

# Zimbabwe leader targets Mugabe

HARARE, Zimbabwe (AP) — Zimbabwe's top opposition leader on Monday called for international help in getting President Robert Mugabe to step down and held meetings in neighboring South Africa.

Morgan Tsvangirai flew out of Zimbabwe Sunday evening, said Tendai Biti, secretary-general of the opposition Movement for Democratic Change, declining to give details.

South African President Thabo Mbeki had mediated failed pre-election talks between Tsvangirai's and Mugabe's parties.

Zimbabwean electoral officials have yet to say whether Tsvangirai or Mugabe won March 29 presidential elections, and the two rivals have adopted sharply contrasting strategies in response.

Mugabe is already campaigning for an expected runoff on a platform of intimidation and fanning racial tension. Tsvangirai says he won, and has demanded Zimbabwean courts and the international community support him.

"We urge the International



Morgan Tsvangirai wants Zimbabwean President Robert Mugabe to step down. Results of the March 29 are unknown.

Monetary Fund, at its meeting this week, to withhold... aid to Zimbabwe unless the defeated ex-president accepts the election results in full and hands over the reins of power," Tsvangirai wrote in an opinion piece published Monday in the British newspaper, *The Guardian*.

"This is also the time for firm diplomacy. Major powers here, such as South Africa, the U.S. and Britain, must act to remove the White-knuckle grip of Mugabe's suicidal reign and oblige him and his minions to retire.

"How can global leaders

espouse the values of democracy, yet when they are being challenged fail to open their mouths?" Tsvangirai added.

A Zimbabwean court postponed until Tuesday an expected ruling on an opposition petition to force the release of the presidential election results. Mugabe's ruling party has demanded a recount and a further delay in the release of results.

The court did decide that it had the jurisdiction to hear the case, an aspect that had been in dispute, lawyer Alec Muchadehama said.

A lawyer with the elec-

toral commission confirmed that any further ruling was postponed until Tuesday.

Tsvangirai has expressed concerns the state would mobilize the armed forces, youth brigades and war veterans to terrorize voters into supporting Mugabe in any runoff.

Mugabe has been accused of winning previous elections through violence and intimidation. Scores of opponents were killed during the 2002 and 2005 campaigns.

On Sunday, Mugabe urged Zimbabweans to defend land seized from White farmers, the state-controlled newspaper said Monday.

"This is our soil and the soil must never go back to the Whites," Mugabe told mourners at a family funeral, referring to Whites by the pejorative Shona term "mabhunu," *The Herald* newspaper reported. "We don't want to hear this fight is going backward."

Government officials have dismissed fears of violence. But militant supporters of the ruling party invaded eight of the few remaining White-owned commercial farms over the week-

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# Eight jail guards fired over force

HAGERSTOWN, Md. — The state prison agency fired eight correctional officers recently, bringing the number to 17 in an investigation into allegations of brutality against inmates at two western Maryland institutions.

The latest firings occurred at the medium-security Roxbury Correctional Institution near Hagerstown, where nine officers were fired recently. All were terminated amid allegations of excessive force during the weekend of March 8, the Department of Public Safety and Correctional Services said in a statement.

A criminal probe of the alleged abuse at Roxbury is continuing, the agency said.

Meanwhile, internal and criminal investigations continue at the maximum-security North Branch Correctional Institution near Cumberland, the agency said. Eight officers there were placed on paid administrative leave March 27 amid allegations that as many as seven inmates were abused after they were transferred from Roxbury on March 6.

No charges have been filed against the officers, who were not unidentified.

"We cannot tolerate excessive force, just as we will not tolerate an officer being harmed," agency Secretary Gary D. Maynard said.

Labor leaders said the firings have demoralized prison workers and taken away jobs from officers who haven't been charged or convicted.

"These mass firings, this conduct by the state, is not justified," said Joe Lawrence, a spokesman for the American Federation of State, County and Municipal Employees, the officers' collective bargaining agent. "What we have seen so far of the state's investigation is riddled with inconsistencies." He said the officers' appeals will expose "this cavalier conduct by the state."

