



## Zimbabwe - Researched and compiled by the Refugee Documentation Centre of Ireland on Tuesday 28 & Wednesday 29 November 2017

### Information on the history of ZAPU

In April 2010 *Reuters* states that:

“In the 1960s nationalist groups emerge - the Zimbabwe African People's Union (ZAPU) and the Zimbabwe African National Union (ZANU)” (Reuters (18 April 2010) *Factbox-Zimbabwe: a land of struggle and strife*).

A publication in March 2008 by *Heinrich Boll Stiftung* states:

“The Zimbabwe African People's Union (ZAPU) was formed in 1961 with Joshua Nkomo as President, and Robert Mugabe as information and publicity secretary. The Rhodesian government banned ZAPU in 1962, which ultimately contributed to a guerilla war against the government” (Heinrich Boll Stiftung (26 March 2008) *Robert Mugabe's Liberation War Credentials: ZANU-PF's Winning Card?*, footnote 2,p2).

In April 2016 the *Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade of Australia* notes in a report that:

In 1965, the Rhodesian Front (RF) unilaterally declared independence (UDI) from Britain under white minority rule, sparking international outrage and triggering British, United Nations and Commonwealth economic sanctions. From 1965-1979, rebels in the Zimbabwe African People's Union (ZAPU) and the Zimbabwe African National Union (ZANU) waged a guerrilla campaign against the RF from Zambia and Mozambique. These hostilities ended following British-brokered peace negotiations and the signing of the 'Lancaster Agreement' in 1979...In 1987, ZANU and ZAPU signed a Unity Accord and the two parties merged, forming the Zimbabwe African National Union-Patriotic Front (ZANU-PF)” (Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade of Australia (11 April 2016) *DFAT Country Information Report: Zimbabwe*, p.4).

A report issued in September 2016 by the *Center for Applied Nonviolent Action and Strategies* notes that:

“In late 1965, white-led Rhodesia declared independence from the crown. Following the unilateral declaration of independence (UDI), black nationalist movements began fighting the government for majority black rule. Two primary groups arose – the Zimbabwe African Nationalist Union (ZANU) and the Zimbabwe African People's Union (ZAPU)” (Center for Applied Nonviolent Action and Strategies (September 2016) *Zimbabwe Analysis*, p.2).

This report also states that:

“Following violence against Ndebele accused of supporting Joshua Nkomo and his ZAPU party, ZANU and ZAPU agreed on the Unity Accord (UA), which merged the two parties into ZANU-PF” (ibid, p.4).

### References

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