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LAND, RETRIBUTION AND ELECTIONS

**Post Election Violence on Zimbabwe's
remaining farms 2008**

**Report prepared by the Justice for Agriculture
Trust [JAG] & the Research and Advocacy Unit**

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1. Introduction

On March 29, 2008 the Zimbabwean people voted ZANU PF out of power. Today, for the first time in its 28-year rule, ZANU PF no longer has a parliamentary majority despite a concerted election campaign of vote-buying, electoral roll tampering, voter intimidation and general use of brute force. At the time of writing this report, a full month after the harmonised elections, the results of the presidential election have only just been released and the illegal recounting of several House of Assembly constituencies has brought ZANU PF no relief.

The last time ZANU PF officially lost a national vote was in 2000, when the people voted 'no' in a referendum for a constitution which amongst other things would have extended the executive powers of the President. Within a few days of

that referendum defeat the first of the now infamous commercial farm invasions had begun, and these soon turned into a massive and systematic nation-wide campaign to intimidate a sizeable but vulnerable section of the population into support for the ruling party. All this is described in some detail in the JAG and GAPWUZ report “Destruction of Zimbabwe’s Backbone Industry in Pursuit of Political Power” to which this report should be considered an addendum.

It should come then as no surprise that the immediate aftermath of ZANU PF’s 2008 election defeat should include drastic consequences for the few remaining commercial farmers and their workers. Having maintained a slow erosion of the remaining commercial farms for the last few years, the Government of Zimbabwe has once again heightened its assault on these, its least wanted of citizens. The scale of this recent backlash has remained hidden from view until now. It is the aim of this report to make the current surge in invasions and human rights violations on the farms visible for what it is: violent, widespread and systematic. At least one-third of the remaining commercial farmers have reported major disturbances in the last three weeks.

There have already been several reports in the local and international media highlighting this surge in farm invasions. However, what these reports do not make clear is the large scale of these invasions. This is not an isolated series of populist uprisings, but a co-ordinated and centrally planned push by the Government to remove the country’s last few white farmers, to bully their workers into support for Mugabe ahead of the presidential election run-off, and to further extend the system of political patronage where farms are confiscated from farmers and given to the party faithful in exchange for continued support. The continued holding of the land is entirely dependent on continued support of the party.¹

It must be firmly stressed that the methods used in the current political exploitation of the land issue, namely the violence towards white and black commercial farmers and their work forces as well as the political “re-education”, mass psychological torture, *pungwes*, human rights violations and so on, are a continuation of what has been happening on Zimbabwe’s commercial farms over the last 8 years. These tactics are well known to Zimbabwe’s farmers and their workers. In the study that led to the joint JAG/GAPWUZ report “The Destruction of Zimbabwe’s Backbone Industry in Pursuit of Political Power” almost half the survey sample of farmers report a clinically significant level of trauma. Anecdotal evidence also points to a high frequency of trauma-related health problems in the farming population.

It is also important to stress that the white commercial farmers are only one part of this victim group. The focus by the international media on the white farmers has created a useful smokescreen for Mugabe behind which gross human rights

¹ The Government offer letter to new farmers explicitly states that the offer can be withdrawn at any time. This state of uncertainty binds the new farmer into an uncompromising fealty to the government, as he or she has no legal recourse should the offer be withdrawn.

violations can be perpetrated against a population of some 1.5 million farm workers and family members. This population represents what might be termed the 'swing' vote between the traditional MDC strongholds in urban areas and the ZANU PF strongholds in the rural areas. There is also a small contingent of black commercial farmers whose refusal to buy in to ZANU PF patronage systems has resulted in their being ostracised, intimidated, and in several cases, severely assaulted. In the ZANU PF rule book, to be a "sell-out" is as bad a crime as being a white farmer.

A few days after the harmonised elections, reports began to trickle in of an escalation in war veteran, youth militia and apparent military activities on commercial farms. These violations included the usual litany of crimes against this section of Zimbabwe's population: the barricading of farmers into their homestead, assaults and abductions, arson and torture, political re-education and voter intimidation, etc. The outcome of the elections led directly to ZANU PF unleashing its complete arsenal on the electorate.

It must be noted that compiling this report was complicated by the reluctance of farmers and their workers to be identified, a reluctance due to the very real probability of violent reprisal attacks. For this reason, the majority of people referred to here have been given an anonymous code. However the authors of the report are in possession of informants' real names.

2. Post-Election Violations

It is estimated that there were between 3800 and 4500 white Commercial Farmers in 1999. At the time of the 2008 election it is estimated² there were just over 400 farmers remaining in operation, the majority of them on a vastly reduced hectareage as they cohabited on their farms with war veterans or other new settlers. This figure of 400 also includes white farmers who have made arrangements to lease unutilised land from title-holding black commercial farmers. It further includes farmers who are farming the expropriated but unused land of evicted commercial farmers, with or without their permission.

Since the election there have been reports of an extensive escalation in disturbances and violent activities being perpetrated against both commercial farmers and their work forces. These reports have been collated from the following sources: The Commercial Farmer's Union of Zimbabwe (CFU), the Justice for Agriculture Trust (JAG), the Southern African Commercial Farmers' Alliance (SACFA) and the General Agricultural and Plantation Workers Union of Zimbabwe (GAPWUZ). Other sources were contacted who had considerable information on post election farm related violence, but unfortunately this data arrived too late for collation.

² By JAG. In January 2008 the CFU reported a membership of just over 180, but it is unlikely that this represents the totality of farmers still on the land.

2.1 The Commercial Farmers Union of Zimbabwe

The Commercial Farmers Union of Zimbabwe (CFU) represents a complete cross section of farmers whether black or white, operational or not. Raw data received from them was analysed and summarised below.

2.1.1 Quantitative

The reports received, contrary to widespread understanding of the recent invasions, do not all emanate from the Masvingo province. The Mashonaland Provinces have been the hardest hit, but there are reports of invasions throughout the country. Table 1 shows all reports received of invasions subsequent to 29 March 2008.

<i>Province</i>	<i>Total</i>
Manicaland	20
Mash Central	28
Mash East	39
Mash West	28
Masvingo	19
Matebeleland	3
Midlands	5
Grand Total	142

Table 1

There have also been some districts particularly badly affected as illustrated by Table 2.

<i>District</i>	<i>Total incidents recorded</i>
Enterprise	4
Mwenezi	4
Kwekwe	5
Karoi	7
Marondera	7
Chinhoyi	9
Macheke	11
Masvingo	11
Beatrice	14
Chipinge	14
Centenary	19

Table 2

In total, CFU statistics record 34 evictions, 3 trashings, 12 assaults, 14 serious thefts, 21 warnings of imminent jambanja³-style violations, and 124 jambanja incidents. The number of farm labourers who have been assaulted is difficult to ascertain but is likely to be vast. For further information on workers see the GAPWUZ data below and for some first-hand accounts of assaults on farms see the section under JAG.

These violation counts have been broken down into provinces as shown in Table 3:

Region	Evicted	Trashed	Assault	Theft	Prior Warning	Jambanja
Manicaland	0	0	2	0	7	13
Mash Central	21	1	2	9	2	27
Mash East	1	0	2	1	5	35
Mash West	10	2	4	3	3	26
Masvingo	2	0	2	1	4	15
Matebeleland	0	0	0	0	0	3
Midlands	0	0	0	0	0	5
Grand Total	34	3	12	14	21	124

Table 3

When the dates of the first reports of incidents are plotted against the different incidents reported we get a clear picture of when the violence peaked (see Figure 1). It should be noted that this graph refers to the *first* report of incidents so subsequent incidents have not been indicated. However considering this graph against the quantitative data below will confirm that an initial violent surge against commercial farmers has subsequently subsided somewhat. Once again it should be emphasised that this data does not refer to farm workers, and it should be assumed that this vulnerable population continues to meet with violent retributive action.

³ Here as elsewhere the term 'jambanja' is used to refer to the invasion of the farm by a violent and aggressive mob in order to intimidate and frighten the farmer and the workers.

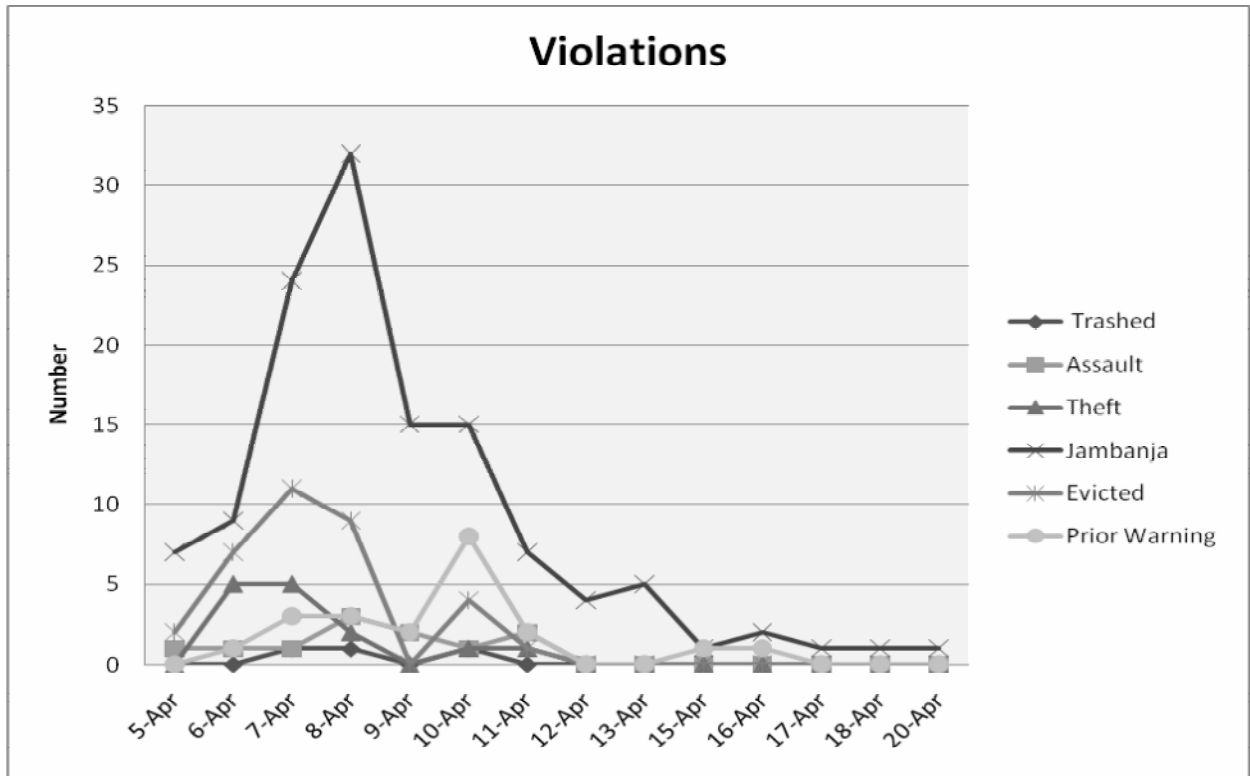


Figure 1

2.1.2 Qualitative

Information received from farmers shows the kind of pressure they have been under for the last 4 weeks.

National

On 5 April, within a week of the harmonised elections, invasions began across the country. Figure 3 makes this surge in activity quite clear.

By 9 April a list had been circulated by Zimbabwe activists giving names of senior Army personnel who were responsible for political activities and ensuring the President's re-election in each district. An analysis of this was done and showed that all the leaders of each group had been allocated farms in those specific areas under the land reform programme. See below under 2.2 JAG for an example of evidence which corroborates the plausibility of this list of responsible army commanders.

By 10 April the activities against the farmers seemed to have progressed to the use of telephones to make direct threats against farmers.

More and more cases of farm workers being taken for alleged political re-education meetings were being reported. This would appear to be preparation for the run-off Presidential election. Further cases of political beatings and

burning of huts on commercial farms and in communal and resettlement areas were picked up.

By 11 April reports had come in from all over the country of political assaults, burning of huts and political indoctrination. Individual and sometimes groups of people were being used to force people to vote “the right way” in the presidential election run-off.

It was also reported that some farming and rural areas, like District F, were declared “no go areas” with roadblocks preventing people from entering or leaving.

It was reported on 14 April that ZUPCO buses were being used to bring the hostile crowds onto the farms and the Police were using the very same buses when removing them. This is obviously highly irregular on the part of the Police.

By 16 April increasing political violence was reported with the majority of threats and beatings in the areas where the ruling party lost support in the elections.

By 21 April throughout the country there had been reports of compulsory all night “pungwes” being held, which both farm workers and settlers were being forced to attend. During these pungwes the unwilling participants were threatened that they had to vote for the ruling party and president or there would be civil war. In many cases suspected MDC supporters were savagely beaten in front of the crowd.

Farm workers were also discouraged from continuing to work for white farmers. Racial hatred and possible violence was being incited against the remaining white farming communities through the threats that former white farmers wished to take back their farms and would then drive the settlers off.

The following is a provincial summary on a case-by-case basis of the invasions occurring after the elections.

Provincial Breakdown

Mashonaland Central

District A

By 8 April in District A the Police were not assisting at all and information received points to a military type JOC being in operation at the A Police Station which was apparently controlling where the groups should go to next and what they should do.

Further to this the groups usually arrived at the farms on foot and were fairly quiet. However, once their “boss” arrived the terror campaign against the farmer

would begin. The “Bosses” are usually reported to be either senior war veterans loyal to the ruling party or members of the CIO.

On 17 April a few farmers in the A district were approached to provide food and donations for the Independence celebrations. Obviously after the recent problems farmers were very reluctant. Only one out of the known 4 who were approached gave something. Normally only the political hierarchy benefit from these donations at the celebrations, but it was said that if farmer did donate the donation would be shared amongst the staff on that particular property. The day was said to be celebrated as a ‘farm workers celebration’.

The politicians were reported as saying that in one half of the A district no farmers would be allowed to continue farming after they had harvested their crops. In the other half of the district there are about 15 farmers left and it is said that only 5 of them would be allowed to remain.

