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Petition to the UK Prime Minister and FCDO

Date: June 4, 2025

Some Telling Perspectives on the Zimbabwe situation

"When we're afraid, we lose all sense of analysis and reflection. Our fear paralyzes us. Besides, fear has always been the driving force behind all dictators' repression." ~ **Marjane Satrapi**

"When dictatorship is a fact, revolution becomes a right." ~ **Victor Hugo**

"True individual freedom cannot exist without economic security and independence. People who are hungry and out of a job are the stuff of which dictatorships are made." ~ **Franklin D. Roosevelt**

"It is a paradox that every dictator has climbed to power on the ladder of free speech. Immediately on attaining power each dictator has suppressed all free speech except his own." ~ **Herbert Hoover**

"The first thing dictators do is finish free press, to establish censorship. There is no doubt that a free press is the first enemy of dictatorship." ~ **Fidel Castro**

"I note that the President's wife is due to speak at a summit in London in June. I hope that Members of our Parliament who are choosing to take part will challenge Zimbabwe's First Lady on the continued detention of Blessed Mhlanga and the overall brutality of the regime she represents, and I hope the Government will continue to make clear that there will be no resumption of normal relations with Zimbabwe while the ZANU-PF regime continues to detain journalists, deny media freedom and defy democratic norms. As the noble Baroness, Lady Mobarik, said in her excellent speech, there must be consequences for such actions." ~ **Lord J Oates – House of Lords -2 Apr 2025**

Opposition to Auxillia Mnangagwa's Attendance at the FLAIR Summit in London

We, the undersigned, representing a consortium of Zimbabwean opposition parties (including the Citizens Coalition for Change (CCC) and the Zimbabwe African People's Union (ZAPU)), human rights defenders, and members of the Zimbabwean diaspora, respectfully submit this petition to urge the UK Government

Organised by WOZ, ZAPU, ROHR, CCC UK, ZHRO, ACTSA, and DMRN in South Africa
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to reconsider permitting Auxillia Mnangagwa, Zimbabwe's First Lady, to attend the FLAIR Summit scheduled for June 17–18, 2025, at the Leonardo Royal Hotel in London. While we support the FLAIR Summit's ethos of Women's Empowerment, Impact, and Resilience, we are deeply concerned that Auxillia Mnangagwa's participation undermines these principles due to her association with Zimbabwe's repressive ZANU-PF regime and its documented human rights abuses.

Grounds for Opposition

- **Sanctions and Alleged Involvement in Corruption**

Auxillia Mnangagwa, alongside her husband, President Emmerson Mnangagwa, was sanctioned by the United States in March 2024 for alleged involvement in illicit gold and diamond networks. These sanctions highlight credible allegations of corruption, which are inconsistent with the values of empowerment and integrity promoted by the FLAIR Summit. Her designation as “Patron Elect” raises questions about the motives behind her participation, including potential funding influence, which lacks transparency.

- **Association with Human Rights Abuses**

The ZANU-PF regime, with which Auxillia Mnangagwa is closely aligned, has a well-documented history of suppressing dissent, undermining democratic processes, and perpetrating human rights violations. Notable examples include:

- The arbitrary arrest and detention of 78 CCC members, including interim leader Senator Jameson Timba, on June 16, 2024, for a peaceful gathering, with reports of torture and denial of medical care.
- The enforced disappearance and torture of human rights defenders, including Namatai Kwekweza and Robson Chere, on July 31, 2024, at Harare International Airport.
- The passage of the “Patriotic Bill” in July 2023, which criminalizes dissent and threatens opposition members, activists, and journalists with up to 20 years’ imprisonment. Allowing Auxillia Mnangagwa to attend a summit championing women’s empowerment risks legitimizing a regime that systematically violates the rights of Zimbabwean women and men, including their freedoms of expression, assembly, and association.

