

ZIMBABWE HUMAN RIGHTS NGO FORUM

POLITICAL VIOLENCE REPORT DECEMBER 2001

January 2002

A report by the
Zimbabwe Human Rights NGO Forum

Summary

A reign of terror was unleashed in Harare's high density suburbs by youths suspected of being a part of a Zanu-PF militia that graduated from the Border Gezi Youth Training Centre in Mount Darwin. Officially the centre is was set up as a Nation Service training facility. The youths wore the official green military fatigues being issued to graduates from the centre.

Biggie Chitoro, a war veteran charged for the murder of MDC activist, Fainos Kufazvinei Zhou, in June 200, was released on bail on 06 November 2001. Chitoro had spent 13 months in remand prison. Chitoro's bail conditions are that he is not to participate on political activity and should report to Mberengwa Police Station three times a week. However, in December he set up a base at Chingoma Secondary School where approximately 200 youths are unleashing terror on villagers in Mberengwa under the guidance of himself and Elias Shiri, a teacher at Zvishava Primary School.

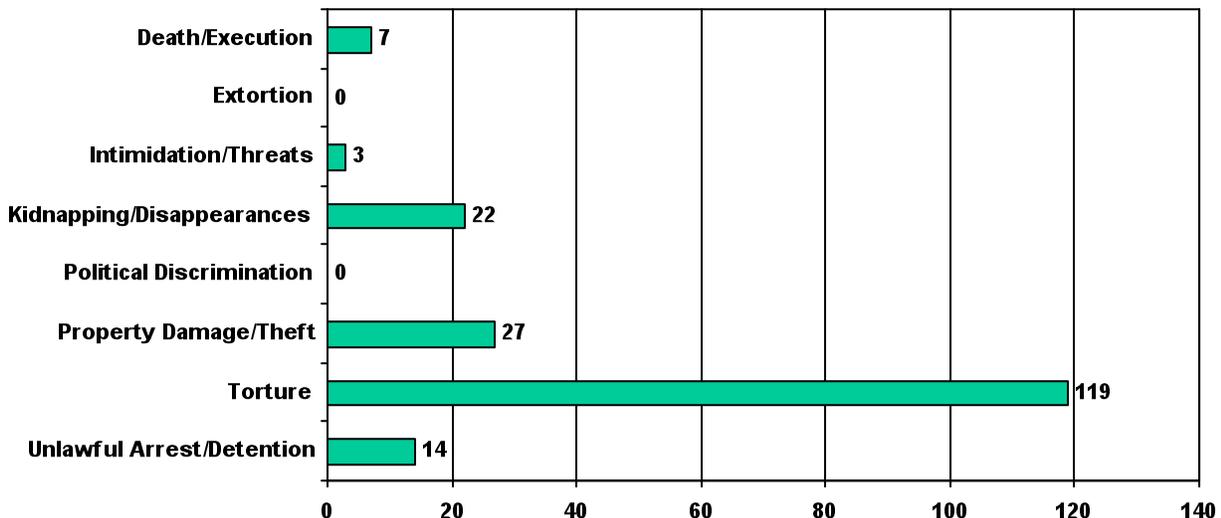
The two were responsible for more than 15 incidents of torture and assault that were reported to the Human Rights Forum in the run up to the June 2000 parliamentary election including sexual torture, falanga and burning with plastic.

Chitoro was also charged with public violence, assault, kidnapping, property destruction and theft, however these charges were dropped in accordance with the presidential amnesty of October 2000.

