

ZIMBABWE HUMAN RIGHTS NGO FORUM

POLITICAL VIOLENCE REPORT OCTOBER 2001

November 2001

A report by the
Zimbabwe Human Rights NGO Forum

Summary

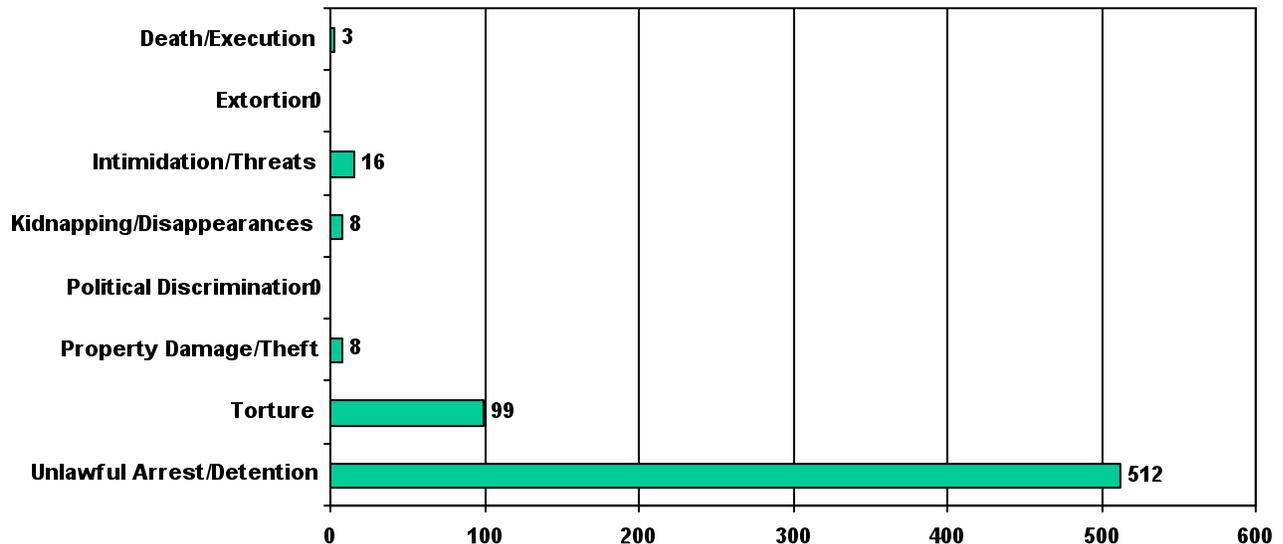
State agents attacked at least 10 persons in Chimanimani including a nine-year-old boy. One of the victims of the attack was beaten by soldiers and sustained a fractured skull. In Bindura, an 11-month-old infant was taken into custody along with its parents and beaten by a police officer. MDC President Morgan Tsvangirai escaped unhurt after an attack on his convoy that was travelling in Kadoma West.

There have also been reports of widespread attacks on civil servants in October, particularly focused on teachers. This is the continuation of intimidation and threats since January; civil servants have been ordered to support Zanu (PF) in numerous rallies throughout the year. In addition, in July 2001 Foreign Minister Stan Mudenge and Education, Sports and Culture Minister Samuel Mumbengegwi threatened principals and teachers of teacher training colleges that they could be killed for supporting the MDC.