- **Disinformation and Threats to Opposition**

The ZANU-PF regime has a history of using disinformation to undermine opposition movements, both within Zimbabwe and in the diaspora. Reports suggest that Auxillia Mnangagwa’s announced attendance at the FLAIR Summit, followed by claims of an “emergency meeting” to reconsider her participation, may be a tactic to sow division among opposition groups. Such strategies align with past ZANU-PF practices, including the deployment of Central Intelligence Organisation (CIO) operatives to intimidate diaspora communities in the UK. We are concerned that her presence at the summit could be exploited to further these divisive tactics, undermining the unity of Zimbabweans advocating for justice and democracy.

- **Inconsistency with FLAIR Summit's Ethos**

The FLAIR Summit aims to promote women’s empowerment, impact, and resilience. However, Auxillia Mnangagwa’s participation is at odds with these goals, given her role within a regime



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that contributes to the suffering of Zimbabwean women. For instance, Zimbabwe's maternal mortality rate increased to 114 per 100,000 live births in 2023, reflecting the dire state of healthcare under ZANU-PF governance. Her attendance risks overshadowing the summit's objectives and diverting attention from genuine advocates for women's rights.

Our Requests

We respectfully urge the UK Government and FCDO to:

- **Prevent Auxillia Mnangagwa's Attendance:** Deny her entry to the UK for the FLAIR Summit, in line with the UK's commitment to upholding human rights and combating corruption, as evidenced by its sanctions policies and support for democratic values.
- **Investigate the Summit's Organisational Transparency:** Examine the circumstances surrounding Auxillia Mnangagwa's designation as "Patron Elect" to ensure the FLAIR Summit is not being used to advance the interests of a repressive regime.
- **Support Zimbabwean Human Rights Defenders:** Strengthen measures to protect Zimbabwean diaspora activists in the UK from intimidation by ZANU-PF operatives, including alleged CIO agents operating within the Zimbabwean Embassy.
- **Engage with SADC and International Partners:** Press the Southern African Development Community (SADC) and other bodies to address Zimbabwe's ongoing human rights crisis, particularly in light of President Mnangagwa's controversial chairmanship of SADC.

Planned Actions

To amplify our concerns, we have organised a peaceful demonstration on June 17–18, 2025, at the Leonardo Royal Hotel, with protesters both inside and outside the venue. These actions aim to highlight the plight of Zimbabweans under ZANU-PF's rule and to call for accountability. We invite UK authorities to engage with our representatives to discuss these issues further.

Conclusion

We stand in solidarity with the FLAIR SUMMIT's mission to empower women *but firmly believe that Auxillia Mnangagwa's participation undermines its credibility and the broader struggle for human rights and democracy in Zimbabwe.*

Criticism from the British Parliament and X posts highlights the tension between her invitation and Zimbabwe's record on human rights and media freedom.

We call on the UK Government to act decisively to prevent her attendance and to support the Zimbabwean people's aspirations for a just and democratic future.

Auxillia Mnangagwa's participation in the FLAIR Summit in London in June 2025 is confirmed, with her role as a speaker tied to her position as Patron Elect and her advocacy for women's empowerment. However, without addressing these concerns, the summit's decision risks being seen *as tone-deaf to the broader political context.*



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Petition Organisers, Contributors and Petitioners

Name	Organization	Signature
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Signatures Initialed by: Petitioners

Name	Organization	Signature
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Appendix 1 Quotations ‘Empowered Zimbabwean Women’

Women of Zimbabwe (WoZ) expresses strong objection to Mrs Auxilia Mnangagwa’s participation at the FLAIR Summit being held in London from 17-18 June 2025. WoZ’s concern stems from Mrs Mnangagwa’s apparent indifference to the suffering of women in Zimbabwe, particularly in cases of women with different political views.