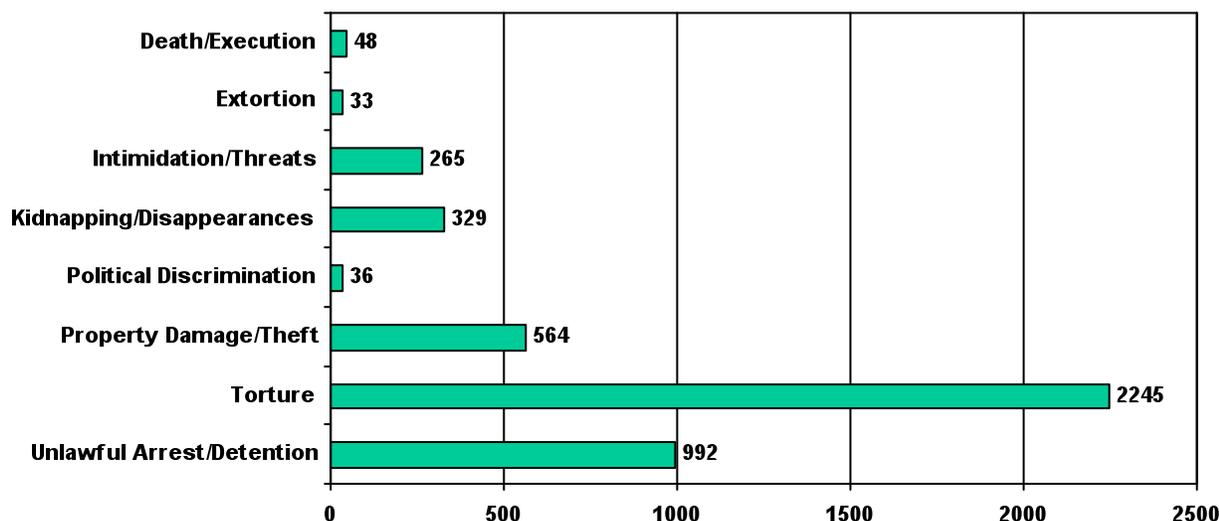
A total of seven murders were reported; the highest number for any month in 2001. In two of the murders, the victim's heads were hacked off. This figure excludes the disputed death of Laban/Lambani Chiweta.

A list of all reported deaths as at 31 December 2001 due to political violence is given at the end of this report.

December 2001 Totals



Cumulative Totals January-December 2001



Sources: Amani Trust medical assessments, HR Forum legal statements, CFU reports and newspaper reports.

Notes to Tables: The following categories have been changed and/or expanded due to the nature and the volume of crimes.

Unlawful Arrest/Detention: Unlawful arrests perpetrated by members of the police force and unlawful detentions by state agents, members of political parties and private individuals

Kidnapping/Disappearances: Victims who have been released and those who are still missing.

Torture: Crimes of torture include rape. Rape is a highly underreported crime in Zimbabwe. To date, the HR Forum has only been able to document three cases, all in the month of June. Rape has not been allotted its own category as the low number would minimise the actual occurrences of rape and not effectively illustrate the volume of this crime. All cases under torture also fall under the definition of torture according to the general definition of torture given in the United Nations Convention Against Torture and Other Forms of Cruel, Inhuman and Degrading Treatment and Punishment.

The four elements of torture are:

1. Severe **pain** and **suffering**, whether physical or mental
2. **Intentionally** inflicted
3. With a **purpose**
4. By a state official or another acting with the **acquiescence** of the State.

Displacement/Eviction: More than 70 000 persons were internally displaced between January and December 2001.

December Violence

Bindura

18 December 2001

- Duncan Cooke, a farm manager at Butleigh Farm in Mtepatepa, was stabbed in the side of the head with a panga by 6 Agritex officials that had arrived at the farm to peg it. Cooke sustained serious head injuries and received 18 stitches. No arrests were made.

23 December 2001

- **Trymore Midzi**, the MDC vice chairperson for Bindura district, was abducted from Chipadze Bottle Store by Zanu-PF youths who were assisted by National Service youths. Midzi was attacked with chains, sticks and knives. A post mortem confirmed that Midzi died of multiple bruises, stab wounds, abrasions and a skull fracture sustained during the attack.

Nine suspects were arrested including Joseph Washington Mandundu, Zachariah Matuta, Chareka Khumbukani, Emergency Chiwawa, Shepherd Gomo, Lastino Ngulube, Chasi Roy, Cain Kajokoto, Disto Wadi. They were remanded in custody to 11 January 2002.

