



It's Politics, stupid;

A Report on the Mass Evictions of Resident Students at the University of Zimbabwe, July 2007



Report produced by:

Zimbabwe National Students Union

Affiliate status with Southern Africa Students Union (SASU), All Africa Students Union (AASU),
International Union Students (IUS),

Abbreviations

AUT	Association of University Teachers
CIO	Central Intelligence Organisation
HIV	Human Immune Virus
SADC	Southern African Development Community
SEC	Students Executive Council
UZ	University of Zimbabwe
ZANU PF	Zimbabwe African National Union Patriotic Front
ZINASU	Zimbabwe National Students Union

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1. Executive Summary

This strategic report seeks to comprehensively and systematically capture the historical developments, philosophical underpinnings, the extent, scope and impact of the mass eviction of students at the University of Zimbabwe (UZ), the oldest and biggest institution of higher learning in Zimbabwe on the 9th of July 2007.

It also presents the holistic, integrated and multi-layered political, legal, humanitarian response and media strategy taken by the student union and other strategic organisations including the Student Solidarity Trust. The lessons learnt and tactical to mid-term and long term recommendations are also aptly captured in the report.

The Gestapo styled - mass evictions were politically motivated and had unprecedented economic and social repercussions on students and their parents and Guardians. The government and ZANU PF sanctioned operation was unfortunate, sudden, total, brutal and unnecessary. It was a sin before God, a crime against humanity and resulted in untold human suffering.

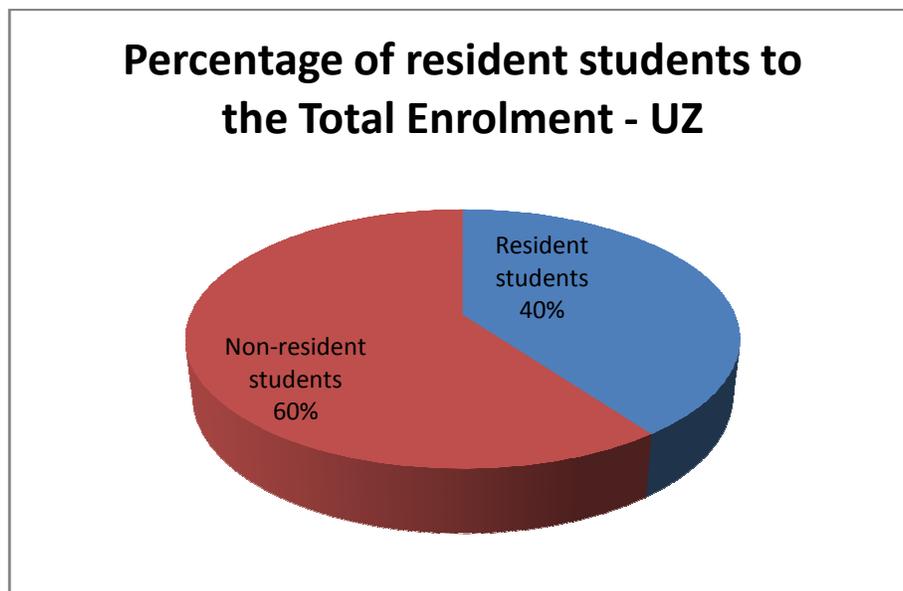
More than 5 600 students were affected directly and more than 9 000 students were indirectly affected. The majority of the affected were female students who occupied 5 of the 8 halls of residence at the Institution. More than 80% of students at the University of Zimbabwe come from outside Harare. 6 student leaders were arrested, tortured and indefinitely suspended over the disturbances which rocked the University on the 3rd and 7th of July 2007, leading to the closure of the University on the 9th of July 2007.

2. Introduction

The mass evictions, reminiscent of Operation *Murambatsvina* (Operation Restore Order) of 2005 was carried out by armed riot police at 2:30 pm, on the 9th July 2007 following a 30 minute notice by the University of Zimbabwe Vice Chancellor Professor Levy Nyagura. In his notice sent out at 2pm, Professor Nyagura said that students had destroyed University property on the 3rd and 7th of July 2007 and that all students should leave halls of residence by 3 pm of the same day.

The students were rejecting the ZW\$ 1 000 000 top up fees by the University. At 2:30pm, armed riot police had started violently evicting students from the halls of residence. In the process hundreds of students were beaten and injured by the riot police. Two students were critically injured and received medical attention at Avenues clinic, in Harare¹. All the resident students were affected regardless of whether one had paid the top up fees or not.

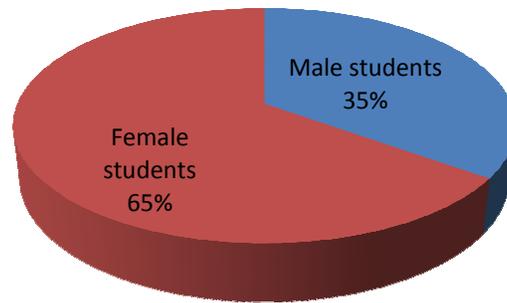
Below are the graphical and statistical presentation of the gender analysis of resident students and comparative analysis of resident and non-resident students who were worst affected by the operation



Source: ZINASU Data Base

¹ Student Solidarity Trust, July 2007 Solidarity

Gender Analysis of Resident Students University of Zimbabwe



Source: ZINASU Data Bas



Students packing their belongings outside the university premises

3. Political, social and economic context of the mass evictions,

There is need to interrogate and critique the mass evictions by the University from a broader geo-politico panorama. Zimbabwe will be holding a joint Parliamentary and Presidential election in 2008 and there is need to locate the role of students as an organised youth formation. Historically, students have by and large acted as a catalyst for social change in any society. Given such a fundamental role, students are a prime target of state brutality and oppressive tactics and strategies.



Mass evictions in pictures

The move by the University was a political strategy to demobilise the students, who are a vital constituency to pro-democracy forces in Zimbabwe. The state had as of late resorted to using Gestapo tactics to silence all dissenting voices; this is aptly captured when the state, abusing the police, army and unemployed youth, brutally assaulted labour leadership on the 13th of September 2006, Save Zimbabwe Campaigners on the 11th of March 2007 and the Lawyers². The regime thought they had effectively managed to silence all oppositional forces but the students have lived up to their role as

² Zimbabwe Lawyers for Human Rights 2007 records

the vanguard of any revolution. The demonstrations on the 3rd and 7th of July are testimonies to that. The massive voter registration campaign by ZINASU can be among the key contributing factors to the drastic decision by the University. The regime is working flat out to divert the attention of the masses, students included, from real issues by coming up with operations such as the price blitz targeting the business community and mass eviction of students whilst they are supposed to go and register as voters. ZINASU is strategically planning to use the students as the nucleus of its voter registration campaign. Students command respect and influence in their local constituencies.

The government has abdicated its social responsibility. A review of pertinent data shows that Zimbabwe is facing a sharp decline in public expenditure on higher education, deteriorating teaching conditions, decaying educational facilities and infrastructure, perpetual student unrest, erosion of University autonomy, shortage of experienced and well trained professors, lack of academic freedoms and an increasing rate of unemployment among university graduates. These deteriorations are litmus indicators of a governance crisis, a paralysis of priority mechanism which saw it fit to allocate a huge chunk of resources to the army at the expense of education in a country which is not experiencing a civil war.

In 1979, budgetary allocation to education was 37 % of the total national expenditure, while today the expenditure is far less³. The government has in the process, failed to accord education its rightful place in its overall national development strategic plan. In light of the foregoing critical analysis and harsh economic conditions, universities are being forced to come up with stop gap measures and alternatives. Topping up fees is one of the alternatives but due to the fact that most parents are living below the poverty datum line, in abject and chronic poverty, the university alternative is not strategic, it is a tragedy.

