

Zimbabwe Domestic Broadcasting (1 February - 7 February, 2011)

By Zuzia Danielski, MIGS media monitor for Zimbabwe

State-owned Media

“Tsvangirai’s utterances expose penchant for violence”

(The Herald, government-owned daily, 1 February 2011, in English)

- Prime Minister and MDC-T leader Morgan Tsvangirai condoned the turmoil in Egypt and insinuated that similar chaos is acceptable in Zimbabwe, revealing his inclination towards undemocratic processes for solving disputes. Tsvangirai made the statements of support to American broadcaster Fox News, while attending the World Economic Forum in Switzerland.
- Asked about similar [Egyptian and Tunisian-style] uprisings in Zimbabwe, Tsvangirai said, ‘To me, when people take their rights, and start demanding more rights, there is nothing wrong with that, including in Zimbabwe. That was the whole purpose of our (MDC-T) struggle for the last 10 years’.
- Readers of The Herald have come out in defiance against the PM’s comments saying they do not want political parties engaging in violence. Political analysts have said the PM’s ‘fascination’ with North Africa is an attempt to incite violence within Zimbabwe.
- Professor Jonathan Moyo said, ‘He is the only politician at his level who has used violence not only to settle political scores in his party but also to divide and split his party’. He added that unrest currently seen was against puppet governments of the US, which was not the case of Zimbabwe. Therefore, there would be no such revolt in the country.
- Another analyst noted that the PM’s remarks were in direct contravention to the Global Political Agreement and that this was not the first time Tsvangirai has been accused of inciting violence, when a decade ago during a rally in Harare he urged for the violent removal of Mugabe.

“WikiLeaks exposes EU sanctions scheme”

(The Herald, government-owned daily, 2 February 2011, in English)

- US State Department cables released by WikiLeaks show that European Union pushed for ‘creative’ ways of presenting the illegal sanctions on Zimbabwe to hide their adverse impact on the country.
- The cables reveal that the sanctions target less than 200 ZANU-PF officials and do not affect the national economy.
- Under a sanctions plan code-named ‘reftel b’, the EU considered a total investment ban on Zimbabwe after Tsvangirai failed to win the 2008 presidential elections. The plan was dropped after realizing it would hurt British and American investments in Zimbabwe.

- Holland then proposed ‘moral suasion’ to stop European business in Zimbabwe. The cable added that UK grocery chain Tesco had stopped buying from the country, and Shell was considering sale of assets.

“MDC-T violence threatens a fantasy: ZRP”

(Zimbabwe Broadcasting Corporation, government-owned broadcasting, 3 February 2011, in English)

- The Zimbabwe Republic Police describes threats from MDC-T leaders and supporters to engage in violence as ‘wishful thinking’ and says it will quell any illegal action.
- The past two weeks have seen some perpetrators of violence with minor disturbances in Mbare, Budiriro, Glenview, Glen Norah and Chitungwiza.
- ZRP Officer Commanding Harare Province, Senior Assistant Commissioner Clement Munoriyarwa said, “This is wishful thinking. The situation in Egypt will never be tolerated anywhere in Zimbabwe. People have a right to originate opinion, but as police we are not going to allow that.”
- On Wednesday, MDC-T supporters had gathered at Harare’s Town House where they were to be addressed by party leader Tsvangirai, with violent demonstrations planned following. Alert law enforcement agents were able to stop the gathering.

“DPM Mutambara won’t resign” by Farirai Machivenyika and Mabasa Sasa

(The Herald, government-owned daily, 3 February 2011, in English)

- Deputy Prime Minister Arthur Mutambara has indicated to President Mugabe that he is not presently considering resigning from the inclusive government.
- The DPM was deposed in January as MDC president, with Secretary-General Welshman Ncube taking over. The MDC has not formally communicated to Mugabe their wish for change in principals.
- The MDC is not considering pulling out of the inclusive government, as reported by some media.

“Divisions rock EU over Zim sanctions” by Tafadzwa Chiremba

(The Sunday Mail, government-owned weekly, 5 February 2011, in English)

- According to a released WikiLeaks cable released Friday, top French government officials pressured Britain to revoke the illegal sanctions against Zimbabwe. The deputy national security advisor Bruno Joubert, Home Affairs Advisor Eric Chevallier, and former Foreign Minister Bernard Kouchner’s African Affairs advisor Charlotte Montel, during a meeting in Paris in April 2009 with former British Foreign Office Minister Lord Malloch-Brown, ‘pressed hard’ on the British minister to remove the sanctions.
- In the cable it appears that the EU would begin to consider lifting the sanctions, regardless of the UK’s support, although it preferred the UK to take the lead.
- The revelations come as EU leaders are to meet later this month to discuss the status of the sanctions.

“Suspected MDC rampage continues”

(Zimbabwe Broadcasting Corporation, government-owned broadcasting, 6 February 2011, in English)

- A petrol bomb destroyed stockpiled goods last night in a politically motivated attack against the ZANU-PF, as suspected MDC supporters increase violence throughout the country.
- The ZANU-PF MP for the region said that the act committed by the MDC was meant to reverse the gains of the empowerment drive which the ZANU-PF was leading. However he urged ZANU-PF youth not to retaliate.

