

ZIMBABWE HUMAN RIGHTS NGO FORUM

POLITICAL VIOLENCE REPORT: MARCH 2003

09 April 2003

A report by the Zimbabwe Human Rights NGO Forum

OVERVIEW

Disturbing incidents of violence and gross human rights violations have been documented in the month of March, indicative that the human-rights situation in Zimbabwe is deteriorating critically. The bulk of these incidents surrounded two events: the mass stayaway from 18 to 19 March 2003 and the 2 parliamentary by-elections in Highfield and Kuwadzana constituencies in Harare. The Zimbabwe Human Rights NGO Forum strongly condemns all forms of violence regardless of which quarter they originate. The Human Rights Forum condemns torture on the basis of political affiliation or on any other basis. The Human Rights Forum equally deplores implementation of violence by **all** political parties as a means of garnering support or of expressing discontent.

The majority of cases occurred during and following the stay-away called for by the main opposition party MDC. There is no justification for any of the incidents that occurred. There is an obligation on Government to ensure that torture is not unleashed on its citizens by State Security Agents. There are equal obligations on political parties to restrain their supporters from committing acts of violence against those hold divergent views from them. Furthermore individuals also have a duty to desist from committing violent actions against each other.

The vast majority of the human rights violations documented this month included the use of torture by state agents, those specifically alleged to have been involved being the army and police, who used violence and torture as a means of investigating, as a means of locating a person suspected of committing an offence and as a means of obtaining a confession from the real or perceived perpetrator of a crime. The majority of the victims identified their assailants as people who were dressed in Zimbabwe National Army and Zimbabwe Republic Police uniforms who tortured them in their homes. Some report having been taken away from their homes in military combat vehicles and later dumped some distance away from their homes. Others report having been taken to police stations where they were further tortured. Instruments employed in the torture of these victims were mainly batons sticks, chains, sjamboks, and rifles.

In Budiriro, for instance, ZRP officers were reportedly attacking victims at night while they were asleep at home and assaulting them. In one case, BN was asleep at home when riot police officers woke him up around 2 am and reportedly assaulted him with baton sticks, hose pipes and sjamboks, because he did not know the whereabouts of a certain MDC supporter. ZC of Budiriro purported that riot police officers approached him at 12 midnight, accused him of being an MDC supporter, and assaulted his back with a baton stick. In Nkayi, riot police and other civilians reportedly arrived at RM's house at around 1 am, hurled insults at him and took him to a camp where he alleges that he was tortured through means of electrocution to force him to admit that he had burnt down the ZUPCO bus and that he belongs to the MDC. He was assaulted until the following morning. In Mutare Central, SK, a journalist, had accompanied a colleague to a police station when he was pushed into an office, arrested and denied access to his lawyer having been overheard by a police officer talking about the 19 to 20 March 2003 mass stay-away on his mobile phone. He was reportedly accused of being a sell-out and an MDC supporter. In Harare Central, William Nyamangara (MD of Sovereign Publishers Private Ltd) and Mhlabene Bhebhe (Origination Manager) were reportedly arrested on allegations of printing subversive material. Their company

offices were ransacked by members of the ZRP and the 120 000 flyers that had been printed calling for the mass stay-away were confiscated.

In Dzivaresekwa, Tapiwa Nemauro, Beauty Murwisi, Matilda Listoni, Costa Machiwenyika, Kerina Mugandidze and Royai Makona were reportedly ordered to lie on the floor and were then beaten up with barbed wires by ZNA forces at Kadada Night-club. They sustained serious injuries. In Chitungwiza, a group of soldiers reportedly arrived around midnight at Royal Crown Nightclub at Chikwana, surrounded the premises, entered the nightclub and beat up patrons. They are reported to have ordered revellers to lie down, undress and paired them off with patrons of the opposite sex then forced them to have unprotected sex. In Mabvuku Margret Kulinji, (MDC Women's League Secretary), Sonile (mother) and Crispen (brother) were reportedly assaulted by ZNA forces on accusations of taking part in the burning of a ZUPCO bus and of being MDC activists. Margret was reportedly dragged out of her bedroom into waiting tankers, and then was taken to a base where she was assaulted with baton sticks and electric cords. Sonile was also dragged into the bedroom, had her legs forced apart, and a gun stuck into her genitals. Crispen was also assaulted.

The Presidential Guard has also been implicated in the perpetration of OVT, as TM, BP, EM and SW and 22 other MDC supporters claim. They allege that they were coming from Hatcliffe where they had been attending an MDC rally and were driving past State House when the Presidential guard ordered them to disembark, force marched them to the state house and then assaulted them on accusations of chanting MDC slogans and not leaving the President to enjoy his peace. In Harare Central, FC was coming from delivering the Sunday Mail newspaper at Jonathan Moyo's (Minister for Information and Publicity in the President's Office) house on a bike when a soldier guarding State House stopped him, asked him why he was looking at the President's house, struck him on the head with a steel bar and assaulted him with boots in a drainage trench within State House.

The fabric of Zimbabwean society is at grim risk if the level of state organized violence and torture, demonstrated in the incidents above, is maintained or increased. Equally damaging would be the use of organised violence by ZANU PF to suppress dissenting opinions and in the same vein MDC resorting to violent action as a means of expressing dissent.

