

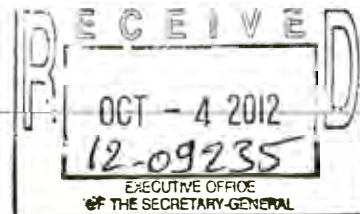


Fw: introduction
SGCentral to: Maria Chacon
Sent by: Jill Annitto

ACTION

COPY

Feltman
@HCHR



04/10/2012 08:55 AM

----- Forwarded by Jill Annitto/NY/UNO on 04/10/2012 08:55 AM -----

Introduction

Gerald & Paula to: Ban Ki-moon

03/10/2012 07:19 PM

From: "Gerald & Paula" <geraldsmith@xtra.co.nz>

To: "Ban Ki-moon" <sgcentral@un.org>

Dear Mr. Secretary General,

In your opening address to the General Assembly recently you expressed much of our sentiments and I do congratulate you on your clear perception and the manner in which you addressed the congregation.

I represent the Matebeleland Liberation Organisation and the purpose of this letter is to introduce you to our organisation and give you a brief résumé on our existence, fears and aspirations.

We, the MLO, have been in existence since 2009 and it has now become apparent that we need to go public, as it were, and make our voice heard. Also, we didnt want to go public till such time as our structures and preparations were in place and up to date.

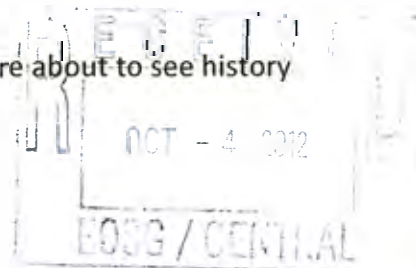
I am at present in New Zealand which is the home country of my wife. We moved here when we were removed by Mugabe's land invasions. It is my intention to move to South Africa later in the year or early in the new year.

There is a very definite and conclusive history to Matebeleland which paves the way to what it was before - a sovereign state. Matebeleland was known as the Kingdom of Matebeleland and it was only through an act of aggression by the British that that came to a sad end. Since then, and especially since 1980 under President Mugabe's Zanu pf government the people of Matebeleland have been marginalized to a degree of absolute deprivation. Right now the city of Bulawayo is with out water with essentials like sanitation all but come to an end.

We also saw the dreadful atrocities that took place there with little recognition and very little condemnation from the international community.

We as a party have been drawing attention to the fact that we are about to see history

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repeating itself again. We are aware of the torture camps again being put in place as was the case in the 2008 elections when Zanu pf bullied their way into an election with dreadful consequences for anyone who got in the way.

There is a pending constitution which does not take cognizance of the aspirations or concern of the people of Matebeleland. Can I draw to your attention that only recently the Minister of ~~the environment told a gathering in Matebeleland " We (the Shona) will exploit your resources and demolish you as a people"~~ They of course tried very hard to achieve that in the 80's.

I am sure you have all the resources at your disposal to clarify the historical aspect of Matabeleland's sovereignty - so it will not be required for me to go into detail here. Suffice to say that treaties signed by Queen Victoria and the King of Matebeleland were not upheld by the British and reneged on.

What is of real concern to us and what compelled me to write to you is the dominance of the big powers in all facets of international humanitarian (and other) organizations. Already we see in response to the many people we have contacted - there is a response that could only be traced back to one source. It is as if the response had been written by one person.

What appears to be over looked is that these so called lesser people are as human and susceptible to agony and pain as those who think otherwise. Indeed by ignoring the likes of our selves it runs against the United Nations charter.

stf
reached I am taking the liberty of sending you an article I wrote just recently which will give you a clearer indication of our fears and aspirations. We in Matebeleland want to go back to what we were before - a sovereign state and totally divorce ourselves from the man made mayhem of Zimbabwe.

I know you are a busy man and I know when I say to you that you are there to defend all people I will not be offending you.

Yours sincerely,

Gerald Smith
Secretary for Foreign Affairs : MLO