

## Thousands call for Zimbabwe's Mugabe to resign

20th November, 2017



There could be a big change in Zimbabwe. Thousands of people are in the streets asking for President Robert Mugabe to resign. The army removed President Mugabe from power on Wednesday. It was angry after Mr Mugabe fired his deputy president. This meant his wife, Grace Mugabe, could have been in line to take over as president. The army did not like this and took control of the capital city. The army said it wanted to remove the "criminals" around Mr Mugabe. Members of Mr Mugabe's ruling Zanu-PF party are calling for Mr Mugabe to step down as president. Even veterans of Zimbabwe's war for independence are saying Mr Mugabe should quit. They were among Mugabe's most loyal supporters.

Robert Mugabe is 93 years old and is the oldest leader of any country in the world. He became the Prime Minister of Zimbabwe in 1980 and then became President in 1987. He has stayed in power for 37 years. Mr Mugabe was an important figure in Zimbabwe's fight for independence. Zimbabwe used to be called Rhodesia and was a British colony. Mugabe was a key part of the 1965-1980 civil war against British rule. This war led to elections in 1980. Robert Mugabe and the Zanu party won the elections by a landslide. Many people are now happy his time as leader is coming to an end. One street protestor, Frank Mutsindikwa, 34, said: "I've been waiting all my life for this day. Free at last. We are free at last."

Sources: [bbc.com](http://bbc.com) / [reuters.com](http://reuters.com) / [npr.org](http://npr.org)

## Writing

Who is the greatest leader of a country? Give three reasons why you think so.

## Chat

Talk about these words from the article.

change / thousands / streets / angry / president / army / capital city / veterans / loyal / 93 years old / power / important / figure / colony / civil war / elections / leader / free

## True / False

- The article said hundreds of people are in the streets in Zimbabwe. T / F
- Zimbabwe's navy removed Mugabe from power on Wednesday. T / F
- Robert Mugabe fired his deputy finance minister. T / F
- Zimbabwe war veterans are calling for Mr Mugabe to resign. T / F
- Robert Mugabe is the world's oldest national leader. T / F
- Robert Mugabe has stayed in power for 27 years. T / F
- Robert Mugabe played an important part in Zimbabwe's civil war. T / F
- A street protestor said we waited all his life for Mr Mugabe to go. T / F

## Synonym Match

(The words in **bold** are from the news article.)

- |                    |              |
|--------------------|--------------|
| 1. <b>resign</b>   | a. person    |
| 2. <b>angry</b>    | b. faithful  |
| 3. <b>remove</b>   | c. quit      |
| 4. <b>ruling</b>   | d. ruler     |
| 5. <b>loyal</b>    | e. finally   |
| 6. <b>leader</b>   | f. take away |
| 7. <b>country</b>  | g. important |
| 8. <b>figure</b>   | h. nation    |
| 9. <b>key</b>      | i. furious   |
| 10. <b>at last</b> | j. governing |

## Discussion – Student A

- What do you know about Robert Mugabe?
- What recent news have you seen on Robert Mugabe?
- What big change does your country need?
- Why did the army remove Robert Mugabe from power?
- What is wrong with Robert Mugabe's wife becoming president?
- Has Mr Mugabe been a good president?
- What will Zimbabwe be like this time next year?
- What advice do you have for Robert Mugabe?

## Phrase Match

- |                                     |                         |
|-------------------------------------|-------------------------|
| 1. Thousands of people are          | a. my life for this day |
| 2. could have been in               | b. loyal supporters     |
| 3. took control of the capital      | c. for independence     |
| 4. calling for Mr Mugabe to step    | d. coming to an end     |
| 5. They were among Mugabe's most    | e. line to take over    |
| 6. the oldest leader of any         | f. by a landslide       |
| 7. Zimbabwe's fight                 | g. in the streets       |
| 8. the Zanu party won the elections | h. down as president    |
| 9. his time as leader is            | i. country in the world |
| 10. I've been waiting all           | j. city                 |

## Discussion – Student B

- What do you think about what you read?
- What do you know about Zimbabwe?
- Should there be an age limit for world leaders?
- Who are the important figures in your country's history?
- What do you know about colonies?
- How happy are you with the leader of your country?
- What have you been waiting all your life for?
- What questions would you like to ask Robert Mugabe?

## Spelling

- The army eeomrvd President Mugabe
- It was gayrn
- Mugabe fired his updeyt president
- remove the rismncali
- Zimbabwe's war for depdeecinenn
- Mugabe's most llyoa supporters
- the oldest lareed
- He has stayed in wreop for 37 years
- an important equirf
- a British coylno
- the Zanu party won the noesitcle
- street rreopttos

### Answers – Synonym Match

1. c	2. i	3. f	4. j	5. b
6. d	7. h	8. a	9. g	10. e

## Role Play

### Role A – Flag

You think a flag is the most important thing for a newly independent country. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them what is wrong with their things. Also, tell the others which is the least important of these (and why): a national anthem, a strong currency or a strong army.

### Role B – National Anthem

You think a national anthem is the most important thing for a newly independent country. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them what is wrong with their things. Also, tell the others which is the least important of these (and why): a flag, a strong currency or a strong army.

### Role C – Strong Currency

You think a strong currency is the most important thing for a newly independent country. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them what is wrong with their things. Also, tell the others which is the least important of these (and why): a national anthem, a flag or a strong army.

### Role D – Strong Army

You think a strong army is the most important thing for a newly independent country. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them what is wrong with their things. Also, tell the others which is the least important of these (and why): a national anthem, a strong currency or a flag.

## Speaking – Independence

Rank these with your partner. Put the most important things for an independent country at the top. Change partners often and share your rankings.

- |                   |                       |
|-------------------|-----------------------|
| • Flag            | • Strong leaders      |
| • National Anthem | • Strong currency     |
| • Borders         | • Strong economy      |
| • Army            | • Friendly neighbours |

### Answers – True False

a	F	b	F	c	F	d	T	e	T	f	F	g	T	h	T
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Answers to Phrase Match and Spelling are in the text.