

112TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

S. 1646

To repeal the Zimbabwe Democracy and Economic Recovery Act of 2001.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

OCTOBER 4, 2011

Mr. INHOFE introduced the following bill; which was read twice and referred
to the Committee on Foreign Relations

A BILL

To repeal the Zimbabwe Democracy and Economic Recovery
Act of 2001.

1 *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*
2 *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

3 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

4 This Act may be cited as the “Zimbabwe Sanctions
5 Repeal Act of 2011”.

6 **SEC. 2. FINDINGS.**

7 Congress makes the following findings:

8 (1) Robert Mugabe, President of Zimbabwe and
9 leader of the Zimbabwe African National Union-Pa-
10 triotic Front, has ruled Zimbabwe for 31 years.

1 (2) During President Mugabe’s regime,
2 Zimbabwe has gone from being the “bread basket”
3 of Africa to the world’s fastest shrinking economy.

4 (3) In 2000, the Government of Zimbabwe initi-
5 ated a farmland redistribution program, designed to
6 reallocate foreign commercial farmland to poor and
7 middle-class citizens of Zimbabwe.

8 (4) The farmland redistribution program—

9 (A) led to the confiscation of industrial,
10 fertile, and previously settled lands, and mass
11 chaos;

12 (B) undermined the Constitution of
13 Zimbabwe; and

14 (C) caused more than 400,000 farmers to
15 lose their homes and livelihoods.

16 (5) In 2005, President Mugabe implemented a
17 project known as Operation Murambatsvina, trans-
18 lated into English as Operation “Clean Out the
19 Filth”.

20 (6) Under Operation Clean Out the Filth, the
21 Mugabe regime bulldozed and destroyed thousands
22 of homes and businesses, leading to an estimated
23 700,000 internally displaced persons, of whom
24 569,685 are still displaced.

1 (7) The majority of the people of Zimbabwe live
2 on less than \$1 per day.

3 (8) The 95 percent unemployment rate in
4 Zimbabwe has forced an estimated 3,000,000 of the
5 people of Zimbabwe, representing 25 percent of the
6 overall population, to migrate to neighboring coun-
7 tries.

8 (9) All of these actions by President Mugabe's
9 regime have caused significant and persistent eco-
10 nomic hardships in Zimbabwe.

11 (10) On March 29, 2008, a presidential election
12 was held between President Mugabe and Morgan
13 Tsvangirai, the leader of the opposition party, the
14 Movement for Democratic Change.

15 (11) Of the votes cast in the presidential elec-
16 tion—

17 (A) Tsvangirai received 47.9 percent;

18 (B) President Mugabe received 43.2 per-
19 cent; and

20 (C) Simba Mankoni, of the Mavambo
21 Kusile Dawn Party, received 8.3 percent.

22 (12) Because Tsvangirai failed to achieve 50
23 percent of the votes needed to win outright, a run-
24 off was scheduled for June 27, 2008.

25 (13) President Mugabe—

1 (A) declared that he would not relinquish
2 power regardless of the election outcome;

3 (B) directed a crackdown on opposition
4 parties; and

5 (C) stated, “Only God, who appointed me,
6 will remove me.”.

7 (14) As many as 400 members and supporters
8 of the Movement for Democratic Change were killed
9 during the run-off campaign period.

10 (15) Tsvangirai dropped out of the run-off race,
11 and took refuge in the Embassy of the Netherlands,
12 stating that he could not ask people to vote “when
13 that vote could cost them their lives”.

14 (16) The violence surrounding this unfair elec-
15 tion came to the world’s attention and specifically to
16 that of the Southern African Development Commu-
17 nity, comprised of 15 southern African countries,
18 and the United States.

19 (17) Pressure from the Southern African Devel-
20 opment Community and the United States led to the
21 creation of a power-sharing agreement between
22 Mugabe’s Zimbabwe African National Union-Patri-
23 otic Front and Tsvangirai and Mutambara’s respec-
24 tive wings of the Movement for Democratic Change
25 Party. This agreement, which is known as the Glob-

1 al Political Agreement, became effective on Sep-
2 tember 15, 2008.

3 (18) The Parliament of Zimbabwe amended the
4 Constitution of Zimbabwe to allow for the creation
5 of the power-sharing government.

6 (19) While Mugabe retained the office of Presi-
7 dent, Tsvangirai was sworn in as the Prime Minister
8 of Zimbabwe on February 11, 2009, and Tendai Biti
9 was appointed Minister of Finance by Prime Min-
10 ister Tsvangirai.

11 (20) Since the appointment of Biti as Minister
12 of Finance, the economy of Zimbabwe has seen re-
13 markable recovery in a short period of time. Minister
14 Biti dollarized the Zimbabwean economy to combat
15 inflation. By using stable foreign currencies, the
16 2008 annual inflation rate of 15,000,000,000 per-
17 cent was reduced to the current 2011 rate of 2.5
18 percent.

19 (21) During Biti's tenure as Minister of Fi-
20 nance, the real gross domestic product (GDP) of
21 Zimbabwe has also improved. In 2008, the real GDP
22 in Zimbabwe was contracting at a rate of negative
23 14.4 percent. Current projections estimate that the
24 real GDP in Zimbabwe will increase by 9.3 percent
25 during 2011.

1 (22) The salaries of government employees have
2 also been reissued, allowing those employed in basic
3 government services like medicine, education, and
4 transportation to return to work.

5 (23) The overall economy and well-being of the
6 citizens of Zimbabwe have made tremendous ad-
7 vances since Tsvangirai and the Movement for
8 Democratic Change gained power-sharing authority
9 in the Government of Zimbabwe.

10 (24) The Zimbabwe Democracy and Economic
11 Recovery Act of 2001 (Public Law 107–99; 22
12 U.S.C. 2151 note), which was enacted into law in
13 2001, imposed sanctions on the Mugabe regime and
14 members of the Zimbabwe African National Union-
15 Patriotic Front.

16 (25) Section 4(c) of the Zimbabwe Democracy
17 and Economic Recovery Act of 2001 specifically di-
18 rects the United States Executive Director to each
19 international financial institution to oppose and vote
20 against—

21 (A) any extension by the institution of any
22 loan, credit, or guarantee to the Government of
23 Zimbabwe; or

24 (B) any cancellation or reduction of in-
25 debtedness owed by the Government of Zimbab-

1 we to the United States or any international fi-
2 nancial institution.

3 (26) Repealing the sanctions imposed under the
4 Zimbabwe Democracy and Economic Recovery Act
5 of 2001 that burden the power-sharing government
6 in Zimbabwe is necessary—

7 (A) to fully restore the economy of
8 Zimbabwe; and

9 (B) to assist Zimbabwe in transitioning to
10 democracy.

11 **SEC. 3. REPEAL OF ZIMBABWE DEMOCRACY AND ECO-**
12 **NOMIC RECOVERY ACT OF 2001.**

13 The Zimbabwe Democracy and Economic Recovery
14 Act of 2001 (Public Law 107–99; 22 U.S.C. 2151 note)
15 is repealed.

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