



Human Rights Defenders Live in Trepidation

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MASVINGO – THE town of Masvingo has reportedly turned into a house of consternation amid a barrage of raids on Non-Governmental Organisations (NGOs) and harsh targeting of their staff, which sources suspect has roped in the Central Intelligence Organization (CIO).

One human rights defender, whose name has been supplied, is said to have left Masvingo in a hurry after learning of a suspected Central Intelligence Organisation (CIO) underground operation.

The witch-hunt is reportedly eyeing 10 human rights defenders based in Masvingo.

The Crisis Report Team, after learning of the development from a source in Masvingo, spoke to the Director of the organisation who confirmed that the activist had left unharmed.

Community Tolerance Reconciliation and Development Trust (COTRAD), a non-governmental organisation based in the Southern town, said:



Headlands Arson Confirms 'Deep-rooted Conflict'

"Sources inside the security sector have revealed that a contingent comprising of a 10 member high level gang of the Central Intelligence Organization from Harare are on a tour to threaten, thwart NGOs work in Masvingo ahead of the referendum and general elections."

According to COTRAD, the CIO team has a list of 10 people they are targeting.

Suspected to be on the hit list are: Thomas Mbetu, the Regional Coordinator of Zim-rights, Prosper Mtandadzi, the ZESN Field Officer for Masvingo, and Peter Muchengeti, a Zimbabwe Peace Project Field Officer.

Elliot Muposhi, the Regional Coordinator for Zimbabwe Congress of Trade Union (ZCTU), Gamuchirai Mukura, the Project Coordinator of COTRAD, Zivanai Muzorodzi, the COTRAD Programs Manager and other unrevealed names complete the shadowy list.



Glenview 29 Trial in Limbo as Prosecutor Waits for Cuban Witness

The CIO deployees are now suspected to be behind the night time break-in at the ZESN offices in Masvingo which saw invaluable property and documents being whisked away.

Masvingo is not new to attacks on Non-Governmental Organisations as on February 11, 2012, Governor Titus Maluleke announced a ban on their activities flanked by members of the security forces.

The Governor's actions followed a Zanu-Pf resolution to crackdown on NGOs made at its 12th annual People's Conference in Bulawayo in December 2011.

Another resolution against NGOs and their work was made by the party's 13th annual National People's Conference in Gweru in December 2012.

Following the resolution, the blitzkrieg on NGOs has snowballed like a veld fire roping in its path eight organisations in two months.

Some of the organizations which have been raided so far are: ZESN, CSU and ZIM-RIGHTS, ZPP, NYDT and YIDEZ, ERC and NANGO.

Headlands Arson Confirms 'Deep-rooted Conflict'

HEADLANDS - Civil society has said Zimrights member Shepherd Maisiri 's loss of a child and property to a fire caused by suspected political arsonists in Headlands is evidence that political conflict is still ablaze after the Government of National Unity (GNU)'s national healing programme flopped.

Heal Zimbabwe Trust Director Rashid Mashiya said the tragic incident only brought out what is in the unhealed communities.

"This is just a manifestation of the deep-rooted conflicts, intimidation and harassment that have not been resolved after the signing of the Global Political Agreement (GPA).

"When people see this they get outraged.

"But this is a manifestation of what is happening in the communities, the genuine fear and untold acrimony that exists in those communities due to constant and perpetual conflict caused by politicians.

"We recommend that the President of the Republic, His Excellency Robert Mugabe, the Prime Minister of the Republic, Right Honourable Morgan Tsvangirai and the Deputy Prime Minister of the Republic, Honourable Aurthur Mutambabira have their Monday tea in Rusape and address these deep-seated conflicts," said Mahiya.

He added: *"The greatest measure of whether the nation is ready to solve these conflicts will be in the reaction of the police to the latest incident."*

The Zimbabwe National Council for the Welfare of Children (ZNCWC) condemned the violence in a statement:

"The government of Zimbabwe bears a responsibility for preventing and responding to violence against children and for upholding the principles of the Convention on the Rights of Child and the African Charter on the Rights and Welfare of Children to live their lives free of violence.

"Violence against children is never justifiable and we strongly condemn the acts of political violence especially on children.