By 22 April some of the evicted farmers in A district had moved back, but there was an uneasy tension particularly noticeable in the farm labour. Most of the farmers who returned were only staying one or two nights at a time as they did not want to antagonize the hostile political activist groups. Clearly, the owners/managers were chased off so the labour and settlers on the farms could be dealt with in their absence. Everything has to do with politics, the election and nothing is being said about production of essential crops etc.

- On 7 April Farm A1 was invaded by about 50 unknown people who remained quiet until leaders arrived in a vehicle, whereupon they became violent and aggressive. The farmer and his family were given four hours to leave the property which they did. A senior foreman was assaulted and the owner was told he would not be welcome on his property. The police refused to take this report, or to transfer the telephone calls to a senior officer. Farmer A1 also tried to report the matter at a police station in Harare, but the police refused to accept the report.
- On 6 April Farm A2 was invaded by a crowd of people who came to Farmer A2's gate and demanded his keys. Police were called on several occasions but never came. Farmer A2 was severely threatened so he evacuated the farm with his young children. An invader has moved into his house and has access to the gun safe, but the police continue to refuse to take reports. This invader has slaughtered a pedigree bull. On 10 April the farm was looted and tobacco, fertiliser, diesel, etc. were stolen.
- Farmer A3 was invaded on 6 April by an unruly mob who moved into his house with him until he evacuated the property. The Police refused to take reports. Support Unit eventually came and removed some of the invaders but left a small group there.
- A crowd arrived at Farm A4 at 6pm on Sunday 6 April evening and sang and shouted political slogans from the veranda of the homestead. Farmer

A4 remained in hiding inside his house for 24 hours. Police were informed but refused to act.

- Farm A5 was invaded on 7 April but the farmer was away at the time.
- Farmer A6 left the farm when he was informed that a crowd was on their way to intimidate him on 7 April. On 12 April his manager went back to the farm and saw that a fire had been lit in the lounge and that the hostile group had slaughtered some sheep and pigs which they had eaten.
- On 6 April, Farmer A7's tractors were commandeered to transport people around the district, and the group of invaders then moved inside his security fence. A beast was slaughtered and eaten by the invaders. The next day, Farmer A7 left the property when he heard a crowd was on its way. They arrived at about 11am. He spoke to Sergeant F to seek assistance but was informed that the police were unable to respond because the matter was political. Although the sergeant is normally in charge of the station an unknown senior officer was seen to be in attendance. On 14 April Farmer A7 returned home but a group of 4 people had remained to harass him to leave the farm for good. When he tried to leave there was a newly-cut tree in the road, which blocked his exit. He then went out by another route but had to skirt another tree that had been chopped to block his path. He drove out through the bush and reported the matter to the Police who promised to react.
- Farm A8 was taken over but Farmer A8 was on holiday outside the country so no details are available.
- Black Commercial Farmer A9 was informed that he was next in the line to be harassed.
- On 7 April Farmer A10 moved off the farm following severe pressure. The crowd were inside the house and were handling the young baby whilst the family were packing. The mother was distraught.
- Farmer A11 is away at the moment but an angry crowd of about 60 people came to the farm demanding he leave for good. They slaughtered a steer to feed themselves.
- Farmer A12 reported that about 60 youths from surrounding farms which have been settled arrived on the property at 5pm on 6 April with 4 war veterans Mr F, Mr G, Mr H and Mr I. The matter was reported to A Police who refused to take a report. He was not on the farm at the time because he had received prior warning of the invasion. The group broke through the security fence and set up camp inside. Although they ordered Farmer A12 to telephone he refused to speak to them. He was given 10 hours to get off the property – the following day he was also given 10 hours to get off. His manager was forced to drive the people around wherever they want to go. It is presently not safe for him to return. Farmer A12 tried to

submit a complaint and report to the Police at Q Police Station in Harare on 11 April but they too refused to accept the report of the incident on the property.

- On 7 April Farmer A13 reports that an angry group who invaded his farm have become very violent and are saying that there will be no more whites left on their farms. They insist that everything on the farms now belongs to them. He was given 1 hour to vacate his home. They were demanding food so he had to buy a steer from a neighbour to feed them otherwise he would not have been allowed to leave safely. The matter was reported to Inspector Y and Superintendent Z of A Police but there was no reaction
- Farmer A14 reports about a crowd of up to 150 people evicted him from the farm on 7 April. The crowd was made up of settlers on surrounding farms. Their main demand was for food so they slaughtered a cow. On 11 April Farmer A14 tried to make reports of the disturbance on his property at X Police Station (in Harare) following the refusal by A Police. They too refused to take the case and referred him to another Harare Police Station. Farmer A14 managed to return to his property on April 12, but had another encounter two days later. Farmer A14 assists small-scale farmers in the district and they came to visit him for consultations on their tobacco crop. Whilst they were there they were joined by a group of 9 youth who immediately insisted that Farmer A14 should vacate his farm. They then undertook an inspection of his tractors and equipment and enquired of him as to why he was not watering his sugar bean crop. There is also pressure developing for farmers to pay the SI 6 retrenchment packages. Coincidentally a Police vehicle drove past so they ran away. When Farmer A14's Wife drove to the police station to report the incident she was taunted along the route by people showing clenched fists.
- On 7 April Farmer A15 was surrounded by an angry crowd who gave him the ultimatum to vacate his property and not to return. He subsequently left with his family.
- Farmer A16 was given 5 hours to vacate his home by an angry crowd. Their leader was Mr LM. Farmer A16 returned to the property tentatively but was warned by the farm labour not to stay otherwise they would be harassed and possibly beaten. None of the hostile group are presently on the farm.
- Black Commercial Farmer A17 took over Farm A17 by legal transfer when the owner, Mr QR left Zimbabwe. He has now been targeted in the latest political purge and his staff have received some severe beatings. Many huts and personal possessions of the staff were burned and looted on 10 April. He has vacated the property.

District B

- Farmer B1 picked up a report that he had brought people to his farm on Sunday to show them where they can live once the settlers have been removed. This is not true because he was in Harare on Sunday. He says that he was informed that he would therefore be evicted. He is presently running a 7ha rose project and has lost some 1400ha to settlers.

District C

- Farmer C1 is away but his partner Mr JK reports that the manager has run away after about 30 people came and took over the farm on 7 April. The matter was reported to the police. Although 10 police did go to the farm on 8 April they were unsuccessful in removing the crowd. Export horticultural crops are now at risk as they need to be reaped at specific intervals.

District D

- On 10 April Farmer D1 was ordered by invaders to vacate her dairy farm. Fortunately the staff were allowed to continue to milk the cows but otherwise there was total confusion. The family were told to get off by one group and another group came and told them to stay. However, once the Officer-in-Charge had returned from leave they were finally allowed to return home.

District E

- At about 5.30pm on 6 April a crowd entered the barn and workshop area but Farmer E1 had prior information of their arrival so he evacuated the property. He telephoned the E Police several times but there was no reaction. They claimed they had no transport. On 7 April Farmer E1 spoke to Inspector UV and the Police arrived on the property with the new ZANU PF MP Mr WX who persuaded the crowd to leave. On 8 April there was a Police reaction but the settlers remained at the gate. Farmer E1 has now returned to the property with the assistance of the Police. Obviously this trend is continuing around the country but as soon as the Police go the youth regroup. All the farmers in E have had problems and continue to experience them.
- Farmer E2 has also moved off and been reinvaded.

District F

- A tense situation on Farmer F1's farm was defused but by 9 April the group had returned. The group came back a third time on 11 April and the Farmer was forcibly evicted once again. This time the group were sent by (Senior Army Officer) Y who is the newly elected (...) for district F.

District G

- Farmer G1 reports that he was evicted by a hostile group of people on 10 April but has subsequently returned.

Mashonaland West Region

District H

By 8 April in District H the unruly groups were returning to harass farmers again shortly after the Police have left. This is therefore stretching the meagre resources which Police are allocating to resolve the problems on the properties.

In District H it is understood that a timetable had been drawn up by 9 April indicating what time each farm would be hit. This timetable was given to the H Police Station but was ignored.

On 16 April in District H farm labour and settlers on farms were called to a meeting which was addressed by Police, Army and party officials.

Their message was that there would be a re-run of the presidential elections and were warned they must vote for the ruling party or else they would lose all the land as the white farmers would be returning and taking back their land. If the ruling party lost they said there would be war.

On 17 April it was reported that in the L area of District H there were two new Army camps and that the soldiers were alleged to be used for political intimidation purposes.

- On 7 April Farmer H1 reports that farm manager Mr RS was approached by a crowd of some 30 unknown people who ordered him to vacate the property. The property produces export flowers and crocodiles. By 8 April the size of the crowd had increased to 50. They then took the farm tractors to carry people around the district. They arrived at 6am and left again at 9am, but later returned and broke the security gate open and destroyed everything. What they could not break they looted. The crowd was seen coming in on foot. Police were called but said they were on their way to H4 Farm. On 10 April it was reported that the crowd returned to harass the farmer. The Police were called and a vehicle was supplied to war veteran Mr W. The entire labour force underwent political re-education lectures. The manager's house was completely looted and Farmer H1 lost about half of what was inside the main homestead. Some rooms in the main house were protected with iron grids. The storerooms were all looted, including the one containing chemicals and medicines for the crocodiles. Police recovered some of the contents of the house but it was seriously damaged and unusable. On 11 April the staff were stopped from working and instructed that should they wish to begin again they should get permission from the chief ZANU PF officer or Mr W. Farmer H1 writes:

It's 10.10pm., Saturday evening, and once again the invaders are running around unruly on our farm. We contacted the H police and once again they cannot assist us. As you are aware we were trashed and looted on Wednesday and a few items of household stuff were recovered. That is all in the house and we fear another looting. Our foremen just called and messaged us in a panic. We sit helpless as to what might be happening

there. Our crocodiles have been severely stressed with them running through the pens on Wednesday and now we fear that the outcome will be should they do it again this. Our flowers too are now at risk.

On 16 April there was a very large meeting held at the nearby S farm attended by Police, Army, party officials, settlers and farm employees. They were told that there would be a re-run of the presidential elections and were warned that they must vote for the ruling party or else lose their land as the white farmers would be returning and taking back their property. They were told that if the ruling party lost there would be another war. The farm workers were traumatized because their options are so limited and they are caught in the middle. If they report for work they are beaten by the party officials and if they do not they forfeit their wages.

On 16 April the people who were arrested for the theft and arson of the homestead were released from Police custody. Although about half of the stolen property was recovered it was damaged beyond repair.

- On 7 April, information was received that a group of invaders would be moving onto Farm H2 which belongs to Farmer H2. The pigsties on the property have been leased out to Company R. Farmer H2 was allowed to stay in his home by the court because it is his only home. War veteran Mr TU was allegedly the main instigator of the disturbance. The trouble only started when he arrived on the property to agitate the group which was waiting there. He had previously been charged and convicted of the theft of engines and pumps worth \$80 million when he received a paltry \$100 000 fine. The group broke in through his security fence. There was a huge demand for his tractors to ferry the groups between the farms. On 8 April the Police did arrive and they arrested 25 of the 30 people who were involved in the unrest.
- Farm H3 was taken over by an unruly group on 8 April. Farmer H3 was not on the property at the time as he was away on business so the picture is unclear. It is believed that the police used the excuse of having no transport to attend and when Farmer H3 offered his own transport they refused saying that they could not be seen in a white owned vehicle. By 9 April the homestead had "been completely flattened down to floor level". Police were collected in Farmer H3's Land Cruiser to follow up the destruction and theft of his property. The Police arrested at least 16 people suspected of being responsible for the arson and theft. Some of his own staff were also arrested. Some of his property was recovered but he suffered a massive loss. The war veteran leader in the area is accused of being in charge of the evictions on 4 properties – namely: Q, H3, H2 and H1. The groups were recruited from settlers on neighbouring properties. On 10 April Farmer H3 reported that he was surrounded by a huge angry group which turned out to be composed of people who had

previously been arrested and charged by the Police for theft and looting on the farm.

- Farmer H4 reported that he was invaded by a group of about 70 people who set up camp in front of his house on 7 April. He has no security fence. They demanded that he leave the property immediately. The Police were called and arrived at 12 noon. They dispersed the crowd, but when they had left the invaders returned and were more aggressive when their “bosses” had arrived. By 16 April Farmer H4 had managed to remain on the property despite the threats and the invaders.
- Farmer H5 reports that on 7 April he was visited by a group of invaders who gave him 24 hours to get off. The H Officer-in-Charge said he would assist if there were problems and that Farmer H5 should stay in his house and avoid confrontation. The H Policeman said their vehicle had gone to assist at H4.
- Farmer H6 sent the following SMS on 9 April:

Got a bunch of singing people outside my gate. Spoke to them and they have given me 12 hours to pack and leave. I have spoken to H Rural [Police] who are looking for a vehicle. They have got through my security gate into my yard but now seem to have gone back outside and are outside the store.

At 4.03pm another one was received from Farmer H6:

Situation defused. Back to normal. Email to follow.

- On 9 April all of the locks on Farm H7 were removed and replaced with new ones by the A2 beneficiary settler. Farmer H7 was therefore unable to feed his pigs, crocodiles, or cattle which are fed in pens. The situation was drastic for those livestock and the Police refused to act because they said it was a “land issue”. On 11 April the ZSPCA were called but the Police at H refused them entry to any of the affected properties. Farmer H7 was given a 3-day ultimatum to respond back in writing to the beneficiary stating what he is prepared to give him. The A2 beneficiary is BC, a very high ranking civil servant.
- Farmer H8 received information that he would be visited by a group on 10 April and by evening a group had collected near the homestead. The next day a group of about 100 arrived at Farm H8 to intimidate the owner. It was diffused by Police but the same mob returned again the next day. The Police again dispersed the mob after Farmer H8 had showed them papers authorizing him to continue farming. On 14 April the large group returned and stated their intention of breaking down the gates and forcing Farmer H8 out of his house. They did not want to talk to him. Police were called. The group wired up the gate to the homestead but Police reacted and arrested the leaders. The crowd then dispersed.