Lovemore Muhlomeri (Daily News vendor at Corner Robert Mugabe and 4th Street in Harare) alleged that he was severely assaulted by ZANU PF supporters because he was selling the Daily News. The youths are said to have confiscated and torn up copies of the newspaper. In Kwekwe Abednico Malinga (MP for Silobela, MDC) was allegedly assaulted by ZANU PF supporters while in a fuel queue at a service station. They told him to "refuel his car in Britain" as the fuel there "did not belong the MDC President". He was allegedly hit on the head with an empty bottle and sustained a deep cut. In Chitungwiza, Mthulusi Mlilo was reportedly dragged from Nkabayinde Business Centre to a District Development Fund truck by one Khiwa and unnamed ZNLWVA members, and was severely assaulted during his one day detention before his release. Mloyi's clothes and underwear were discovered the following day at the spot he is believed to have been abducted. In Uzumba Maramba Pfungwe, ZANU PF youths and war veterans reportedly set alight the entrance to SC's house. She claims that they beat her up, and when her husband tried to

escape, they cornered him and severely assaulted him with sticks and stones. Some victims complained that they were assaulted on account of their political affiliation. SB claims that she was on a bus from the city to Kuwadzana when some war veterans and ZANU PF youths grabbed and dragged her to a secluded area, administered electric shocks to her and then assaulted her on accusations of supporting the MDC.

MDC supporters allegedly stopped an omnibus and ordered occupants, including pre-school children, to disembark before petrol bombing the omnibus in Chitungwiza. The bus was burnt to ashes. In Mufakose, Sergeant Kasina, Constable Mubayiwa and two other policemen were allegedly beaten by Pilani Mukwayi and 17 other MDC supporters who demanded that they leave their rally in Mufakose, Area J Ground. In Highfield, a group of suspected MDC supporters is also alleged have assaulted the caretaker at Mhizha Primary School with sticks and booted feet, and then threatened him not to let Chinotimba hold the rally at the school.

Below please find the full text of a Press Statement issued by the Zimbabwe Human Rights NGO Forum on 24 March 2003 on the Current State of Violence in Zimbabwe:

24 March 2003

**Press Statement by the Zimbabwe Human Rights NGO Forum–
The Current State Of Violence In Zimbabwe**

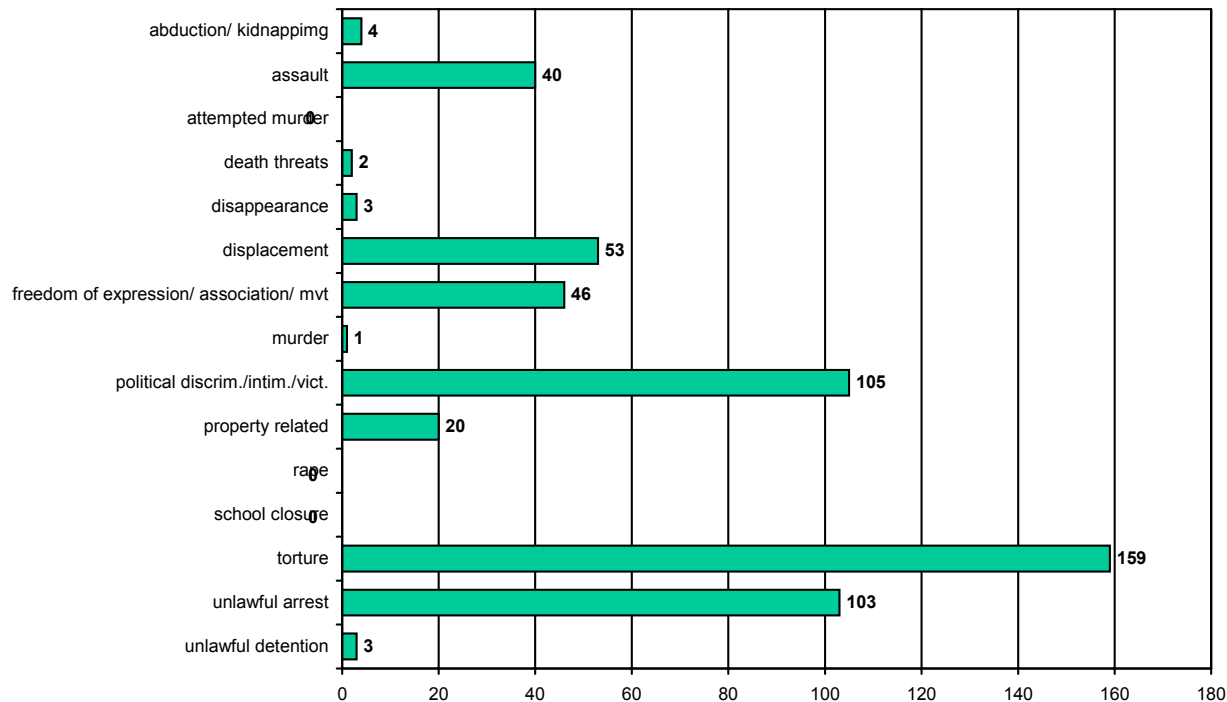
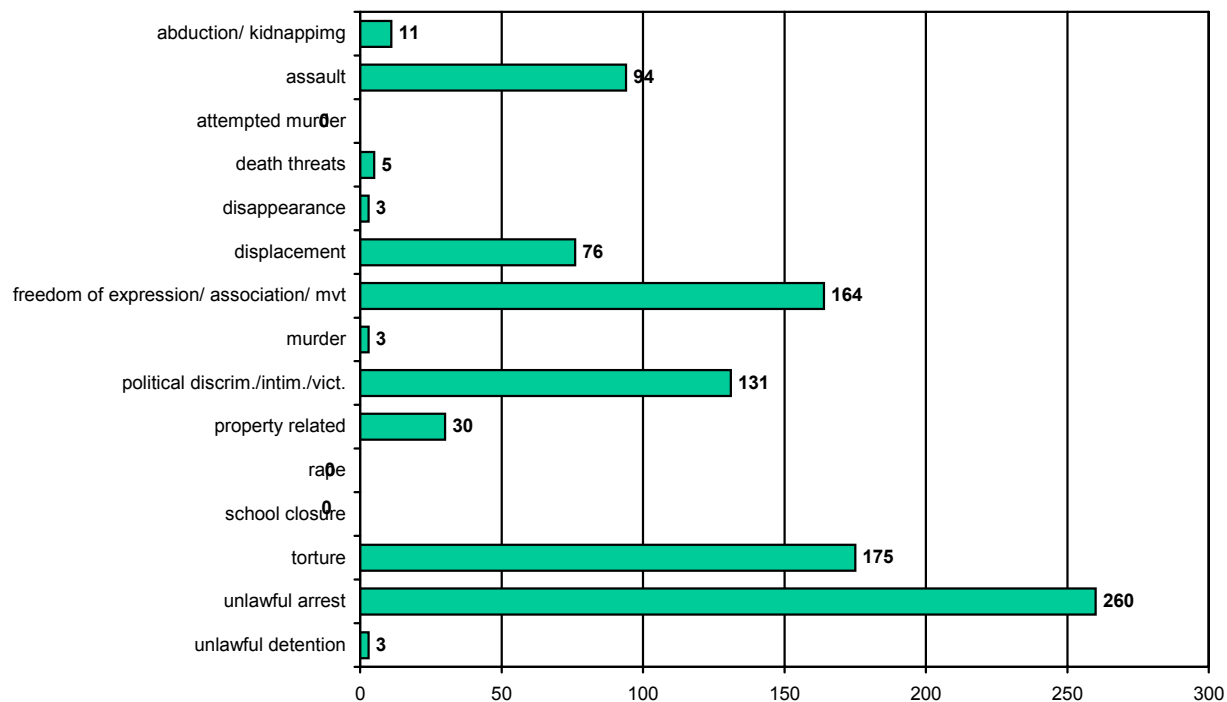
The Human Rights Forum, which exists to assist victims of organised violence, condemns unreservedly, the recent violence that has been perpetrated by state agents on members of the public throughout Zimbabwe.

