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15<sup>th</sup> September 2023

**Contents of “Zimbabwe Fails the Electorate” Petition**



**Other protests on 15<sup>th</sup> September 2023; Bulawayo, South Africa and Harare**

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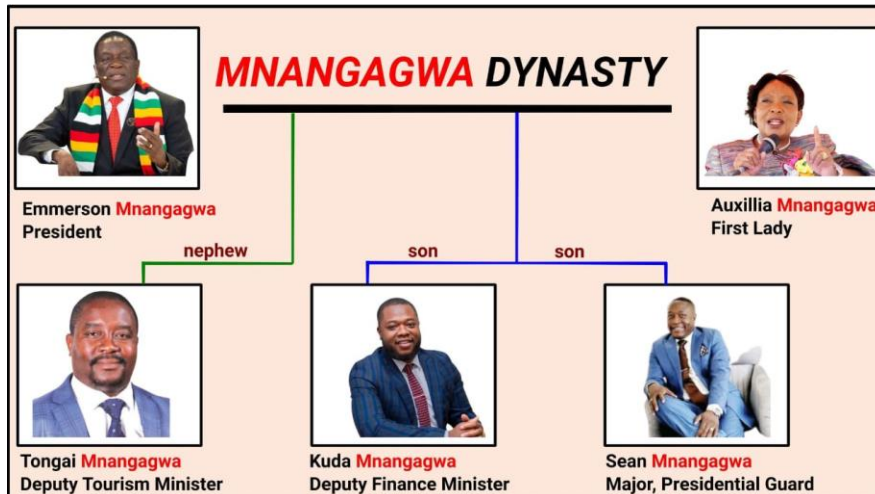


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## Something Rotten in the Republic of Zimbabwe!

1. The shambolic, corrupt and heavily biased election “process” from Delimitation/Registration manipulations, the dis-organised election 23-24<sup>th</sup> August, the Alterations of V11’s and the post-election violence against CCC members – Zimbabwe has had **NO CREDIBLE ELECTION**
2. The rushed announcement by ZEC to proclaim Mnangagwa as the Presidential victor {now removed} reeks of ill-advised panic by Mnangagwa.
3. The ambivalence of the Military and their declarations to “The president” {as opposed to the Constitution} all smack of corruption at the faux ‘inauguration’.
4. Zanu PF are a regional “Destabilisation Organisation” - using looted funds to maintain injustice, corruption and violence! Further *rumour* has Zanu PF trying to ‘engineer’ a coup on Zambia using the previous President.



5. Details of all Observer Missions accessible in **APPENDICES<sup>1</sup>**
6. Arbitrary and frequent arrests of CCC MP’s and activists to manipulate potential voting.
7. No progress on a **DIASPORA VOTE** – disenfranchising several millions of Zimbabweans globally.
8. Further *rumour* has Zanu PF actively supporting ANC in SA to support their corruption of democracy.
9. Job Sikhala is still being held in detention {15 months and counting}
10. Remember the #GoldMafia<sup>2</sup> Criminal Syndicate in Zimbabwe, has not been fully investigated.
11. ***We therefore plead with the UK/FCDO to join with SADC/AU/US/EU/Commonwealth, Carter Centre and others, to sponsor a new, INDEPENDENTLY administered, Free and Fair Election in Zimbabwe to accurately reflect the Will of the voting ELECTORATE.***

<sup>1</sup> Full details at <https://zexit.org/zexit/zimbabwe-fails-the-electorate>

<sup>2</sup> Al Jazeera 4 part Investigation: <https://zexit.org/zexit/gold-mafia-all-4-episodes>



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## Synopsis

### Lead Up to the Election

<https://data.zimpeaceproject.com/en/entity/azgmmr9jjig>

**29<sup>th</sup> August 2023: Zimbabwe Peace Project;** In their July 2023 Review leading up to the Election reported “In the month before the elections ZPP recorded 301 human rights violations, a large increase from 206 in June 2023. The recorded violations demonstrate that citizens are not able to access an environment that is free to exercise their constitutionally guaranteed freedoms in independent Zimbabwe.”

