

# **ZIMBABWE HUMAN RIGHTS NGO FORUM**

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## **POLITICAL VIOLENCE REPORT: UPDATE TO 15 APRIL 2002**

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17 April 2002

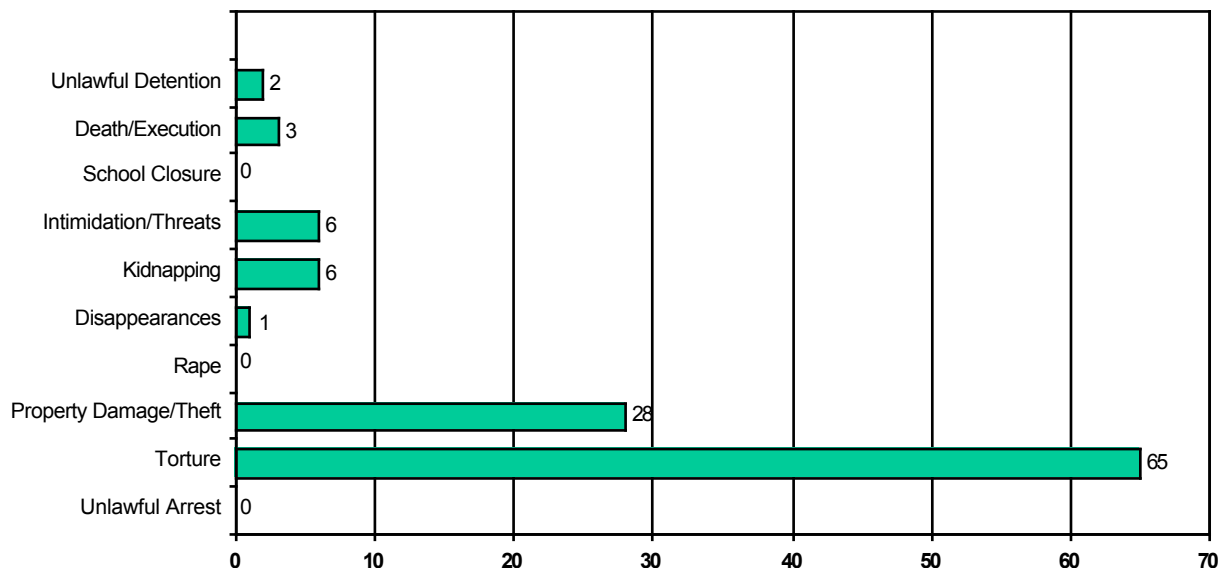
A report by the Zimbabwe Human Rights NGO Forum

**Overview**

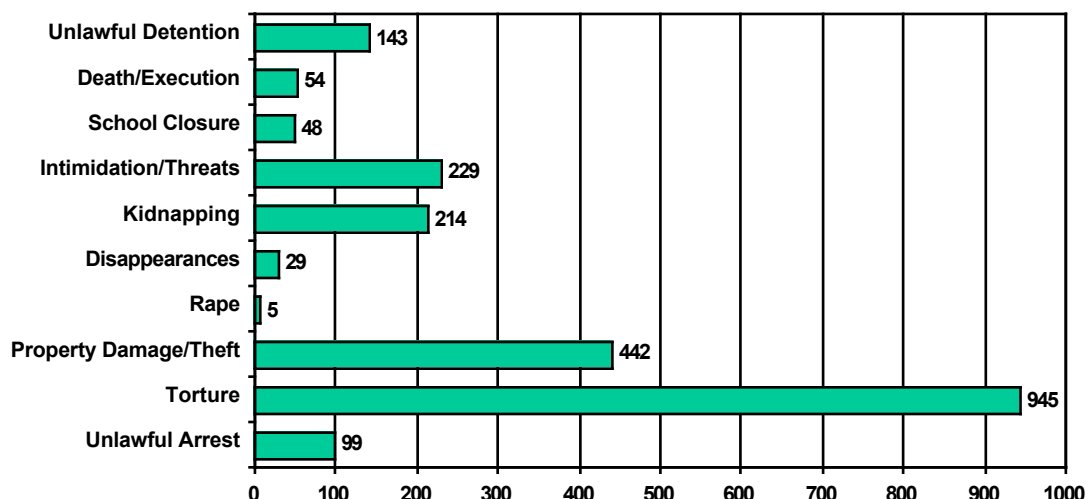
The continuing violence claimed a further three lives in the fortnight under review bringing the total number of politically related murders this year to 54. More deaths than were reported the year 2001. Political violence will continue to claim lives for as long as there is no concerted effort by the government and the police to put an end to it. More so for as long as state agents are perpetrators themselves.

