

ZIMBABWE HUMAN RIGHTS NGO FORUM

POLITICAL VIOLENCE REPORT

SEPTEMBER 2001

A report by the
Zimbabwe Human Rights NGO Forum

October 2001

Note: The identities of victims that have not been published in the press, witnesses in election petitions or are not public officials will be protected by the use of initials.

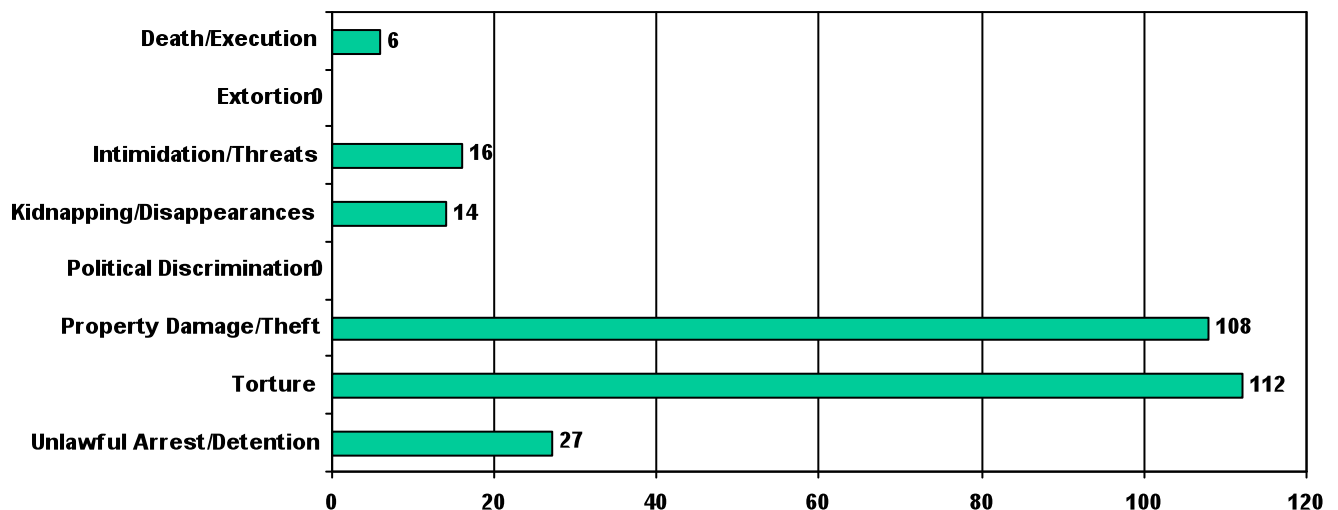
Summary

The Abuja Agreement was signed on 8 September with the Government's promise of the cessation of violent farm invasions, adherence to human rights standards, the rule of law, and transparency. An important test of the Government's commitment to adherence of the Agreement would have been a marked reduction in gross human rights violations. As will be seen from this report, this commitment is seriously in doubt. The Human Rights Forum will shortly be issuing a separate report on breaches of the Abuja Agreement.

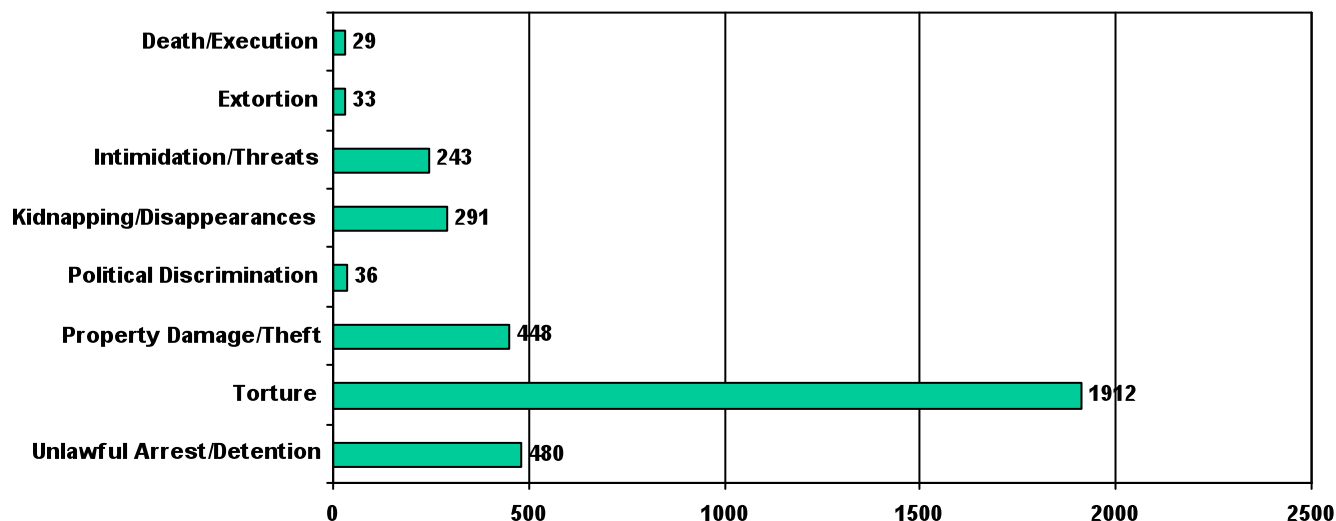
Violent farm invasions still continued to take place in the constituencies of Mwenezi, Harare, Hwedza, and Murehwa South throughout September. Adherence to the human rights clauses of the Abuja Agreement is an important measure of the Government's commitment to the Agreement. These fresh farm invasions have also caused approximately 5,000 farm workers to be displaced from their homes and lose their only source of income. This increased the estimated total to 42,711 displacements since the start of this year.

