

**COMMUNITY TOLERANCE RECONCILIATION AND DEVELOPMENT
(COTRAD)**

PROGRAMME REPORTS JANUARY TO APRIL 2012

ACRONYMS

DA District Administrator

DCC District Coordinating Committee

GNU Government of National Unity

GPA Global Political Agreement

JOMIC Joint Monitoring and Implementation Committee

ONHRI Organ of National Healing Reconciliation and Integration

MDC Movement for Democratic Change

MPOI Mass Public Opinion Institute

NGO Non Governmental Organization

ZAPU Zimbabwe African Peoples' Union

ZANU-PF Zimbabwe African National Union Patriotic Front

ZRP Zimbabwe Republic Police

Overall objective: Promote reconciliation, tolerance and an enabling environment for positive youth participation in national processes.

1. Location: Masvingo Province
2. Period: January- April 2012
3. Activity: Monitoring
4. Objectives:
 - a. To monitor the prevalence of politically motivated violence in Masvingo province between January 2012 to December 2012
 - b. To facilitate the development of a conscious youth in respect of their rights, roles, duties, obligations and responsibilities in national healing for positive development.
 - c. To promote informed and positive youth participation in national processes such as forthcoming constitutional referendum and general elections.
 - d. To provide Zimbabwean youth with an open and non-partisan platform for information/knowledge sharing.
 - e. To impart an insight, build confidence amongst rural youths in pursuing justice through democratic means; facilitate legal advice and rehabilitation services.

BACKGROUND

The history of elections in Zimbabwe has been associated with political violence a culture and reason most youths and women did not fully participate in the previous elections, the constitutional making processes and decision making processes. The Zimbabwean political landscape has remained volatile since the era of the year 2000 land invasions. Political violence became the normal than the exception more than ever with ZANU PF unleashing

political violence and land invasions as a means to cling on power despite overwhelming unpopularity support from the populace. MDC which was formed in 1999 managed to win almost half of the 2000 parliamentary seats despite the elections having been marred by political violence and state repression. During the controversial June 2008 elections a lot of violence was recorded and Masvingo province recorded the highest number of cases out of all the 10 provinces of Zimbabwe with Zaka district being highest.



Fig 1. Some the huts which were engulfed by fire in Bikita leaving villagers homeless

On 15 September 2008 the GPA was forged and it gave to birth of the Global Political Agreement (G. P. A) which has overwhelmingly become dysfunctional. Article 18 of the GPA gave the provision of security of persons and preventing of violence which cemented the establishment of the organ of national healing (ONHRI) which has overwhelmingly failed to be functional since its inception. There were few cases of politically motivated violence

recorded during the period of the GNU and a survey carried out by MPOI shows that this was mainly because people believed in the stabilization of the three legged coalition government.

The GNU failed to address the plights of the victims of political violence and the calling for elections has already witnessed the rise of political violence. There has been little civic education on tolerance and reconciliation across the political divide and the security sector has not yet brought to book those who perpetrated violence in 2008. Zaka district and Bikita districts of Masvingo province received very little civic education as they remained areas for civic organisation despite having recorded the highest cases of political valance during the 2008 controversial elections. The governor of Masvingo province Titus Maluleke suspended 29 NGO on February 14, 2012 which were providing humanitarian assistance and civic education on human rights .This has left the traditional chiefs with the power to access food from Grain Marketing Board which they distributed along party lines and this has seen an increase in the cases of politically motivated violence perpetrated by traditional chiefs.



Fig 2. Centurion and his 88 year old wife, headman Muranganwa looks on at their gutted hut in Bikita

There has been an increase in cases of politically motivated violence perpetrated by traditional leaders since the resolution made during the chiefs council meeting held in n Bulawayo where chiefs demanded guns to use during election periods. Of the 26 parliamentary constituencies in Masvingo province MDC won 14 and ZANU PF won 12. The cases of politically motivated violence have been escalated since the December 2011 ZANU PF national congress held in Bulawayo in December 2011 where the resolution for an early election was reached.