The Department of Accommodation and Catering services at the University was finding it difficulty to operate without the support from the government hence the move to call up for the top up fees no matter how flawed the

³ Parliament of Zimbabwe records 1980

process to the decision was, the bottom line is the university had no money to feed students from the 8th of June 2007 to the 27th of June 2007, which was extension period. The notice appeared on the UZ notice boards on 27 June setting the deadline for payment as 29 June 2007. Lovemore Chinoputsa, the Students Executive Council (SEC) President filed an urgent chamber application with the High Court for the indictment of evictions and payment of top up. On Friday the 29th of June 2007 at 1600 hours only 12 out of about 5600 students had complied with the notice. This display of resistance did not only shock the administrators at UZ and the government but the nation at large. It was such peaceful spirit of resistance and valour which is found at the rock solid heart of the student movement, which shocked the Nyagura led Administration. Unprovoked as it was, Tarambiwa, the Chief Security Officer at the University invited armed police to evict innocent and armed students.

Annual Inflation rate is pegged at 4530%, thus, according to the Central Statistic Office of Zimbabwe yet in reality it is now pegged at over 12000%. All the indicators of economic development, Balance of payment, National savings, Gross National Product, Gross Domestic Product, Agricultural productivity, Direct Foreign Investment are on a downward trajectory. The domestic debt is current pegged at over ZW\$ 300 trillion and the foreign debt is hovering hopelessly at US\$ 5 billion. Unemployment is pegged at more than 80%, 70% of which are the youth. Life expectancy is 35 for males and 33 for females. All the above mentioned pointers of national crisis can not be divorced from the crisis engulfing the biggest and oldest university in Zimbabwe, once the citadel, beacon and envy of Africa.



Dreams shattered,

Below is an opinion from one of the student at the University of Zimbabwe, Trevor Murai.

The immediate cause may be traced from the Lecturers' strike. In January 2007 the Association of University Teachers (AUT) indicated in a Council meeting at UZ that they would engage in collective job action on the 12th of February 2007 when the semester commences. On the 15th of January 2007 Nyagura called for a Council meeting and tried to manipulate lecturers to commit themselves towards serving his interests and the government's by not going on strike. He then circulated a form to be filled by the employees indicating whether they were going on strike or not. The document was severely criticised and was dismissed by Dr Lovemore Madhuku, a law lecturer who indicated that the contracts they signed upon being recruited as employees was enough. The UZ employees collectively declined to sign the form. Nyagura went on a rampage of issuing threats to the staff to the effect that he would withhold salaries and/or dismiss them.

On the 12th of February 2007, the semester failed to resume as was scheduled as lecturers refused to indicate whether they were going on strike or not. Nyagura had calculated that if the lecturers indicate that they are going on strike he will then advise students not to come for the commencement of semester rendering the strike ineffective.

When the students eventually came on the 26th of February 2007 the lectures failed to resume as the lecturers went on strike. Nyagura responded by suspending the salaries of those who had gone on strike. The UZ administration shunned the AUT representatives for weeks until they went to the labour court. The labour court then ordered the UZ administration and the AUT to engage in negotiations and gave the 30th of April 2007 as the deadline. James Mahlauri, the President of AUT was suspended because of the job action. Nyagura put as a condition for negotiations that all the striking lecturers should resume teaching which they did until negotiations collapsed after a week due to unfulfilled promises and arrogance on the part of the UZ administrators. Finally the lecturers resumed teaching after about six weeks of job action.

Nyagura appeared on national television saying that to make up for the lost time he was going to expand teaching period and extend the semester. Students were quick to point out that Nyagura and the government do not have the capacity to fund the extension period. Nyagura never indicated that he was mulling over an evil move to shift the funding of repercussions of the strike to the students. Students revolted on the 3rd and 7th of July 2007 because of this issue. Millions of dollars have been lost due to the Lecturers' strike. Six students were arrested and may be suspended from the University due to the far reaching repercussions of the lecturers' strike. 4 500 students have been evicted from campus residence due to the consequences of the strike.



"Even if I get transport, where do I go?" Chiedza Kariwo First year student

4. Scope, Extent and impact of the mass evictions

The evictions literally affected all the students at the University. This is due to a combination of factors.



Students pondering on the next move

4.1 Female students,

Female students were hit most as they were occupying five out of the eight halls of residence on the University campus. The largest of these halls has a carrying capacity of 626 students, the smallest a capacity of 350⁴. To this end, about 3 200 students were staying on campus. Hence female students constitute 65 % of the total number of the victims of the forced mass evictions. The evictions impacted negatively on female students, most have become destitute and have been left to bear the cold winter and highly dangerous Harare-streets nights.

The state sponsored disaster has increased the female student's vulnerability to abuse by financially capacitated men and others who are prepared to house the desperate female students .It has also created the financial necessity of multiple sex partners as the female student battle to save her

⁴ University of Zimbabwe, Department of Accommodation and Catering Service 2007 records

desperate situation . Many were left with no option but to co-habit with either boyfriends or garden boys who work in the neighbourhood and sugar daddies. Not only has there been serious moral decadence in the past few days, but there also has been severe exposure of the female student to H.I.V and other sexually transmitted diseases.

These developments are retrogressive to the advancement of the Millennium Development Goal number 3 of gender parity. The dire effects of the heightened vulnerability to H.I.V of the female student will contribute immensely to the annihilation and demolition of tomorrow's rich female resource capitol. This will mean continual gender disparities in the industry and other corporate entities.

The demeaning treatment and harassment that the female students were subjected to by the anti-riot police who evicted them will undermine the psychological process of value-creation that tertiary education tries to foster in individual students. The effect is such that many women graduates will find themselves incapable of taking up leadership and top managerial positions. Quite a considerable number have left college to return to their homes with no immediate plan to the crisis. It is examination period and most from this group will fail to write their exams, a significant drop in the number of graduate students will be encountered this year.

ZINASU, Women Action Group and the Student Solidarity Trust also assisted by identifying students who were in critical need of humanitarian aid by mobilizing assistance for them. The Gender Desk facilitated the creation of a Female students' crisis committee which carried out a needs assessment. A total of 230 female students benefited from the scheme.

4.2 Male students

These have been deliberately left out of the halls of residence by having five out of the eight halls of residence being allocated to females as they were perceived to be less vocal compared to males. The biased hostel allocation resulted in most males staying illegally with friends, now that they have been

evicted some will turn to crime while others will become vagrants. Drug and alcohol abuse have become rampant as coping strategies to the stress. Students are likely not to perform well in the forthcoming examinations.

Male students have been hit by the crisis in a unique fashion from their female counterparts. Generally landlords within the vicinity are reluctant to take males as tenants. They stereotype males as rowdy, drunkards and undisciplined. For this reason, there is a blanket negative perception of male students. Thus landlords are more inclined to taking female students than male students as tenants.

Male students have resorted to spending their nights in night clubs in order to keep warm. This environment is not conducive for learning as they will not get enough sleep. It is unfortunate that this is happening when students are already writing examinations.

The evictions have long term psychological imbalances on the male students. They gave them added pressure when they already had pressure from impending examinations. Thus some male and female students had to look for alternative accommodation and were left with insufficient time to prepare for examinations.

The barbaric acts by the riot police resulted in 2 students, Keegan Shumbaimwe and Jotham Shumba being admitted at Avenues Clinic with broken limbs. Up to 60 doors in one of the Hall of Residence, New Complex One were bulldozed. The riot police also looted students' property including cell phones, clothes and lap tops.

Shumba Jotham, a part 2 Bachelor of Arts General student jumped through the window from second floor in New Complex One trying to escape from the police who were pursuing him. Six students were arrested including Shaun Matsheza, the Vice President of the Student Executive Council who up to date cannot sit and Caesar Sitiya who was bitten by a police dog on his foot. The other students who were tortured and arrested are Shingai Chikomba, Thabani Mthokozisi, Manifest Jabuli and Tawanda Chiuya. Manifest Jabuli lost

three of his front line teeth. That was gross violation of Article 5; 7; 9 of UN Declaration of Human Rights.⁵

4.3 Students with disabilities

Forty two of the students evicted were students with disabilities who were staying in the company of their aids, all of whom were evicted. Students with disabilities need more time for relocation; moreover they take time to adjust to new environments.

