



Zimbabwe
HUMAN RIGHTS
N G O F o r u m

POLITICAL VIOLENCE REPORT

March 2007

10 May 2007

A report by the Zimbabwe Human Rights NGO Forum

OVERVIEW

In instances reminiscent of September 2006¹, Zimbabwe again witnessed despicable levels of politically motivated violence perpetrated by state agents including the ZRP, CIO, alleged ZANU PF supporters and in some instances suspected MDC supporters. The Human Rights Forum notes that this report does not even cover the whole length and breadth of the violence that occurred in March. However, the report does show that the epitome of the violence was on 11 March. This was when opposition political party leaders, supporters, civil society activists, church leaders and scores of the general Zimbabwean public were brutalised and arrested for converging at Zimbabwe Grounds in Highfield for an intended prayer meeting. A number of the victims on that fateful day were incarcerated in police stations dotted across Harare. Furthermore, the ZRP shot and killed one Gift Tandari, NCA member, allegedly for being the 'ring – leader' in the running battles that ensued between the police and the people intending to have the prayer meeting.

Following the violence on 11 March, an orgy of violence and a resurgence in abductions ensued, mainly perpetrated against human rights defenders, MDC supporters and leadership reportedly by state security agents. Another disturbing trend has been the abduction of MDC supporters by suspected CIO agents usually driving unmarked vehicles. The abductees in most instances have been dumped outside Harare after having been tortured. Cases of lawyers being physically and verbally assaulted whenever they visited their clients at police stations have been recorded. The situation was so bad that in some of the cases, lawyers witnessed their clients being tortured in front of them.

In the same month the ZRP was involved in two raids on the ZCTU and CHRA offices in Harare on 13 and 23 March respectively. The particular raid on the ZCTU was ostensibly meant to look for politically offensive material that could cause public alarm and despondency.

On 17 March, security was heightened at the Harare International Airport for unspecified reasons. However, Arthur Mutambara (President of the Pro - Senate MDC faction), Sekai Holland and Grace Kwinjeh all senior members of the Tsvangirai led MDC faction on separate occasions, were denied permission to leave the country for South Africa. The latter two wanted to seek further medical treatment. On the following day, Nelson Chamisa (MDC MP for Kuwadzana) was brutally assaulted by unknown persons at the same airport. Chamisa was on his way to an African - Caribbean – Pacific – European Union Parliamentary Assembly meeting in Belgium.

The callousness of the ZRP was clearly exhibited when they shot and wounded 2 MDC supporters at Gift Tandari's funeral wake in Glen View on 13 March. As this report will show, the police have also been involved in cruel acts of setting their trained dogs on victims, causing great injury.

¹ See September 2006 Monthly Political Violence Report by Zimbabwe Human Rights NGO Forum.

28 March climaxed the mode of violence in March when Harvest House, the HQ of the Tsvangirai led MDC, was raided by heavily armed police. Business came to a halt in the greater part of the city centre whilst police conducted searches of the offices for alleged weapons. Scores of people including MDC employees were arrested, bussed to Harare Central Police Station where they were severely tortured.

Cumulative figures at March show that there were 254 cases of torture, 356 of assault, 1 444 violations on the rights to freedom of association, assembly and movement. The Human Rights Forum notes and deplores the resurgence of abductions by the state as a form of harassment and intimidation against opposition supporters and human rights defenders. In March 8 cases of abductions were recorded.

The Human Rights Forum notes with great dismay the speeches by President Robert Mugabe condoning violence on 15 and 29 March². The President said the police would bash anyone who provoked them. These sentiments have been emphasized by his two security ministers who in separate interviews mentioned that ‘we don’t arrest anybody and torture people in Zimbabwe’³ ‘people are being beaten for provoking the police ... and I’m happy with the work they did’.⁴ The Human Rights Forum urges the Government of Zimbabwe to desist from using such statements as they fuel political divisions, expose government’s intolerance to dissent and create a false sense of impunity for those who commit these heinous crimes.

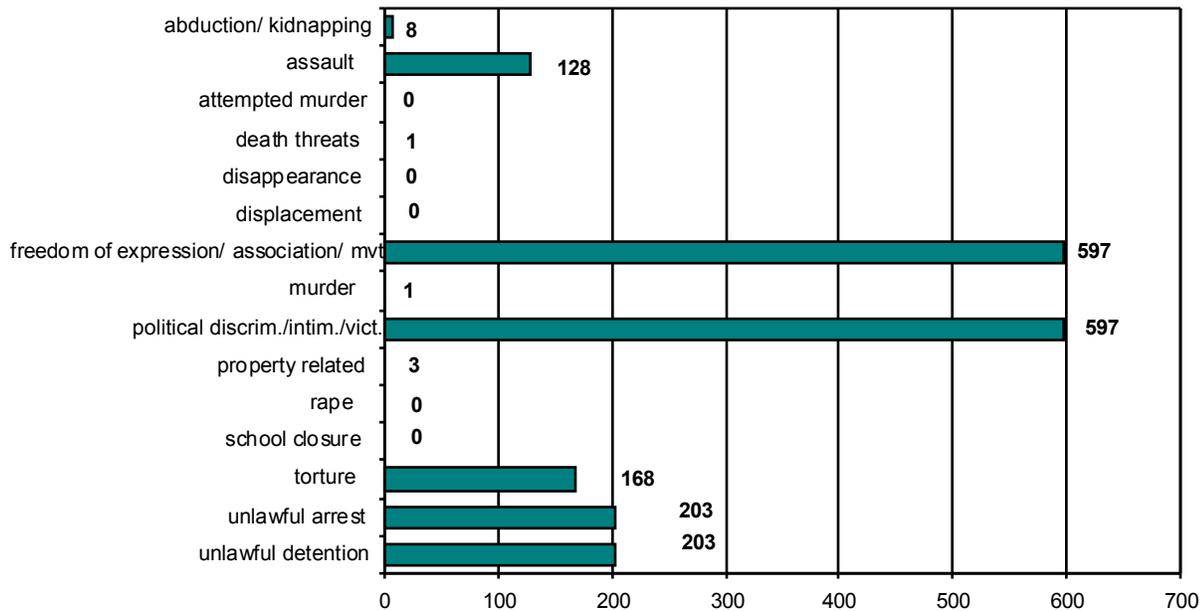
Finally, the Human Rights Forum condemns violence from any quarter and calls upon the Zimbabwean government to expeditiously, investigate, prosecute and discipline its security officials or any private individuals who have been actively participating in the torture and harassment of Zimbabwean citizens without fear or favour.