Zanu PF bases are reportedly still in operation. Militia is reported to be operating from a base at Membeswana 2 Primary School in Nkosikazi communal area in Bubi-Umguza. Reprisals against suspected MDC supporters in the area are being conducted from this base.

**Totals 1 to 14 April 2002**



**Cumulative Totals 1 January 2002 – 14 April 2002**



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

❖ **Note on torture**

Torture:

All cases under torture 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 individual acting with the **acquiescence** of the State.

#### **Key Abbreviations**

**CIO**- Central Intelligence Organisation

**MDC**- Movement for Democratic Change

**MP**- Member of Parliament

**NCA**- National Constitutional Assembly

**UMP** – Uzumba Maramba Pfungwe

**ZNLWVA**- Zimbabwe National Liberation War Veterans Association

**ZNA**- Zimbabwe National Army

**ZRP**- Zimbabwe Republic Police

**Zanu PF**- Zimbabwe African National Union Patriotic Front

#### **Cases of Political Violence**

**Note:** The identities of victims that have not been published in the press and are not public officials are protected by the use of initials.

#### **Bindura**

*April 2002*

- Samuel Chitanda, an MDC member from Chiveso Village in Musana Communal Lands was allegedly abducted while waiting to catch a bus to Harare by Zanu PF militia. He has not been seen since.

#### **Buhera North**

*April 2002*

- Villagers from Chabata, Mutiusinazita, Muzvikomba, Chimbudzi and Chimombe villages in Murambinda were warned, before the election, of violence if the number of voters did not exactly equal the number of votes for President Robert Mugabe. After the election the villagers were then allegedly forced to buy Zanu PF cards costing \$82 each. Known MDC supporters are now being attacked at night by uniformed soldiers and war veterans. Many have fled to urban towns.

#### **Chimanimani**

*1 April 2002*

- Hamilton Sigauke, a teacher, claims that he was harassed at his home by CIO agents on several occasions. He has been forced to flee to Mutare as a result.

#### **Chiredzi North / Chipinge South**

*2 April 2002*

- Fifty unnamed villagers were attacked at Mutandawa Business Centre by about 30 Zanu PF supporters led by war veterans for voting for the MDC. The business centre is on the border between Chipinge South and Chiredzi North constituencies. People fled across Save River to Moses Mare (an MDC member) and to relatives in Chiredzi North. Businesses were also forced to close as 3 war veterans, namely Tongai Mabhunu, Luke and Poto Macheke, allegedly led Zanu PF youths in retaliatory violence against suspected MDC supporters.

### **Dzivarasekwa**

*2 April 2002*

- Aleck Masomera, the MDC councillor for Ward 39 in Harare, was allegedly kidnapped from his home by Zanu PF youths. A week before this incident Masomera, had fled and gone into hiding after receiving death threats from the same Zanu PF youths.

### **Glen Norah**

*4 April 2002*

- Three MDC members, Daniel Madzungwe, Manyengavana and Kunaka, were ordered to remove MDC t-shirts they were wearing by Madzimure, a war veteran, and Zanu PF supporters. The incident took place at the MDC offices at Spaceman Shopping Centre. The three were threatened with death when they asked why they should do so and were then assaulted. Kunaka was assaulted separately with sticks and chains at the shopping centre and tortured with the use of falanga. A report was made to Glen Norah Police Station, but no arrests were made. Madzimure reportedly directs assaults on MDC supporters from his house situated opposite the MDC office in Glen Norah.