- Farmer H9 was approached on 13 April by a hostile crowd and threatened that he should move off immediately. They said they would take everything. Police intervened and the matter was brought under control.
- On 18 April Farmer H10 reports that the A2 beneficiary's labour had forced all of his cattle out of the paddocks and evicted all of his staff from their homes. Although he had telephoned the Police the previous day there had been no response 24 hours later. The group then broke into his house and removed furniture which they loaded onto his lorry and forced his driver to drive with it into H. The next day the cattle and goats were confined to their respective pens all day without food or water. Although he repeatedly informed the Police their response depended on who he spoke to. Whilst some promised to assist, others said the matter should be resolved by the Ministry of Lands. Propol L even suggested that he remove all his household effects and machinery from the property whereas Superintendent U said he should go back to his farm. A RRB number XXXXXXXX was issued for the case. Although he is being prosecuted for overstay on the property the case is ongoing and is awaiting a decision on interpretations of the law and the protection of the SADC (T) Interim Relief order (see below). The beneficiary is a senior official who has also been accused of harvesting Farmer H10's crops.

District I

- On 8 April the wife of Farmer I1 sent this report:

Yesterday my husband was abducted on Farm I1 by some settlers. They pulled him out the car, put him in the back and drove around with him to different farms gathering people. They then dropped him off and stole his car. After a very stressful four hours the police reacted and found him safe and recovered the vehicle along with the culprits. The police told us that this time they are not going to tolerate this behaviour. We were also visited at 8pm last night by the Ministry of Defence who gave us their number and told us if there were any problems to contact them.

District J

- Farmer J1 reports he was visited by a hostile crowd and threatened he should vacate the property within 24 hours. Whilst the crowd was still there a member of his staff slipped away to the J Police Station to report the matter. A team was sent from K and the crowd was dispersed. When the elderly Farmer J1 later spoke to the Officer-in-Charge he was told that the police could not intervene because it was a "land" matter. However, a more junior officer acted immediately. The Farmer was unable to farm on his property for several years now but was allowed to remain in his home and use a very small area around it. He is leasing some land on a nearby farm from a politician.

District K

- On the night of 7 April an unruly group moved onto Farm K1 and sung and shouted political slogans all night. Police Support Unit came in from J and told the crowd to leave. Once the Police had left the group returned so the Police were called again. This time however, they said they were going to H4, which was some 1 ½ hours drive away. Clearly the Police do not have the capacity to deal with so many incidents properly. On 8 April the second crowd arrived and they spent the night there demanding food, but were not given any. The next morning it was discovered that 6 chickens were missing so an altercation ensued. When the crowd started threatening to beat Farmer K1 he moved aside. Later in the afternoon the Police arrived and defused the situation.
- A group of invaders present on Farm K2 was arrested by the police and locked up in prison.

District L

- On 8 April a crowd of about 35 invaded Farm L1 and surrounded Farmer L1's house at 6am in the morning. Although they were not unruly he was accused of bringing white farmers back to look at farms to return to. He says this is fabricated. The group came from a neighbouring property, L20, which was previously seized and settled. Farmer L1 spoke to the police but received no aid. It appears the local ZANU PF hierarchy was opposed to this particular invasion and they offered to assist the farmer. At 11am war veterans arrived to reinforce the group and gave Farmer L1 a four hour ultimatum to vacate the property. They shouted and rattled the gate to intimidate him. When he told the police they said they would inform the officer-in-charge and await his instructions. However on 10 April the angry crowd increased to about 300 and Farmer L1 was severely assaulted. He called for help over the radio saying the people were about to kill him.
- Farmer L2 reports that he was besieged by about 6 armed army personnel, who tried to forcefully evict him by pouring water into the house.
- Farmer L3 was warned on 8 April that a crowd was on its way to evict him. By 9 April his son had been beaten up, but had survived. They subsequently vacated their property.
- Farmer L4 was barricaded into his house by an angry crowd on 9 April. On 11 April he was visited by an angry crowd of 100 people who gave him 24 hours to vacate. They also informed him that all the farm equipment and crops are now theirs. The police arrived and gave them 1 hour to disperse.

- Farmer L5 is a foreign national protected under their BIPPA. On 10 April he was surrounded by any angry group who said he should leave the farm. He fled on his motorcycle and was stoned whilst making his get-away. He then had an accident but escaped and is now off the property.
- On 10 April Farmer L6 received a tip-off that his property was to be invaded but nothing has happened yet.
- Farmer L7 is leasing a property from a black farm owner and is currently experiencing problems with invaders.

District M

- Farmers M1, M2 and M3 were all visited on 8 or 9 April by groups of people who stopped them from farming and demanded that they vacate the property. The Police reacted in all instances and instructed that work continue. However due to the uncertain situation all three farms have been temporarily vacated.

District N

- A crowd of 12 people tried to evict Farmer N1 on 9 April.
- On 11 April about 12 people arrived at the N2 farm office at 17.45 hours in the evening. They called the Farm Manager to meet a hostile crowd of some 40 people. The main spokesperson introduced himself as the A1 farmer's Association Chairman. The Farm Manager tried to defend himself by saying he was not the owner and that the owner was away. However, they insisted that he left the property. The N2 Farm Manager left the property. On 12 April he reported the matter to Inspector D at N Police Station and was given RRB No. XXXXXXXX. He went back to the farm with two Police officers. Although the situation on the farm was quiet when they arrived, they were told that three of the group had returned to stop the crop foreman from irrigating. The Police countered this order and drove to where the 3 people lived and took them for questioning.

District O

- Farmer O1 called the O Police when a crowd came to his farm on 7 April. The Police responded quickly and dealt efficiently with the problem. The main instigator of this and other problems was Mr A who is in charge of CIO in the district based at O HQ. A's second in command is reported to be doing the opposite and discouraging people from looting and trashing the farms. By 12 April Farmer O1 had returned to his farm.

Mashonaland East Region

District P

- Farmers P1 and P2 received information that an angry crowd would visit their farms on 10 April. No further details are presently available.

- On 9 April Farmer P3 was visited by an angry crowd who insisted that he left his farm. The crowd only dispersed following Police intervention. No more details presently available.
- On 8 April Farmers P4, P5, and P6 were visited by angry crowds who insisted that they leave their farm. These crowds only dispersed following Police intervention. No more details presently available.
- On 11 April Farmer P7 was approached by an angry group and given 24 hours to get off his farm.

District Q

- A crowd of about 800 people arrived at Farm Q1 on 7 April in an attempt to evict Farmer Q1 from the property. This invasion occurred apparently as a riposte to a purported visit to the farm by a fleet of white vehicles that were “bristling with guns”. This incident probably referred to a social visit by a diplomatic mission’s staff who certainly were not “bristling with guns”. The matter was reported to the Police who promised to react, but the crowd subsequently dispersed.
- Farmer Q2 was threatened with eviction by a crowd of some 30 unknown people on 7 April. The Police arrived with heavily armed Support Unit details who remained on the property although the crowd moved off.
- On 7 April Farmer Q3 reported that a crowd was there harassing him but they have since moved off.
- On 8 April Farmer Q4 was warned that he is next in line to be visited by the crowd to evict him. The next day Farmer Q4 was visited by an angry crowd who insisted that he leave his farm. They only dispersed following Police intervention. No more details presently available.
- On 9 April Farmers Q5, Q6, Q7, Q8, Q9 and Q10 were visited by angry crowds who insisted that they leave their farms. The crowds only dispersed following Police intervention. No more details presently available.
- Farmer Q11 received information that an angry group would visit his farm on 9 April. No more details are presently available.

District R

- At about 8am on 7 April an angry group cut through the homestead security fence and tried to evict Farmer R1 from his home. The Police were telephoned but claimed they had no transport. They were therefore transported to the farm by a neighbour and the situation was stabilized and the group left. The group returned at night and gave Farmer R1 a few hours to leave. Fortunately the Police Support Unit came in from W. They stayed until 2am.

- On 8 April there was interference with operations on Farm R2 by a group carrying a shotgun. Farmer R2 was prevented from milking his dairy cows which is extremely dangerous and often fatal in high producing animals. Negotiations were carried out behind the scenes at high level and by afternoon the cows were allowed to be milked. The next day the angry group remained on the property and although he was allowed to milk his cows he was forbidden to send his milk to town – worth \$250 billion. On 10 April the angry group continued to prevent vehicles from coming onto the property but allowed some of the milk to be sent out. A further report received in the evening says that the farmer was once again stopped from milking his cows. The Police were called but it is not known how they reacted.
- On 8 April Farmer R3 had several officers from the President's Office arrive in a Kombi- type vehicle, registration number XXX0000, and they instructed him to leave his property. They said they would be back later to check. The next day he was visited by 4 people who also ordered him to vacate the property.
- On 8 April Farmer R4 reported that there was an angry group of 7 people camped at his gate. He was barricaded in his home for 5 hours. The Police finally intervened.
- On 9 April Farmer R5 was visited by a group who ordered him off the property. The group moved off to the next farm.
- Farmer R6 was approached by a group on 9 April who demanded he left. He called the Police who assisted. He is a dairy farmer.
- Farmer R7 was visited by a group and ordered to vacate his farm. Although it was peaceful the farmer and his family locked themselves inside their house and the dairy carried on. The Police came to diffuse the situation and the group left.
- On 8 April Farmer R8 and his family was barricaded in by a group of 12 people and they were ordered to leave the farm. They were initially locked in by invaders who took away the gate keys. The next day the Police came to resolve the problems and Farmer R8 and his family were released. Later in the day all the invaders were picked up and taken off in a lorry.
- On 7 April Farmer R9 was harassed and threatened by a group of 14 led by war veteran C who was recently evicted from a house he occupied on the farm. C is also under investigation and prosecution for stock theft. The Police arrived and he left. The next day there was a further visit by 60 to 80 people but after the Police instructed them not to interfere with farm operations they remained peaceful. Most of them dispersed and left a few to observe.

- On 7 April an elderly couple Farmer R10 and his wife were assaulted. They were held hostage and their hand-held radio was taken from them so they had no communications. They were released and sought refuge in Harare. They then returned after Police intervened and recovered their stolen radio. They were ordered to vacate the property by the end of the month.
- Farmer R11 who is 80 years old was ordered to leave his home on 8 April so he travelled into Harare. However he later returned to recover a stolen radio which the group had taken from him. A small group of hostile people actually moved in with him and constantly harassed him for two days. Although he is a pensioner they proceeded to eat and drink his entire stock of food in the house. Fortunately the community has come to his assistance and took him food every day. By 21 April Farmer R11 had been forced to sell his life's possessions to D who is trying to force the takeover of the property. He was forced to sign an agreement of sale for 52 dairy cows, three vehicles, a tractor and assorted equipment, etc. The agreed payment came to just over \$100 000 000 000 which is only a fraction of the true value. The matter is viewed as extortion and criminal and was handed over to his legal advisors. Furthermore, D has also taken the keys to the gun safe and has also taken the family's passports which he says he has handed to a foreign Embassy with an application for a visa so they may leave Zimbabwe altogether. D seems to have some sort of special authority to be able to 'walk around' the embassy in the manner which he did. The old man is very fearful of his safety as he was previously assaulted and intimidated by D. No acquisition order has ever been issued against the small property.
- Farmer R12 was visited on 9 April by an angry group who insisted that he left his farm. They only dispersed following Police intervention. No more details presently available. He should be protected by the Interim Relief recently granted by the SADC Tribunal in Windhoek, Namibia (see below for further information on the SADC Tribunal).
- On 8 April Farmer R13 was visited by a group of invaders and ordered to leave the property.
- A group of about 30 hostile people led by war veteran C visited farm R14 on 8 April. They spoke to the foreman G who explained that Farmer R14 was away. G insisted that if there were any instructions he could only take them from Farmer R14. Therefore, any instructions from the invaders should be put in writing so that they could be relayed to Farmer R14. However C refused to do this. The invaders then left after about an hour.

District S

- Farmer S1 is believed to have experienced problems on 9 April but there was no feedback. Police diffused the situation.

- Farmer S2 was attacked by a group of 20 to 30 hostile people who barricaded him inside his house on 12 April. They broke the security gates and went into the yard and spent the whole night shouting insults and threats at the terrified family. They kept banging on the doors and windows and broke a security light. They threatened to throw petrol bombs into the house if the family did not come out. The Police came at about 4am and the situation was resolved.
- On 13 April Farmer S3 was approached by a hostile group of people, one of which was armed with an AK-47 assault rifle and another with a 303 rifle. They insisted that he vacated the property immediately. He reported the matter to the Police who reacted and removed the people involved.

District T

- The Officer-in-Charge of E Police Station Inspector F informed Farmer T1 that a meeting was held on 7 April and it was decided his farm was to be invaded. He did however promise assistance when it did occur on 10 April. A group of about 30 people invaded the property but the Police quickly dispersed them.
- On 11 April Farmer T2 was approached by a group of hostile people who tried to force him off the property. The matter was reported to the Police who reacted swiftly and dispersed the crowd. Several of the farm workers were assaulted. On 12 April the Police investigated the assaults against the farm labour and some arrests were made. The Police have already prosecuted the suspects.
- Farmer T3 was approached by any angry group who tried to convince him to move off the property on 11 April. He notified the Police who arrived quickly and resolved the situation. On 12 April the Police investigated assaults against the farm labour and some arrests were made. Police have already prosecuted the suspects.
- Farmer T4 runs a race horse stud on the remaining 20ha of the 250ha farm. A group of 4 people arrived in a green 4 x 4 and demanded to meet her. They did not get out of their vehicle and spoke from a distance out of fear of her two dogs which accompanied her. They said she should be off the property with five days. The matter was reported to the Police.

Manicaland Region

District U

- Farmer U1 reports that on 17 April she was visited by a political delegation and ordered to send all her staff to a meeting at the local school, using her tractors and trailers. She was also ordered to attend but she declined as she has two young children. When the matter was reported to the Police

the Officer-in-Charge was not there but a report was made. The Police said they knew nothing about the meeting.

District V

- Farmer V1 was approached by an aggressive group on 7 April and given 2 hours to vacate his farm. He called the Police who reacted promptly and aggressively and chased the group away.
- On 7 April a meeting was held nearby to Farm V2 entice a group to attack Farmer V2's property but they could not secure sufficient support so it was abandoned.
- On 10 April Farmer V3 was approached by a group of 30 people who told him that it was time for him to go. However, about 90 settlers who had been sent from a neighbouring farm came to help when they were reminded of the assistance that Farmer V3 continues to give them. The invading group were persuaded to leave V3 alone and this was reinforced by the Police who promptly arrested the group. They were given spot fines of \$40 million each for disturbing the peace.