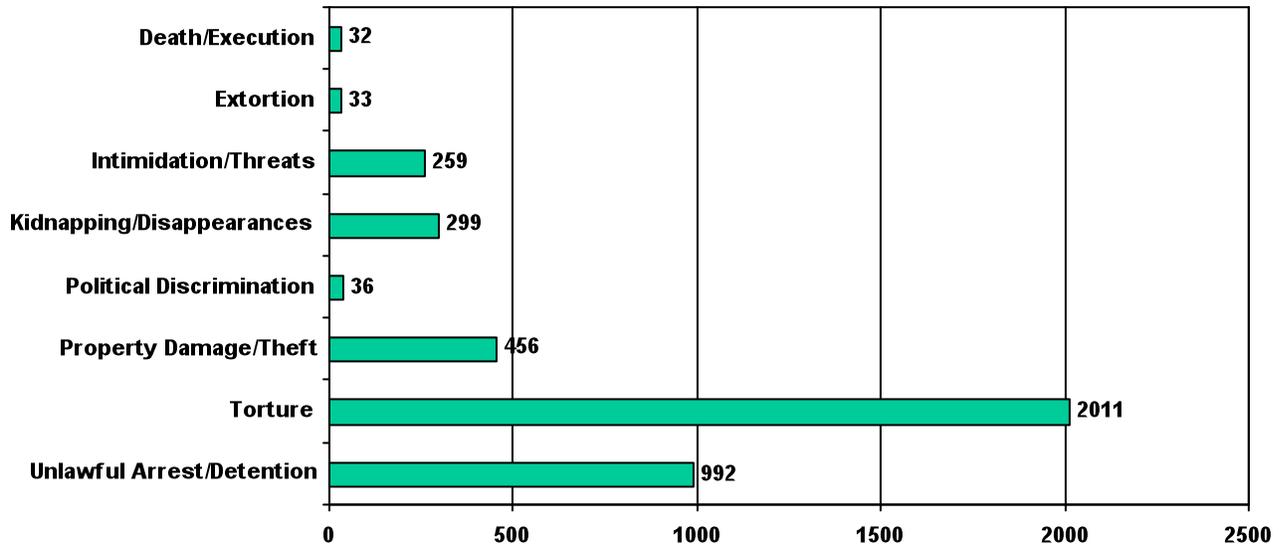
High levels of violence were recorded in Gokwe where a militia of approximately 500 Zanu (PF) supporters is reported to have set up bases at Tenda and Mashumba primary schools. Torture centres were also established at each school.

Three deaths were reported in October including one victim who was allegedly killed by official state agents.

October 2001 Totals



Cumulative Totals January-October 2001



Sources: Amani Trust medical assessments, HR Forum legal statements 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: Perpetrated by members of the police force.

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 minimize the actual occurrences of rape and not effectively illustrate the volume of this crime.

Displacement/Eviction: There may be as many as 42 711 internally displaced persons since January 2001.

October Violence

Bikita East/Chiredzi North

- A male game scout was shot and killed by farm invaders in the Save Conservancy on 5 October 2001 whilst they were engaged in poaching activities.

Bindura

- On 13 October E.M. was coming from Nzvimbo and arrived home at 7 p.m. At 3 a.m. a group of six police support unit officers arrived and beat him for over an hour using

boots, batons, and slaps. He and his family were threatened. He tried to escape through the window but was caught and beaten. E.M was taken to Matepatapa Police Station until his lawyer arrived in the morning. As a result of the attack, he experiences pain along the spine, on the buttocks, in the shoulders, arms, legs, feet and back, and has palpitations.

- On 12 October at around 3 a.m. R.C. was awakened at his home in Chiwaridzo, when his colleague opened the door for six policemen. As the policemen entered the house they rounded everyone up and ordered them to lie in a prone position. The officers then began assaulting them with baton sticks. R.C. was assaulted on the buttocks, hand and right side. After they were beaten the occupants were ordered to get into a ZRP vehicle and were taken to the police station where their names were written down. They were released at 3 p.m. the following day.
- On 13 October at 3 a.m. six policemen burst into a house and started to beat the occupants. T.T., an 11-month-old baby, was with his parents. All of those in the house were taken to the Bindura police camp. When they arrived, T. T., who had been asleep, woke and stretched with his palm outward in the MDC fashion. One of the policemen then beat the infant on the head, forehead, mouth, and left hand with a baton and threatened to kill the child. T.T. began to cry and the police took him to the cells for an hour before they released him with his mother. At that time one of his teeth was loose. As a result of the beating, the child has healed scars on his upper and lower lip, exhibits swelling and tenderness in his forehead, and cries when he lies on his left side.
- On 27 October, MDC supporters who came to campaign in Bindura were involved in an altercation with Zanu (PF) supporters. When they left, E.N. was assaulted by three Zanu (PF) youths. He managed to fight back and escaped. As a result of the attack, he experiences headaches and pains in his legs and feet. He also has a painful jaw and a scar and swelling on his right arm.
- On 27 October D.M. was travelling to Muzarabani to campaign for the MDC and was involved in an altercation with Zanu (PF) youths. His driver mistook him for the opposition and sprayed D.M.'s eyes with a spray gun while trying to defend himself. Residue remained in his eyes, causing headaches and impaired vision.
- After political violence in Manhenga, B.J., aged 15, and his family moved to Bindura. On 22 October he returned to Waerera School for exams. On that day two Zanu (PF) youths came and assaulted him, demanding to know where his father was. They removed him and his sister from school and threatened to make her their 'wife'. They both escaped later. As a result of the assault, he has a perforated left eardrum and impaired hearing which could lead to permanent damage.