PERTRATORS

Youths are the most group which have been perpetrating political violence as they are manipulated by political leaders. There has been resurfacing of youth militia bases in Mwenezi Bikita and Zaka where youth are forcing civilians to attend ZANUPF meetings. Traditional leaders are on the record of intimidating, harassing and threatening their subjects for not supporting the revolutionary party ZANUPF. With the suspension of NGOS the traditional chiefs have taken over the role of distributing food given by NGOS on partisan basis. War veterans have once again celebrated with the youths under the banner of indigenisation in invading farms and assaulting members of opposition political parties.

There has been an increase of unlawful detentions and torture while in custody by members of the uniformed forces, war veterans and youth militia. Political leaders from ZANUPF and MDC formations have been found wanting for deliberately violating article 18 of the GPA which they once promised to adhere to. There has been a significant rise of intra and inter

party violence since the demand for an early election and the start of ZANU PF District Coordinating Committees and primary elections. There are also many cases of political leaders clashing with traditional chiefs. Despite the rise of the cases of politically motivated violence there are very few arrests done.



Fig 3. Riot police attend intra party political violence at a ZANU PF DCC election at Chiefs Hall Mucheke where Mudenge was held hostage by Zanu pf youths

DATE	DISTRICT	DESCRIPTION	PERPTRATORS	VERDICT
02/01/12	Gutu	A ZANU-PF DCC member, Tichaona Magombedze was assaulted by MDC youth district members in retaliation for allegedly assaulting their parents during the 2008 election	MDC youths	Arrested and appearing before the courts
09/01/12	Gutu	Invasion of a conservancy in Gutu	War veterans	Still under JOMIC
25/01/12	Mwenezi	Chief Chitanga intimidated all village heads in his area with violence if people in their area continue to support the MDC party	Traditional leadership	No police report was made

28/01/12	Gutu	Chief Serima threatened that all subjects in the area who conformed to position parties were to be evicted from his area.	Traditional leadership	No police report was made
28/01/12	Chiredzi	There was an invasion of Muteri lodge by war veterans under the auspices of the indigenisation policies	War veterans and youth militia	Matter was reported to the police but no arrest were made
30/01/12	Zaka	Headman Munjanja demanded ZANU PF cards from the people under his jurisdiction for them to access the grain loan scheme.	Traditional leadership	No report was made to the police
03/02/12	Mwenezi	Tobias Chauke a member of the MDC clashed with ZANU-PF DCC member over the issue food aid distribution along party basis	ZANU-PF and MDC youths	Police report was made but no arrests were made
03/02/12	Masvingo	Zororayi Murega the chairperson of the MDC main wing was shot on the upper right arm at Renco turn off by suspected war veterans	War veterans	Police report was made but no arrests were made
07/02/12	Mwenezi	Gibson Mhlanga from ward 7 Mwenezi east constituency was assaulted and his bicycle confiscated by suspected state security agents	State security agents	Police report was made no arrest was made
08/02/12	Chivi	Three MDC activist, Taurai Madzore, John Kugedera and Dunmore Mariga were assaulted by some ZANU-PF assailants for putting on t-shirts	MDC youths Taurai Madzore and John Kugedera	A report was made but no arrest was made
13/02/12	Chiredzi	Mark Huggins a commercial white farmer in the Triangle sugarcane plantations was evicted by war veterans under the auspices of indigenization	War veterans	A police report was made and no arrests were made
13/02/12	Masvingo	Sarah Mutero and Idah Runesu were evicted by Major Kudzai Mbudzi from the Mbudzi housing cooperation in Runyararo West accusing them for being member of the MDC.	Retired Major Mbudzi	No police report was made