There were attacks on the press in September as well: reporters and newspaper vendors both were assaulted by Zanu (PF) supporters and farm invaders. A *Daily News* vendor in Bulawayo was abducted and tortured, and vendors' newspapers were confiscated. Farm invaders assaulted four *Daily News* journalists in Hwedza because they suspected them of being spies for the MDC and the British government.

September 2001 Totals



Cumulative Totals January-September 2001



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

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. No rapes were documented by the HR Forum in August.

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

September Violence

Bindura

- On 17 September, members of the ZRP arrested MDC candidate for Bindura, Elliot Pfebve, on an attempted murder charge. Pfebve was held in cells overnight and was released without explanation after a ZRP meeting with the Attorney General's Office. Pfebve was arrested when he went to report a second break-in and theft of files and equipment from his computer firm. The arrest related to an attack on an MDC convoy containing Morgan Tsvangirai during July 2001 campaigning in Bindura.
- O.M. was attacked by about three people at Chirwaridzo in Bindura on 30 September around 8 p.m. He was stoned on the right foot. He is unable to walk flat on his right foot, which is swollen.

Bubi-Unguza

- On 3 September, at Redwood Park Farm in Nyamandlovu, 100 farm invaders burnt 58 ostriches to death worth \$2 million, threatened farm owner Peter Goosen with death and demanded that he give them free milk. One invader, Moses Siphuma, later prohibited feeding ostriches at Tobotobo village, alleging they belonged to MDC MP Jacob Thabane, not the villagers.
- At Redwood Park Farm in Nyamandlovu, farm invaders looted the property of farm workers whom they 'fired' from the farm. The attacks on the workers at Redwood allegedly intensified following the MDC victory in the municipal and mayoral elections.

Budiriro

- M.M. was assaulted in a shop around 9 p.m. with sticks, sjamboks and logs all over the body. He received a blow to the head, was bleeding from the head and lost consciousness. He experiences headache, some pains in shoulders and legs and abdominal pain as a result of the assault.

Buhera North

- In Chizemba, unnamed Zanu (PF) supporters beat up and shot at MDC supporters with firearms.

Bulawayo

- On 6 September, in Nkulumane, a burnt body was found 10m from a polling station. The deceased is suspected to be one of two MDC supporters who were abducted from Pumula and Cowdray Park by Zanu (PF) supporters.
- On 9 September, seven unknown assailants shot three times at MDC Vice-President Gibson Sibanda, MDC Secretary-General Welshman Ncube, and MDC supporters Learnmore Jongwe, Paul Nyathi, Paul Themba, and Fletcher Dulini. The incident was witnessed by journalists from the Standard, Independent and Daily News.
- On 11 September, Zanu (PF) supporters abducted an unnamed Daily News vendor. They held him at the Zanu (PF) offices, tortured and then released him. Zanu (PF) supporters assaulted Daily News vendors and confiscated 200 copies of the paper. Several other persons, suspected of being MDC supporters, were reported as having been attacked following the MDC win in the mayoral elections.
- On 13 September, at Lobengula Street Mall, Zanu (PF) supporters severely assaulted unnamed vendors. One vendor was admitted to Mplio Hospital for treatment. The vendors were attacked following the MDC win in the mayoral elections.

