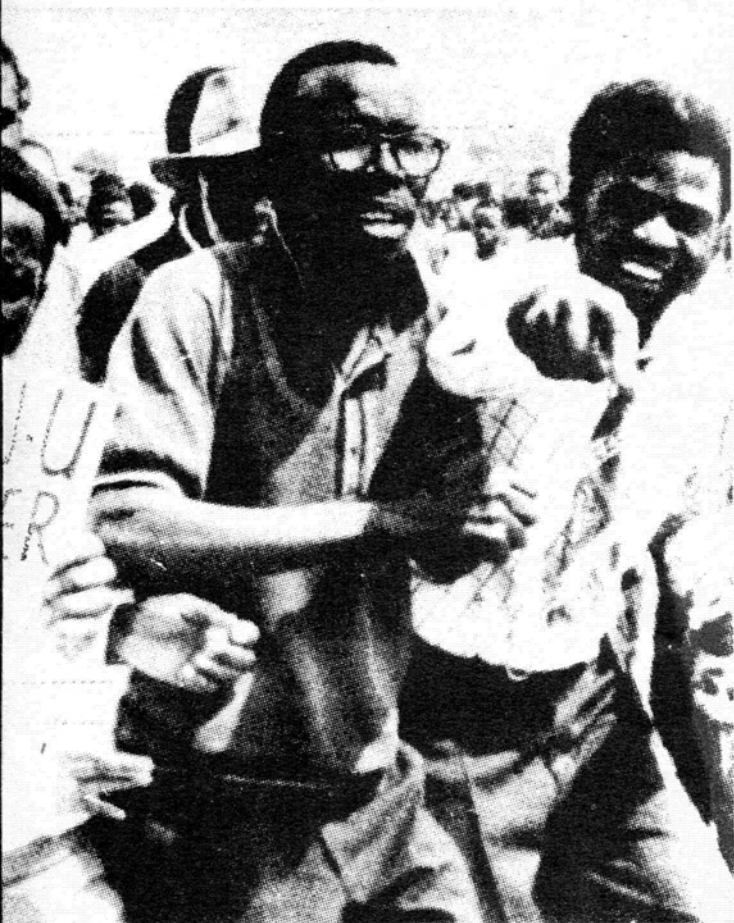


# ZIMBABWE MAJORITY RULE NOW!



## ZIMBABWE—MAJORITY RULE NOW

Today the situation in Rhodesia is explosive—hardly a day passes without the press headlining a tragic story of death or suffering. It should be clear that the responsibility for this rests squarely with the Smith regime. The Rhodesian Front has been in power for 14 years—for 11 years under UDI—throughout which they have utterly refused to countenance any peaceful change, any orderly transition to majority rule. The failure of the Geneva talks simply confirms that whatever the regime may say it is determined to maintain its power and privilege.

### Racist exploitation

For the white minority, Rhodesia has always provided the good life: high living standards, power, privilege and leisure. For the African majority—poverty, unemployment, malnutrition and permanent inferiority, inferiority.

The facts speak for themselves:

#### Population:

<b>Africans</b>	<b>6.2 million (95.3%)</b>
<b>Whites</b>	<b>277,000 (4.2%)</b>
<b>Asians &amp; Coloureds</b>	<b>31,500 (0.5%)</b>

#### Land distribution:

<b>Africans</b>	<b>46.5% (7 acres per head)</b>
<b>Whites, Asians &amp; Coloureds</b>	<b>46.5% (146 acres per head)</b>

#### Educational expenditure per school pupil per annum (for the year to 30 June 1974):

<b>Africans</b>	<b>£22</b>
<b>Whites, Asians &amp; Coloureds</b>	<b>£249</b>

#### Average wages per week (for the year to 31 December 1975):

<b>Africans</b>	<b>£7.23</b>
<b>Whites</b>	<b>£79.29</b>

Average weekly wage for African farm labourers: **£2.80**

### Racist repression

The tiny minority of whites in Rhodesia can only cling to power by repressing all opposition. The African people have throughout this century sought to convince the white minority of the justice

of their cause. In response the authorities have banned the peoples' organisations, imprisoned their leaders, and secretly hanged opponents of white supremacy.