### **Guruve North**

*5 April 2002*

- Tenmore N'andu, the headman, Isaiah Chimusasa and other unnamed MDC supporters from Mwando Village in Kachuta had their houses torched by suspected war veterans.

### **Gweru Urban**

*2 April 2002*

- Members of the army patrolling high-density suburbs in two armoured vehicles indiscriminately assaulted patrons at various nightclubs and council owned beerhalls. At Kombayi's Chitukuko Hotel one soldier was disarmed of his AK47, which was fully loaded. The rifle was handed over to the police, however the soldier was not charged.

### **Makoni North**

*4 April 2002*

- **Noah Gwidzima** (Zanu PF) was stabbed to death after ordering MDC supporters out of their homes after the presidential election. Zanu PF Member of Parliament for Makoni North Didymus Mutasa is on record as having declared Makoni and Rusape a Zanu PF stronghold. Mutasa initiated an 'Operation Chinyavada' just before the elections intended clearing Makoni of MDC activists.

### **Makoni West**

*5 April 2002*

- Regis Mugore an Agritex employee, was ordered to stop reading a copy of the Daily News newspaper. He was also deprived of a 15-ha resettlement plot which he was allocated in the 'fast-track' resettlement programme.
- Zivanayi Ziwengwa, a ZESA employee, was ordered to leave the town by the end of April by Zanu PF supporters being instigated by Zanu PF Member of Parliament for Makoni North, Didymus Mutasa. They have compiled a list of civil servants, businesspersons sympathetic to the MDC and are using it to target them. However sources at ZESA said Ziwengwa was not involved in any party politics.

### **Marondera West**

*13 April 2002*

- ED was a polling agent (MDC) in Marondera West during the presidential elections. He recruited some of his relatives and when he went to his rural home he was summoned by the village head but refused to attend. During the night a group of people came demanding to see him and to explain why he was in the area which 'belongs to Zanu PF'. he managed to escape through the window. Some of his property was destroyed and clothing burnt. He doesn't have anywhere to stay.

### **Masvingo North**

*4 April 2002*

- **Petros Jeka**, an MDC polling agent during the elections, was stabbed several times in the back by suspected Zanu PF supporters after an argument at Bondolfi Mission Business centre. He was admitted to Masvingo General Hospital where he died. Three people have been remanded in custody on murder charges by Masvingo magistrate Shortgame Musaiona. On the 6th of April, Jeka's body was dumped at Winter Chirove's (Zanu PF district Youth Chairperson) homestead at the request of the deceased before he died by 'hundreds of disgruntled villagers'. Chirove was accused of Jeka's murder.

### **Mazowe West**

*5 April 2002*

- Police officers knocked at AJ's door but while he was getting dressed, they forced their way into the house. They struck his wife with open hands and baton sticks. The couple was asked to produce MDC mealie-meal, party cards and t-shirts. They gave them the t-shirts and cards that they had. He was handcuffed and beaten on his back with baton sticks and his ears and testicles were pulled with pliers before he was forced into a truck that already had six other people in it. They were driven to Concession Police Station where they were put in cells. The next morning the police took statements from the group. One police officer brought in some petrol bombs and claimed that they belonged to the victims who had intended to use them in politically motivated attacks. The victim was later taken to Bindura where he spent the night. While he was there officers of the CID took another statement from AJ. The victim and others were taken to court on 7 April 2002 and were granted an \$8000 dollar bail each. The case is to be heard on 25 April 2002. The victim's right hand is weak while his left hand has no sensation, both as a result of the assault.

