

**STATEMENT BY AMBASSADOR C CHIPAZIWA TO THE 4TH
SESSION OF THE HUMAN RIGHTS COUNCIL : 29 MARCH 2007**

Mr President

Madam High Commissioner for Human Rights

Excellencies, Ladies and Gentlemen.

EU members of the Human Rights Council have read a statement on the alleged situation of human rights in Zimbabwe especially since the illegal political rally, disguised initially as a prayer rally, of 11 March 2007. My government has regretted the loss of one life from among the opposition devotees and also, for the serious injuries sustained by many including political leaders and some police officers who continue to fight for their lives in hospital. Even as regrettable is the characterisation of the police intervention to protect human lives and property as political repression. It will surprise some that a real prayer rally did take place in another part of Harare at almost the same time as the opposition ran riot in Highfield, to the west of the capital. Many were taken into custody and later produced in court – a normal procedure in our country.

Zimbabwe is at the centre of Western attention today not because Africans cannot govern themselves; no, rather because the interests of certain western countries are not given the primacy these countries believe they deserve. To achieve their goals to exploit our country, these foreign powers will not shy away from sponsoring mobs to smash their way into political power. The boundless audacity with which this is done find ready espousal from the mouths of their envoys in Zimbabwe; or shall we call them agents provocateurs!.... If life in Zimbabwe today is harsh, this is not due to misgovernance and the so-called “targeted travel sanctions” levied against the political leaders; it is due to the economic sanctions which have all but extinguished foreign direct investment, development assistance and all trade finance. These illegal measures against Zimbabwe have the goal of effecting a regime change. The freely expressed will of

the electorate who have returned the same political party to power since independence is termed irresponsible or, the result itself is labelled a fraud. This is the real source of the so-called "crisis" in Zimbabwe - the rejection of foreign domination especially as championed by the UK and the USA. These two countries funded the founding of and sustain the opposition MDC party and they will not countenance any other political outcome but that which installs their protégés into power.

Daily, we are pulverised by the western media about the fictionalised "reality" of life in Zimbabwe. My government cannot match the propaganda funds and networks of these self-made enemies of our government. However, they continue feverishly to tarnish us oblivious even to contradictions in their story-lines.

Mr President,

Since we are about civil and political rights, 1980 marked freedom/independence year for Zimbabwe. That freedom was won from the UK principally. Today, they wish to tell the world how "unfree" Zimbabwe has become. In the same breath, they celebrate their abolition of their enslavement of Africans some 200 years ago. The same people and countries which gorged themselves on wealth created by slaves are killing hundreds of thousands of yet other peoples in wars they alone declare lawful but not, in reality, so. It is unlikely that hypocrisy has ever been so pungent nor as suffocating; double standards have their champions nowhere else! Nowonder many developing countries are determining their own paths to the future!

Of its own accord, the Zimbabwe Government has been in dialogue with a number of Special Rapporteurs to determine when they might be invited to visit our country. Those eventual visits will not be at the call of these fallen angels in matters of human rights. On our part, we urge members of the Human Rights Council not to heed this unjustified and ill-conceived call by the European Union and their friends. Moreover, Africa's regional mechanisms are actively seized

with the challenges Zimbabwe is currently enduring and collectively deciding how best to move forward.

Finally, we really utterly reject this posturing here in the Human Rights Council by some members among their ranks being those who nurtured in their culture and institutions ideas which matured into apartheid, those responsible for two world wars and the attendant human slaughter, those who are effecting slow and deliberate genocide of aboriginal people and those who seek to hold us down in perpetuity the better to exploit us and our resources. Never again, is our answer as we promise sturdy resistance of them and their grand designs. We call on all fair-minded people to reject this attempt to interfere in our internal affairs. There is a debilitating secret which haunts and numbs these self-appointed paragons of democracy and human rights – they fear and distrust real democracy in many a developing country because it produces leaders they cannot manipulate. Their defeated anointed champions of democracy often then can only resort to chants of fraudulent elections as dictated by their benefactors. Zimbabwe is determined to resist this foreign domination and interference in its internal affairs.

Thank you