² President Robert Mugabe commented that anyone who provoked the police would be ‘bashed’ whilst addressing ZANU PF rallies. In September 2006 in a speech delivered during a stopover in Cairo from his visit to the United Nations in New York the President was on record saying that: the police were right in dealing sternly with the ZCTU leaders. He added that “Some people are now crying foul that they were assaulted, yes you get a beating...when the police say move, move, if you don't move, you invite the police to use force”.

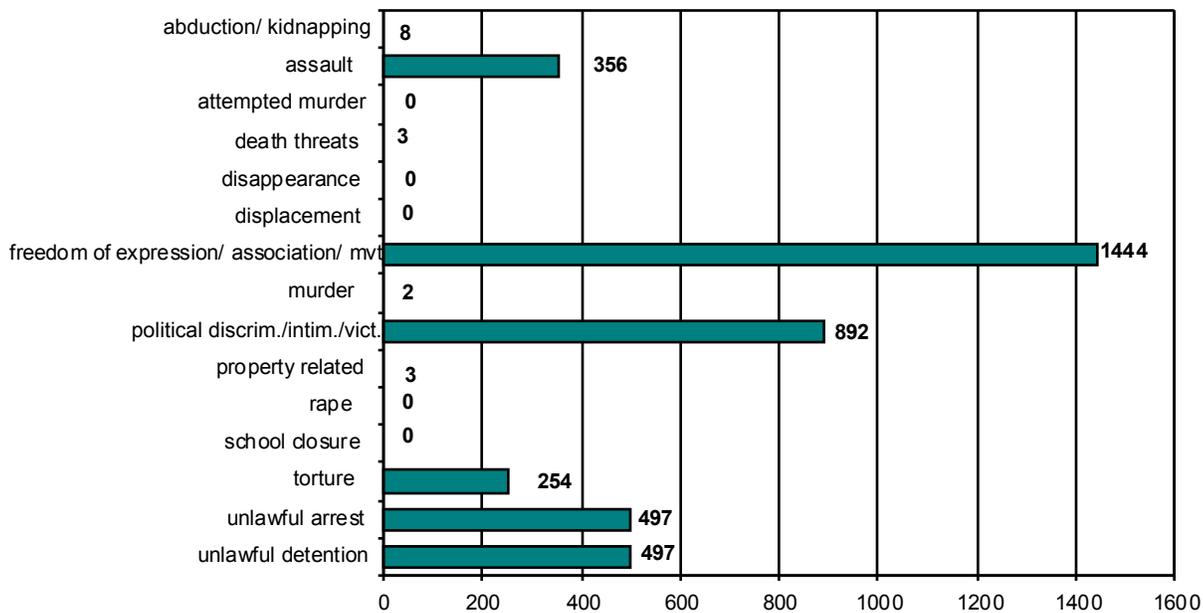
³ Minister of Home Affairs, Kembo Mohadi speaking to Violet Gonda on SW Radio. See the *Zimbabwean* 19 – 25 April 2007 at 21.

⁴ State Security Minister Didymus Mutasa talking to Shakeman Mugari Zimbabwe *Independent* 20 – 25 April 2007 at 5.

Totals: 1 March – 31 March 2007



Cumulative Totals: 1 January – 31 March 2007



The graph should be read along with the table depicting the monthly totals of violations for March 2007 on page 24. The total quantifiable number of victims reported in March 2007 is 720 .

Key Abbreviations

CIO – CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE ORGANISATION	ZANU PF – ZIMBABWE AFRICAN NATIONAL UNION PATRIOTIC FRONT
MDC – MOVEMENT FOR DEMOCRATIC CHANGE	ZCTU – ZIMBABWE CONGRESS OF TRADE UNIONS
MP – MEMBER OF PARLIAMENT	ZNA – ZIMBABWE NATIONAL ARMY
NAGG - NATIONAL ALLIANCE FOR GOOD GOVERNANCE	ZPS – ZIMBABWE PRISON SERVICE
NCA – NATIONAL CONSTITUTIONAL ASSEMBLY ASSOCIATION	ZRP – ZIMBABWE REPUBLIC POLICE
OVT – ORGANISED VIOLENCE AND TORTURE	ZNLWVA – ZIMBABWE NATIONAL LIBERATION WAR VETERANS
POSA – PUBLIC ORDER AND SECURITY ACT	ZIMTA – ZIMBABWE TEACHERS ASSOCIATION
PTUZ – PROGRESSIVE TEACHERS UNION OF ZIMBABWE	ZUPCO – ZIMBABWE UNITED PASSENGER COMPANY
UMP – UZUMBA MARAMBA PFUNGWE	AIPPA – ACCESS TO INFORMATION AND PROTECTION OF PRIVACY ACT

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 a network of human rights activists and newspaper reports,

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.

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. 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. Furthermore, in this edition we include reports on police violence in non – political matters. This serves to demonstrate the way in which violent actions of the state and state agents exceed their legitimate limits and powers; and which indicates an increasing and more widespread politicisation of violence. The Report cannot be considered as the exhaustive record of all incidents of politically-motivated violence in Zimbabwe in the period under review. Nevertheless, every incident reported to the Human Rights Forum directly or through its members is meticulously documented and included in the reports. Care is also taken to record the incidents in the language in which they were reported to the Forum.

The situation prevailing in the country is such that it has not been possible to verify all of these accounts. The Human Rights Forum has done what it can to verify the reports, and is satisfied that the vast majority of them are substantially true. It is also not possible to rule out whether a victim's account is exaggerated or contains inaccuracies.

All reports derived from the press are denoted with the symbol Σ .

BULAWAYO

Bulawayo East

6 March 2007

It is reported that the Zimbabwe Republic Police arrested twenty students at Hillside Teachers College, for allegedly inciting public alarm and despondency. On the day before the students had held a meeting that resolved that students must boycott lectures and prepare for the proposed stay away on 7 March 2007. Amongst those arrested were, the Zimbabwe National Students Union (ZINASU) Secretary General, Beloved Chiweshe, Hillside Teachers College Students Union President, Tafadzwa Chengewa, Lawrence Mashungu and Trust Nhubu. Cosmas Gwature, of the United College of Education, was also picked up by the police from his college campus under unclear circumstances but allegedly related to the class boycott at Hillside Teachers College.

15 March 2007

18 demonstrators were arrested by members of the ZRP in Bulawayo. Samuel Sipepa Nkomo and Lovemore Moyo, all senior MDC officials, were among those arrested. The 18 were reportedly arrested for holding a 'secret' meeting in the city that the police said was meant to plot violence at prayer rallies that had been planned for 18 and 19 March 2007 in Bulawayo.