This follows the stay-away called for by the main opposition party to express its deep concern at the ongoing deterioration of the state of the nation.

The Human Rights Forum equally condemns all forms of violence from whatever quarter, including that employed by political parties.

It is the constitutional obligation of state agencies to uphold all the rights of citizens under the Declaration of Rights. There are equal obligations on political parties to restrain their supporters and on individuals to desist from committing violent actions against each other.

The Forum calls on the state to immediately refrain from the use of any form of organised violence and on political parties to equally refrain from utilizing violence of any sort in the pursuit of their political interests.

Totals: 1 March 2003 – 31 March 2003**Cumulative Totals 1 January 2003 To 31 March 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

28 February 2003

- Thamsanqa Ncube, Similo Mpofo and Mehluli were reportedly arrested and tortured for flagging red cards at the Cricket Cup Match between Zimbabwe and Holland. The whereabouts of the 3 are now unknown. It is reported that they were last seen in police custody. Mpofo was last seen by his legal counsel, Advocate Tim Cherry in custody wearing a blood stained T-shirt.

Makokoba

18 March 2003

- Four unnamed people were allegedly arrested when they were found reading pamphlets calling for the mass stay-away held from 18 to 19 March 2003.

HARARE

Budiriro

March 2003

- It is alleged that a group of policemen and army personnel broke into Gilbert Shoko's (MDC MP for Budiriro) house, allegedly beat him up and took \$120 000 raised from his transport business. They also interrogated him about the MDC's plans following the mass stay-away. Shoko sustained a fractured rib and bruises on his back and buttocks.

18 March 2003

- Budiriro residents are said to have beaten up a headmaster at Budiriro 1 High School for failing to heed the call for a mass stay-away. The headmaster was also ordered to close the school. 108 residents from Glen View were arrested and charged with public violence then remanded on \$10 000 bail each.

19 March 2003

- JB was reportedly assaulted by riot police officers on suspicion that he knew the whereabouts of one MDC supporter. He claims that he does not where he is. The assailants reportedly accused him of selling beer illegally. The victim was then ordered outside and assaulted for stating that he did not sell beer and that he did not know the whereabouts of the MDC supporter. He was ordered to roll on the ground, assaulted with baton sticks on his buttocks, head and arms.

20 March 2003

- BN claims that he was assaulted because he did not know the whereabouts of one MDC supporter. He was asleep in his home when the riot police officers reportedly woke him up at around 2am and beat him up with baton sticks, hose pipes and sjamboks on his back, neck, buttocks, lower limbs and upper arms because he did not know where the man they were looking for was.

- A soldier and several people in plainclothes came to the ON's home at around 2:30 am and knocked at her window. They told her to open her door. When she did so, they asked her where her husband was. When she replied that she did not know, they reportedly assaulted her on her back and upper arms with baton sticks. They also allegedly stole her cell phone (valued at about Z\$1 million), Z\$6000, diaries and pictures of her husband.
- ZC claims that riot police officers approached him at 12 midnight and accused him of being an MDC supporter. They are also said to have accused him of lying about the whereabouts of a certain MDC activist they were looking for. He was then assaulted on his back with a baton stick.
- Riot police reportedly approached HB at a car park where he was guarding cars at around 12 midnight and accused the victim and his colleagues of guarding MDC vehicles and of burning a commuter omnibus in Budiro. The riot police officers also asked the victim for the whereabouts of two MDC activists. He was then ordered to lie down and was assaulted with baton sticks on his buttocks and arms.
- Riot police allegedly came to the EC's house at around 2 am and accused him of being an MDC supporter and of sending MDC supporters to burn ZUPCO buses. He was dragged into their vehicle and taken to one of the MDC activist's home in the area. The police then started beating him up when they did not find the MDC activist at his home. EC claims that he was assaulted on his buttocks, palms of his hands and on the right side of his stomach with baton sticks. He alleged that he was later handed over to another group of riot police who continued beating him up until he collapsed. They took him back to his home after he had regained consciousness.