4.4 Parents and Guardians

Staying with a member of the extended family is not a conducive environment for academia in these harsh economic environments. Parents have been however forced to refer their children to members of the extended family some of whom they do not even know. This will make students vulnerable to all forms of abuse. Harare residents with relatives who are students at the University of Zimbabwe will be overburdened in terms of accommodating and feeding their relatives.

4.5 Lecturers

Most lecturers because of low remuneration are not teaching for financial benefit but have a passion for the work they are doing. Any disturbance in the normal learning process is a psychological drawback to their aspirations. Some lecturers have provided refuge to some of their students who were stranded.

4.6 Transport Operators capacity

The country is facing serious fuel shortages after the government introduced price slashes, as such, few commuter omnibuses are plying routes. Most operators apart from the UZ crisis had already withdrawn their vehicles from the roads. The few remaining operators are overwhelmed with the high number of commuters.

4.7 Non resident students

Transporters are overwhelmed with commuters and are now therefore overcharging desperate students as the number of students commuting has greatly increased. Rentals have been astronomically hiked as the demand for accommodation around the Mount Pleasant area has drastically increased.



Big business for commuter bus operators

5. Legal analysis of mass evictions

By Pardon Nhokwara, a 3rd year Law student at UZ

Before we get on to the legal issues arising it is necessary to establish the relationship between the university and the students. This will enable us to determine whether the fees top up is illegal or not. Suffices to say, the fees top up was illegal. Secondly, whether the evictions effected by the Vice Chancellor are legal or not? From a legal standpoint the evictions are illegal. These issues are fully discussed below.

At this point, we will look at the relationship between the university and the students. Firstly, there was an agreement between the students and the university authorities that the students will pay a designated sum of fee which would take them through the semester. Thus, reciprocally; the university would provide the students with food, accommodation, water, electricity and other necessities for the conducive learning environment of resident students. From this, we see that there was an offer to house students by the university which offer students could either be accepted or rejected. By paying the fees, students accepted the offer. This entails that a contractual relationship had been created. We say this because the requirements for a valid contract had been met. The requirements for a contract is an offer or a proposal made by a person called the offerer which is communicated to the offeree with the intention that once accepted, a valid agreement is created. The person to whom the offer is addressed, that is the offeree, can either accept or reject the offer. If the offeree accepts the offer then a contract comes into existence as in this situation. Once accepted, the Offer is obliged to fulfill his duties without fail.

Then there was the strike by lecturers over poor working conditions which forced the extension of the semester. Clearly, it was not a fault which could be attributed to the students. The university was to blame. It failed to engage lecturers while they continued with their work or to give them the necessary concessions. In fact, the students were not privy to the strike. The students had contracted with the university to the end of the semester. Thus, the university could be said to have been in breach of its contractual

obligation, which is to provide learning and accommodation for students. The extension of semester resulted in students incurring unnecessary expenditure which they could not have reasonably foreseen. As we said earlier, the university was in breach of contract. Therefore they did not have legal standing to increase or to claim top up fees. In stead, the students could have sued the University for Breach of contract and claimed damages sustained as a result of the strike. Strangely, the university chose to go ahead and effect an illegal fees top up.

We have seen that the strike is illegal as illustrated above. Now we will look at the forced evictions which are in themselves illegal. In order to show that the evictions are illegal we can choose to apply two routes either the human rights way or common law. We are going to start by exploring common law. The students were in effective occupation of halls of residences. Thus, they were in possession of the residences. This meant that for the university to evict students, it had to obtain a court order. The university took the law into their own hands and gave students insufficient notice without a court order. Even University of Zimbabwe lawyers, Ziumbe and Mutambanengwe realized the hopelessness of their client `s case hence students obtained a judgment by consent. From the noble conduct of University of Zimbabwe, it is obvious that the evictions were illegal. Students have a remedy called a ***mandament van spoilie*** hereinafter called a spoliation order. A spoliation order is designed to prevent people from taking the law into their own hands because it may cause anarchy. Imagine a situation where students chose to disobey illegal evictions carried out by police, it surely would have resulted in bloodshed. This is the evil a spoliation order is designed to prevent. Therefore, it does not matter whether the university had better title to the residences. This situation can be compared to cases where the person who is in possession of property is a thief. An owner of the property cannot arbitrarily force a thief who is in unlawful possession to surrender the property. If an owner does so then the court can force him to return the property simply because of the fact that he took the law into his own hands. Similarly whether the students were in unlawful occupation of the residences or not, the fact remains that they were dispossessed forcefully of their residence by university authorities. Thus the students went to court and obtained a ***mandament van spoilie*** because students were forcefully

dispossessed of their shelter without a court order. From the common law the evictions were illegal.

Now we look at the evictions from a human rights point of view. Human rights are not derived from governments or elsewhere. They are there by virtue of one being a human. That is the simple truth which dictatorial governments find difficult to accept. Because of forced evictions, there was infringement on inalienable human rights. The violated rights include right to protection from torture or to cruel, inhuman or to, degrading treatment, or punishment, the right to education and protection against displacement and forced evictions. These rights are enshrined in our Constitution and conventions to which Zimbabwe is a signatory. The conventions include the United Nations Universal Declaration of Human Rights and International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (ICCPR) among other conventions.

Failure to give reasonable notice to students was bad, while evicting students from their residences was worse; failing to provide alternative accommodation was fatal. Students had to sleep outside with no shelter. Clearly they were worse off than animals. University of Zimbabwe has a variety of students from different backgrounds. Some are rich but definitely the majority is poor, they cannot afford alternative accommodation. Imagine someone sleeping outside in winter, the month of July that has been scientifically proven to be the coldest month in Zimbabwe by the Meteorological Department. Clearly it amounted to inhuman and cruel treatment. Such treatment is prohibited in the constitution and the conventions.

By denying students accommodation, they (University) had effectively undermined the students' right to education. Students were forced to go back home. For some, it entailed travelling for over four hundred kilometers to Bulawayo. It would be unimaginable that they would commute to Harare for lessons, unless one had to fly. Hence one can say Professor Levy Nyagura had denied students the right to education. The right to education is enshrined in various conventions. Thus it is worrying to note that the Mugabe regime only pays lip service to conventions to which it is a signatory. They are not ashamed to brag that they are party to these conventions. This

is everything that is contemptible in servility with everything that is odious in rapacity.

The *Sunday Mail* of 15 July 2007 published a press statement in which Professor Levy Nyagura unequivocally defied a court order which obliged the university to reinstate students to their halls of residences. He tried to hide behind a lame excuse that the halls were inhabitable and there is threat to peace. This was mere politicking. Legally, we are interested in facts and real life issues and not the imagined situations. Even where there has been a threat to health, a spoliation order we earlier alluded to, does not concern itself with lawfulness or otherwise. It is interested in whether a person has been dispossessed unlawfully. The dispossessed students are entitled to repossess the property in contention. Unfortunately, Professor Levy Nyagura is in contempt of court. This is contrary to the convention that everyone is entitled to an effective remedy. If the university does not comply with the court order then ZINASU will institute contempt of court proceedings so that those who are responsible for the administration of the University of Zimbabwe face the full wrath of the law, Professor Levy Nyagura included.