16 March 2007

It is reported that the ZRP arrested seven MDC supporters for allegedly fighting running battles with the police and barricading the main railway line on 15 March 2007 in protest against the arrest of MDC leaders in the city the previous day.

HARARE

Harare North*1 March 2007*

It is alleged that on the day in question around 00:00 hours the victim, who resides at Goodhope Farm, was sleeping when four armed police officers in plain clothes came to his house looking for him. He alleges that the police knocked heavily on his door but he refused to open it for fear of being robbed. When the victim delayed in opening up, the police reportedly called for more reinforcements from the CID who came along with four dogs. The victim alleged that the police threw a teargas canister into his house that caused him and his mother to get out of the house. The police then started shooting into the air and ordered the two to lie onto the ground. The police handcuffed them and took them to Marlborough Police Station where they were beaten with fan belts and backs of rifles. The victims reported that police dogs were also let loose on them which led to them sustaining serious injuries from the bites. The victims were allegedly detained at Marlborough Police Station until 5 March 2007. It is reported that the police had falsely accused the male victim of beating a certain police officer who later denied being assaulted.

20 March 2007

The victim was reportedly assaulted by two suspected University of Zimbabwe (UZ) security officers for being outspoken the previous day in a UZ dining room. The victim had reportedly voiced concern over the poor quality of food being served to students. He allegedly sustained a deep cut on his forehead when he was kicked in the face by one of the assailants. Moreover, the victim's spectacles were also broken in the attack.

27 March 2007

It is alleged that on the day in question, Last Maengehama was abducted at gunpoint by five suspected CIO officers at Sam Levy's Shopping Centre in Borrowdale. Earlier on in the day, the victim had joined MDC President Morgan Tsvangirai in leading a song at the memorial service of Gift Tandari held in the same suburb. Maengehama was found dumped in Mutorashanga with serious injuries after being heavily tortured.

28 March 2007

It is alleged that on the date in question, suspected CIO officers broke into Ian Makone's (top MDC official) house by cutting the keys to the gate with bolt cutters. The CIO officers reportedly forced open the door to the house before starting searches for materials allegedly used in making petrol bombs. After the searches, the CIO allegedly went on to assault Ian Makone by jumping onto his back whilst he was lying on the ground. The CIO officers reportedly forced the victim to do press - ups and kicked him on his back as well. The CIO officers also arrested his wife.

31 March 2007

About 20 heavily armed paramilitary police reportedly raided The Glow nightclub in Borrowdale, attacking teenagers with baton sticks and detaining scores for hours. Three of the victims who protested vocally were allegedly assaulted. Others were struck with baton sticks on their heads and shoulders for no apparent reason. The youths were reportedly jostled into lines and frog-marched into a wire cage enclosure outside the nightclub. At least 100 were then taken in police buses to Harare Central Police Station where they were released on the following day after paying admission of guilt fines.

Harare Central

2 March 2007

The two victims allege that they were part of an MDC demonstration at Market Square bus rank when they were waylaid by rank marshals who assisted the police in assaulting them with whatever was at their disposal including empty drink - bottles.

8 March 2007

It is alleged that on the day in question approximately 200 members of the NCA marched in Harare's city centre. The demonstrators proceeded from Harare's Main Post Office chanting slogans and holding banners that contained messages calling for a new constitution. It is reported that the police arrested 37 of the protesters during the demonstration. The arrested were only released the following day around lunchtime after paying admission of guilt fines at Harare Central Police Station.

9 March 2007

The victim who is an organizing secretary for MDC, was reportedly assaulted on the day in question by a mob of rank marshals in the city center for possessing flyers and pamphlets advertising the Save Zimbabwe prayer meeting on 11 March 2007. The victim was then taken to Harare Central Police Station's Law and Order Section where he was interrogated about his entire family's history. He was reportedly denied food on his first day in custody. Moreover, the victim was allegedly assaulted under the feet, on his back and neck by police using baton sticks. On 11 March, the victim was again reportedly assaulted on the back and buttocks with a baton stick in front of his lawyer. The victim was released on 12 March after paying an admission of guilt fine for being a public nuisance.

13 March 2007

It is reported that members of the ZRP accompanied by officers from the Criminal Investigations Department (CID), raided the offices of the Zimbabwe Congress of Trade Unions (ZCTU) in Harare at 09:30hours. It is alleged that the state security agents searched for what they said were subversive materials at the offices. The state agents are alleged to have seized the ZCTU's campaign materials for a stay away protesting the worsening economic conditions in the country which they were lobbying for on 3 and 4 April 2007. In the process, it is alleged that the police assaulted the ZCTU National Organizing Secretary Michael Kanduguti and briefly detained the Union's Financial Administrator Galileo Chirebvu.

3 student leaders and 2 Crisis in Zimbabwe Coalition secretariat members were arrested at Rotten Row Magistrates Courts for attending the bail application hearing of the Save Zimbabwe Campaign leaders arrested on 11 March in Highfield. The five were, Washington Katema, Zimbabwe National Student's Union (ZINASU) coordinator, Promise Mkwanzani, (ZINASU) president, Tellington Kwashira, Emily Nkhungwa and Roderick Chirowodza.

18 March 2007

On the date in question, Andrew Makoni a prominent human rights lawyer was reportedly threatened with 'disappearance' at the Harare Central Police Station whilst attempting to serve a High Court Order on the Assistant Commissioner of Police.

19 March 2007

150 members of the Combined Harare Residents Association (CHRA) staged a protest march to the Harare Town House on the day in question. The marchers were protesting against the continued disregard of a High Court Order by Minister of Local Governance, Ignatius Chombo. The High Court Order calls for the holding of mayoral elections in Harare and confirms the illegality of the Commission running the affairs of City of Harare. On arrival at the Town House, the protesters were forcibly dispersed by the Municipal Police with the help of the anti - riot police squad.

22 March 2007

It is reported that on the date in question at 11:00 hours an estimated 20 MDC supporters were arrested in Harare after taking to the streets in protest against the death of MDC member, Itai Manyeruke. Manyeruke died on 12 March 2007 as a result of his torture by the police on 11 March in Highfield. All the arrested were taken to Harare Central Police Station.

23 March 2007

It is reported that around 08:00 hours, 8 uniformed and 6 plain - clothes police officers raided the Combined Harare Residents Association (CHRA) offices in Harare. They were reportedly looking for the CHRA leadership in connection with the protest march CHRA had staged the previous day at the Town House in Harare. The officers allegedly threatened employees stationed at the CHRA office with imprisonment if they failed to lead them to their leadership. However, the two employees maintained that they could not disclose the leadership's residential addresses without their consent. The police officers threatened to come back later at an unspecified date.