21 March 2003

- It is reported that soldiers arrived at Status Nightclub in an armoured car, blocked the exit of the club, and beat up people indiscriminately. One of the victims, KM, managed to get out of the building but was unfortunately confronted by a group of four soldiers. He claims that he was then severely assaulted all over the body with baton sticks, forced to roll in the mud and beaten with the butt of a gun. He alleges that he lost his personal property including a watch, necklace and \$25 000 cash in the ensuing commotion. He also sprained his wrist, was bruised on the back and buttocks, and now suffers chest pains, a headache and a severe cough.
- AM claims that as he was on his way to the shops at around 8pm, he was accosted by soldiers carrying guns. He then started running away but they reportedly ran after him and one of them fired his gun into the air. The victim immediately stopped and was bundled into their truck. He was accused of burning a ZUPCO bus. He claims that he was then assaulted with weapons that he could not see since he was under blindfold. The victim was then taken to a camp on the following day in a small vehicle where he was further assaulted with chains and baton sticks. The victim was set free at around 10 am on that day.

26 March 2003

- Members of the ZRP Support Unit reportedly invaded MM's home and accused him of stoning vehicles in Budiro. He claims that he was assaulted with baton sticks and he sustained multiple injuries all over his body.

Chitungwiza

18 March 2003

- Suspected MDC supporters are reported to have stopped an omnibus and ordered occupants, including pre-school children, to disembark before petrol bombing the omnibus. The bus was burnt to ashes. 20 people were arrested in connection with the incident. This occurred during the mass stay-away called for by the MDC.
- PK, MDC Youth Chairman for the district, was reportedly taken to St. Mary's Police Station by the police, forced to lie down, and assaulted with baton sticks. He claims that they struck him on the face, feet, arms and thighs, and was detained at the police station for three days without food. He sustained a swollen right eye and severe bruising all over his body

19 March 2003

- JM, the driver for St. Mary's MDC MP, Job Sikhala, was sitting outside his house when a group of soldiers reportedly approached him from behind, manhandled him and pushed him into an army truck. He claims that they first took him to 1 Commando Army Barracks where they severely beat him up with baton sticks and booted feet. He was then asked to provide a list of MDC activities and the reasons for the stay-away. He was then reportedly taken to an unknown destination where he was held and then released on 25 March 2003. He lost several teeth and was bruised all over the body.
- TR reported that it was at around 11 am when uniformed policemen confronted him while he was tending to his business at Makoni Shopping Centre, and accused him of wanting to destroy Chicken Inn shops at Makoni. They allegedly pushed him into one of their trucks but the victim managed to escape and as he ran away, they came after him, fired a shot into the air and then apprehended him. They are said to have assaulted him with baton sticks and booted feet. He was then taken to Chitungwiza Police Station and detained until 24 March.

20 March 2003

- DM, an MDC supporter, reported that about 9 soldiers came to his house at around 3 am, forced the door open and beat him with sjamboks while others searched his room for MDC material. When they did not find anything, they allegedly force-marched him towards other MDC activists' homes, bundled them into one of their trucks, and drove them towards Mbudzi where they were dumped.
- The riot police and other civilians reportedly arrived at RM's house at around 1am, called his name, and hurled insults at him on accusations of having burnt a ZUPCO (Zimbabwe United Passenger Company) bus and of being an MDC supporter. ZUPCO is a state owned bus company. The victim reported that he tried to hide but was found, handcuffed and bundled into a private car. He claims that he was then assaulted with clenched fists, booted feet and the butt of a gun. Later he was taken to a camp where he alleges that he was tortured through means of electrocution to force him to admit that he had burnt the ZUPCO bus and that he belonged to the MDC. He was assaulted until the following morning.

22 March 2003

- WM claims that he was walking home from the shops when he was accosted by the police and ZANU PF youths, dragged behind the police station, and beaten up with plastic tubes, baton sticks, chains and guns. He alleges that the police refused to take statement.

31 March 2003

- JM was asleep at home when a group of soldiers reportedly arrived, woke him up, and assaulted him with sjamboks, hosepipes and rifle butts. He was allegedly told that they were

beating him because he was affiliated to the MDC and that they wanted to annihilate all MDC members. The soldiers also took all MDC party material in his house before leaving. He sustained bruises on his back, buttocks and arms and an ulcer on the right arm caused by swelling.

- PS, an MDC official, was woken up by noises and when he looked out the window, he saw a large group of soldiers, policemen and others in civilian clothing outside his home. Fearing for his life, he fled into another bedroom and because one of his children had already opened the door, the victim was apprehended by one of the soldiers who then fired two shots into the air. The others reportedly assaulted him with sjamboks and baton sticks before dragging him to his bedroom claiming that they were looking for weapons. He lost \$14 000 and a cell-phone in the attack. He also sustained severe injuries on the back, chest, thighs and his left ear no longer functions well.
- GM purported that he was at home when a group of soldiers, policemen and other persons in dustcoats arrived at his house. The group asked for GM and when he opened the door, they reportedly fell upon him alleging that they wanted the money he was getting from the MDC as well as the MDC t-shirts he had in his house. Whilst GM looked for the t-shirts with the intention of handing them over to them, he claims that the assailants assaulted him and his wife, a diabetic, with baton sticks. The group only left when they were given the t-shirts. GM sustained bruises on the back, stomach and hip as well as several cuts on his scalp.
- A group of soldiers and policemen reportedly broke into ET's bedroom and enquired about the whereabouts of her father. She was dragged outside the house; was forced to lie down; and then assaulted with rifle butts, baton sticks and booted feet. She claims that she was threatened with death because she had failed to assist the soldiers in locating her father. They are also said to have accused her of being an MDC youth because her father is an MDC activist. ET sustained a swollen ear, bruises and welts on the back and thighs. Her jawbone aches and she also has loose teeth.
- It was around 12 pm when DM claims that she was woken up by the sound of loud knocking. The people who were knocking went to the main house and later came back looking for her husband. DM opened the door and saw a group of soldiers and policemen who then assaulted her and shouted at her, demanding MDC paraphernalia from her. The soldiers allegedly took an MDC t-shirt, cards and clothes from her house while the others were assaulting her with baton sticks, hosepipes, ropes, booted feet and clenched fists. They allegedly took her outside and demanded of her to show them other MDC members. They however left her behind but a little while later the group returned, claiming that they wanted to collect her husband's gun. At this point they were allegedly beating her continuously with baton sticks, booted feet and hosepipes. They dragged her out to their car where other people who had been assaulted were waiting. At this point DM reportedly lost consciousness. They were taken away in the car and then dumped at around 4 am in the bush. Victim spent the night at a friend's place as she was afraid to go home. She sustained swollen hands, welts on her back, loose teeth, a swollen left leg, bruises and welts on her thighs.
- RS reportedly sustained welts and bruises on her back and scalp after a group of people in army and police uniform and others in civilian clothing assaulted her at her home. They are said to have accosted her as she was on her way to the bath room (which is located outside of RS's house). One of them reportedly grabbed her by her hair and dragged her into the house and beat her while the others ransacked the house. They claimed that they were looking for MDC material on the pretext that the house was located in an MDC stronghold. They found some MDC t-shirts in her house and took them away.

