



Zimbabwe Human Rights Association (ZimRights)

NEWSFLASH

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GPA in the face of land invasion

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In the spirit and letter of the Government of National Unity, Zimbabwe Human Rights Association (ZimRights) calls for an end to the current wave of politically motivated farm invasions which are usually accompanied by violence.

Over the last 3 months, over 80 mostly white owned farms have been invaded as part of a tumultuous land invasion that began a decade ago. The new spate of invasions have left in their wake a number of casualties. Moreover, there has been victimization of the commercial farmers who took the government to court after having lost their land. These farmers from the Matabeleland North region have been arrested, and the state has refused to recognise the judgment which was in their favor. In their defense, the state said that they would not accept the judgment as they did not regard the SADC tribunal as a legal body.

Hostile takeover of land has also compromised the lives of hundreds of farm workers who are left with nowhere to go. Some have been forced into deplorable living conditions, where they exist without proper sanitation and food. They have been forced to leave their homes and live like squatters in these new areas. While the Global Political Agreement seeks an end to these invasions, and calls on an audit of all farms, its letter has not been respected. Swedish Ambassador, Sten Rylander has decried these invasions, saying they are a hindrance to foreign direct investment because donors feel that the country is still lawless and conditions have not changed.

ZimRights calls for an immediate end to these invasions that are destabilising the agricultural sector and could be a major contributing factor to food shortages in the near future. Moreover, the invasions are an assault on the property rights of the farmers who have gone a long way in establishing themselves in the country. Their workers are left in a worse off situation as they are denied not only their right to shelter, but to a livelihood.