

ZIMBABWE HUMAN RIGHTS NGO FORUM

POLITICAL VIOLENCE REPORT

AUGUST 2003

22 September 2003

A report by the Zimbabwe Human Rights NGO Forum

OVERVIEW

Politically motivated violence in August 2003 largely took the form of inter-party violence surrounding the Urban Council Elections held on 30/31 August 2003. Pre – election reports of political violence were received from Bulawayo, Chegutu, Norton and Gwanda among others. In Gwanda (Matebeleland South), there were reported disputes between the opposition MDC and the ruling ZANU PF as both parties clashed over rally venues. Dumisani Dube sustained injuries after ZANU PF youths assaulted him. In Mhondoro constituency (Mashonaland West), LN reported that a group of Zanu (PF) youths stoned MDC supporters at Katanga polling station in Norton. He claims that the perpetrators barred MDC supporters from casting their votes and that he was also assaulted with a metal rod on the forehead and with a brick on his back. In the same constituency, SM asserts that ZANU PF youths abducted him from the Ward 7 polling station, took him to their base and then assaulted him. He claims that he was driven to a bushy area, ordered to lie on his stomach, had his hands and feet tied with a rope, blindfolded and then assaulted with wooden logs. LK, a polling agent at another polling station in Norton, alleges that he was stoned and assaulted with logs and whips by ZANU PF supporters because he was an agent for the opposition MDC.

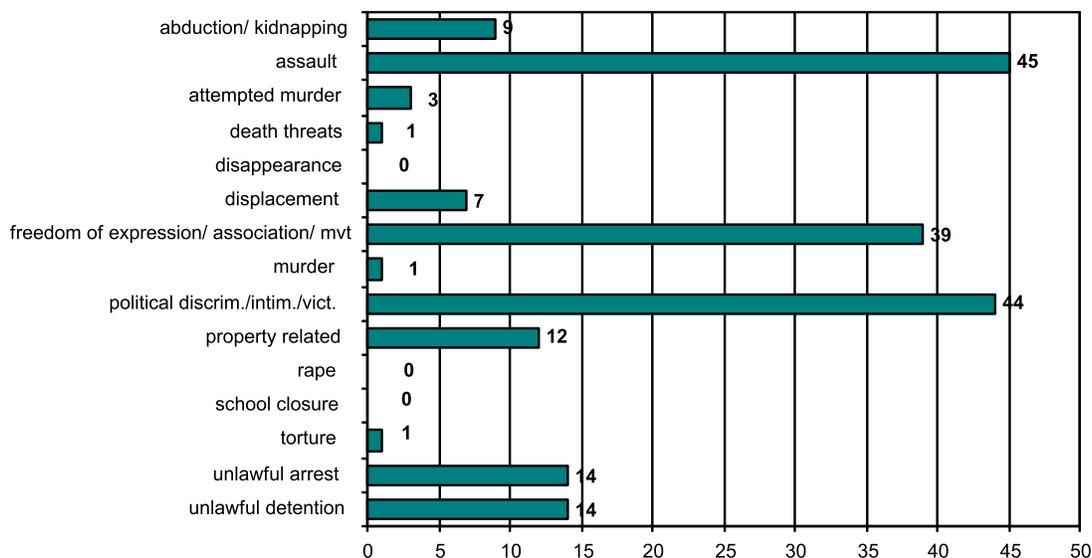
In Chitungwiza (Harare Province), TS reported that he and others were severely assaulted by three ZANU PF youths while campaigning for the MDC candidate in the run up to the Urban Council Elections. In Hatfield constituency (Harare Province), FJ was allegedly assaulted and evicted from home by ZANU PF supporters on accusations of being an MDC sympathiser. In Bulawayo and Mutare, voters alleged that cash was issued out and food hand-outs were promised in the event the ruling party won in the elections. Shadreck Moyo, MDC polling agent for Edward Musumbu in Norton, asserts that he was blindfolded, severely assaulted and then dumped outside Norton by ZANU PF supporters. The Human Rights Forum urges all political parties in Zimbabwe, ZANU PF and MDC as the two main political parties in particular, to take meaningful steps towards achieving an environment of peaceful political pluralism.