- AT, a minor, was woken up by a group of men who were dressed in army and police uniforms, shouting out for his father. He woke up and told them that his father was not at home. The soldiers reportedly assaulted him and his sister with baton sticks, booted feet and open palms. They are said to have taken AT's mother outside, ordering him to go back inside and sleep. He sustained injuries on the back, thighs, arms and cuts on his head/scalp.
- CG's brother opened the door at the command of the police and a group of soldiers, some people in plainclothes, when they alighted at their home. When the assailants entered the room, they are said to have pointed at the victim claiming that he was the person they were looking for and that he was an MDC driver. He denied that he had any connections with the MDC and tried to run away but was blocked and then assaulted with baton sticks, booted feet, open palms and rifle butts. He sustained serious welts on the back, thighs and a cut on the scalp.

24 March 2003

- It is alleged that a group of soldiers arrived around midnight at Royal Crown Nightclub at Chikwana, surrounded the premises, entered the nightclub and started beating up patrons including Alexio Matambanadzo. They are reported to have ordered revellers to lie down, undress and paired them off with patrons of the opposite sex then forced them to have unprotected sex. The women were also forced to pull off their panties. One man was assaulted when he failed to achieve an erection. Police claim they have received no such reports. This incident is one of many in which soldiers countrywide are reportedly attacking civilians on suspicion that they took part in the MDC 2- day stay-away.

Dzivaresekwa

22 March 2003

- Tapiwa Nemauro, Beauty Murwisi, Matilda Listoni, Costa Machiwenyika, Kerina Mugandidze and Royai Makona were reportedly ordered to lie on the floor, beaten up with barbed wire and other weapons by members of the Zimbabwe National Army at Dzivarasekwa's Kadada Nightclub. They sustained serious injuries.

Glen View

18 March 2003

- Philimon Bulawayo (Daily News photographer) was reportedly arrested in Budiro for covering the mass stay-away called for by the MDC. He claims that he was severely beaten at Glen View Police Station, was then taken to Harare Central Police Station, and eventually to Highlands Police Station where he was further assaulted by the police. Bulawayo sustained bruises all over his body and is currently experiencing difficulties breathing. He was detained for three days before being released without charges being preferred against him.
- Gugulethu Moyo, the Corporate Affairs Director of Associated Newspapers Of Zimbabwe and a lawyer, were reportedly assaulted by Jocelyn Chiwenga (wife of Army Commander, Lieutenant-General Constantine Chiwenga) and Calvin Chadenyika when she had gone to Glen View Police Station to secure the release of Philimon Bulawayo (a Daily News reporter arrested for covering the mass stay-away). The Officer-In-Charge at the police station and his fellow officers are alleged to have stood by and watched while Chiwenga assaulted Moyo before ordering the police to lock her up. Alec Muchadehama, a lawyer, who had accompanied Moyo to the police station was allegedly threatened with assault. The two were detained and later

transferred to Harare Central Police Station. Muchadehama was released without charge and Moyo released on 20 March 2003 without being charged. He had been detained for 3 days.

- CD was walking along Gatawa Crescent on his way home when he saw a group of people running away but he kept walking and was challenged by soldiers and policemen who asked him why he was not running like the others. He was therefore assaulted with booted feet, baton sticks and fists. The police alleged that the victim was responsible for blocking roads in Glen View during the mass stay-away called for by the MDC on 18 and 19 March 2003. He was then taken to Harare central Police Station then taken to court on 22 March 2003. He sustained a sprained arm, wrist and a painful ear. He denies any criminal liability.

28 March 2003

- MV was reportedly abducted from his home by a group of about twenty ZANU PF supporters armed with sticks and knobkerries, on accusations of being a sell out and an MDC member. He was kept at their base for four days, during which he was beaten up with sticks and copper wires while he lay in a prone position. He was only released on the 5th day. He claims that they ordered him to leave the area if he still valued his life. He now lives in Harare as a destitute and alleges that he still experiences pain from the assault.

Harare Central

2 March 2003

- TM, BP, EM and SW and 22 others are MDC supporters. They allege that they were coming from Hatcliffe where they had been attending an MDC rally and were driving past State House when the Presidential Guard ordered them to disembark, force marched them to State House and then assaulted them on accusations of chanting MDC slogans and not leaving the President to enjoy his peace. BP claims that she was assaulted on the head, back, chest, and arms with logs and booted feet.

6 March 2003

- Six unnamed members of the NCA are reported to have been arrested for holding a demonstration calling for a new constitution.