Chegutu

- On 23 September, in Norton, Zanu (PF) supporters assaulted six unnamed MDC supporters. The ZNA was later deployed to quell retaliatory attacks.
- On 25 September, in Norton, unnamed MDC supporters stoned Anna Phiri's home at 2 a.m. when Joseph Chaitezvi was not there. The perpetrators allegedly removed the

ZESA and water meters, worth Z\$30 000. These attacks were in retaliation for weekend attacks on the MDC, leading to more Zanu (PF) attacks.

- On 24 September, in Ngoni, Zanu (PF) supporters assaulted MDC Mhondoro district treasurer Florence Chikiri. Chikiri received head wounds requiring 10 stitches. This followed an incident on Sunday 23 September in which an MDC rally at Ngoni stadium was disrupted by Zanu (PF) youths allegedly wishing to play soccer. Mhondoro MP Hilda Mafudze had to abort her address before a ZRP riot squad dispersed everyone with tear gas. In the following days, inter-party clashes continued until the ZNA was drafted to restore order in the area. There were raids on other MDC officials' homes too, including those of Edward Musumbu and Mishek Gava, which sparked MDC retaliation on 26 September.
- On 25 September, MDC committee member Prisca Sibanda was awakened around midnight by a voice at her door that said there was a message for her. She did not open the door because she had been warned that Zanu (PF) supporters were plotting to beat her; Sibanda's son, Oliver, had been told by Murenje (Zanu (PF) youth secretary for Mhondoro) to warn his mother not to attend MDC rallies. They knocked again and as she opened the door a fraction she was hit on the shoulder with a whip. She closed and locked the door. They then broke the roof, poured paraffin through the break in the roof, and set the house on fire. As the fire got worse she opened the door again but could not get out as they were waiting for her with sticks and rocks. Eventually they fled fearing recognition in the light of the fire. She escaped from the house with nothing but her nightdress. Her house and everything inside was destroyed. As a result of the attack, she experiences the following psychological effects: she has disturbed sleep, finds it difficult to perform daily activity and make decisions; and her daily work suffers, and she experiences chest pains and palpitations.
- On 26 September, in Norton, unnamed local Zanu (PF) councilor and Zanu (PF) youths firebombed the homes of Peggy Hwingwiri, MDC organizing secretary for Mhondoro, and MDC Norton Ward 7 organizing secretary Charles Mutunhire. This followed the incident described above on Sunday 23 September in which an MDC rally at Ngoni stadium was disrupted by Zanu (PF) youths.

Chikomba

- At Sengwe Township in Chihvu, 15 unnamed Zanu (PF) supporters kidnapped Cry Manyame, Wunganayi Tapfumaneyi and Edmore Mudeveni and took them to Chinyamungororo Heroes Acre, beat them up and dumped them there. The trio was at first ordered to beat each other up but when they failed to do this 'hard enough', they were assaulted by their abductors. A Zanu (PF) vehicle with 17 men including two locals was used to abduct numerous MDC supporters in Chikomba, four of whom were tortured.
- At Maronda Mashanu in Chihvu, Zanu (PF) supporters severely beat the wife of Maronda Mashanu High School Headmaster, Mugazi. Mugazi's wife was beaten as her assailants accused her husband of supporting the MDC. The family was forced to flee the area as a result.
- On 7 September, in the Marondamashanu area, five members of the ZRP support unit picked up MDC supporter Tinapi Diura, from his house and took him to their offices

where they questioned him about the alleged assault of a Zanu (PF) chairman at the MDC base. They then assaulted him before taking him to Chivhu Cemetery where Diura was released into the custody of Zanu (PF) youths. The youths took him to Chivhu Hall and assaulted him with batons. Diura was released three hours later and ordered to rub off MDC slogans on the road and buildings with paint before they threw him into the Zvvangwe River, 46km away from his homestead. Diura was assaulted for setting up a base for MDC supporters and the candidate at his home. He said he initially went with the police officers because they did not seem threatening.

