

Zimbabwe's signing of the Arms Trade Treaty timeline Jessie F Majome

Date	Activity	Posts - Facebook
29-30 May 2013	<p>Joined PGA</p> <p>Took Part in regional workshop on early signing of Arms Trade Treaty in May 2013 which was organised by the PGA and the Parliament of Tanzania.</p> <p>This was in preparation for when the treaty was open for signature on 3 June 2013. One of the 24 countries who abstained in 2006 from UN Resolution 61/89 which created treaty.</p> <p>People in Picture to my right Hon. Nasir MP Tanzania (Chair), Laurent Ngon-Baba MP Central African Republic, Hon. Alban Bagbin MP Ghana, Hon. Alaso Alice Asianut MP Uganda, and to my left Hon. Dr. Jean Minami MP Burundi.</p>	<p>Dear Harare Westerners & Friends</p> <p>Here I am at the Tanzania Parliament presenting on the Zimbabwe situation on arms trade and control at the regional workshop on early signing of the UN Arms Trade Treaty adopted by the UN General Assembly on 2 April 2013. It will be open for signature on 3 June 2013 and needs 50 signatures to enter into force. I hope Zimbabwe will be among the 1st 50 despite being one of the 24 countries that abstained in 2006 from UN Resolution 61/89 for this treaty to be made.</p> <p>Sharing the panel with me are to my right Hon. Nasir MP Tanzania (Chair), Laurent Ngon-Baba MP Central African Republic, Hon. Alban Bagbin MP Ghana, Hon. Alaso Alice Asianut MP Uganda, and to my left Hon. Dr. Jean Minami MP Burundi.</p>
6 June 2013	<p>On return from Tanzania I pushed for Zimbabwe to sign the treaty. I wrote to the following government ministries and Parliamentary committees.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Thematic Committee on Peace and Security – Hon. Mumvuri 2. Minister of State for Organ on National Healing – Hon Holland 3. Minister of State in Prime Minister's Office – Hon. Timba 4. Minister of State for Organ on National Healing – Hon. Mzila 5. Portfolio Committee on Foreign Affairs, Regional Intergration and International Trade – Hon. Mukandari 6. Portfolio Committee on Defence and Home Affairs – Paul Madzore 7. Thematic Committee on Human Rights – Hon. Marava 8. Prime Minister of Zimbabwe – Morgan Tsvangirai 	
20 June 2013	<p>Thematic committee on Human Rights respond to my letter by holding a closed</p>	

	session meeting on Arms Trade Treaty. This was the only entity which took action on the letter I wrote.	
31 July 2013	Harmonised Elections – Due to the election period and the changes of ministries and parliamentary committee the Arms Trade Treaty was stalled	
18 October 2013	Participated, by invitation, in the joint UN Arms Trade Treaty (ATT) working group of the Pan African Parliament (PAP) & the Parliamentarians for Global Action (PGA) on 18 October, and chaired by Hon. Bernadette Lahai MP of Sierra Leone.	<p>Dear Harare Westerners & Friends</p> <p>I'm glad to be part of a joint UN Arms Trade Treaty (ATT) working group of the Pan African Parliament (PAP) & the Parliamentarians for Global Action (PGA) that was formed at a joint session on 18 October, and chaired by Hon. Bernadette Lahai MP of Sierra Leone. In May in Dar Es Salaam I joined PGA, which is an international network of MP which promotes peace, human rights, democracy, the rule of law, gender equality and population issues. We are actively promoting the early signature, ratification, and implementation of the ATT which was adopted by a UN General Assembly Resolution on 2 April 2013. It opened for signature on 3 June 2013. So far 113 States have signed it, including 33 from Africa. Zimbabwe is 1/22 African States that haven't signed it yet. 9 SADC countries have signed it, viz Zambia, Tanzania, Swaziland, South Africa, Seychelles, Mozambique, Madagascar, Mauritius, & Angola. 7 States have so far also ratified it, making it part of their law, one of them being from Africa i.e Nigeria. 50 ratifications are needed for it to come into force.</p> <p>The ATT is important because it promotes peace & security by ending the transfer of conventional weapons to countries with instability or conflict . It will make it harder for abusers of human rights, (including perpetrators of serious violence against women & children) international humanitarian and human rights law, to get arms.</p>

		We issued a communique of our commitment to, as MPs, lobby our governments to sign and ratify it, and to publicize it. Zimbabwe will stand to benefit too from the peace promoted by this treaty. We can't afford to be the last to sign it!
21 December 2014	<p>I spearheaded a last ditch effort for PGA Zimbabwe group collaborated with the Parliamentary Forum on Small Arms and Light Weapons which led to the government signing the ATT just in time for the ebnrty into force.</p> <p>Parliamentary Forum and a then Senator colleague Sekai Holland introduced me to Hon. Rtd Colonel Tshinga Dube who assisted in getting the government to sign the treaty on 18 December 2014. I then followed up with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs for the depositing the instruments of ratification.</p>	<p>Some more good news Dear Harare Westerners and Friends!</p> <p>This is virtually a miracle. From being labelled 'Africa's most arms loving nation' to actually signing the treaty on 18 December just before its coming into force deadline of 24 December! I'm glad to have been part of this successful collaborative effort between PGA and the Parliamentary Forum. On 16 September 2014 I facilitated the establishment of the PGA National Zimbabwe Group that I became the interim chair of. Other members of the diverse interim Committee are Hon. Daniel Mackenzie Ncube, Hon. Innocent Gonese, Hon. Willias Madzimore, Hon Priscilla Misihairabwi-Mushonga. We teamed up with Parliamentary Forum on Disarmament members Hon. Sen Lilian Timveos who chairs the Senate Thematic Committee on Home Affairs and who was also working with her National Assembly counterpart Hon. Sibanda in the Parliamentary Forum, as well as Hon. Sen. Sekai Holland.</p> <p>This shows if we work across our divides we can accomplish great things for Zimbabwe. Zimbabwe has joined nations that protect their people from irresponsible and therefore dangerous arms trade that fuels corruption, gender based violence, civil strife etc.</p> <p>Peace on earth and good will to all men and women for sure. We must now push for ratification by May, hopefully.</p>
19 September 2014 to	I formed the Zimbabwe National Group in order to obtain political stature and support	

<p>present</p>	<p>for the ATT ratification through getting ruling party MPs to join and support to prevent rejection of the efforts as 'opposition and regime change agenda'</p> <p>As part of the same strategy spearheaded enlisting support and signatures for the ending early, child and forced marriages. The complementarity of the PGA campaigns is useful in enlisting support for otherwise politically efforts such as the ATT.</p> <p>I asked the Minister of Defence informally about when Zimbabwe will ratify the treaty and he said work was in progress. I will ask a formal question in Parliament.</p> <p>The PGA National Group holds its first Annual General Meeting where established working groups including one on ratifying the ATT in order to obtain wider political support and traction.</p>	
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