11 March 2003

- William Nyamangara (MD of Sovereign Publishers Private Ltd) and Mhlabene Bhebhe (Origination Manager) are said to have been arrested on allegations of printing subversive material. Their company offices were ransacked by members of the ZRP and the 120 000 flyers that had been printed calling for the mass stay-away were confiscated. The two were released without any charges being preferred against them and the police are to proceed by way of summons.
- Justin Mugashu was arrested after body search by security agents for carrying his party's newsletter bulletin *The Changing Times* upon entry to the High Court in Harare to attend the treason trial of MDC President Morgan Tsvangirai.

23 March 2003

- The victim was coming from delivering the Sunday Mail newspaper at Jonathan Moyo's (Minister for Information and Publicity in the President's Office) house on a bike when a soldier guarding State House stopped him and asked him why he was looking at the President's house. He claims that he was taken inside the premises, dragged down a drainage trench, struck on the head with a steel bar and assaulted with boots while he lay in dirty water. He claims that he saw four others being beaten up. He reported to First Street Police Post and matter is being investigated.

24 March 2003

- Lovemore Muhlomeri (Daily News vendor at Corner Robert Mugabe and 4th Street) alleges that he was severely assaulted by ZANU PF supporters because he was selling the Daily News. Copies of the newspaper were confiscated and torn. The supporters were coming from demonstrating at Town House for the removal of Engineer Elias Mudzuri (Executive Mayor of Harare) from his post as Mayor of the city.

Harare East

22 March 2003

- At around 11pm SN was coming from dinner when she found 5 uniformed soldiers in her bedroom. They are said to have accused her of organizing the mass stay-away and of being an MDC supporter. She claims that they then told her to remove all her clothes so that they could rape her. When she told them that she had AIDS, they allegedly beat her on the back, buttocks and thighs with a sjambok. They also shoved an object into her mouth so that she could not scream or make noise. She claims that she was thrown around while she was still naked.

Harare South

4 March 2003

- Peggie Chisaka Chaziva was allegedly assaulted by ZANU PF youths in Sunningdale for selling grapes to MDC president, Morgan Tsvangirai. They accused her of being "an enemy of the state". She was poked with umbrellas and ordered not to sell her wares at the designated stalls in the market place. She sustained a black eye and had blood on her person. Morgan Tsvangirai was in the suburb on a tour to meet the people when he bought grapes from the vendor.

Hatfield

18 March 2003

- A state-owned ZUPCO bus was petrol bombed by unknown assailants and extensively burnt at Chans Shopping Centre in Hatfield. 17 people were arrested in connection with the bombing and bail application dismissed. They were remanded to 4 April 2003. The incident occurred during the mass stay-away called by MDC.
- Constable Tarisai Matipira (a police officer), the driver and the conductor of a ZUPCO bus were reportedly burnt when the bus was petrol bombed while in transit at Chans Shopping Centre by suspected MDC supporters. Matipira was burnt severely when the bomb landed on his head. He also sustained a deep cut on his head while the bus driver and conductor sustained minor injuries. 17 people were arrested in connection with the bombing and had their bail application

dismissed. They were remanded to 4 April 2003. The incident occurred during the 2 day mass stay-away called for by the MDC.

- KM was waiting for transport at Munyuki Bus Station in Epworth to take him to work when a group of plain -clothes policemen manhandled him and forced him into a riot police car accusing him of having burnt a bus. He was taken to Chans Shopping Centre and handed over to a group of soldiers who assaulted him before taking him to Hatfield Police Station. He sustained bruises on the back, weakness of joints, dizziness and a running stomach due to conditions of detention.
- SM was on his way home from work when he was approached by soldiers in 2 army trucks. He was reportedly beaten by the soldiers with a steel bar, rifle and booted feet. At this point SM fainted. When he regained consciousness he was at Hatfield Police Station. He was then transferred to Harare Central Police Station where he was detained for 3 days. SM claims that he was given no food throughout the period of his detention. he was taken to court where he was remanded out of custody to 4 April 2003. SM states that he is unsure of the charges preferred but was accused of burning a bus. SM maintains that he had no involvement whatsoever in the burning of any bus. He has a scar on his head from the incident and sustained injuries to his head, left foot and arm.

KM

- "I was walking along when I saw a riot truck and an army tuck coming towards me. They started firing shots and then threw a teargas canister at me. I fell down and more than 10 soldiers beat me. They then took me to Hatfield Police Station where there were CIOs who started to beat me, accusing me of having burnt the bus that was burnt in Hatfield. I denied having had anything to do with that and explained that I was only on my way to my aunt's place. I was put in holding cells for about 30 minutes and then taken to Harare Central Police Station where I was taken to the Law and Order Section. They did not allow me to drink water or eat for 3 days. After 3 days a lawyer came and we were taken to court as a group we were granted bail and remanded to 4 April 2003."
- ST was walking along Harare Drive on his way home from his uncle's place when he was surrounded by a group of riot police who fired several shots in the air. The victim was taken to Hatfield Police Station, made to lie down and assaulted with baton sticks and kicked with booted feet. He was placed in one of the holding cells and assaulted further because a bus had been burnt. He was then taken to Harare Central and detained for 5 days then taken to court. He has swollen limbs and a cut on the scalp.
- HC was approached by about six riot policemen on his way to a supermarket to buy some mealie-meal. They told him to come closer and started beating him up while he was lying on the ground. They also took away his cell phone, a Siemens C10 and ordered him to get into the Defender. He was then taken to Hatfield Police Station, accused of burning a bus and then beaten up again. Two policemen would turn him upside down and bang his head on the floor. He sustained a nose-bleed and injuries on the chest, buttocks and feet. He was then detained in holding cells at Harare Central Police Station.
- KK was walking along the road and was at the corner of Kilwinning and Alexandra Drive, Hatfield when he saw people running away ahead of him. He saw the riot police coming after the people and then they started beating people up indiscriminately. He was ordered into a Defender and taken to Hatfield Police Station then to Harare Central and accused of burning a bus. He was beaten up by members of the CID and was detained there for 5 days. He was then taken to Rotten Row Magistrates Court, remanded and granted bail after two weeks. He sustained injuries on chest and arms.

