

# **ZIMBABWE HUMAN RIGHTS NGO FORUM**

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## **POLITICAL VIOLENCE REPORT JANUARY 2004**

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1 March 2004

A report by the Zimbabwe Human Rights NGO Forum

## OVERVIEW

Victimisation and intimidation on the basis of one's political affiliation continue to be commonplace in Zimbabwe. Leaders of political parties and high level Government officials have failed to encourage tolerance amongst their supporters. Instead, statements have been made that overtly foster prejudices and violate the right to freedom of association. In Gutu North (MASVINGO PROVINCE), Vice President, Joseph Msika was reported as having labelled MDC supporters as "*sell-outs, sponsored stooges and anti-revolutionaries*" addressed villagers at Zvavahera Business Centre.<sup>1</sup> Ngoni Mudzamiri asserts that he was abducted from Matizha Shopping Centre in Gutu North by ZANU PF youths in a truck. He was reportedly hauled into the back of the truck, driven around the constituency and beaten all over the body along the way. He alleges that the assailants later took him to Mupandawana where he was beaten until he fell unconscious. He was apparently attacked because he was wearing a MDC t-shirt. HK, MDC Murehwa South District Coordinator, and his brother AK, allege that they were attacked at home by ZANU PF youths on the basis of their political affiliation with the MDC. The youths were reportedly moving about in a truck with the inscription "*ZANU PF MASHONALAND EAST*".

The Human Rights Forum condemns the lack of any concerted effort on the part of Zimbabwean political parties to dissuade their members and/ supporters from engaging in acts of violence against each other on the basis of opposing political opinions. Furthermore we view the making of statements that fan violence by political leaders as unacceptable in a democratic society.

Violence broke out in Shamva constituency (MASHONALAND CENTRAL PROVINCE) where several MDC supporters were reportedly beaten by ZANU PF youths for being supporters of the MDC. Some were seriously injured while **Alexander Chigega** reportedly died of the injuries he sustained in an assault on 4 January 2004. **Chigega** was reportedly attacked by a gang of about 30 ZANU PF supporters while he was at home in Chief Mutumba's Village, Madziva. The youths, who are alleged to have been on a rampage against MDC supporters in the area, arrived at the victim's house, called him out and threatened to burn the house. His wife asserts that the youths attacked Chigega with stones, dragged him out of the house, and then beaten him on the back with logs. When she tried to shield him, she claims she was also beaten by the youths and she fell to the ground. Chigega died on the way to the hospital as he was being ferried there by a relative. Chigega's wife identified Ogi Munetsi, Milton Kande, Harrison Zuze, Munyaradzi Chigega, Never Chigega and Mrs. Mishamiviri, all from their village, as being amongst the perpetrators. There have reportedly been no arrests to date. Two of the perpetrators, Never Chigega and Mrs Mishamiviri, were also named as perpetrators in incidents of political violence in the run up to the Presidential Elections of March 2002<sup>2</sup>. They appear to continue to be involved in incidents of political violence without consequence.

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<sup>1</sup> The statement by Vice President, Joseph Msika was televised on ZBC TV. See *Media Monitoring Project of Zimbabwe, Weekly Media Update # 2004-4*