- On 11 September, at Umboo School in Chihvu, unnamed Zanu (PF) supporters abducted the headmaster, Felix Mazava. Mazava was taken to the Chivhu-Marondera road where he was bludgeoned with iron bars. He died early the following morning. The post-mortem revealed that Mazava had a deep stab wound on left side of the chest, which led to internal bleeding. He also had multiple fractures on both arms and a deep gash on left side of head. Mazava was reported as having been killed by Zanu (PF) supporters in *The Daily News*. *The Herald* reported that Mazava had defected from the MDC and joined Zanu (PF) and was wearing a Zanu (PF) t-shirt at the time of his death. However, Mazava's relatives insisted that he had not resigned from the MDC; Zanu (PF) members had threatened Mazava on four different occasions.
- On 18 September, in Chihvu, Zanu (PF) supporters kidnapped five unnamed MDC supporters. Four MDC youths were kidnapped and assaulted at district heroes' acre (Chinyamungororo). One MDC official was kidnapped while campaigning in Maronda Mashanu, thrown into Ziyagwe River and then dumped in Buhera. He was hospitalized at Parirenyatwa. This all occurred during the by-election campaign.
- On 20 September, in Sadza, members of the ZRP arrested MDC constituency coordinator for Chikomba, Virginia Gwena, MDC MP for Mbare East, Tichaona Munyanyi and 19 electoral agents and electioneers for allegedly moving around at night. They were held in cells overnight and released without explanation on the morning before polling started.
- On 20 September, war veteran militias abducted Regis Chikonyati from Chambara School. Chikonyati was still missing after three days. Zanu (PF) based its entire campaigning on nighttime door-to-door visits. Election agents were arrested on their return from training in Harare. Information about the incident is attributed to Piniel Denga, MDC provincial chair ME, whose vehicle was stolen by 'war veterans' shortly before Chikonyati's kidnapping.

Goromonzi

- On 11 September, at Solanio Farm, MDC supporters kidnapped two Zanu (PF) supporters. The two were taken from Solanio Farm to the house of a well-known MDC supporter in Epworth where they were beaten and dumped in nearby bushes. They were found later by members of their community but died shortly afterwards. Five suspects have been since arrested in conjunction with these killings.

Harare

- In Kambuzuma, on 5 September, war veteran George Mubvanvika led a militia group that destroyed the vegetable stalls of unnamed MDC supporters. The incident was reported to the police by Kambuzuma MP Willias Madzimure but no action was taken.
- At Gletwyn Farm, Zanu (PF) supporters abducted farm workers, Tafirenyika, Chino and five unnamed others and beat them following the burning of a Zanu (PF) flag at the farm by a group suspected MDC supporters. One of the workers sustained a fractured skull having been struck on the head with an axe.
- In Chitungwiza, MDC supporters, Lee Karengwa, Fungai Dzutso, George Shorai Tambure, assaulted Zanu (PF) supporters with stones, booted feet and empty bottles and ordered them to chant MDC slogans.
- Between 13 and 15 September, at Stoneridge Farm in Mbare East, Zanu (PF) supporters and farm invaders held farm owner Lloyd Evans hostage in his farmhouse and demanded his immediate departure from the farm premises. The invaders accused Evans of destroying their makeshift shacks the previous year. However, it had been riot police who raided the occupiers' homes and destroyed their shacks on orders from the Minister of Home Affairs.
- On 16 September, in Dzivarasekwa, unnamed MDC supporters assaulted Edwin Mushoriwa, MDC MP for Dzivarasekwa, and MDC supporter Janah Ncube. The MDC youths attacked their leaders at a congress when they were denied entry into the hall. Ncube was seriously injured.
- On 17 September, in Harare Central, Joseph Chinotimba, war veteran militias, Zanu (PF) supporters and Harare Central ZRP, assaulted Josephine Ncube (HCC chamber secretary), Tafadzwa (her secretary) and Cleveria Chizama (deputy chair interim administration). The employees were both seriously injured in the attack on Town House. Chizema's condition is unknown.
- On 26 September, in Chitungwiza, 150 unnamed youths including seven ex-MDC supporters stoned the homes of MDC Chitungwiza District Chair, Stephen Chasara, MDC district secretary, Unganai Tarusenga and MDC Ward 6 Chair, Lucky Parehwa at night. This incident was part of a series of stonings of MDC leaders' property.
- In a related incident on 27 September, in Chitungwiza, 150 unnamed youths including 7 ex-MDC supporters stoned MDC MP for St. Mary's, Job Sikhala's home while he was visiting Stephen Chasara (MDC district chair, St Mary's). All the windows of the home were smashed. Sikhala's baby daughter, Theodora, was cut on the face by flying glass, but his wife, Helen, was not injured. The perpetrators were allegedly under the direction of Tapiwa Mashakada (MDC Hatfield) and Alexander Musundire (MDC Harare province chair).
- At Tredour Farm, early in September 2001, about 40 armed invaders illegally pegged the undesignated farm and gave farm owner Gordon Forbes Christie and 500 workers 30 days to leave or face unspecified action. On 24 September another 60 arrived, breaking the gate and fencing worth 'several thousands of dollars' and erecting temporary homes.
- P.C. was assaulted by a gang of MDC youths in St. Mary's-Chitungwiza on 23 September around 7 p.m. He was kicked in the head and fell.