### **Mbare East**

*14 April 2002*

- WM was putting on an MDC t-shirt inside his shirt going to Mbare. On arrival he was confronted by a group of Zanu PF supporters who demanded to see his t-shirt. he was handcuffed and taken to some Zanu PF base at Mbare Musika. they started assaulting him and he was taken to a room, ordered to lie down. he was stripped naked and had water poured all over him. There were two other victims who were also being assaulted. They were using a hosepipe and a steel tube. he suffered bruises on his left hand, head and back. He did not report the case because he alleges that he met several police officers when he was being taken to the base but they ignored the incident.

*12 April 2002*

- JR was coming from an MDC celebration party over the Mayoral win when he was attacked by 3 known Zanu PF supporters. They attacked him with booted feet and

fists for no apparent reason. he was saved from further assaults by a wellwisher. the three fled the area.

He reported the case at Matapi Police Station but one Officer Chipoko refused to entertain his story on the grounds that it was a politically motivated violence case, he was referred to Harare Central Police Station

### **Mhondoro**

*2 April 2002*

- **Micah Chidari**, of Zanu PF, was dragged from home in the early hours and taken to a Zanu PF torture base, together with his mother Rudia and 11-year-old brother Tachapera. He was beaten for 2 hours with a fan belt for allegedly stealing bananas and sugarcane from a woman from the same area. He died as a result of the beating.

### **Muzarabani**

*April 2002*

- Matthew Nyabuna had his general dealership and a 25-acre unharvested cotton field seized by members of the ZNLWVA. He has since fled to Harare.

*April 2002*

- Rosina Tazarurava had her homestead torched by Zanu PF supporters. She was extensively burnt all over her body.

### **Mwenezi**

*6 April 2002*

- Frank Bhizi and Kennedy Kwinika, both MDC polling agents, were abducted from their homes by Zanu PF supporters. The mob had assaulted 'everyone in sight' in Gumunyu and surrounding villages. They later abducted Bhizi and assaulted him. He was admitted at Neshuro Hospital. Kwinika was taken from his home and ordered to renounce his party membership. He was severely assaulted for refusing to join Zanu PF. The police had to fire warning shots in the air to disperse the mob of Zanu-PF supporters that had attacked him. Kwinika was admitted to Neshuro hospital and was reported to be in a stable condition two days later. No arrests were reported.

### **Nkayi**

*6 April 2002*

- Some 400 resettled farmers staged a 'peaceful demonstration' to get Richard Pascal off Gourlays Farm saying they could not 'coexist' with him on the farm. Pascal is alleged to have released ostriches onto the demonstrators and shot Emmanuel Sibanda with a shotgun. Sibanda was 'rushed to Bubi/Inyati hospital. Pascal, Lamprecht and Johnson were arrested on attempted murder charges. They were remanded on bail of Z\$2000 each by Bulawayo magistrate Mrs. Nzvisisayi Vusango. Pascal was prohibited from visiting his farm for 2 weeks, when the situation will be reviewed.

### **Shamva**

*April 2002*

- Mishek Kanengosha, a worker at Shamva gold mine had his house stoned and property torched by Zanu PF supporters. Property worth Z\$550 000 belonging to Kanengosha was destroyed. The workers were threatened with death if they did

not leave the mine. They were accused of having voted for Morgan Tsvangirai in the Presidential Elections.

*2 April 2002*

- MM was staying with an uncle whose wife went and monitored the elections. Their house was set on fire because it was alleged that they were all MDC sympathisers and should move out of Shamva. The victim has since sought refuge in Harare.

*3 April 2002*

- MM, a locomotive driver at Shamva Gold Mine, reported that Zanu PF members have a list of names for those who are said to have voted for MDC in the constituency. They have been carrying out a door to door search for Zanu PF cards and if persons do not have the cards they are ordered out of the area and told to go to Harare. The group went to the victim's home and threw all his household goods and effects outside and ordered him to leave and MM has thus fled.

### **Shurugwi**

*April 2002*

- About 100 Zanu PF militia and members of the ZNLWVA assaulted an unnamed MDC district organizing secretary and other MDC supporters. Two of them were severely injured and admitted to a local hospital, where another attack was attempted. Sakahowa alias "Gunpowder" was arrested in connection with the assault.