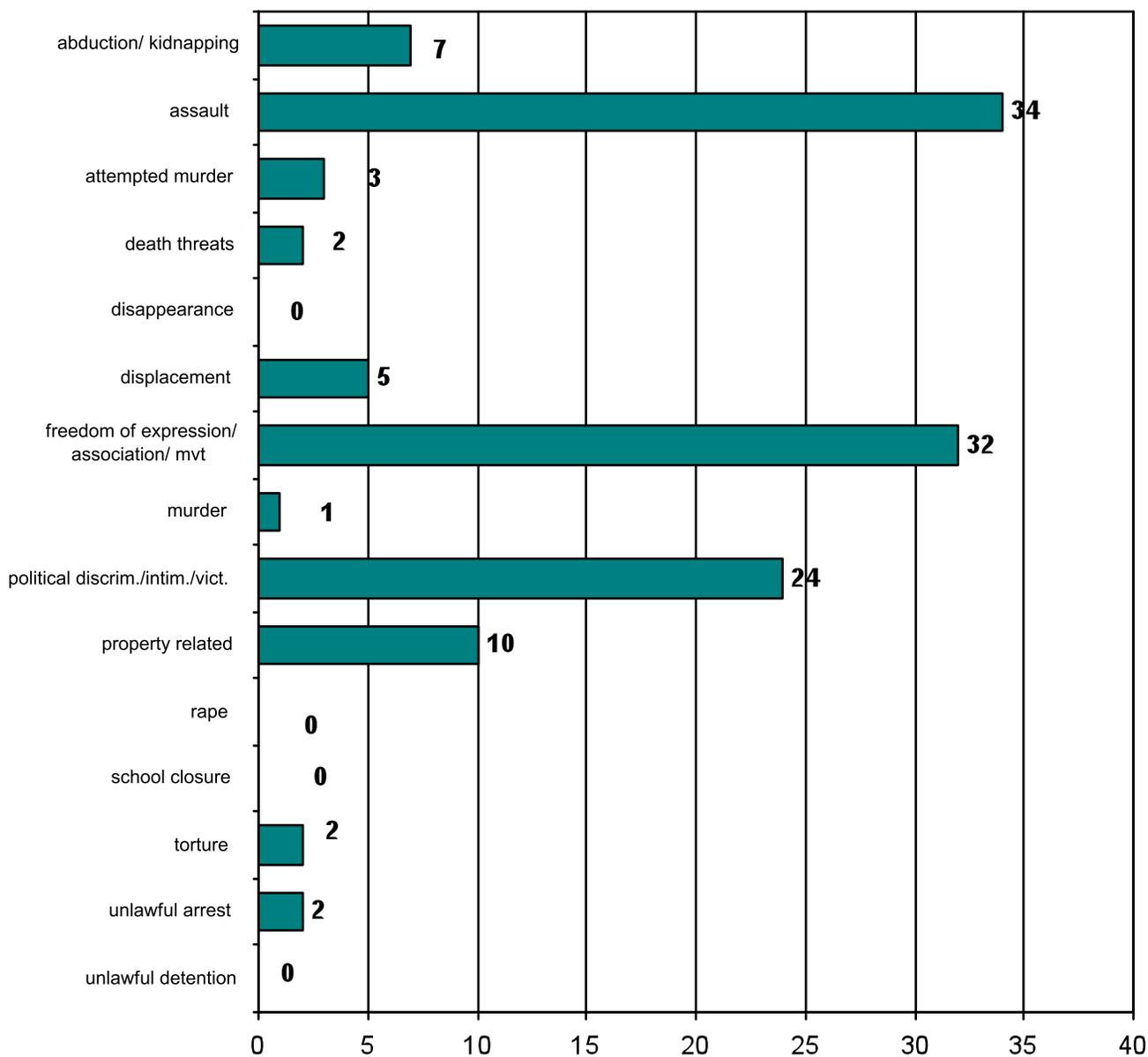
<sup>2</sup> see *Are They Accountable: Examining alleged violators and their violations pre and post the Presidential Election March 2002* a report by the Zimbabwe Human Rights NGO Forum pg 56-57

On 10 January 2004, the editor, Iden Wetherall, editor, Vincent Kahiya and chief reporter Dumisani Muleya of the *Zimbabwe Independent*, a weekly newspaper, were arrested and detained for two nights by the Zimbabwe Republic Police. The three subsequently appeared before a Harare magistrate charged with criminal defamation for reporting that the President had commandeered a plane from the national airline to travel to the Far East on personal business. The fact that the plane had carried the President to the Far East was not disputed, however the trio were arrested for having used the word “commandeered” in their story. They were released on ZW\$20 000 bail each. These arrests exemplify the limitations to freedom of expression that prevail in Zimbabwe today.

In Gutu North, Crispa Musoni, the MDC candidate for the constituency, alleged that he was unable to conduct a campaign without hindrance. Musoni was reportedly denied police clearance to hold rallies and alleged that those who were associated with his campaign were subsequently tracked down for purposes of retribution. The Human Rights Forum notes with concern the failure by the responsible authorities to ensure an environment in which the opposition would be able to campaign meaningfully. In contrast the ruling party, ZANU PF, candidate was reportedly able to campaign without interference throughout Gutu North.

It is imperative that an equal playing field be accorded to all candidates in future elections in Zimbabwe if the Government is committed to move towards the holding free and fair elections.

**Totals: 1 January 2004 – 31 January 2004**



**Sources:** The information contained in this report is derived from statements made to the Public Interest Unit of the Zimbabwe Human Rights Forum, statements taken by the member organisations of the Human Rights Forum. (*See last page for list of member organisations*), newspaper reports, Justice for Agriculture (JAG), Combined Harare Residents Association (CHRA), Zimbabwe Community Development Trust (ZCDT).

**Notes to the tables:**

**Torture:**

All cases of torture fall under the definition of torture according to the general definition 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**.

Those individuals referred to in point # 4 include the ZRP, ZNA, ZPS and the ZNLWVA (as a reserve force of the ZNA) and by any other grouping when directly sanctioned by the state.

