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Zimbabwe (Land Of Tears)

By Aleck Cartwright

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Zimbabwe – Land of Tears

Zimbabwe has undergone a lot of changes over the last few years and not for the better. President Robert Mugabe has mystified many in his tyrannical dictatorial and power hungry governing of a nation once seen as the bread basket of Africa.

In 1980, Zimbabwe got it's independance and after Ian Smith's government Robert Mugabe took power and invited both white and black Zimbabweans to build a new nation together. His fame was not disimilar to Mandela and he was seen as a good thing for Zimbabwe by many.

The nation of Zimbabwe was beautiful, the economy strong for an African nation and it's future bright. The nations flag represented agricultural wealth, mineral wealth, politics and peace, with a bird as the national emblem. This bird came from a legend that spoke of a bird of prey that preyed on other birds and refused to end it's tyranny until it died – extinction was it's end.

Sadly the legend, though it may just be a story, has become somewhat of a reality in the nation. The political fervour is still there, but much of the agricultural wealth and mineral wealth are suffering a the hand of a government that has lost it's peace. Any Zimbabwean, black or white, knows that things have got progressively worse over the last few years.

Many blame the drought for the situation of starvation in Southern Africa, though it is part of the problem, the real factors are a lot deeper than that. To many, mugabe is senile and mad, but it seems that there is method to his madness. He is truly evil and Marxism is his tool to supress black Africans and rid himself of white Africans.

To Western thinking Mugabe is a mad man, a loose cannon, power hungry and following in the steps of Idi Amin. To many other African leaders particularly in Southern Africa, he is a hero, a man who is not afraid to stand up against the world and put the white population and their sympathisers on the run.

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For Mugabe this is a battle, he is at war and will clamp down on any and all opposition. The leaders and governments of the surrounding nations admire him and have not verbally disapproved of what he is doing. This is because they admire him. Why do I say this? Zimbabwe is totally dependant upon a link to the sea via Mozambique and South Africa. If these two countries were against Mugabe they could cut off his lifeline of oil, exports and imports and put him in a straight jacket in under a week.

It is obvious that any landlocked countries in Africa are very vulnerable. Even road and rail routes in Southern Africa are unreliable except to Mozambique and South Africa. If South Africa wanted to it could put a stranglehold on Zimbabwe by closing the borders. militarily, Mugabe is powerful with a huge army, but so are South Africa and Botswana. It can be safely said that no borders will close and no military action will be taken against Zimbabwe.

Sam Nujoma is doing a similar land requisition programme in Namibia and seems to following in his "big brothers" footsteps, he has always admired Mugabe and the same programme may soon move ahead in South Africa where the ANC has strong ties with Mugabe. In South Africa this crises could easily lead to war.

Mugabe is at war against the MDC (Movement For Democratic Change) which he sees as a political party sponsored and supported by the white farmers. The leaders of the MDC are all native Zimbabweans, but Mugabe knows that much of the white population support the MDC and encourage their workers to make their vote count against the Zanu PF government. The MDC has refused to take up arms against Mugabe fearing that he might call a state of emergency and then run the whole country like an army general with no elections or any democratic vote. This is almost the case as it is, but the MDC has still made a stand despite murder, torture and oppression.

Mugabe has made many promises he hasn't kept including free houses, schools and education by the year 2000. The black population as well as the whites is becoming increasingly nervous. Most of the land that has been taken away has been given to government officials within the Zanu PF to gain their continued support. The army and the police have been given substantial pay rises and many perks. Petrol for Zimbabwe was shipped up to the war in Congo where thousands of Zimbabwean soldiers were fighting.

There has been gross injustice and mugabe has spies everywhere, he has a very tight control through a very large intelligence organisation. His goal is to destroy the MDC and the white population who he believes created the MDC.

Any blacks who are friends to the white population are traitors and treated as such. They are beaten, raped, intimidated, tortured and locked up without trial. The justice system has buckled with the firing of any supreme justice who is opposed to Mugabe's rule. No opposition is tolerated and the country is ruled with an iron fist. Many were fired off the cabinet, the Health and Finance ministers were not supporting his reign of terror and were in Mugabe's mind increasingly disloyal.

The big question is, how long will the population of Zimbabwe allow him to continue his destruction of their beautiful nation. It is increasingly hard to buy fuel, sugar, maize meal, rice and bread which are staples. There is already starvation and with the drought coinciding with the abusive government aids

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continues to spread killing those not already dying from lack of food or health services.