### **Umzingwane**

*06-7 April 2002*

- 60 war veterans, settlers and hired youths from Habane Township arrived in a DDF truck on Saturday morning at Glenara Park Farm in Esigodini which belongs to Alistair Coulson. They told Coulson to leave the farm by noon but he refused to do so. They returned the next day and assaulted 7 farm workers. The youths destroyed the farm workers property. About 150 farm workers have fled the farm as a result. The police acted as mediators and recommended that Coulson should leave because they could not guarantee his safety. The 300-ha farm was purchased 10 years ago and is designated but was not occupied. It supplies Bulawayo with most of its fresh vegetables. An unidentified ZNA colonel who brought his family on Sunday alleged to have claimed the farm.

### **Zengeza**

*4 April 2002*

- At around 2 am, riot police armed with AK47s and teargassed Tafadzwa Musekiwa's, (MDC MP for Zengeza) house. The police broke the bedroom window and hurled teargas through it. Musekiwa escaped naked to his neighbour's home. In the confusion he injured his foot. The MP alleges that his calls to Zengeza Police and Harare Central were not answered. The Herald reported that non-police 'assailants' threw the teargas from the gate. The Daily News reported that Musekiwa received calls from the police at his house later, and when he arrived, some of his attackers were still there, so he fled again.

*3 April 2002*

- Grace Jagadu, a Chitungwiza City councillor, and Mrs. Mhembere, of Zanu PF, had their houses petrol-bombed and stoned by suspected MDC youths. Windows were broken while curtains and other household furnishings were burned. The total value of the damaged/destroyed property is Z\$89 600.





List of deaths resultant from political violence 1 January 2002 – 15 April 2002

Note: This list is subject to update and correction as and when new/additional information becomes available.

**Name, Political Affiliation if known, Date of Death, Province, Constituency**

1. **BHEBHE, Newman** (MDC), February 2002, Matabeleland North, Nkayi
2. **CHATUNGA, Richard**, (MDC), 20 January 2002, Masvingo, Bikita East
3. **CHIDARI Micah**, (Zanu PF), 2 April 2002, Mashonaland West, Mhondoro
4. **CHITEHWE, Mr**, (ZNLWVA), January 2002, Harare, Hatfield
5. **DUBE, Nqobizita**, (MDC), 1 March 2002, Bulawayo, Nkulumane
6. **FORD, Terry**, (commercial farmer), 18 March 2002, Mashonaland West, Mhondoro
7. **GATSI, Ernest**, (MDC) 19 March 2002, Mashonaland Central, Guruve North
8. **GWAZE, Tafirenyika**, (MDC polling agent Rukwenjere), 12 March 2002, Mashonaland East, Mutoko South
9. **GWIDZIMA, Noah**, (Zanu PF), 4 April 2002, Manicaland, Makoni North
10. **JEFTHA, Peter**, 3 March 2002, Harare, Harare South
11. **JEKA, Petros**, (MDC polling agent), 4 April 2002, Masvingo, Masvingo North
12. **JERANYAMA, Donald**, (MDC polling agent ), 25 March 2002, Manicaland, Mutasa
13. **KATSAMUDANGA, Tichaona** (MDC), 5 February 2002, Harare, Harare North
14. **KUMALO, Khape**, (MDC), 6 February 2002, Mashonaland West, Mhondoro
15. **KUVHEYA, Lawrence**, (MDC), March 2002, Mashonaland East, Chikomba
16. **MAHUNI, Funny**, 13 March 2002, Midlands, Kwekwe
17. **MANYARA, Owen**, (MDC), 17 March 2002, Mashonaland Central, Mount Darwin
18. **MAPHOSA, Richard**, (MDC), 20 January 2002, Masvingo, Bikita East
19. **MAPHOSA, Stephen**, (Zanu PF), 2 February 2002, Harare, Budiriro
20. **MAPINGURE, Atnos**, , 9 January 2002, Masvingo, Zaka
21. **MASARIRA, Gibson** ,(Zanu PF), 9 January 2002, Masvingo, Zaka
22. **MASEVA, Amos Misheck**, (ZNLWVA), 8 March 2002, Masvingo, Gutu North
23. **MATOPE, Kenneth**, (MDC), 13 January 2002, Mashonaland Central, Guruve
24. **MIJONI, Simwanja**, 15 January 2002, Midlands, Kwekwe
25. **MOYO, Henry**, (MDC), 7 February 2002, Masvingo, Masvingo Central
26. **MPOFU, Muchenje**, (MDC), 19 January 2002, Midlands, Mberengwa East
27. **MUKAKAREI, Tabudamo**, (MDC), 14 February 2002, Masvingo, Masvingo North
28. **Munyaradzi** (no surname given) (farmworker), 14 February 2002, Mashonaland East, Marondera East
29. **MUNIKWA, Isaac**, (Zanu PF), 17 January 2002, Masvingo, Zaka
30. **MUPAWAENDA, Takatukwa Mamhova**, 16 February 2002, Mashonaland West, Zvimba South
31. **MUTEMARINGA, Fungisai**, (MDC), 27 January 2002, Mashonaland East, Murehwa
32. **NCUBE, Sambani** (MDC), 17 March 2002, Matabeleland North, Hwange East
33. **NCUBE, Mthokozisi**, (MDC), 26 January 2002, Bulawayo, Pelandaba
34. **NEMAIRE, Solomon**, (MDC), 23 January 2002, Manicaland, Makoni

