

110TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

H. RES. 1337

Condemning the decision by the Government of Zimbabwe to hold the run-off presidential election on June 27, 2008.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

JULY 10, 2008

Mr. SCHIFF (for himself, Mr. CONYERS, Mr. DOOLITTLE, Mr. DREIER, Mr. FATTAH, Ms. TSONGAS, and Mr. HINCHEY) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Foreign Affairs

RESOLUTION

Condemning the decision by the Government of Zimbabwe to hold the run-off presidential election on June 27, 2008.

Whereas President Robert Mugabe, leader of the Zimbabwe African National Union-Patriotic Front (ZANU-PF), has controlled Zimbabwe for the past 28 years;

Whereas since 1998 Zimbabwe's economic output has decreased 40 percent and its unemployment is estimated at more than 80 percent;

Whereas deteriorating social, economic, and political conditions within the country have caused approximately 3,000,000 citizens to leave Zimbabwe and seek refuge in neighboring nations;

Whereas according to the Zimbabwe Election Commission (ZEC), Morgan Tsvangirai, leader of the Movement for

Democratic Change (MDC) won 47.8 percent of the vote during the presidential elections on March 29, 2008, and President Mugabe won 43.2 percent;

Whereas according to the ZEC, since neither candidate won over 50 percent, a runoff was declared;

Whereas President Mugabe made statements declaring his refusal to step down regardless of the March 2008 or runoff election results;

Whereas over 900 people have been tortured and 87 confirmed dead since the announcement of a second round of elections;

Whereas over 300 persons from the MDC have been arrested and detained since the first round of elections;

Whereas the escalating violence and resistance from the ZANU–PF has forced Tsvangirai to pull out of the race and seek refuge at the Dutch embassy;

Whereas the death toll, violence, and instability in Zimbabwe only continue to intensify;

Whereas United Nations Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon has asked Zimbabwe to postpone its runoff elections stating that a vote during the current conditions would “lack all legitimacy”;

Whereas during the second round of elections on June 27, 2008, many Zimbabweans were forced to go to the polls after being intimidated and threatened by militia forces;

Whereas Tsvangirai spoke out against the elections and encouraged his supporters to vote only if their lives were in danger;

Whereas news agencies such as CNN were barred from entering Zimbabwe and reporting on the second round of elections;

Whereas, on June 29, 2008, in a sham proceeding, Robert Mugabe was sworn in as President of the Republic of Zimbabwe having declared himself the winner of the run-off election;

Whereas since the second round of elections over 500 Zimbabweans have been forced to take refuge at foreign embassies and it has been estimated that 20 more MDC supporters have been killed;

Whereas opposition leaders, international observers and heads of state, including United States President George W. Bush, have denounced the results of the election calling it a “sham”;

Whereas the G8 leaders have spoken out against the violence in Zimbabwe and have decided to impose targeted sanctions against members of the Zimbabwean Government who are “responsible for violence”;

Whereas the African Union (AU) and Southern African Development Community (SADC) have been engaged in efforts to help end the violence in Zimbabwe by appointing a mediator and contributing other resources, including election observers;

Whereas G8 leaders have called for a special United Nations Security Council envoy to report on the situation in Zimbabwe and help mediate along with Thabo Mbeki, the SADC appointed mediator;

Whereas President Mugabe is in violation of his obligation to the AU, breaking several of the principles outlined in article 3 and article 4 of the AU’s Constitutive Act; and

Whereas Zimbabwean citizens, especially as members of the AU, have a right to democratic freedoms, fundamental human rights, good governance, and a just rule of law: Now, therefore, be it

1 *Resolved*, That the House of Representatives—

2 (1) condemns the decision by the Government
3 of Zimbabwe to hold the run-off presidential election
4 on June 27, 2008;

5 (2) states that in the absence of a free and fair
6 vote in a run-off election, the legitimacy of the
7 Mugabe regime has been so seriously undermined
8 that Robert Mugabe must step down;

9 (3) stands ready to work with the President of
10 the United States and the international community
11 to enhance United States political, diplomatic, and
12 economic sanctions against the government of Robert
13 Mugabe;

14 (4) calls upon the Government of Zimbabwe to
15 engage in dialogue with the leadership of the Move-
16 ment for Democratic Change for the purpose of
17 forming an interim government of national unity
18 that will work to schedule a new presidential election
19 as soon as practicable;

20 (5) calls upon the Government of Zimbabwe to
21 allow full and unrestricted access for international
22 humanitarian organizations and human rights mon-

1 itors and to take all necessary steps to ensure their
2 safety and their ability to operate without hindrance;

3 (6) calls upon the Government of Zimbabwe to
4 ensure full and unrestricted access for international
5 journalists and to take all necessary steps to ensure
6 the safety of international and local journalists and
7 their ability to operate without hindrance;

8 (7) calls upon the African Union, consistent
9 with its charter, to take immediate steps to sanction
10 politically, diplomatically, and economically the gov-
11 ernment of Robert Mugabe;

12 (8) calls upon the Southern African Develop-
13 ment Community, consistent with its charter, to take
14 immediate steps to sanction politically, diplomati-
15 cally, and economically the government of Robert
16 Mugabe;

17 (9) urges the Government of the Republic of
18 South Africa to press the government of Robert
19 Mugabe to engage in dialogue with the leadership of
20 the Movement for Democratic Change for the pur-
21 pose of forming an interim government of national
22 unity that will work to schedule a new presidential
23 election as soon as practicable; and

24 (10) calls upon the United Nations Security
25 Council to take immediate steps to end the violence

1 in Zimbabwe, impose an immediate arms embargo
2 on Zimbabwe, and press the government of Robert
3 Mugabe to engage in dialogue with the leadership of
4 the Movement for Democratic Change for the pur-
5 pose of forming an interim government of national
6 unity that will work to schedule a new presidential
7 election as soon as practicable.

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