**Unlawful arrest and detention:**

Arrest by the Zimbabwe Republic Police (ZRP) with no reasonable suspicion that an offence has been committed. Detention thereafter for a period exceeding 48 hours without access to redress through the courts or subsequent release without charge.

**Abduction/kidnapping:**

A kidnapping by a member(s) of an organised group that is not the ZRP, political party, ZNLWVA, ZNA, MDC, Zanu PF etc

**Disappearance:**

Kidnapped persons whose whereabouts remained unknown at the time of reporting. Their whereabouts have still to be ascertained through follow up reports or further investigation.

**Property related**

These are incidents in which property rights have been violated. This includes arson, property damage and destruction and theft.

**Key Abbreviations**

AIPPA – Access to Information and Protection of Privacy Act	Zanu PF – Zimbabwe African National Union Patriotic Front
CIO – Central Intelligence Organisation	ZCTU – Zimbabwe Congress of Trade Unions
MDC – Movement for Democratic Change	ZNA – Zimbabwe National Army
MP – Member of Parliament	ZNLWVA – Zimbabwe National Liberation War Veterans Association
NAGG - National Alliance for Good Governance	ZPS – Zimbabwe Prison Service
NCA – National Constitutional Assembly	ZRP – Zimbabwe Republic Police
OVT – Organised Violence and Torture	ZIMTA – Zimbabwe Teachers Association
POSA – Public Order and Security Act	ZUPCO – Zimbabwe United Passenger Company
PTUZ – Progressive Teachers Union of Zimbabwe	
UMP – Uzumba Maramba Pfungwe	

## Cases of Political Violence

**Note:** The identities of victims whose names have not been published in the press and are not public officials are protected by the use of initials. This is done in order to protect the victim from further violence, intimidation and possible recriminatory attacks.

The purpose of this report is to record the nature of the politically motivated violence and intimidation that continues to prevail in the country. The Monthly Political Violence Reports are primarily based on victims' accounts, accompanied by medical evidence where possible, obtained from member organisations of the Human Rights Forum and other partner organisations. Use is also made of press reports on politically motivated violence. The situation prevailing in the country is such that it has not been possible to verify all of these accounts. The Human Rights Forum has done what it can to verify the reports, and is satisfied that the vast majority of them are substantially true. It is also not possible to rule out whether a victim's account is exaggerated or contains inaccuracies.

All reports derived from the press are denoted with the symbol  $\Sigma$ .

## BULAWAYO

### **Bulawayo North East/ South**

25 January 2004

- $\Sigma$  ZRP officers in possession of a search warrant, reportedly raided the MDC offices in Bulawayo. They seized newsletters published by ZVAKWANA<sup>3</sup>, copies of the MDC in-house bulletin "The Changing Times", personal documents and telephone books belonging to staff. Joshua Mpofu, MDC Provincial Administrator, was purportedly arrested and then taken for questioning on the items that the police had seized which they described as "subversive material". Mpofu later was released without charge.

## HARARE

### **Chitungwiza**

5 January 2004

- AD claims that ZANU PF supporters arrived at her home, knocked on the door, and then kicked it open. AD asserts that the officers demanded to see her husband, whom they allegedly assaulted on the back, and then kicked on the mouth. AD alleges that she was also hit on the face and left eye. She sustained a swollen eye as a result of which she is unable to see properly and lost two teeth.

11 January 2004

- SM reported that a mob of ZANU PF youths arrived at her home, knocked on the door, and demanded to see her. SM did not respond. She alleges that when she later attempted to open the door, the mob was still waiting and pulled her outside and then beat her with sticks and a piece of metal until she fell to the ground. She sustained multiple injuries on the face. SM claims that she identified one Last Kagoda among the assailants.

21 January 2004

- GK and others were selling their wares at the market stall when 6 youths from the Border Gezi National Youth Service Training Centre arrived and asked who amongst the vendors were MDC activists. GK claims that one of his colleagues pointed towards him. The youths are said to have accused him of stealing, when in fact he had not stolen anything. He alleges that they destroyed his wares, grabbed him by the trousers, and pulled him towards Chitungwiza Central Police Station where he was arrested and detained by the police for a few hours. He was later released from

<sup>3</sup> Zvakwana is a civic group that produces weekly newsletters on the Zimbabwean crisis.

police custody back into the hands of the youths. He asserts that he was later taken to a house in Zengeza where a number of other youths from the Border Gezi National Youth Service Training Centre beat him all over the body and under the feet with whips, a stick and open palms.

28 January 2004

- BG asserts that a group of about 6 ZANU PF youths approached him and beat him with fists and sticks on accusations of being an MDC supporter. He reportedly lost consciousness and does not remember what happened after that.