- NM was walking towards Epworth from Hatfield and was at the corner of Kilwinning and Alexander Roads in Hatfield when he was ordered to stop by the riot police and soldiers in armoured cars and trucks. They fired shots into air and ordered everyone to stop. The victim was caught by one soldier who assaulted him with baton sticks, booted feet and belts. He was then taken to Hatfield Police Station where he was subjected to more beatings then taken to Harare Central Police Station. He sustained injuries on the knees, toes and now has constant headaches.
- AK was walking along Harare Drive when he was beaten up by the riot police with baton sticks. He was beaten on the buttocks by about 6 of them. They then took him to Hatfield Police Station where 7 soldiers started beating him one at a time accusing him of burning a bus. The demanded to be shown where he had hidden the meat from a burnt T35 truck. A statement alleging that he had indeed burnt the bus was taken from him. A lady from the CID slapped him 15 times and he can identify her. He was detained in the holding cells for 2 days without food and was only given food when a lawyer intervened. He was taken to court and remanded in custody a number of times before being released on 4 April. He sustained an infection in his throat and cannot sit properly.

19 March 2003

- Fidelis Mapisa was allegedly beaten up by unknown assailants for ferrying mourners during the 2-day stay away.

20 March 2003

- **Steven Toner**, a former employee of Roy Bennet (MDC MP for Chimanimani), was reportedly picked up at Muza Shopping Centre in Epworth and severely beaten by suspected CIO, ZNA and ZRP agents. He is reported to have died outside the police station in Epworth. The victim had been accused of taking part in the burning of the ZUPCO bus in Hatfield on 18 March 2003.
- Tonderai and Tagarira Murimba were purportedly picked up at Muza Shopping Centre in Epworth (together with Steven Toner - now deceased) by members of the Zimbabwe National Army, beaten and accused of taking part in the burning of the ZUPCO bus in Hatfield on 18 March 2003. It is alleged that Tonderai's toes were broken during the beating.

Highfield

13 March 2003

- A group of suspected MDC supporters is alleged to have gone to Mhizha Primary School armed with machetes and sticks, blowing whistles and chanting MDC slogans. They are said to have assaulted the caretaker with the sticks and booted feet. They allegedly threatened him not to let Chinotimba hold the rally at the school. They also threatened people with death and warned them not to attend the ZANU PF rally to be addressed that afternoon. They allegedly went on to Dorcas Manyonda's house, the election agent for Chinotimba, and threatened to beat her up. They only dispersed when a guard fired a shot in the air. 6 men were arrested in connection with the incident.

15 March 2003

- Tendai Marima and an unnamed person, both MDC supporters were reportedly assaulted by police details and ZANU PF supporters wielding sticks, stones and catapults. The supporters are said to have attacked anyone they suspected of being an MDC member. This followed the disruption of an MDC rally at Zororo grounds by the ZANU PF youths.

29 March 2003

- Itai Dzamara, a journalist with The Standard newspaper, was purportedly taken hostage for about an hour at the Zanu PF base until he had verified with the Command Centre at Cyril Jennings Hall that he was a bona fide journalist registered to cover the elections. It is also reported that the whole Standard crew was harassed by the youth militia while covering the Highfield by-election.

30 March 2003

- LM was on his way home from Budiriro when a group of ZANU PF youths at Mhizha Primary School seized him and told him that ZANU PF did not allow people to move around at that particular time. They reportedly assaulted him with clenched fists, kicked him with booted feet on his mouth, right eye and chest. A policeman passing by managed to talk to the youths who then set the victim free.

Kuwadzana*1 March 2003*

- 16 members of NAGG were reportedly arrested for campaigning door to door for their candidate Kempton Chiwewete. They were charged under POSA, and detained for two hours at Kuwadzana 2 Police Station then released.

4 March 2003

- Nelson Chamisa, MDC Candidate for Kuwadzana in the parliamentary by-election held on 29 and 30 March 2003, and Charlton Hwende, his campaign manager, were allegedly summoned to Police General Headquarters and barred from campaigning ahead of the by-election held on 29 and 30 March 2003. Assistant Commissioner Tagwira reportedly issued a threat that Chamisa would be killed if he defied the order. Tagwira denies the allegations.

8 March 2003

- 4 policemen were allegedly attacked by a group of MDC youths (± 21), who were holding a meeting at a house. The police had come to investigate noise following reports by neighbours complaining about the noise emanating from the house. The MDC supporters are alleged to have hurled stones at the police upon their arrival injuring 4 officers and damaging 2 police vehicles.

10 March 2003

- BM and EW reported that they were awaiting an MDC rally with their colleagues at the Arena Shopping Centre when suddenly ZANU PF youth militia approached them and demanded to know why they were waiting at the shops. BM purports that he attempted to run away but was caught, assaulted on the back, left leg, and right arm with a piece of chain. He sustained serious injuries.

16 March 2003

- MM claims that she was coming from church when she got caught up in cross fire with the police who were manning the MDC rally in the area. Two policemen are said to have held on to her, twisted her hands, and beaten her with a baton stick on suspicion that she had taken part in the rally. She claims that she was then detained in police cells at Kuwadzana Extension Police station.
- Nelson Chamisa (MDC parliamentary by-election candidate), Job Sikhala (MDC MP for St. Mary's) and Paurina Mpariwa (MDC MP for Mufakose) were reportedly ambushed by ZANU PF supporters in a vehicle they were travelling in. The supporters are said to have fired shots at the vehicle. The MPs had to flee into a maize field for refuge.
- Ben-Tumbare Mutasa (MDC MP for Seke), allegedly had his vehicle shot at by members of the ZRP, thereby causing punctures in the left front tyre and right rear tyre. He was also assaulted by riot police (+/- 20) who arrived on the scene soon afterwards and taken to Kuwadzana Police Station where he was detained. He was only released without charge after three hours following the intervention of his lawyer. He sustained injuries, abrasions, and multiple bruises inflicted by batons, rifle butts, and booted feet.