District W

In District W a total of 450 people had been displaced by 14 April and many were reported beaten as part of an alleged political campaign. This was severely disruptive of essential food production in the area, especially the feeding and milking of dairy herds.

- On 9 April Farmer W1 was informed that some 30 people wearing ZANU PF shirts were seen singing outside his yard. Some roadblocks made from tree branches had been placed on the roads. They were saying that everything on that piece of land now belongs to the state and that they would soon appoint someone to look after the livestock which is theirs. There was nobody in attendance to listen to them. Since then Farmer W1 has received 4 telephone calls from a person who calls himself "The Son of the Soil", who is demanding that Farmer W1 returns immediately to the farm to "face the music". On 13 April Farmer W1 flew over the property and reported that things appear to be normal. However he received warning from his staff not to come back to the property until they resolved matters on the ground. On 16 April the manager, the head of security and cook were detained by a group of about 30 people and were severely assaulted for 12 hours before being released. Turkeys and sheep were killed and eaten by the group. It is reported that the group was extremely annoyed by the fact that Farmer W1 had flown over the farm on 13 April. Further reports from Farm W1 say that hundreds of people have been severely beaten to ensure they vote "correctly" the next time.
- On 10 April elderly Farmer W2 was taken from his house by an angry group and all four tyres on his vehicle were slashed. Telecommunications

were extremely difficult but a team of Police and farmers eventually located him by early evening and he appeared to be alright. On investigation it was discovered that he had been abducted from his vehicle when he got out to remove a tree from the road which the attackers had purposely felled to lure him there. When he realised it was a trap he tried to reverse away but he damaged the vehicle. Upon arriving at his farmhouse he was unable to open the vehicle's door so he remained trapped inside and surrounded by the crowd. He was pulled out and handcuffed. He was led away and almost strangled with a cable around his neck. He was verbally and physically abused with threats of knocking nails into his head. When he was released he was given 24 hours to leave the farm.

- On 10 April Farmer W3 was called to the property which he is leasing to negotiate with an unruly group of invaders. He was given 24 hours to vacate the property but the Police intervened.
- On 12 April large crowds gathered at farms W4 and W5 to give the farmers notice that they should vacate their properties within 24 hours. When they reported the incidents the Police arrived very quickly and together with the District Administrator quickly diffused the volatile situation.
- On 9 April a large crowd gathered at Farm W6. They spend the night singing and chanting around the farmer's house. In addition to demands that he vacate his farm they insisted that they all be fed. Once this was agreed the group moved away from the house to the sheds. The Police reacted well and the District Administrator expressed dissatisfaction with the situation.
- On 10 April Farmers W7 and W8 both received letters saying that they should vacate their properties within 24 hours. This was soon followed by threats against them. The Police reacted well and the District Administrator expressed dissatisfaction with the situation.
- On 10 April Farmer W9 was telephoned and threatened that if he did not get off his property there would be problems. The Police have been reacting well and the District Administrator is not happy with the situation.
- Farmer W10 was visited by a hostile group on 9 April so he reported the matter to the Police. However, when the Police arrived the leaders said he had insulted the President so he was arrested and taken away to W Police cells. The group then proceeded to re-peg plots on the farms
- The manager of Farm W11, Farmer W12 and Farmer W13 all report that large crowds gathered on their properties on 13 April to give them notice to vacate their farms within 24 hours. When they reported the incidents

the Police arrived very quickly and together with the District Administrator quickly diffused the volatile situation.

District X

- On 9 April Farmer X1 received information that an angry group would visit his farm during the day. The Police drove to the farm to warn him and to say that they would not tolerate such behaviour. He was encouraged to carry on farming.
- Farmer X2 reports that settler H has taken advantage of the post election confusion and is busy ploughing all over the small farm and therefore severely disrupting production.

Matabeleland Region

District Y

- Farmer Y1 was away on 9 April when his supervisor was approached by a man and a woman driving a Government vehicle. The pair gave the supervisor 24 hours to get off. They have not returned and the supervisor has not moved.
- On 7 April Farmer Y2 was approached by a group of some 25 people and was told to get off because he had supplied the MDC candidates with vehicles for their campaigning. The Police were called and the people were removed.
- On 11 April a group of 30 to 40 people arrived at farm Y3 and gave the Farmer 24 hours to vacate the property. The Police were informed.

Midlands Region

District Z

- Farmer Z1 reported that on 10 April a car with a few allegedly drunken people brought him a letter to say that should he not vacate the property within a few hours there would be trouble. The Police reacted but the people dispersed before hand.
- On 10 April Farmer Z2 received threats of eviction and violence over the telephone. When the Police arrived at the deadline hour, nobody followed up on the call.
- On 10 April Farmer Z3 was approached by a group of youth who taunted him by saying they would be fishing in his storage dam for his irrigation as they now belonged to them. He was also ordered to vacate his home and the property. The Police resolved the confrontation.
- On 10 April a group of 35 people arrived at Farm Z4. They accused Farmer Z4 of bringing whites back to Zimbabwe to repossess the farms.

He told them that anyone who would be willing to farm under the present conditions in the country would be mad. Although they later came back and apologised he will be taking the matter to higher authority.

- On 10 April Farmer Z5 was accused of bringing whites back to the country to take over the farms. He recently had his grand children from South Africa driving around the farm and the vehicles had SA number plates. It seems this is what caused the trouble. The Police have resolved the confrontation and accusations.

Masvingo Province

District AA

Based on information received it would appear that a Mr Q allegedly employed by the Ministry of A is based at the N Hotel and has a huge amount of money which he is allegedly paying the “rent-a –crowd” to harass farmers in AA.

On 21 April the AA Rural District Council openly stated that it is government policy that no whites are allowed to own agricultural land.

- Farmer AA1 was barricaded at his home at 4.30pm on 5 April by a crowd who said they were coming to repossess his farm and the game lodge he operates on the property. They said they were taking possession of his farm, home, cattle, wildlife, equipment and everything. They allowed him and his wife to leave as long as they left the keys behind. He and his wife sought refuge in town. The group then proceeded to the lodge where they took it over and moved in. They helped themselves to the food and liquor. The manager and his wife opted to remain there. The matter was reported to Assistant Inspector R who advised Farmer AA1 just to keep his head down because it would blow over. A ZUPCO bus collected the group on Sunday morning. The team was lead by war veteran V who was involved in the violent takeover of a property next door several years ago. Farmer AA1 went back to the property on 6 April and was approached by two other war veterans W and E who apologised for the incident saying the President was very upset when he heard and said he had nothing to do with it. They requested a list of damages and food and drink consumed by the group so that the farmer could be compensated. The same group went back to Farmer AA1 with the same demands on 10 April. The matter was reported to the Police who promised to respond. Government transport was used for the invaders. Police came and have arrested the group of about 12 people but once they got to town they were released without being charged.
- On 5 April, Farmer AA2 was visited by a crowd who issued the same threats of the forceful acquisition of his home and investments. They left after dark threatening to return the next day to carry out the threats. However they did not return.

- Farm AA3 was visited by a crowd led by war veteran provincial and neighbour DE who was allegedly carrying a pistol. Farmer AA3 was threatened and told that the crowd was repossessing the property, livestock and equipment in its entirety. Coincidentally certain members of the state-controlled press arrived with the mob to record the scene. The farmer and his wife were forced to leave the property and move into town. He has not returned home after the incident.
- Farmer AA4 was approached by an angry crowd on 6 April at 9am who tried to break down the security fence. Fortunately the property is very close to town so the Police reacted quickly and the crowd ran away before any damage was done.
- When the manager of farm AA5 went to the farm on 5 April his vehicle was pelted with rocks by an unruly crowd. Although he escaped uninjured nearly every window in the vehicle was broken. A crowd of about 20 people had taken over the highly productive property. On 7 April a young farm assistant was sent by his employer in a 3-ton lorry to collect chicken litter from farm AA5. On his way back he was stopped by a crowd of about 40 youth who were marching towards the farm armed with sticks, pangas and axes. He was ordered out of the vehicle and told to remove the chicken litter so he could transport the group around the farm to collect the labour working there. He dropped them off at the main buildings and was pulled out of the vehicle and tied up. The group threatened to kill him shouting political rhetoric about ZANU PF and anti-British slogans. A panga was pushed against his throat and he was pushed around quite a bit before being released. They said he had served his purpose so he could go. The youngster was severely shaken and lost the use of one of his arms for about half an hour due to the manner in which he was tied up. The youngster was told that they would also invade his boss's smallholding in U and all other white owned houses. The group then moved onto the farm and intimidated the labour. On 10 April it was reported that the person responsible for the assault on the farm assistant was arrested and charged. However, although the manager returned to the property most of the workers have not reported for work on the farm.
- A relatively small crowd moved onto farm AA6 where the owner was out of the country on business at the time. His father was house-sitting and was assisted by neighbours to move off the property after he was threatened by the crowd. Half the crowd moved back to town overnight and the other half stayed on the farm. A group of 9 unknown people are now resident in the farm compound where they are intimidating and harassing the farm labour. The owner's father has not returned to occupy the homestead.
- Farmer AA7 returned from a business trip in South Africa to find a group of 8 people at his entrance gate to the farm. When he got to the homestead he was approached by a further group who told him they were taking back the farm which included all the livestock, wildlife and equipment. He went

inside and reported the matter to the police. The crowd was singing and shouting political slogans all night and was picked up by the same ZUPCO bus at 6.30am on Sunday morning. On 10 April the same crowd returned in Government transport to harass the farmer. The Police were called and arrested the crowd of about 12 people but they were released in town without being charged.

- On 7 April Farmer AA8 went to check his cattle and found his staff had been abducted. He discovered them in the nearby communal area where they had been forced to undergo political indoctrination. He managed to get them back to work after intervention by the Police. The object of the indoctrination was to persuade workers not to work and to vote “correctly” the next time around.
- Black Commercial farmer AA9 has a lease agreement of the property which was organised through the AA Rural Council and Farmer M. He lives in the abandoned homestead which Farmer M was evicted from. Recently part of the security fence was stolen and neighbouring livestock were pushed into his crops. On 15 April a hostile group of people harassed him the whole night branding him a sell-out because he was working with the whites. The group came from farm X, which is the same base used by the group was harassing Farmer A.Z whose diary is presented below. They have said that he must vacate the homestead where he was residing. He was only able to get to sleep at 4.30 a.m. On 17 April Farmer AA9 was severely beaten by a group of some 80 people. He sustained severe bruising, cuts and some broken ribs. The matter was reported to the Police – RRB number XXXXXX. On 21 April Farmer AA9 was informed that it is only the Rural District Council who can give the authority to occupy the land and he is therefore working towards obtaining a certificate. He was informed that no white people in Zimbabwe are allowed to own agricultural land. However, the owner of the property has never received a single cent of compensation despite an order issued by the Administrative Court several years ago that the government should pay immediately.
- On 20 April the labour on Farm AA10 were intimidated to stop work. This caused serious problems because the farmer needed to reap his citrus crop. He is in possession of a genuine offer letter.

District BB

- Farmer BB1 travelled to a neighbouring property to make a report that he had information that he would be violently evicted. He requested that we record his report with the BB Police immediately because neither his phone nor radio were working. He said he would not leave his property.
- On Farm BB2 an elderly widow fled her isolated home following the continuous pelting of her roof with stones by the settlers on her property.

The whole attitude of the settlers changed after the election and they are concerned they are going to be thrown off the property by the new government. She felt it was unsafe under the present circumstances, but will return later.

- The manager of Farm BB3 reports that a group of rowdy people led by a local war veteran L threatened to take over the property and have insisted that he move off. They attempted to burn the safari camp on 12 April but staff were on hand to douse the flames and no significant damage was done. The Support Unit team are on standby to react to any further threat. Farmer BB3 has previously given some 14 000 acres to resettle the people of BB but war veteran L is reported to be a constant thorn in his side.
- Farmer BB4 reports that a large hostile crowd approached him at the homestead with demands that he vacate the property within 24 hours. The police were called and reacted swiftly from B Police Station with Support Unit.

District CC

- Farmer CC1 was informed that a group was on its way to evict him from this property in the game Conservancy, where he is an influential member. It is not known how this situation ended.

District DD

- Farmer DD1 received threats on 11 April from 3 or 4 people telling him that he must get off the property and that the main group would follow to force him off. He is one of the last few dairy farmers in the country.
- On 11 April Farmer DD2 was instructed to remove all the cattle from the farm in 24 hours, which is impossible. Four of the six windmills which pump essential water were recently stolen. 21 youth were sent from F Farm to intimidate her staff on the property. The matter was reported to the Police who said they had no transport. The manager therefore collected some Police details from the police station on 14 April. They proceeded to the youth base at F farm where they arrested 3 people and took them back to the station. A radio report was received from the staff on the farm to say that the property had been invaded by a large number of youth militia from the F base who had come in search of the staff on the property. The staff had gone into hiding in the bush in fear of being beaten by the group. It is alleged that the winning candidate for the ruling party in Z Constituency is claiming the property as his own.
- On 11 April Farmer DD3 received threats from 3 or 4 people telling him that he must get off the property and that the main group will follow to force him off. He is one of the last few dairy farmers in the country.

One farmer's story

The following diary of events describes a fairly typical experience for a commercial farmer in this latest wave of violent invasions. This diary is based on first-hand conversations with Farmer A. Z. and the diary he has kept throughout this invasion. The indented sections reflect verbatim extracts from the farmer's diary.

Saturday 5 April

At 3.45p.m. Mr A. Z. was invaded by an angry group of ZANU PF supporters.

Mob transported by new Chinese copy/ISUZU ZANU PF vehicle to farm, made two loaded trips to Farm. Driver in ZANU PF t-shirt, names P. Q. They were joined by a further contingent of +-40 from the neighbouring communal area and farms. The Driver told me they come to take THEIR LAND, the CATTLE and the EQUIPMENT and that we were to leave with one suitcase. To go back to UK. The Driver also accused me of returning evicted white farmers to their farm i.e. our neighbour who was evicted more than two years ago and the husband had since passed away. They then asked me for a sheep for their pungwe (party) and I told them to bleep bleep. My daughter and her son went into town for safety.