An apparent culture of political intolerance prevails in the country, characterised by violence, intimidation and in particular, intolerance of freedom of expression. **Action Shamhu** was allegedly struck on the neck with a broken bottle by ZANU PF supporters, on accusations of discussing party politics with his cousin at a beer hall in Kuwadzana (HARARE PROVINCE). He died from excessive bleeding.

The Human Rights Forum reminds all political parties that all Zimbabweans have a right in terms of s21 of the Constitution to ‘assemble freely and associate with other persons and in particular to form or belong to political parties or trade unions or other associations’. The onus is on political parties to urge their supporters to be tolerant of Zimbabwean citizens’ choice of political party and to condemn victimisation on this basis. The Zimbabwe Republic Police has a duty to make accountable all perpetrators of political violence, regardless of their political affiliation.

There was a marked reduction in reportage of torture by state agents in August, a development welcomed and commended by the Zimbabwe Human Rights NGO Forum. We call upon state agents to desist from perpetrating human rights violations. We further call upon the Zimbabwe Government to investigate and make accountable perpetrators of gross human rights violations in the past.

Totals: 1 August 2003 – 31 August 2003



Cumulative Totals 1 January 2003 To 31 August 2003



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

ZIMTA – Zimbabwe Teachers Association

ZUPCO – Zimbabwe United Passenger Company

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 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 Σ .

BULAWAYO

Bulawayo North - East

13 August 2003

- Σ ZANU PF officials, who were holding a meeting at Davies Hall, allege that ZANU PF supporters stormed the office and threatened to assault them. The perpetrators were seeking the reinstatement of a ZANU PF executive member who was demoted from his post. The victims claim that they were forced to seek refuge in the toilets until the arrival of the riot police who dispersed the group.

HARARE

Budiriro

8 August 2003

- LC is a security guard at the MDC's offices at Harvest House. He claims that plain-clothes police officers arrested him on his way home from work and took him to Harare Central Police Station. He was allegedly assaulted and accused of causing mayhem during the stay ways planned by the MDC. The police reportedly questioned him about security matters pertaining to the MDC offices. The victim was further assaulted when he refused to divulge any details. LC was subsequently detained for four days, during which he was subjected to death threats, claiming that he was threatened with death on the four days of his detention. He was taken to court on the 4th day on charges of inciting public violence but was released by the magistrate who said the victim had no case to answer.

Chitungwiza

28 August 2003

- TS and other MDC candidates were campaigning for the Urban Council Elections when they were reportedly attacked and assaulted by 3 ZANU PF youths. TS claims that she was stoned on the forehead and that when she reported to the police, she was told to get a medical statement first before she asked them for help.

31 August 2003

- It is alleged that two youths wearing Zanu PF regalia stopped by SK's stall where he sells fruit and vegetables and asked him for the price of bananas. When the victim told them the price, they are

reported to have accused him of being an MDC activist. One of them reportedly stabbed him on the right hand and the other one hit him with a stone on the head. The two youths then ran away but were caught by members of the public and handed over to the police.

Dzivarasekwa

15 August 2003

- MP, an MDC security officer, claims that ZANU PF supporters attacked him at his home. The assailants reportedly arrived at his home, forced entry and assaulted him on the basis of his political affiliation.

18 August 2003

- Graduates from the Border Gezi National Youth Service Training Centre allegedly arrived at LP's home, forced entry, and demanded to know the whereabouts of his son. He claims that they severely assaulted him, as he did not know where his son was.

Hatfield

17 August 2003

- GM claims that he was wearing a T-Shirt inscribed with a human rights slogan when 12 ZANU PF youths approached him and demanded that he chant a ZANU PF slogan. When he failed to do so, he claims that they punched him with fists, forcibly removed his T-shirt, confiscated his wallet and stole his money, demanding to know who had given him the T-shirt. When he refused to answer, he was reportedly assaulted once again and was left lying on the floor. He asserts that they ordered him to report to their base everyday, and that not doing so would result in his displacement. He reported the matter to the police but alleges that they did not give him any assistance.

