

Weekly Press Review

June 18-24, 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

Workers fired over sanctions

[The Herald, June 20, 2011](#)

Four workers with Massmart Wholesalers in Msasa, Harare, were fired by their employer for taking a day off to attend the National Anti-Sanctions Petition campaign launch by President Robert Mugabe on March 12. They had been refused permission to attend the launch. MDC formations and their Western sponsors have refused to take part in the campaign insisting that the sanctions were targeted.

Scramble for British regime change funds

[The Sunday Mail, June 19-25, 2011](#)

The British Government has released £3 million to fund the so-called independent media in the country for it to team up with civil society organisations to mount an unprecedented propaganda war against President Mugabe, Zanu PF and some state institutions. This revelation comes after what the British Government and its US and EU allies believe are encouraging examples of media and civil society-driven so-called spring revolutions in North Africa where Twitter and Face book supported by global media are said to have ruled the roost. Some of the media and civil society elements participating in the British programme were visible in Sandton, South Africa, last week before, during and after the Extraordinary SADC Summit on Zimbabwe.

Plot to arrest Tsvangirai

- **AG Tomana speaks**

[NewsDay, June 22, 2011](#)

The Attorney General, Johannes Tomana says anyone riled by comments allegedly made by PM Morgan Tsvangirai and Jameson Timba, which are said to have undermined the President, should report the case to the police before involving the AG's office.

This comes as Zanu PF Politburo member, Jonathan Moyo, is agitating for the arrest of Tsvangirai and Timba for allegedly violating Section 33 of the Criminal Code, which prohibits the undermining of the authority of the President or insulting the Head of State and Government after the two called Mugabe a liar.

Tsvangirai reportedly told his supporters in Gweru over the weekend that Mugabe was too old to lie in the manner he did about the outcome of the SADC Summit.

Chihuri challenges ZRP to safeguard Zim

[The Herald, June 24, 2011](#)

Police Commissioner General Augustine Chihuri has challenged members of the force to discharge their constitutional mandate to safeguard the country against puppets seeking to reverse the gains of the liberation struggle.

He said the force was for the law, the country and the people.

Commissioner-Gen Chihuri said it was pleasing to note that since its inception in 1980, the force continued to include the subject of human rights in its training curriculum, saying this substantiated the force's unfaltering commitment to uphold the citizens' rights and fundamental freedom as enshrined in the supreme law of Zimbabwe. He criticised the private media for highlighting alleged human rights abuses by police and yet they are silent when police officers are brutally murdered.

Political Violence/Elections

Voters' roll clean: Registrar-General

[The Saturday Herald, June 18, 2011](#)

Registrar-General Mr Tobaiwa Mudede says the voters' roll is clean and his office was ready to accept anyone wishing to inspect it. He said the roll was updated regularly and claims it was not credible were unfounded, adding that Zimbabwe remained one of the few countries with the best system with nominal percentage error margins.

Hate speech lands Chinamasa in trouble

[The Standard, June 19-25, 2011](#)

Justice Minister Patrick Chinamasa was yesterday confronted by parliamentarians who accused him of inciting political violence after he told villagers that those opposed to Zanu PF's controversial land reforms were enemies.

Chinamasa made the remarks while addressing a Joint Monitoring and Implementing Committee (JOMIC) meeting at Nhedziwa business centre meant to find solutions to the political violence that has occurred in the area recently. 44 MDC-T activists have fled their homes; 12 are at the party's provincial offices and 32 are staying with friends and relatives.

Zanu PF revives torture bases

[DailyNews, June 21, 2011](#)

Zimbabwe Election Support Network (ZESN), an independent election watchdog, says Zanu PF is resuscitating camps that have been previously used to torture political opponents as the party's rally for early elections gathers momentum.

ZESN says the situation is very tense in Mashonaland Central and East provinces. Another organisation, Zimbabwe Peace Project (ZPP), has reported an increase in hostile political activity this year in Chimanimani, Nyanga, Chipinge, and Masvingo.

Human Rights Issues

"Tortured women denied examination"

[DailyNews, June 18, 2011](#)

Lawyers representing women who are part of Glen View residents who were arrested in connection with the murder of a police officer last month say their clients were denied medical examination although they said they were tortured by the police while in police custody. On June 3 magistrate Shane Kubonera ordered that the women be examined by a doctor.

Economic Issues

No more side talks on Marange diamonds: Mpofu

[The Herald, June 21, 2011](#)

Minister of Mines and Mining Development, Obert Mpofu says Zimbabwe will not have any further side talks with the United States or any other Western country regarding Marange diamonds because it has met the minimum Kimberly Process Certification Scheme requirements and must be allowed to export the gems without monitoring.

Mpofu added that Zimbabwe is not being treated fairly.

Zim should sell its gems: Outgoing Canadian Envoy

[The Herald, June 21, 2011](#)

Outgoing Canadian Ambassador Barbara Richardson has expressed hope that Zimbabwe would be allowed to sell its diamonds on the open market when the Kimberly Process meet in the Democratic Republic of Congo this week.

Speaking after meeting Acting President John Nkomo at his Munhumutapa offices in Harare yesterday, Ambassador Richardson said it was "extremely" important for Zimbabwe to sell its gems, as this would have a positive impact on the economy.

The international diamond watchdog is meeting for its 2011 plenary in Kinshasa and the ban on Zimbabwe diamonds sale is expected to dominate the agenda.

KPCS member countries agreed at the last plenary in Jerusalem that Zimbabwe should be allowed to export its diamonds as it has met its minimum requirements, with the exception of United States, Britain and Canada.

Diamond sale conditions off

The Herald, June 24, 2011

THE Kimberly Process Certification Scheme has finally granted Mbada and Marange Resources the nod to unconditionally sell their diamonds after they fully complied with its requirements. Other diamond firms at Chiadzwa, however, would have to sell their gems with the supervision of KP monitors.

Mines and Mining Development Minister Obert Mpofu said this last night from the Democratic Republic of Congo where he was attending the KP intercession meeting, which ended yesterday.

The development is a kick in the face for the United States and other Western countries that sought to have the sale of Zimbabwe's diamonds banned on the pretext that they were "bloody" diamonds.

IMF says no to gvt pay increase

NewsDay, June 24, 2011

The International Monetary Fund (IMF) says the Zimbabwean Government cannot afford to award civil servants salary increments as this would have serious implications on the economy and it would even fail to pay the increased salaries. This comes at a time when civil servants are agitating for a pay rise.