The group leader P.Q. was a war veteran. He said they had come to repossess their farm and demanded that Mr Z. handed over the keys to the property as they were taking everything. Mr. Z. refused and went back inside to telephone the Police. He spoke to Assistant Inspector J. The group remained outside the fence began chanting political songs. They threatened to kill the farm's guard dogs.

Later on in the evening Mr. Z. reported that the crowd was drunk as a large number of empty Chibuku Scud (traditional beer) containers were left lying around. The farm workers were rounded up and intimidated all night. They were ordered not to do any more work for Mr Z.

Tonight labour were abducted and forced to sing ZANU PF songs. They were forced to sit all night with the invaders in the cold without cover. Overheard conversation within the mob to break farm fences and move their cattle on.

The chanting, singing and threats continued and although the police were constantly telephoned District E Dispol Chief Superintendent S only arrived at 2am, whereupon he easily defused the situation. The matter had been first reported at 4.30pm.

Reported to Police Rural at 4.30pm, reported again to Police at 8pm and were told that Support Unit would arrive at 10pm. Support Unit arrived at 2am.

A Government owned ZUPCO passenger bus was sent to pick up the group of 50 people, who were apparently taken to E. It arrived at 5.30am on Sunday

morning. Interestingly ZUPCO has no operating licence in E so it would appear that the bus was brought in from outside the district.

Sunday 6 April

Mr Z and his wife spent a peaceful day by themselves but at about 9.00 a.m. the “Chinese imitation Isuzu vehicle” was seen dropping people off on the farm. Mr Z. followed but it sped away and he could not locate the people who were dropped off. He reported the matter to the Police.

However at about 8.30pm the chanting and singing started again. There were about 10 people gathered around a fire near the farm homestead entrance gate. The matter was reported to Assistant Inspector J and at 1am the Police arrived and arrested five of the group. The other five managed to escape. One was identified as a Mr “HG” and is a new farmer in the ST resettlement scheme.

Monday 7 April

The next morning another seven agitators arrived – the third distinct invasion. Police were again called.

8am Seven invaders reported seen at loading ramp next to homestead.
Reported this sighting to Police at 8.15am.

Over the morning, the crowd swelled to about 150 people, with more people coming in all the time. Several of Mr Z.’s staff were abducted by the group and they left a number of pedigree bulls penned in together at the dipping kraal.

Our staff abducted from Dip Kraals, cattle panicked, bulls fighting – chaos reigns.

After Mr Z. had requested urgent police assistance the Police Support Unit eventually arrived – but in the same ZUPCO bus the invaders of Saturday had been removed in!

Report to Police at 11.45am. Asked for Support Team. Support Team arrives but in Zupco Bus but parks 3kms from Homestead.

None of the police even got out of the bus. They also made no attempt to arrest anyone, but the group dispersed. His labour returned and the bulls put back into their individual paddocks.

Wednesday 9 April

Received three threatening telephone calls. “Property can be replaced
Lives cannot!”

Thursday 10 April

Despite the three phone calls of Wednesday morning, the situation seemed to have quietened down on the farm, until 3 p.m. when invaders returned for the fourth time.

Later in the evening the crowd swelled to about 40 people, who were brought in by government vehicles. They proceeded to abduct the labour force.

8.40pm. Staff forced to go to Pungwe 1 km from homestead. Reported to Police who advise that they will react and arrived 10.15pm.

Three unarmed Police detail arrive and accompany me to the pungwe.

Mr Z went with the Police and found the labour at a gathering some 1km from the homestead, where they were receiving a political re-education from the invaders. They dispersed on instruction from the Police and there were no arrests. There were indications that war veteran DE was behind everything and had promised to increase the size of settler's plots if they successfully forced Z and others off.

Friday 11 April

At about 10am about 50 people arrived back at the farm and continued to intimidate the staff. On reporting the matter to the police the response was slow. However, they did promise to send out Support Unit.

Went into town to get supplies. Wife insisted on staying on farm.

10am Got a call from wife to say the mob was back and that I and my staff must leave.

11.30am Saw Police to request reaction. I came back to homestead passing several of the invaders who were now dispersing.

Reaction arrived at 1.45pm. The Support Unit were well armed. Invaders had dispersed. Request for guards from Police was denied on the grounds that they were short of manpower. I was told that only one Reaction Team was available in area.

Saturday 12 April

Another group congregated on the farm and Police were called at 12.15pm and Support Unit arrived at 2.15pm. They arrested 3 individuals who admitted that war veteran Mr DE was behind the disturbances.

Sunday 13 April

Mr Z heard that a group of 30 – 40 people had come onto the property but did not see them so he did not report the matter to the Police.

Invaders here pegging their plots of land on our farm.

Did not report to Police as wanted to have more substantiated proof of the pegging.

Monday 14 April

Mr Z reported that the group of invaders was dropped off a short distance from the house every day by a vehicle and then the people walked in. For 2 days prior to this they had been re-pegging plots on the property to carry out War Veteran Mr DE's promise to increase plot sizes.

The Police were called but failed to respond, their excuse being that they had no transport and that it was now a “land” matter so they could not intervene. There was reported to be a large group of people camping on the neighbouring property, X. The beneficiaries on this farm are reported to be CIO operatives.

10.45am Reported pegging of Land to Police and our Association.

3pm phoned Police again but no reaction.

Tuesday 15 April

Pegging of farm continues. Reported to Police but owing to Stay Away in Town no Police Reaction.

Alerted to Attempted Murder of one of our staff. He is chased by a mob of 20 armed with axes, etc. The mob also drove cattle out of their paddock. The leader of this mob is known to staff.

Wednesday 6 April

Although constant reports were given to the Police of the ongoing problems on the property the Police made no attempt to react, saying that they had no transport available. A large group of people continued to roam over the farm breaking and looting property as well as mixing and disturbing the pedigree cattle. Mr Z's staff were constantly harassed and terrorized and were in a consequent state of trauma.

Mr Z was unable to make any contact with the Officer Commanding (Q Province) Assistant Commissioner A for several days as A would not answer his telephones.

The attempted murder incident reported to Police at 7.30am. They would react. Spoke to numerous Departments on this matter. When reporting the incident again to a Police Detail it was detected that not much interest was shown in this matter.

Thursday 17 April

The Police did not react to the recent reports of incidents on the farm.

Still no reaction from Police to the above incident.

However, the invaders then moved to neighbouring R farm where they proceeded to harass the black occupant.

Friday 18 April

Mr Z.'s black neighbour who had purchased the property legally was attacked by the mob.

Phone rings at 1am from an ex neighbour to inform us that the African chap who bought his house had been beaten up by a mob of +-80. He had been rescued by a relative who had rushed him to town for medical assistance and to report the matter to the Police.

I later managed to see my African neighbour and it appears that he has broken ribs and abrasions by being repeatedly kicked and hit with logs of wood.

1pm +-30 mob returned to our farm to continue their pegging of their lands.

Mr Z reports that later that evening his staff were severely intimidated at a compulsory 'pungwe' where several people were publicly beaten for alleged support of the opposition. Police arrived at 5.30pm but were reported "not to be serious" about fulfilling their duties. Once they had left the harassment of his staff continued.

Saturday 19 April

All the staff on the farm resigned saying that they could no longer work under the prevailing conditions and they were not being protected by the Police.

Now being without labour the pedigree herd may now have to be slaughtered to cut losses. The herd has to be fed every day as part of an intensive operation as the grazing was severely depleted by the uncontrolled movement of livestock onto the property.

Sunday 20 April

Only one staff member came to work as the others waited for their termination packages as per SI 6.

The telephone was repaired and it was confirmed that the telephone lines were sabotaged about a kilometre from the homestead.

Monday 21 April

Provincial war veteran leader and close advisor to the Governor on land matters Mr DE arrived at the farm and engaged in heavy debate with the Z's as to their alleged bad attitude towards the settlers on the property. He is reported as being extremely abusive, rhetorical and political, although he attempted to deny that he personally was behind the disruptions on the property.

Fortunately the Police arrived shortly afterwards and they spoke to the farm staff together with Mr DE. They were at pains to encourage them to continue to work for the Z.'s and promised to secure their safety from the hostile groups.

However, as soon as they left Mr DE addressed them again and threatened that they would be taken to the Q ZANU PF offices and severely dealt with should they continue to work for the Z.'s.

2.2. Justice for Agriculture (JAG) Trust

JAG has managed to collect data from a number of sources including some interesting first-hand accounts of the violence.

On 30 April 2008 an interview was conducted with organising MDC activist D, who has had considerable first hand experience of post election violence in Mashonaland West. Informant D describes the election aftermath.

Just after the elections I always reside in X going up. X consists of 5 constituencies whereby A, B, C, D and E. A and B they are that is where farms are, especially A. ZANU PF has deployed some its colonels lieutenants for torturing people. At M Farm, N Farm [...] O, P, Q and R are A whereby these areas are made for torturing people especially MDC activists. OP was assaulted at S recently 3 days ago. Right now he is in Hospital where he is being treated. He was an ex-farm worker at Q but now he is residing at S. When he was assaulted he was asked "Why do you want to affiliate to an MDC activist?" And he said "No I am not an MDC activist, I am just a worker, I'm teacher by profession" And they said "all of you teachers are MDC so we are here to teach you and we are here to baptize you with Holy Water like Jesus did". And he said "Which Holy water are you going to use?" Then the guys said "We are going to use our sticks to beat you". Then they started to assault him.

He had broken his left hand side leg and um the hand also and sustained 5 stitch injuries in his right hand head side. They were using iron bars and some sticks. I witness the assault; it was a group of 60. For some time he fell unconscious then they were pouring water on him when he woke up they started beating him again. I was in the bush hiding myself in order to witness the incident. They suspect, and they were just suspecting. This guy is a teacher right now at S so they suspect all teachers are affiliated to MDC. So they arrived at his house at quarter past 4 o'clock and took him to their base camp and assaulted him. These people who did this they are not ex-farm workers, especially they are the settlers, the new fast track settlers.

Informant D tells us that the main instigator of the assaults is an assistant of the MP.

He usually come there to assault only. But he is driving with this ZANU PF MP of A. He won recently on the 29th March

Other teachers have also been targeted according to informant D.

At G there are 3 teachers of which they recently phoned today for the names I don't have the names right now - they guy didn't tell me their names - but they have also been assaulted. These teachers are teachers at W School.

Informant D corroborates the story of Informant J which was related below.

J was tortured at T recently. He went there for fishing and they captured him there while he was fishing. He was asked "Where are you from?" he said "I am from G" and they said "Oh you are from G you are an MDC activist" and they started torturing him at the dam to their base camp. They asked him to remove his clothes first. After removing his clothes they said to him to "go into the dam and wash yourself before we torture you". After torturing, after he washed in the dam they started torturing

and there are 10 cobs of maize uncooked cobs of maize and they said to him "You, you have to eat these cobs" and when asked why you have been tortured you have to tell them "I was stealing maize from these farmers". These people they were fearing of the police otherwise this guy will go to the police. So they said "if you are asked by the police you have to say 'I was stealing maize.'"

Informant D also describes an assault he himself sustained at the Police station.

Whenever you go and report your assaults he says "Ach, you people you are too much. This is um political always MDC are coming, where is ZANU PF? They are not reporting. So you are lying, otherwise you have been stealing there and you have been beaten there".

I sustained this head injury on 25th of this month. I went to report an assault. There is a certain guy who was assaulted by K (sp) a serving soldier right now who was deployed in the C to terrorise MDC activists. When I went to (...) as an assault to report for him to be assisted for a medical report this is when I met this K at the police station. Then I asked, "Why are you keeping this guy who is terrorizing this area?" Police officer V said "He is our neighbour we are discussing our own issues here, otherwise he's (...) you don't have to ask me that". So I said "Okay, can you help with this guy to have a medical report so I can go with him to get medication?" And the police officer V refused to give us that medical. He said "We are running short of forms, medical report forms" so I said "Can you just write just a note for reference so that he can be treated in G?" then the officer said "Ah I don't have that time" I didn't know that this area was a camp for the militia. The time now I was talking to these guys they were coding themselves they have some of their own codes calling some of the youth who were just 5m away from the police station. Just after this quarrelling some of my guys who accompanied me to the police station arrived and they said "Why are you quarrelling?" and I was telling them what had happened and V get into the armoury where they get their rifles and got out an AK47. I said, "Why are you bringing this AK47?" And they said, "Go out, all of you, go out! I don't want to see MDC activist here." Because we had used our car and it said MDC. And I said we cannot go out unless you can give us that medical report then we can go. We didn't know that K also he has an access to go and get the rifle. He get into the armoury and brought out his .303 rifle also and shot, the trigger one shot. Fortunately police officer known as N (sp) directed the gun another direction otherwise one of us could have died on the spot. So all of us we ran out from the police station

There were about 10 guys. I ran out. The time I jumped into the car was when I was stoned by A. He was Border Gezi, trained at P, who stoned me, who stoned me. So just after stoned, there were 4 guys who were stoned there. There was another guy called Q who was stoned in the mouth and U also was stoned and R a teacher made the cross fire also then managed to escaped. Right now the report is saying they are looking for me. They are saying I assaulted the policeman after I am the one who was assaulted. If I am to go right now into a police station I am going to be locked up.

Informant D has knowledge of the various camps from which ZANU PF and its supporters are operating in his area.

I will start with D. The people who are torturing in D, they are being headed by F. He's an army guy and K, a serving soldier also, and a war vet also this K but he is still serving as a soldier. The group which is using is under 18 – 26 years people who are being driven from neighbouring farms especially W Farm, S Farm and R Farm. Then in C, H Farm is a torturing base camp a big one on the main road, and then B Farm. The police know about these camps whenever some of the people have been and reporting their cases but nothing is being done by the police, they know. These are these settlers living on these farms, they are being used. Every group you will have 4 or 5 guys trained as Border Gezis. Every farm have got their own registers, so whenever they want to go and assault someone they will call every farm. A group leader, youth chairperson will bring his record. These youth are local to the area, only you will find that 2 or 5 guys they are trained as Border Gezis. They are forever changing these Border Gezis. Those who are area going to that area they will not act in that area only you will find K, his father is a king in G and F resides also in G they are serving soldiers so they are the heads of their groups.

