

ZIMBABWE HUMAN RIGHTS NGO FORUM

POLITICAL VIOLENCE REPORT:

APRIL 2003

19 May 2003

A report by the Zimbabwe Human Rights NGO Forum

OVERVIEW

The Parliamentary by-elections held in Kuwadzana and Highfield on 29 and 30 March 2003 resulted in organised violence and torture (OVT) within the two areas persisting as civilians, ZANU PF and MDC supporters reportedly descended on and victimised each other for allegedly voting for one political party and not another. Of the political parties in the Zimbabwean political arena, only members from the ruling ZANU PF and the opposition MDC were identified as being victims and perpetrators of political violence during the run up to and the period following the by-elections. Coupled with the MDC mass stay away on 18 and 19 March 2003, as well as the ZCTU mass stay-away on 23 - 25 April 2003, the Zimbabwe Human Rights NGO Forum documented a number of politically motivated violations for the month of April.

In one case, Richard Munthuli of Bulawayo allegedly grabbed and raped a woman as she passed through the Davies Hall. He allegedly raped her because he was not pleased with the by - election results in Kuwadzana and Highfield, in which the opposition MDC won the two contested seats. ZANU PF youths allegedly arrived at the home of one MDC election agent for Kuwadzana claiming to be policemen, broke down the door, and assaulted the victim and his wife on allegations of voting for the opposition MDC in the parliamentary by-election. They are said to have slapped the husband and raped the wife while he watched.

Richard Tonderayi Machiridza, an MDC supporter from Chitungwiza, was reportedly murdered by police officers and soldiers on suspicion of perpetrating violence during the 18-19 March 2003 stay-away. The officers allegedly assaulted him severely and banged his head against the wall. He died on 18 April 2003. LM of Budiro also purported that plainclothes policemen assaulted, arrested, and detained him for two days at Machipisa Police Station on suspicion that he was behind the burning of a ZUPCO bus which occurred on 18 March 2003 during the MDC stay-away, and that he had taken part in organising the stay-away. He sustained broken fingernails, welts on his back and bruises on the feet. In Epworth, CN alleged that a group of about 10 soldiers bundled her into a truck, took her to a secluded spot and raped her on accusations of burning a ZUPCO bus during the 18-19 March 2003 mass stay-away. She claims that her assailants threatened her with unspecified action if she reported the matter to the police.

Following the MDC call for a mass stay-away, the ZCTU also called for another on 23, 24, and 25 April 2003. This also resulted in many incidents of OVT in many areas. For example, in Chitungwiza, Mutare and Mabvuku, residents reported that state agents were assaulting them indiscriminately on accusations of heeding to the ZCTU call for a mass stay-away. Peter Mlambo and other residents of Seke purported that soldiers rounded them and beat them up because they were seen roaming around during those three days, and that they were not at work. John Badza of Mabvuku claims that during the same period, soldiers ambushed him and demanded to know why he was walking about during the time he was supposed to be at work.

The Public Order And Security Act Chapter 11:17¹ and the Miscellaneous Offences Act have apparently remained the cause for the arrest of most victims who have fallen to victimisation by state agents in the month of April, especially the police. In the month of April, more than 60 MDC supporters attending the funeral of **Richard Tonderayi Machiridza** were reportedly arrested by police officers and were charged under section 7(b) of the Miscellaneous Offences Act².

Machiridza died on 18 April 2003 after he was allegedly severely tortured by the police on allegations of perpetrating violence during the MDC mass stay-away on 18 and 19 March 2003.

Paul Themba Nyathi, MDC spokesman, was reportedly charged under Section 5 which states that any person who intentionally recruits or encourages any other person to undergo training inside or outside Zimbabwe, in order to commit an act of insurgency, banditry or sabotage, shall be guilty and liable to life imprisonment. The Forum recorded that Paul Themba Nyathi was arrested under Section 5 after the police searched his home without a warrant and confiscated congratulatory documents for the MDC victory in the parliamentary by-elections held in Kuwadzana and Highfield.

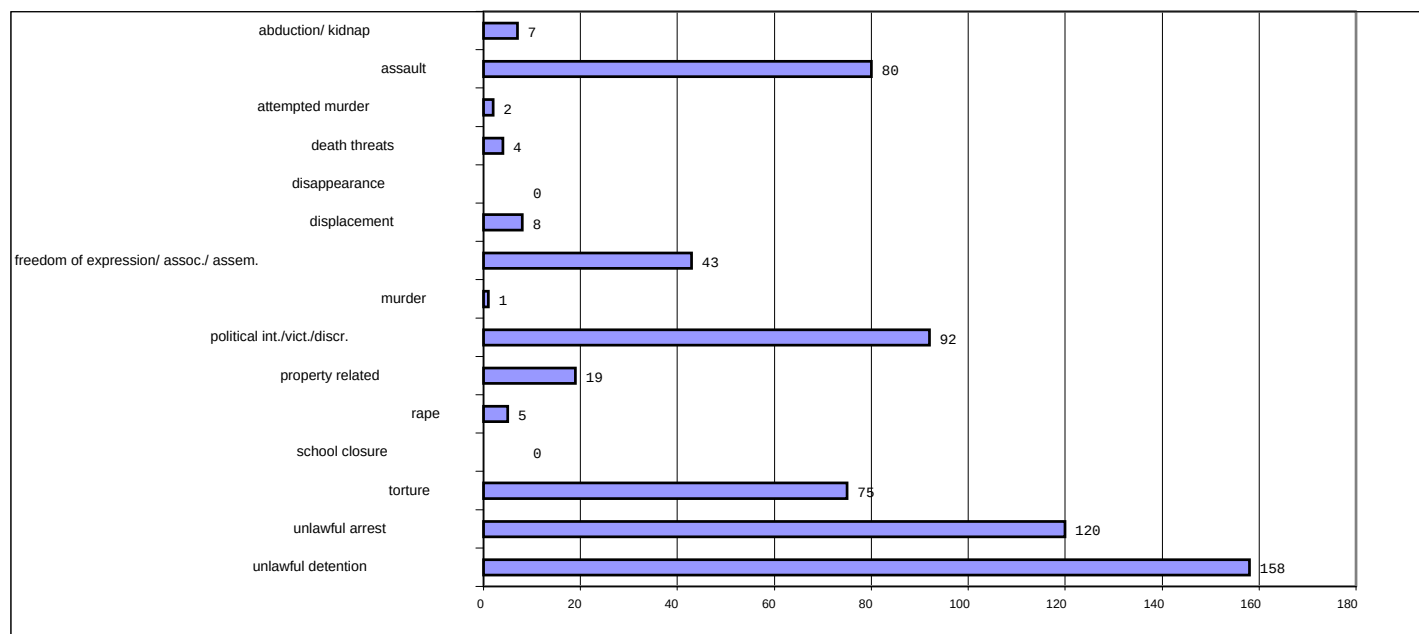
Overall, political violence and torture around the country continues to be perpetrated around elections and mass stay-aways, although in other cases, incidents have reportedly occurred on the mere suspicion that one belongs to a political party which the assailant does not support. JR, TC, LR, PK and IM of Chitungwiza, were reportedly assaulted by ZNA forces at their homes, because they belong to MDC. In Mbare, the Chipangano, a ZANU PF group, reportedly harassed vendors from Kuwadzana and Highfield at the market stall and ordered them not to sell their wares there because they had voted for the opposition MDC in the parliamentary by-elections.