“During the 2023 pre-electoral period ZPP has observed an alarming trend of attacks and intimidation against CCC activists in their localities. Attacks on aspiring candidates have been documented by ZPP, primarily against aspiring local authority and national assembly candidates.”

### Please NOTE:

All International Observer Mission reports **23-31<sup>st</sup> August 2013** can be viewed and downloaded at the following link {<https://zexit.org/zexit/zimbabwe-fails-the-electorate> } and further details found in the Appendix Number 2 at the end of this petition.

### Post-Election Environment

<https://x.com/CCCZimbabwe/status/1702318506006704432?s=20>

**14<sup>th</sup> September 2023: CCC Citizens' Coalition for Change @CCCZimbabwe** “Just this week, the regime has arrested **over 10 of our members**, including our two Members of Parliament, @MaureenKade & @Cde\_Ostallos.

<https://x.com/NewsDayZimbabwe/status/1701853370439323915?s=20>

**13<sup>th</sup> September 2023 Newsday Zimbabwe:** “A ZAMBIAN minister has revealed that his country will soon approach the @SADC\_News, @\_AfricanUnion and @UN over allegations that Zimbabwe’s ruling @ZANUPF\_Official party is working with Zambia’s opposition to kill President @HHichilema”

<https://www.theguardian.com/world/2023/sep/12/zimbabwe-president-emmerson-mnangagwa-accused-of-nepotism-after-appointing-son-and-nephew>

**12<sup>th</sup> September 2023: Guardian UK:** Zimbabwe’s president accused of nepotism after appointing son{s, wife} and nephew!

<https://twitter.com/BitiTendai/status/1700880486011228281?s=20>

**10<sup>th</sup> September 2023:** The Honourable **Tendai Biti**

“Once again Zimbabwe finds itself facing a fork. We make a choice between stagnation, toxicity, reversal, exclusion versus freedom, tolerance, growth & inclusivity. Many choose the Zim we want. A new consensus of respect, justice, transparency, accountability equality, tolerance & prosperity”



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## HANSARD 5<sup>th</sup> September House of Lords Debate:

<https://hansard.parliament.uk/Lords/2023-09-05/debates/8047047D-6111-4812-8EC0-8CAEA792244D/ZimbabweElection>

*Baroness Hoey:* “The saddest thing is that, as the election observers left, the familiar pattern of widespread arrests, abductions and torture of grass-roots supporters of the opposition is taking place as we speak all over the country. There were even lawyers arrested last night in a hospital where they were representing tortured victims—the same kind of retribution that Mugabe did after 2008. Does the noble Lord agree that now is the time for full support by His Majesty’s Government for SADC’s efforts to resolve the crisis, and in particular for our newly arrived ambassador to re-evaluate all facets of our relationship with a Zimbabwean Government who flout their own laws through acts of violence and torture, and to give some hope even in the darkest days to the perseverance and courage of the Zimbabwean people?”

*Lord Oates:* “My Lords, in light of the developments in Zimbabwe—the widespread violence and intimidation of voters in the rural areas, the abduction and torture of many opposition activists and the continued detention of opposition Members of Parliament—**will the UK Government be rather less equivocal and make absolutely clear that they do not regard these elections as free and fair and that the Government of Zimbabwe have no legitimacy?** Will they make clear that, as long as this is the case, it will not be readmitted to the Commonwealth, as far as Britain is concerned, and that we will work with SADC colleagues to try to find resolutions to the problem?”

Steve Hanke on Twitter: Zimbabwe’s Economic Mismanagement  
@steve\_hanke

Sep 4, 2023: #ZIMWatch: Today, I measure inflation in #Zimbabwe at a punishing 640.47%/yr. Thanks to its roaring inflation, ZIM ranks as **the most miserable country in the world on the Hanke 2022 Misery Index.**

FT 4<sup>th</sup> Sept 2023 “

“Southern African leaders were largely absent as Emmerson Mnangagwa was sworn in for a second term as Zimbabwe’s president, as the country’s opposition sought to rally the region to back a rerun of the disputed vote.”