15/02/12	Chivi	Commissioners from Harare gathered people at Chivi police station and threatened to arrest them to arrest everybody seen participating in MDC activities.	Members of the Z.R.P	No police report was made
16/02/12	Chivi	Edison Steven Mudereri a teacher was threatened and harassed by ZANU-PF members for contesting in the 2008 local government election under the banner of the MDC	ZANU-PF Councilor for Chivi Central Anacolator Chihava, Lovemore Koto Constituency coordinator and David Matarino youth officer	Reported to JOIMIC
17/02/12	Gutu	Chief Maungwa by-passed councillors in acquiring grain for the GMB and allocated food to MDC supporters only and in turn ZANU-PF supporters responded by assaulting members of the MDC who benefited.	ZANU-PF youths	No police Report was made
24/02/12	Chiredzi	Norman Chirambadare from village 7 was murdered after being alleged to be an MDC supporter	War veterans Bigboy Mafemari and Gift Mudenga	Arrests were made but the assailants were released
24/02/12	Chivi	Two MDC activist were assaulted while distributing posters and fliers ahead of meeting	ZANU-PF youths	No arrests made
28/02/12	Masvingo	One ZAPU national executive member Tichaona Sithole and two provincial executives clashed in an intra party violence		No report was made to the police
01/03/12	Chiredzi	Chinotimba in the company other war veterans invaded Ruvare range in the guise of indigenization policies	Chintimba and war veterans	No arrests made
01/03/12	Bikita	Wasara range was invaded by the war veterans and ZANU-PF MIITIA under the auspices of indigenization	War veterans	Police
01/03/12	Bikita	Wasara range was invaded by the war	War veterans	Police

		veterans and ZANU-PF MIITIA under the auspices of indigenization		intervened, displaced occupants but no arrest were made
01/03/12	Masvingo	People alleged to be MDC supporters were denied food by Chief Charumbira aid resulting in assaults between MDC and ZANU-PF supporters	MDC youths and ZANU-PF youths	No arrests were made
02/03/12	Masvingo	Stan Mudenge evicted more than 50 families under the guise of indigenization	Stan Mudenge	Eviction reported to the police and before the magistrates courts
02/03/12	Zaka	Louis Gwenhure was murdered for harbouring the MDC activist during the 2008 elections	Suspected ZANU-PF youths	Reported to the police but no arrest have been done
04/03/12	Masvingo	Chief Charumbira gathered all the headmen and village heads and instructed them write names of people subscribing to the MDC in their areas	Chief Charumbira	No report was made
07/03/12	Zaka	The district administrator threatened humanitarian and civic organizations operating in the district for purporting regime change agenda	District Administrator	Not reported to the police
10/03/12	Masvingo	ZANU-PF factions one led by Jusby Omar and the other led by Daniel Shumba clashed in an intra part violence at the chiefs hall in Mucheke	ZANU-PF youths	No arrest were made
16/03/12	Zaka	Two MDC youths, Panganayi Chawatama and Brian Mazetese threatened with violence to ZANU-PF members of the DCC	MDC youths	Arrests were made but later released without charge
21/03/12	Mwenezi	Resettled people were gathered at Neshuro Business centre by Hon Basikiti and the ZANU-PF youths and	ZANU-PF youths and member of	No reports were made to the

		threatened and intimidated if ever they continued to defy ZANU-PF they were going to be evicted	parliament Hon. Basikiti	police
25/03/12	Bikita	MDC activist were detained for holding a meeting without police clearance	Police	Arrest were made but were later released
25/03/12	Chivi	The MDC-T district chairperson was assaulted by ZANU PF youths for refusing to give the ZANU-PF slogan at Ngundu growth point		No arrest was made
25/03/12	Chiredzi	Chief Tsovani led a group of his people and invaded the Hippo valley estates demanding 51% of ownership	Hippo valley estates	The matter is still being discussed by JOMIC
28/03/12	Bikita	6 houses allegedly belonging to MDC supporters namely Muonde Million, M Muonde Muranganwa, William.	Mahachi Tafa, Chitenda From Masvina village and Chinonuhwa from Gudo Village).	Reports were made but no arrest were made
30/03/12	Chiredzi	ZANU-PF war veteran identified as Mhofu assaulted Victor Chiremba for refusing to contribute money towards the independence celebration	War veteran	No arrests were made
30/03/12	Masvingo	ZANU-PF youth militia assaulted civilians for not attending the DCC meeting held at Nemamwa Growth Point	ZANU-PF youths	No arrests were made despite the presence of the police
02/04/12	Zaka	MDC district committee member Sharukai Mukwenha was murdered by two unidentified man driving an twin cab	Suspected State agents	Reported to the police but no arrests were made
08/04/12	Masvingo	A ZLHR lawyer Collen Maboke of Mwonzora associates was threatened and intimidated at his homestead for representing human rights defenders	State agents	No arrests were made
10/04/12	Masvingo	Hon Jefferyson Chitando was for holding rallies in Masvingo central	Chief Murinye and	Matter before the