It can be summed up that the eviction of students was in clear violation of the right to protection of students from cruel, inhuman and degrading punishment and the right to education. In conclusion, this legal analysis will emphasize that human rights are afforded to humans simply because they are humans. They are inalienable. They cannot be subtracted from but can be added to.⁶

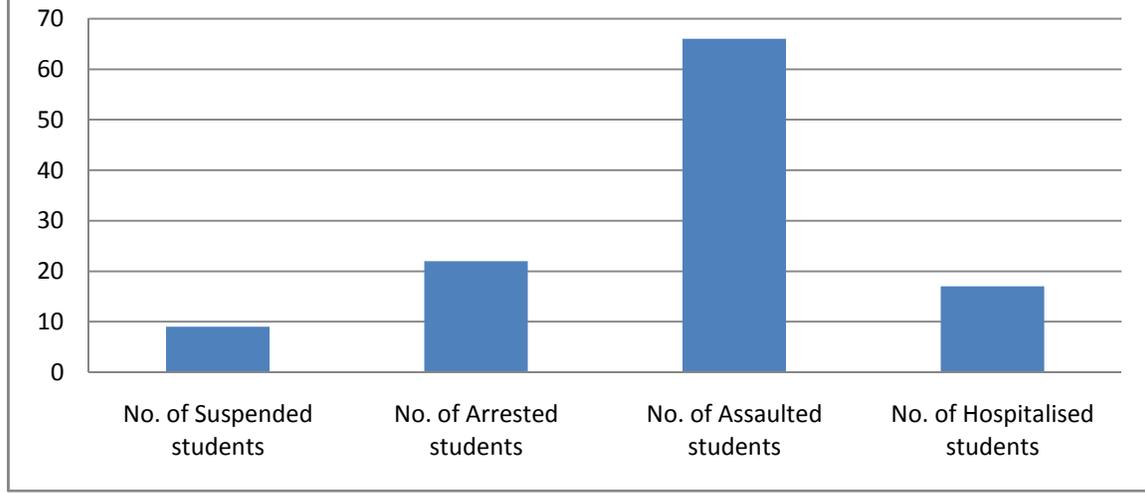
⁶ The legal analysis is informed by the International Bill of rights

6. Barometer of Student struggles at UZ: 04 June 2007 – 09 July 2007

Date	Action	Description	Names of Affected Activists	Perpetrators
04 June	7 students appear before a disciplinary hearing at UZ over protest against the continued strike by lecturers.	The seven students were being charged under the notorious and oppressive ordinance 30 which is a legal instrument that is used by the University of Zimbabwe. The disciplinary committee set the 5 th of June as the day of the verdict.	Tinei Mukwewa, Abisha Dube, Maureen Kademaunga, Prosper Munatsi, Matema, Chikati, and Terrence Chimhavi.	The state through college authorities.
05 June	UZ disciplinary committee acquits 5 student leaders and remands 2 to further hearing over protest against continued strike by lecturers.	The 5 student leaders (Abisha Dube, Maurine Kademaunga, Matema, Prosper Munatsi and Chikati) acquitted were strongly cautioned that should they repeat the same offence within a year they will face outright expulsion from the institution. However, 2 student leaders Tinei Mukwewa and Terrence Chimhavi were further remanded to a further hearing on the 12 th of June.	Tinei Mukwewa, Abisha Dube, Maurine Kademaunga, Prosper Munatsi, Matema, Chikati, and Terrence Chimhavi.	The state through college authorities.
12 June	Two UZ student leaders reappear before a disciplinary hearing.	The disciplinary committee set the 19 th of June as the date of the final trial.	Tinei Mukwewa (Outgoing UZ President) and Terrence Chimhavi.	The State through College authorities i.e. the disciplinary committee.
16 June	Another protest over shortage of food. Two UZ student leaders arrested, tortured and detained at Avondale Police Station.	Kudakwashe Mapundu and Ceasar Sitiya were beaten up by the college security and handed over to the ZRP at Avondale Police Station for allegedly stoning the UZ bus. They were detained for two days and released without charges being preferred against them.	Kudakwashe Mapundu (UZ Secretary General) and Ceasar Sitiya (UZ SRA member)	College informers. College security and ZRP.
19 June	Two student leaders	The disciplinary hearing came	Tinei Mukwewa	The State through

	appear before the college disciplinary hearing for the verdict.	up with a suppressive verdict for the two student leaders Tinei Mukwewa and Terrence Chimhavi. Tinei was handed a two year suspension from the institution whilst Terrence was acquitted from the charges but was strongly warned that should he repeat the same offence he will be summarily expelled from the institution	(Outgoing UZ President) and Terrence Chimhavi.	College authorities i.e. the disciplinary committee.
03 July	Three students briefly detained by the college security after a peaceful protest against the top up fees	Students staged a peaceful demonstration against top up fees.	Garikayi Kajawa, George Makoni, Trevor Murai	College security
07 July	Six students arrested and detained at Avondale Police station over a demonstration against the top up fees	Students staged a peaceful demonstration at the University of Zimbabwe campus. Riot police stormed the campus, indiscriminately assaulted students and arrested six student leaders	Cesar Sitiya, Tatenda Chiuya, Shaun Matsheza, Shingai Brian Chikomba, Thabani Nthokozise, and Manifest Jabula.	The state, ZRP, and College security.
09 July	Six student leaders appear before the Harare magistrates court, further remanded to 7 August 2007	The six students were arrested on the 7 th of July 2007 during a peaceful protest at the university campus.	Cesar Sitiya, Tatenda Chiuya, Shaun Matsheza, Shingai Brian Chikomba, Thabani Nthokozise, and Manifest Jabula.	The state, ZRP, and College security.

Forms of Student Victimization at the University of Zimbabwe during and after the evictions



The Kasukuweres pouncing on stranded female students



University of Zimbabwe student, living in open air, eating dry and stale bread

On Saturday the 7th of July 2007 hungry resident students engaged in a peaceful demonstration wielding placards with messages such as “What is our crime: are we not sons and daughters of peasantry black grounded Zimbabweans?”; “Nyagura do you want us to prostitute ourselves for a million?”; “Bring back the Sadza and Sugar beans”; “Hunger equals war”.

7. Tactical and Mid-Term Response

7.1 Brief Introduction

There was rapid and concerted effort from several strategic partners of the students union who gave a tactical response to the crisis. The approach took a multi-layered strategy which includes political response, media advocacy, Legal response, and Humanitarian intervention. Strategic partners like Zimbabwe Lawyers For Human Rights, Women Action Group, Youth Empowerment and Transformation, Media Institute of Southern Africa, Student Solidarity Trust, Women's Coalition, Zimbabwe Doctors for Human Rights, Amani Trust, the Media among others

7.2 Political Response

There was no doubt that the students should have done everything permissible under a democratic society to ensure that their rights to human dignity are restored. The first step to take was to resist the evictions. Owing, to the massive presence of coercive forces overseeing the process, it was not possible. The shift of students focus from real issues to personal security further compounded the situation.

We managed to write a letter to President Robert Mugabe who is also the Chancellor of all state universities urging him to intervene and reverse the decision. The letter was copied to other relevant sectors that could exert pressure on the Government authorities to reverse the decision. On the 12th of July 2007, ZINASU delegates managed to simultaneously meet the Ministry of Higher and Tertiary Education, the University council Chairperson, the South African Embassy representative because of their mediation role, Tanzanian Embassy representative because of their Southern Africa Development Community (SADC) chairmanship status and the Ghana Embassy as chair of the African Union. The response was overwhelming with the said embassies faxing our demands to the President's office. ZINASU met Eden Reid of the South African Embassy and David Sefa-Boakye of the Embassy of Ghana.

7.3 Legal response

On the 10th of July 2007, an urgent court order was prepared and submitted with the assistance of Zimbabwe Lawyers for Human Rights (ZLHR) seeking to declare the evictions illegal and reinstate the students. The court order is also meant to add political and symbolic value to the campaign. It will give students a sense of hope that something is being done to safeguard their interests. If the university complies, it will be victory for students and if it does not, it will be an opportunity to expose the breakdown and contempt of the rule of law in Zimbabwe. This will act as a regional and international advocacy strategy. Predictably, Nyagura defied the High Court Order.