20 August 2003

- FJ alleges that ZANU PF supporters assaulted and evicted him from Epworth because he supports the MDC. The family he had left behind was reportedly displaced as well. They were forced to leave all their clothes and property behind. He reported the incident to the police but no assistance was rendered.

Kuwadzana

1 August 2003

- SK, an MDC supporter, claims that Clifford and Wile Anwayi of ZANU PF assaulted her on her way home from work. She alleges that she was forced to relocate to Mufakose and that she can no longer work because the perpetrators are after her.

2 August 2003

- ∑ Ernest Charambarara alleges that he was on his way home from a bottle store with **Action Shamhu**, when three ZANU PF youths confronted him and demanded to know why they were discussing party politics earlier at a local beer hall. Charambarara purports that the assailants hit him on the head with a bottle, threatened to punish them for engaging in politics and to "teach him a lesson". Shamhu sustained three deep cuts on the head after the perpetrators assaulted them with axes, whips and sticks. One of the assailants is said to have broken a bottle and then stabbed Shamhu on the left side of the neck. Shamhu reportedly staggered for nearly 50 metres before he collapsed and died from excessive bleeding. Two of the suspects have been arrested and they are said to have admitted to the charge of murder.

Mbare East/ West*5 August 2003*

- ED claims that when he was coming from work, ZANU PF supporters attacked and assaulted him because he was wearing an MDC T-shirt. He alleges that they dragged him to their office, assaulted him with open palms and clenched fists, and then stamped all over his body. He was reportedly rescued by an elderly ZANU PF supporter who stopped the perpetrators from further assaulting him.

Mabvuku*23 August 2003*

- SS and others were walking at night when ZANU PF youths, purportedly sent by a war veteran, allegedly descended upon them and struck SS with a weapon. She claims that she was rescued from further assault by one of her friends.

MANICALAND**Chimanimani***August 2003*

- ∑ Roy Bennet (MDC MP for Chimanimani and owner of Charleswood Farm) purports that Assistant Inspector Mupfuranwa, Joseph Mwale (CIO agent), and three other policemen seized game meat from his farm after they had taken it from poachers trespassing on the farm. The state agents reportedly hid the carcasses and fled with the meat. Bennet suspects that the ZANU PF supporters resettled on his farm in 2002 poached the game. Police in Chimanimani alleged that they could not interfere, as the matter was political. A High Court Order issued in 2002 barred Mwale from interfering with business at the farm.

Mutare Central*August 2003*

- ∑ Misheck Kagurabadza (MDC Mayor - elect for Mutare), Peter Buzuzi and Obert Shamiso Mubango (MDC supporters), allege that ZANU PF supporters were bussed into the constituency from several surrounding farms to harass MDC supporters and candidates. Mubango and Buzuzi were reportedly assaulted and sustained serious stab wounds in an attack carried out by the supporters.

20 August 2003

- ∑ Pishai Muchauraya, MDC spokesperson for Manicaland, alleges that ZANU PF supporters arrived at his home chanting ZANU PF slogans and warning him against supporting the opposition MDC. He claims that the group, who were in a government owned vehicle written 'DCC Makoni', also destroyed his gate. The same group is alleged to have attacked Ceresensia Chabuka's (MDC Urban Council Elections candidate for Ward 5 Danganvura) house, breaking three windows and stoning a wooden tuck shop. Chabuka and Muchauraya were reportedly ordered to desist from supporting the opposition.

29 August 2003

- ∑ Stanley Chabata and Dorothy Muhambi were reportedly abducted by ZANU PF youths, taken to a house belonging to Jere, a ZANU PF official, assaulted, handed over to the police, and then detained overnight. They were released on \$3 000 bail without any specific charges being

preferred against them. Another victim who was abducted on 26 August 2003 and taken to Jere's house is reportedly still missing.