Chegutu

- On 23 October J.Z. was on his way to the police station when he met soldiers and police in an army truck. They took him to a beer hall. They accused him of attending a meeting where arrangements were made to burn settlers' houses. They ordered him to lie down and beat him on the buttocks. They then ordered him to burn some clothes and forced him to do military exercises. He and his family were threatened. An army lieutenant and the sergeant performed the torture. As a result of the assault, J.Z.

experiences pain in his legs, feet, shoulders and arms. He has abrasions on his back, and a haematoma on his back and on his buttocks.

- An unnamed farm owner had his farmhouse torched and was forced off his property by war veterans. The farmer has since fled to Harare.

Chimanimani

- On 6 October Shepherd Kajai, Tobias Machocho, Edmore Mafuse, Brian Manoma (aged 9), Never Ruwo and at least five unnamed individuals were assaulted by soldiers in Machongwe Village in Chimanimani. Ruwo was hospitalised with a fractured skull. Some of the other victims were threatened if they sought medical assistance. The perpetrators were identified as Asst Insp. Mujuru (ZRP), Joseph Mwale (CIO)*, Capt. Charamba (ZNA 3 Brigade Mutare) and 25 unnamed persons. The matter was reported to Constable Matubu (PISI) at Chimanimani Police Station who is said to be investigating the matter. There have also been disturbances reported on Charleswood Estate, owned by MDC MP Roy Bennett, where Zanu-PF members were urged to seize property. Two ZNA soldiers also entered the farm and 'scuffles ensued' according to reports.

*Joseph Mwale was named as one of the killers of Tichaona Chiminya and Talent Mabika who were murdered with a petrol bomb in April 2000. A docket, in which Mwale and Kainos 'Kitsiyatota' Zimunya are cited as prime suspects in the murders, was opened and sent by Mutare Police to Police General Headquarters in Harare for them to forward to the Attorney General's Office. Mwale was summoned to testify in the Buhera North electoral petition but disappeared and failed to appear in court. High Court Judge James Devittie gave a directive to Attorney General Andrew Chigovera to prosecute the two for murder but no arrests have been made so far.

- On 7 October unnamed teachers, civil servants, community leaders and other state employees were summoned to a meeting at Biriwi Business Centre by Zanu (PF) politburo member Didymus Mutasa and Minister of Justice, Legal and Parliamentary Affairs Patrick Chinamasa. They were told their jobs and lives were at risk if they supported the MDC.

Chinhoyi

- On 9 October, 20 farm occupiers and war veterans slashed 1.5 hectares of new tobacco crop and damaged \$135 000 worth of property on Njiri Farm in Chinhoyi, an undesignated farm. The police arrived two hours after the incident and told the occupiers to stop.

Gokwe North

- In October police at Nottingham and Sentinel estates in Beitbridge detained some 500 deportees without Zimbabwean IDs. They were accused by Saviour Kasukuwere, Zanu (PF) MP for Mt Darwin South, of being vigilantes deployed by the SA 32 Battalion to destabilise Zimbabwe. The detained were part of the first wave of 2 000 deportees from South Africa who were stranded in Beitbridge.