### **Dzivaresekwa**

4 January 2004

- TT, an MDC supporter, alleges that he was abducted by ZANU PF youths at about 12 noon and taken to their base in the area. He was interrogated about where he stays and where he was coming from. He claims that he was stoned, assaulted with open palms and sticks together with a colleague with whom he was walking. He ran towards another house to seek refuge. However, the house he sought refuge from belonged to another ZANU PF supporter and upon arrival, he claims that he was further assaulted, as they knew that he belongs to the opposition party MDC. He asserts that the assailants also tore at his clothes, tied a rope around his neck and pulled him around the house, threatening to murder him. He sustained severe injuries on the head and hands.

### **Harare Central**

21 January 2004

- ∑A public meeting organised by the Combined Harare Residents Association (CHRA) was banned by the police 15 minutes before the meeting was scheduled to begin. A CHRA member who was taking video footage of the event at the hotel was reportedly detained briefly by the police in the afternoon and released around 8:00pm. According to Barnabas Mangodza, Chief Executive Officer of CHRA, the police had earlier granted CHRA permission to hold the meeting on the conditions that the organisation kept to its agenda, that they left the venue of the meeting by 8:30pm, and that the police should be in attendance. However, permission was withdrawn at 5:15pm and Mangodza was instructed to reapply for the permission to hold the meeting at a later date. The meeting was a consultative forum with residents of Harare on the Harare City Council's 2004 budget. ZRP Crime Prevention Officer, Chief Superintendent Dhlakama reportedly informed CHRA that the meeting was barred so as to quell '*potential violence*' by those who might be attending.

10 January 2004

- ∑Three *Zimbabwe Independent* members of staff Iden Wetherall (editor); Dumisani Muleya (chief reporter) and Vincent Kahiya (news editor) spent 2 nights in custody after they were arrested by the police on charges of criminal defamation. They were arrested over the publishing of a story in the *Zimbabwe Independent*, alleging that the President had commandeered a plane from the national airline to travel to the Far East on personal business earlier in the month. Wetherall, Kahiya and Muleya were later released on ZW\$20 000 bail each.

**Hatfield***21 January 2004*

- A group of about 6 ZANU PF youths are said to have assaulted LS at her home in Epworth, because she had failed to attend a ZANU PF meeting. She claims that the youths interrogated her, but did not give her time to explain. She left her home for fear of being further victimised and is now staying in Glen Norah.

**Highfield***4 January 2004*

- SZ alleges that ZANU PF youths assaulted him while he was at Shirichena Shopping Centre, because he was putting on an MDC T-shirt. He was reportedly intercepted by the youths as they had taken a short break from a ZANU PF meeting. He asserts that he was forced to remove the T-shirt and then to attend the meeting. When he refused to do so, he claims that he was assaulted.

**Kuwadzana***4 January 2004*

- NC was wearing an MDC T-shirt when ZANU PF youths approached him at a shopping centre, demanding to know why he had it on. In response, NC asked them why they were wearing ZANU PF T-shirts as well. The youths are said to have beaten him with bottles inflicting injuries on his neck and cheek. He sustained a broken tooth.

*10 January 2004*

- At about 1745hrs, TM was walking with a colleague when they were intercepted by a group of ZANU PF youths who were holding a meeting in the area. TM purports that the youths demanded to know what they were doing there. TM claims that the youths assaulted his colleague and that when he tried to rescue him, the assailants turned on him as well. TM asserts that they were later dragged to Rugare Police Station, where they were further assaulted by the police. TM reported the matter to the police at Rugare Police Station upon which he was taken into police custody for a day.

*12 January 2004*

- LM was passing through the shopping centre when two soldiers reportedly intercepted him and accused him of having a close alliance with the opposition leader, Morgan Tsvangirai. He alleges that although they left him for a while, they later followed him as he went past a field, caught up with him, and kicked him with booted feet in the legs and on the left side of the chest. Some passers-by rescued him.

**Mbare East***14 January 2004*

- BM, an MDC supporter from Mbare, alleges that he was attacked by ZANU PF supporters, on suspicion that he has information about Ali Khan Manjengwa's death. Manjengwa, a senior ZANU PF official, was shot and murdered on 22 August 2002 while walking in the corridor of a flat in which he stayed. He was coming from attending a ZANU PF meeting in that same flat. BM purports that he has since been receiving threats on his life and claims that he is also being victimised because he supports the opposition party MDC.