30 – 31 August 2003

- Σ Winnet Dzumbira, (MDC Urban Council Elections candidate for Sakubva) was reportedly assaulted at her home by ZANU PF supporters. Cyril Nzero (MDC candidate – Ward 2) claims that he was also assaulted by ZANU PF youths near one of the polling stations. It is alleged that the youths were giving out cash and promising food handouts in exchange for votes. ZANU PF officials allegedly maintained a heavy presence at the booths. *Daily News* reporters claim that they witnessed the officials reminding voters at Sakubva Hospital, Zamba and Mutanda Primary Schools Polling Stations, that they would get food relief depending on the outcome of the elections. MDC officials allege that they reported the vote buying to the Electoral Supervisory Commission, who said that they could not do anything to stop it as it was not being conducted within a hundred metres of the polling stations, as stated in the Act.

MASHONALAND CENTRAL

Mount Darwin South

13 August 2003

- EM was approached by some lost passers-by at his homestead in Dotito at around 0030 hours. They asked him to accompany them to a neighbour's homestead since they had gotten lost along the way. EM claims that they were accosted by a group of about 12 young men who were wearing T – shirts with 'VOTE ZANU PF' printed on them. They are alleged to have forced EM into a bushy area and ordered him to sit down. He refused to comply and was pushed down. He claims that he tried to fight them off but failed. The youths interrogated him about his business in the area and told him that they were responsible for 'guarding' the area. One of the youths hit the victim with a slasher on his right leg when he asked if he could go home. The youths are reported to have started arguing amongst themselves about whether it was wise to assault the victim they then decided against it and broke up. The victim was taken home by three of the men where his wife rendered some first aid to him. The victim says he reported the matter to some war veterans who searched the area for the victim's assailants but did not find them. Attackers have not been apprehended to date.

MASHONALAND EAST

Chikomba

20 August 2003

- Two ZANU PF youths are said to have assaulted YM on accusations of being an MDC supporter. He was ordered to leave the area.

Marondera East

28 August 2003

- MN claims that he was attacked by a group of six ZANU PF youths on his way home at around 7:45 pm. The youths are alleged to have slapped him in the face and one of them allegedly hit him with a stone on his ankle. The group then ran away.

Marondera East/ West

3 August 2003

- AH was reportedly assaulted by ZANU PF youths because he reported them to the police for an earlier attack on him. He asserts that they told him to leave his home and that he had no right to stay in the country. The assailants wielded knobkerries and iron bars, and allegedly threatened him with death if he did not leave.

25 August 2003

- AM, an MDC supporter, alleges that ZANU PF supporters assaulted him while he was campaigning for an MDC candidate in the Urban Council Elections. He is no longer able to reside in the area because he feels that his life is in danger.

MASHONALAND WEST

Hurungwe East

August 2003

- ∑ Tauya Bus Company was reportedly banned from operating a bus service along the Maumbe Road on allegations that the company supports the MDC. A ZANU PF councillor from Maumbe is said to have stopped the buses from plying the route.

Hurungwe West

29 August 2003

- ∑ Biggy Haurove - District Chairperson for MDC in Karoi, alleges that ZNLWVA members and ZANU PF supporters petrol bombed his house on the eve of the Urban Council Elections, destroying property worth over a million dollars. This was after he had allegedly turned down a \$2m bribe from the ruling party supporters, who were requesting that he withdraw MDC candidates from the polls.

Kariba

26 August 2003

- ∑ Nathan Makwasha, MDC candidate for Kariba's Ward 4 in the Urban Council Elections, asserts that his house was petrol bombed by ZANU PF activists who were travelling in a vehicle with government number plates.

30 – 31 August 2003

- ∑ 9 MDC polling agents and 2 MDC Urban Council Elections candidates allege that ZRP officers arrested them and detained them while at the polling booths. No specific charges were preferred against them.

Makonde

15 August 2003

- 15 ZANU PF youths arrived in a government owned truck with the inscription "Mashonaland West Province", and purportedly accused SN of holding political meetings at his house and of being an MDC supporter. He claims that they ordered him to stop business at his shop and vacate the premises or they would burn it. He had subsequently fled the area.

16 August 2003

- ZANU PF supporters reportedly burnt CC's home because he had remained behind despite the ruling party supporters forcing people in the area to attend a meeting at their base. He was reportedly accused of supporting the whites and was assaulted. He fled to Harare with his uncle, and he claims that he cannot go back to Makonde as the youths are still assaulting people.