The Zimbabwe Human Rights NGO Forum continues to condemn all forms of political violence and torture, as well as the use of force by state agents, MDC supporters and ZANU PF supporters to harass, intimidate, victimise, torture, and assault victims.

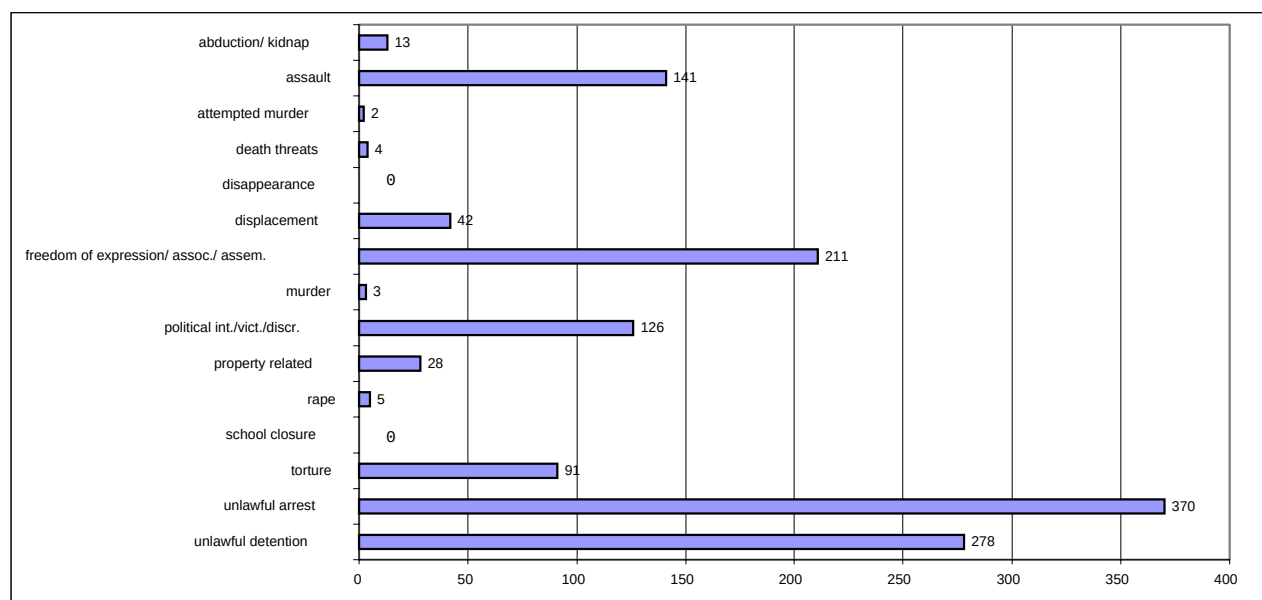
¹ For a fuller analogy on the provisions of the sections, please see the POSA Act, Chapter 11:17

² Please see a copy of the Miscellaneous Offences Act, Section 7(b)

Totals: 1 April 2003 – 30 April 2003



Cumulative Totals 1 January 2003 To 30 April 2003



Sources: The information contained in this report is derived from statements made to the Public Interest Unit of the Zimbabwe Human Rights Forum, CFU reports, newspaper reports, and statements taken by the member organisations of the Human Rights Forum. *(See last page for list of member organisations)*

Notes to the tables:

Torture:

All cases of torture fall under the definition of torture according to the general definition given in the United Nations Convention against Torture and Other Forms of Cruel, Inhuman and Degrading Treatment and Punishment.

The four elements of torture are:

- 1 **Severe** pain and suffering, whether physical or mental

- 2 **Intentionally** inflicted
- 3 With a **purpose**
- 4 By a state official or another individual acting with the **acquiescence of the State**.

Those individuals referred to in point # 4 include the ZRP, ZNA, ZPS and the ZNLWVA (as a reserve force of the ZNA) and by any other grouping when directly sanctioned by the state.

Unlawful arrest and detention:

Arrest by the Zimbabwe Republic Police (ZRP) with no reasonable suspicion that an offence has been committed. Detention thereafter for a period exceeding 48 hours without access to redress through the courts or subsequent release without charge.

Abduction/kidnapping:

A kidnapping by a member(s) of an organised group that is not the ZRP organisation, political party, ZNLWVA, ZNA, MDC, Zanu PF etc

Disappearance:

Kidnapped persons whose whereabouts remained unknown at the time of reporting. Their whereabouts have still to be ascertained through follow up reports or further investigation.

Property related

These are incidents in which property rights have been violated. This includes arson, property damage and destruction and theft.

Key Abbreviations

CIO – Central Intelligence Organisation
 MDC – Movement for Democratic Change
 MP – Member of Parliament
 NAGG - National Alliance for Good Governance
 NCA – National Constitutional Assembly
 OVT – Organised Violence and Torture
 POSA – Public Order and Security Act
 PTUZ – Progressive Teachers Union of Zimbabwe

UMP – Uzumba Maramba Pfungwe
 Zanu PF – Zimbabwe African National Union Patriotic Front
 ZNA – Zimbabwe National Army
 ZNLWVA – Zimbabwe National Liberation War Veterans Association
 ZRP – Zimbabwe Republic Police
 ZIMTA – Zimbabwe Teachers Association
 ZUPCO – Zimbabwe United Passenger Company

Cases of Political Violence

Note: The identities of victims that have not been published in the press and are not public officials are protected by the use of initials.

BULAWAYO

Bulawayo North East/ South

April 2003

- Richard Munthuli, a ZANU PF supporter, reportedly grabbed a woman as she passed by, carried her into Davies Hall and raped her twice. He claims that he raped her because he was not pleased with the by - election results in Kuwadzana and Highfield on 29 and 30 March 2003 in which the opposition MDC won the two contested seats.

7 April 2003

- Paul Themba Nyathi (MDC spokesperson) claims that he was at the Bulawayo Magistrates' Court when police officers surrounded him and beat him on suspicion that he took part in the MDC mass stay-away preparations. The mass stay away took place from 18 to 19 March 2003. The police reportedly went to his house, forced their way in, and searched it without a warrant. They are said to have seized congratulatory documents for the MDC victory in the Kuwadzana and Highfield parliamentary by-election held on 29 and 30 March 2003, arrested him, and then charged him for contravening section 5 of POSA . Section 5 of POSA provides for the life imprisonment of any person who recruits or encourages any other person to commit insurgency, banditry or sabotage in Zimbabwe. He was ordered to surrender his passport and to report to Hillside police station twice weekly. The police are said to have insisted on locking up Nyathi despite having taken a warned and cautioned statement from him. Despite a High Court Order that Nyathi be brought to court, the police refused to do so and insisted on carrying out further investigations on him.

18 April 2003

- David Mpala (MDC MP - Lupane) and Jelous Sansole (MDC MP - Hwange West), were arrested reportedly on allegations of mobilising MDC youths for the mass stay away. They claim that they were denied food during the three days of detention. Talking from prison, Sansole earlier alleged that the police were holding him on accusations of "possessing ballot-box sealing papers", then they later changed the charge to "ordering youths to puncture car tyres during the stay away", and finally to his alleged "possession of a booklet with names of ZANU PF youths in Hwange". Sansole was released on \$50 000 bail and Mpala was released without being charged. The opposition MDC has mandated their lawyers to sue the police officers for the unlawful arrest and detention of Mpala.