**MANICALAND****Chimanimani***January 2004*

- ∑Roy Bennet, MDC MP – Chimanimani and owner of Charleswood Estate, claims that the newly appointed Governor of Manicaland, a Lieutenant-General Mike Nyambuya, addressed senior

ZANU PF officials at a meeting at Chimanimani Hotel about his intention to remove MP Bennet from the province, and to deal decisively with all opposition members from the province. Bennet claims that earlier in the month, Nyambuya drove members of the army and government supporters on a violent looting spree at Charleswood Estate, and that several workers were rushed to the hospital for treatment after they were beaten by the soldiers. He further declared that following the looting spree, Nyambuya then drove war veterans, CIO agents, and ARDA (Agricultural Rural Development Authority) workers onto the farm to camp there. They are reportedly still camped there. Following the meeting by Nyambuya, a group of about 15 ZANU PF youths are said to have terrorised suspected MDC activists including Jasper Gabaza, Douglas Gebe, Takesure Chironzo, and David Munengwa, MDC District Chairman for Chimanimani. Property worth about ZW\$4million was reportedly destroyed during the attacks. It has been reported that several government officials and ruling party supporters have either illegally camped or stayed on the farm since 2003 despite a High Court Order barring them from doing so. It is reported that one farm worker was shot in the melee, and that the invaders purported that they were working on the instruction of the new Governor, retired Lieutenant-General Nyambuya.

### **Mutare South**

*1 January 2004*

- Edwin Masimba Moyo, owner of Kondozi Farm in Odzi, claims that one Zuze, a ZANU PF supporter, as well as ARDA workers and other ZANU PF supporters, arrived at his farm with the intention of evicting his farm workers and then taking control of the farm. The perpetrators alleged that they were acting on a directive from the Minister of Lands and Agriculture, Joseph Made. It is also alleged that Zuze was armed with a gun as he led the group of about 11 ZANU PF youths and ARDA workers in their attempt to grab office keys from management of the farm. When management sensed danger, it reportedly sounded the alarm. Zuze is said to have subsequently shot into the crowd, and more than 3 shots were reported as having been fired. Three farm workers were allegedly shot and seriously injured. Moyo reported the case to the police at Mutare Police Station. Moyo says he is not contesting the acquisition of the farm but wants permission to get his equipment from the farm. He professes that ARDA, on the instruction of Minister Made, is stopping him from getting the material. The farm is listed under the Export Processing Zone, meaning it should not be compulsorily acquired, and it has a base of around 5 000 workers.

## **MASHONALAND CENTRAL**

### **Mount Darwin North/ South**

*11 January 2004*

- At about midnight, 6 war veterans reportedly arrived at GR's home demanding to know why he was still staying in Mount Darwin, since he is an MDC supporter. GR asserts that the youths beat him with clenched fists and open hands, and that they kicked him all over the body until he fell to the ground. The assailants are said to have forced him into their truck, driven off with him, lectured him about party politics, and then forced him away from the area.

### **Muzarabani**

*11 January 2004*

- CM, MDC Youth Chairman for Centenary, was approached by 8 MDC youths for a briefing on the political atmosphere in the constituency at about 20:00hrs. CM claims that later that evening, he was summoned to the Headman's place to explain the mandate of the MDC youths who had visited him earlier on. CM explained that they wanted to select the MDC candidate for the 2005 Parliamentary Elections. On arrival at his house that same night, he alleges that 30 ZANU PF youths had surrounded it and were stoning the door as well as the MDC vehicle that was parked there. He alleges that although the group left soon after his arrival, about 12 of them later returned at around 23:00hrs, beat him and his wife with sticks, kicked them all over their bodies, and then

went off singing and chanting ZANU PF slogans. The following morning, he asserts that he was forced, together with his wife and twins, onto a Harare-bound bus with all their belongings. He alleges that the assailants ordered the bus driver to ferry them to their *'father Tsvangirai'*. They however alighted from the bus in Mvurwi, whereupon they sought shelter from a relative.