<https://take2zimbabwe.com/flacid-summit/no-to-auxilla-visit/98-woz-say-no-to-auxilla>

Women of Zimbabwe as proposed by Patricia Chinyoka

As concerned Zimbabwean women in the diaspora, we strongly condemn the invitation of Auxillia Mnangagwa to the FLAIR Meeting in London. Her presence at an event meant to empower and uplift women is a direct insult to the suffering of countless women in Zimbabwe – suffering that she has consistently ignored, enabled, or turned a blind eye to.

<https://take2zimbabwe.com/flacid-summit/no-to-auxilla-visit/97-protest-to-auxillas-invitation>

Petty Ziramba

To see Auxillia Mnangagwa as one of the speakers is definitely appalling, as she doesn’t hold the 'qualities' of being an influential-women. The only “significant impact”, she and her husband Emmerson Mnangagwa has achieved, is that of destroying Zimbabwe. Auxillia Mnangagwa has not done any impactful thing especially for the women, as she holds the title of the 'First Lady' of Zimbabwe, there’s absolutely nothing to show for it, instead she has used that title to abuse power.

<https://take2zimbabwe.com/flacid-summit/no-to-auxilla-visit/95-why-is-auxilla-at-flair>

Diana Machingauta

It looks like numbers are not adding up for Auxillia and Zanu PF at the FLAIR summit where they hoped to clean up some of their soiled linen. Potential audiences are boycotting. They do not wish to be associated with Zanu PF shenanigans. And when numbers are not adding up, Zanu PF does what Zanu PF is good at – they fudge the numbers. They bring the cheque book too. No, they bring wads of cash – dirty cash, all stolen from the poor citizens.

<https://take2zimbabwe.com/flacid-summit/no-to-auxilla-visit/94-boycotting-auxillia>

Farisai Kapepa

Auxilia has no shame she is the Chief Mafia. She does not care about Ed’s numerous children but only cares about her own children. She does not have the qualities of a good mother so even calling her First Lady she does not deserve it.

<https://take2zimbabwe.com/flacid-summit/no-to-auxilla-visit>

Shamiso Moyo

Women in Zimbabwe are suffering and so are the young girls. The country's health system has crumbled to nothing. Hospitals and clinics have no electricity, no medication and no staff. This has become a national norm. Across the country girls as young as 10 years old are being raped, abused and forced into early motherhood. In many cases perpetrators walk free due to the broken justice system. The government turns a blind eye. Auxillia as a woman and a mother has failed to protect all the vulnerable children in our country, instead they allow the culture of silence.



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<https://take2zimbabwe.com/flacid-summit/no-to-auxilla-visit/100-an-insult-to-zimbabwean-women>

Nobukhosi Dube

The struggle continues and will never be stopped by intimidation, oppression, instilling fear to the voiceless and those who are speaking for the voiceless. We shall not tire to advocate for the people's rights. The walk for the freedom journey continues #ZANUPFMustGo

<https://x.com/JenjeJosephine/status/1928451856209969514?t=4VOjPkED9l6m4sXC051Vg&s=08>

Josephine Jenje

“Rural schools in Zimbabwe are full of potential but face tough challenges, limited resources, long walks to class, Investing here means investing in the future but @ZimFirstLady will prefer to cross borders and enjoy fancy life. #EducationForAll #ZanuPfMustGo

<https://x.com/chiombach1343/status/1929188289640096206?s=48>

Romancia Chiomba

Our so-called First Lady Auxillia Mnangagwa — who drapes herself in gold and titles — has FAILED. Failed to lead. Failed to serve. Failed to care. She parades around as the “Mother of the Nation,” yet cannot lift a finger for the real mothers of Zimbabwe.

<https://take2zimbabwe.com/flacid-summit/no-to-auxilla-visit>

Mellisa Mbavarira

Even the recent hospital renovation plan focuses only on Parirenyatwa. What about other collapsing institutions, Mpilo, Sally Mugabe Hospital, or rural clinics in Muzarabani and Binga? This selective focus exposes the deal for what it likely is: a symbolic, politically convenient arrangement, not a real plan to uplift public healthcare.

