



Cordial invitation to a side event on

***Zimbabwe - Human Rights Council
Post-election Relations***

**Thursday, 20 March 2014, 12:00 – 14:00
Palais des Nations, Room XXIV**

Context:

Seven months after the elections in Zimbabwe, the country has witnessed a decline in cases of organised violence, torture and the targeting of Human Rights Defenders. However serious concerns still remain on restrictions related to civil liberties, including the right to free political participation, freedom of speech, association and assembly, especially the right to protest. Further, as Zimbabwe is due to undergo its UPR mid-term review, crucial issues remain outstanding, chief of which is the government's willingness to genuinely engage the UN system and the wider international community, in particular responding to visit requests by Special Rapporteurs and constructively responding to concerns raised by international bodies and non-governmental organisations. This event therefore brings together human rights activists/defenders from Zimbabwe to discuss the role the Human Rights Council can play to encourage human rights reforms in Zimbabwe and opportunities for civil society engagement with the government.

Topics and Panellists: Panellists who will each in turn have an opportunity to comment on the topics below, in an interactive fashion with the audience include Cephas Zinhumwe (NANGO), Arthur Gwagwa and Dzikamai Bere (Zimbabwe Human Rights NGO Forum)

1. An overview of the post-elections political, economic and human rights situation.
2. The UN's engagement with the new government including engagement with Parliament and Commissions.
3. The UN's engagement with the SADC and the AU, in the light of other regional developments-
4. Post-elections engagement with civil society.

Moderator: Renate Bloem (CIVICUS)

Refreshments will be provided



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