- On 9 September, D.M. was attending an MDC meeting when a disagreement ensued. During the argument, some other party members from another faction began to assault him. He was assaulted with booted feet on the back, abdomen, right eye, forehead, and left arm. As a result of the attack, he experiences abdominal pains and pains in the shoulders and arms.
- On 2 September R.M. was attending an MDC meeting when disagreements amongst some members erupted. During the disagreement, youths from another faction started assaulting her. She was assaulted with sticks and knobkerries on the left eye and left side of the body. As a result of the assault she experiences headache, dizziness and chest pain.
- On 29 September S.H. woke up and found that people had surrounded his house and were stoning it. They were shouting for him to come out. They used a large rock to break his door and three men entered his bedroom. He recognized two of them as Zanu (PF) supporters. They dragged him out into the mud and began to kick him with booted feet. One of them lifted a rock and hit it against his left side and he felt a sharp pain and heard a loud crack. One person in the group told them to stop beating him. They then ransacked his house and stole money and property. He reported the matter to the police. One of the assailants that he named was arrested. He was taken to the hospital. As a result of the assault, he experiences sharp pain on the left side of his body and has disturbed sleep. During the assault he was verbally abused, and threats were made against him and his family.
- On 28 September someone knocked at F.C's door multiple times at around 10 p.m. She asked them what they wanted. They said they wanted her but she shouted that she was not in. They went to her landlord's house and asked for her there. They returned to her house and broke her door with an axe and an iron bar. They came in the house so she hid behind a door, naked, but they found her. She saw that they were Zanu (PF) youths. She tried to run but they continued to beat her with sticks, broken bricks, fists, and electric cable with nuts tied to the ends. She received a blow to the head. They left her bleeding. She went to her landlord for help but he wouldn't help her because of fear. She eventually struggled into some clothes and went to the police. The police were hostile to her. They took her to home and then to the hospital. From that day she could not stay at her home, because the Zanu (PF) supporters threatened her landlord until she was evicted.

As a result of the attack, she experiences extreme headache, backache, and pains in shoulders and arms. She experiences disturbed sleep, chest pains and palpitations. She received verbal abuse, threats against herself and her family. She has cuts on her face wounds on her chest, lesions all over her back in train track pattern. Her daily work suffers as a result of the attack.

- On 29 September at around 8 p.m. eight people knocked on R.M.'s door, identifying themselves as policemen. They told him he was under arrest for what he had done the previous day. They handcuffed him and marched him away. He was taken to a place known in the area as a Zanu (PF) office. They accused him of being an MDC member and beat him with sticks, hoe handles, batons and sjamboks. He received a blow to the head. They beat him all over until he was bleeding from the nose. He was able to fight back and escape when the handcuffs slipped.

During the assault, he received verbal abuse, and threats were made against himself and his family. As a result of the attack, he experiences extreme eye pain, pain in the shoulders and arms, pins and needles in the arms and legs, and has nightmares. He has bleeding in his left eye, swelling in his arm, a swollen right hand and swollen right leg. He has difficulty sleeping, his daily work is suffering, he feels like he plays no useful part in life, and he is tired all the time.

- Z.B. was assaulted with fists on 2 September around 4 p.m. in Chiredzi by Zanu (PF) youth after attending a rally. He received a blow to the head. He bled from the nose after the assault and still experiences headache and difficulty sleeping due to pain, and has blurred vision.