28 March 2007

It is reported that on the day in question heavily armed ZRP officers cordoned off much of the central business district in a bid to conduct searches on the Headquarters of the MDC at Harvest House. It is understood that Morgan Tsvangirai intended to have a press briefing at Harvest House on the spate of abductions of his party leadership in the month of March. Close to 80 people, including senior MDC officials, were arrested and bussed to Harare Central Police Station. It is alleged that those arrested were seriously tortured before being released the following day and the day after the courts ordered their release.

Budiriro

28 March 2007

The victim reports that on the day in question around 01:00 hours about 30 ZRP officers raided the home of Emmanuel Chisvuure, an MDC MP who resides in Budiriro. 10 of the police officers reportedly entered the house and beat 6 of Chisvuure's relatives who were there with baton sticks, and poured cold water on them. The police allegedly assaulted the victims for harboring Chisvuure and lying about his whereabouts and reportedly took away two boys with them.

Highfield

11 March 2007

On the date in question various Zimbabwean opposition groups and civic organizations, under the *Save Zimbabwe Campaign* banner, planned to hold a prayer meeting at Zimbabwe Grounds. The police cordoned off the venue so as to prevent people from gathering there. Furthermore, police manned roadblocks and conducted searches on vehicles and individuals looking for weapons from suspected hooligans. Police officers were stationed in most parts of the suburb. Those who were arrested included opposition faction leaders Morgan Tsvangirai and Arthur Mutambara for allegedly inciting people to engage in violence. Other opposition leaders picked up were the Tsvangirai faction Secretary General Tendai Biti, Organising Secretary Elias Mudzuri, Grace Kwinje, Sekai Holland and Job Sikhala, the latter aligned to the Mutambara faction. National Constitutional Assembly Chairman Lovemore Madhuku was also arrested.

Some of the injuries documented were consistent with beatings with blunt objects heavy enough to cause the following:

- Fractures to hands, arms and legs in 5 individuals including Lovemore Madhuku with a fractured ulna. 3 of these, Elton Mangoma, Sekai Holland and Morgan Tsvangirai sustained multiple fractures.
- Severe, extensive and multiple soft tissue injuries to the backs, shoulders, arms, buttocks and thighs of 14 individuals.
- Head injuries to 3 individuals, Nelson Chamisa, Morgan Tsvangirai and Lovemore Madhuku with the latter two sustaining deep lacerations to the scalp.
- A possible ruptured bowel in 1 individual due to severe blunt trauma to the abdomen. A split right ear lobe sustained by Grace Kwinjeh.
- Prolonged detention without accessing medical treatment resulted in severe haemorrhage in Morgan Tsvangirai leading to severe anaemia, which warranted a blood transfusion.
- Injuries sustained by Sekai Holland were also worsened by denial of timely access to medical treatment, which led to an infection of deep soft tissue in her left leg.
- Denial of access to treatment in another individual suffering from hypertension lead to angina.

A number of running battles ensued following the refusal by the police to allow the prayer meeting to be held. In one of the running battles, Gift Tandari was shot and killed by the police near Mhizha Primary School. Another member of the MDC, Itai Manyeruke, reportedly died the following day after being abducted and severely beaten by the police, having sustained many fractures on his spinal cord. It is reported that after his death the police stashed his body at Harare Hospital Mortuary. No notification was given to relatives and friends and the body was only discovered on 20 March by his relatives.

In another related incident on the day in question, three police officers were severely injured after another battle ensued near Gazaland Shopping Centre in Highfield. It is reported that the three police officers, who were in a group of 26, were attacked by suspected MDC supporters who overpowered the police officers and heavily assaulted them with stones, fists and booted feet.

On the same day, Harrison Nkomo, amongst a number of other human rights lawyers who were harassed that day, was assaulted with a baton stick by officers at Machipisa Police Station after inquiring about the whereabouts of the opposition leaders who had been arrested following the aborted prayer meeting.

14 March 2007

On the day in question, it is alleged that ZRP officers attacked about 10 patrons who were in a beer hall at Machipisa Shopping Center for reportedly attacking members of the police on 11 March. The victims were assaulted with baton sticks on the buttocks and backs. The police allegedly set a dog on one of the victims.

18 March 2007

It is alleged that anti - riot police officers armed with baton sticks assaulted scores of people who had gathered around the Zimbabwe Grounds wanting to attend an MDC rally.

29 March 2007

It is alleged that on the day in question around 23:30 hours the victim was abducted from his home by 12 suspected ZANU PF youths. The assailants reportedly took him outside his house onto the tarmac before beating him with sjamboks, iron bars and whips. One of the assailants reportedly punched him in the eye. The beating apparently went on for about two hours before the victim was blindfolded and forced onto a cream or white Nissan Hardbody twin cab vehicle. The assailants kept asking him about the Democratic Resistance Committees of the MDC and contact information for other influential MDC members. Furthermore, he was reportedly stripped naked in the vehicle wherein his battering ordeal continued. The victim was reportedly dumped and left for dead in Musana Communal lands in Mashonaland Central.

Harare South

11 March 2007

In the orgy of violence that occurred on the date in question, a suspected group of MDC supporters besieged a ZUPCO bus near Zindoga Shopping Centre carrying mourners to a funeral and smashed its windows. In the ensuing commotion, the suspected MDC supporters reportedly got onto the bus and stole cellphones from the mourners. It is alleged that a pregnant woman miscarried in the melee. A car belonging to state newspaper *The Herald* was reportedly stoned when the journalists got closer to the scene to take pictures. The suspected MDC supporters reportedly also attacked a Mazda B1600 belonging to the ZNA, that was parked at Zindoga Shopping Center and tried to set it alight but failed after the flames were doused.

17 March 2007

On the day in question Arthur Mutambara the President of the Pro Senate faction of the MDC party, was arrested at Harare International Airport on his way to South Africa. The police contended that Mutambara could not leave the country as he was still on remand following his release from police custody the previous week. However, the victim had been released with 49 others on 12 March in a High Court ruling without any conditions.

On the same day Sekai Holland, and Grace Kwinjeh, of the Anti - Senate MDC faction were prohibited from leaving for South Africa to seek specialized medical treatment at the Harare International Airport by one Detective Inspector Mabunda (and another male officer both in plain clothes) of the CID Law and Order Section. The state security agents then impounded Kwinjeh and Holland's passports and commandeered the ambulance in which they had been transported to the airport directing it to Harare Central Police Station. At Harare Central Police Station the ambulance was instructed to take Kwinjeh and Holland back to the Avenues Clinic. Additional plainclothes detectives in an unmarked white car with tinted windows and foreign number plates accompanied the ambulance. During all these skirmishes, a lawyer with the Zimbabwe Lawyers for Human Rights was threatened with assault and arrest when he tried to intervene and assist the two victims leave for South Africa.