19 April 2003

- Sansole Mhazha and Cleopas Chirwa claim that police officers arrested and detained them when they were visiting Jelous Sansole (MDC MP - Hwange West) and David Mpala (MDC MP – Lupane) at Bulawayo Central Police Station. The two MPs were detained on allegations of mobilising MDC youths for the mass stay away on 18 and 19 March 2003. Mhazha and Chirwa were released following an application to the High Court by Lucas Nkomo, their lawyer. David Mpala was also released at the same time without any specific charge being preferred against him.

HARARE

Budiriro

5 April 2003

- LM claims that plainclothes policemen picked him up from his home and took him to Glen View Police Station where they locked him up without a reason. He was detained for two days and was later taken to Machipisa Police Station where he was subjected to severe assault and torture by the CID officers. The assailants detained the victim on suspicion that he was behind the burning of a ZUPCO bus and that he had taken part in organising the 18-19 March 2003 stay-away. He sustained broken fingernails, welts on his back and bruises on the feet.

Chitungwiza

1 April 2003

- AG was displaced from her home by ZANU PF supporters. She alleged that a group of MDC youths came to her home and told her that she had to leave immediately as she was on the targeted list of MDC activists being sought out by ZANU PF supporters. She has not returned home since then.
- At around 2 am an army tanker and a Mazda 323 full of soldiers arrived at EB 's home. The soldiers allegedly scaled the gate and called out her name. When she opened the door, they got in and ordered her into the bedroom while they ransacked the house, claiming that they were looking for MDC material. They are reported to have taken some papers and burnt them. They are said to have assaulted EB with baton sticks and sjamboks, demanding to know the names of all the MDC supporters in the district. They reportedly beat her into confessing where the petrol bombs were being manufactured, as well as revealing the directions to a certain Nyonga Nyonga' s place. She took the assailants to Nyonga Nyonga's tuck-shop where they looted goods and then ordered her to drink some mysterious liquid. They dropped her off at a funeral parlor and told her to walk back home.
- Military police, CIO agents and policemen are reported to have come to MM 's home, smashed her windows and doors, and demanded MDC material from her. They allegedly pushed her against the wall and banged her head against it. She sustained injuries on the left ear and spinal cord.
- TM claims that military police came to her house and forced their way in after she opened the door to shouts of 'police'. They are said to have assaulted everyone present with baton sticks and sjamboks. TM sustained a broken arm and bruises on her back and buttocks.

3 April 2003

- MK was sleeping at a hideout when a group of soldiers, policemen and Border Gezi youths arrived and assaulted him with baton sticks on his feet and face. The assailants allegedly ordered him to give them some money (pounds) they claimed he was getting from Fidelis Mhashu. Mhashu is the MDC MP for Chitungwiza. The victim claims that he lost consciousness and that the assailants revived him with cold water. The group then force-marched him to his home and ordered him to produce a gun, which they claimed he received from Mhashu. The victim however did not produce the gun as he claimed that he never received one. They drove him to a far off road, parked their car, kicked him out, and ordered him to walk back home. When he arrived home, he claims that he discovered that they had stolen about \$15 000 and a tube of toothpaste from his house.

- Fidelis Mhashu's (MDC MP for Chitungwiza) wife claims that men in army uniform and some in civilian clothing arrived at their home, pulled down a wall of the house, and demanded to see Mhashu, threatening to kill him. Mhashu was reportedly out of the country at the time. They are said to have assaulted everyone at the house with baton sticks to have stolen some money, food, paint, glue, \$270 000 cash and Mhashu's pistol.
- At around 12 midnight, about 15 soldiers with stickers written: "COMMANDO THE DEADLIEST", purportedly arrived at GM's house armed with AK47 rifles, small pistols, baton sticks and sjamboks. They allegedly broke down his bedroom door, entered his mother's bedroom and took a revolver, \$400 000, some mealie meal, cooking oil, rice, 3 tins of gloss paint, a bottle of glue, MDC party materials (such as cards and diaries), his mother's cell phone, his ID Card and the car radio. They are alleged to have climbed up into the ceiling causing it to sag. GM was then handcuffed and taken away. He sustained a swollen knee and bruises on the arm.
- A group of about 15 soldiers is said to have arrived and asked for the whereabouts of AM's uncle before they proceeded to search the house. They confiscated the uncle's gun, \$200 000, some mealie meal, cooking oil, rice, gloss paint, a cell-phone and all the MDC material in the house. The soldiers reportedly assaulted AM with sjamboks and baton sticks and then ordered him not to tell anyone of the assault.

13 April 2003

- MSM claims that he was coming from the shops when a group of policemen in uniform and plainclothes waylaid him and accused him of supporting the opposition MDC, and of inciting public violence in the area. He alleged that when he tried to run away, the assailants caught him and beat him with clenched fists, booted feet, baton sticks and open hands. He is said to have been taken to a Police Station where he was ordered to roll on the ground and 'have sex with the floor'. He sustained severe chest pains and a sore jaw.
- DG had gone to the shops to fetch his uncle when men in civilian clothing allegedly assaulted him on accusations of belonging to the MDC. He was assaulted with open fists and a steel bar. His assailants fled when they saw the patrons in the bar leaving. The victim sustained a broken finger.

14 April 2003

- PG claims that a group of soldiers arrived at her house and assaulted her on allegations of taking part in organising the MDC stay-away, which was held on 18 and 19 March 2003. She purported that she was ordered to give the names of those who had burnt a ZUPCO bus during the stay away, and when she told them she knew nothing of it, they allegedly drove her to a hide out and threatened her with death. She claims that she was only released when they heard other people passing through the hide-out.

15 April 2003

- LMN was on her way to the shops when she was apprehended by four ZANU PF youths who threatened to beat her up because she belongs to the opposition MDC. One of the assailants claimed that he had seen her in the company of one Claybert Manyathi, a well-known MDC activist in the area. She was assaulted all over the body with sticks and she sustained a cut on the lips and bruises all over the body.

18 April 2003

- LG, the late **Richard Tonderai Machiridza's** wife, purported that more than 20 police officers and soldiers forced their way into the house, assaulted her husband on the head, and arrested him on 13 April 2003. She alleged that he was bleeding heavily at the time he was dragged outside. LG claims that when she started screaming, two police officers came back into the house and assaulted her until she lost consciousness. Her husband was handcuffed and taken to St. Mary's Police Station. She managed to identify one Constable Kasinamunda, whom she claims kicked her on the head. LG went to visit her husband at St. Mary's Police Station the following day but was allegedly sent back and told by a police officer to return at 12 midday if she wanted to see him. She was later informed that Machiridza had been taken to Chitungwiza General Hospital and when she went to see him, she found him under heavy police guard. He alleged that he had been assaulted with electric cords on accusations of perpetrating violence during the 18-19 March 2003 stay-away. His bail was paid and he was transferred to the Avenues Clinic where he died on 18 April 2003.

23 April 2003

- DM claims that she was at the late Tonderai Machiridza's funeral when a group of soldiers and policemen arrived and indiscriminately assaulted mourners with booted feet, whips, gun butts and sjamboks. She sustained welts on her back. LG, the deceased's wife, claims that she was not beaten up but fainted from terror.
- CM was reportedly assaulted with baton sticks and booted feet by soldiers and police details when he was attending Tonderai Machiridza's funeral. The victim was in the house with other mourners when the state agents reportedly fired gunshots in the air, kicked the door open, assaulted the victims and arrested and detained them at St. Mary's Police Station. They were charged under POSA and were later released on paying a fine of \$3 000 each as an admission of guilt fine. About 64 mourners claim that they were arrested.