<https://zhro.org.uk/human-rights-uk/mismanagement/196-political-smoke-screen>

Tarisai Stella Mapondera

Why would Auxilia come to the UK for the F.L.A.I.R Summit when she hasn't made any meaningful contributions to the people of Zimbabwe? Maternal deaths and corruption remain major issues in Zimbabwe, and we are concerned that she and the ruling elite are more focused on personal wealth accumulation rather than addressing the needs of ordinary Zimbabweans. It's troubling that she is representing Zimbabwe as the First Lady when her actions seem disconnected from the struggles of the people, who are suffering while a small elite continues to benefit.

Phylis Melody Magejo

Appendix 2 A few Male Perspectives

“I note that the President's wife is due to speak at a summit in London in June. I hope that Members of our Parliament who are choosing to take part will challenge Zimbabwe's First Lady on the continued detention of Blessed Mhlanga and the overall brutality of the regime she represents, and I hope the



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Government will continue to make clear that there will be no resumption of normal relations with Zimbabwe while the ZANU-PF regime continues to detain journalists, deny media freedom and defy democratic norms. As the noble Baroness, Lady Mobarik, said in her excellent speech, there must be consequences for such actions."

<https://hansard.parliament.uk/Lords/2025-04-24/debates/CA9CD858-DE19-4EB0-A0E8-D06F83E09F42/JournalistsAndMediaWorkersSafetyAndSecurity?highlight=lord%20oates#contribution-3555C787-2218-450E-9422-F7C0C807454E>

Lord J Oates in the House of Lords

We strongly oppose Auxillia Mnangagwa being given a platform to speak at any UK summit. As the wife of Zimbabwe's President Emmerson Mnangagwa, she is closely linked to a regime notorious for corruption, human rights abuses, and the brutal suppression of dissent. Under their rule, Zimbabwe has plunged into economic collapse, with widespread poverty, failing public services, and the silencing of journalists and opposition voices. Hosting Auxillia Mnangagwa not only legitimises tyranny but insults the suffering of ordinary Zimbabweans. The UK must not turn a blind eye, say no to giving a voice to repression. No to 2030 vision!

Milton Bingwa

"Shrinking the Democratic Space: The Dictator, Emmerson Mnangagwa, Is at It Again"

This week, **kleptocrat and dictator Emmerson Mnangagwa** unveiled the Zimbabwe Media Policy. Cloaked in colourful language and lofty rhetoric, the policy might appear progressive at first glance. But a closer, more critical examination reveals a different reality.

Foreign journalists are also targeted. They must obtain security clearance from the intelligence services, pay hefty fees, and surrender copies of any documentaries produced during their stay in Zimbabwe. This not only discourages external scrutiny but also tightens the regime's grip on its international image.

Big Brother is not just watching us —he is silencing us.

<https://zexit.org/zexit/shrinking-the-democratic-space>

Panyika Anselm Karimanzira on Facebook

The defining feature of so-called 2nd Republic is corruption The regime has taken it to new unprecedented levels. It's extraction on steroids. Everything they do, every policy made has corruption behind it. They have bent institutions, corrupted good people in name of greed.

The Mutapa Fund remains the 'most obscene' expression of the Regime's looting DNA. 66 State owned enterprises controlling 60% of the country's GDP have been placed under it - BUT beyond the reach of Parliament, line ministries or any other Regulator. The country's balance sheet has been privatized in an opaque coup. They have rolled the country's assets into an asset management company owned & controlled by one man & his family. The Kuvimba scandal in which US\$1,9 billion is paid to opaque shareholders is a sample of the rape of country's assets.



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Corruption is a premium on a country's development. It is a burden, a yoke. Zim burns from this burden where US\$4 billion is being lost annually through the State. A kleptocratic State controlled by the worst amongst us. A kakistocracy. Cry the Beloved Country . Cry Just cry!!