In a different but closely related matter, a lawyer with the Zimbabwe Lawyers for Human Rights was also threatened by security officials at the Harare International Airport when he was returning home from abroad with unspecified action for taking up cases involving opposition party members.

18 March 2007

Nelson Chamisa, spokesperson of the Tsvangirai led MDC faction was brutally attacked by unknown assailants at the Harare International Airport on the day in question. The opposition spokesperson was on his way to an African-Caribbean-Pacific European Union Parliamentary Assembly meeting in Belgium on the Zimbabwean government's business. It is reported that eight men at the entrance to the airport surrounded the victim when one of them allegedly pulled an iron bar from his jacket and struck him in the face. The assailants also reportedly stole Chamisa's laptop, 2 cellphones and fired shots into the air to warn off airport staff that attempted to assist him. It is alleged that one of the assailants shouted that 'munofira zvamusingazive' (you will die for things that you don't know) to the people who were trying to help Chamisa. The assailants reportedly sped off in two unmarked vehicles.

25 March 2007

The victim who is an MDC supporter was reportedly abducted from his home and blindfolded by 6 men in plain clothes but who claimed to be police officers. The alleged police officers drove away with the victim in a grey Toyota omnibus to an unknown destination. He was reportedly assaulted with blunt objects for about 30 minutes before being left lying on the ground.

Tafara – Mabvuku

3 March 2007

The three victims, who were on their way to Ruwa, were forced to stop their car by people who were travelling in a vehicle that was reportedly carrying plain-clothes police officers. The alleged police officers asked the trio for identification before force - marching them into their car. When they got into the car they realized that three of their MDC colleagues were already sitting handcuffed in it. The victims were then driven to a house in Mabvuku where another male MDC member was picked up. Apparently, the police had a list of names of people they wanted to apprehend. Eventually eleven MDC members were picked up in the same neighbourhood. All the victims were later driven to Harare Central Police Station's Law and Order Section where they were accused of trying to overthrow President Robert Mugabe. They were then called one at a time to office 87 where there were three women and two male detectives asking them questions relating to the MDC, their positions in the party, and where they were on 2 March 2007. All the victims were tortured during the course of interrogations. The victims were able to identify and subsequently record the names of their assailants as Constables Chirau and Dongo .

18 March 2007

The victims, who are all MDC members, allege that they held a meeting at one of their house. 10 men in plain - clothes reportedly wielding guns besieged the house and ordered them to lie face down. The victims were reportedly beaten with sticks and kicked all over their bodies with booted feet. They were then handcuffed and taken to a bush in Goromonzi where they were further assaulted before being dumped.

Dzivaresekwa

9 March

On the date in question, the victim alleges that six ZRP officers went to her house and summoned her to Dzivaresekwa Police Station. When she got to the police station, the Officer in Charge, charged her with the crime of distributing politically offensive material. It is alleged that the political material was in the form of fliers advertising the prayer meeting in Highfield that was to be held on 11 March. The victim, who had taken her child with her, had to spend two days in police cells. It is alleged that the Officer in Charge kicked the victim with booted feet on her hips whilst she was holding her baby. On the third day in police custody, she was reportedly taken to Harare Central Police Station whereat she was returned back to Dzivaresekwa Police Station for lack of evidence of the crime charged against her. Despite this, the Officer in Charge ordered that she remain in police cells at Dzivaresekwa Police Station 'until something incriminating was found'. The victim was only released by a junior police officer on compassionate grounds that her baby was now coughing uncontrollably. The victim was made to pay a fine of Z\$2 500 for 'conduct likely to provoke the breach of peace' before being released.

On the same day six suspected MDC supporters reportedly torched a commuter omnibus coming from Bulawayo at the Kuwadzana roundabout. One of the culprits was shot in the arm by police and arrested on the spot. The suspected MDC supporters who went on the rampage, allegedly looted goods in a trailer towed by the omnibus.

29 March 2007

It is alleged that on the day in question people who were looking for his sister, who is the MDC District Chairperson in their area, abducted the victim from his home. He was driven to Mhondoro, his rural home (approximately 80kms from Harare) where he was dumped after being heavily assaulted.

Chitungwiza

9 March 2007

It is alleged that suspected ZANU PF supporters threw four petrol bombs into the home of former Chitungwiza Executive Mayor Misheck Shoko destroying property worth about Z\$5 million on the day in question. It is reported that Shoko, who was in the house with his family, escaped unhurt when the attack occurred around 02:00 hours.

Glen View

13 March 2007

It is reported that police shot and wounded 2 MDC supporters in two separate pre-dawn raids on the home of Gift Tandare, the activist killed in clashes with the police in Highfield on 11 March 2007. Two activists, identified as MDC Glen View District Youth Chairman, Naison Mashambanhaka, and Dickson Mangondo were shot. The incident sparked dawn running battles between the police and opposition youths in the suburbs of Glen View and Budiriro.

In the second incident, a suspected anti - riot police squad returned to Tandare's home at night, and ordered mourners to lie down, before assaulting them with baton sticks. Mashambanhaka, who had been shot the night before, was shot again in the same arm and four others were wounded in the fresh onslaught. Police barricaded all roads leading to Tandare's house in a move to hold back the swelling numbers of MDC supporters arriving to attend the funeral. That same afternoon, police reportedly, and in a random manner, picked up youths in Glen View, ordering them to name all MDC activists in their area.

14 March 2007

The victim claims that on the date of the incident he was driving a commuter omnibus from Glen View 3 into town at around 20:30 hours. He alleges that when he reached the corner of 12th Avenue and Willowvale, he came across a group of riot police officers who ordered him to stop and forced everyone to disembark from the vehicle. The victim was reportedly slapped in the face by a police officer when he opened the car door. He was then ordered to lie down and was beaten by five police officers while the other police officers assaulted the bus conductor and passengers.

16 March 2007

The victims allege that around 03:00 hours on the date in question, members of the ZRP went around the houses close to Gift Tandari's home assaulting the occupants for failing to report and or remove the barricades that had been laid on the streets by the mourners at his funeral. In a number of the cases the police would jump over durawalls and fences and threatened to throw teargas if the victims did not open their doors. Whenever the victims came out of their house the police forced them to lie face down on the tarmac and beat them on the buttocks and backs.