Informant D has names of a large number of the Youth Chairmen on the farms, but for the sake of his safety these will not be divulged in this report.

Whenever they are suspecting MDC people they are burning your houses and they are chasing you from the farms they are chased away right now, N is reside in Karoi he is a displaced person.

Informant D described the recurrent use of all night pungwes for the political subjugation of the people.

All night pungwes especially at G area, this D, this O, near L there and M Farm they are forever having some toyi-toyis all night. Especially rurals like G whenever they have these pungwes all the workers are being summoned. They are being called with their registers because the youth which resides in their villages. They have to mention youth who are affiliated to MDC. After the pungwe early 6 o'clock they will go now to take those guys and assault them. Ya it is more like Gukurahundi or genocide as I say which happened in Matabeleland because this regime doesn't want to accept the right of the people so they are organizing this to terrorize people, why because they voted for MDC. Whenever they are present assaulting these people they are saying "you didn't vote well, why is it our president lose the election? So we are preparing for re-run"

They are using those pungwes for a re-run. At the re-run there will be voter apathy because whenever people are being assaulted or threatened there will never go and vote.

I will just say to people in this country they have to keep their fingers crossed, one day and some day even God will come and help us they will see Him each one, thank you.

On 30 April an interview was conducted with an informant J who is an MDC activist. J was severely beaten by ZANU PF settlers on a farm near G for his political affiliation.

It's just about 5km from G next to [X] in G. I have gone there early morning for fishing and then two men comes and approach me and ask me "If you ever see 2 person men carrying maize?" And I said "I didn't see anyone" and they say "come here, please may you explain what has happened during night." I said, "No, I've come morning, I didn't come night" and then one he held my buckle, my belt is a policeman he held the handle and the other man held on the other side and then says "where you live?" and I say "I come from Chiedza" and he says "that's people we are looking for, you are the supporter of MDC" and with my own opinion I think there is someone who knows me as an MDC activist and that's what tell those people and that's why they come to me and then they started beating me on my back and then they take me to the river near dam and put me in the water so that my skin will be soft and they are [...] and they beat me there and forced me to eat uncooked maize and take me their boss. When we arrived there we didn't see anyone we just see women and they were ashamed with the way they were treating me and said "Ay this is now enough just leave him and go". Then they are now saying that I was caught stealing maize. Then from there they take me back and they take off my clothes and say "these clothes are better, they will tatter when we are beating him, let's take them." And they give me an old one. When I was going I could not able to move faster they come again. Some of the woman were shame and they say "Why do you take his clothes?" "Why don't you take it back from them?" And I say "I'm not able to argue to anything what they say is what I am doing." And they say to their husband, "Go back and take his clothes," and they bring my shorts and my shoes then the belt was missing and the money I was with 1 billion 2 hundred and twenty two in my pocket and then they take me the river. Their wives say, don't beat him again, its enough, but at the river they pretend that they are no longer going to beat me and they take me again to the place they take me and they say bath yourself. At that point they say, "bath thoroughly, bath, bath neatly so that you go nicely." So I went inside the river and bath and then the one take a big stick and say "I want to beat you 50 and this one wants to beat you 50. If you scream we start counting again."

They beat me up to the point of saying its enough. And they beat me thoroughly up to the time I was not able to know what was happening and then they let me go and I was not able to move. They let me go, then they chase me, beat me as I was not able to run. There were 2 who take me from the dam. And then others come and the other 2 guys who take my clothes and the money I was with. And for the time they take that money they say we are taking for safe keeping, we don't steal you money, we are taking it for safe keeping. If we finish dealing with you we will return the money but they didn't return the money, they just return a short and shoes and the money and a belt doesn't come again. And they take my fishing equipment as well. Because we left it there, going their home, beating me and for the time they come back with me I was thinking

they are going to return my fishing equipment but they just say leave everything, its for us.

Then they take me from 8 up until 12 and then let me go by 12 and I sleep and I was thirsty and hungry. Before that when I had gone to their home they asked me "Are you hungry?" and they said they will bring sadza with water without anything. They say we are not able to feed people of MDC, you bring your food there. Then they let me go and I have been helped by another man to be able to walk and then I take it slowly up to 10 o'clock to be back home. Then I have gone to the police and I put my case the following day on Saturday and the police just say "We don't have a vehicle to go there if I am not able to identify them by name." But I have tell them "I know where these guys stay because they take me to their homes and I can identify them". And the police says "go back and go to hospital" and I've gone to hospital in G and I have been admitted there for the doctor to check me but there was no blankets in the hospital even water and it seems I have [...] to fetch my water, water for toilets and blankets as well and then I see there was no need to stay there and then I have gone to see my bosses and they have taken me up to this place.

Informant J was beaten solely because of his political affiliation.

They were saying to people from town, "You are MDC activists and that's why we are beating you. We don't want to see you here. Stay there in town do your things with Tsvangarai there, we are doing our things with Mugabe." They have a list of the names of the MDC agents. I think they get the names from their supporters who stays in the town who know us. They say "We have got all these names with the surrounding farms. We have got a list of you activists of MDC and we are going to deal with you. Because there in town you are properly organized to beat us as well, but as soon as anyone passes out here we are going to deal with all of you."

J gives an insight into the reasons why he thinks he was beaten by pro-ZANU PF settlers.

When we finish voting it seems MDC have win already and it's an automatic that with their boss they are leaving office so that MDC is going to rule. So they are now afraid with the way they are treating people, or the way they take those farms. They are afraid because MDC is saying land to the farmers, not to the politician. It seems they are going to redo [the Land Reform exercise].

Informant J describes the kind of injuries he sustained.

There is many injuries inside. Of course at that time they let me go and I tried to urinate and I was urinating red blood. And on my back they beat me with catapults. But by the time it's now recovering. Even you see on my hand here they develop an injury so that I will never be able to carry heavy things.

Informant J says the police reaction to his assault seems to point to a directive coming from above.

The junior officers shows he's interested but I think there is something secret behind the office so that their bosses are not much interested on these activity because they are showing them that we are supporting the other side. The opposition side. The policeman shows me the interest because he gives me the CR so that when go to the doctor to see the doctor and I will put that CR number on the form. But they didn't take me to identify the people.

If we have a got a support from police or the police are neutral in the way they are handling the cases I think it will be better and it's the police, it's my own opinion that the police are supporting the ZANU PF regime, those thugs who are busy beating us because if you go and report your case sometimes you can be taken into police custody again [*wind distorts speech*] but yet you are the one who have come to give the report and then the issue will back fire on you and then some that's why they not able to go and report their cases because there are some of the records of the people who have been beaten in G and then gone to report and then tomorrow the police come and take them again saying these are the trouble causers yet they are the beaten ones. They are there because of that point of some goes to report their issue and their issue backfires on them and the police will be saying you are the cause of that violence yet you are the beaten.

JAG has also obtained first hand statements from a number of victims of recent post-election violence on the farms.

- Around 02:00hrs I heard voices and footsteps around my house. I went out and immediately I was attacked from all angles. I was beaten all over with hands, logs and whips. Then I called out that I was being killed by A and his colleagues. I recognised about 8 of them, the A brothers, B, C, D, E and F. When I called out they went away. But came back around 03:30hours. This time I ran off into a tree and later went to hide in the mountains and had to seek refugees from sympathisers. Now I have a severe back pain, neck pain and headache.
- ZANU PF youths and war veterans invaded my homestead and some of them had guns. They fired a warning shot in the air so that we won't run away. I was abducted from home together with three other fellow MDC members. We were taken to their "base" and were interrogated. I was beaten with wooden logs, boots, open hands and fists. I was also hit with a stone on my head. I was detained for about 30 minutes.
- On 25/04/08 at about 06:00hrs about 40 ZANU PF youths called a meeting of G Farm. They ordered those of us who had previously been employed by white farmers to vacate the farm as our employers were gone. They then beat me on the back with sticks to the back and head. One of them struck me with an axe on the left leg. I was helped off the scene by others and later got the laceration from the axe wound suffered at H Hospital. I have since stayed away.

- On the day I was at home when at around 06:00hrs we were called to a meeting in the compound. They said that some of us were known to have voted for the MDC and names were read out. I was one of them. I was told to pack. When they said I was slow in packing and was beaten with stick, open hands and booted feet. There was a group of about 20 and I recognised the two below. I reported to the I Police.
- I had been threatened for four days prior to the incident. On the above date, I took my staff in a tractor and was moving out of the resettled area. ZANU PF activists met me on the way. There were about 12. They took me handcuffed and my legs tied with wire to the next farm -- J. At J Village I, they poured us with cold water at 23:00hrs, they took us to their base, again poured us with contaminated water. There they assaulted us once more on the buttocks and back and left leg using a wire.
- On 25/04/08 the ZANU PF youths called a meeting on the farm compound. They called out names and ordered those of us called to leave the farm. They beat me up for delaying. They used sticks, open palms and booted feet.
- Two women at the farm were pointing out at people saying they are MDC supporters. I was among the victims and I spent three nights sleeping in the bush at a base. I went back to my house today to check on my belongings only to find everything destroyed. About 50 supporters of ZANU PF came to my house and they started beating me up. I was beaten with a baton on the buttocks and my left thumb. They let us go and beat me all the way as I was running.
- It was on Independence Day when I and my friend went to K farm to see my friend's father-in-law. When we arrived at the farm people were gathered celebrating independence day. When the function was over I went to see my friend's father-in-law who was among a group of people. That is when I was grabbed by the buckle by the police into a room and started assaulting me with broomsticks, kicks and slaps. They also stepped on my ribs on the left side. My friend asked the police why they were assaulting me and he was pushed out. They took about 20 minutes assaulting me.
- On my way to L Farm with a colleague of mine we met the soldiers who were on the way to M where I live. They started accusing us for being members of Chinja and supporting MDC. They asked us to lie down on our tummies and assaulted us with baton sticks and logs. They left us when my colleague had collapsed and warned us not to support the opposition party and that there was no "Chinja" in L.
- I was at home when six people wearing riot gear came and asked to see me. I got out and they said they had been looking for me. They took me and my colleague and as we were walking they were beating us with batons and sticks. We would walk for about 500m, they would order us to stop, then beat us up accusing us of leading MDC party in the area. This continued until around 11, we could hardly walk and were very tired.

Then they abandoned us and went away. They warned us before they left and told us not to support MDC and promised to come back and kill us if we continue supporting MDC. We struggled to walk to one of our friends houses who later carried us in a scotch cart home. We then go in touch with Mr N, the senatorial candidate, who took us to Avenues.

- The night of 18/04/08 I slept in the bush for fear of my life after ZANU PF supporters arrived in my village threatening to beat up MDC members. On the following night I was asleep at home when a group of about 20-30 ZANU PF supporters who were chanting slogans arrived and attempted to enter my house. I escaped by jumping out of a window. I was struck by an unknown object on my back as I escaped. Some friends gave me money to come to Harare to seek treatment.
- Had recently stood for political office. Youths (7) arrived on his property and complained about his liaison with white farmers and with MDC. Stated they wanted rid of the white farmers. He was beaten with logs and kicked.
- I was sleeping at my house in the compound at O Farm when we were raided by ZANU PF youths and they started burning our houses. When I got out of our house and tried to run away and one ZANU PF youth hit me with a stone on the forehead and I sustained a deep wound. Another one also bit me with his teeth on the back over the right shoulder and I also sustained a wound. I managed to run away but they burnt my house and I lost all my property including my phone and blankets. I was then taken to Harare by the MDC MP, but on arrival at P, we were raided by riot police and taken to Q Police Station. By then my eyes were very swollen and wound was bleeding so one lawyer facilitated my release and I was taken to R Clinic where I got some medication. I was discharged the next day and went back home but I could not afford the medication I have been prescribed.
- I was on my way to S to sell my maize. While at the bus stop a car stopped and offered me a lift. I then put my maize in the car. There was one woman from my village and the others were strangers. As the car started moving one of the men twisted my hand and when I turned to see what was happening I fell on my stomach and another man strangled me and started beating me up. I was punched in the ribs and the lady from my village joined in beating me up (vehicle was moving). The car stopped at the T Club and the men shouted saying "come and see the enemy". They gathered around the car but I managed to escape and ran away as they were gathering beating sticks. They stole my money and cellphone and the five bags of maize.
- I was abducted from my garden and force marched to where their truck was about 100m. I was ordered to lie facing downwards and assaulted on the back and buttocks. Then I was taken back into the truck and taken to U Police Station. These men were in plain clothes though they intimated they were ZNA personnel and some police officers. I proceeded with them to V ZNA base where I was interrogated, were we

hiding four guns in U. I told them that I did not know anything but they poked at me with gun butts and threatened me. Around 20:00hrs I was taken back home and left about 30kms from my home and had to walk that night for that distance. I could not come because there were no buses.

- I was taken by ZANU PF supporters in our area accusing us of voting for MDC in the previous election. They came to our compound and took us to W Farm and bound us with chains and wooden sticks on the back, buttocks and thighs. I was also hit around the right ear and I cannot hear clearly. There were several people, exchanging to beat us and we were beaten for the whole night. We then managed to run away this morning.
- I was a polling agent for the MDC. Our names were noted down. ZANU PF supporters came into the area wanting to beat up people and hold rallies but me and my MDC colleagues stopped them. They returned with more people about 160 and burned down the headmaster's house, Mr X (Y High School) who is the leader/organiser of MDC youth in our area. They began a campaign of burning down houses of MDC supporters in the area. We were now staying in the bush. They came back with soldiers and I fled to Harare for fear of my life. Have heard my wife was abducted but am not aware of her whereabouts.

In addition the following table shows a few of the recent displacement and arson attacks on farm workers.

