

UNHRC 19th Session, Geneva.

ORAL STATEMENT UNDER ITEM AGENDA (6) OF THE HUMAN RIGHTS COUNCIL

CONSIDERATION OF THE UPR REPORT ON ZIMBABWE

Statement by CIVICUS on behalf of Zimbabwe Human Rights Organisations

Zimbabwe Human Rights Organisations welcomes the decision by the government of Zimbabwe to accept most of the recommendations that came out of the Interactive dialogue and reaffirming their commitment to engage Civil Society in the follow up actions after the UPR. We call upon the Council to urge the government to respect the commitments it has made.

However we are concerned that the Government is still rejecting the recommendations relating to;

1. The reformation of all laws that curtail civil liberties and freedoms such the Public Order and Security Act and Access to Information and Protection of Privacy Act, The Criminal Law (Codification and Reform) Act; and
2. The need to address the issue of impunity and the rule of law. This includes, for example, the investigation of the 2008 electoral violence and bringing to account all the perpetrators. Additionally the government should also address the ongoing harassment of human rights defenders.

In view of the imminent elections in Zimbabwe, we would like to call upon the Council to urge the government of Zimbabwe to adopt all necessary measures to address the above issues to ensure that the elections are free, fair and credible;

We finally urge the government of Zimbabwe to continue engaging the UPR process in a truly inclusive spirit, in good faith, and collaboratively to enable a constructive dialogue in the best interests of all Zimbabweans.

Dated 15 March 2012

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