

Invitation to a side event to the 23rd Human Rights Council session:

Evaluating conditions for peaceful, transparent, free and fair elections in Zimbabwe

Friday, 7 June 2013, 10.00 – 12.00 pm, Geneva, Palais des Nations, Room IX

Zimbabwe is scheduled to hold general elections before the end of 2013. Past elections in the country have been marred by violence and attacks on human rights defenders and the rule of law more generally. In the period leading to the 2013 elections, there have been several incidents of crackdown on political dissents and independent voices. The impunity enjoyed by past and current perpetrators electoral violence has continued to exacerbate fears for the integrity, peaceful conduct and fairness of the upcoming elections. This parallel event will discuss past and present challenges to the rule of law in Zimbabwe in the context of the upcoming elections and the need for the international community to remain vigilant about the necessity for free, fair and peaceful elections in the country.

Speakers:

MacDonald Lewanika, Director, Crisis Coalition

Speaking on the legacy of the 2008 elections in Zimbabwe and their impact on the 2013 elections

Okay Machisa, Director, Zimbabwe Human Rights Association (ZimRights)

Speaking on the legal and institutional framework for the 2013 elections and identifying challenges in guaranteeing transparent, peaceful, free and fair elections

Irene Petras, Executive Director, Zimbabwe Lawyers for Human Rights (ZLHR)

Speaking on attacks against opposition activists, independent minds and human rights defenders in the context of the forthcoming elections

Chair/moderator:

Martin Okumu-Masiga, Deputy Director, ICJ Africa Regional Programme

The presentations by panellists will be followed by an open interaction with the audience.