<https://x.com/BitiTendai/status/1926196842636759072>

Tendai Biti on Twitter 24th May 2025

Appendix 3 Other Issues and Commentators

https://x.com/steve_hanke/status/1925008647748272318

Steve Hanke @steve_hanke May 21: On this week's Hanke's #CurrencyWatchlist, the Zimbabwe ZiG ranks as the WORLD'S 2nd WORST currency. **The ZiG has depreciated by ~33% against the USD YoY.** **PRES. MNANGAGWA'S ZIMBABWE = A SINKING SHIP.**

SADC and Regional Economic Integration

Senior Officials for #SADC Committee of Ministers of Trade (CMT) & Ministerial Task force (MTF) on Regional Economic Integration discuss measures to enhance intra-regional trade and industrialisation. On **5 June, 2025**, Ministers will meet for the 34th CMT and 24th MTF

Appendix 4 Web Links

Relevant Web Pages

1. See *President Michael Sibangilizwe Nkomo* - web article here: <https://zapu.org/the-rogue-regime-in-harare-now-a-regional-threat-to-sadc.html> Update: 22nd October 2024: Whilst Zanu PF rides 'rough-shod' over Human Rights, the Rule of Law AND the constitution, other external agencies have thrown down a challenge to expose their unparalleled level of crimes within and without Zimbabwe. The UN Special Rapporteur on Human Rights Defenders on the 21st October 2024, Published their report AND the Zanu PF response - for their {Zanu PF} pages and pages of verbage only ONE PARAGRAPH - encapsulated their utter contempt and refusal to face facts - here we quote it verbatim:

✂ ccc-diaspora.com

2. Zimbabwe: Authorities must end massive crackdown on dissent before SADC summit - Amnesty International

Zimbabwean authorities must end their crackdown against opposition and civil society members ahead of the Southern African Development Community (SADC) summit scheduled for 17 August 2024 in Harare, Amnesty International and Human Rights Watch said today.

📄 [amnesty.org](https://www.amnesty.org)

3. Zimbabwe anti-Mnangagwa protest: 95 arrests after demonstration calling for president to resign Geza, who wants Vice-President Constantine Chiwenga to replace Mnangagwa, had previously called for Zimbabweans to "fill the streets" in a final push to force the president to step down.

📺 [bbc.com](https://www.bbc.com)



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4. Zimbabwe: Authorities must immediately release detained opposition members - Amnesty International

Zimbabwean authorities must immediately and unconditionally release over 70 opposition members detained solely for the peaceful exercise of their human rights, Amnesty International said today. The members of the Citizens Coalition for Change (CCC) party are awaiting an 18 July decision on their appeal for bail.

 [amnesty.org](https://www.amnesty.org)

5. Zimbabwe's Leader Faces Call for Removal From Within His Own Party - The New York Times

The president, Emmerson Mnangagwa, has vowed to crack down on dissent, saying in a speech at a meeting of his party, ZANU-PF, that calls for him to step down were a "treasonous" plot driven by "chameleon-like characters."

 [nytimes.com](https://www.nytimes.com)

6. Auxillia Mnangagwa's UK visit turns into a total disaster: Invitation triggers mass protests and MP pulls out! | My Zimbabwe News

Organisers of the upcoming First Ladies African Impact & Resilience (Flair) Summit in London are facing increasing pressure to reconsider the participation of Zimbabwe's First Lady, Auxillia Mnangagwa, following protests from exiled Zimbabweans. Mnangagwa, who also holds a position as a Zanu PF politburo member, is scheduled to be one of the speakers at the FLAIR SUMMIT

 myzimbabwe.co.zw

7. Why is Zimbabwe's President Mnangagwa facing pressure to resign? | Politics News | Al Jazeera

An internal split in the ruling ZANU-PF party is driving fears of a possible coup attempt against Mnangagwa, who is trying to stay in power beyond 2028 despite a constitutional bar. Zimbabwean President Emmerson Mnangagwa addresses a news conference at the State House in Harare, on August 27, 2023 [Tsvangirayi Mukwazhi/AP Photo]