*Otto Saki
ZLHR, Prominent Lawyer and Human Rights Defender*

IN THE HIGH COURT OF ZIMBABWE
HELD AT HARARE

CASE NO. HC: 3592/07

In the matter between:

TREVOR MURAI

1st Applicant

DOMINIC SHUMBA

2nd Applicant

And

DIRECTOR DEPARTMENT OF ACCOMMODATION
AND CATERING SERVICES

1st Respondent

VICE CHANCELLOR OF UNIVERSITY OF ZIMBABWE

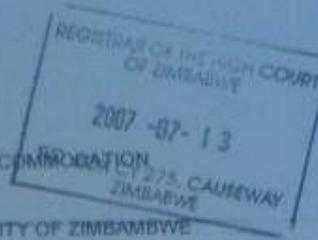
2nd Respondent

UNIVERSITY OF ZIMBABWE

3rd Respondent

COMMISSIONER OF POLICE

4th Respondent



CONSENT ORDER

Harare, Friday the 13th July 2007

Before the Honourable Mr Justice Hlatshwayo

Mr R. Nyamurundira

for the Applicant

Nr T.B. Ndoro

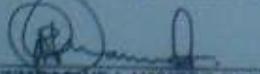
for 1st, 3rd & 4th Respondents

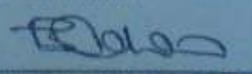
Whereafter perusing documents filed of record and hearing Counsel, by consent,

IT IS ORDERED THAT

1. 1st, 2nd and 3rd Respondents shall start admitting students, subject to administrative formalities, to all the halls of residence on its main campus except Manfred Hodson Hall, New Complex 1 and New Complex 5 which are presently unfit for human habitation.
2. 1st, 2nd and 3rd Respondents shall start implementing the provisions of paragraph 1 hereof on Monday, 16th July 2007.
3. There shall be no order as to costs.

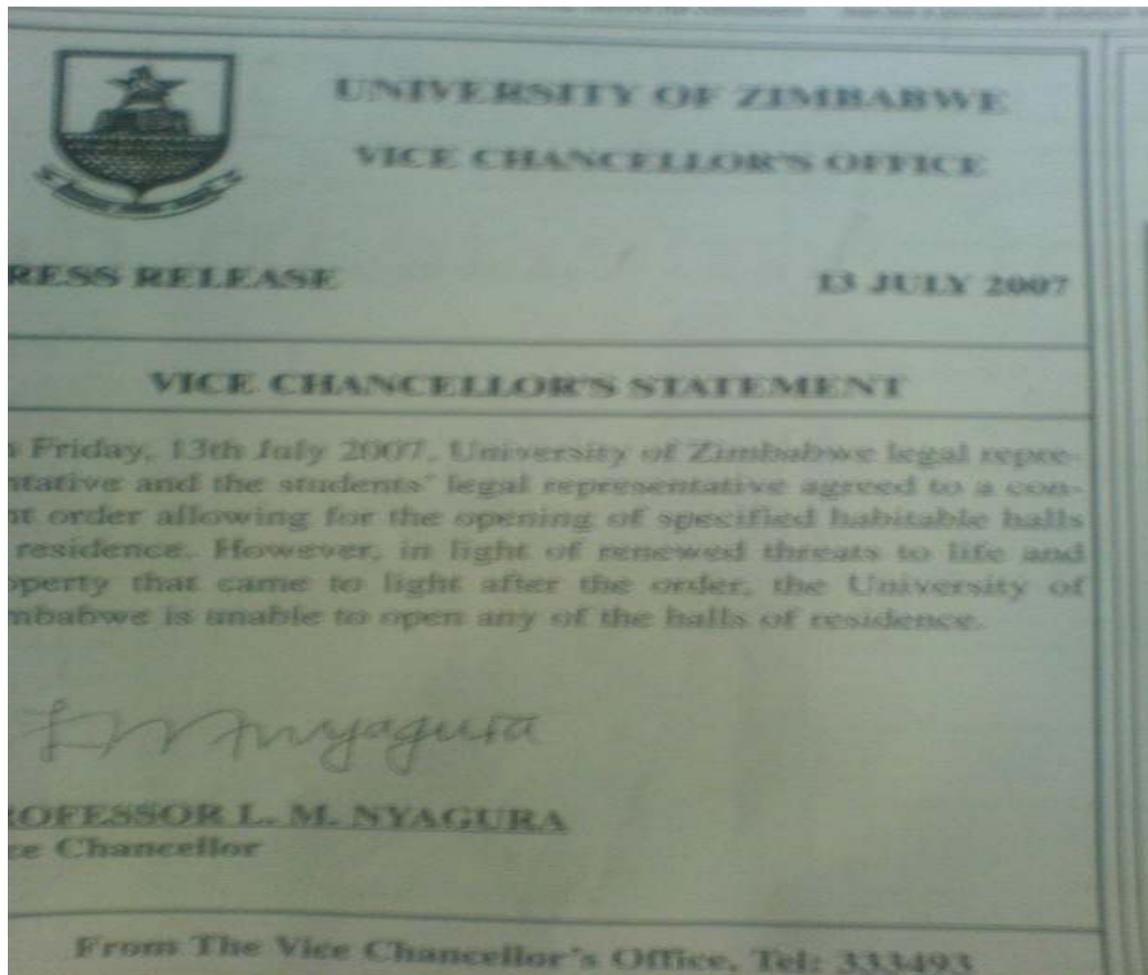
SIGNED BY THE PARTIES AT HARARE THIS 13th JULY 2007.


ZIMBABWE LAWYERS FOR
HUMAN RIGHTS
Applicant's Legal Practitioners
9th Floor Beverley Court
100 Nelson Mandela Avenue
HARARE (RN/mn)


ZIOMBE & MTAMBANENGWE
1st, 2nd, & 3rd Respondents
Legal Practitioners
18 Fletcher Road
Mt Pleasant
(TBN/cd)

SIGNED BY THE JUDGE:



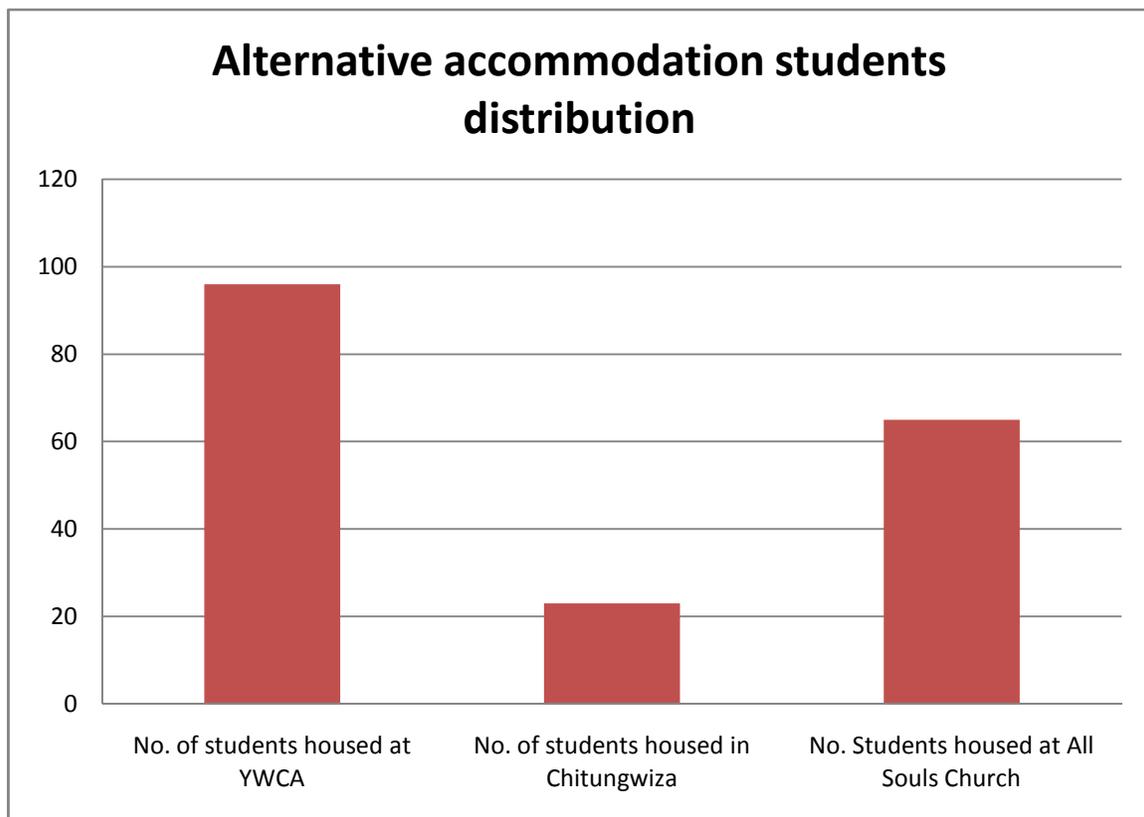


University of Zimbabwe Vice Chancellor, Prof. Levy Nyagura defies a High Court order that was signed on the 13th of July 2007 before Justice Hlatshwayo.