		constituencies without permission from chief Murinye	the police	courts
12/04/12	Zaka	Abel Makombe a village head was intimidated for refusing contributions on behalf of ZANU-PF for the independence celebrations by ZANU-PF Didymus Musengi and Tawanda Munemo at Jerera growth point	ZANU-PF youths Didmus Musengi and Tawanda Munemo	No police report and no arrests were made
13/04/12	Zaka	People were threatened by ZANU-PF youths against boycotting preparatory meeting for the independence day celebrations	ZANU-PF youths	No police report was made
13/04/12	Chiredzi	Abduction of Rhinos Musareva the secretary for security MDC Zaka west and Hardlife Kuzoneyi of chifamba Village under Chief Bota by two war veterans. They were assaulted and abandoned at Oskoro police base in Wasara range	Mupungami Chekero and Dhunanga Brighton of Eaglemont resettlement	Arrest were not made , matter before JOMIC
13/04/12	Chiredzi	Torturing of Rhinos Musareva and Hardlife Kuzoneyi by officer in charge at Oskoro Rangarirai Moyo	Members of the uniformed force Z.R.P.	No char`ges proffered
14/04/12	Masvingo	Chief Murinye summoned all village leaders under his jurisdiction at Chenhuwe Bussiness Centre and instructed them to chuck out MDC supporters out of his area	Traditional leadership	No reports were made
15/04/12	Chiredzi	People were intimidated by Mutemachani ZANU-PF member against not attending independence day celebrations at Tsovani stadium	Thomas Mutemachani	No police report was made
17/04/12	Chivi	Intimidation of teachers at Tambudzai High school by Sandas Magwizi a member the ZANU-PF DCC who intended to establish ZANU-PF structures at high school level	ZANU-PF members	No arrests were made
18/04/12	Masvingo	People were threatened by soldiers for not attending the independence celebrations at Mucheke stadium	Uniformed forces (Soldiers)	No reports were made
18/04/12	Bikita	One MDC activist, Trynos Machingura was assaulted for putting on a MDC t-shirt	ZANU-PF youths, Regis Tavagwisa and Enock	Arrests were made but assailants

			Muzenda	were later released with no charges proffered
23/04/12	Masvingo	ZANU- PF youths held Hon Stan Mudenge hostage during a DCC meeting at Chiefs Hall in Mucheke for allegedly influencing proceedings at the DCC election	ZANU-PF Youths	Police intervened arrested and released the assailants

Fig.4



Fig 5. Zororai Murega the MDC-T chairperson from Masvingo south constituency was shot on the upper right arm at Renco Turn off by war veterans on the 24 of February 2012



Headman Muranganwas' daughter in law Jane showing the ashes of the burnt farm inputs which could not be retrieved

	Assault	Torture	Murder	Arson	Intimidation	Abduction	Invasions	Unlawful arrests	Evictions
Masvingo	5		1	-	4	-	-	1	2
Mwenze	2	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-
Chiredzi	1	1	1	-	1	1	5	-	-
Bikita	1	-	-	6	-	-	2	-	-

Zaka	-	-	2	-	5	-	-	-	-
Chivi	3	-	-	-	3	-	-	-	-
Gutu	1	-	-	-	1	-	1	-	-
Total	13	1	4	6	15	1	8	1	2