### **Shamva**

4 January 2004

- EM of Kamudyira Village in Madziva claims that a group of ZANU PF youths arrived at his home, knocked on his door and called him outside. EM alleges that when he took time to open the door, the assailants broke the door and beat him, his wife and two sons with beer bottles, sticks and stones. EM was reportedly beaten until he fell unconscious.
- CBM states that a gang of ZANU PF supporters approached him at his house at around 21:00hrs and called out his name. He claims that they beat him with whips on the back and later with an axe behind the ear. His wife managed to escape while he fought the gang. The youths reportedly burned his bedroom as well as two blankets, clothes and a bag of maize. He identified one Milton Kande among the assailants.
- ZANU PF supporters reportedly killed **Alexander Chigega** while he was at home in Chief Mutumba's village in Madziva. The group, comprising of about 30 ZANU PF youths, allegedly went round the village assaulting all known MDC supporters. It is said that the youths approached **Alexander Chigega's** home, called him out and threatened to burn the house. His wife asserts that her husband took an axe for defence as the crowd was now charging towards him. The youths reportedly overpowered him as they were many in number, stoned him, dragged out of the house, and then beat him on the back. When Chigega fell down he was reportedly further beaten with logs and stones. The group was purportedly led by one Milton Kande of the ZANU PF party. When his wife tried to shield him, she was also reportedly beaten by the youths and she fell to the ground. She alleges that they tied Chigega's hands with a piece of cloth, and continued to beat him until he started vomiting blood. Their children are said to have tried to intervene and were also severely beaten. The children then sought help from a relative, who later arrived and ferried Chigega to the hospital in a cattle drawn cart. He died on the way. His wife and son were later admitted at Bindura Hospital after sustaining severe injuries. Chigega's wife claims that from among the assailants she identified Ogi Munetsi; Milton Kande; Harrison Zuze; Munyaradzi Chigega, Never Chigega; Mrs. Mishamiviri, all from their village. Chigega's wife sustained severe injuries and was admitted at Bindura Hospital. It is reported that the youths claimed that they were tasked by the Minister of the area to eliminate all those in the opposition, and that the police would never arrest them as they were together with them.
- RM claims that at around 23:00hrs, a group of about 30 ZANU PF youths woke him up, forcing him to come out of the house. He asserts that he was threatened with murder by the assailants who were reportedly acting at the instigation of the resident Minister. He reports that he was beaten with sticks, metal rods, bricks and stones. He claims that when he pretended to faint, the assailants left him, thinking that he was dead. He alleges that the assailants burned his blankets and stole some maize from him. RM sustained serious head injuries, and he claims that the youths said they were acting on the instructions of their leaders, these being to drive MDC supporters out of Shamva.
- GM professes that ZANU PF youths burnt his home and destroyed his blankets and food, after he had been summoned to offer help by the relatives of **Alexander Chigega** and RM. It is reported that Chigega and RM were assaulted by the youths because Chigega is an MDC supporter. **Chigega** subsequently died due to the injuries he sustained. The attack on GM's home was made in his absence.

14 January 2004

- ZANU PF youths allegedly arrived at GC's home during the night, and destroyed his property. He states that they also stole some of his property including bags of maize meal and blankets. The youths are then said to have harassed his wife and family. He claims to be apolitical.

16 January 2004

- MC was reportedly displaced from his home by ZANU PF supporters on suspicion that the people who had gathered at his house were holding a political meeting. He however denies the allegation.

### **Mazowe West**

4 January 2004

- LM asserts that ZANU PF supporters assaulted him because he supports the opposition party MDC. He alleges that they also burned his blankets and destroyed his property.

14 January 2004

- DK, a teacher at a school in Concession, alleges that his contract of employment was terminated because he supports the opposition party, MDC. He suspects that his father, a ZANU PF supporter, influenced the termination of his contract of employment. He was reportedly subsequently displaced from his home. He claims that ZANU PF youths are now following him, trying to force him to join the Border Gezi National Youth Service. He is considering relocating to Harare for fear of further victimisation.

## **MASVINGO**

### **Gutu North**

January 2004

- ∑ ZANU PF youths reportedly deployed over 25 vehicles and 2 ZUPCO buses to ferry people to rallies and to conduct door to door lobbying in the constituency, in the run up to the February 2 – 3 Parliamentary by-election. It is reported that in a circular issued to chiefs in Chitsa, Mazuru, and Serima, the ZANU PF youths threatened to strip chiefs of their powers and to cut their benefits if the party lost the by-election. Villagers expressed fear following the heavy deployment of ZANU PF militants to apparently terrorise real and perceived opposition supporters. ZANU PF youths are also reported to have intensified assaults on MDC supporters and anyone whom they suspected of having links with the opposition.
- ∑ Crispa Musoni, MDC candidate in the Parliamentary by-election held from 2 to 3 February 2004, was reportedly barred from holding any open campaign rallies in the run up to the election. Musoni declares that the police denied him clearance to hold the rallies, and that those who attended any of the few campaign rallies he was able to hold are now being tracked down for purposes of retribution.

10 January 2004

- ZANU PF supporters reportedly victimised SK because he supports the opposition MDC. He is also the MDC Youth Chairman for Masvingo Province.

12 January 2004

- ∑ Ngoni Mudzamiri asserts that he was at Matizha Shopping Centre around 21:00hrs when he was approached by ZANU PF youths in a truck. He claims that they approached him because he was wearing an MDC T-shirt. He states that he was hauled into the back of a truck, driven around the constituency and beaten all over the body along the way. He alleges that the assailants later took him to Mupandawana where he was beaten until he fell unconscious. He was later dumped along the Harare-Chiredzi Road. It was also reported that in the run up to the by-election, the ruling ZANU PF established a command centre at the Gutu Rural District Council offices, which they then converted into a torture camp.