AC

- My son Trymore Midzi died as a result of torture at the hands of Zanu-PF youths. We tried to bury him in Chiweshe but were harassed until we eventually buried him in Bindura. The night after we buried him, my house in Bindura was attacked and stoned at about 4am. We then tried to visit my son's grave but were ambushed and driven away with sticks and axes. I have now fled the area and come to Harare.

25 December 2001

- **Laban CHIWETA** (as reported in the Daily News) / **Lambani CHIMWETA Chambara** (as reported in Herald) of the MDC, was reportedly assaulted by armed riot police on December 6 2001. On this date 10 riot policemen raided a house sheltering victims of Zanu-PF violence from Bindura and assaulted its occupants. Approximately 40 persons were in the house and all were assaulted with batons and clenched fists. Chimweta/Chiweta reportedly died as a result of head and body injuries sustained in this attack. However the Herald claimed that the murder report in Daily News was false and that Chimweta/Chiweta had died of cerebral malaria.

29 December 2001

- Moffat Chivaura was abducted together with four other MDC supporters in Bindura by suspected member of the Zanu-PF youth brigade. The five are still missing.

Budiriro

19 December 2001

- Unnamed residents from Budiriro 5 were beaten by youths in National Service military fatigues. The youths arrived in Budiriro and randomly ordered residents to sweep the shopping centre beating those who refused to obey.

Chegutu

December 2001

- The acting Town Clerk, Gerald Mudimu, was threatened with death by Zanu-PF supporters if he went ahead with the swearing ceremony of MDC mayoral elect, Francis Dhlakama.

08 December 2001

- Blessing Dhlakama, the MDC candidate for the Chegutu Mayorship, had his house attacked by Zanu-PF supporters from outside Chegutu on first day of polling for mayorship.
- MDC youths were involved in a fracas with Zanu-PF youths. One was injured and admitted to hospital. Nine MDC supporters were arrested in connection with the incident.

10 December 2001

- James Tutani, an alderman in the Chegutu Town Council and also a member of Zanu-PF, was assaulted for having originally backed Zanu-PF's Lancelot Gasura for nomination as mayoral candidate, after Stanley Majiri lost. Another of Gasura's supporters was reportedly assaulted in Kadoma by Zanu-PF supporters.

Chikomba

06-07 December 2001

- A farm security guard at Majumba Farm in Chivhu, **Michael Mugodoki**, was found hacked to death and with his head missing a day after he had left home to guard construction equipment on the farm. The ZRP said that they are investigating the murder whose perpetrators are as yet unknown.

Chipinge North

25 December 2001

- **Willis Dhlwayo**, a war veteran, was killed and dumped on the Chipinge-Mt Selinda Road. Dhlwayo had a cut on his scalp, a perforated wound on right side of head and stab wounds on his stomach. It is unclear whether the perpetrators belong to the MDC or to Zanu-PF.

Chitungwiza

11 December 2001

- Two police officers from Chitungwiza were allegedly assaulted with sticks and bottles by MDC youths leaving rally. The two, Job Marange and Ben Tshuma were accused of being 'Zanu-PF policemen'. Marange was stabbed and left unconscious. One suspect was arrested.

Glen Norah

28 December 2001

- At Spaceman Shopping Centre in Glen Norah, residents from the area were severely assaulted with sticks, stones and ropes by Zanu-PF members. Approximately 200 Zanu-PF youths arrived in the area at around 2pm and randomly attacked persons at the shopping centre.
An unnamed man at Residents Bar was hit on the head with an empty beer bottle; he bled profusely and was taken to hospital in a police vehicle. No arrests were made.

Gokwe East

December 2001

- Max Mutiri, the MDC publicity secretary in Gokwe, together with 9 other MDC youths were seriously assaulted at Mtora Growth Point. They were admitted to Mtora Hospital for treatment. Mutiri was transferred to Harare. The perpetrators were identified as Shumba, a CID officer, Madyira, the Zanu-PF district chair who acted in concert with unnamed Zanu-PF youths.
The MDC district chair, Ronias Sango, claimed that members of the ZRP in the area were part of a Zanu-PF militia which has 'openly told [them] to prepare for war'.