State officials have released little information about the allegations. The Roxbury inmate required hospital care after he apparently was beaten by officers on two successive shifts.

## Tribute

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universe is long, but it bends toward justice... But here's the thing — it does not bend on its own. It bends because each of us, in our own ways, put our hand on that arc, and we bend it in the direction of justice," said the Illinois senator.

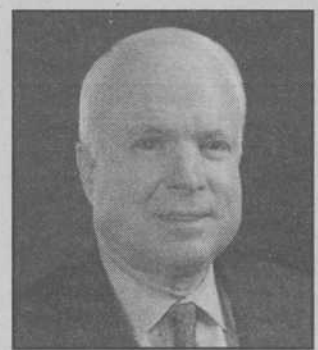
Race has been a constant, occasionally divisive companion to the Democratic campaign for the White

criticized her last winter for saying that it took a White man, President Lyndon B. Johnson, to finally win passage of the 1964 Civil Rights Act.

There was a scattering of boos as McCain spoke in front of the balcony where King was mortally wounded, but approving calls of "Amen" also floated up from a crowd huddled under umbrellas in a drenching rain.

*"Dr. King said 'the arc of the moral universe is long, but it bends toward justice...' But here's the thing — it does not bend on its own. It bends because each of us, in our own ways, put our hand on that arc, and we bend it in the direction of justice."*

— Sen. Barack Obama



*"...a mistake I made myself long ago when I voted against a federal holiday in memory of Dr. King. I was wrong and eventually realized that, in time to give full support for a state holiday in Arizona."*

— Sen. John McCain

House, and McCain's decision to speak at ceremonies held by the Southern Christian Leadership Conference was intended to demonstrate an eagerness to appeal to Black voters who have long shunned Republicans.

For her part, Clinton has struggled to gain Black votes in her competition with Obama. Additionally, some prominent Black figures

McCain said King "was called an agitator, a troublemaker, a malcontent, and a disturber of the peace.

"These are often the terms applied to men and women of conscience who will not endure cruelty, nor abide in justice. We hear them to this day — in Darfur, Zimbabwe, Burma, Tibet, Iran and other lands — directed at every brave soul who dares to dis-

turb the peace of tyrants."

And yet, he said, "We can be slow as well to give greatness its due, a mistake I made myself long ago when I voted against a federal holiday in memory of Dr. King. I was wrong and eventually realized that, in time to give full support for a state holiday in Arizona."

Obama linked King's work to the present, saying the dream of economic justice is "still out of reach for too many Americans."

From his campaign platform in Fort Wayne, Ind., Obama also recalled the impact that Robert Kennedy, a White politician running for president, had on the night King was shot.

"It fell to him to inform a crowded park (in Indianapolis) that Dr. King had been

killed," Obama said.

"And as the shock turned toward anger, Kennedy reminded them of Dr. King's compassion, and his love. And on a night when cities across the nation were alight with violence, all was quiet in Indianapolis."

In her remarks, Clinton pledged as president to appoint a high-level "poverty czar" — a job perhaps tailor-made for John Edwards, a former Democratic primary rival who stressed the eradication of poverty during his campaign. Both Obama and Clinton have sought Edwards's endorsement. "I believe we should appoint a cabinet-level position that would be solely and fully devoted to ending poverty as we know it in America," Clinton said.

## Enhance Public Transit Efficiency

### View The Plan And Share Your Public Transportation Suggestions

The Regional Transportation Commission of Southern Nevada (RTC) studied current public and private transportation services and developed the Coordinated Public Transportation and Human Services Plan that includes improved allocation of regional resources for the elderly, individuals with disabilities and people with limited incomes. Ultimately, the plan combines resources and maximizes service to Southern Nevada residents in need.

**Open House**  
Wednesday, May 7, 2008  
4:30 p.m. to 6:30 p.m.

Regional Transportation Commission, Room 108  
600 S. Grand Central Pkwy., Las Vegas, NV

Download the plan at [rtcsonv.com](http://rtcsonv.com)

Comments will be accepted April 14 to May 28, 2008  
Make your comments online, in person or by phone.

**Questions:**  
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