Hwedza

- On 15 September, at Bita Farm, farm workers allegedly attacked resettled farmers and Zanu (PF) supporters Fanuel Madzvimba and Alexio Nyamadzawo. Both men were assaulted and subsequently killed with axes, steel chains, spears, sticks, knobkerries and stones. They were killed when they arrived to occupy plots that had been allocated to them at the farm. The CFU claim that the two fell off the lorry in a stampede and were trampled to death as the driver drove off to avoid violence caused by settlers' torching of farm workers' houses. The DDF truck ferrying the settlers had its windscreen shattered and in the ensuing stampede the two settlers were stoned to death.
- On 15 September, at Bita Farm, resettled farmers and war veteran militias burnt the huts of 60 unnamed farm workers. The arson attack was in retaliation to the killing of two resettled farmers by farm workers.
- On 18 September, at Bita Farm, farm invaders thought to be Zanu (PF) supporters accused *The Daily News* journalists, Colin Chiwanza, Mduduzi Mathuthu, Virginia Mauluka and Trust Maswela Mpofo of being spies for the MDC and the UK Government. They were assaulted for 30 minutes by an 'illegal gang camping at the [farm] entrance' permitted by ZRP and ZNA to vet visitors. Two farm invaders had died in clashes with farm workers and *The Daily News* crew had gone to cover the incident. A ZNA soldier firing into the air and threatening to shoot occupiers saved them.
- At Corby Farm, war veteran militias forced farm owner Craig White to sack his entire workforce of eighty.
- On 15 September at Bikita Farm, three lorries arrived carrying about 400 people. C.M. was in the house and heard noise outside. When he went outside to investigate, he saw people being beaten in the compound, including children. He tried to run away but a group of about 12 people cornered him and assaulted him with planks and poles. He received a blow to the head and they assaulted him all over the body. He pretended that he had passed out and the group left him for dead. As a result of the attack, he experiences dizziness, numbness and pins and needles in his arms and legs, has backache, chest pain, bruises on his back, leg, and hands.

Kwekwe

- On 18 September, at Duzi Mine, Zanu (PF) supporters Fidelis Bhebhe, Stella Jere, Matthias Madove, David Mutimwi, and Crispen Nhidza ‘commandeered’ three trucks to ferry Zanu-PF youth from Kwekwe party office to Duzi mine, where they assaulted mineworkers and looted their property, particularly from Nelia Marongwe’s mine store. They stole cash (Z\$3 000) and meat and also stole a scale (Z\$18 000) and gold concentrate (Z\$35 000) from the mine after switching off the mill. The grand total value of thefts was worth Z\$145 000. Other victims were Elisha Mushayi, Elisha Mukobvu, and Mususa. The five perpetrators were remanded in custody by Gweru magistrate David Johnston Butcher, to prevent them from using their senior positions in Zanu (PF) to interfere with ZRP investigations.
- On 18 September, at Duzi, Globe and Phoenix Mines in Kwekwe and Rio Tinto Mine in Kadoma, 4,000 unnamed Zanu (PF) supporters including a retired senior army officer who planned the event, stole millions of dollars of gold concentrate and equipment under guise of planning on dumps. The group was sent from Kwekwe Zanu (PF) office. Mine officials referred all queries to ZRP whose comments, together with Zanu (PF) Isaac Mugwagwa, were not given. Five thieves were arraigned before a Kwekwe magistrate over the Duzi thefts.

Makoni West

- Zanu (PF) supporters assaulted Gibson Ratimba, Revai Magondo and Richard Mutemi because they were campaigning for the MDC.
- In Rusape, Zanu (PF) supporters told unnamed headmen that the government would strip them of their titles if they failed to get people to attend Zanu (PF) rallies and to vote for Zanu (PF). Each headman was asked to bring all his people to Zanu (PF) rallies and to write down the names of those who would have failed to attend.
- Mhiripiri and other unnamed Zanu (PF) supporters severely beat MDC supporter John Rusere.
- J.M. was in Shangwe Bottle Store around 6 p.m. when a group of people in two cars arrived at Remus Makuwaza’s shop. They wanted to enter but J.M. and others tried to bar them from entering. He was hit in the left eye by a piece of wire.

Marondera

- On 3 September, at Crolina, Tranquility, Balihai, Silver Queen, Spesbona, Monora, Alexandra and Brandersbury farms, Zanu (PF) supporters beat farm workers for failing to attend a Zanu (PF) rally at Arcadia Farm where David Karimanzira, Mashonaland East Governor, was scheduled to speak.
- On 4 September, at Chipesa Farm, farm invaders raided homes of farm workers, broke windows and doors, looted maize meal. They told farm workers that they must leave the farm, and farm workers have been told to vacate their houses so that the invaders can occupy them. High Court Judge Sandra Munyira issued an order against ZRP Commissioner Chihuri, district administrators, Provincial Governor, David Karimanzira and the CIO to act against invaders at Chipesa Farm but the order has been ignored.