21 March 2007

On the day in question 2 riot police officers and 4 other men arrived at the victim's home in a ZRP truck. The men reportedly asked the victim where he kept his petrol bombs before heavily assaulting him. He was then thrown into the police truck where there were three other MDC members. The victims were subjected to beatings on the soles of their feet before being detained at Mbare Police Station. The victims were reportedly detained for two days without food or water. They also allege that whilst in detention they were beaten all over their bodies, twice a day by police using baton sticks, booted feet, and fists. The police reportedly poured water into the cell, which resulted in the victims experiencing burns on the buttocks and itching all over their bodies.

Mufakose

14 March 2007

Three police officers were seriously injured in the early hours of the day in question after their houses at Marimba Police Station were allegedly petrol bombed by suspected MDC activists in retaliation for the violence that had been meted out on the MDC leadership and activists of the Save Zimbabwe Campaign by the ZRP on 11 March. Two of the policewomen reportedly suffered extensive burns on their faces.

It is alleged that on the day in question ZRP officers ordered commuters who were in a kombi coming from town to disembark and started assaulting them. It is alleged that the police even set their dogs on the victims and some of the commuters sustained deep dog bites.

On the same day around 20:00 hours, ZRP anti riot police squad marched into Gwentyambira Tavern in Mufakose where a number of people were having drinks in the bar. It is alleged that the police ordered everyone to sit on the floor. 3 ZRP anti riot officers reportedly assaulted the patrons in the bar wherein the victims sustained various injuries mainly from trying to defend themselves.

16 March 2007

The victim alleges that ZRP officers who searched his bag and found him with CHRA advocacy pamphlets assaulted him, reportedly forced him to chew the pamphlets, and removed his shirt. The ZRP officers were apparently assaulting people around the shopping centre close to where the victim was violated.

On the same day during the afternoon, it is alleged that members of the ZRP descended on a house where close to 10 women had gone to visit a friend who had been discharged from hospital after being assaulted by the police on 11 March. The police reportedly told the women that groupings were illegal and thus they were committing a crime. They were thus taken to Warren Park Police Station where they were called out one by one and assaulted by two men in plain clothes. The women were beaten under their feet and backs with baton sticks. They were released at 14:00 hours on 18 March after paying Z\$1 500 fines at Harare Central Police Station.

24 March 2007

It is reported that the two victims were abducted by four suspected CIO agents at their house around 22:00 hours on the day in question. The four men reportedly accused the victims of holding MDC meetings at their house. The two victims were then reportedly blindfolded and dragged at gunpoint into a maroon and silver Mazda Eagle vehicle which was outside their house. They allege that they were taken to Kadoma where they were severely assaulted by the agents using iron bars and fists. It is reported that after the beatings, the blindfolds and gags were removed and they were driven back to Harare and dropped off on High Glen Road, near Marimba Police Station.

Mbare

10 March 2007

The victim alleges that on the day in question he was putting up fliers advertising the 11 March prayer meeting in Highfield with a colleague when they met police officers who arrested and detained them at Stoddart Police Station. The victim claims that a policeman by the name Zviayo came at around 02:00 hours and started to beat him up for about 1 hour 30 minutes. On the second day, Zviayo allegedly came back at around 02:00 hours and took the other victim from the cells and started to assault him. When the Member –in- Charge heard the victim crying he stopped the police officer and detained the victim again. The victims were transferred to Harare Central Police Station on 14 March where their torture reportedly continued. It is alleged some police officers at Harare Central Police Station told them to lie in a prone position and started beating them with bricks and baton sticks. The victims were then released after paying fines of Z\$2 500 each.

Harare East

16 March 2007

It is reported that the ZNA officers on the day in question, severely tortured five Army officers who were captured in Mussina, South Africa on 16 February 2007 after deserting their jobs. The five were in a group of 45 army officers who allegedly deserted the Army to seek better fortunes in South Africa. The five alleged deserters were reportedly moved from their heavily guarded cells at Chikurubi Maximum Security Prison to the Army Headquarters in Harare where they were severely tortured. Three other Army officers reportedly spent the whole day beating them, making them roll on hard surfaces and pouring water on them, demanding to know the whereabouts of the other 40 deserters. The assailants accused the five of refusing to blow their colleagues' cover and said they would not stop the torture until they got the truth out of them. But the victims were later released and returned to Chikurubi Maximum Security Prison on 18 March.

Kambuzuma

19 March 2007

Two members of WOZA were taken from their home in Warren Park, Harare, on the day in question by members of the ZRP. It is alleged that three truckloads of police took the mother and daughter from their home at gunpoint, blindfolded them and took them into an unknown destination in bush close to their home. The victims were then questioned about WOZA and assaulted with weapons and fists. After several hours of assault and questioning, the two women convinced their attackers that they did not know anything and they were dumped in the bush.

Kuwadzana

22 March 2007

Close to 50 people were assaulted at Kuwadzana 4 Bus terminus by riot police officers for wanting to demonstrate against the attack on MDC Parliamentarian and Spokesperson Nelson Chamisa.

23 March 2007

It is reported on the date in question a passenger train carrying close to 750 passengers was petrol bombed and a tear gas canister was thrown aboard, injuring five people. The incident occurred on the outskirts of Harare as the train headed on its nightly service to Bulawayo. It is alleged that a pregnant woman miscarried during the melee.

It is alleged that a 57-year-old father of 2 MDC activists was abducted from his home when the police failed to locate the two. 7 young men, reportedly, armed with hand guns, entered the victim's home and showing their ZRP ID cards. The 7 immediately started to beat the victim all over his body, accusing him of hiding his sons as a result of which he sustained a fractured leg and arm. The police then drove the victim to a ZANU PF office in Darwendale where they assaulted and later dumped him.

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25 March 2007

∑.It is reported that one Tapiwa Chininga (23), a New Ziana trainee journalist was arrested at Kuwadzana Police base for seeking a comment from the police. Chininga allegedly barraged Constable Simbarashe Nengwene with questions, provoking his arrest. Chininga reportedly asked the policeman why they were engaging in battles with the MDC activists of late. The victim also questioned the policeman as to why they were prohibiting the MDC from holding rallies and why the police were not feeling guilty after killing people as happened in Highfield on 11 March 2007. Chininga is reported to have contravened Section 41(b) of the Criminal Law (Codification and Reform) Act Chapter 9:23 which deals with 'using threatening, abusive or insulting words or behaving in abusive or insulting manner, intending to provoke a breach of the peace or realizing that there is a real risk or possibility that a breach of the peace may be provoked'.