25 August 2003

- ∑ Joseph Mutsvangwa, MDC election agent in the Parliamentary By-Elections, claims that members of a gang of ZANU PF youths referred to as the "Top Six" attacked him and stole cash and a bag containing MDC election material from him. He made a police report and he claims that the culprits were arrested but later released.

28 August 2003

- ∑ Japhet Karemba, MDC candidate in Mhangura, was reportedly arrested and detained by the police for 5 hours as his campaign team passed through the town. The police claim that they arrested him because ZANU PF supporters were also having a campaign in the area and that the MDC rally was likely to cause violence.

29 August 2003

- ∑ Thomas Maseko, an MDC supporter, alleges that ZANU PF supporters attacked his home and shattered all the windows. The MDC was holding a rally in the area prior to the attack.

Mhondoro

29 August 2003

- ∑ Shadreck Moyo, polling agent for Edward Musumbu, MDC candidate for Norton in the Urban Council Elections, was reportedly kidnapped from his home at night, blindfolded, severely assaulted, and then dumped outside the town by ZANU PF supporters. He was picked up by a motorist and taken to the hospital. MDC candidates for wards 4, 5, 6, 8 and 9, claim that they were assaulted and that their houses were stoned by ruling party supporters from Norton and Zvimba.
- ∑ Simon Ndlovhu, an MDC supporter, claims that 15 ZANU PF youths in a government owned truck emblazoned "ZANU PF - Mashonaland West", attacked his home, stoned it and broke 17 windowpanes and asbestos roofing. He purports that they also destroyed a tuck shop, jumped into their car and sped off.

Zvimba North/ South

29 August 2003

- LK claims that he was attacked by a group of approximately 50 ZANU PF youths while carrying out his duties as a polling agent. He claims that the youths started throwing stones at him and as he tried to run away, beat him up with wooden logs and whips. The victim was also kicked with booted feet. He says they only left when he had fallen down.
- SM alleges that some ZANU PF youths and youth militia abducted him from the Ward 7 polling station and drove him to a base where they are reported to have started assaulting him. The attackers are then reported to have taken him into a ZANU PF twin cab labelled "Mashonaland West Province" and drove him to a place some two kilometres away from town in to a bushy area. He was ordered to lie down on his stomach and had his hands and feet tied with a rope and was blindfolded. One of the youths stepped on his head while another did so on his legs to keep him down. He was allegedly assaulted with wooden logs, kicked with booted feet and punched all over his body for about 15 minutes and then the attackers left him for dead. He later managed to remove the blindfold and walked to a place where the police were called and he was taken to Norton hospital.

30 August 2003

- It is reported that MZ was an MDC polling agent in the council elections and was carrying out his duties in such capacity when he noticed that some ZANU PF 'members' were cooking *sadza* within the polling station at around lunch time. The ZANU PF supporters are alleged to have started throwing stones at the victim and his colleagues when he advised them against acting in an unprofessional manner by cooking *sadza* in the polling station. The victim was hit on the back and chest but managed to escape before any further harm was inflicted. He however, twisted his ankle as he ran away.
- The victim was one of the MDC polling agents in Katanga, Norton. He claims that a group of ZANU PF youths came to the polling station at around 2:00pm and barred MDC activists from casting their votes. The victim and his colleagues reported this to the police who were manning the polling station and this gesture angered the ZANU PF youths who are alleged to have started throwing stones at him and his colleagues.

MASVINGO

Gutu North/ South

12 August 2003

- Tsikamutanda and other ZANU PF supporters reportedly went to MM's (an MDC supporter) home singing and chanting ZANU PF slogans. He claims that they burnt his house to ashes destroying all his property. He was forced to flee and is now staying with relatives. The perpetrators also burnt the cattle kraal and slaughtered one cow for themselves.