It is a humanitarian disaster and just going to get worse. The west has turned a blind eye with Britain afraid to bring up old hurts of colonialism and America focused on the war against terrorism in Afghanistan and Iraq. Zimbabwe is not a muslim nation, it's religions are predominantly ancestral Worship, animism and Christianity.

Muabe knows that the time is ticking away on the grace of the people and that civil uprisings are in the future as the people realise enough is enough. Mugabe knows he has nothing to offer the general population and that any investment, entrepreneurship etc. that is encouraged is what will help the country but will also ultimately also benefit the white and educated black population of Zimbabwe who are against him.

It is a dilemma. On the farms that are designated Mugabe sends in war veterans as squatters, often bussing them onto the farms, the police take no notice as the sqatters begin to camp outside the gates of the farm often not letting the farmer carry on his work or go to town to buy groceries for his family.

This is exactly what Mugabe is doing to the nation. As the farmer starves he gives up his land or his life wichever one comes first and the squatters move into the house and use the furniture and dress up in the farmers clothes.

Not disimilar to "Animal Farm" the situation can only get worse for all involved. Mugabe may ultimately want to cut the population down to a manageable number so that they can all go back to subsistance farming and slash and burn methods. Training up younger members of the population in agrticulture and farming tobacco, cattle ranching, flowers, fruit and coffee etc. is not in the plan of the government. Cutting down the trees and building temporary huts and reverting back to primitive farming methods is more what they forsee.

Mugabe will make sure that the resources of the state are used to keep as many of his supporters alive, while deliberately starving the opposition to death. The only people to survive will be Mugabe loyalists. Either way Mugabe wins. The population of Zimbabwe may be doomed to mass murder in the next year or so. The only other possibility is that they flee while they can and head for the borders.

Power forever is the name of the game in Southern Africa, not only in Zimbabwe but also in Angola, Mozambique, Namibia and South Africa. In this game Mugabe is a master.

Your prayer is needed for Zimbabwe...the land of our home that is being snatched away from us daily.

Aleck Cartwright and his wife are both Zimbabweans who now live in the UK, visit their website at www.god-life.com

Some Famous Zimbabwe Safaris

By Low Jeremy

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Although many places and creatures in Africa are the best in their own kinds, some still assert that Zimbabwe offers some of the bests.

Be stunned by the waters of the Victoria Falls, be amazed by the rolling hills, experience the circle of life with the enormous elephants and buffalo and never forget, go back in time with the rock arts that were created even before civilizations sprouted.

Although Zimbabwe safaris are only some of the seemingly endless offerings of Africa, wonders of nature can still be found in here that may not be found anywhere else. In this article, we have collected some of the national parks and wildlife sanctuaries that cover Zimbabwe safaris.

Chimanimani National Park, situated at the eastern region of Zimbabwe, this park is the only one that allows hikers and trailers to travel without guides. It is a botanist's paradise since it boasts hundreds of plant species.

Chizarira National Park, famous for its panoramic views, Chizarira is not for the faint hearted. It has difficult access that very remote. Nonetheless, it offers its guests amazing sites of natural wonders.

Gonarezhou National Park, at one point in time the elephants dwelled in here thus the name Gonarezhou which literally meant as "abode of elephants". But people are now trying to recover its past but the elephants never forget. They tend to become nasty to visitors.

Hwange National Park, being the premier game viewing area of Zimbabwe, Hwange is the largest national park. It never gets crowded though. The driest months are the peak season for the visits. This is when game viewing is most excellent since animals congregate within water holes. This park also harbors the largest and most diverse animal species in the region, some 400 birds species and the combination of plain animals and the predators.

Lake Kariba, a man-made water reserve, Lake Kariba now serves as the haven for water adventure lovers. It features water skiing, fishing and sailing. Swimming is not allowed since it is also the haven for crocodiles and other reptiles.

Matopos National Park, this is where history seemed to centralized. Packed with many cave men drawings that depict the existence of life in the soil of Zimbabwe even before it was discovered. It also harbors thick population of wild animals including the rare black rhino.

Matusadona National Park, featuring wild mountains and flat plains, Matusadona is truly a land of rising and falling altitudes. It is also known for nursing large herds of both fish eagles and buffalo.

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