“South Africa’s Cyril Ramaphosa, Felix Tshisekedi of the Democratic Republic of Congo and Mozambique’s Filipe Nyusi attended Monday’s inauguration in the capital Harare, but 12 other leaders from the Southern African Development Community stayed away.”

“Mnangagwa, an 80-year-old former spymaster who first took power after a military coup overthrew Robert Mugabe in 2017, was officially re-elected last month with 52.6 per cent of the vote, versus 44 per cent for his main rival Nelson Chamisa.” [Disputed numbers]

“The process was marred by irregularities, including delays in sending ballot papers to opposition strongholds, intimidation of rural voters, as well as other factors, according to international observers.”



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“There was also rare criticism of the election process from the observers of SADC, which has historically looked past signs of vote-rigging under Zimbabwe’s ruling Zanu-PF. This time the regional body said aspects of the largely peaceful vote fell short.”

September 2023:

Mr Peter Vowles has been appointed His Majesty’s Ambassador to the Republic of Zimbabwe as from September 2023.

We urge Mr Vowles to consider all matters brought up in this petition and over the coming months, in order to promote the established Constitutional Rights and Democratic norms within the region. If this will necessitate a fresh election administered by SADC, then we plead with the UK FCDO to support such action.

## The Diaspora Vote is Still Not in Effect

We have petitioned previously on **2<sup>nd</sup> December 2021** { <https://zhro.org.uk/human-rights-uk/87-petition-to-10-downing-street-2nd-december-2021> } and in 2018 on this vital subject area which has yet to be actioned by the regime, even though it is referenced as a requirement in the Zimbabwe Constitution.

## Job Sikhala is still being illegally detained {over 12 months}

We have demonstrated with House of Lords members outside Parliament on the **19<sup>th</sup> April 2023** {<https://www.flickr.com/photos/zhro-uk/albums/72177720307637959> } regarding the illegal and politically motivated detention {without charge} of Job Sikhala and further note with some alarm – he is still in detention post-election. 15 months in total.

## Gold Mafia Still Not Resolved

We have petitioned on the **18<sup>th</sup> April 2023** {regarding proven Money Laundering activities of the Zanu PF regime and Gold Bullion Smuggling – as uncovered in the Al Jazeera Report called #GOLDMAFIA. {... <https://zhro.org.uk/human-rights-uk/131-not-independence-day-18th-apr-2023> } }

## 2023 Elections and the Death of any Democratic Space within Zimbabwe

‘Factionalism’ – the Cancer within Zimbabwe’s make up.

Historical Context:

African Studies Review , Volume 27 , Issue 1 , March 1984 , pp. 117 – 125 DOI: <https://doi.org/10.2307/523953>

[Opens in a new window] Copyright: Copyright © African Studies Association 1984

*“There has been a proliferation of factionalism in Zimbabwe politics from 1963 to the present. While some analysts have suggested ethnicity as the explaining factor, others sought to employ class analysis to explain the same phenomenon. Ostensibly, most of these analyses were the work of intellectuals and activists external to*





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*Zimbabwe but sympathetic to the cause of liberation. More recently, interest in this analytic tool seems to be gaining momentum among locals.”*

## Upcoming Election Concerns {12<sup>th</sup> April 2023 report}

Source Afrobarometer: <https://www.afrobarometer.org/publication/zimbabweans-support-multiparty-competition-say-policy-preferences-inform-voter-decisions/>

<https://www.news24.com/news24/africa/news/low-trust-in-zimbabwe-electoral-commission-but-high-hopes-for-democracy-afrobarometer-survey-20230412>

### **Only 47% of Zimbabweans believe that the Zimbabwe Electoral Commission (ZEC) will conduct credible elections.**

This, despite the fact that locals are comfortable that their ability to vote by secret ballot guarantees their freedom of choice, an Afrobarometer study has found. The mistrust in the ZEC is foregrounded by the 2018 elections which, according to respondents to the survey, were not free and fair.