Masvingo North/ South/ Central

24 August 2003

- ∑ ZRP officers allegedly torched homes belonging to about 1 000 resettled farmers at Windcrest Farm, destroying property worth more than \$100 million. It is reported that this is to pave way for a Ministry of Foreign Affairs employee, who purchased the farm. A heavy police presence and Police Defender vehicles ferrying victims to their original homes was reported. Martin Maziofa purports that he lost property worth millions of dollars, \$75 000 in cash, as well as 2 tonnes of maize after the arson attack on his home. He is currently sleeping in the open with his family. Nelson Mutakayi alleges that the Government did not give them time to move their property from the farm. Some of them alleged that they were forced to leave their livestock behind as they were not given time to gather them from pastures. The victims were resettled at the farm in August 2001.

MIDLANDS**Gweru Urban**

20 August 2003

- ∑ Job Sibindi, former MDC councillor for Ward 2 in Gweru, alleges that ruling party supporters attacked and severely injured him in the run up to the Urban Council Elections.

Kadoma Central/ East/ West

1 August 2003

- ZANU PF supporters allegedly assaulted IM and forced him to flee. He cannot go back to Kadoma and needs a safe place to reside. No reason was given for the attack.

19 August 2003

- EJ, MDC candidate for Ward 10, claims that ZANU PF supporters, ZNLWVA members, and CIO agents made unspecified threats towards him on his way from the polling station. He alleges that they also threatened his in-laws as he had registered using their address. EJ's relatives purport they were ordered to force him to withdraw his candidature so as to stop the victimisation. EJ withdrew his candidature and fled to Harare.

Kwekwe*August 2003*

- ∑ MDC polling agents in the Urban Council Elections claim that some ZANU PF supporters assaulted and abducted them to their base, while they were going on with their duties at one of the polling stations. They assert that they were released after about three hours at the intervention of the police who then impounded the vehicle, which the assailants had used for abduction. The perpetrators were allegedly released a few hours later.

30 – 31 August 2003

- ∑ Henry Madzorera (MDC election agent for the Mayoral Election), Blessing Chebundo (MDC MP, Kwekwe), Nelson Zhou (MDC candidate, Ward 3) and Admore Marongwe (MDC candidate, Ward 7) claim that they were attacked by suspected ZANU PF supporters when they had visited the polling stations around Kwekwe. The vehicle they were travelling in was reportedly stoned and damaged, forcing them to seek refuge at the Police Station. The ruling party supporters purportedly barricaded all the roads leading to the polling booths, identified MDC supporters, and assaulted them. Marongwe further asserts that several ZANU PF youths descended upon his home destroying windows and asbestos roofing.