7.4 Media strategy

On the 9th of July 2007, ZINASU President, Promise Mkwanzani issued a live interview to South African Broadcasting Co-operation (SABC) and took them for a tour around the university, taking a video footage of the stranded students. On the 10th of July 2007, ZINASU, with technical support from Media Institute of Southern Africa - Zimbabwe addressed a press conference informing the public of what had transpired and the way forward. The ZINASU Vanguard alert was also circulated. As a result of the massive media campaign, the crisis has been highly publicised and a lot of solidarity statements were issued locally and globally.

7.5 Humanitarian intervention



The challenge was to ensure that students were housed somewhere where their welfare would be guaranteed, where they could also be kept mobilised to strategise and come up with other mechanisms other than resisting evictions. On the 9th of July 2007 efforts were made to ensure that victimised students would be cushioned from the wrath of the ensuing humanitarian crisis, special priority being accorded to vulnerable groups like women, the disabled and the dire cases. Churches, the Student Solidarity Trust, parents, and other well-wishers were instrumental in ensuring that the process was a success. This has helped immensely as it was an opportunity for ZINASU to demonstrate that it does not only carry out demonstrations, it helped show the humanitarian side of the student union, boost its image and enhance our relations with the ordinary student. Currently, all the vulnerable and dire-cases are now housed at Young Women Christian Association (YWCA). However, the housing, feeding and transporting of students is only a stop gap measure which is not sustainable in the long run.

The initiative of keeping student is extremely expensive, given the overwhelming number of student in need of assistance, the exorbitant rates of food and accommodation and the prevailing hyper-inflationary environment and also the fact

that the facilities we are using are not exclusively preserved for that purpose. From the 23rd of July 2007 for example, the facilities are booked for other purposes.

The process if not managed properly could be catastrophic. It will create dependence syndrome that will come back to haunt ZINASU. It is important from the outset to make the students know that it is still their responsibility to fend and sustain themselves and that this is just a stop-gap measure failure to do so make students think that is an entitlement and a right rather a Privilege, get them into comfort zones which will demobilise them.



What's next? Where do we go?

8. Lessons Learnt

- 1) To be proactive and develop a sustainable Humanitarian Aid facility given the politically fluid, unpredictable and volatile situation in most Universities and Colleges in Zimbabwe.
- 2) The Government no longer considers education as a core component of the overall national development strategy.
- 3) The mass evictions were not considerate of the plight of female students and the disabled
- 4) We must focus more on the political response as ZINASU and we must come up with alternative strategies to continue raising the costs of maintaining an authoritarian regime.



"I actually come from Checheche Chipinge" Tabeth Ngorima

9. Short term and specific recommendations

- 1) Professor Levy Nyagura must unconditional and with immediate effect comply with the High Court order and accept students back into campus residence.
- 2) University must compensate the costs incurred by the students during the period.
- 3) The University must apologize to the students for the crimes against humanity during mass eviction period,



Students walk into town and further into high density suburbs for cheap alternative accommodation

10. Long term recommendations

- 1) The crisis at the UZ can not be separated from the national crisis, so there is need for a political settlement which will act as a framework for a new political, economic, social and constitutional order in Zimbabwe.
- 2) To set up a tripartite committee on resident students this is constituted of the University, Students representatives and parents who oversee the running of the residence.
- 3) A principle-centered commission of inquiry must be constituted to produce a detailed report on the causes and effects of the evictions



Many students slept in the open outside university premises

ZINASU Communiqué

Revolutionary Greetings

**"The entire University Council is now a political hotbed and is run by what appears to be primitive cliques who have no clue about university business."
Professor Masipula Sithole, writing in the Zimbabwe`s Public Eye**

Zimbabwe National Students Union (ZINASU) wishes to unequivocally condemn the extra-judiciary decision by Levy Nyagura to defy a court order issued by the High Court on 13 July 2007 by Honorable Justice Ben Hlatshwayo. The court order instructed the University to open specific Halls of Residence and re-accommodate evicted students. What is particularly disquieting is the apparent acquiescence of the executive which seems to confirm that Nyagura`s decision is supported by the ILLEGAL, ILLEGITIMATE and CRIMINAL ZANU PF Regime.

Levy Nyagura, an unashamed appointee of this vampire regime has been at the helm of the University for the past four years. He will go down the annals of history as the most pig headed Vice Chancellor of all time who will leave deep scars and bleeding hearts in the students and the staff of the University of Zimbabwe. It is unfortunate that Nyagura has now become a self proclaimed semi demi-god and luciferically inspired appointee who believes in no one other than himself and his Master.

It is now proven that the blood thirst and power drunk Nyagura will suspend and expel at the slightest provocation. He is now enmeshed in a hopelessly futile attempt to destroy the tradition of a democratic institution, impose anarchy, perpetuate barrack gangsterism and cause untold chaos at the once prestigious University. The expulsion of ALL students from the university Halls of Residents, the suspension, expulsion and harassment of student leaders and Activists and the subsequent defiance of the court order spells doom and disaster to an institution of higher learning already reeling from wanton destruction, gross mismanagement, brutality, chaos, carnage and unmitigated corruption in broad spectrum.

Nyagura is a classical example of a cacophonous assortment of a quack revolutionary, vampire elite, and an intellectual hyena whose Gestapo approach to university business has become a disgrace to the people of

Zimbabwe. There is no doubt that Nyagura is currently the leading candidate for personal sanctions. He has done everything that all those under targeted sanctions have done, if not worse.

He is a shameless culprit of the rule of law, a habitual criminal who has defied court orders a countless times. He has been instrumental in assisting the illicit ZANU PF regime as it perpetuates the continued suffering of the people of Zimbabwe, students included. He is a known, unapologetic beneficiary of ill-gotten wealth, kickbacks and cuts which are paid in return for loyal service to the ailing Regime.

We demand an immediate and unconditional reinstatement of students in accordance with the High Court order, failure of which we will ask the court to order the arrest of Nyagura for contempt of court and crimes against humanity.

Defending Academic Freedoms in Zimbabwe (DAFiZ),

I remain,

Promise Mkwanzu,

ZINASU President 18 July 2007



13 JULY 2007

UNIVERSITY OF ZIMBABWE CONCEDES TO REINSTATE EVICTED STUDENTS INTO HALLS OF RESIDENCE

On 10 June 2007 Zimbabwe Lawyers for Human Rights filed an urgent application in the High Court, in the case of *Trevor Murai & Anr vs. Director of Accommodation & Catering Services University of Zimbabwe & 3 Ors HC 3592/07*, seeking an order that the University authorities readmit evicted students into their halls of residence until the end of the extended 2007 second semester. ZLHR was aware that on 9 July 2007 the University authorities, backed by members of the Zimbabwe Republic Police (ZRP), riot police section, had forcefully evicted all students from the halls of residence at the university main campus after giving them only one hour's notice to vacate the halls of residence. By 1600hrs on 9 July 2007 thousands of students, some coming from as far as Bulawayo, Gweru, Mutare, where left stranded with no where to sleep, having to sleep in the open bus terminal area. The forced evictions occurred at a time when students were preparing for their end of semester examinations, beginning on the 16th of July 2007 and ending on the 27th of July 2007.

