human rights and rule of law and when Zanu PF desists from using sanctions as an electioneering tool.

"SADC can ensure free, fair polls"

[DailyNews, June 1, 2011](#)

Former SADC Secretary General Prega Ramsay says the regional bloc has the capacity to ensure that Zimbabwe holds a free and fair after recent events in North Africa. He added that in the past SADC member states were under the control of liberation war parties who acted in solidarity but the current crop of leaders does not seem to believe in solidarity at any cost. Ramsay said SADC would want to maintain stability and peace in the region.

Jabulani Sibanda flees

- **War veterans chase him out of Masvingo**

[DailyNews, June 1, 2011](#)

War veterans' leader, Jabulani Sibanda, has been forced out of Masvingo where villagers, churches, rights groups and MDC-T have accused him of violence against suspected supporters or sympathizers of the party. He had been in Masvingo since last year. War veterans' leaders said Sibanda was de-campaigning the party.

Human Rights Issues

ZimRights officials released

[DailyNews, May 28, 2011](#)

Florence Ndlovu, a ZimRights official arrested on Monday for addressing a public meeting on torture in Nyamandlovu, has been freed. Ndlovu was arrested and detained with another ZimRights officer, Walter Dube, who was released on Thursday without charge. Ndlovu is being charged with contravening Section 31 of the Criminal Law (Codification and Reform) Act.

Gwisai treason charges dropped

[DailyNews, May 30, 2011](#)

The state has dropped treason charges against Munyaradzi Gwisai and six other activists accused of plotting to oust the Government through revolts similar to those in Tunisia and Egypt. They will now stand trial for subverting a constitutionally-elected Government and face 20 years in jail instead of the death sentence for treason.

Arrested activists tortured

[DailyNews, June 2, 2011](#)

The MDC-T has claimed that Last Maengahama, one of their activists who were arrested over the murder of Inspector Petros Mutedza in Glen View has been tortured and says all those arrested have been denied access to food and lawyers. The party has denied involvement in Mutedza's death and condemned the random arrests, which it says show that Zanu PF is manipulating the incident for political reasons.

Economic Issues

Pressure mounts on KP over Zim diamonds

[NewsDay, May 28, 2011](#)

The World Federation of Diamond Bourses (WFDB) has called on members of the Kimberley Process (KP) to urgently allow Zimbabwe sell its rough diamonds. A statement released by WFDB president Avi Paz yesterday, urged members to take the "essential and courageous decision" to allow Zimbabwe to export rough diamonds from all

diamond mining areas in the country, including Chiadzwa. Zimbabwe had been barred from selling its diamonds from Marange openly because of alleged human rights violations.

Chinese loot Zim

[DailyNews, June 2, 2011](#)

Zimbabwe has signed a deal which will see the country selling diamonds from Chiadzwa worth US\$100 million to the Chinese who will provide US\$98 million loan to complete the construction of the defence college. While some MDC-T parliamentarians had criticised the deal, which will benefit the army, which has been accused of human rights violations, both the House of Assembly and the Senate approved the deal on Tuesday.

Land and Resettlement

Apostolic members threaten farm workers with eviction

[DailyNews, June 3, 2011](#)

Apostolic faith sect members, who invaded Spillemeer Farm, one of the country's biggest dairy farms, are threatening to evict farm workers who are refusing to work for them. The farm workers say they do not want to work as they fear they will not be paid. Farm owner Francis Kotze confirmed that the farm workers are refusing to work for the sect members.

Media Issues

Daily News reporter roughed up

[DailyNews, May 28, 2011](#)

A Daily News reporter assigned to cover a police pass out parade at Morris Depot in Harare was chased away by security officials who said the newspaper was out to tarnish the image of the President. The security officials took down the reporter's personal details, including his national identity number.

Principals agree on crucial reforms

[NewsDay, June 2, 2011](#)

The inclusive Government has agreed to dissolve the ZBH Board and appoint a new one comprising 12 members seconded by the three political parties. MDC-T and Zanu PF will nominate five each while MDC will nominate two members. The new board is expected to change the coverage of political issues on ZBC, which has been accused of being biased in favour of Zanu PF. The Mass Media Trust will also be re-constituted with MDC-T and Zanu PF nominating three members while MDC will nominate one.