



THE PRIME MINISTER

Oslo, 5 June 2008

Dear Mr President,

I appreciated very much our discussion about Zimbabwe during my recent visit to Tanzania. I am writing to you today in your capacity as Chairperson of the African Union to follow up on that discussion. The crisis in Zimbabwe is growing by the week, with grave consequences for the people of Zimbabwe and, increasingly, for the other countries of the region.

A run-off in the presidential elections is scheduled for 27 June. However, in the present circumstances, I do not believe the run-off can be free and fair. The recent detention of Morgan Tsvangirai and other MDC members shows a lack of willingness on the part of the Zimbabwean authorities to carry out free and fair elections. It is unacceptable that the presidential candidate of the opposition is prevented from carrying out his election campaign. Further, the attacks on local observers, such as the Zimbabwe Election Support Network (ZESN), and the violence against civilians demonstrate a lack of commitment to the democratic process that cannot be tolerated. I therefore urge the leaders of the region to put additional pressure on the Zimbabwean authorities to ensure that the elections are free of violence and intimidation, in accordance with international standards, and that they are open for international observers and press. Observers must be allowed into all areas of the country.

I have taken note of and supported the increasing engagement of the Southern African Development Community and the African Union in this matter. The other countries of

HE Mr Jakaya Mrisho Kikwete
President of the United Republic of Tanzania
Chairperson of the African Union
Dar es Salaam

the region have the most to lose if the crisis in Zimbabwe is allowed to continue. They are also in the best position to help Zimbabwe to solve the crisis. I therefore appeal to you to do your utmost to find a solution.

Norway has strong and long-standing bonds with Zimbabwe. Norway supported the liberation struggle of the people of Zimbabwe and, together with many other countries, we celebrated the independence of Zimbabwe in 1980 with high hopes for the future. We rejoiced at the gains in social and economic development during the first two decades after independence, and we were proud to be associated with this progress through our development cooperation.

Recently the gains in development have been reversed and the hopes for democracy quashed. Norway's history of commitment to the people of Zimbabwe compels us to take action to stop this tragedy unfolding.

The Government of Norway stands ready to assist in the stabilisation and reconstruction of Zimbabwe once democracy and human rights are restored. If there is any particular role you wish us to play in the future, we are prepared to act in the interest of the Zimbabwean people.

I have also written to HE Mr Levy Patrick Mwanawasa, President of the Republic of Zambia and Chairperson of the Southern African Development Community, about this matter.

Yours sincerely,


Jens Stoltenberg



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Oslo, 5 June 2008

Dear Mr President,

I appreciated very much your kind invitation to attend the SADC Summit in Mauritius in April. The summit provided an excellent opportunity to discuss issues of great importance to the world and to the region. Norway is firmly committed to continuing our support to the countries of Southern Africa in your efforts to fight poverty and climate change and improve good governance.

I also appreciated our discussion of a matter of great concern to all of us: the situation in Zimbabwe. The crisis in Zimbabwe is growing by the week, with grave consequences for the people of Zimbabwe and, increasingly, for the other countries of the region.

A run-off in the presidential elections is scheduled for 27 June. However, in the present circumstances I do not believe the run-off can be free and fair. The recent detention of Morgan Tsvangirai and other MDC members show a lack of willingness from the Zimbabwean authorities to carry out free and fair elections. It is unacceptable that the president candidate of the opposition is prevented from carrying out his election campaign. Further, the attacks on local observers, such as the Zimbabwe Election Support Network (ZESN), and violence against civilians demonstrate a lack of commitment to the democratic process that cannot be tolerated. I therefore urge the leaders of the region to put additional pressure on the Zimbabwean authorities to ensure that the elections are free of violence and intimidation, in accordance with

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President of the Republic of Zambia
Chairperson of the Southern African Development Community
Lusaka

international standards and open for international observers and press. Observers must be allowed into all areas of the country.

I have taken note of and supported the increasing engagement of the Southern African Development Community and the African Union in this matter. The other countries of the region have the most to lose if the crisis in Zimbabwe is allowed to continue. They are also in the best position to help Zimbabwe to solve the crisis. Now is the time to speak out. I appeal to you to increase your efforts to find a solution.

Norway has strong and long-standing bonds with Zimbabwe. Norway supported the liberation struggle of the people of Zimbabwe and, together with many other countries, we celebrated the independence of Zimbabwe in 1980 with high hopes for the future. We rejoiced at the gains in social and economic development during the first two decades after independence, and we were proud to be associated with this progress through our development cooperation.

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