- In a related incident on 4 September at Chipesa Farm, farm invaders dragged farm worker, Robert Saidi, off his tractor. Saidi was severely beaten with iron bars on the buttocks, his home was broken into and property stolen.

Matobo

- At the Barn Farm in Matopos, Frank Ndlovu and other farm invaders harassed Samson Ncube and his wife and made them flee the farm. Before they were forced off, Ncube's wife was assaulted for initially refusing to leave.

Mazowe West

- On 8 September, at Galloway Farm in Mvurwi, 250 unnamed Zanu (PF) supporters invaded and occupied the farm.

Mount Darwin North

- On 20 September, Zanu (PF) supporters dragged MDC supporter, Try Karedza, off a bus and severely assaulted him. Karedza suffered injuries on his left hand and his back. Karedza unwisely told his attackers that he was against fast-track land resettlement. He was saved by the bus crew. On his return, Karedza tried to report the attack to Harare Central Police Station but was referred back to Mt. Darwin ZRP.

Mufakose

- On 5 September whilst sleeping, six Zanu (PF) supporters broke F.N.'s window and door to her room and started assaulting her. They accused her of being an MDC supporter. They assaulted her all over the body with clenched fists and booted feet. She was severely assaulted on the chest, both sides of the body, and neck. As a result of the attack, she experiences headache, chest pain, and palpitations.

Murehwa South

- In Virginia, Macheke and Hwedza, "war veteran" militias and other Zanu (PF) supporters evicted 5000 farm worker families from their homes and forced off occupied farms.
- On 18 September, at Jibandi Farm in Macheke, six unnamed Zanu (PF) supporters assaulted the farm owner after having assaulted the farm workers and ordered them to cease work. They returned with reinforcements from Nyazema Township and assaulted the farm workers again and torched their houses. Information about this incident came from Peter Nyadembera, MDC secretary for info and publicity in area.
- On Dean Farm in Macheke, farm invaders burned bales of hay and nine head of cattle. Dean Farm was the location of three incidents during the June 2000 parliamentary elections.

Mwenezi

- At Quaggapan A and B, 100 unnamed Zanu (PF) supporters smashed irrigation equipment then 'camped outside' farmhouse singing Zanu (PF) songs. There are five hundred new occupiers on Quaggapan B erected huts despite Abuja Accord.

Seke

- In Beatrice, Martin Johannes Venter, a white commercial farmer, shot a resettled male in the abdomen with a homemade trap gun. The victim is now under care in the ICU in Harare Hospital.
- On 8 September, at Logan Lee Farm in Beatrice, 150 unnamed Zanu (PF) supporters invaded the farm, burnt down twenty farm workers' homes, assaulted farm owner Arthur Harley and twelve workers, and knocked out the teeth of one farm worker. The Beatrice police were called in but they refused to respond to any calls for help. The farm workers have been ordered to leave the farm or face further attacks.

Shamva

- On 16 September at about 11 a.m. whilst J.M. was at home at least 30 Zanu (PF) supporters approached him. They forced him to follow them at their base in Wadzanai offices. They wanted him to explain why he wasn't attending Zanu (PF) meetings. They accused him of being an MDC supporter and accused his siblings and other relatives of being MDC members. They said he should be disciplined by being beaten. They started assaulting him on his buttocks, left upper arm and right side of his neck with sticks. He was also beaten on the soles of the feet (falanga). He was kept in captivity for at least eight hours until someone passing by advised him to run away. He managed to escape at 7 p.m. that evening. As a result of the attack, he experiences numbness and pins and needles in his arms and legs, pains in his shoulders and arms, pains in his legs and feet, and a backache.
- On 20 September at 6 p.m. a group of Zanu (PF) supporters came to T.L.'s house and accused him of having falsely surrendered his MDC membership. They dragged him to council offices, handcuffed him and made him lie on the ground, beat him all over the body and stole his shoes. He received a blow to the head. He was verbally abused, and threats were made against himself and his family. They came to him the following day and made him leave Shamva. As a result of the attack, he has cuts on his fingers, a bruise on his head, numerous wounds on his back, swollen buttocks, and train track scars on the back of his leg. He has extreme pain in his shoulders, arms, legs and feet, and has chest pain and disturbed sleep. As a result, his daily work is suffering.

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 instill 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

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