



*“I invite you to walk with me as I retrace the footprints of my predecessors at Africa Action who have been there, in Africa, at key moments not only to capture people’s aspirations and lift up seldom heard social justice voices but also in order to inform and strengthen solidarity and efforts to reshape U.S. – Africa policies.” ~Briggs Bomba, Africa Action*

The press is already heating up with stories about Zimbabwe in advance of the March 29<sup>th</sup> elections. **The question is – are you getting the whole story?** If you are tempted to go deeper than the mainstream press on this important issue, we invite you to journey with Africa Action and TransAfrica Forum to the region through our new blog: [www.justzimbabwe.wordpress.com](http://www.justzimbabwe.wordpress.com).

Africa Action has a long history in solidarity with the people of Zimbabwe. In the 1970s this solidarity took the form of supporting the liberation struggle and standing with Zimbabweans against the human rights abuses of Ian Smith. Today, Africa Action has joined with our ally TransAfrica Forum to **revive into this legacy of solidarity** and reach out to support Zimbabweans as they seek to **continue the unfinished business of the liberation struggle** in this historic election. Briggs Bomba, Africa Action’s Program Associate in our Department of Public Education and Mobilization and a citizen of Zimbabwe, is traveling to the region with two representatives of TransAfrica Forum.

In the first blog entry, Briggs writes, *“At a time when Zimbabwe is experiencing the most severe social, economic and political crisis in the country’s history, March 29 embodies the ‘fierce urgency of now’ more than any other time.”* You can follow the lead up to the Zimbabwean elections, read about Election Day and examine the aftermath of the elections with us through the blog. **We hope that you will check in regularly and comment on the postings so that we can generate a national dialogue at this historic moment.**

The delegates will spend time meeting up with allied organizations in Zimbabwe and then split up to go to three regions of the country to reach out to ordinary Zimbabweans. Collecting stories and testimonies and analysis from the field, the delegates will absorb the full environment surrounding the March 29<sup>th</sup> elections. On Election Day, the three delegates will informally and un-officially observe the proceedings. **Through the blog, they will be able to report directly from Zimbabwe about the lead up to the elections, Election Day and the aftermath.** When they return to Washington, DC, they will **de-brief their journey at a [reception on April 10<sup>th</sup>](#)** hosted by TransAfrica Forum. If you are in the area, we hope you will join us.

Briggs has already landed in South Africa and has posted his first entry on the blog. He writes about his memories of the Zimbabwe he left only a couple years ago, *“I remember a colleague of mine, months back, telling me that when the immigration officer stamped his passport to cross into South Africa, ‘I felt like I escaped!’ I think of the dilapidated state of health care and education and millions of dreams crushed under the weight of the present crisis, for all these years and I wonder if a single day - March 29, can hold the answer to so many questions.”* We hope you will join us on this journey through the blog. Don’t forget to check in regularly and to make your own comments.

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**P.S. Are you a virgin blogger?** Have no fear! It is easy! Just click on the link [www.justzimbabwe.wordpress.com](http://www.justzimbabwe.wordpress.com) and you are there. At the bottom of the posting you will see a link “comments”. Click on the link and you can post a reply or read other people’s comments on the original posting. Since this is a public blog, please be respectful and constructive in your post. Need help? Just give us a call and we can walk you through it – 202.546.7961