



**The Zimbabwe Solidarity Forum (ZSF)**

**25/07/2013**

**Press Statement For Immediate Release**

**ZSF and CRISIS IN ZIMBABWE COALITION TO LEAD A PROTEST PICKET:**

**THE ISRAELI EMBASSY IN PRETORIA  
SATURDAY 27<sup>th</sup> JULY 2013.  
PICKETS FROM 11am**

**428 King's Highway, (Corner Elizabeth Grove),  
Lynnwood, Pretoria**

**Pick Up Point, 8am, COSATU House, 110 Jorissen Street, Cnr Simmonds,  
Braamfontein**

*The Israeli embassy serves as a symbolic target for the international complicity that allows for a minority militarized anti-democratic elite in Zimbabwe to retain hold on power at all costs.*

**NIKUV, AN ISRAELI BASED COMPANY HAS BEEN ACCUSED REPEATEDLY OF SUPPORTING ELECTION RIGGING IN ZIMBABWE AND ACROSS THE REGION. ISRAEL, SADC, THE AU, AND THE INTERNATIONAL COMMUNITY MUST CONDEMN AND ISOLATE THESE SPOILERS**

**The protest picket also serves as a reminder that in less than a week Zimbabweans will go to the polls in an election that is highly unlikely to produce a legitimate accepted outcome. We will be right back where we started in 2008.**

On 17<sup>th</sup> July 2013 a multi-sectoral gathering of civil society formations from across Southern Africa, meeting under the banner of the Zimbabwe Solidarity Forum, resolved to commit themselves to a solidarity action plan in support of their Zimbabwean counterparts.

The Crisis in Zimbabwe Coalition Feya Feya Election Campaign specifically targets NIKUV as a company at the centre of the manipulated, corrupt and highly politicised electoral systems within which the upcoming election is scheduled to take place.

This joint Regional Zimbabwe Solidarity action serves to galvanise support from across the region to call on our governments to say that enough is enough, a culture of un-manipulated free and fair electoral democracy is at the heart of our collective struggles for freedom, for liberation and for emancipation.

**Similar protests will be organised in the following countries, Namibia, Zambia, Malawi, Tanzania, Botswana, Swaziland, Mozambique, and Lesotho.**

We will be embarking on a programme of mass action that will seek the maximum participation of the citizens across the SADC Region who seek to express their solidarity support for the demands and concerns contained within the communiqués released by Zimbabwean civics and outlined in *the Feya Feya Campaign document* calling for a peaceful free and fair election

**The pickets will make the following specific and broad demands:**

### **Demands for the Israeli Embassy**

- NIKUV – hands off the electoral commission
- ISRAEL – hold your companies accountable for their actions

### **Broad Demands**

- ZEC – assert your role as an independent African electoral body, not a puppet of the puppet masters
- We call on SADC and the African Union, as the Guarantor of the Global Political Agreement to vigorously assert and uphold the principles enshrined in the SADC Guidelines on Governing Democratic Elections and the African Charter on Democracy, Elections and Governance
- Political Parties, Zimbabwe Electoral Commission, Government Institutions, the Justice System, all Zimbabwean institutions - facilitate in words and deeds the creation of an environment that allows the opportunity to enjoy full and equal participation in the elections for all Zimbabweans. Don't create bottlenecks, technical obstacles, and deliberate frustrations.
- Allow full and equal access to the media now
- Judiciary must be independent and apply the law equally
- Police must be impartial and professional
- Political party leaders to discourage intra party violence and hate speech and take appropriate action against offenders – JOMIC must play a crucial role in this
- Political parties to adhere to the Code of Conduct on elections

- The Security Sector in Zimbabwe to confine themselves to their constitutional mandate and not become politically partisan and must in particular desist from making pronouncements that will adversely affect the process and outcome of the election.

Finally we reassert the importance of recognising that the concerns around the current climate in Zimbabwe and the flouting of democratic principles and values is not a concern for Zimbabweans alone. Current events in Zimbabwe are a concern for all progressive forces across the region and throughout the continent of Africa.

*We call on all civil society and governments in Southern Africa and beyond to join us in demonstrating a strong show of solidarity by engaging with the planned programmes of mass action and amplifying a unified voice that demands that the Zimbabwean electorate be given the opportunity to freely express their democratic will in selecting their leadership without intimidation and in an open, transparent and democratic manner.*

**For more information and transport please contact:**

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