

ACTSAs position on Zimbabwe: 3 July 2008

ACTSA calls for an end to violence and intimidation in Zimbabwe; for the release and dropping of charges against political and trade unionist activists.

We strongly believe that it is up to Zimbabweans to decide who they want to govern them. However, given the widespread violence and intimidation in the country and other barriers to democracy, ACTSA believes that the international community, with the lead coming from the Southern African Development Community (SADC), must help Zimbabweans find a solution based on a commitment to democracy, human rights, dignity and addressing injustices both current and historic.

Historic injustices exist, especially on land, which have never been effectively addressed. ACTSA supports these be addressed, but believes that the failure to do so to date cannot be used to condone violence, intimidation and the denial of democracy.

ACTSA welcomes the conclusion from the SADC Election Observer Mission, "The process leading up to the presidential run off elections held on 27 June did not conform to SADC Principles and Guidelines Governing Democratic Elections"... " the elections did not represent the will of the Zimbabwean people". Following from this logically SADC should deny legitimacy to Mugabe. More and more SADC leaders have been critical of the situation in Zimbabwe. We support SADC taking action to bring about a process which will enable Zimbabweans to decide without fear or favour who their elected representatives shall be.

The key test and challenge for SADC is to support change in Zimbabwe which results in the voice of the Zimbabwean people being heard and their will upheld.

ACTSA supports measures which specifically target those most closely involved in human right violations; which isolate Mugabe and his government and are called for, supported by representative, legitimate organisations in Zimbabwe and the region e.g. the trade union movement.

ACTSA supports that there be further targeted measures against individuals most closely associated with the violence in Zimbabwe.

ACTSA continues to campaign for democracy, rights and justice for Zimbabwe in solidarity with and in support of the people of Zimbabwe.