35. **NGUNDU, Shepherd**, (MDC), 5 February 2002, Mashonaland Central, Mount Darwin South
36. **NHITSA, Takesure**, (MDC), 20 February 2002, Mashonaland Central, Rushinga
37. **NYANZIRA, Tariro**, (Zanu PF), 8 February 2002, Manicaland, Buhera North
38. **PILOSI, Simon**, (MDC), 26 March 2002, Mashonaland West, Zvimba South
39. **ROMIO, Edwin**, (MDC polling agent), March 2002, Mashonaland East, Mutoko
40. **SANYAMAHWE, Kuziva**, (MDC), 18 January 2002, Mashonaland East, Murehwa South
41. **SHELTON, Lloyd**, (Zanu PF) 27 February 2002, Mashonaland East, Chikomba
42. **SIBANDA, Charles**, (MDC), 2 March 2002, Midlands, Zhombe
43. **SIBANDA, James**, (MDC), February 2002, Matabeleland North, Nkayi
44. **SIBINDI, Halaza**, (MDC), 30 January 2002, Matabeleland North, Tsholotsho
45. **SIBINDI, Joseph**, (MDC) January 2002, Bulawayo
46. **SICWE, Jameson**, (MDC), 29 January 2002, Matabeleland North, Lupane
47. **Unnamed**, (2), (farm guards), 23 January 2002, Masvingo, Mwenezi
48. **Unnamed**, 26 February 2002, Bulawayo, Makokoba
49. **Unnamed** (3 MDC supporters) 16 March 2002, Manicaland, Chipinge South
50. **VIKAVEKA, Darlington**, (MDC), 15 March 2002, Mashonaland East, Marondera East
51. **WHITE, Fanuel**, (MDC polling agent), 29 March 2002, Mashonaland Central, Guruve North

Total of 54 deaths

(Political affiliation: MDC- 35; Zanu PF- 7, ZNLWVA- 2, Unknown/none- 10)

The Zimbabwe Human Rights NGO Forum (also known as the “Human Rights Forum”) has been in existence since January 1998. Nine non-governmental organisations 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 organised 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 Civic Education Trust
- Zimbabwe Human Rights Association
- Zimbabwe Lawyers for Human Rights
- Zimbabwe Women Lawyers Association

Associate member:

GALZ

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

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All previous reports of the Human Rights Forum can be found on the website.