Gokwe West

18 December 2001

- Paul Mukuwe of the MDC had his home burnt to ashes. Mukuwe was away in Kwekwe at the time of the attack having fled death threats by Zanu-PF supporters in October.

J.R

- 'A large group of Zanu-PF youths came to my house in Gumunyu village. They destroyed my house and beat my wife and myself up because we are MDC supporters. They beat us with iron bars, sticks and booted feet. The neighbours came and rescued me. The following day I packed my things and fled to Harare.'

Gokwe West

24 December 2001

- In Manoti, **Rambisai Nyika** was abducted and force marched her to a Zanu-PF meeting at Manoti Business Centre. Nyika was attacked on her way back home. A blunt object used to crush her head and ribs and her body was dragged and dumped inside a hut. 12 Zanu-PF youths arrested in connection with the murder.

Guruve North

December 2001

- Francis Butawi of Mushumbi Pools in Dande had home destroyed when he failed to produce a Zanu-PF party card or give names of the MDC supporters in the area
- An unnamed 12 year-old boy was also beaten for failing to identify MDC supporters in the area.
- Unnamed villagers from Mahuwe Village had their homes razed as punishment for supporting MDC. In Ward 22 opposition party sympathisers were displaced from their homes and forced to attend Zanu-PF meetings.

06 December 2001

- The home of Ophias Mutandangayi, an MDC ward chairman, was burnt down. Mutandangayi, his three wives and seven children are now homeless.
- A further 11 homes belonging to MDC supporters were burnt down on the same day in Karayi Village.

Gwanda South

22 December 2001

- Micah Sibindi together with 8 unnamed MDC supporters from Senondo Township were severely beaten by Zanu-PF members. They were admitted to Gwanda General Hospital for treatment and later discharged. Directly before the attack, the perpetrators had been addressed by Zanu-PF MP for Gwanda South, Abednico Ncube.

Harare North

14-15 December 2001

- Morgan Tsvangirai, the MDC president, was arrested at 0530 and detained for 4 hours at Harare Central Police Station for ostensibly for possessing an unlicensed walkie-talkie radio. (s14 of Radio and Communication Services Act, under which he was charged, does not require this).

Hurungwe East

20 December 2001

- **Titus Nheya** was stabbed to death in Karoi. Nheya was the losing MDC candidate in June 2000 for Zvimba South.
- **Milton Chambati**, an MDC from Magunje was stabbed to death and had his head hacked off. Ngoni Benjie Diza, Misheck Nyaude, Chance Chaita, Benhilda, Oska Kwaramba, all Zanu-PF supporters were arrested, charged with murder and remanded in custody.
- A businessman at the growth point, Godfrey Munhuweyi Gumbo, witnessed the attack on Chambati. His store was looted following the attack when he was accused of supporting the MDC. His supermarket and bottle stores were destroyed and beer worth \$8 000

looted. Gumbo was also physically attacked and sustained a deep cut in the head. The police only intervened after the attack on Gumbo's store and took Chambati's body to Karoi hospital mortuary.

The perpetrators are suspected of being a part of a Zanu-PF militia that graduated from the Border Gezi Youth Training Centre in Mount Darwin.

21 December 2001

- Unnamed Zanu-PF supporters at the Zanu-PF offices in Karerechi were assaulted and had their party t-shirts confiscated by MDC supporters.

Conrad Chambati, Mackenzie Chambati, Musarambe Kamurire, Admire Kamuchinda, Shandirai Moyo, Sidney Bukuta, Johanne Ngoshi and Nyarai Tizora were arrested and charged with public violence over the incident and remanded in custody.

Kuwadzana

31 December 2001

- More than 70 unnamed residents in Kuwadzana Extension were severely assaulted with sticks, stones by Zanu-PF and National Service youths who were bussed into the area by Zupco buses from a war veterans base in Snake Park. Property worth thousands of dollars was destroyed as the militia went on door-to-door raids stoning and destroying windows.
- Vinah and Joubert Mpofu's house was stoned and property worth more than \$350 000 destroyed by suspected MDC supporters in Kuwadzana Extension. Vinah Mpofu was assaulted with sticks and other weapons and had her right arm broken.
- Dires Chiunda, a Zanu-PF supporter had his house in Kuwadzana extension stoned.