23; 25; 29 April 2003

- WZ, WM, AG, PM (2), JG, JC MN, ES, LT, CJ, MC, RN and RC allege that they were attending Richard Tonderai Machiridza's funeral at 118 Manyame Close in St. Mary's when they were suddenly surrounded by CIO agents and army details who fired 3 shots into the crowd. WZ lifted his hands into the air and requested dialogue with the agents, whom he claims declined and accused him of dumping the body of Tonderai Machiridza at the house of one of the 20 policemen who had reportedly assaulted Machiridza. The soldiers are said to have assaulted the victims on their backs and buttocks with the butt of a gun and then arrested them. WZ sustained a fracture of the right arm. He purported that he was ordered to crawl into a Defender Vehicle and then was taken to St. Mary's police station where he was further assaulted for opening a tap of water so he could drink. He was allegedly detained overnight and released the following day at 8:00p.m. JG, JC and CJ alleged that they were beaten all over their bodies with baton sticks and butts of guns. PM escaped before he could be beaten up. RN claims that the assailants stamped all over her and other mourners while they were lying down, and later took them to St. Mary's Police Station for questioning. RC purported that he was abducted and forced to sing "*Tonde watiwuraireyi*" meaning "Tonderai, why are you killing us". He was reportedly beaten up under the soles of his feet then released after paying a \$3000 admission of guilt fine. He claims that he was denied food and water during his period in detention. WM also alleged that he was told to spin around with his eyes closed and each time he slowed down, he would be assaulted and ordered to go faster. The police are said to have stolen his mobile phone and accused him of using it to communicate with others whom they had not managed to detain. WM was released on 27 April and charged under Section 7(b) of the Miscellaneous Act. LT alleged that the soldiers poured water on everyone and jogged on top of the people. LT was among those who were taken to St. Mary's Police Station. He claims

that he had his particulars taken and then was assaulted for 'tampering around with dead bodies'. He was purportedly further assaulted the following day and then taken to bury the late Machiridza by the police. He was charged under Section 7(b) of the Miscellaneous Offences Act.

- GK and DC purportedly dumped the late Tonderai Machiridza's body at the alleged perpetrator's house on the pretext that they had been denied permission to take the body to the City Hall for mourning. GK claims that police officers followed him to his home and beat him up with baton sticks, ordered him to lie down, and 'jogged' on his back. GK was reportedly then taken to St. Mary's Police Station where he claims he was assaulted again. He alleged that he was denied food and water during his detention. He was released without a charge or fine. GK purported that the assailants also forced him to speak like a woman and they assaulted him through the night. He had spent the whole day in a cell and had been denied food and water. He was released on 29 April 2003 without charge.

27 April 2003

- A group of 12 soldiers and 3 policemen came to FS's home and asked for Usayiwevhu, the MDC Acting Secretary for Zengeza. When FS's sister opened the door, the soldiers and policemen reportedly assaulted her and everyone who was in the house with booted feet, rifle butts, sjamboks and baton sticks. The victims sustained multiple injuries.
- NS claims that she was asleep at her mother's home when 12 soldiers, 2 civilians and 1 uniformed police officer asked for her mother (MDC Secretary for Youth in Chitungwiza), and then proceeded to search the house without a warrant. When they located the mother, they allegedly beat her and NS with the butt of a gun, sjamboks, open hands and baton sticks.
- LU (MDC Acting Secretary for Zengeza) claims that a group of soldiers and police officers came to her house, knocked at the door and assaulted her on the back and head with open hands and baton sticks. They are said to have demanded all the MDC material she had in the house. When she denied having any, they reportedly stamped on her hand and broke her pair of spectacles.
- JM purported that he was asleep when a group of 12 soldiers and 3 policemen came to his house, assaulted everyone, and ordered him to remove his T-shirt so that they could blindfold him with it. JM was reportedly taken away in a Defender Vehicle with other MDC supporters who had been picked up from their homes. The assailants apparently had a list of MDC supporters which they consulted as they went around victimising people in their homes. JM alleged that he was also beaten everytime the assailants stopped at a house to assault another MDC supporter. He claims that the soldiers and the police officers then took him to St. Mary's Police Station where he identified the late Tonderai Machiridza as one of the victims who had been picked up. JM claims that the policemen knocked little pieces of stones against his teeth as if to remove them, and then ordered him to bite into the slippers he was wearing. He alleged that he was ordered to play a tug of war for the slippers with 3 other victims using his teeth and had his feet stamped on. The police and soldiers allegedly ordered him and the other detainees to dance along to some music that they were playing, to bang their heads against the wall and to tell them folktales, whereupon they told them to seek political asylum abroad. He claims that the assailants denied him use of the toilet or food, and then shoved him into a cell at around 9:00am after having assaulted him for about 6 hours.
- DM alleges that a group of 12 soldiers and 3 riot police officers came to her home, knocked on the door and ordered her to open it for them. They allegedly smashed one of her windows, gained entry, and then ordered her to show them her party cards. They purportedly searched

her house and asked for her husband's whereabouts. They are said to have confiscated her Identity documents, MDC cards, wristwatch, \$16 000 in cash and then assaulted her and her children with open hands and sjamboks.

- A group of soldiers and policemen allegedly went to EC' s house, an MDC supporter, banged on the door to her house and then knocked it down. They are said to have assaulted her with sjamboks, baton sticks and open hands, and then ordered her to give them all the MDC material she had in the house. She was taken to Makoni police station where she was further assaulted and told that Tsvangirai would never rule. She was told to sit down and had her head stamped on. She was also ordered to tell folktales, assaulted again then taken to the cells where she was blindfolded and denied any food in the morning. She was further assaulted in the morning by a new group of soldiers and one of them removed her blindfolds. She is Chairperson for Ward 15.
- JR (an MDC supporter) and LR (Chitungwiza MDC youth Treasurer) claim that they were attacked at their homes by state agents. JR alleged that when she woke up from sleep, she found her house surrounded by a group of soldiers whom she claims beat her up with a baton stick. LR claims that the soldiers forced their way into the her home and assaulted her on the head with baton sticks. Both victims claim that they were assaulted because they failed to produce an alleged list with names of MDC supporters in the area.
- TC, an MDC supporter, claims that he was sleeping when Barnabas Chirimanzi woke him and warned him that some soldiers were looking for him. The victim managed to run away before they came to his home.
- PK, MDC Youth Chairman for the district, claims that when he opened the door of his house, he found a group of about 12 soldiers waiting outside. 5 of them reportedly entered, demanded MDC T-shirts from him, dragged him to their Police Defender Vehicle and assaulted him with baton sticks and steel sjamboks.
- IM claims that she was asleep at her home when a group of soldiers woke her up, assaulted her, and then ordered her to give them all the MDC material that she had. She was allegedly assaulted with sjamboks and baton sticks. She cannot identify any of them by name. She is also the MDC Chairperson for Zengeza District.
- ME was asleep at her home when a group of soldiers and policemen arrived, woke her up and allegedly assaulted her on the buttocks with the butts of their guns on accusations of wanting to remove the President from power. They are said to have demanded names of the members in the women' s executive. She claims that the assailants displaced her from her home and threatened to come back if she remained in the area.
- AK reported that she was asleep when a group of soldiers and police officers forced their way into her house and asked her to confirm whether she was the MDC Chair for the province. When she denied this assertion, she claims that she was ordered to provide all the names of the MDC members in the province. One of the soldiers is said to have slapped her on the face and assaulted her granddaughter.
- JM claims that soldiers dressed in Army regalia and holding AK47 rifles arrived at his home, demanded to see him, and then assaulted him because he supports the opposition. . He escaped through the back gate.
- TC claims that he was woken up by a noise. Upon investigation, he saw an Army tanker truck parked at his gate. He managed to escape before the soldiers got to him.

