

## **SundayTribune (SA)**

### **Mugabe defies UN**

24 July 2005

Harare: Armed members of the Zimbabwe police and army yesterday defied the United Nations demands that they stop forced evictions, and swooped on one of the city's largest informal settlements.

The forced removals began just hours after the UN issued a report condemning Zimbabwe for its "Operation Murambatsvina" aimed at cleaning out informal settlements. UN Secretary-General Kofi Annan had explicitly demanded that President Robert Mugabe's government stop the forced evictions.

Meanwhile, Mugabe scampered off to China this weekend in a desperate bid to try to stave off the strong international action.

#### **Ruins**

More than 40 armed members of the security forces descended on Porta Farm about 20km west of the city on Friday, where shacks had been demolished in May.

They camped there overnight until reinforcements arrived yesterday and moved around the ruins telling people to be ready to go.

"They have told us that if we are not out by six tonight they will bring in the dogs," said Yvonne Boshia, 27, mother of three children.

"They broke our houses in May, and we ran away, but we came back because we have nowhere else to go. I've been here since I was a child, I have no rural home."

The South African government remained tight-lipped on its plans for Zimbabwe yesterday, saying President Mbeki would clarify its stance today. SA is reported to be taking a tougher line against its neighbour. - Tribune Foreign Service

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