- Gokwe Mukandakanda and Kufa Rukara of the MDC were abducted on October 4 at Mtora Growth Point and severely tortured for over 24 hours by unnamed Zanu (PF) supporters. They were released by the ZRP and taken to Mtora Hospital. Later, they were transferred to an unspecified hospital in Harare for treatment by a specialist. Their condition was described as 'critical'. It is unclear whether the police arrested the perpetrators.
- On 12 October, 20 teachers at Mashumba Primary School were besieged by a group of 500 Zanu (PF) supporters and war veterans. The mob attacked the teachers who then fled 40 kms on foot to Zomba Business Centre. The Midlands regional director of education, Isaac Tanyanyiwa, reportedly was 'unaware' of this and other disturbances in his precinct.
- In a separate incident on 12 October, three unnamed teachers were assaulted when the same mob disrupted an awards ceremony at Chomuwayu High School. The headmaster was threatened with death and has subsequently fled. The teachers now want their security guaranteed before they return to school.
- On 6 October a group of approximately 150 Zanu (PF) youths approached Max Katazo Mutiri at his father's homestead and surrounded the house. He ran into the house and they began to stone it. Mutiri offered to come out so that they would not destroy the property. When he came out they tied him up and force-marched him to Tenda Growth Point to the Zanu (PF) base, beating him all the way. They continued to beat him throughout the night and into the following morning. They made threats against him and his family. At one time they severely beat him on the soles of the feet (falanga), threw him into a fire and hit him in the head. The police rescued Mutiri and took him to the hospital. As a result of the attack he has a red eye and pain on the right side of the head. He has numerous burns on the back, left arm and right shoulder blades. He has discoloration of the buttocks where he was beaten and also burns on the buttocks. His ring finger is swollen, both feet are swollen, and there is discoloration on the left foot. He has extreme pain in the legs and the feet. He also experiences a lot of pain in the shoulders and arms, has abdominal pains and headache. He has severe psychological problems from the torture. He finds it difficult to carry out his daily activities, make decisions, his daily work is suffering, and he has had thoughts of ending his life.
- A group of Zanu (PF) youths came to K.M.'s house before sunrise and started stoning her house. They shouted for her and her family to come out and said they were going to finish her off because her sons are MDC supporters. An object hit her on the right hand. She and her family members screamed and eventually ran away from the perpetrators. As a result of the attack, she experiences headaches, dizziness, backaches, chest pain, palpitations and numbness/pins and needles in arms and legs. Her right hand is swollen and she experiences chest and back pain. She also has anxiety symptoms such as chest pains and respiratory problems.
- On 4 October a crowd of Zanu (PF) supporters surrounded Matare Mutiri's homestead at about 4 p.m. He and his family ran into the house. They stoned the house until the Mutiri family ran outside. They tied him up and took him to the Zanu (PF) base at Tenda Growth Point. They severely beat him until about 4 a.m. and made threats against him and his family. The police arrived and took him to the hospital. As a result of the attack he has a painful red eye and substantial swelling on the bottom of both feet from falanga. He suffers from headaches, palpitations, and severe pain in the legs and feet.

He is psychologically affected by the incident and suffers from disturbed sleep and finds it difficult to perform daily activities.

- Zanu (PF) supporters came to the homestead of E.C., aged 66, and ordered him to attend a party rally. He went to the meeting at Tenda Growth Point and was surrounded by a group of Zanu (PF) youths. They showed him a group of people who they said they were going to kill and accused his sons of being MDC supporters. They made threats against him and his family. They took his feet, put them over a rock, and beat them (falanga) for more than an hour using sticks. After that, his feet were put in the hot sun. The police came and took him to the hospital. As a result of the attack, he has severe swelling, discoloration and pain in the soles of his feet. Areas of his feet look septic. He has impaired hearing from the slaps that he received. He experiences many headaches, has memory impairment and numbness/pins and needles in his arms and legs. He also experiences disturbed sleep, finds it difficult to make decisions and his daily work is suffering.
- On 4 October at about 4 p.m. Murisi Mutiri arrived home after hiding from Zanu (PF) supporters who had been harassing him. He found that the village was suddenly surrounded by Zanu (PF) supporters. He hid in his house but they destroyed the roof and windows. As he ran out of the house they caught him and beat him. Two rocks from a catapult struck him in the face. They tied him up and took him to the Zanu (PF) base at Tenda Growth Point. They made threats against him and his family. They beat him until 9 p.m. The police rescued him and took him to the hospital. As a result of the attack, he experiences backaches, severe pain on his left knee, has wounds on the face, and has swollen and bruised feet from falanga. He experiences headache, extreme pain in legs and feet, shoulders and arms, and chest pain. He also suffers from disturbed sleep and finds it difficult to carry out his daily activities.
- On 4 October on the way to his brother's house, Makanga Nyashanu Mutiri was abducted by Zanu (PF) supporters at a field in Makota Village. They accused him of not attending Zanu (PF) rallies. They started beating him, forced him to bite a shoe and force-marched him to Tenda Growth Point. They beat him severely until the following day when the police came and took him to the hospital. Threats were made against him and his family. As a result of the attack he has wounds on his hands and wounds on his feet from falanga. He also has wounds on his face, the side of his neck, and his lower back. He experiences painful headaches, has numbness and pins and needles in his arms, legs, and feet, has backaches, chest pains, and palpitations. He also has difficulty in performing daily activities, and has disturbed sleep. He still 'sees' the attackers in flashbacks of the incident.
- On 3 October Innocent Muchahanya was assaulted at his home by a group of Zanu (PF) supporters with catapults, clubs and stones. He ran for 4 kms but they caught up with him and beat him again. They tied his hands with wire and walked for 3 kms to a rally point at Makotore Business Centre. He was forced to jump and chant slogans (toyitoyi). They deprived him of food and water. He received verbal abuse and threats. He was released on 5 October and treated at Gumunyu Clinic. The Zanu (PF) supporters also destroyed his house and stole bags of maize. When he realised that they were hunting for him he fled to Harare. As a result of the attack, he has bruises on his back, shoulders, left abdomen, and left arm. He experiences dizziness and pain in the neck, abdomen and joints.