- A group of soldiers is alleged to have gone to PS' s home and searched for MDC cards and T-shirts. They allegedly assaulted her with sjamboks, open hands, and then stamped on her back.
- FSM reports that he was at home around 01:00am when a group of camouflaged soldiers carrying AK47 rifles arrived in a ZRP Defender truck and an Army tanker truck, demanding that the victim surrender all the MDC material that he had in the house. He claims that he was assaulted with baton sticks all over his body, and his wife was also assaulted with baton sticks and open palms. They then abducted his wife and threatened to return for him later. They allegedly stole his mobile phone and \$22 000 in cash. FSM sustained bruises and experiences pain all over his body.

28 April 2003

- TC claims that she was coming from the outside toilet when she saw a Police Defender vehicle parked at her neighbours' house. She was seen by a policeman whom she claims asked her what she was doing outside at such a late hour. The policemen allegedly accused her of eavesdropping and then beat her on her arm with a baton stick.

Glen Norah

April 2003

- The victim (unnamed) claims that he was traveling home on a ZUPCO bus when MDC supporters threw a petrol bomb at it and then disappeared into the night.

Harare Central

19 April 2003

- FP, an MDC supporter, had finished distributing fliers to branch leaders in Belvedere when he was allegedly picked up from his home in the late afternoon by 3 CID officers. He claims that he sustained painful ribs, a ringing in one of his ears and a painful chest after the officers assaulted him with open palms and booted feet. They are then said to have handed him over to Assistant Inspector Mhondoro at Harare Central Police Station. He was released the same night without being charged.

25 April 2003

- Nomore Sibanda (MDC Elections Co-ordinator); Tendai Nyamushanya (Director for Security); Lovemore Mutamba (Provincial Secretary - Chitungwiza) and 27 MDC members were arrested at their provincial offices in Nelson Mandela Avenue after ZRP officers reportedly stormed into the offices. They are said to have carried out raids on the assumption that the victims were harbouring subversive material and arms of war. Nelson Chamisa (Kuwadzana MP) and Tichaona Mudzingwa (Secretary for Security) locked themselves in another room while the police arrested the others.

Hatfield

2 April 2003

- RW got off a bus at the Reuben Mombeshora Shopping Centre to find that there was commotion involving civilians and army officers. He was caught up in a group of people being allegedly beaten by the soldiers. The soldiers did not say why they were beating them.

8 April 2003

- CN alleges that a group of about 10 soldiers knocked at her door, ordered her to come outside, bundled her into a truck, seated her between five people and then took her to a secluded spot in Epworth. The soldiers are said to have accused her of burning a ZUPCO bus during the 18-19 March 2003 stay-away and of spending Tsvangirai's money. She claims that she was then raped by 7 of the soldiers, 3 of them wore condoms while the other 4 did not. She was allegedly threatened with unspecified action if she reported the matter to the police.

17 April 2003

- A group of 5 youths are said to have approached PM who was holding a copy of *The Daily News*, grabbed it from him and tore it up. As he started to walk away, they allegedly went after him and beat him, accusing him of supporting the MDC. He was later rescued by passers by.

18 April 2003

- TM had earlier been taken from his home by ZANU PF supporters who accused him of burning a ZUPCO bus during the 18-19 March stay-away. On the day in question, he had gone to his home to get a change of clothing when he was allegedly abducted by 5 youths and 2 policemen who blindfolded him and took him to a room without windows at a police station. He claims that he had his hands and feet tied together and was assaulted all over the body with baton sticks. He denies burning the bus. He also cannot identify any of his assailants but suspects that they were sent by Mrs Nyagura, Mr Mhandu and Mr Sanyanga of ZANU PF.

Kuwadzana

1 April 2003

- TN was on his way home from seeing some friends when he was allegedly assaulted by ZANU PF youths on accusations of associating with MDC supporters. They apparently assaulted him with baton sticks and iron bars on the forehead and when he fell down, they kicked him on the forehead, left eye and then searched all his pockets and took \$400.

3 April 2003

- MDC youths allegedly arrived at the victim's (unnamed MDC election agent for Kuwadzana) home claiming to be policemen, broke down the door, and assaulted the victim and his wife on allegations of voting for the opposition MDC in the Parliamentary by-election. On arrival, the youths went through the house searching for the husband who at that time of their arrival had hidden under the bed. The youths are then said to have pulled him from under the bed, slapped him in the face and dragged him outside. The wife claims that five of the assailants remained behind, ripped her clothes off, blindfolded her with a napkin, and raped her. She purported that they struck her on the face with open hands, beat her for about two hours, and threatened her with death if she continued crying or reported to the police. The youths are said to have ordered her husband to watch the assault. They allegedly searched the house for MDC material and on not finding anything, they reportedly urinated in the husband's mouth, stoned him on his back, confiscated the couple's identification documents, \$10 000 in cash and 10 napkins that belonged to their child. The wife claims that as they raped her, they claimed that nothing would happen to them because they were the country's police force. The husband was reportedly dragged to a nearby hill, tortured, and returned on his own the following morning with blood stained clothes, a limp and torn clothing. Medical reports stated that the wife suffered a headache, an itch on her private parts and painful limbs. They reported to the police at Kuwadzana 2 police station.

7 April 2003

- GG claims that while he was guarding retired Inspector Malunga's house with other MDC youths, the house was attacked by ZANU PF supporters led by David Mutasa's (losing ZANU PF candidate in Kuwadzana) campaign manager. He claims he was severely assaulted by the ZANU PF supporters before being handed over to the police. He was arrested and subjected to heavy interrogation and assault during his incarceration although he had not been formally

charged. As a result of the alleged beatings he sustained a sprained ankle and bruises all over the body.

- MDC supporters reportedly assaulted members of the Kuwadzana Neighbourhood Watch following the Kuwadzana and Highfield Parliamentary by-elections held on 29 and 30 March 2003.
- TM, TT and EM claim that they were guarding retired Inspector Malunga's house with other MDC youths when the house was attacked by ZANU PF supporters led by David Mutasa's (losing ZANU PF candidate for Kuwadzana) campaign manager. TM was reportedly severely assaulted by the ZANU PF supporters before being handed over to the police who then arrested him and subjected him to heavy interrogation and assault while in custody. EM and TT claim that they were also severely assaulted on accusations of being MDC supporters who were celebrating the loss of ZANU PF. They were also arrested and they claim that while in custody, the police asked them questions of a political nature. They were purportedly assaulted and then released without being charged.

8 April 2003

- Percy Malunga claims that police officers arrested him and seven other MDC supporters at his home, on suspicion that they wanted to overthrow the government through unconstitutional means. The officer in charge at Kuwadzana police station claims that they found home-made bombs, bows, arrows, knives, axes and catapults during the raid. ZANU PF youths also beat them with sticks, sjamboks, barbed wires and stoned them. Malunga and other victims sustained visible injuries all over their bodies. They were released from jail on 10 April 2003 without any charges being preferred against them.