Victim Gender	Victim Age	Date of incident	Nature of Incident	Violator Institution	Violation Details
female	49	16-Apr-08	Intimidated, Basic Rights denied, Theft/destruction of property, Homeless	ZANU PF.	Chased from homestead by Zanu PF youths.
female		16-Apr-08	Intimidated, Basic Rights denied, Theft/destruction of property, Homeless	ZANU PF and ZANU PF youths	Displaced by Zanu PF youth. Home burnt to the ground.
female		16-Apr-08	Intimidated, Basic Rights denied, Theft/destruction of property, Homeless	ZANU PF and ZANU PF youths	Displaced by Zanu PF youth. Home burnt to the ground.

female	36	16-Apr-08	Intimidated, Basic Rights denied, Theft/destruction of property, Homeless	ZANU PF and ZANU PF youths	Displaced by ZANU PF youths. Houses set ablaze.
female	36	16-Apr-08	Intimidated, Basic Rights denied, Theft/destruction of property, Homeless		Displaced by ZANU PF. Home burnt to the ground.
female	36	16-Apr-08	Intimidated, Basic Rights denied, Theft/destruction of property, Homeless		Displaced by ZANU PF. Home burnt to the ground.
	6	16-Apr-08	Intimidated, Basic Rights denied, Theft/destruction of property, Homeless		Displaced by ZANU PF. Home burnt to the ground.
female		16-Apr-08	Intimidated, Basic Rights denied, Theft/destruction of property, Homeless		Displaced by ZANU PF. Home burnt to the ground.
female	13	16-Apr-08	Intimidated, Basic Rights denied, Theft/destruction of property, Homeless		Displaced by ZANU PF. Home burnt to the ground.
male	baby	16-Apr-08	Intimidated, Basic Rights denied, Theft/destruction of property, Homeless		Displaced from home.
female	45	16-Apr-08	Intimidated, Basic Rights denied, Theft/destruction of property, Homeless	ZANU PF and ZANU PF youths.	Displaced from home. Homes torched by Zanu PF youths.

male	32	16-Apr-08	Intimidated, Basic Rights denied, Theft/destruction of property, Homeless	ZANU PF and ZANU PF youths.	Displaced from home. Homes torched by Zanu PF youths.
female	20	16-Apr-08	Intimidated, Basic Rights denied, Theft/destruction of property, Homeless	ZANU PF and ZANU PF youths.	Displaced from home. Homes torched by Zanu PF youths.
female		16-Apr-08	Intimidated, Basic Rights denied, Theft/destruction of property, Homeless	ZANU PF and ZANU PF youths.	Displaced from home. Homes torched by Zanu PF youths.
female		16-Apr-08	Intimidated, Basic Rights denied, Theft/destruction of property, Homeless	ZANU PF and ZANU PF youths.	Displaced from home. Homes torched by Zanu PF youths.
female	76	16-Apr-08	Intimidated, Basic Rights denied, Theft/destruction of property, Homeless	ZANU PF and ZANU PF youths	Displaced from home. Homes torched by Zanu PF youths.
female	47	16-Apr-08	Intimidated, Basic Rights denied, Theft/destruction of property, Homeless	ZANU PF and ZANU PF youths	Displaced from home. Homes torched by Zanu PF youths.
male	38	16-Apr-08	Intimidated, Basic Rights denied, Theft/destruction of property, Homeless	ZANU PF.	Displaced from home. Homes torched by Zanu PF youths.
male	31	16-Apr-08	Intimidated, Basic Rights denied, Theft/destruction of property, Homeless	ZANU PF and ZANU PF youths.	Displaced from home. Homes torched by Zanu PF youths.

male	2	16-Apr-08	Intimidated, Basic Rights denied, Theft/destruction of property, Homeless	ZANU PF and ZANU PF youths.	Displaced from home. Homes torched by Zanu PF youths.
female	baby	16-Apr-08	Intimidated, Basic Rights denied, Theft/destruction of property, Homeless	ZANU PF and ZANU PF youths.	Displaced from home. Homes torched by Zanu PF youths.

There have been 13 commercial farmers who have contacted the Justice for Agriculture Trust to relay first hand accounts of violence in respect of themselves or in respect of their neighbours or work forces. All informants concurred that violent activities were widespread in their respective districts and reported second-hand accounts of violations and disturbances:

Informant Number	Date of Report	Province Concerned	Report
1	8-Apr	Mashonaland West	Barricaded for 2 days by War veterans and ZANU PF youth. They returned more than once. Police did intervene eventually and resolve the situation
2	10-Apr	Mashonaland West	6 farmers told to remove themselves from their land or face violence. 1 farmer manhandled and assaulted. Some of those are farming on land by arrangement with the title holding black farmers. Some farmers are expressly protected by SADC tribunal interim order which order was ignored by the government.
3	9-Apr	Mashonaland West	CIO has effectively taken control of X district area. They had stopped farmers from receiving visitors and moving around the area but no work stoppages.
4	9-Apr	Mashonaland East	Elderly farming couple assaulted.
5	10-Apr	Mashonaland West	Warned off farm, threats of violence
6	10-Apr	Mashonaland Central	40 people in her yard stopping milking of 46 cows. The ZANU PF MP was at the police station holding a political meeting at the time. Situation resolved after 2 days.
7	10-Apr	Mashonaland Central	Informant found approximately 30 farm workers whose houses had been burnt at the police station. Farmer was stopped from feeding his pigs. Situation resolved by intervention of an animal well fare organisation who were successful in securing the feeding of the pigs
8	10-Apr	Manicaland	Forced into a vehicle with war veterans. Was handcuffed and tied up with barbed wire. Released several hours

			later.
9	10-Apr	Manicaland	Informants advised to report to Police or they would be charged with occupying a farm without a permit. Despite High Court order allowing them to stay on the farm. Police were not interested in their court order.
10	11-Apr	Mashonaland East	Informant faces imminent eviction. A well connected senior member of ZANU PF wants to take up occupation of the farm.
11	17-Apr	Mashonaland East	3.30 pm truck load of war veterans and youth arrived at farm homestead gate and ordered informants off the property. Land equipment and pedigree cattle now belonged to them they maintained. They were singing revolutionary songs and demanded the slaughter of a beast to feed them. They also told informants that no workers should report for duty the following day. Informants reported that neighbouring farmers were also under siege with similar disturbances.
12	16-Apr	Mashonaland East	Informant made available a diary of events spanning period between 11th and 16th April. 12 April - 12 people claiming to be war vets armed with AK 47s and pistols going around the area intimidating people and organising political meetings to be held on remaining white commercial farms. Work stopped on informant's farm. 15 April - Transport demanded to ferry youth to another area to beat MDC supporters. Informant further reported that 4 MDC supporters had been killed in the area concerned. 16 April - police resolved situation on the informant's farm.
13	10-Apr	Manicaland	20 people invaded smallholding of 79 ha. The group set up camp inside the entrance and moved around the farm singing and chanting. The situation has now calmed down, although the group are still resident. The property has never been gazetted.

Further items of interest include an informant who relayed the following information.

- On Farm C in District V in Mashonaland East province many workers were assaulted for being suspected MDC supporters soon after the election. A worker within the farm village recorded the names of all the MDC supporters who were attacked. This farm has been settled by the ZANU PF district chairman. On 10 April a group of 20 – 30 people attacked the village and assaulted several people. On 11 April this gang of ZANU PF supporters returned but the villagers repulsed them. On 12 April the gang returned for a third time, but this time with over 100 ZANU PF youths. The gang proceeded to viciously assault the workers. Three workers were uplifted to hospital where they recorded injuries ranging from axe wounds to forcibly removed fingernails.

- In this same village an off duty policeman was visiting relatives when he was assaulted. He lost his front teeth. A further three farm workers were later hospitalised from other assaults. Their injuries include: smashed fingers and toes, loss of hearing from blow to the head, severed toes, back injuries, and bruising and lacerations.

This same informant reports to JAG that MDC youths have adopted a new strategy to avoid excessive violence: they have been issued whistles and whenever anyone is being beaten they blow on them to alert others to the beating.

Interestingly, this informant also reports information which ties in with another document received by JAG. He reports that a jambanja situation on a Mashonaland Central farm has been resolved by a certain Colonel T.

The document received by JAG lists all military officers purported to be organising the latest round of farm invasions. It is alleged the document is a CIO leak. It is organised by province and district and names some 78 high ranking officers, including Generals, Brigadiers, Air Vice Marshals, Colonels, Majors and so on, who are responsible for a particular area of invasions. The document lists the same Colonel T as responsible for invasions in the area the informant above mentioned. It is too early to know if this is merely chance. The document ends:

In total, 200 serving senior officers of the armed forces will be participating in the exercise. They will be commanding other war veterans and ZANU PF thugs.

The teams will be deployed on 8 April 2008 to campaign for RG Mugabe in the run off under the guise of war veterans. With the exception of two, all the deployed officers are senior serving officers of the armed services. It is understood that Lt. Gen. XX will command the operation with the assistance of Maj. Gen. Y. General WW will be the overall commander of the operation. He is being assisted by Maj. Gen OO and Col QQ.

A further JAG source presents the following information on the dire state of animal welfare on invaded farms.

Farm X in Mashonaland West is 400 ha in size but of this only 70 ha are arable. Farmer X was first subjected to an attempted take over in 2001 when the chairman of an important parastatal tried to evict him. Having survived this invasion he was left in peace until July 2007 when a senior civil servant B arrived with an offer letter signed by Minister Mutasa. B took over the cropping lands. Farmer X continued to operate his piggery and his crocodile farm.

However, soon after the March 2008 harmonised election Farmer X was asked to make his shed available to the new A2 settler. He was given 3 days to respond. Farmer X responded in writing through his lawyers. The chief henchman of B is named Y and has been given power of attorney by B. Y acted on B's behalf and took over the yards and denied Farmer X's employees access to the pigs and crocodiles. The pigs and crocodiles were therefore denied food and the workers

were unable to clean the pens or monitor the crocodile hatchery. Police told Farmer X that the matter was political and they could not intervene.

An animal welfare organisation eventually managed to negotiate access to the pigs and crocodiles in order to feed them. This however only took place after 69 pigs and piglets had died. As these dead pigs had been left in the sties the other starving pigs began feeding off the carcasses. 8 crocodiles and 2 cattle also died. The animal welfare organisation were given access through a small side gate and had to laboriously move food in at the rate of one bag at a time. The pigs require approximately 5 tons of food per day. The long term effects such as disease, caused by stress in the case of the pigs and not changing the water or correctly controlling the temperature in the case of the crocodiles cannot be assessed for the next 3 to 4 months.

This is an offence under the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Act but the Police will not intervene because they say the matter is political. Political privilege is not a defence to any offence in Zimbabwean law. Therefore it is highly improper, and indeed outrageous, that the police should not investigate and charge Mr B under the provisions of the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Act.

2.3 The Southern African Commercial Farmers' Alliance (SACFA)

The Election

Reports came in from polling stations on occupied farms where no observers were present. Properties with only a few people settled on them produced up to 500 ghost voters who predictably all voted in favour of the ruling party and its candidates.

Intimidation recommenced in preparation for the upcoming re-run, with about 100 of the few remaining farmers countrywide having been told to vacate their properties immediately. In Matabeleland things were more disciplined and only two farmers had visits by gangs who told them to get off their farms. In both instances the police removed the invaders from these properties. Reports suggest that at least three of the farmers who were joined with Campbell in his application to the SADC Tribunal, and who supposedly have the protection of the Interim Relief granted by the Tribunal, were also targeted. SADC has been kept informed of current events on the ground.

First Report on the Election Aftermath

In one of two instances of harassment and intimidation which took place on Friday 11 April 2008, the invaders also proceeded across the Bulawayo/Victoria Road and terrorized the staff on the neighbouring farm. One woman died, allegedly of a heart attack, when she ran from her home to escape the violence. In another instance in District Y, a farm manager was shut inside the security fence around the farm workshop, stores and drier complex by a gang some 20 in number to force him to attend a "meeting" at which he was told to remove himself

immediately from the property. The invaders, largely drawn from those settled on seized neighbouring properties, told him that they were going to replace those living and working on the property as these people had voted for the MDC. They would be replaced by newcomers who would vote "properly" for ZANU PF in the forthcoming runoff presidential election. The situation seems unusual considering that the constituency in which the farm falls was won by the ZANU PF candidate.

On Monday 14 April 2008 a senior ranking officer from the Matabeleland North Provincial Police addressed police officers in L at W. He told them that he was in charge of an official assignment to ensure that all voters in Matabeleland North voted correctly in the upcoming runoff election. This is the same Officer who was instrumental in the eviction of the H family from their farm in L, and who was a prolonged uninvited guest in O's farmhouse in District CC. Both farmers obtained High Court orders against him which were predictably ignored.

On Saturday morning 19 April 2008 a gang of about 25 to 30 men blocked the road to town down which a farm lorry was to deliver milk to Bulawayo. They advised the farm owner to remove herself from her property within 24 hours or face the consequences. The owner and her near neighbour driver who were in a Land Rover took a slight detour through the bush and escaped from the gang. On the main road they managed to stop a new police vehicle whose occupants they requested should deal with the gang. They were told that since there had been no violence police were not allowed to intervene as these matters were "political".

Second Report on the Election Aftermath

At least ten instances were reported of state sponsored individuals harassing and intimidating remaining farmers in Matabeleland North in an endeavour to have them abandon their properties. Matabeleland South remains unaffected. The intimidation takes the usual forms, which have been refined ever since farm invasions began in 2000. It may be a reflection of the mood displayed by the election results, but the majority of these eviction attempts have been half hearted and have fizzled out after an initial showing.

The exception was on the remainder of a once extensive operation in the Y district. This farm is one of those now officially joined with Mike Campbell in the SADC Tribunal in Windhoek.

On Saturday April 19 a group of youths ranging in number from 10 to 40 took up position at the farm security gate. The farmer was told to remove himself and his family as trouble was coming. The staff were not allowed to work. Police stated that as this was 'political' they could not interfere. Only if things turned violent could they react. They gave this assertion in spite of being told that they were blatantly condoning and participating in activities contemptuous of the Interim Relief order given on 28 March by the SADC Tribunal to actively farming Joinders with Campbell.