- In October L.P. was abducted from his home and taken to Tenda Growth Point. There he was interrogated but he refused to give any information. They beat him on the soles of his feet and beat him with fists and sticks all over his body. They took him to a Zanu (PF) meeting where he was verbally abused and threats were made against his family. He was later released after four hours of this treatment. As a result of the attack, he suffers from pains in his legs and feet.

Guruve South

- Hilary Matema of the MDC was killed on 15 October 2001. Matema was being interrogated by the ZRP on suspicion of unlawfully possessing a firearm after he was accused by soldiers of being an MDC supporter. He was assaulted with booted feet and batons and subsequently tortured to death in the Police Internal Security Intelligence (PISI) office at Guruve Police Station. The perpetrators were named as Herbert Manjengwa and Joe Ndomene. The two were charged with murder and remanded in custody by magistrate Feyi Tito of Bindura to 30 October.

Harare

- On 14 October at 1:30pm G.M. was preparing to hold an MDC rally in Kambuzuma. As it was about to begin, approximately 25 Zanu (PF) supporters approached those at the rally and started throwing stones. As he was about to run a stone caught him on the left side of his face and the wound bled profusely. He suffers from headaches and pain on his face as a result.
- On 14 October at about 4 p.m. K.M. was on his way to attend an MDC rally when he encountered a group of war veterans. They immediately started to stone him. He tried to flee but one of them fired a gun. K.M. stopped as they began to beat him with iron bars, sticks, fists and slaps. They left him there, but a passer-by helped him to the police. At the station a policeman hit him in the right side of his chest with a clenched fist. The police later took him to a clinic. Afterwards they locked him in a cell in Warren Park and he spent the night there. The following day he was taken to Harare Central Prison and on to Parirenyatwa Hospital for further treatment. He spent another night in prison and then he was released. He has cuts on his head. He suffers from headaches, dizziness, pains in his shoulders and arms and backaches. He was verbally abused, threatened and experienced simulated execution as part of his torture.

Hatfield

- On 7 October, Zanu (PF) supporters came in the afternoon to F.M.'s house but they did not find him at home. They broke the doors and left. They returned at about 9 p.m. and took him to their base in Epworth. When they arrived they started assaulting F.M. with sjamboks all over the body. After beating him, they took him into the base and ordered him to identify homes owned by MDC supporters. He was forced to spend the night moving around with them to identify where MDC supporters lived. At around 3 p.m. on the 10th he was released. He was told to report to their base every Saturday in the morning for 24 weeks or else they would beat him. They also told him to buy a Zanu (PF) card. They made threats against his family. As a result of the attack, he experiences headache, dizziness, pains the shoulders, arms, feet, legs, and back.