## Intimidation of Opposition Continues

Many Zimbabweans within the diaspora and supporters of the main legitimate opposition in the Zimbabwe had submitted a petition to the British PM, Rishi Sunak on 16<sup>th</sup> March 2023 – to date, frustratingly {and particularly so considering the **#GOLDMAFIA**<sup>3</sup> exposition} no recognition from the Office of the Prime Minister or FCDO has taken place.

As a reminder this petition is available via this web link [https://ccc-diaspora.com/images/PDFs/petition-Job\\_SikhalaFULL-FINAL.pdf](https://ccc-diaspora.com/images/PDFs/petition-Job_SikhalaFULL-FINAL.pdf)

In addition the #GoldMafia exposition has triggered a great many reactions within the Global Zimbabwean Diaspora and a brief introduction to some of these is covered below.

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<sup>3</sup> <https://zexit.org/zexit/goldmafia-4-implications>



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## The Zimbabwe Diaspora and their Reactions

### Signatures Signed by: Organisers and Supporters

Name	Organisation	Signature
Change Org Petition:	c/o Chief Ndiweni: REFERENDUM on ZIMBABWE 2023 ELECTION OUTCOME	<b>1,153 signatures</b> <b>Started 3<sup>rd</sup> September</b>
Model Pamire	CCC UK Province Organising Secretary	
Patricia Chinyoka	CCC UK Province and concerned Zimbabwean Citizen	
Racqueline Changunda	ROHR Information & Publicity sub-committee, & Organising Secretary of South Branch	
Margret Tshayawedu	ROHR and concerned Zimbabwean Citizen	
John C Burke	ZHRO Founder and principal Author of this Petition	
Nicholote Gwati	ROHR Zimbabwe: Chair	
Leo Ndlovu	ZAPU EU Representative	

### Signed by: Petitioners who will deliver the written Petition to 10 Downing Street

Name	Organisation	Signature
<a href="#">Chief Felix Nhlanhla Ndiweni</a>	MyRight2Vote Chair and Traditional Ndebele Traditional Leader	
Model Pamire	CCC UK Province Organising Secretary	
Leo Ndlovu	ZAPU EU Representative	
John C Burke	ZHRO Founder and principal Author of this Petition	
Michelle Nokuthaba Mpofu	Information & Publicity Secretary for the UK Chapter of ROHR Zimbabwe	



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## Appendix 1 SADC Petition: Started by ZIMBABWEAN CITIZENS

Cognisant of the fact that, on 23 August 2023, Zimbabwe held what was supposed to be a harmonized general election.

WE, the People of Zimbabwe, UNITED in our common desire for democracy, constitutionality, and constitutionalism:

- 1. Demand an Extra Ordinary Summit on Zimbabwe, a full member state of SADC.
- 2. Demand a FRESH, Free, Fair and Credible election.

*These elections were not held in accordance with the provisions of the Zimbabwe Election Law as defined in the Constitution of the Republic of Zimbabwe. Zimbabwe, a member of SADC, did not also follow the SADC Guidelines on Elections.*

The elections did not meet, but not limited to only the following clauses of the Zimbabwe National Constitution:

- Section 52A(2) of the Electoral Act requires ZEC to provide information on the number of ballot papers and publication of details regarding them.
- Section 52(1) of the Electoral Act provides that for any election, ZEC shall ensure that every constituency elections officer is provided with polling booths or voting compartments and ballot boxes, and shall provide papers, including ballot papers
- Section 21 of the Electoral Act states that, “The Commission shall within a reasonable period of time provide any person who requests it, and who pays the prescribed fee, with a copy of any voters roll, including a consolidated roll referred to in Section 20(4a), either in printed or in electronic form as the person may request.

The electoral process did not meet SADC Guidelines on Elections, which are as follows:

- SADC Member States shall adhere to the following principles in the conduct of democratic elections:
  - Full participation of the citizens in the political process;
  - Freedom of association;
  - Political tolerance;
  - Regular intervals for elections as provided for by the respective National Constitutions;
  - Equal opportunity for all political parties to access the state media;
  - Equal opportunity to exercise the right to vote and be voted for;
  - Independence of the Judiciary and impartiality of the electoral institutions; and
  - Voter education.
- Acceptance and respect of the election results by political parties proclaimed to have been free and fair by the competent National Electoral Authorities in accordance with the law of the land.
- Challenge of the election results as provided for in the law of the land. The elections did not meet the required standards rendering them null and void.