Mberengwa East

14 December 2001

- Edmore Muleya, an MDC member was arrested and charged with murder. No docket opened on the case nor was Muleya informed as to whose murder he was being charged with. He was released without being taken to court. Muleya was assaulted with whips and forced to drink 10 litre bucket of water whilst in police custody. His head was dipped in the bucket when he failed to finish the water.

Six went to the police station to check on Muleya, namely Ibrahim Chalamanda, Herbert Chapendama, Paul Jera, Munyaradzi Mupazviripo, Penifara Diamond and Tichaona Chihota. There they were they were arrested for burning Douglas Chitekuteku, a war veteran's, house the week before. The six were taken to Macheke and held in custody until Monday 17 December and were severely assaulted before being released without charge.

- The home of the MDC secretary for Mberengwa East in Mataga was stoned because it housed MDC personnel. Wilson Kufa 'Biggie' Chitoro and unnamed youths were identified as the perpetrators.

21 December 2001

- Tongai and Dzidzisanai Hove, both MDC supporters, were abducted in Mataga and taken to a Zanu-PF camp at Chingoma Secondary School where they were tortured. 8 MDC youths that went to the camp to demand the release of the two were arrested and detained by the police.
'Biggie' Chitoro, and unnamed youths were identified as the perpetrators.
- Three unnamed Zanu-PF youths were attacked at Chingoma Secondary School with sticks, stones and knobkerries by a group of MDC supporters. They were treated at Mataga Clinic.
16 MDC supporters in the area were arrested in connection with the incident; namely Frank Ndlovu, Godknows Nkomo, Amias Dhliwayo, Prosper Mupukuta Mombe, Simbai Moyo, Erasmus Matika, Zvidzai Shumba, Tamiranashe Hove, Tongai Hove, Dzidzisanai Hove, Sibonginkosi Shoko, Clarence Maidza, Witness Taminyiwa, Norman Macheza, Nkosilathi Gambiza and Brighton Sibanda. They were all denied bail and remanded in custody to 10 January 2002
About 20 MDC youths are said to have disrupted a gathering of Zanu-PF youths that were toyi-toying in celebration of Unity Day, throwing missiles at them resulting in three Zanu-PF youths being injured. The group of Zanu-PF youths was accused of having kidnapped 3 MDC youths guarding Sekai Holland's house at Number 105 Mataga Growth Point, Mberengwa.
The MDC youths are reported to have then marched to Chingoma Secondary School to rescue their colleagues.

22 December 2001

BM

- 'Zanu-PF supporters came to my house in Chingoma Village and accused me of being an MDC supporter. There was about 15 of them.
They took me to Chingoma Secondary School where they beat me using their hands. I started to bleed through the nose. I was interrogated for along time before they let me go.'

Seke

19 December 2001

- At Ruwa Rehabilitation Centre, Bernard Madzima, the medical superintendent, and Brook Chimoto, the principal therapist were assaulted by youths in National Service military fatigues who accused them of being MDC supporters enjoying the comforts of government offices and buildings.

Shamva

13 December 2001

Several MDC supporters in Madziwa were attacked by suspected Zanu-PF supporters and war veterans in a spate of violence in which six homes were burnt down on 13 December.

- Fanuel Muronzi, an MDC member in Zuva Village, was struck twice on the head with an axe and once on the right leg by a group of approximately 60 Zanu-PF supporters. He treated at Madziwa Hospital for injuries he sustained in the attack. Muronzi's home was also burnt down.

- In Zuva Village, Clever Matanda's house was damaged while his kitchen was burnt down. His son, Elias was assaulted with chains sustaining blisters and cuts on stomach and back.
- Elijah Matanhaurwa, an MDC supporter, was struck with chains for continuing to support the MDC. Mutanhaurwa back is now swollen. His house was also damaged during the attack.