13 January 2004

- ΣZANU PF supporters reportedly approached Kassim Jonasi and John Muridzo while they were going about their business at Zvavahera Business Centre. Jonasi alleges that he was accused of supporting the opposition MDC, and that he was assaulted with booted feet and clenched fists. He claims that he was later handcuffed together with his friend Muridzo, and then they were taken to the Central Intelligence Camp at Gutu Mupandawana Growth Point, where they met another man whom the assailants had also allegedly abducted on similar allegations. Jonasi professes that they were ordered to stand on their heads and told, *'takurai nyika yenyu'* literally meaning, "carry your country". They were released later in the day. Jonasi sustained internal injuries and a swollen face.

15 January 2004

- ΣCrispa Musoni, MDC Parliamentary by-election candidate for Gutu North, claims that youths clad in ZANU PF T-shirts followed him in two trucks and blocked his vehicle as he approached the Gutu Rural District Council offices. He asserts that the youths disembarked from the truck, confronted him, and then ordered him to withdraw from the elections and to renounce his MDC membership. He alleges that he was also threatened with assault and being set alight if he resisted. He was only released on the intervention of sympathetic ZANU PF supporters. He claims that he is now living in fear.

23 January 2004

- ΣZANU PF supporters reportedly went on a rampage and stoned buildings, and set ablaze one hut near Chatsworth Rural Service Centre. They are also said to have raided homes of suspected MDC supporters at Chatsworth's Makaure Township, damaging window panes of shops, among them Spider Golden Web, building which is owned by Vitus Hakutangwi, an MDC activist. The villagers profess that the youths declared the place a no-go area for all MDC supporters. The youths allegedly moved on to Thornhill Farm, which is situated about 8km south of Chatsworth, and torched David Changa's hut on suspicion that he belongs to the opposition MDC. Changa reported the matter to the police but he claims that the police have since not reported to the scene of the incident.

### **Gutu South**

1 January 2004

- ΣShuvai Mahofa, ZANU PF MP for Gutu South, is alleged to have threatened to stop *World Vision* from distributing food relief in the constituency. Villagers purport that Mahofa expressed dissatisfaction over the villagers' approach towards party meetings, alleging that the villagers no longer attended ZANU PF party meetings and rallies, but turned out in large numbers whenever donors come to distribute food. Mahofa denies the allegations. The *Zimbabwe Independent* alleges that it witnessed Mahofa hijacking a meeting between villagers and *Care International*, a food relief organisation, at Mutanga Business Centre in December, in order to address the gathering.

## **MASHONALAND EAST**

### **Murehwa North/ South**

14 January 2004

- AZ alleges that ZANU PF youths arrived at his home, knocked on his door, and then beat him with whips on the back and on the head, chest, and abdomen. He was also kicked with booted feet. He is currently complaining of chest pains.

23 January 2004

- It is alleged that ZANU PF supporters convened a meeting, in order to list down the names of MDC supporters in the area and then *"deal with them accordingly"*. CK and others were reportedly included on the list. CK asserts that at around 20:00hrs, war veterans came to his home, forced entry, searched the place, and then confiscated a list of war collaborators that CK was compiling, as well as an MDC data form. He alleges that the ZANU PF supporters ordered him to report to

them at the local growth point the following day. CK reported to the growth point, whereupon he claims that 6 war veterans threatened him with torture should he fail to deliver more MDC data forms to them. He was allegedly beaten on the face and legs with a log, kicked with booted feet then slapped with open palms. He declares that the youths stopped assaulting him when one of them pleaded with the group to stop. He is experiencing pain in the jaw.

28 January 2004

- GB was working in the fields when ZANU PF youths reportedly descended upon him and assaulted him. No reason was given for the attack.

### **Murehwa South**

28 January 2004

- HK, MDC Murehwa South District Coordinator, and his brother AK, allege that ZANU PF youths attacked them at HK's home, because of HK's alliance with the opposition party MDC. HK claims that when the assailants descended upon them for the second time, AK attempted to fight back as he was fearing for their lives. The youths were reportedly moving about in a truck with the inscription "ZANU PF MASHONALAND EAST"

### **Mutoko South**

January 2004

- ∑Olivia Muchena, ZANU PF MP for Mutoko South, is said to have threatened to stop the *World Vision* food donors from distributing food relief in the constituency, accusing the villagers of absconding from ZANU PF meetings although they attend meetings with donors when there is food distribution. Muchena denies the allegations.