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- ❖ Since the declaration of results by ZEC, there have been multiple incidents of abductions and tortures, burning down of property belonging to supporters of the opposition, among other things.
- ❖ We demand that SADC hold an extraordinary meeting to address the Zimbabwe Elections issue, which is now threatening the stability of the region. Zimbabwe needs Fresh Elections that conform to the Constitution of Zimbabwe and SADC guidelines on elections.
- ❖ We also ask leadership and citizens of SADC to STAND with us as we seek Justice, Free, Fair and Credible elections.

We STAND in UNITY as citizens of Zimbabwe in making the above demands.

## Appendix 2 Zexit.org Articles Sweep of Observer Comments

<https://zexit.org/zexit/zimbabwe-fails-the-electorate> – Ongoing All Observer Mission PDF Statements are downloadable/viewable online at <https://zexit.org> and other articles

### Details

- ❖ Written by: John C Burke
- ❖ First Published: 28 August 2023
- ❖ Last Updated: 15<sup>th</sup> September 2023

Updated 15<sup>th</sup> September 2023 and 31<sup>st</sup> August 2023: Press Statements

### *The Carter Centre*

<https://www.cartercenter.org/news/pr/2023/zimbabwe-083123.html> access their PDF here

"Overall, the Center concluded that the 2023 electoral process did not adequately respect Zimbabwe's regional and international commitments for democratic and inclusive elections, which made it difficult for contestants to compete on an equal basis and prevented the genuine expression of the will of the Zimbabwean people."

"The Center also found that critical election information — including the final voter list and the list of polling stations — was not readily available to stakeholders."

"However, Zimbabwean authorities conducted a raid on election night and shut down the nonpartisan citizen observation efforts of two respected civil society groups, the Zimbabwe Electoral Support Network and the Election Resource Center. The Center continues to urge the government of Zimbabwe to drop all charges against the civil society leaders and respect their rights of political participation."

### *UK Minister for Development and Africa*

<https://www.gov.uk/government/news/uk-minister-for-africa-statement-on-the-zimbabwe-election>

"We share the view of the Election Observation Missions' preliminary statements that the pre-election environment and election day fell short of regional and international standards. Issues included limited transparency from the electoral commission, the lack of level playing field, the passing of repressive legislation,



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long delays in the opening of some polling stations, and reports of intimidation of voters. The UK takes note of the announcement by the Chair of the Zimbabwe Electoral Commission of results on 26 August. However, we are concerned by a lack of transparency in the tallying of results, as well as the arrests of domestic observers."

*Anadolu Ajansı - Turkey*

<https://www.aa.com.tr/en/africa/zimbabwe-election-standoff-could-lead-to-military-coup-later-analyst-warns/2980407#>

The actual voting on Aug. 23-24 saw long delays that triggered opposition accusations of rigging, voter intimidation and suppression. Regional and international observers also issued damning reports, including missions from the African Union and Southern African Development Community and the EU.

The EU mission said the elections "fell short of many regional and international standards, including key principles of equality, universality, transparency and accountability." When Chamisa addressed reporters last Sunday, he declared the elections a complete sham. "We have won this election. We are the leaders," he asserted.

*Crisis 24 Garda Risk Alert*

<https://crisis24.garda.com/alerts/2023/08/zimbabwe-protests-likely-nationwide-through-mid-september-following-contested-election-results-update-4>

Protests likely across Zimbabwe through mid-September after opposition leaders reject election results. Possible violence.

Further opposition-led and election-related protests are likely nationwide, particularly in Harare, through at least mid-September. The main opposition party, the Citizen's Coalition for Change (CCC), has rejected the general election results. On Aug. 29, the CCC and the Zimbabwe African People's Union (ZAPU) called for a re-run of the election due to alleged fraud. International observers from the Southern African Development Community (SADC), the African Union (AU), the US, and the EU have also claimed irregularities during the polling process.