14 December 2001

Martha Muronzi

- 'At around 1am whilst my family and myself were asleep Zanu-PF supporters surrounded my homestead which is in the Chief Mutumba area in Madziwa. They wore MDC t-shirts to disguise themselves. They started knocking at the door but I did not open it. When they realised that I wasn't going to open the door they started breaking the windows. They then threw a lit object into the house that set it on fire. The whole house was burnt down. I was stuck inside the house for some time as while they continued throwing lit grass into the house because I was afraid of being killed if I went outside. One of the assailants threw a stone into the house at me that hit my hand, breaking my middle finger. They then left and we managed to escape from the burning house. I now have nothing left. Some of the people who did this are: Obey Kaimba, Muzondiwa Karikoga and Miseck Kaingidza.'

31 December 2001

- In Kamujariwa Village, Tafadzwa Mutsaunobaya was assaulted with chains. He sustained blisters and swelling.
- Elias Mutsaunobaya's kitchen was burnt down and the doors to his main house were destroyed.
- Robson Chikuma's home in Kamujariwa Village, Madziwa was attacked. His kitchen was burnt to the ground and asbestos roofing of his house destroyed.

Shurugwi

08 December 2001

- **Augustus Chacha**, the MDC district youth chair for Gokwe, was abducted by suspected Zanu-PF supporters. His body found floating in Gonye dam near his home two days later. Chacha's wife Theresa Murindi and their five children witnessed abduction. Chacha had complained of being tailed by strangers after he had been forced to leave Gokwe in August where he had been an MDC organiser.

Zaka West

December 2001

- Five unnamed MDC members were arrested for campaigning for the MDC and later released.
- Arnold Chirwa, of the MDC, was assaulted by armed soldiers. He has since fled the area. Heavily armed soldiers and Zanu-PF militias were deployed in Zaka and were patrolling the area looking for MDC supporters. Army officials were quoted as saying that the soldiers were in the area on a long-range exercise where they are testing new equipment.

06 December 2001

- MDC's losing candidate in the June 2000 parliamentary elections, Richard Patrick Mugwagwa, was assaulted at Padare Business Centre in Jerera for his political allegiance by heavily armed soldiers. He was made to lie in the mud while the assault took place. Mugwagwa sustained head injuries and was treated at Jerera Clinic.
- Misheck Marava, Jerifanos Kahuni and Johannes Chongore of the MDC were abducted and severely beaten by members of the Zanu-PF youth brigade. Marava sustained injuries all over his body, while Kahuni could hardly walk. Both of them were treated at St. Anthony's Mission Hospital. At time of report Chongore was still missing.

27 December 2001

- Fifteen unnamed MDC supporters were kidnapped by Zanu-PF supporters, severely beaten and later released. The attack was led by Eddy Munjana, the headman for the area.

Full alphabetical list of reported deaths related to political violence January to November 2001

