

**RIGHT OF REPLY EXERCISED BY THE DELEGATION OF ZIMBABWE IN RESPONSE TO  
A STATEMENT ON THE HUMAN RIGHTS SITUATION IN ZIMBABWE DELIVERED BY  
THE EU DELEGATION, 13 SEPTEMBER 2007**

Mr President,

I wish to thank you for giving me the opportunity to respond to allegations made against my country by Portugal on behalf of EU before this august body yesterday.

Mr President,

The Human Right Council is supposed to usher a major departure from the practices of politicisation, double standards and naming and shaming which characterised the work of the former Commission on Human Rights. We are disappointed that the EU statement is replete with inaccuracies, and half truths that are aimed at bringing the name and integrity of my Government into disrepute contrary to the spirit of the new dispensation.

Zimbabwe, like any other country, reserves the right to enact its legislation to protect its national security and sovereignty. I would like to assure you that no-one is above the law and those who transgress such laws are responsible for the consequences therefrom. As I speak now, a leader of an opposition party is moving freely in Zimbabwe after a two-week tour of some western capitals where he called for more sanctions against his motherland in a bid to incite rebellion against a legitimately elected government. Where else, in the world, would one go scot-free with such treasonous acts?

It is an irony that the EU has the temerity to feign before us, its concern for the suffering of Zimbabwean people, when that suffering is a direct result of the illegal economic sanctions that they have imposed against our country in a bid to hasten the process of regime change, a strategy foisted on them by our erstwhile colonial power. It is noteworthy that only the EU itself relishes its own propaganda in this matter.

My country has, and will continue to cooperate fully with the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights on any issue of mutual interest that arise. We will however resist any attempts to hijack this important office by those in pursuit of hidden agendas that have no relevance to the human rights discourse. However, there is no automatism by a host country to accede to the request for the deployment of a Senior Human Rights Adviser on its territory. Many national considerations must be satisfied first.

Thank you