MATEBELELAND SOUTH***Gwanda North/ South****14 August 2003*

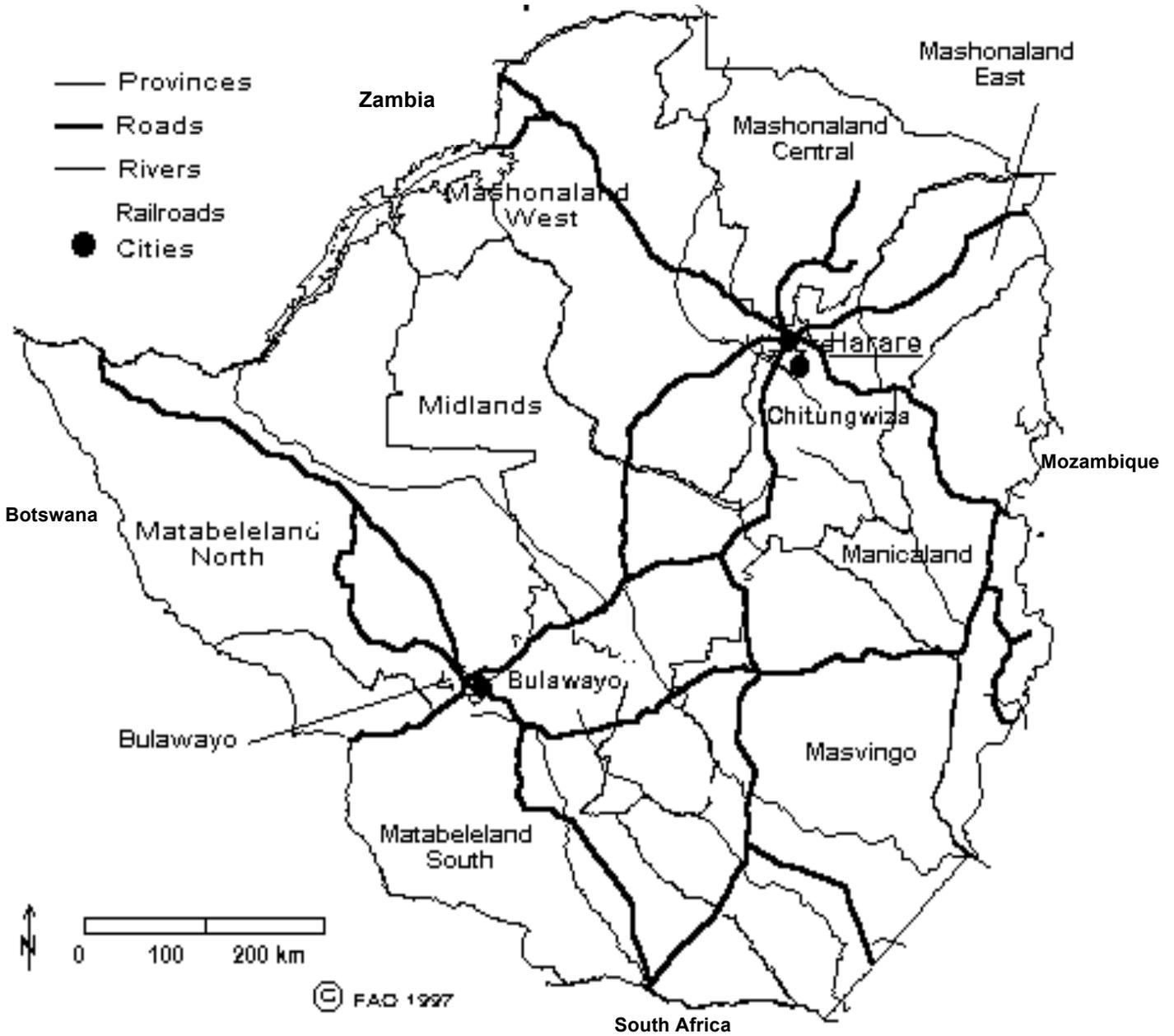
- ZANU PF youths allegedly interfered with and disrupted an MDC rally being held in the area following disputes over the venue. DD, an MDC supporter, reportedly sustained serious injuries after he was assaulted by the youths on accusations of “selling the country back to our colonisers”.

Full alphabetical list of reported deaths related to political violence 1 January to 31 August 2003 recorded indicating political affiliation, date of death, province and constituency.

TOTAL - 8: MDC - 5; ZANU PF – 2; UNKNOWN - 2

SURNAME	FIRST NAME (S)	POLITICAL AFFILIATION	DATE OF DEATH	CONSTITUENCY	PROVINCE
1 ALFONSO	Plaxedes	UNKNOWN	10/ 6/ 2003	Dzivaresekwa	Harare
1 KAGURU	Tichaona	MDC	2/ 6/ 2003	Mbare East/ West	Harare
2 KOMBO	Samson, Shawano	MDC	20/ 1/ 2003	Makoni East	Manicaland
3 MACHIRIDZA	Richard, Tonderai	MDC	18/4/2003	Kuwadzana	Harare
4 MANGWIRO	Tonderai	ZANU PF	20/ 1/ 2003	Kuwadzana	Harare
5 MATINYARARE	David	MDC	1/ 5/ 2003	Mufakose	Harare
6 NYADONGO	Amon	UNKNOWN	2/6/2003	Mbare West	Harare
7 SHAMHU	Action	UNKNOWN	2/8/2003	Kuwadzana	Harare
8 TONERA	Stephen	MDC	20/ 3/ 2003	Seke	Mashonaland East

ADMINISTRATIVE MAP OF ZIMBABWE



The **Zimbabwe Human Rights NGO Forum** (also known as the “Human Rights Forum”) is a coalition comprising 16 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 Legal Resources Foundation (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 Member:

- 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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