A disturbing picture of 12-year old, Christpowers Maisiri remains

"We however encourage the police to meticulously investigate these cases exercising much professionalism and refraining from favouritism also bearing in mind that their role is to protect citizens," said the statement in part.

In an interview, the Crisis in Zimbabwe Coalition spokesperson and Director for Bulawayo Agenda Mr. Thabani Nyoni stated that it is the duty of the political party leaders to bring sanity into their political structures,

"We have always insisted that the rhetoric on commitment to non-violence should be followed by action. Of what benefit is it when the leaders of political parties commit to observance of peace and tranquility but fail to rein in their supporters.

"We demand an explanation as to what happened to the message of peace; we also demand a full investigation as to what happened, the matter should be brought to book and perpetrators dealt with through the just arm of law" said Nyoni.

The 12-year old schoolboy, Christpowers Maisiri, who had injuries from a previous political arson at the same Maisiri home-stead, was burnt to death on the night of Saturday, February 23, 2013.



The fire which is suspected to have been caused by political arsonists aligned to Zanu-PF is the ninth such incident targeting Shepherd Maisiri, the deceased's father and their family.

The Crisis in Zimbabwe Coalition is a broad based civil society network of over 72 active members comprising churches, women's groups, social movements, residents associations, labour unions, human rights lawyers, and health professionals. It was formed in August of 2001 to focus on democracy, human rights, good governance and sustainable development issues – working locally, regionally and internationally.

The Movement for Democratic Change (MDC) led by Prime Minister Morgan Tsvangirai (MDC-T) has confirmed that Shepherd Maisiri is their local organizing secretary for the area and is an aspiring candidate for the party in the forthcoming elections expected in 2013.

Zanu-PF Secretary for Administration Didymus Mutasa is the incumbent MP for the area.

The violence is not a new phenomenon.

Past periods towards elections have been characterized by violent occurrences of this nature since 1980, though the trend sharply rose in 2000 and peaked in the June 2008 presidential run – off.

Another watershed election looms in Zimbabwe after four years of a power sharing government necessitated by a violent and inconclusive election.

Glenview 29 Trial in Limbo as Prosecutor Waits for Cuban Witness

CONTINUED unavailability of the Cuban doctor who is supposed to stand witness in the Glen View 29 Court case has thrown the legal proceedings in limbo, the High Court in Harare heard from the defense counsel led by Beatrice Mtetwa on Monday, February 25, 2013.

Mtetwa said, due to postponements caused by the unavailability of the Cuban medical doctor who is still to arrive in the country, the lives of the accused had come to a halt.

“My Lord, without sounding like a broken record, there are lives of the accused to consider.

“Many cannot go to work because of this trial, some were refused re-admission to university and some have lost their jobs.

“Their lives are regulated by this court case, but the State seems not to care at all.

“There are those who are in custody.

“Their lives are in limbo because of the state’s failure to secure witnesses”, said Mtetwa.

Mtetwa argued against the proposal by the prosecution team to postpone the case to March 6 to give the Cuban national arrival leeway, saying it would be the third postponement.

Her argument was bought by the High court which postponed the case to Tuesday, February 26, 2013.

The prosecution team was told by the presiding judge, Justice Chinembiri Bhunu, to secure without delay the presence of Assistant Commissioner Munyonga of the Zimbabwe Republic Police (ZRP), or a Ministry of Foreign Affairs representative in court to clear the air regarding the Cuban witness on the next session.

The Assistant Commissioner is said to be liaising with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs on the dispatching of the witness by the Cuban government.

Prosecutor Nyazamba who is handling the case on behalf of the Attorney General (AG)’s office was not in court on the excuse that he was bed-ridden with an undisclosed illness and was represented by I. Muchuri.

Speaking soon after the court session, one of the accused MDC-T Youth Assembly Chairperson Solomon Madzore said his lawyer Tawanda Zhuwarara was challenging the University Of Zimbabwe (UZ)’s refusal to let him resume studies following his release on bail from Chikurubi Maximum Prison.

Meanwhile, five of the accused remain in custody after others were given bail.



The 29 accused persons who include MDC-T activists and Glenview residents who are being represented by Mtetwa are facing charges of murdering police Inspector Petros Mutedza in Glen view in May 2011.

The court case resumed again in 2013 after the judicial break and has been running since May 2011 when the 29 were arrested.