“I won’t quit DPM post, says Mutambara”

(The Herald, government-owned daily, 7 February 2011, in English)

- Deputy Prime Minister Arthur Mutambara said he would not leave his post in government and would not recognize Welshman Ncube as MDC President, as long as his election was being challenged in the High Court.
- Ncube, who was elected as MDC President in the party congress in January, declared he would take over as Party Principal and DPM in the inclusive government – re-deploying Mutambara as Regional Integration and International Cooperation Minister.
- Addressing journalists for the first time since recent events, Mutambara said he had no intention to leave his post of DPM and that Zimbabwe’s Constitution had no provision for a political party to recall a sitting DPM.

“MDC-T working with West on sanctions - WikiLeaks”

(The Herald, government-owned daily, 7 February 2011, in English)

- New cables released by WikiLeaks reveal that the MDC-T has been working with the European Union to determine what kind of sanctions should be imposed on Zimbabwe, in direct contradiction to the party’s denial that it has no control over the West’s actions.
- The cables quote MDC-T secretary general Mr. Tendai Biti in communication with the US Embassy in London and the US State Department, with Biti suggesting the need for ‘partial lifting’ of sanctions.
- Biti names state-owned organizations and at least one individual who should be removed from the sanction list, as well as individuals who are now deceased.

“Looters hit city shops”

(The Herald, government-owned daily, 7 February 2011, in English)

- Demonstrations in Harare by ZANU-PF youth yesterday turned into a looting spree. The youth gathered in the morning for a police sanctioned demonstration against the slow implementation of indigenisation policies.

- As they marched into the capital's centre, they were joined by other groups and the situation deteriorated into a 'looting orgy'. Many of the shops are understood to be run by non-indigenous people.
- Police arrested eight people for looting and are still investigating.

"Eight arrested in Harare disturbances"

(Zimbabwe Broadcasting Corporation, government-owned broadcasting, 7 February 2011, in English)

- Police arrested eight people in connection with disturbances at the Gulf Complex in Harare which resulted in some shops destroyed and looted.
- An entrepreneurship youth grouping, Upfumi Kuvadiki, said it had organized a police sanctioned demonstration against the government's decision to award a recent contract to a South African company, going against indigenisation policies.
- The demonstration seems to have been hijacked by MDC-T supporters who looted pro-ZANU PF shops.

Private-owned Media

"Bishop compares Gukurahundi massacres to Holocaust", by Irene Madongo

(SW Radio Africa News, independent Zimbabwean radio, London UK, 1 February 2011, in English)

- A retired Anglican Bishop in Matabeleland has warned that more Zimbabweans will be tortured and killed by Robert Mugabe's regime as the world stands by – as was the case with the Gukurahundi massacres and the violence surrounding previous elections. The remarks were made as part of this year's Holocaust Memorial Day, held last Thursday.
- In the Gukurahundi massacres, tens of thousands Zimbabweans were killed by soldiers loyal to Mugabe in the 1980s and it was classified recently as a genocide by the international group, Genocide Watch.

"MDC-T MP accuses police of fanning violence in Mbare", by Tichaona Sibanda

(SW Radio Africa News, independent Zimbabwean radio, London UK, 2 February 2011, in English)

- The MDC-T MP for Mbare, Piniel Denga, has accused the police of being part of the political violence in the region and is calling on the Commissioner-General to take control of the situation.
- Fresh violence erupted in the area, seeing two MDC activists hospitalized following unprovoked attacks from ZANU-PF youth.
- Denga said, 'Violence in the name of ZANU-PF often happens in front of the police. How can they just stand there while people are being brutalized? It seems that the police officers were impotent when facing such tragedies'.

- 16 MDC supporters have been arrested in recent days, while ZANU-PF perpetrators go unpunished.

“ZANU PF youths being trained at Inkomo army barracks”, by Lance Guma (SW Radio Africa News, independent Zimbabwean radio, London UK, 3 February 2011, in English)

- According to confidential documents accessed by SW Radio Africa News, the groups of ZANU-PF youth who have been causing chaos on the streets in recent weeks were trained for two months at the Inkomo army barracks, outside of Harare.
- The documents show that since November 2010, Mugabe has been recruiting impoverished youth from rural areas and giving them military training. ‘Operation Return to ZANU’ plans to train up to 70,000 youth by May 2011. Groups will be deployed to terrorize opposition supporters.
- Apart from violence, the youth are also to force people to purchase ZANU-PF membership cards.
- The radio station has also received reports that Mugabe is updating radio-jamming equipment to be ready for elections.

“Mujuru to bring Zhuwao to book over invasions” by Caiphaz Chimete (The Standard, independent weekly, Harare, 7 February 2011, in English)

- President Mugabe’s nephew, MP Patrick Zhuwao, will be told to stop invading tourism facilities or face disciplinary action after a crisis meeting with Vice-President Joyce Mujuru.
- The MP openly defied Mujuru by threatening to re-invade the tourist resorts along Lake Chivero last month.

“ZANU PF, ZAPU wary of secessionists” by Khanyile Mlotshwa in Bulawayo (The Standard, independent weekly, Harare, 7 February 2011, in English)

- ZANU-PF and ZANU warn that if the new constitution does not provide for the devolution of power, the secessionist movement in Matabeleland will gain more ground.
- The new party, Matabeleland Liberation Front (MLF) was formed last year by South African-based Zimbabweans who advocate for secession on the claim that the region has been marginalized for too long.
- The parties said that when they say ‘devolution of power’ they mean the people must directly benefit from the resources in the area.