Who are the 'terrorists' in Rhodesia? They are those who torture and brutalise, who detain their opponents without trial and create concentration camps (misleadingly called 'protected villages') into which thousands of black civilians have been herded. The facts again speak for themselves:

<b>Detainees (without trial)</b>	<b>1,100</b>
<b>Political prisoners (convicted)</b>	<b>917</b>
<b>Illegally executed:</b>	
<b>Between UDI and April 1975</b>	<b>60</b>
<b>During 1976</b>	<b>64</b>
<b>Removed to concentration camps</b>	<b>250,000–500,000</b>

## **Racist aggression**

Today Southern Africa is changing. The former Portuguese colonies are free, and independent Africa is even more determined to end white minority rule. The regime is desperately trying to intimidate its neighbours—Mozambique, Botswana and Zambia. Armed raids have been launched against all three of these 'front-line' states—the worst being the massacre in August 1976 of over 800 Zimbabwean refugees at the United Nations refugee camp at Nhyazonia in Mozambique.

## **The collaborators**

The white minority cannot survive on its own. They have been decisively aided and abetted by apartheid South Africa and encouraged by the failure of British governments to take firm action. The regime now relies on South Africa for all the necessary military and economic aid to survive. But Britain cannot escape responsibility for the current events. Britain colonised Rhodesia and handed it over to the settlers. Despite its legal responsibilities, it tolerated the racial policies of successive minority governments and refused to intervene when Smith rebelled in 1965. Since UDI Britain has been more concerned with reaching a compromise with Smith than with securing the transfer of power to the African majority. Even now that the sacrifices of the Zimbabwe people have forced Smith to *talk* about

majority rule, Britain still insists on treating him as a legitimate representative. Since the Geneva talks began, Britain has returned 'draft dodgers' to Rhodesia, refused to condemn Smith as a murderer when he is illegally hanging freedom fighters, and abstained on a United Nations Security Council resolution condemning the Smith regime for attacking Botswana.

It is not surprising that the Zimbabweans have interpreted the Kissinger initiative and the Geneva talks as an attempt by the West to determine the character of change in order to defend their interests rather than being concerned with the genuine transfer of power to the African majority.

### **The Government should act**

The present Government was elected on a manifesto committing it to support the liberation movements in Southern Africa. Now is the opportunity for it to make a constructive contribution to the cause of freedom in Southern Africa. Specifically it should:

- Cease treating the Smith regime as a legitimate government and end its present approach of collaborating with the Vorster regime to secure its support for a 'Rhodesian settlement'
- Prevent the regime's security forces from obtaining the external assistance they are desperate for. This means stopping arms and mercenaries reaching Rhodesia (any British subject fighting for Smith's forces should be guilty of treason) and providing sanctuary for 'draft dodgers'.
- Sanctions should be extended and made effective. Now South Africa stands alone between the Smith regime and its total economic isolation and collapse. The British Government should now request the United Nations to extend its mandatory sanctions to South Africa unless the latter also implements sanctions against Rhodesia. Economic aid should also be provided to those countries, in particular Mozambique, which are bearing the brunt of implementing sanctions.
- Take action to stop the illegal execution of opponents of the regime by declaring that those responsible are guilty of murder

- As a minimum, provide aid for the thousands of Zimbabweans who have been forced to leave Rhodesia to find refuge in neighbouring states.

## ACT NOW

- Raise these issues with your MP and urge his support for majority rule now
- Try and counter the distorted and inflammatory press and media coverage by writing and phoning in complaints
- Raise material aid for the Zimbabwean liberation struggle either directly to the liberation movements or through two special agencies which provide aid –Zimbabwe Medical Aid (ZIMA) and Mozambique Solidarity Action. Details of their work from AAM
- Use any opportunity to get the issues at stake across to the public
- Demand British Government action now to stop illegal executions by the Smith regime
- Raise the Rhodesian issue in any organisation you are active in—your political party, trade union, student organisation, UN Association, church, etc—and ask them to act
- Use any opportunity to get the issues at stake across to the public

If you are committed to the ongoing struggle for freedom in Southern Africa, join the Anti-Apartheid Movement. Minimum annual membership fees, including a subscription to *Anti-Apartheid News*, are: £3, £2 for students and apprentices, 50p for pensioners

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