ROYAL GEOGRAPHICAL SOCIETY, LONDON – PRESENTATION BY STEPHEN FREETH

ZIMBABWE: "LIVING ON THE EDGE" – 6 MARCH 2020

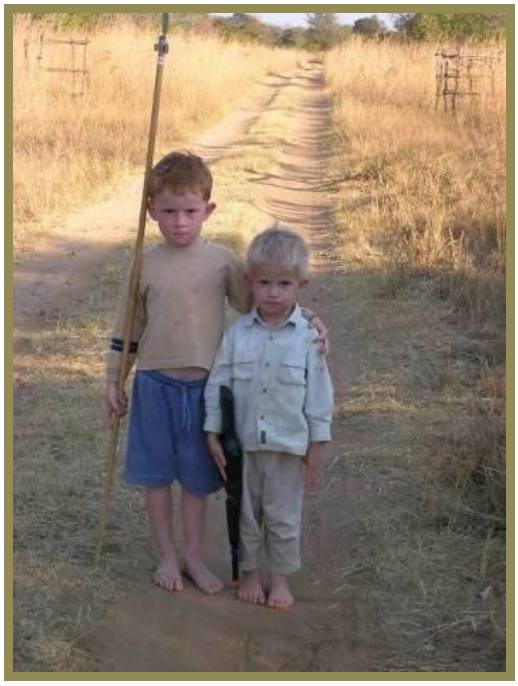
Good Evening.

I am Stephen Freeth, Momo, Mike Campbell's grandson

Being born in 2001, the farm invasions in Zimbabwe had already started and so it's all, I've ever known, having been brought up on Mike Carmel farm which my grandfather had created.

I loved being on the farm. That was my life.

Bird-watching with my grandfather



With my elder brother, Josh, on the farm road

Even when the thugs surrounded the house and set up camp in our garage, for me, that was just a daily routine. It was quite exciting as a child in fact.

Not once did it ever occur to me that one day it would all be taken from us, left with just the clothes we stood up in.

Not once did it cross my mind that they were going to torture my Dad, Momo and my Grandmother, Grandie, like they did

Leaving my Dad with a cracked skull ...

Momo barely breathing ...

And Grandee having a burning stick shoved in her mouth - with 14 broken bones between them and Momo later dying in consequence.

And all this, because we did not want to leave our own home.

Having taken the government to an International Court for unjustifiably stealing farms on a purely racial basis…… we won on all accounts.

9 months later, they burnt down my home and so just leaving memories of which my heart held so dear.

Mum watches, devastated, as our home burns to the ground

And yet here we are today with thousands of white farmers and their workers' livelihoods having been destroyed….

And so it carries on, leaving a once-flourishing nation in starvation and in ruin.

Dad beside the ruins of our home on Mount Carmel farm, which is now derelict and overgrown with weeds

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