- On 22 October at about 8 p.m. someone approached T.B. at his home in Hatfield and told him that a woman was hurt and needed him at his gate. Since he is an MDC secretary, he was used to receiving these requests and complied. When he got to the gate he saw a group of about 50 Zanu (PF) youths. They shouted that he was the problem and began to beat him with an iron bar. They threatened him and his family. They continued to hit him and he lost consciousness. He woke up over an hour later to find his body covered in bruises. As a result of the attack, he experiences headache, dizziness, pains in his shoulders, arms, legs and feet. He experiences palpitations. The area between his ankle and knee is painful, and he has swelling on his knee. He has a lesion on his right shoulder and bruising on the left shoulder. He has a cut on his lower lip and a cut on the right side of his forehead. He suffers from pain on the left side of the neck, and train track marks on his right shoulder. He has a long cut on his right arm and suffers from backaches along his spinal cord.
- Tapiwa Mashakada, the MDC MP for Hatfield, was arrested on 15 October on a charge of possessing an unlicensed firearm (.303 rifle). The firearm had allegedly been left by a security guard at Mashakada's home when the guard was not collected by his employer on time. Mashakada locked it in a wardrobe and was in the bathroom when police arrived to search his home and arrest him. Mashakada turned the gun in to the police.
- Zanu (PF) supporters in Epworth assaulted twelve unnamed persons on 12 October. Violence has been ongoing in Epworth over the past month.
- On 14 October at about 7 p.m. the local Zanu (PF) chairman in Epworth summoned L.H., 62, to the war veteran base. They interrogated her about her alleged MDC activities, and made accusations against her. They then took her outside, forced her to lay prone and used a stick to hit her on the back. As a result of the attack, she experiences pains in her legs and feet, and suffers from backache, chest pain, and palpitations. Threats were made against her and her family. She received a letter from war veteran militias threatening her if she pressed charges.
- On 9 October E.P. was departing from the MDC provincial offices in Dzivarasekwa in Warren Park and encountered a group of people. They demanded to know where he was coming from but he didn't respond. Two assailants in the group attacked him with a log on the left side of his body.

Kuwadzana

- Prince Bisenti, Charles Chitida, Fanuel Tsvangirai and Victor Zulu of the MDC were detained for three days from 12 to 15 October (Friday –Monday) on charges of political violence. The group was accused of having beaten people during a door-to-door political campaign in Kuwadzana. The AG's office declined to prosecute the group citing lack of evidence.

Kambuzuma

- On 14 October P.M. was at an MDC rally in Kambuzuma when Zanu (PF) youths arrived and began throwing stones. He fled as the police began throwing tear gas canisters at them. One of the canisters burst at his right foot and he sustained an injury. As a result

of the attack, he has a large blister 15 cm long and 7 cm wide on his foot with two smaller blisters. He has pains in his legs and feet. He was also subjected to verbal abuse and threats.

- Stephen Gonyora, Tawanda Hwanya, Maria Muzenhama and Rutherford Kwande of Zanu (PF) were assaulted with fists, stones and sticks by MDC supporters while mourners were gathered at a house in Kambuzuma. Kwande's roof and windows were damaged. The perpetrators were identified as Lovemore Chamunorwa, Kennedy Chinamaringa, Propser Chipungu, Peter Maphosa, Aleck Murayi, Brain/Brian Murayi, Jetro Mutero, Mary Sagonda, Morgan Zvinorova, and fifty unnamed persons. The group was arrested on site and bailed for Z\$1 000 each and remanded to 30 October 2001. It is unclear whether any time was spent in custody prior to their appearance before magistrate Dominic Muzavazi.

Dzivarasekwa

- On 9 October E.P. was departing from the MDC provincial offices in Dzivarasekwa in Warren Park and encountered a group of people. They demanded to know where he was coming from but he didn't respond. Two assailants in the group attacked him with a log on the left side of his body.
- Edwin Mushoriwa (MDC MP for Dzivarasekwa) was arrested on 14 October at Kambuzuma Shopping Centre on a charge of public violence after Zanu (PF) supporters had stormed a hall before an MDC meeting. There was no report of any Zanu-PF members being arrested. The Zanu (PF) supporters allegedly stoned attendees, fired gunshots and torched furniture.