MASHONALAND EAST

Bindura

20 March 2007

On the date in question, the victim was reportedly attacked by suspected ZANU PF supporters for putting up MDC posters. The assailants allegedly went on a rampage and assaulted the first victim's colleagues who were waiting for him in a car across the street. They were beaten with sticks, iron bars, empty bottles and pelted with stones sustaining various injuries.

25 March 2007

On the day in question, it is reported that two men, whose father is a well-known MDC member in Marondera, were abducted by armed but unknown people who were driving a white Nissan Nirvara. The two victims were stripped naked, blindfolded, gagged, handcuffed and then forced into the car before they were driven away. They allege that their cellphones and Z\$350 000 were also confiscated by the assailants. The assailants reportedly used iron rods, fan belts and batons to beat up the victims. The matter has since been reported to the police and a docket has been opened.

MASHONALAND WEST

Chegututu

3 March 2007

It is reported that 13 ZCTU members were arrested by the ZRP in Chegututu but were transported to Kadoma for detention under unclear circumstances. The arrested were part of a group of ZCTU members attending an orientation workshop. The ZCTU had organized orientation workshops for its 34 districts countrywide to take place on March 3.

Kariba

17 March 2007

It is alleged that on the day in question the victim, who is the Youth Chairman for MDC in Kariba, was arrested by four CID officers at his workplace. The victim reports that the CID officers claimed that he had led some MDC youths who allegedly stole a car. He was then taken to Nyamhunga Police Camp where he was assaulted with fists, booted feet and baton sticks by the CID officers. He was then detained overnight and released on 18 March 2007 after paying a fine of \$2 500.00.

MANICALAND

Mutare Central

27 March 2007

On the day in question the ZRP, led by a policewoman called Majongwe, stormed and disrupted a Zimbabwe Congress of Trade Unions (ZCTU) meeting at the Holiday Inn Hotel claiming that the workers' body had not sought permission from the police to hold the meeting.

MASVINGO

Masvingo

6 March 2007

It is reported that on the day in question WOZA members took to the streets in Masvingo to launch the document they call the *People's Charter* and also what they call social justice. It is alleged that the police were out in full force waiting to disperse the women on the day if they tried marching. Most of the women reportedly abandoned the march but thirty of them braved the heavy police presence and went ahead with it. Twenty of the demonstrators were subsequently arrested at the Masvingo Civic Centre and were held for three days by the police. The group of 17 women and 3 men were charged under Chapter 37 of the Criminal Law (Codification and Reform) Act - 'participating in a public gathering with the intent to cause public disorder, breach of peace or bigotry'. They were finally released after paying Z\$30 000 bail each. The women were remanded out of custody to 4 April 2007. The 20 WOZA members held for three days by police were finally released after paying Z\$30,000 bail each. They were remanded to 4 April. It is alleged that the police held the demonstrators for an extra day instead of the stipulated 48 hours because police had filed for an extension of detention citing their broken equipment.

MIDLANDS

Gweru

5 March 2007

It is reported that over 100 WOZA members in Gweru marched through the town centre to launch the document they call the *People's Charter* and to encourage the people of their city to join in the struggle for what they call social justice. The women reportedly marched from the clock along Robert Mugabe Way to the Post Office, where they were stopped by members of the Zimbabwe Republic Police who had two water cannons to use to disperse the women. However, before the demonstrators could disperse the police assaulted them and other by - standers with baton sticks and in the melee arrested thirty-six of them. It is alleged that the thirty-six were assaulted by the police whilst in their custody. The police also allegedly arrested three more women who had taken food to those arrested.

14 March 2007

It is reported that on the date in question suspected MDC youths petrol-bombed Nehanda Police Station in Gweru. In the attack it is alleged that two petrol bombs and tear-smoke were thrown at Nehanda Police Station.

16 March 2007

On the date in question, a WOZA member in Gweru was reportedly picked up by police and taken to Gweru Central Police Station where she was interrogated for several hours - police insisting that WOZA started the current state of emergency with their demonstration in Gweru on 5 March. The police reportedly searched her house for fertilizer and petrol and confiscated her radio. The police had earlier assaulted her on 5 March and they threatened that they would make sure that she would relocate from Gweru.

MATABELELAND NORTH***Lupane***

23 March 2007

It is alleged that Vumani Ndlovu, a programmes officer with a Bulawayo NGO, Bulawayo Agenda and 5 others were arrested by members of the Zimbabwe Republic Police for holding a Focus Group Discussion in Jotsholo Lupane, which the police argued, was a political gathering.

MATABELELAND SOUTH***Plumtree***

3 March 2007

It is alleged that Bright Chibvuri, News Editor of the *The Worker* (the newspaper edition of the ZCTU), was arrested by the ZRP on the day in question in Plumtree while attending a ZCTU District orientation workshop. He was charged with contravening sections of AIPPA. The ZCTU had organized orientation workshops for its 34 districts countrywide to take place on March 3.

	MAIN EVENTS 2007
January	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • State security agents allegedly go on a rampage assaulting, torturing and shooting at illegal diamond miners near Marange in Manicaland. • The ZRP anti - riot squad violently disrupts a demonstration of close to 500 NCA members. • 8 Christian Alliance members are arrested and harrassed by members of the ZRP on the launch of the Christian Alliance Kadoma Chapter. • Arnold Tsunga (Director of Zimbabwe Lawyers for Human Rights and Acting Secretary of the Law Society of Zimbabwe) is arrested and interrogated by CIO operatives at the Harare International Airport on his return from the World Social Forum in Kenya.
February	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Police impose a ban on “political gatherings” • Students, WOZA, NCA and the MDC hold a number of demonstrations separately against tertiary fee hikes, for “love” and against violence; for a new Constitution and for elections to be held in 2008 rather than 2010 respectively • Raymond Majongwe and other PTUZ leaders are arrested as teachers protest against their low salaries. • Police are allegedly assaulted at Ximex Mall in Harare by suspected MDC supporters and Municipal police officers are assaulted by angry vendors. • St Mary’s (Harare) widows and elderly women are assaulted by the police as they demonstrate against high rentals and high water bills. • The MDC attempts to hold a star rally in Highfield at Zimbabwe Grounds on 18 February 2007 but the rally is dispersed by police.

