

Zimbabwe Weekly Update 24/2011 – 13 June 2011

Elections: Special Issue on Outcome and Proceedings at SADC Summit in Johannesburg

Elections:

- The Southern African Development Community (SADC) Extraordinary Summit ended this weekend with reports that Heads of State had “noted” the SADC Troika’s Summit Resolutions on Zimbabwe which were adopted in Livingstone, Zambia 31 March. The Livingstone Communiqué especially denounced political violence and intimidation and called for 3 representatives from the Troika to be permanently based in Zimbabwe to assist monitoring the implementation of the Global Political Agreement. ZANU PF has described the use of the term “noted” in the Summit’s Communiqué as a “rejection” of the Troika’s Livingstone Communiqué, while the MDCs have said that this was not.
- The Sandton Convention Centre in Johannesburg, South Africa was a hive of activity as political parties and civil society activists descended on the venue ahead of the SADC Summit. Civil society organisations like Crisis in Zimbabwe Coalition, Zimbabwe Exiles Forum and the Zimbabwe Solidarity Forum organized a march at the Convention Centre. Among the demands of the civil society groups was the need for SADC to adopt the SADC Troika Resolutions made in March in Livingstone, the Diaspora vote and a cessation of political violence. Political parties were also represented. The rally which was supposed to take place after the march was disrupted when tear-gas was thrown into the crowd. A MDC T-shirt was publicly burned by a group of rowdy youths with the result that the march that had started well ended with people dispersing from the venue.
- Meanwhile, a ZANU PF representative based in the party’s South Africa office was reportedly assaulted at the venue of the launch of a report by Crisis in Zimbabwe Coalition titled “The Military Factor in Zimbabwe’s Political and Electoral Affairs”. The ZANU PF Chair was allegedly



assaulted by Ishmael Kauzani, who pointed out that the former had been involved in the killing of the latter's brother, Godfrey Kauzani, before taking up residence in South Africa.

- Pre-SADC Summit activities this week saw the launch of a report by Crisis in Zimbabwe Coalition citing some of the armed forces' involvement in the political affairs of the country, noting in particular how they have been seconded to civilian institutions. The main political parties also launched reports. MDC-T, a report, titled "Footprints of Abuse", catalogues victims of alleged state-sponsored violence and gives the names and areas of some of the military top brass that have reportedly been deployed to intimidate the populace and to commit acts of torture. ZANU PF issued a report casting blame for the violence taking place in the country on the MDC-T, citing in particular the killing of a police officer in Glen View and intraparty violence ahead of its congress.
- At one of civil society's pres-SADC summit seminars organized to discuss the military factor in Zimbabwe's politics, a Brigadier General Asher Walter Tapfumanei declared that the MDC and some NGOs are seen as threats to national security, rather than political parties and part of civil society. He said that is why the military will not be "depoliticized" or go back to the barracks.

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