Hurungwe

- On 12 October a group of Zanu (PF) youths came to E.B.'s house and threatened to beat her because her son is an MDC activist. She received verbal abuse and threats against her family. E.B. has been continually harassed for over a year. She escaped to Chinhoyi. E.B., 54, has developed a heart condition since the incident and is also affected psychologically by the incident. She finds it difficult to perform daily activities and experiences headaches, dizziness, and impaired concentration and memory. She experiences numbness or pins and needles in the arms and legs, pains on the legs and feet, chest pain, and palpitations.
- On 14 October at 8 p.m. as B. C. was closing the bottle store where she worked, a group of Zanu (PF) youths entered and asked if she was Blandina, the MDC secretary. She denied it but they immediately set upon her with logs, fists and booted feet. They beat her for about an hour before she escaped. They threatened her and her family and they proceeded to burn her property. She walked through the night to Zvipani where she got a ride to Chinhoyi. As a result of the attack she experiences headaches, dizziness, and has pains in the ear, legs, arms, shoulders and feet.

Kadoma West

- There was an attempt on the life of MDC President Morgan Tsvangirai on 12 October at Patchway Mine along the Kadoma-Sanyati Road by 50 suspected Zanu (PF) supporters.

Tsvangirai's convoy was allegedly ambushed while ZRP Inspector Makaza (OIC Kadoma Rural) watched. His vehicle's window and back windscreen were stoned and smashed. The damage was assessed at \$950 000. A report to the ZRP (CR41/10/2001) was dismissed by Wayne Bvudzijena, ZRP spokesperson, as a demonstration by a small miners' co-operative and Makaza's presence was denied. This is the second ambush on Tsvangirai's convoy this year. The first occurred in Bindura on 23 July.

Kwekwe

- Occupiers on a farm belonging to S. Smith in Kwekwe have continued to set fires (60% of grazing burned), fell trees, poach, snare wildlife, and have been hostile in threatening to remove the owners. Farm workers are intimidated daily. One farm homestead was occupied by local businessman who reportedly paid the District Administrator for the use of the land. The ZRP have rendered no assistance.

Lupane

- Limukani Lumphala was abducted from his curio stand in Lupane by four suspected MDC supporters on 28 October, taken to a secluded spot and beaten to death. His body was later burnt.

Marondera East

- On 13 October farm occupiers from Svosve and Zanu (PF) supporters, including Edward Jera, accused five unnamed farm workers at Uitkyk farm of supporting white farmers and the MDC. The workers were assaulted with axes, knobkerries, chains and sticks. Police took all five to Marondera for hospital treatment.
The incident follows the issuing of a High Court order dated 4 October 2001 from Justice Chinhengo served on Marondera police on 9 October instructing them to curb lawlessness and enable normal farming operations on Uitkyk, Eirene, Safari, Munemo and Chance farms. Despite intervention and ferrying of the injured to the hospital, ZRP Sgt. Matambanadzo is regarded by farm owner Angus Campbell as having failed to contain the situation as the violence developed.
- Three unnamed farm workers including one pregnant worker at Uitkyk farm were beaten by unnamed farm occupiers and Zanu-PF supporters between 13-14 October. The pregnant woman was repeatedly kicked in stomach until she vomited.

Marondera East/ West

- On 8 October, unnamed farm occupiers assaulted Hamish Charters of Eirene Farm with whips and sjamboks on his back and shoulders.
- At Chipesa Farm, on 11 October, David Kay was arrested on a charge of attempted murder when he went to report that invaders were prohibiting his farming activities. A court order from Justice Chinhengo bars such activity.

Masvingo North

- Albert Chamwadoro, an ex-Zanu (PF) MP for Chivi North and the owner of Allandale Farm in Mashava, had the entrance to his farmhouse locked by a group directed by the Josaya Hungwe, the provincial governor. The group also threatened to kill Chamwadoro. The farm workers were chased away.
Chamwadoro is allied to Eddison Zvogbo's faction of Zanu (PF), which is sometimes at variants with others in the party. He bought Allandale Farm from Mashaba-Shabani Mines in 2000. Black-owned farms are not supposed to be designated, but Hungwe insisted on the designation and occupation, stating that the certificate of no interest under which Chamwadoro had purchased the farm had been cancelled.