10 April 2003

- Munyaradzi Guzha, an MDC supporter, claims that ZANU PF youths visited his tuck shop and destroyed property which included two compressors worth more than \$400 000 each. They allegedly threatened him with unspecified action. The youths are reportedly camped about 500m from Guzha's shop. Guzha reported the case to the Kuwadzana Extension Police. Nothing has been done as yet.

14 April 2003

- SK claims that she was raped and assaulted by ZANU PF supporters on suspicion that she is an MDC supporter.

Kuwadzana, Highfield

25 April 2003

- MDC supporters from Kuwadzana and Highfield claim that, despite the MDC officials having submitted a written application for permission to hold celebrations for their victory in the Kuwadzana and Highfield Parliamentary by-election held on 29 and 30 March 2003, they were ordered not to do so before May Day. It is however not known whether they were allowed to do so after May Day. The MDC won the elections in both constituencies.

Mufakose

April 2003

- MDC youths allegedly assaulted and then snatched service pistols from police officers. The assailants were charged under POSA. It is alleged that interviews with the gang by the police revealed that they were in an operation specifically aimed at causing terror before and after the by-elections.

Mabvuku

23 April 2003

- OC, MDC supporter, claims that 3 ZANU PF officials and CIO officers approached him at his home, ordered him to raise his hands in surrender and then assaulted him with rifle butts, booted feet and fists. He claims that he was bundled into the back of a truck and was then put in police custody for about a month before he was released on \$1000 bail. He sustained multiple bruises all over his body. He was not charged.

Mbare West

2 April 2003

- Zephenia Ndlovhu; Lovemore Mafukidze; William Mangarai; Charles Mangare; Cleno Takawira; Simbarashe Mukorera; Runesu Guwara; Tafadzwa Gwara; Fradreck Kunyarimwe; and Rot Moto, members of the "*Chipangano*" group and ZANU PF supporters, reportedly approached vendors at Mbare Musika and ordered them to produce ZANU PF party cards. The victims claim that those who did not have them were ordered to pack their wares, leave and only return when they have the cards. Vendors from Kuwadzana who were selling at the stall claim that they were ordered not to sell in Mbare because they had voted for Nelson Chamisa of the MDC, in the Parliamentary by-elections. John Nkomo, the ZANU PF National Chairman and Minister of Special Affairs in the President's Office, claimed he knew nothing about the incident. The group later appeared before Mbare Magistrate Nicodemus Chivhunga facing assault charges. They were denied bail.

3 April 2003

- SC claims that a group of ZANU PF youths came to his home while he was asleep and ordered him to come with them because their chairman wanted to see him. They took him to a block of the Shawasha Flats and then shoved him into a corridor where they allegedly assaulted him with sjamboks and hoe handles. He was reportedly pushed into a shower cubicle under running water and was assaulted with whips. He sustained a cut on the scalp, bruises on back, arms and feet.

7 April 2003

- Eleven residents of Shawasha flats claim that Zephenia Ndlovhu; Lovemore Mafukidze; William Mangarai; Charles Mangare; Cleno Takawira; Simbarashe Mukorera; Runesu Guwara; Tafadzwa Gwara; Fradreck Kunyarimwe and Rot Moto, ZANU PF youths belonging to a group called "*Chipangano*", ordered them to vacate their premises on the pretext that they were MDC sell-outs, and that they had failed to attend a ZANU PF meeting. When the tenants defied the order, the group allegedly locked the doors to the flats, took away the keys, removed their property, piled it outside in a heap, force-marched them to the heap and ordered them to sit. The residents purported that they were assaulted with iron bars and catapults, and were ordered not to stand up or move. Some residents were reportedly kidnapped. Mbare police arrested some of the assailants and investigations into their activities are being carried out.

9 April 2003

- It is reported that DM was at Mbare Musika when a police officer and 3 youths approached him and demanded to search his car for certain materials. When they found an MDC 'ZVAKWANA' (literally meaning "ENOUGH") leaflet, they allegedly took him to Mbare Police Station where he was charged with breaching Section 7(b) of POSA³, which prohibits anyone from supplying weaponry to insurgents, bandits or saboteurs. He was detained for the night in a cell filled with ZANU PF youths who assaulted him all night because he belongs to the MDC.

Chitungwiza; Mabvuku

26 – 27 April 2003

- Peter Mlambo and other residents of Seke claim that soldiers rounded them up and indiscriminately beat them on accusations of supporting the ZCTU mass stay-away held on 23 , 24 and 25 April 2003. John Badza of Mabvuku claims that the soldiers ambushed him and demanded to know why he was walking about during the time he was supposed to be at work.

MANICALAND

Buhera

4 April 2003

- GC claims that he was on his way to Harare when the bus he was traveling in broke down at a turn off near Buhera. A group of ZANU PF youths approached the passengers later as they got down the bus and allegedly asked GC why he had been burning other people' s houses. When he responded that burning buildings was a lot better than killing people, he was reportedly assaulted with clenched fists, booted feet and open hands. He sustained a nose bleed and fell unconscious. The youths are said to have disappeared into the night. He lost his shoes to the youths and he also sustained injuries on his rib-cage.

Chimanimani

27 April 2003

- Farm workers at Roy Bennett's (MDC MP for Chimanimani) Charleswood farm were reportedly displaced by ZANU PF activists, the police and soldiers, on the pretext that the farm was designated for resettlement. They were evicted despite a High Court Order barring the state agents from interfering with work on the farm. Authorities reportedly thwarted all forms of help administered by other residents. The victims claim that they were warned that CIO agents were watching them and they would be dealt with accordingly if they failed to move away. The High Court ordered the Ministers concerned to desist from abusing, threatening, intimidating, harassing and interfering with the activities at Roy Bennet's farm. An Application to the High Court by Bennett's lawyers resulted in the evicted employees being granted permission to return to their farm.

Chipinge North

April 2003

³ See POSA Chapter 11:17; Part 3

- Coster Mutseyami, MDC security officer for Chipinge, claims that 10 members of the ZNA broke into his house, assaulted him and his wife with iron bars and dragged him out of his house. He lost two teeth and was admitted at Chipinge District Hospital. The ZNA forces are said to have proceeded to demonstrate at Godfrey Chenjerai's (MDC activist Chipinge North) house. The victim claims the move is a ZANU PF retributive exercise aimed at attacking MDC supporters.

Chipinge North/ South*18 April 2003*

- 50 MDC supporters claim that they were at the Sports Stadium Independence Day celebrations were being held when they were approached by ZANU PF supporters and accused of being traitors who should be barred from celebrating Independence. The assailants are said to have claimed exclusive ownership of the celebrations and thereafter, followed the victims to their homes, assaulted them, and kidnapped five of them. The police reportedly arrested two of the victims.

Makoni East/ West*18 April 2003*

- 20 MDC supporters claim that they were assaulted and barred from attending the Independence Day celebrations by ZANU PF supporters on accusations of being traitors.
- Youths from the Border Gezi Training Service Centre reportedly beat up 5 MDC supporters for attending Independence Day celebrations.

Mutare Central*April 2003*

- Makanyisa, a war veteran, together with other war veterans, reportedly forced their way into Levison Chikafu's (a Magistrate) office and demanded to know why he had granted Giles Mutsekwa, (MDC MP - Mutare North); Patrick Chitaka - (MDC Chairman - Mutare North) and 17 other MDC supporters bail. The MDC supporters are being charged under the POSA for allegedly inciting violence and organising people to participate in the mass stay away called for by the MDC on 18 and 19 March 2003.