ZLHR NOTES THAT: on 13 July 2007, before the Justice Hlatwayo, it was agreed by all parties that students should be readmitted into those halls of residents that had not been rendered inhabitable after a demonstration that occurred on 7 July 2007, which saw the destruction of some property within the halls of residence. The order of the High Court, by consent, reads as follows:

1. 1st, 2nd and 3rd Respondents (namely the Director department of Accommodation & Catering, the Vice Chancellor and the University of Zimbabwe) **shall** start admitting students, subject to administrative formalities, **to all the halls of residence** on its main campus **except Manfred Hodson Hall, New Complex 1 and New Complex 5** which are presently unfit for human habitation. (emphasis)
2. 1st, 2nd and 3rd Respondents shall start implementing the provisions of paragraph 1 hereof on **Monday 16 July 2007**.

The effect of this order is that those students that had been evicted on the 9th of July and any other students of the University of Zimbabwe may attend at the University of Zimbabwe accommodation offices and seek admission into the following halls of residence, **namely Swinton Hall, Carr Saunders, New Complexes 2, 3 & 4**. Should the University of Zimbabwe and accommodation authorities fail to admit students into the said halls of residence, as agreed in the consent order, then they shall be in contempt of the High Court order?

- end -

Youth Forum press statement

13 July 2007

As a youth representative body, which seeks to influence policy formulation and development in the country so as to attain sustainable livelihoods for all and the youths in particular, we note with profound distress the inhuman Monday 9th June mass evacuation of more than 5 000 University of Zimbabwe students from campus residence who are currently writing their final year examinations.

This evacuation, which is reminiscent of the globally condemned Operation Murambatsvina, left students stranded and exposed to the adverse effects of this brutal winter as they slept in the open. Students allocated residents on University of Zimbabwe campus come from outside Harare and most of them have no relatives in Harare.

University of Zimbabwe students, who were given a 30 minute notice to vacate campus, were ruthlessly thrown into the open by heavily armed police after demanding a slash in tuition fees increment inline with the ongoing government exercise of slashing prices of commodities and services in the country. This move demonstrates the regular hypocritical nature of the government and has exposed its policy inconsistencies.

We note with regret that the ZANU (PF) kleptocratic regime being led by President Robert Gabriel Mugabe who doubles as the University of Zimbabwe chancellor and represented by his political appointee vice chancellor professor Levy Nyagura has sadly surpassed the adverse effects of the HIV/Aids pandemic in Sub Saharan Africa in as far as causing human suffering and death is concerned.

As we acknowledge the ongoing efforts by ordinary citizens who have taken it upon themselves to house and feed the desperate students, we call upon the parents, churches, the business community and all the pro-democratic forces in the country to urgently come to the assistance of thousands of students who have been condemned into destitution by the ruling dictatorship.

Meanwhile, we urge all the students in the country to remain resolute and committed to the fight for a new socio-economic and political dispensation in the country.

Youth Forum Information and Publicity Department

youthforumzim@yahoo.com

Cell: +263 11 925 759, +263 23 353 291

Zimbabwe Congress of Trade Union

PRESS RELEASE

Over the past few months repressions of all kinds have been on the increase in Zimbabwe with the latest being the unjustifiable evictions of students from the University of Zimbabwe campus.

More shocking are revelations that students were indiscriminately beaten up by armed riot police who also looted the poor students' property. The Zimbabwe Congress of Trade Unions is shocked by the level of heavy-handedness that has been used against the students by security agencies. What the government is doing at the moment is depriving the majority of Zimbabweans their basic right, the right to education.

The government should bear the brunt of fee increases, for it is its obligation to subsidize the education of its citizens and not just pass on the costs to students and their parents. The time the students lost not attending lessons was not of their own making but was because of government's failure to address concerns of striking lecturers, so why should students pay for government's negligence?

We believe that this is a ploy to demobilize the students as some student activists have already been expelled from various Universities round the country.

The ZCTU therefore calls on the Ministry of Higher and Tertiary Education to ensure that normalcy is restored at the UZ campus and students resume lecturers. We also demand that a probe be carried out on the torture of the students and looting of students' property during the evictions.

We further demand that government addresses problems bedeviling the education system in the country. The issues of high fees at tertiary institutions, a decline in education standards and continued harassment of student leaders remain unsolved as government turns a deaf ear to these. As long as these issues remain unsolved student leaders will organize for more serious strikes and resistance against the government and we will stand by our children.

12 July 2007

Wellington Chibebe

SECRETARY GENERAL

Khumbulani Ndlovu
Information Officer
Zimbabwe Congress of Trade Unions
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Harare, Zimbabwe

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SCMZ ON THE PREMATURE CLOSURE OF THE UNIVERSITY OF ZIMBABWE

09 07 2007 Email: zimscm@yahoo.com

The Student Christian Movement of Zimbabwe (SCMZ) notes with great shock and concern the abrupt and ill timed de facto closure of the University of Zimbabwe barely a week before examinations were set to begin. Today the UZ vice chancellor Prof. Levy Nyagura unilaterally issued an eviction order, at around 1400hrs, to all resident students to vacate the university premises by no later than 1500hrs. This effectively means that more than 4500 resident students have been left stranded without any alternative place to stay in Harare overnight. This is because more than 75% of them come from poor peasantry background outside Harare from places like Binga which is more than 1000km from Harare. It is also established that students were forced out of lecture rooms and from the library. The heavily riot police and the army have been summoned to implement these forced evictions thereby ensuring a literal closure of the University.

This directive came in the wake of student protests against being denied food for failing to pay arbitrary and abrupt top up fees of \$1million. The top up fees were announced last week, leading the Zimbabwe National Students Union (ZINASU) to file an urgent Chamber Application at the High Court challenging the top up fees. The basis of the challenge is that it is the University which reneged on its part of the bargain by unilaterally extending the semester following protracted industrial action by the university staff. In addition, most students have no means within which to pay the top up fees given the paltry salaries being given their parents and guardians, some of whom earn as little as \$89 000. The High Court still has to make a determination on whether the top ups are justified or not. These developments obviously pre-empt the court's findings and will render whatever court ruling insignificant which undermines the independence of the judiciary. What is more disturbing is that most students neither have funds nor means to go back to their homes having been given barely sufficient time to source funds from their homes for such purposes.

The developments at the University of Zimbabwe are just a symptom of a larger national crisis. Their academic futures hang in the balance. Regrettably, the University Administration has used a sledge hammer to crack a nut. In simpler terms, it has used the axe to kill a mosquito on the university's neck. Helpless Students have been placed in a vulnerable situation. The majority, who have no alternative accommodation in Harare will be forced to sleep in the open tonight... at the height of winter a situation reminiscent of shameful and devilish 'Operation Murambatsvina'. This immediately places them in numerous dangers including poverty, starvation, HIV&AIDS, rape, sexual and/or psychological abuse and greater health hazards.

SCMZ calls upon all stakeholders to join hands and assist the needy students who have been made more vulnerable by these developments. It is our firm belief that pure religion, undefiled before God is this, to visit the fatherless and widows in their affliction (James 1 vs. 27). We call upon the University of Zimbabwe to refrain from attacking the right of students and further calls upon the University to respect the minimum core obligations of the right to quality and affordable education.

"How long will you judge unjustly, and accept the persons of the wicked? Defend the poor and fatherless, do justice to the afflicted and needy..." Psalms 82 vs. 2-3

SCMZ National Office

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ZIMBABWE YOUTH MOVEMENT

'The future is today'

zimbabweyouthmovement@yahoo.com

UZ EVICTIONS- SHAME ON YOU NYAGURA!!

The Zimbabwe Youth Movement (ZYM) learnt with uttermost shock and disbelief of the illegal, brutal and evil evictions of innocent and poor sons and daughters of civil servants, peasants and war veterans from the university of Zimbabwe (UZ) residence yesterday! Shame on regime and its apologist Levi Nyagura!

