

XVII General Assembly

20 – 23 April 2023

Barcelona, Spain

Member Resolution on Zambesia

The UNPO General Assembly

1. Concerned by the lack of progress on the status of self-determination for Zambesia.
2. Alarmed by the imprisonment of some of our people who received long term jail sentences for advocating for self-determination without empathy from the international community.
3. Discouraged by lack of engagement with the de-colonization Committee.
4. We are disturbed by the fact that, an old established country which existed before and after colonization should find itself completely wiped off the face of the earth and leaving Zambesians with no place they can call their country.
5. In accordance with colonial boundaries established at the Berlin Conference of 1884/5 and the former British Order in Council, the country called Zambesia is still in existence save for post new colonial boundaries in southern Africa.
6. We note that the failure of the surrounding countries to recognise and respect the colonial boundaries is the source of Zambesia's disappearance from the world map.
7. Furthermore, the people of Zambesia lacked knowledge and resources to engage the United Nations de-colonization Committee for the possible restitution of Zambesia.
8. In 1966, the issue of Zambesia (Caprivi) was before the International Court of Justice where the Court made a judgement that should the people of Zambesia decide on possible self-determination, no country should frustrate those opportunities.
9. Underlining that Zambesia was a British Sphere of influence although part of it became a Sphere of influence of German to enable German to access the Zambezi River from its Protectorate but Zambesia never became part of the former German Protectorate of South West Africa or Bechuanaland Protectorate.
10. Zambesia has never benefited from the Cairo Resolution of 21st July 1964 and Article 4 (b) of the African Union Constitutive Act on the "*respect for the sovereignty and territorial integrity of each state and for its inalienable right to independence*"
11. The above resolution has led to the abuse of successor states who benefited from the generosity of colonial powers by being given territories which were not part of their former colonial territories.
12. Zambesia was administered by the British High Commissioner to the Union of South Africa.
13. Zambesia lacks economic and social development such that there is no single Cathedral and not a single rail line in the whole country, let alone developed infrastructure.