Makoni East/ West/ Central*21 April 2003*

- BC was asleep at his home in Chiendambuya, Rusape, when a group of soldiers arrived and allegedly force-marched him to the Grain Marketing Board where they assaulting him and threw him into a pond of dirty water. The soldiers are said to have assaulted him on accusations of being a sellout and of supporting the MDC.

Mutare central/west/east*14 April 2003*

- BM was at home with her children when a group of youths came and allegedly forced them to attend a ZANU PF rally. When she refused to attend, she was accused of being affiliated to the MDC and was purportedly stoned and had her home burned before being told to pack her belongings and vacate the area. Her husband fled. She now stays at a squatter camp in Norton.

MASHONALAND CENTRAL

Mount Darwin South/North

11 April 2003

- EM has been separated from her husband for the past 3 years, AC, who supports ZANU PF. She alleged that her husband sent a group of youths (both boys and girls) to her home in Mt. Darwin to burn all her property. They are said to have assaulted her all over her body with sjamboks and stamped her on her back. She believes her husband wants her out of the house since he wants to sell it.
- CJ claims that she was brutally assaulted by ZANU PF supporters on accusations of being an MDC supporter. Her mother was also beaten up and her family victimised. She claims that the assault was perpetrated because she refused to attend a ZANU PF meeting.
- IG claims that Border Gezi youths slapped him on his face, assaulted his sister, and interrogated him on why he was supporting the opposition. He fled to Harare.

MASHONALAND EAST

Seke

April 2003

- Esther Ganda and her children Moreblessing, Victor and Ruth, were reportedly attacked at their home by MDC youths. She lost her front teeth in the process. The children were brutally beaten with a twisted wire after they tried to rescue their mother. Moreblessing no longer goes to work because of threats, which she claims the youths have made on her life. The youths are also said to have confiscated the son's clothes.

10 April 2003

- AY alleged that he was on a cleaning campaign in the streets of Ruwa in the company of other MDC youths when he got caught up in a fight which ensued between the ZANU PF candidate's daughters and the MDC female youth supporters. He managed to escape unhurt but was later harassed by ZANU PF youths who accused him of taking part in the fight.

13 April 2003

- PM was the MDC candidate for the Ruwa Urban Councils elections. He was on a cleaning campaigning with a group of MDC youths when he was allegedly confronted by ZANU PF youths and the ZANU PF candidate's children who accused them of littering the place. The girls are alleged to have started fighting. Police Detectives Manjengwa and Magwendima reportedly beat PM with clenched fists, handcuffed him, and took him to Marondera Police Station where he was charged under POSA. The police purportedly confiscated his car and are now refusing to give it back to him.
- TM claims he was resting after his journey from Masvingo at his son's home, who was the MDC candidate in the Ruwa Urban Councils elections. The rival candidate's daughters and sons and the victim's grandchildren had earlier been distributing fliers in the streets. A group of police officers, namely Detectives Manjengwa and Mangwindima came to the house and

started assaulting everyone including the victim but they did not state their reasons for doing so. TM' s son was arrested. He feels pain in his gullet, ribs and spinal cord.

Marondera East / West

3 April 2003

- PP claims that he was stabbed in the face and back and was assaulted by a group of ZANU PF youths on accusations of burning a car in 2002. He alleged that the same group of youths is now in a habit of beating him whenever they see him.

4 April 2003

- Obey Mazhata Kundiuraya, an MDC supporter, was stabbed in the chest by ZANU PF youths after he reportedly refused to withdraw his candidature from the Marondera Urban Councils Elections.

Murehwa North/ South

3 April 2003

- RD alleged that she was listening to the BBC News when a group of ZANU PF youths reportedly approached her and informed her that she was one of the people they were looking for since she listens to 'MDC radio stations'. She was reportedly slapped on the face and an attempt was made to strangle her with a copper wire. The youths demanded that she give them her MDC membership cards and accused her of giving birth to people like Mudzingwa, the MDC Shadow Minister.

Uzumba Maramba Pfungwe

27 April 2003

- GC claims that he was visiting his rural home when a group of ZANU PF youths started assaulting him with sticks and open palms on accusations of writing graffiti to the effect that "Mugabe must go!" on a nearby hill. They also accused him of being an MDC activist who had come to the area to disturb the peace. They allegedly took away his MDC membership card. He sustained a blood-shot eye and lost a tooth from the beating.

MASHONALAND WEST

Chegututu

3 April 2003

- SJ alleged that he was picked up by CIO agents and soldiers on allegations that he was one of the organisers of the 18-19 March 2003 stay-away. He claims that he was subjected to severe torture and assault while in custody at Chegututu Police Station. He denies having anything to do with the allegations against him. SJ was charged with contravening Section 17 (b) of the POSA. He sustained a broken rib and tone deafness in the left ear.

Hurungwe East

8 April 2003

- John Coast; Allen Parsons (commercial farmers); Brighton Chiimba (Assistant Deputy Sheriff) and Inspector Khumalo claim that Themba Mliswa ordered the top six ZANU PF gang and other civilians to assault and kill them when they arrived at Springs Farm in Karoi. Mliswa is in a legal battle with the two commercial farmers over the ownership of their property. The Sheriff and the Police Inspector had accompanied Parsons and Coast to the farm equipped with a High Court Order allowing them to remove their personal belongings from the farm. Parsons runs Meadville Investments (Pvt) (Ltd.) which owns Springs Farm, occupied by Mliswa. This followed reports that Mliswa was selling their belongings. Mliswa is said to have kicked Parsons all over the body and impounded Coast's car with iron fencing poles. Mliswa was arrested.

Zvimba North/ South

28 April 2003

- Godfrey Gova; Lazarus Maunze; Danger Koro; James Gwaze, and more than 17 settlers claim that Patrick Zhuwawu, the son of Sabina Mugabe [President's sister], approached them at Diandra Farm with a gang of about 20 ZANU PF youths, and harassed them. They claim that the youths locked them in a room and assaulted their wives and children in a bid to coerce the husbands into moving away. The victims were settled at the farm in February 2000. Maunze and Koro were reportedly kidnapped while Gwaze's two children Kizito and Valentine were also abducted. The residents allege that the assailants still descend on the settlers' homes every night assaulting them. The victims reported to the police at Nyabira police station, who then referred the matter to a Chief Superintendent Gumuyu in Norton. Zhuwawu reportedly slowly bulldozed his way into the farm in January 2003 and planted crops.

MATEBELELAND NORTH

Binga

April 2003

- Fanuel Munkuli claims that former dissidents of the 1980s, allegedly on a mission to shut down opposition in the area, arrived and assaulted villagers. They were armed with AK47 rifles. Munkuli purported that they beat him up with sticks, stones and small axes as he arrived home from a night out. They are said to have evicted whites in the area from their homes and are now carrying out their operations from their houses, using vehicles they received from soldiers manning the Zambezi Valley. Jameson Muleya alleged that he was also attacked by the same group after he pleaded with them not to attack the villagers. It is reported that the police refused to comment and referred questions to police spokesperson Wayne Bvudzijena.

