

EU Targeted Measures

In 2002 the European Union adopted a policy of targeted restrictive measures against Robert Mugabe and key instigators of state sponsored violence against the people of Zimbabwe.

ACTSA recognises that due to the history of southern Africa, especially Zimbabwe and South Africa, the issue of the imposition and implementation of targeted measures by western governments is an emotive one.

What do the EU targeted measures do?

- Restrict Robert Mugabe and specifically named individuals in the Zimbabwean Government that are deemed responsible for human rights violations against fellow Zimbabweans from travelling to the EU. (In specified circumstances this ban has been lifted)
- Freeze any personal assets held in the EU, of Robert Mugabe and other, named individuals who have instigated violence against the Zimbabwean people.
- Impose an EU arms embargo on Zimbabwe

They are thus measures designed to impact on named individuals not on the population or country as a whole. The EU and many of its member states are major providers of humanitarian assistance to Zimbabwe.

Since the signing of the Global Political Agreement in September 2009, there has been a sense of cautious optimism in Zimbabwe. However, much of civil society in Zimbabwe supports EU targeted measures being retained until there is clear and concrete evidence that democracy and human rights have been restored.

ACTSA, based on the views expressed to us from groups and organisations in Zimbabwe and southern Africa currently supports the retention of EU targeted measures against Robert Mugabe and other named individuals until democracy is restored and human rights are upheld.