The Election Observers and their Missions prior to the Elections

*European Union*

Following the EU election observation methodology, the mission will observe all aspects of the electoral process before, on and after the election day. The EU EOM will issue a preliminary statement and hold a press conference in Harare after the elections. The final report, which will include a set of recommendations for future electoral processes, will be presented and shared with stakeholders after the finalisation of the entire electoral process.

The mission is expected to comprise more than 150 observers from all 27 EU member states, as well as Canada, Norway and Switzerland. An 11-person core team arrived in Harare on 8 July. 46 long-term EU EOM observers arrive in Zimbabwe on 22 July and are deployed to all ten provinces. They observe the electoral process in their areas and report back to the core team in Harare where the observations are analysed.



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44 short-term observers will join the mission shortly before the election day. They observe voting, counting and the tabulation of results. The mission will be also joined by a delegation of seven Members of the European Parliament, and diplomatic staff from embassies accredited in Harare. The EU EOM will remain in the country until the completion of the electoral process.

*SADC (Southern African Development Community)*

I am pleased to inform you that the SADC Electoral Observation Mission to the 2023 Harmonised Elections in the Republic of Zimbabwe consists of 68 personnel. They are from 9 SADC Member States, namely, Republic of Angola, Republic of Botswana, Kingdom of Eswatini, Republic of Malawi, Republic of Mozambique, Republic of Namibia, Republic of South Africa, United Republic of Tanzania, and Republic of Zambia. Our observers have been deployed to the 10 Provinces of Zimbabwe, namely, Harare, Bulawayo, Masvingo, Matabeleland North, Matabeleland South, Midlands, Manicaland, Mashonaland East, Mashonaland Central and Mashonaland West. The SEOM observations will focus on the pre-election, election and post-election periods, which include political parties campaigns; the voting day and the process of the counting of the ballot papers.

To that end, the SEOM has two components, Short- 5 Term Observation (STO) covering the period 10<sup>th</sup> – 24<sup>th</sup> August 2023, and Long-Term Observation (LTO), covering the period 25<sup>th</sup> August – 1<sup>st</sup> September 2023. We started stakeholder engagements in earnest since our arrival in Harare to appreciate the political, legal and security situation in the context of the elections in order to better inform the Chairperson of the Organ on Politics, Defence and Security Co-operation, His Excellency Hakainde Hichilema, President of the Republic of Zambia

<https://www.sadc.int/media-releases-and-statements>

You can read and download the SADC Reports on the election over 23-24<sup>th</sup> August 2023 Here for their initial findings, then here for their retort to the 'verbal attack' by Zanu PF actors.

The Observer Missions acknowledged the peaceful and calm nature of the pre-election and voting phases during the 23-24 August 2023 Harmonised Elections. However, they identified that certain aspects of the elections did not meet the requirements set by the Constitution of Zimbabwe, the Electoral Act, and the SADC Principles and Guidelines Governing Democratic Elections (2021).

The Missions commended the people of Zimbabwe for maintaining a peaceful political environment throughout the pre-election period and on voting day. They will release a final report after the validation and proclamation of the final results, which will be shared with the Zimbabwe Electoral Commission (ZEC) and all stakeholders.

The long-term observers will continue post-election observation until 1<sup>st</sup> September 2023, and the SEAC will conduct a post-election review to assess the implementation of recommendations and provide necessary support. In case of electoral disputes, the Missions urged all contestants to follow established legal procedures. They also appealed to political parties, the people of Zimbabwe, and all stakeholders to allow the ZEC to announce the final results as mandated by law.



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### *The African Union Mission*

Read or download the African Union report Here

The Mission's interactions with civic and political actors revealed that concerns persist regarding the process and outcome of the delimitation exercise. These included: allegations of inadequate consultation with stakeholders despite assertion by the Zimbabwe Electoral Commission that there were consultations at all levels; use of inaccurate population figures; gerrymandering in some areas to produce pre determined election results; and limited civic education on the delimitation.