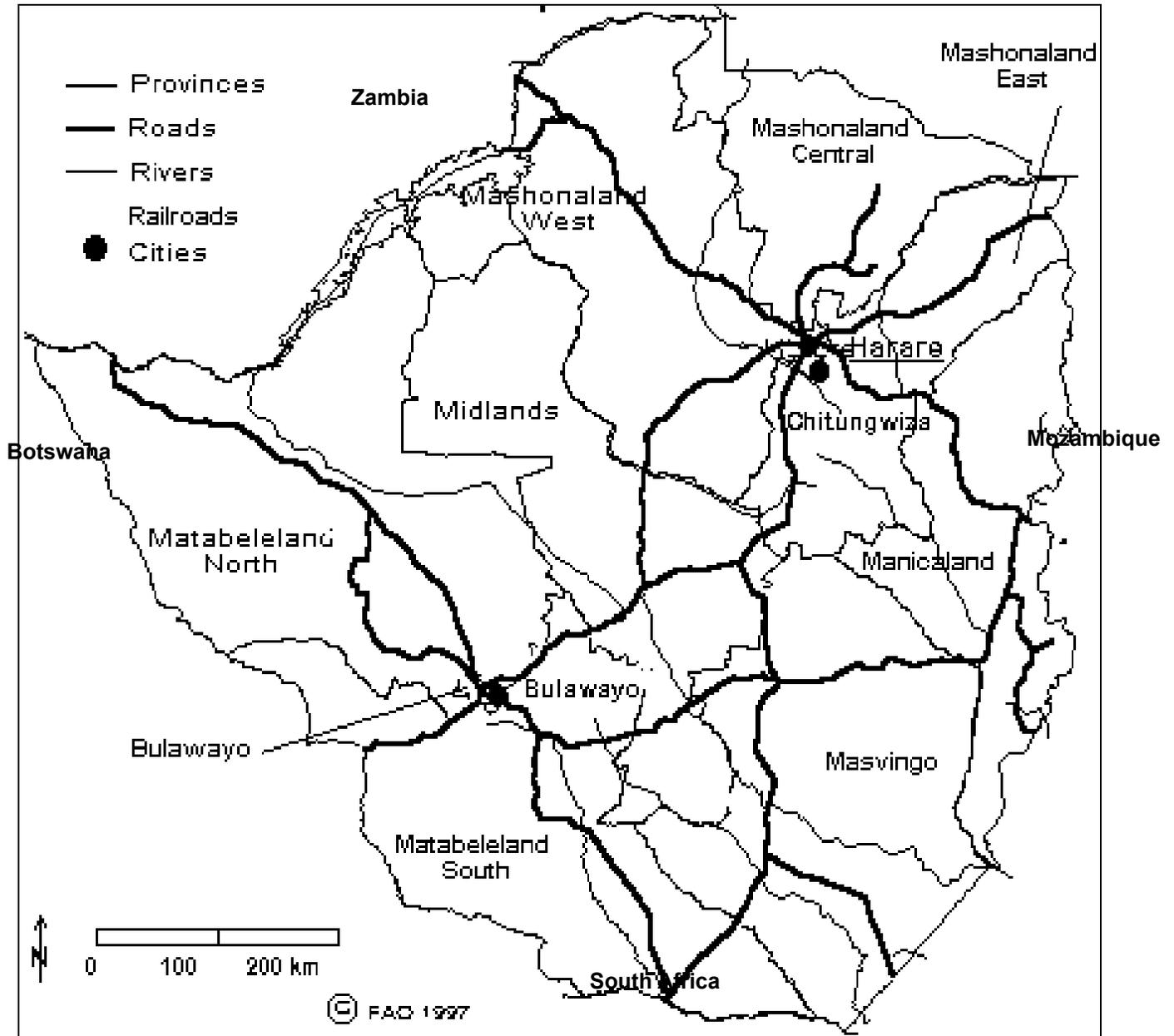
March	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Save Zimbabwe Campaign attempts to hold a prayer meeting on 11 March in Highfield. The meeting is thwarted by the riot police who use brute force on civic leaders and others who intended to participate.• Gift Tandare dies after being shot by the police on 11 March at the aborted prayer meeting in Highfield• Following the violence on 11 March, widespread assaults and abductions ensue mainly perpetrated against human rights defenders, MDC supporters and leadership, reportedly by state security agents.• Officers from the CID raid ZCTU offices on 13 March ahead of a planned stay away.• Nelson Chamisa, MDC MP for Kuwadzana, is severely assaulted at the Harare International Airport on his way to attend a meeting of the ACP – EU in Brussels• A memorial service for Gift Tandare is held on 27 March in Borrowdale.• Last Maengahama, Deputy Secretary for Local Government in the Tsvangirai led faction of the MDC, is abducted in Borrowdale and dumped in Mutorashanga by suspected state agents after attending a memorial service for Gift Tandare on 27 March.• Police cordon off much of the central business district of Harare as they conduct a raid at the MDC headquarters on 28 March. 80 people, including senior MDC officials, are arrested during the raid.
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The table below and the graphs on page 4 above depict the number of violations committed on the persons whose circumstances are described in the report. One individual may have been subjected to many violations and thus appear under several categories of violations.

Monthly totals of human rights violations from 1 January 2007 to 31 December 2007

	Jan	Feb	March	Total
Abduction/ kidnapping	0	0	8	8
Assault	45	183	128	356
Attempted murder	0	0	0	0
Death threats	0	2	1	3
Disappearance	0	0	0	0
Displacement	0	0	0	0
Freedom of expr/ass/mvt	553	294	597	1444
Murder	1	0	1	2
Political Discrim/ intim/vict	1	294	597	892
Property related	0	0	3	3
Rape	0	0	0	0
School closure	0	0	0	0
Torture	4	82	168	254
Unlawful arrest	16	278	203	497
Unlawful detention	16	278	203	497

ADMINISTRATIVE MAP OF ZIMBABWE



The **Zimbabwe Human Rights NGO Forum** (also known as the “Human Rights Forum”) is a coalition comprising 17 member organisations. It has been in existence since January 1998 when non-Governmental organisations working in the field of human rights joined together to provide legal and psychosocial assistance to the victims of the Food Riots of January 1998.

The Human Rights Forum has now expanded its objectives to assist victims of organised violence, using the following definition:

“Organised violence” means the inter-human infliction of significant avoidable pain and suffering by an organised group according to a declared or implied strategy and/or system of ideas and attitudes. It comprises any violent action, which is unacceptable by general human standards, and relates to the victims’ mental and physical well-being.”

The Human Rights Forum operates a Research and Documentation Unit and offers legal services to assist victims of organised violence and torture claim compensation from perpetrators through its Public Interest Unit.

Member organisations of the Human Rights Forum are:

- 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)
- Media Institute of Southern Africa (MISA)
- Media Monitoring Project of Zimbabwe (MMPZ)
- Nonviolent Action and Strategies for Social Change (NOVASC)
- Transparency International (Zimbabwe) (TI (Z))
- Women of Zimbabwe Arise (WOZA)
- 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)

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

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