## **MASHONALAND WEST**

### **Chegututu**

1 January 2004

- Phineas Mariyapera, ZANU PF Deputy Mayor for Chegututu, Richard Murombedzi and Edson Mutowo, ZANU PF supporters, allegedly abducted NM, an MDC supporter, threw him into the back of their truck and took him to a ZANU PF base where he was kept under lock and key. While at the base, the victim was reportedly beaten all over the body, on the head and on the right shoulder. NM managed to escape through a window. He sustained minor injuries.

### **Hurungwe East/ West**

28 January 2004

- About 9 ZANU PF youths reportedly arrived at SM's house around 21:10hrs, knocked at his door, and demanded to see him. He was allegedly accused of being an MDC supporter and of causing havoc in Karoi. He was then forced to accompany them to their offices for interrogation. SM complied, and he claims that along the way, they met Mtisi, ZANU PF Councillor for the area, who cautioned the youths not to harm the victim. SM was allegedly interrogated for about 5 hours, and assaulted with clenched fists. He asserts that he was also forced to lie on his back, tied to a desk, and then beaten with sticks and knobkerries under the feet, on the chest, knees and on the elbows. Among the assailants were Mabhunu Muchapera, a war veteran, and another war veteran referred to as Jesus. He was later released at about 04:00hrs.

## **MIDLANDS**

### **Gweru Rural**

5 January 2004

- ∑Shadreck Sikombingo, a Headman from Lower Gweru, was reportedly abducted by a group of about 27 war veterans and ZANU PF youths in the area. Sikombingo's family members allege that

he had earlier been warned by ZANU PF officials in the previous week, that he would soon be 'dealt with' by the ruling party supports. By the time the report was taken (8 January 2004), Sikombingo was still reported as missing. The abduction was reported to the police at Gweru Police Station. A police officer on duty, who reportedly refused to be named, said that investigations were continuing. However, he declined to give further details. This incident follows the police's last minute cancellation of Renson Gasela's (MDC MP for Gweru Rural) report back meeting in the area.

### **Gweru Urban**

31 January 2004

- ∑Sessel Zvidzai, Gweru Executive Mayor, alleges that about 50 ZNLWVA and ZANU PF members attempted to disrupt a ceremony they were holding to mark his installation as the city's second Executive Mayor. He claims that they stormed the civic centre where the function was being held, threatened to disrupt it, and then accused the predominantly MDC Council of feasting at the expense of ratepayers. The riot police was summoned and they reacted by dispersing the crowd. Zvidzai was elected Executive Mayor for Gweru during the August 2003 Urban Council Elections.

### **Zvishavane**

4 January 2004

- ∑DICK Simon (MDC Councillor - Zvishavane) and his sister reportedly had their home petrol bombed in an attack by ZANU PF supporters soon after midnight. Dick claims that property worth ZW\$70million was completely destroyed. It is also reported that another unexploded bomb was later seen underneath Dick's vehicle.

## **ADMINISTRATIVE MAP OF ZIMBABWE**



The **Zimbabwe Human Rights NGO Forum** (also known as the “Human Rights Forum”) is a coalition comprising 17 member organisations. It has been in existence since January 1998 when 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 Research and Documentation Unit and offers legal services through the Public Interest Unit of the **Error! Reference source not found.** (formerly the Legal Unit of the ZHRF.)

Core member organisations of the Human Rights Forum are:

- Amani Trust
- Amnesty International (Zimbabwe) (AI (Z))
- Catholic Commission for Justice and Peace (CCJP)
- Gays and Lesbians of Zimbabwe (GALZ)
- Human Rights Trust of Southern Africa (SAHRIT)
- Legal Resources Foundation (LRF)
- Transparency International (Zimbabwe) (TI (Z))
- University of Zimbabwe Legal Aid and Advice Scheme (UZ (LAAS))
- Zimbabwe Association for Crime Prevention and the Rehabilitation of the Offender (ZACRO)
- Zimbabwe Association of Doctors for Human Rights (ZADHR)
- Zimbabwe Civic Education Trust (ZIMCET)
- Zimbabwe Human Rights Association (ZimRights)
- Zimbabwe Lawyers for Human Rights (ZLHR)
- Zimbabwe Peace Project (ZPP)
- Zimbabwe Women Lawyers Association (ZWLA)

Associate Members:

- Media Monitoring Project of Zimbabwe (MMPZ)
- Nonviolent Action and Strategies for Social Change (NOVASC)

The Human Rights Forum can be contacted through any member organisation or through:

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Previous reports of the Human Rights Forum can be found on our website.