On Sunday afternoon a Mr. Z, who is also resident on another farm C, appeared at the scene with senior ZANU PF and government politician K in the vehicle. Z gave the message he would be returning in half an hour to forcibly evict the family from their house. The ten invaders who were tasked with this instruction failed to comply before Z returned and they left the scene. At this stage the Officer in Charge of Y police assured the farmer the police would react.

On Monday morning a copy of the SADC Tribunal Court order was delivered to the police at Y and to Dispol Matabeleland North, a Superintendent O. He was away at the time but an uncomfortable Assistant Inspector I reluctantly received it on his behalf.

On Tuesday 22 April some Harare "war vets" appeared and called a meeting for the following day to be attended by all the surrounding political settler hierarchy. The venue was to be S's occupied farm A. One T a war vet from Harare did most of the talking at the meeting. Two police vehicles carrying senior police officers who had been seen at the Y police station attended.

Harassment and intimidation on the farm then escalated. The staff were for some while not allowed to return to their homes on the farm. They were told to stay inside the security fence with their employer. The invaders demanded names and Identity Numbers of all staff members most of whom refused to co-operate. Then the invaders stated that they would decide who could remain employed on the farm. They also attempted to force the closure of the farm store. The invader leader on Thursday afternoon came to complain that the farmer was harassing him so they were going to increase the pressure as a result. Thereafter, the gang produced a list of staff they said might remain employed. Out of some 150 workers, the farmer was only allowed to keep 53. This resulted in another report to the police who entered it in their Reports Received Book and gave the farmer an RRB reference number.

The next day Friday, the invader leader asked for transport to the police station as he said two of his gang had been fighting and had to be dealt with. When he returned he said the programme was complete and removed his gang from the homestead. It is not known whether this was on instructions from the police but things suddenly returned to "normal".

Late on Sunday afternoon Z returned with notorious settler F and two others. F is responsible for issuing serious threats against farmers in 2001/2002 and burning down two separate thatched farm houses at different times. Z, F and their companions complained to the farmer that they were distressed by the plethora of Reports to the police. Therefore work was to cease immediately and the farmer should vacate the property. They said they were not scared, they had been through gunfire before, and the farmer was even invited to take photographs of them so little did they care. They left further invaders at the gate and promised by Tuesday 29 April nobody would be working on the farm.

On Tuesday morning, out of 150 workers only 15 were allowed to work.

The SADC Tribunal has been acquainted with the Zimbabwe Government's disregard of their order. Another four Joinders in Mashonaland have also submitted affidavits to the Tribunal detailing their current harassment. These affidavits will bolster the case at the main hearing in Windhoek next month.

Third Report on the Election Aftermath

The situation on S's farm remains much the same with S's son-in-law and farm manager barricaded inside their security fence for the thirteenth day now. Their staff were cut to 15 from 150 but have now been increased to about 35. No one is allowed in the lands to irrigate or harvest.

On Wednesday 29 April 2008 there was a meeting of senior police and their minions at X. An informant told J that the following day his farm was to be invaded. As predicted before midday an aggressive group of about 200 appeared on foot, although they must have been dropped within walking distance by vehicle. A group of them, including one armed with a .303 rifle, forced their way into the farm office and workshop. As J's son E was telephoning the police this individual pointed his rifle at him. The staff and E tried to disarm the man, whereupon he retreated out of the office taking his .303 with him. A fight ensued with those remaining in which they tried to capture E. As further members of the invading gang were coming to reinforce those attempting to grab him, E decided to make a break for the main house. In order to escape, E was obliged to use pepper spray on their attackers. One of his attackers struck him on the back of his hand with an axe. Whilst fleeing, E ran into the cloud of pepper spray which had kept most of his attackers at bay and it very nearly blinded him.

As he fled through their vegetable garden on the way to the rear security fence gate the gentleman with the .303 fired 4 rounds at him which all missed. The invading mob beat those of the staff they could catch, and all staff members have now fled from their homes and the farm.

When they were telephoned yesterday, Y's Assistant Inspector Q said they had no transport. The farmer should contact the police in Bulawayo, he said. It would appear the police were lying as Assistant Inspector Q later said he would come to the farm which is about 25 kilometres from the police station.

The police from Bulawayo took over three and a half hours to get to the farm, which is only 45 kilometres out of Bulawayo. Once there, they proceeded to confiscate the farm firearms. The invaders were left in place however. They left 3 police details on the spot who had arrived from Y despite the purported lack of transport; then they left to return presumably to Bulawayo. These three details later kindly escorted E's wife from where she had been barricaded all afternoon to join her husband, mother-in-law and grandfather in the main house. Then these police details left the farm.

In the evening of Wednesday 30 April the invaders patrolled around the house security fence, making much noise and causing the farm dogs to bark all night. No one slept. On the morning of Thursday 1 May the gang was toying at the

gates, oblivious to the official election period ban placed on such behaviour and for that matter carrying offensive weapons.

On the afternoon of Wednesday 30 April, after evicting the farm workers from their staff houses for the third time now, the invaders looted fruit and vegetables from the lands. This too is at least the third time the farm produce has been plundered, each time with the active knowledge and connivance of the police force.

At 10.30 a.m. on Thursday 1 May the rabble held a meeting on the P Road where it is believed that the invaders made a public example of those staff members they had abducted. To date, 2 May, this situation remains unresolved.

On the 2nd of May J reported that all his workers houses had been trashed and their possessions stolen.

2.4. The General Agricultural and Plantation Workers Union (GAPWUZ)

GAPWUZ is a Union representing the interests of commercial farm workers. Reports of violent activities received by GAPWUZ accord directly with reports made to the other bodies outlined above. GAPWUZ states:

During the recent waves of farm disturbances, we have gathered the following information regarding farms that have been invaded by those calling themselves war veterans. These manufactured invasions have resulted in loss of jobs and livelihood to those workers and their families.

They report that the scale of the invasions has been much larger than realised and they give the following figures:

<i>Area</i>	<i>Number of Workers Affected</i>
Masvingo	10120
Beatrice	270
Mvurwi	4127
Karoi	6180
Marondera	155
Chipinge	8400
Chegutu	10500
TOTAL	39752

It is clear that this list of districts tallies fairly well with the documentation received from other sources. The table also reminds us that the population of farm workers is sizable and politically significant.

GAPWUZ also provides a few examples of the kind of experiences farm workers are having:

Three workers were admitted at I Hospital after they were savagely beaten up by war veterans at H farm in I and one of them is in a critical condition.

The seven families that were evicted from the same farm in I are still sleeping in the open, as they have not yet found alternative accommodation.

In Manicaland province GAPWUZ reports

Some workers in Manicaland have also been hospitalized after being beaten out of their farms.

Some have resorted to the mountains for fear of victimization.

One GAPWUZ field officer and 15 others were last week arrested on allegations of having organized a workers stay-way. They have since been released and will be summoned to court.

3. Violation of Interim relief granted by the Southern African Development Community (SADC) Tribunal.

In terms of the Southern African Development Community (SADC) treaty, to which the government of Zimbabwe is a signatory, there is provision for a tribunal and the decision of this tribunal is final and binding.⁴ The purpose of this tribunal is to resolve disputes between individuals and member states and disputes between member states themselves.

Recently Mr William Michael Campbell, a farmer from Chegutu whose farm had been gazetted by government for compulsory acquisition, challenged the Constitutionality of Constitutional amendment number 17 which brought into effect section 16B into the Zimbabwean Constitution. The challenge was made on a number of grounds, *inter alia* that the section denies a person the right to seek relief from a court, and that the section unreasonably discriminates against certain individuals on the grounds of race. A convincing argument can be made that this section effectively unreasonably denies individuals in the position of Mr Campbell their fundamental right to approach a court for redress. Section 16B limits the fundamental rights of white farm owners in an extremely obnoxious way and is therefore unreasonably discriminatory.

This blatantly unfair legal position should further be viewed in the context of the Land Acquisition Act (as amended)⁵ and of section 3 of the Gazetted Land (Consequential Provisions) Act which makes it an offence for farmers to remain on their land once they have been given notice to vacate, without the option, as has been stressed, of any appeal or review of the administrative process. In some cases farmers have been prosecuted in terms of the aforementioned

⁴ Article 16 of the SADC Treaty

⁵ Act 3 of 1992, Land Acquisition Amendment Act 2000 – Act 15 of 2000, Land Acquisition Amendment Act 2001 – Act 14 of 2001, Land Acquisition Amendment Act 2002 – Act 6 of 2002

legislation despite the existence of valid court orders setting aside notices of acquisition.

As is evident from a study of this case the government's demonstrated position on compulsory acquisition for public purposes is that acquisition and compensation are two different processes. However, it can be argued that the government has at no time demonstrated any intention to fairly compensate any farmers whose land, implements and livelihoods have been acquired by government. Indeed, questions made by Mr Campbell's legal practitioners to the ministry regarding the extensive provisions related to compensation contained within the Land Acquisition Act have to this date not been answered. To acquire without any intention to compensate is in essence theft.

To summarise the position in blunt terms: individuals in the position of the applicant may have their property, farm equipment and businesses acquired by government in an extremely arbitrary way and cannot appeal or seek compensation in any court in Zimbabwe. The Ministry can acquire the land randomly, following no criteria other than that the land be white owned, and offer the land to who ever it chooses. For the most part land is given to senior politicians, their relatives and figures in government agencies.

Judgment in the case was reserved by the Zimbabwean Supreme court for approximately 18 months, leaving Mr Campbell no option but to approach the SADC tribunal for relief⁶. Consequent to the application to the SADC tribunal judgement has since been handed down by the Supreme Court in favour of the respondents.

It is pertinent at this point to note that many of the members of the Supreme Court Bench and the judiciary as a whole are themselves beneficiaries of the governments land reform programme. The below table shows the members of the Zimbabwean judiciary who have benefitted in the last 8 years from the Land Reform Programme (This table is compiled from information received over the last 8 years. It is by no means complete but merely serves to highlight the extent to which the judiciary has benefitted from the Land Reform Programme and calls into question the judiciary's ability to give an impartial ruling on any matter related to that Programme):

<i>Member Of the Judiciary</i>	<i>Position</i>
CHIDYAUSIKU Godfrey	Chief Justice (Supreme Court Bench)
CHEDA Misheck A	Judge (Supreme Court Bench)
GWAUNZA E	Judge (Supreme Court Bench)
GARWE P	Judge (Supreme Court Bench)
BHERE	Judge

⁶ In terms of the rules of the SADC tribunal an applicant may only approach the court if he or she has exhausted all other local remedies within the SADC member state in question or if there are no local remedies at the applicant's disposal. Section 16B of the Zimbabwean Constitution effectively denies local remedies to persons in the applicant's position.

GOWORA A	Judge
HLATSHWAYO B	Judge
HUNGWE C	Judge
MALABA L	Judge (Supreme Court Bench)
MATIKA A.G. (deceased)	Judge
GUTU	Magistrate
GUVAMOMBE	Magistrate

In addition to these Mr Patrick Chinamasa, the Minister of Justice, Legal and Parliamentary Affairs, and his wife Monica have both been beneficiaries of the programme.

It is clearly reasonable to question the partiality of those included in the above table who heard the application of Mike Campbell (Pvt) Ltd, particularly in light of the fact that they were beneficiaries of a land reform programme to which the questions raised in the Campbell application are material. It is most respectfully submitted that it would have been proper for those members of the Supreme Court bench to recuse themselves from the case in question in order to ensure the maximum possible impartiality.

The Mike Campbell (Pvt) Ltd case was the first case taken to the SADC Tribunal. The decision of the tribunal in this case thus far was to grant interim relief to the applicant pending the final decision of the tribunal. The effect of this interim order is to give the applicant full enjoyment of his property rights including the continuation of farming activities.

Further to this, in terms of Rule 70 of the SADC Tribunal rules of procedure, 80 other white commercial Farmers who found themselves in the same position as Mr Campbell approached the Tribunal and joined on to the “Campbell” application, and interim relief was also extended to seventy seven of those farmers by the Tribunal.

Many of the farmers affected by the recent spate of government sponsored harassment include those who have joined on to the Campbell Case and have had the interim relief extended to them. The harassments these farmers have experienced are a violation of the tribunal’s interim order and effectively a demonstration of the Mugabe regime’s lack of respect for the institutions of SADC and therefore of SADC as a whole.

4. Conclusions

It is evident that these reports indicate a widespread and systematic campaign, far from any suggestion that these are “spontaneous” land invasions, as was so frequently asserted in the aftermath of the 2000 Constitutional Referendum defeat of the ZANU PF government. There are reports from seven different Provinces, and over 100 reports from the severely affected Districts, and it is worth bearing in mind that this is not 2000, with over 3800 farmers on the land, but 2008 and in respect of about 400 farmers only.

As can be seen from all the reports contained in this report, the attacks are totally political in nature, linking the driving out of the farmers to the defeat of ZANU PF in the recently completed elections. Farm workers are a target, as they were in 2000 and 2002, because of their possible voter allegiance to the MDC, and once again the invidious re-emergence of “pungwes” and violent political “re-education” is reported. This “mass psychological torture” has been condemned in the past, just as should be the use of physical torture of individuals.⁷

As was the case in 2000 and 2002, the attitude of the Zimbabwe Republic Police is ambivalent, although, in fairness, there does seem to have been a more concerted effort by the ZRP to deal with both the invasions, the interference with work, and the violence. However, it is equally evident that there is a “hidden hand” behind the invasions that ties the hands of the ZRP in most instances.

However, the most striking feature in all these reports is the association between the current land invasions and the defeat by ZANU PF in both the Parliamentary and Presidential elections, and it is this feature that is so vividly described in the JAG/GAPWUZ report that accompanies the release of this summary of the current violence and illegality. Once again, the rhetoric of “land” hides the widespread and systematic violation of human rights in Zimbabwe.

⁷ For an analysis of “mass psychological torture”, see IRCT (2000), *Organised Violence and Torture in Zimbabwe*, 6th June 2000, Copenhagen and Harare, COPENHAGEN & HARARE: IRCT & AMANI TRUST.; IRCT (2001) *Organised Violence and Torture in Zimbabwe*, 24th May 2001, Copenhagen and Harare, COPENHAGEN & HARARE: IRCT & AMANI TRUST.