We condemn in the strongest terms the move by the university authorities and we find it quiet disheartening that the students were only given two hours notice to vacate the campus. Surely, the regime has run out of ideas and has become so desperate it is now eating its own children. Where on earth did the regime expect the students to go? How? We fear for the girl student who found herself stranded in the streets of Harare yesterday night. Shame on You Nyagura!

To evict students for failing to pay is direct sputum aimed at the face of operation slash down! Are we now slashing down students? Shame on you Nyagura!

The ZYM stands in solidarity with ZINASU and all students in this time of crisis and demand that

1. The students are re-instated to campus NOW! –
-We believe in learning now and paying later.
2. That academic freedoms be restored NOW!

Surely, in the fullness of time you shall be held responsible for these horrendous, heinous and horrific works!

The struggle is our birthright!!

The future is today!

ZYM

National Union of Students – United Kingdom

Message of solidarity [Inbox](#)

The email header shows the sender as adam.mcnicholas@nus.org.uk, the recipient as show (5 days ago), and the date as 13-Jul. It includes several action links: Reply, Reply to all, Forward, Print, Add, Delete this message, Report phishing, Show original, and Message text garbled?.

Dear comrades,

It was a pleasure to meet two of your leaders, Washington and Promise, during a recent visit to South Africa.

We were disgusted to hear the news that thousands of students have been evicted from Zimbabwe's main university campus after they protested against a decision to deny them food for not paying additional fees.

We oppose all manner of violent repression by the state and fully support your continued efforts in struggling against this dictatorship. We stand firmly in solidarity with you.

In solidarity,

Adam McNicholas
National Union of Students UK, NEC

Statement from NUS UK

The National Union of Students in the UK unequivocally and wholeheartedly stands in firm solidarity with the Zimbabwe National Students Union (ZINASU) in their ongoing struggles for a democratic education system - free from intimidation and violence, free from illegal evictions and expulsions, free from bullying from Vice Chancellor Nyagura and the Government, and free from hikes in tuition fees for no reason and without warning.

NUS calls on Zimbabwean officials to end the torture, abuse and intimidation of students and student leaders, and to allow students to return to their education and accommodation immediately and without exception.

NUS also calls on UK MPs, leaders, and media not to ignore the increasingly desperate situation for students in Zimbabwe and to never stand shoulder to shoulder with individuals in Zimbabwe who condone or commit illegal acts of violence, expulsion, and intimidation on Zimbabwean students.

NUS UK, will never turn our backs on ZINASU and Zimbabwean students.

DISCLAIMER: This email and any files transmitted with it are confidential and are intended solely for the use of the individual or entity to whom they are addressed. This communication represents the originator's personal views and opinions, which do not necessarily reflect those of the National Union of Students UK. If you are not the original recipient or the person responsible for delivering the email to the intended recipient, be advised that you have received this email in error, and that any use, dissemination, forwarding, printing, or copying of this email is strictly prohibited and may be unlawful. If you received this email in error, please immediately notify postmaster@nus.org.uk.

Crisis in Zimbabwe Coalition press release



BREAKDOWN OF THE RULE OF LAW AS NYAGURA DEFIES COURT ORDER

“The courts can do whatever they want, but no judicial decision will stand in our way... My own position is that we should not even be defending our position in the courts... we will not brook any protests, any attempt to cause problems, those who want to rebel and to cause lawlessness will be beaten to the ground like they have never been beaten...If that is Hitler, then let me be a Hitler tenfold. Ten times. That’s what we stand for” **Robert Mugabe (2003)** cited in *The State of Africa* (Martin Meredith)

The Crisis in Zimbabwe Coalition castigates the University of Zimbabwe, Vice Chancellor’s decision to defy the court order which was issued by the High Court against the illegal eviction of more than 5000 students from the University of Zimbabwe. The students were illegally evicted from their halls of residence on the 9th of July 2007 by the Vice-Chancellor Professor Levy Nyagura. In a case presided by Judge Ben Hlatshwayo, the students won a court order on Friday 13 July 2007 with no added costs

The defiance of the student’s court order reinforces the chancellor’s position cited in the above quotation and that of the government in confirming the collapse of the rule of law in the country. In functional and thriving democracies, there are clear cut institutional separation of power amongst the three arms of the state: the judiciary, the executive and the legislature. However, the executive has been on the front interfering in the administrative function of the other two arms.

In his communiqué published in the Sunday Mail, 15 July 2007, Professor Levy Nyagura, the University of Zimbabwe Vice Chancellor acknowledged receipt of the high court order but rather preferred to be an oasis of defiance. His declaration of intent was that he will not comply with the order because he fears for his life. The justification must be dismissed with the contempt it deserves. Students do not hold any form of weaponry or arsenal which can commit Nyagura’s justification. When the courts reached the decision, they had proved

beyond any reasonable doubt that students are not bandits neither could they commit criminal offences as noted by the Vice Chancellor.

We urge the Vice Chancellor to seize being a law into him and abide by the rule of law. Instead, he must deal with the challenges which have been forwarded to his office by the students instead of being steadfast in uncalled for meanness. In an exhibition of unparalleled callousness, the displacement of the students was intolerant of the 60 disabled and blind students who were left in the cold after the operation, with neither food nor shelter. The government's behaviour is reminiscent of a declaration of a state of emergency where court orders are not upheld. It is disturbing to note that the Zimbabwe Republic Police (ZRP) which is supposed to be a custodian of law enforcement in the country has not arrested Nyagura for contempt of the courts. The Professor Levy Nyagura and his personnel must be stopped from blocking the vulnerable students, who have been traumatized since they were bundled out of the institution by armed police officers from returning to their lawfully entitled residence. Such has become the nature of the country's police force. The police force has become a pawn of narrow political interests for those in the ruling party as opposed to protecting the civilians who has become subjects of those how are suppose to follow them. The police was quick to evict defenseless students with arms yet they are complacent to act against the officials from the university who are violating the law.

We call upon the uniformed forces to execute their duties professionally and responsibly in line with their oaths of office which are generally to serve the national interests loyally and protecting the populace from both foreign invasion and promoting national peace.

More so, we call upon the Chancellor of the institution, President Robert Mugabe to take heed of the courts' position by accepting the displaced students back to campus to continue with their studies. President Mugabe, in his capacity as the Chancellor and the head of the state must not condone such criminal behaviour.

Crisis Coalition hold that the acts of the state are in violation of the citizenry's rights as out lined in the African Union Charter for Human and People's Rights article 26 which states that;

- States parties to the present Charter shall have the duty to guarantee the independence of the Courts and shall allow the establishment and improvement of appropriate national instruments entrusted with the promotion and protection of the rights and freedoms guaranteed by the present charter.

The government is not adhering to such regional instruments which it signed and is obliged to uphold. The rule of law has become a farce. As in the classical book Animal farm found on the principle that all animals are equal, some have since proven to be more equal by seemingly proving that they are above the reach of the law of the la



Early Day Motion

EDM 1965

Printable EDM..

Signatures

HARASSMENT OF THE ZIMBABWE NATIONAL STUDENTS UNION

19.07.2007

Hoey, Kate

The House praises the Zimbabwe National Students Union (ZINASU) for their ongoing struggle for a democratic education system; condemns the Zimbabwean government and Vice Chancellor Nyagura of the University of Zimbabwe for subjecting students to intimidation and violence, illegal evictions and expulsions and unnecessary punitive hikes in tuition fees; notes the NUS UK's solidarity with ZINASU; and calls on Zimbabwean officials to end the torture, abuse and intimidation of students and student leaders and to allow students to return to their education and accommodation immediately and without exception.

Signatures (6)

Standard Order

Status

Open signatures

[Hoey, Kate](#)

[Benyon, Richard](#)

[Duddridge, James](#)

[Mullin, Chris](#)

[Opik, Lembit](#)

[Mackinlay, Andrew](#)