Name, (Political Affiliation), Date of Death, Province, Constituency

1. **CHACHA, Augustus**, (MDC), 08 December 2001, Midlands, Shurugwi
2. **CHAMBATI, Milton**, (MDC), 20 December 2001, Mashonaland West, Hurungwe East
3. **CHEMVURA, Lameck**, 24 November 2001, Manicaland, Makoni East
4. **CHIHUMBIRI, Eswat** (Zanu (PF), 23 March 2001, Mashonaland Central, Muzarabani
5. **CHIKWENYA, Richard Dzokurasa** (MDC), 1 May 2001, Manicaland, Buhera North
6. **CHIRIMA, Robson Tinarwo** (MDC), March 2001, Mashonaland Central, Muzarabani
7. **CHITEMRERE., Mhondiwa**, (MDC), 30 October 2001, Mashonaland East, Murehwa South
8. **COBBET, Robert Fenwick** (commercial farmer), 6 August 2001, Midlands, Kwekwe
9. **DHLIWAYO, Willis**, (ZNLWVA), 25 December 2001, Manicaland, Chipinge North
10. **DUMUKANI, Zondani**, (farmworker) 9 June 2001, Harare, Mbare East
11. **GWENZI, Gilson** (MDC), 27 July 2001 (assaulted in June), Mashonaland Central, Mwenezi
12. **KANOMERA, John** (MDC), 3 July 2001, Harare, Hatfield (Epworth)
13. **KATEMA, Thomas**, (MDC), 2 August 2001, Harare
14. **LUPHAHLA, Limukani**, (Zanu-PF), 29 October 2001, Matabeleland North, Lupane
15. **MADZVIMBO, Fanuel**, (resettled farmer), 16 September 2001, Mashonaland East, Hwedza
16. **MUGODOKI, Micheal**, (farm security guard), 6 December 2001, Mashonaland East, Chikomba
17. **MANYAME, Ropafadzo**, (MDC), 16 January 2001, Masvingo, Bikita West
18. **MAPENZAUSWA, Phibion** (resettled farmer), 14 July 2001, Manicaland, Mutare West
19. **MATARUSE, Peter** (MDC), March 2001, Mashonaland Central, Muzarabani
20. **MATEMA, Hilary** (MDC), 15 October 2001, Mashonaland Central, Guruve South
21. **MAZAVA, Felix**, (MDC), 11 September 2001, Mashonaland East, Chikomba
22. **MIDZI, Trymore**, (MDC) 23 December 2001, Mashonaland Central, Bindura
23. **MUKWELI, Vusimuzi**, (MDC), 9 September 2001, Midlands, Gokwe South
24. **MUNANDISHE, Peter**, (MDC), 22 July 2001, Mashonaland Central, Bindura
25. **MUPESA, Ndonga** (MDC), 30 March 2001, Mashonaland Central, Muzarabani
26. **MWANZA, Miseck**, (MDC), 4 May 2001, Mashonaland West, Zvimba North
27. **NHEYA, Titus**, (MDC), 20 December 2001, Mashonaland West, Hurungwe East
28. **NKALA, Cain**, (ZNLWVA), 5 November 2001, Bulawayo, Lobengula-Magwegwe
29. **NYAMADZAWO, Alexio**, (resettled farmer) 15 September 2001, Mashonaland East, Hwedza

- 30. NYAMBARE, Winnie**, (MDC), 18 May 2001, Mashonaland Central, Guruve
- 31. NYATHI, Mbuso**, (ZNLWVA), 27 September 2001, Matabeleland North, Nkayi
- 32. NYIKA, James** (MDC), 3 July 2001, Harare, Hatfield (Epworth)
- 33. NYIKA, Rambisai**, (MDC), 24 December 2001, Midlands, Gokwe South
- 34. OLDS, Gloria**, (commercial farmer), 04 March 2001, Matabeleland North, Bubi-Umguza.
- 35. RUKARA, Kufa**, (MDC), 19 November 2001, Midlands, Silobela
- 36. SIKELE, Johannes/Felix**, (resettled farmer), 11 November 2001, Masvingo, Chiredzi South
- 37. SIKHUCHA, Ravengai**, (MDC), 10 November 2001, Midlands, Mberengwa East
- 38. ZIWENI, Osbon**, (MDC) 18 September 2001, Masvingo, Bikita West
- 39. Unnamed** (MDC), April 2001, Mashonaland Central, Shamva
- 40. Unnamed (2)** (MDC supporters), May 2001, Mashonaland Central, Mount Darwin South
- 41. Unnamed (2)** (Zanu-PF), 11 September 2001, Mashonaland East, Seke
- 42. Unnamed** (MDC), 6 September 2001, Bulawayo, Nkulumane
- 43. Unnamed** (farm worker), 15 September 2001, Mashonaland East, Hwedza
- 44. Unnamed** (game scout), 05 October 2001, Masvingo, Bikita East
- 45. Unnamed (2)** (MDC supporters) 2 November 2001, Mashonaland Central, Bindura

Total of 48 deaths

Background

The MDC is contesting the outcome of last June's parliamentary elections in many constituencies that resulted in the victory of the ZANU (PF) candidate. The MDC has filed 41 cases from constituencies across Zimbabwe. ZANU (PF) is likewise contesting the election result in only one constituency where the MDC won a parliamentary seat. Trials began 12 February 2001.