Fig 6

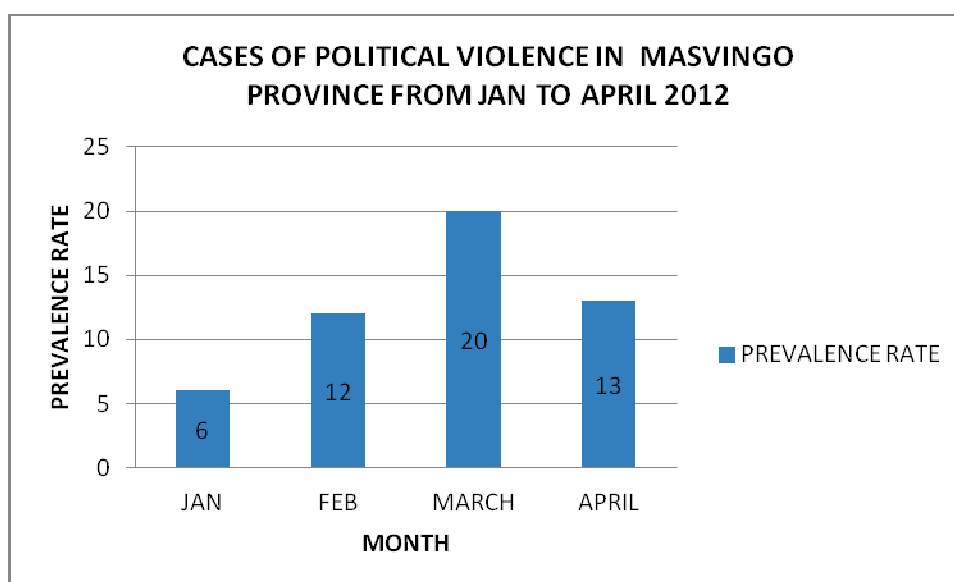


Fig: 7

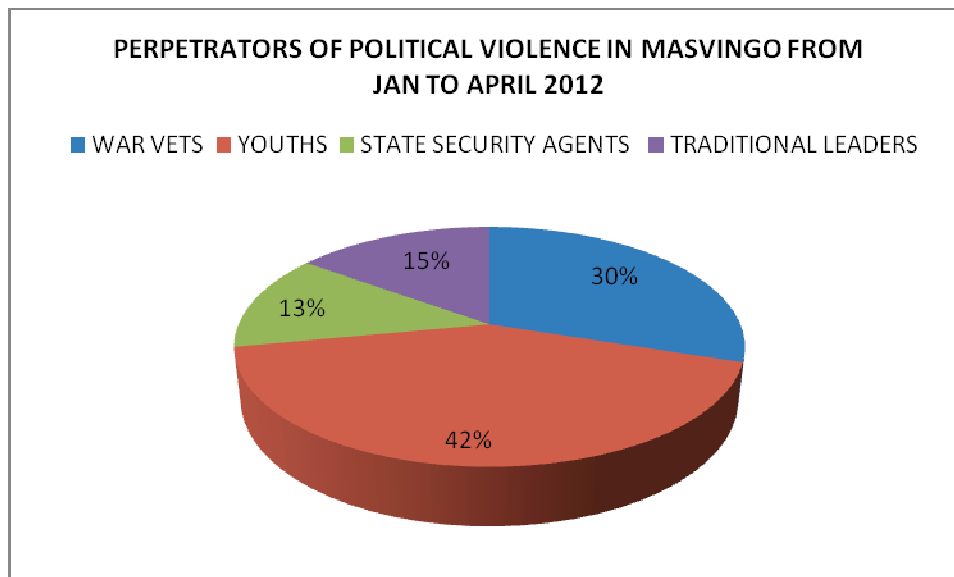


Fig 8

CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATIONS

The monitoring carried by COTRAD reflects that cases of political violence have been on the increase between January and April 2012 in Masvingo province. The increase has been attributed to lack of political tolerance amongst the political parties, lack of civic education on tolerance on diverse political views, failure of the organ of national healing to curb violence, increase in youth manipulation by political leaders, the election demand which has heightened since January and jostling for political positions has spawned factionalism amongst political parties and lack of proper implementation of GPA. Youths continue to commit most of the cases of political violence and traditional chiefs have also contributed much in the committing of these offenses. War veterans continue to commit cases of politically motivated violence. There has been an increase in cases of land invasions as the war veterans and youths desperately empower themselves through the guise of indigenisation policy. There were very few arrests made while most of the cases have not been reported for

fear of victimisation. The members of the ZRP continue to be highly partial in the handling of cases of political violence. The possibility of a violent free and fair election remains unrealistic in Masvingo province. Zaka, Bikita and Masvingo district recorded high cases of politically motivated violence and there is a steady increase in the other districts.

There is need to hold civic education campaigns in all the districts of Masvingo province in promotion of values and practices of political tolerance, respect, non violence, dialogue as a means of resolving political differences while imparting knowledge to the youths, traditional leaders, police, politicians and war veterans which is central and key in mitigation of political violence .Building strategic coalitions and effective networks amongst the youths to promote positive participation of youths in the governance issues. Hold peace campaigns by engaging an all stakeholder input in the fight against political violence.