The Mission takes note of the Commission's efforts to reach out and register as many eligible voters as possible. This effort was appreciated by some stakeholders the Mission interacted with but also raised some issues of concern as follows:

- a. That many potential eligible voters were left out due to lack of National Registration Cards which is one of the requirements for registration as a voter. They claimed that the process of obtaining the National Identity cards was not transparent in some areas in the country.
- b. Failure to open the review of the voters roll to political parties as a confidence building measure
- c. The limited time of only five days allocated to voters to check their registration status.
- d. Late release of the voters roll to political parties, candidates and other interested stakeholders
- e. High fees required to be paid for those wishing to obtain a copy of the voters roll
- f. Limited communication by the Zimbabwe Electoral Commission to its stakeholders regarding the process and state of the voters' roll

### *The US Embassy in Zimbabwe*

<https://zw.usembassy.gov/election-results-in-zimbabwe/> their latest comments made on the 29th August 2023 make interesting reading (click here) with respect to Free and Fair elections, which we see did NOT occur in Zimbabwe.

"For example, the Southern African Development Community (SADC) and other international electoral observation missions cited problems with transparency, independence, fairness, and credibility at all stages of the electoral process. The United States notes in particular the systemic bias against political opposition during the pre-election period and reports from respected civil society groups that ZEC officials pressured election observers to sign altered polling station result forms. We call on the ZEC to make the disaggregated polling station results publicly available to increase confidence in the result tabulation process."

"We also strongly condemn the intimidation and disruption of lawful election observers throughout the electoral period."

"These actions belie President Mnangagwa's repeated pledges to respect rule of law, transparency, and accountability. The United States is engaging regional leaders to share our concerns, including what this means for the international community's nascent efforts to reengage the Zimbabwean government."

### *The Commonwealth Commission*

Read or download the Commonwealth Statement Here



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Thank you for coming to this Commonwealth Observer Group Press Conference. I will present the interim observations of the Commonwealth Observer Group on the electoral process thus far, noting that the tallying process is still ongoing. The final report, setting out our full findings on the entire process and our recommendations, will be submitted to the Commonwealth Secretary-General in due course.

Prior to election day, the Zimbabwe Electoral Commission had provided various assurances of its preparedness and readiness to conduct the elections as scheduled. However, on election day the late opening of polls due to the late arrival of ballot papers in the major urban areas of Harare and Bulawayo, raised concerns and heightened tensions, noting that these areas represent a significant proportion of the overall population. While we note ZEC's explanation regarding challenges with logistics and the impact of late court cases, we would welcome a more detailed explanation from ZEC in the coming days, and we will reflect further on this matter in our final report.

We observed, and received various reports, that an NGO called Forever Associate Zimbabwe (FAZ), had set up 'exit poll survey' tables in close proximity to polling stations, with governing party regalia. From our briefings with other civil society organisations and stakeholders, it was made clear that exit polling is currently not permitted within the legal framework of Zimbabwe.

#### International Press Coverage

<https://www.theguardian.com/world/2023/aug/27/zimbabwean-opposition-leader-says-election-was-gigantic>

- a. The SADC observers said although the electoral environment was largely peaceful, the polls failed a credibility test. The EU observer mission said the election took place in a climate of "fear".
- b. Thousands of Zimbabweans waited on voting day for more than 12 hours in queues as the electoral commission failed to deliver ballot papers on time. Mnangagwa was forced to extend voting by another day.
- c. Without disclosing his next course of action, Chamisa said his party had evidence that it won the presidential vote.
- d. He accused the Zimbabwe Electoral Commission (ZEC) of failing to run the polls and announcing the wrong result.

<https://www.bloomberg.com/news/articles/2023-08-25/zimbabwe-election-peaceful-despite-delays-say-observers>

[https://www.eas.europa.eu/eom-zimbabwe-2023/eu-eom-zimbabwe-2023-curtailed-rights-and-lack-level-playing-field-compounded-intimidation-election\\_en?s=410326](https://www.eas.europa.eu/eom-zimbabwe-2023/eu-eom-zimbabwe-2023-curtailed-rights-and-lack-level-playing-field-compounded-intimidation-election_en?s=410326)

On Friday, Alexander Rusero, a politics professor at Africa University in Zimbabwe, welcomed the SADC report on the elections.

