

# ARTPEACE AND FRIENDS

**THOUSANDS MARCH IN HARARE:** Last month, in one of the biggest protests seen in Zimbabwe in recent years, thousands of supporters from the main opposition party marched through the streets of the capital in protest at their country's atrocious government. Mostly



wearing the red colours of their party, marchers chanted songs denouncing their 92-year-old president, who shows no sign of retiring. Such huge demonstrations are rare in Zimbabwe, where police routinely use force to break up opposition protests. Women with children strapped to their backs joined marchers carrying placards.

**Artpeace** appear to have reached rock bottom - how often have I reported this over the years but seldom have I known our friends to be so low. They and their families are very hungry and in



despair. Cost largely prohibits the use of mobiles although some news still filters through. All are behind with their rents and unable to afford medical attention with many struggling to pay school fees but this is the norm with 90% unemployment. An example of how the fabric of this once proud city is deteriorating can be seen by the state of their main roads and we complain about our potholes! (above photos provided by a friend). To compound



their misery, winter appears to have arrived early and the artists are feeling the cold. Their outside covered shelter (left) has all but collapsed due to storms so new thatch and poles are urgently needed but beyond their means. Few artists are therefore working at Silveira House as hunger has such a weakening effect. Coster, sent this photo of his latest creation 'Single Mother'. The good news is that the Southwark Cathedral



sales are booming boosted by an ever growing army of new talented young struggling artists. **JS**