



Situation in Zimbabwe QSD on 31 January 2019

This briefing identifies relevant reports and useful documents, including recent parliamentary materials and press articles, which may be of assistance to Members in preparing for the following debate:

Viscount Goschen to ask Her Majesty's Government what assessment they have made of the current situation in Zimbabwe.

Copies of the materials are available for collection from the Library.

Key Information

- [Oral Question on 'Zimbabwe'](#), HL Hansard, 21 January 2019, cols 502–6

Private notice question by Lord Hayward (Conservative), asking the Government for its response to reports of violence and intimidation in Zimbabwe. In reply, the Government condemned the violence and stated that it was working with its international partners, including South Africa, to urge the Zimbabwean Government to stop the disproportionate use of force and to restore the rule of law. The Government also said the Minister for Africa would be attending a European Union–African Union ministerial meeting in Brussels on 21 and 22 January 2019, which would discuss Zimbabwe in particular.

- Foreign and Commonwealth Office, '[Minister for Africa's Statement on the Situation in Zimbabwe, January 2019](#)', 17 January 2019

Statement that condemned the widespread unrest in Zimbabwe, the "heavy security force response", and the Government of Zimbabwe's decision to shut off access to the internet on 15 and 16 January 2019. The statement confirmed that the Zimbabwean Ambassador to the UK had been summoned to the Foreign and Commonwealth Office on 17 January 2019 to discuss the situation.

- United Nations Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights, '[UN Rights Office Calls on Zimbabwe Government to End 'Crackdown' In Response to Fuel Protests](#)', 18 January 2019

Statement from the UN on the "socio-economic crisis" in Zimbabwe following the Government's "decision to increase fuel prices". The statement claimed that "more than 600 people" had been arrested by security forces following disturbances, including opposition leaders and civil activists.

- Zimbabwe Human Rights Commission, [Monitoring Report in the Aftermath of the 14 January to 16 January 2019 “Stay Away” and Subsequent Disturbances](#), 22 January 2019

The findings of a report by Zimbabwean human rights monitors following disturbances due to the “deteriorating economic and security situation” in the country. The report found evidence of barricading of roads, and looting and damage to property by protestors. In response, the report alleged the use of “systematic torture” by the Zimbabwean army and police and the use of live ammunition on protestors that had resulted in “at least 8 deaths”.

Parliamentary Debate, Statements and Questions

- House of Commons, [‘Written Question: Zimbabwe: Politics and Government’](#), 24 January 2019, 210442
- House of Commons, [‘Written Question: Zimbabwe: Violence’](#), 22 January 2019, 209728
- [Debate on ‘Topical Questions’](#), HC Hansard, 21 January 2019, cols 126–32
- House of Commons, [‘Written Question: Zimbabwe: Human Rights’](#), 11 September 2018, 169343

Press Articles and Comment

- BBC News, [‘Zimbabwe Troops Accused of ‘Systematic Torture’ of Protesters’](#), 23 January 2019
- Peta Thornycroft, [‘Zimbabwe President Says ‘Heads Will Roll’ After a Dozen Killed in Brutal Crackdown’](#), *Telegraph* (£), 22 January 2019
- Jason Burke, [‘Zimbabwe Warns Brutal Crackdown is ‘Foretaste of Things to Come’](#), *Guardian*, 20 January 2019
- Joseph Cotterill, [‘Zimbabwe Doubles Fuel Price as Currency Crisis Hits Supplies’](#), *Financial Times* (£), 13 January 2019

Further Information

- Council of the European Union, [‘EU-African Union Ministerial Meeting, 21–22/01/2019’](#), accessed 25 January 2019
- House of Commons Library, [Situation in Zimbabwe](#), 24 January 2019

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