Human rights abuses have been reported in all cases that have appeared before the High Court. Some of the victims seen by the HRLU (Human Rights Legal Unit) during March 2001 were victims of political violence that occurred when they returned home after testifying in the election challenges. The violence, which has mainly implicated ZANU (PF) supporters, but has also implicated some MDC supporters, is being used as a tool to intimidate people who had testified at the High Court. The intimidation continues to instil such fear that witnesses consider not testifying and in some cases have to be subpoenaed.

Many victims were forced from their homes because of an extreme fear of victimization and repeated intimidation. Victims are often forced to look for alternative housing and many are forced to live with family or friends elsewhere in the country. Most victims report beatings as the main form of torture.

Some victims seen by the HRLU were victims of other political violence, torture and ongoing intimidation in several constituencies.

Political violence has been reported in the following constituencies: Beitbridge, Bikita West, Bindura, Bubi-Umguza, Buhera, Bulawayo, Bulilima-Mangwe, Chegutu, Chikomba, Chimanimani, Chinhoyi, Chipinge North, Chiredzi, Gokwe, Goromonzi, Gweru, Harare, Hurungwe West, Hwange, Hwedza, Kariba, Karoi, Kwekwe, Mabvuku, Makonde, Makoni East, Makoni West, Marondera, Masvingo North, Matabeleland South, Matobo, Mazowe West, Mberengwe East, Mount Darwin, Murehwa, Mutare, Mutoko, Muzarabani, Mwenezi, Nkavi, Raffingora, Ruwa, Seke, Shamva, Shurugwi, Tsholotsho and Zvimba.

The Clemency Order handed down by the President in October 2000, which declared that only those involved in political violence that resulted in murder or rape could be prosecuted, clearly has had serious effects. Police have taken little action to protect persons against political violence and in many cases, according to victims, refuse to take statements from MDC supporters. Some victims refrain from making reports to the police out of fear of further victimization often because of a perceived link between the assailants and members of law enforcement agencies. The police, as evidenced by statements of victims, have shown little intention of taking the reported matters seriously or investigating them with diligence.

It is urgent that the Zimbabwean government takes steps to ensure a climate of peaceful political competition. It is also imperative that the government ensures that the rule of law is restored, and criminal charges are brought against all alleged perpetrators, whatever their political affiliation.

The Zimbabwe Human Rights NGO Forum (also known as the “Human Rights Forum”) has been in existence since January 1998. Nine non-governmental organizations working in the field of human rights joined together to provide legal and psychosocial assistance to the victims of the Food Riots of January 1998.

The Human Rights Forum has now expanded its objectives to assist victims of organized violence, using the following definition:

“Organised violence” means the inter-human infliction of significant avoidable pain and suffering by an organised group according to a declared or implied strategy and/or system of ideas and attitudes. It comprises any violent action, which is unacceptable by general human standards, and relates to the victims’ mental and physical well-being.

The Human Rights Forum operates a Legal Unit and a Research and Documentation Unit.

Core member organizations of the Human Rights Forum are:

The Amani Trust

Amnesty International (Zimbabwe)

The Catholic Commission for Justice and Peace

The Legal Resources Foundation

Transparency International (Zimbabwe)

The University of Zimbabwe Legal Aid and Advice Scheme

Zimbabwe Association for Crime Prevention and the Rehabilitation of the Offender

Zimbabwe Human Rights Association

Zimbabwe Lawyers for Human Rights

Zimbabwe Women Lawyers Association

Associate members are:

GALZ

ZIMCET

The Human Rights Forum can be contacted through any member organization or through the following:

The Administrator, c/o P O Box 5465, Harare – email: admin@hrforum.co.zw

The Legal Unit, c/o P O Box 5465, Harare – email: legal@hrforum.co.zw

The Research Unit c/o P O Box 5465, Harare – email: research@hrforum.co.zw

Telephone/fax: 792 222, 737 509, and 731 660

Website: www.hrforumzim.com

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