[aljazeera.com](https://www.aljazeera.com)

8. "Crush Them Like Lice": Repression of Civil and Political Rights Ahead of Zimbabwe's August 2023 Election | HRW

On August 23, 2023, Zimbabweans will go to the polls to vote for the president of the country and members of the parliament (MPs). Of the 11 candidates currently running for president, there are two clear frontrunners: President Emmerson Mnangagwa of the ruling Zimbabwe African National Unity-Patriotic Front (ZANU-PF) party, and Nelson Chamisa of the main opposition party, the Citizens Coalition for Change (CCC).

[hrw.org](https://www.hrw.org)

9. Zimbabwe: Arrest of members of opposition shows an escalating crackdown against freedom of association and assembly - Amnesty International

Responding to the news that Zimbabwean police on 14 January arrested 25 members of political opposition party Citizen's Coalition for Change (CCC) and allegedly physically assaulted the lawyer who was representing them, Flavia Mwangovya, Amnesty International's Deputy Director for East and Southern Africa, said: [amnesty.org](https://www.amnesty.org)



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10. Zimbabwe: End Massive Crackdown on Dissent Before SADC Summit | Human Rights Watch (Johannesburg) – Zimbabwean authorities should end their crackdown against opposition and civil society members ahead of the Southern African Development Community (SADC) summit scheduled for August 17, 2024, in Harare, Amnesty International and Human Rights Watch said today. [hrw.org](https://www.hrw.org)

11. Human rights in Zimbabwe Amnesty International On 16 June, police raided the home of CCC party leader Jameson Timba during a private gathering, arresting 78 people. They were held in custody for more than 48 hours before being brought to court, in violation of Zimbabwean law, and charged with “gathering with intent to promote public violence and disorderly conduct”. On 4 September, 12 of those arrested were acquitted after the court found that they were not involved in the gathering. [amnesty.org](https://www.amnesty.org)

12. Zimbabwe must release human rights defenders ahead of SADC summit, say experts | OHCHR [ohchr.org](https://www.ohchr.org)

13. Zimbabwe police arrest 18 political activists in latest clampdown ahead of regional summit | AP News FILE - Zimbabwe President Emmerson Mnangagwa gestures during his inauguration ceremony at the National Sports Stadium in the capital, Harare, on Sept. 4 2023. Zimbabwe police have arrested 18 political activists and hauled some of them off a plane, their lawyers said Thursday, Aug. [apnews.com](https://www.apnews.com)

14. Zimbabwean diaspora unites in London: Voices of protest heard loud and clear - The Standard SADC accused of complicity to the regime as the democratic space continues to shrink in Zimbabwe and the citizens are calling for Mnangagwa not to assume the SADC chairmanship as this is clear it will sanitize his illegitimacy of his self-imposed presidency. The credibility of SADC as a regional body is now under scrutiny as they are losing trust from people they represent in the region and beyond. Concerns mount over the unlawful arrest of Senator Jameson Timba and 78 other CCC supporters. The government must grant them bail as we have seen ZHRO, CCC, ZAPU, ROHR and other civic organizations unite in handing over a Petition to UK's Newly Elected Prime Minister and stage a demo outside the Zimbabwean Embassy today 19th July 2024. [thestandard.co.zw](https://www.thestandard.co.zw)

15. Zimbabwe elections: Police raid of opposition leader Chamisa's press conference sparks chaos as Mnangagwa calls for unity | The Independent | The Independent Armed police have broken up a press conference due to be given by Zimbabwe's opposition leader as Emmerson Mnangagwa – declared the winner in the country's bitterly disputed presidential race – called for “peace and unity” and declared that his administration “protected freedom of speech and the right to criticise the government”. [independent.co.uk](https://www.independent.co.uk)