MATEBELELAND SOUTH

Gwanda North/ South

3 April 2003

- 10 men dressed in army uniform and armed with rifles purportedly forced their way into "One for the Road" night-club, attacked patrons and indiscriminately assaulted everyone. The assailants were allegedly acting on a claim by the police, that patrons at the club were in the habit of insulting the President. 14 victims were detained overnight at Gwanda police station. One of the victims purported that he was roughly grabbed, thrown onto a table and kicked several times. Those who were detained were released the following day having signed

admission of guilt forms and paying \$1000 bail each. However, a Matebeleland South police spokesman alleged that he had no record of the case but promised to investigate.

Umzingwane

21 April 2003

- Nkosikona Mkona, Musawenkosi Musango and other villagers of Amazon and Mziki claim that war veterans ordered each family to pay \$2 500 towards the Independence party celebrations. When they refused to do so, they claim that they were threatened with unspecified action. The villagers complained that prices of commodities had escalated too much, and that they would rather save up for food than for the party. They claim that the war veterans were only contributing \$500 towards the party and therefore refused to succumb to the unfair treatment.

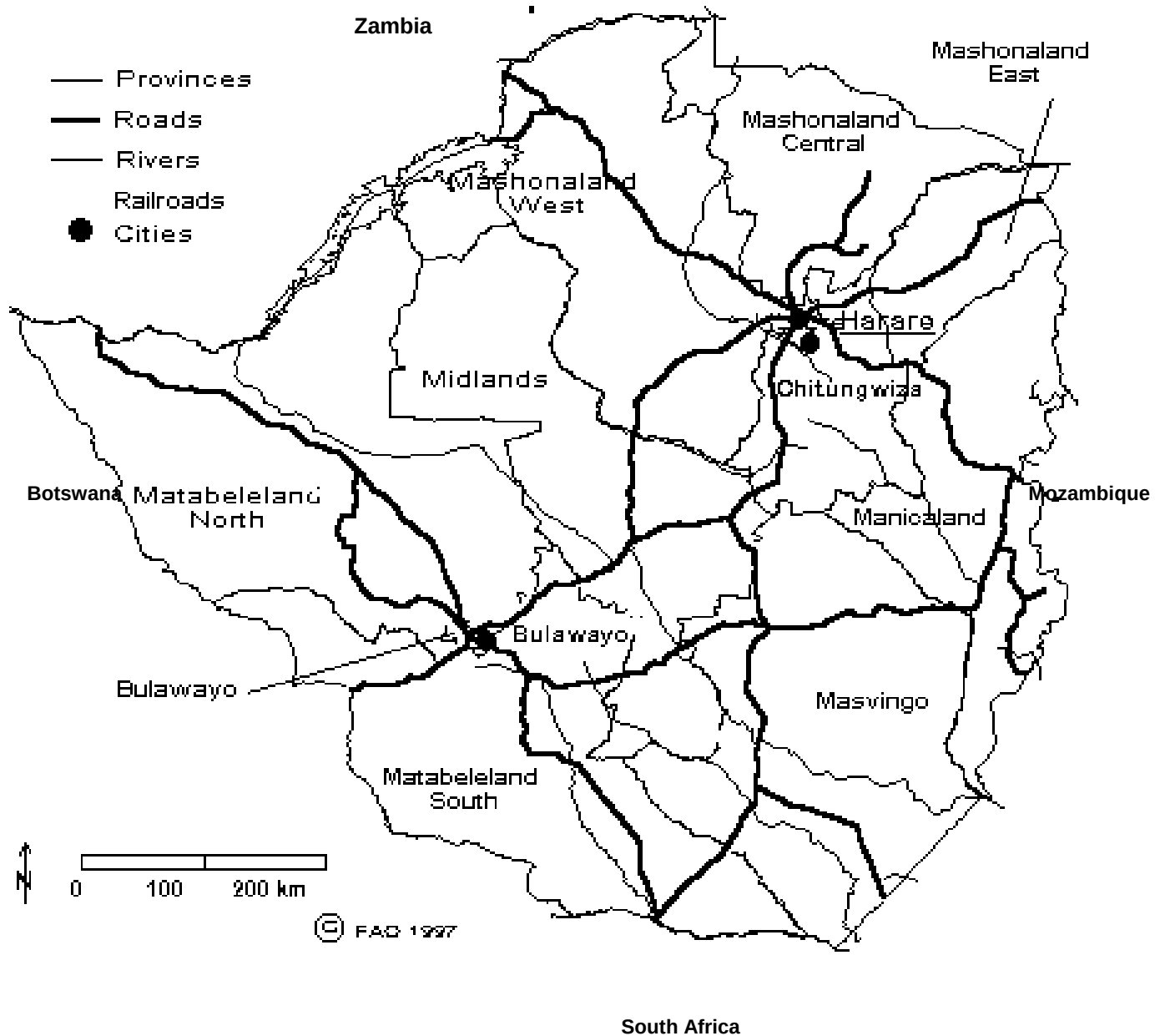
MIDLANDS

Kadoma

9 April 2003

- LJ claims that he greeted Morgan Tsvangirai at a roadside as he bought some mushrooms. 3 police officers are said to have followed LJ to his home, called his family into the kitchen, then proceeded to search the whole house while using abusive language and accusing him of being an MDC activist. They allegedly pushed him around before they left with his address book. They reportedly returned with 3 other officers in plainclothes on 12 April when the victim had gone out. They are said to have threatened his wife with a pistol then ordered her to switch on the stove and threatened to burn their 8-month old baby if she did not disclose information pertaining to the addresses in the address book they had taken away with them before. LJ's wife then told them that her husband was distributing bibles in prison, after which they left. It is alleged that the policemen then waylaid LJ on his way home, pushed him into an alley and started assaulting him on the back with clenched fists. They also stretched his hands backwards while another stepped on his feet. They are also said to have placed a wooden log on his back, beat him on the head and on his chest with a sjambok and then threatened to crush his head and to cut off his penis. They were about to take him to a Police Station when a vehicle full of people passed by and presented an opportunity for the victim to run away. He suspects that he was victimised because he resigned from the ZNA and is apolitical since he is now a member of the clergy.

ADMINISTRATIVE MAP OF ZIMBABWE



The Zimbabwe Human Rights NGO Forum (also known as the “Human Rights Forum”) has been in existence since January 1998 when 9 non-governmental organisations working in the field of human rights joined together to provide legal and psychosocial assistance to the victims of the Food Riots of January 1998. The coalitions membership has since increased to 14, with 13 core members and 1 associate member.

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

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

The Human Rights Forum operates a Research and Documentation Unit and offers legal services through the Public Interest Unit of the **Error! Bookmark not defined.** (formerly the Legal Unit of the ZHRF.)

Core member organisations of the Human Rights Forum are:

- Amani Trust
- Amnesty International (Zimbabwe) (AI (Z))
- Catholic Commission for Justice and Peace (CCJP)
- Gays and Lesbians of Zimbabwe (GALZ)
- Legal Resources Foundation (LRF)
- Transparency International (Zimbabwe) (TI (Z))
- University of Zimbabwe Legal Aid and Advice Scheme (UZ (LAAS))
- Zimbabwe Association for Crime Prevention and the Rehabilitation of the Offender (ZACRO)
- Zimbabwe Association of Doctors for Human Rights (ZADHR)
- Zimbabwe Civic Education Trust (ZIMCET)
- Zimbabwe Human Rights Association (ZimRights)
- Zimbabwe Lawyers for Human Rights (ZLHR)
- Zimbabwe Women Lawyers Association (ZWLA)

Associate Member:

- Nonviolent Action and Strategies for Social Change (NOVASC)

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