Mberengwa East/West

- Headmaster Hove Gumbo, teachers V. Moyo and Marufu (who are also MDC members) together with unnamed pupils preparing for O- and A-level exams at Vutika High School in Mberengwa were forced to attend pungwes and undergo political re-education by Zanu (PF) supporters. The teachers have been victimised and have had their property destroyed. They have since fled the school. Those responsible have been identified as war veterans Walter Mucheregwa (who is also a teacher) Divine Chitoro, Nyasha Koke and others.

Murehwa South

- On 11 October F. M. was assaulted while walking home by three people who accused him of not surrendering his MDC membership card. He was threatened and punched in the face and ribs. Since then, he is quite fearful of walking about. Zanu (PF) supporters have threatened to deal severely with MDC supporters who do not attend a rally on 12 October. As a result of the attack he experiences headaches, dizziness, and pains in the ribs and eyes.
- On 7 October, at 4 p.m., P.K. arrived at Chije Centre in Mutoko. Upon entering the shop he was told by the shopkeeper that ex-combatants were looking for him. As he made his way to the local school, eight ex-combatants attacked him. They began beating him using fists and slaps until he bled profusely from the nose and mouth. They tore up his clothes and made threats against him and his family. He was beaten for approximately 30 minutes until some passers-by intervened. He did not report to police or go to a clinic. As a result of the attack he has impaired hearing in his right ear.

Mudzi

- Five staff members of the Red Cross, including Kisi Katumirewere, were woken up by a war veteran militia and forced, under threat of decapitation, to drive from St. Pius Clinic to Kotwa, where Zanu (PF) membership cards were demanded of them. The group was assaulted for over an hour and again threatened with death for not having these 'passports'. They were hospitalised in Marondera for some days.

Mutare West

- On 19 October at Guy Coke-Norris' Nyatso Farm in Odds, war veterans used a District Development Fund tractor to plough two hectares of high-value export flowers 48 hours before picking was due. The value of the flowers was at least \$1,2 million in inputs

alone. The war veterans threatened to return and destroy the remaining flower crop if he did not leave the farm immediately. They had earlier looted the garden of \$1,4 million in vegetables and gum plantation for temporary housing materials, destroyed a brick-making plant and looted two farmhouses belonging to his sons. Among the illegal settlers is a top-ranking local police officer that visits the farm regularly from the ZRP base in Santana.

Mwenezi

- On 15 October Bernard Chiondengwa, the MDC candidate for Chivi North in the June 2000 parliamentary elections, reportedly disappeared. He has failed to appear in court three times over his electoral petition and could not be contacted by his lawyers through party structures.

Nkayi

- Farm foreman Thomas Dhlamini, farmworker Christine Sibanda and three other farmworkers at Deeside farm in Inyati were tortured by war veteran militias. The farm workers were made to lie on the ground and assaulted with sticks. Dhlamini's arm was broken and Sibanda had to be hospitalised.

St. Mary's

- Job Sikhala, the MDC MP for St. Mary's, had 3-4 shots fired at his house on 1 October. All windows in his house (worth Z\$58 000) and two vehicles were stoned. Property worth \$200 000 was damaged or destroyed. The perpetrators were identified as Boniface Manyonganise, Haisa, Tendekai, Dema, Anderson Yotamu, Richard Tonderai, David Chipunza and 150 unnamed youths belonging to Zanu (PF), including two MDC 'defectors'. Manyonganise was charged with public violence, bailed on Z\$10 000 and ordered to report to Hatfield ZRP twice weekly and remain resident in Epworth. Anderson Yotamu, Richard Tonderai and David Chipunza were charged with public violence. The latter two were bailed for Z\$5 000 each. Yotamu was remanded in custody to 12 October while his bail application was being considered. Sikhala said the police were not taking an attempt on his life seriously.

Zhombe

- Unnamed teachers and pupils from Zhombe Primary School and Tenda High School were abducted and taken to a war veterans' base in Gokwe. Six teachers fled to Gweru after they were released.

Zvimba South

- Armed invaders from Lilfordia farm base assaulted Maggie Christian and six unnamed farmworkers of Umzuzuru farm in Nyazura. They stoned all farmhouse windows and stole two tractors. Alistair Smith (the farm owner) was not at home when the attack occurred. Umzuzuru is a large dairy farm that has recently been delisted.

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

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:

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Website: www.hrforumzim.com

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