- a. "Unfortunately, I do not think ZANU-PF is being advised appropriately," Rusero said.
- b. "There was no way this election was going to be 100% perfect given the irregularities," he said. "What is important is to celebrate, to say, in spite of all those irregularities, there are still certain positives. ... Unfortunately, government strategic department is doing a disservice to the republic of Zimbabwe."



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15<sup>th</sup> September 2023

- c. In the election, President Mnangagwa is seeking a second term, running against 10 candidates, including the main contender, Nelson Chamisa of the Citizens Coalition for Change.
- d. Voting was extended to a second day Thursday after election day was marred by polling station delays and shortages of ballots in opposition strongholds Bulawayo and Harare.
- e. There has been a heavy police presence in Harare since Friday night, ahead of the release of official presidential election results, expected by Monday.

[https://www.washingtonpost.com/world/2023/08/25/zimbabwe-election-politics-results/8bbcaefc-432e-11ee-9677-53cc50eb3f77\\_story.html](https://www.washingtonpost.com/world/2023/08/25/zimbabwe-election-politics-results/8bbcaefc-432e-11ee-9677-53cc50eb3f77_story.html)

<https://www.economist.com/middle-east-and-africa/2023/08/27/zimbabwes-flawed-election-will-ensure-its-pariah-status-endures>

*Many Knew the Elections we not going to be free or Fair*

<https://www.state.gov/presidential-elections-in-zimbabwe/>

22nd August 2023: As Zimbabweans prepare to head to the polls on August 23, the United States calls on all actors to commit to free, fair, and peaceful elections. The Zimbabwean people deserve the chance to choose their future without fear of repression or intimidation, in line with Zimbabwe’s constitution. We believe the best route to peace and prosperity is for governments to respect the right of their citizens to vote and allow for peaceful and democratic political processes.

"We are concerned by recent actions leading up to the elections, including political violence and legislation that curtails human rights and freedoms enshrined in Zimbabwe’s constitution. The United States condemns the denial of credentials for multiple international journalists and domestic civil society members to cover the elections in-country, and delays in election observation accreditation. We call on the government of Zimbabwe and all political leaders to ensure the elections are free of violence and coercion. While the United States does not support any party or candidate, we are committed to supporting the democratic process and backing Zimbabwean aspirations to combat corruption and strengthen the rule of law."

<https://www.economist.com/middle-east-and-africa/2023/08/27/zimbabwes-flawed-election-will-ensure-its-pariah-status-endures>

The Carter Center said, “With the tabulation of results still underway at some tally centres, it is critical for Zimbabweans to wait for the announcement of the ZEC’s final results in the coming days, and for key political leaders to abide by the provisions of the Peace Pledge.”

It added, “Given the highly polarized environment and lack of trust among political stakeholders, it is now especially critical for the ZEC to publish detailed results at the polling station level, allowing political parties and observers to cross-verify the results, in accordance with international best practice, to help ensure the transparency and credibility of the election process.”

The United Nations Also Expresses Doubts

<https://news.un.org/en/story/2023/08/1140117>





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<https://www.un.org/sg/en/content/sg/statement/2023-08-27/statement-attributable-the-spokesperson-for-the-secretary-general-elections-zimbabwe%C2%A0>

27 August 2023

Statement attributable to the Spokesperson for the Secretary-General - on elections in Zimbabwe

Florencia Soto Niño-Martínez, Associate Spokesperson for the Secretary-General

- a. The Secretary-General is closely following developments in Zimbabwe's elections. He is concerned about the arrest of observers, reports of voter intimidation, threats of violence, harassment and coercion.
- b. The Secretary-General calls on political leaders and their supporters to reject any and all forms of violence, threats of violence, or incitement to violence, and to ensure that human rights and the rule of law are fully respected.
- c. The Secretary-General calls on political actors to peacefully settle any disputes through established legal and institutional channels, and urges the competent authorities to resolve any disputes in a fair, expeditious, and transparent manner to ensure that the results are a true reflection of the will of the people.