19 March 2003

- SB claims that she was on a bus from the city to Kuwadzana when some war veterans and ZANU PF youths grabbed and dragged her to a secluded area, where they assaulted her on accusations of supporting the MDC. They later drove her to a place outside Harare at around 19 00 hours and purportedly administered electric shocks to her mouth, fingers and toes while blindfolded. She was later dumped by the roadside after they failed to get the information they required from her. The victim then found her way back to Harare.
- Asani Matola was allegedly assaulted by a group of soldiers just after he disembarked from a bus. He was ordered to lie on the tarmac, accused of supporting the mass action and beaten up all over the body. He sustained a swollen lip, bruised legs and arms.
- Itayi Tinarwo claims he was trailed by unnamed youths wearing ZANU PF t-shirts in Kuwadzana 5, cornered and beaten up severely. He lost five teeth.

20 March 2003

- CG was in Mr. Hwende's (Nelson Chamisa's campaign manager) car near Kuwadzana 3 library when ZANU PF youths and the riot police suddenly surrounded the vehicle. One of his colleagues ran away but the youths apprehended him and another colleague, and assaulted them without any explanation. CG was beaten on both of his elbow joints, lower lip, left eye, right trunk, left hip, lower limbs, back, underneath his feet and buttocks with a wooden plank.

26 March 2003

- A group of ZANU PF youths allegedly went to DM's home and accused him of having carried MDC supporters in his mini-bus that afternoon. He was allegedly taken to their camp in Kuwadzana 5 where he was assaulted with iron bars, empty crates and clenched fists. He only gained consciousness at around 12 midnight and then walked back home.
- ZANU PF militias allegedly confronted DM and accused him of carrying MDC material (papers) and of distributing them in Kuwadzana. He claims that he was assaulted with iron bars, open

hands and clenched fists all over his body. He dislocated his left leg, had a deep cut on the head and bruises on his back.

27 March 2003

- It is alleged that 4 people claiming to be CIO agents came to WM's house armed with sjamboks and started assaulting the victim as well as his neighbor. The victim was reportedly assaulted for his MDC affiliation. He was then taken to Whitecliff Farm, a reported ZANU PF base where he was detained for 3 days and assaulted continuously during his detention. He has sore sides and internal injuries. Witness is Freddy (surname unknown).

31 March 2003

- TM, MF and LK were on the bus going home when some passengers started congratulating each other on the success of the MDC in the Kuwadzana parliamentary by-election. When the bus stopped to drop off some passengers, one woman allegedly approached some ZANU PF youths who were standing nearby and told them that the bus was full of MDC supporters. The youths reportedly approached the bus and assaulted everyone with corkscrews and other sharp objects. TM sustained a cut on the head. LK lost his shoes and sustained a deep cut on his scalp and thigh. MF claims that he was assaulted with used bottles. Three of the youths took \$16000 from his pocket before he could shake them off. He sustained bruises on the left hand, knees and face.

Mabvuku

22 March 2003

- Sekesai Makwavara (Deputy Mayoress of Harare) purportedly had her nightclub in Mabvuku raided and staff and patrons assaulted by members of the Zimbabwe National Army. Property worth millions was destroyed. It is alleged that this incident is part of the state's bid to punish opposition in the city.
- At around 12 midnight, about thirty uniformed members of the ZNA reportedly invaded PM's home and broke down the outer door of her house on suspicion that she supports the opposition MDC. They are then said to have ordered her to produce all her MDC particulars but she insisted that she did not have them with her. They then reportedly assaulted her and accused her of being the MDC President's girlfriend. She claims that she was later pushed onto the bed, cut with a long sheet of glass on the left hand and then forced to open her legs. She claims that the soldiers then pried her legs open with the barrel of a gun which had a condom attached to it, and then pushed it into her vagina. She asked them whether the condom had been taken from a sealed packet, of which they reportedly told her that it was from an open packet. She claims to have suffered severe pain inside her vagina, and the soldiers then left after having stolen \$16 000 from her. She purported that the soldiers claimed that she had obtained the money from the British. They reportedly threatened to come back and finish her off.
- ZNA forces are said to have arrived at CK's (MDC Organising Secretary for Mabvuku District) house at around 11 pm, dragged him out of his room and assaulted him. He was purportedly beaten with electric cords, baton sticks and the butts of guns. The victim was then reportedly bundled into their truck and taken to a base in Harare where he was handcuffed onto a bed until the next morning while being assaulted. At around 6 am on the next morning, he claims that he was driven towards the airport forrests where the assault continued. He was later tied to a tree and one soldier kicked him in the neck upon which the victim lost consciousness.

Upon regaining consciousness, he discovered that they had left and he crawled towards the airport road.

23 March 2003

- Margaret Kulinji, MDC Women's League secretary, Sonile Kulinji (mother) and Crispen Kulinji (brother) were reportedly assaulted by ZNA forces on accusations of taking part in the burning of a ZUPCO bus and of being MDC activists. The soldiers are also said to have shouted abusive language at them, accusing them of being MDC activists. SK claims that she was assaulted on her back with the butt of a gun, on her left breast and mid chest with two weapons. The soldiers reportedly used the muzzle of their guns to poke into her vagina. She claims that she was then dragged to waiting army tankers, but however managed to escape while the soldiers' attention was focused on her daughter whom they were also victimising. She sustained bruises on the face, buttocks, private parts, and breasts. MK was reportedly dragged out of her bedroom into waiting tankers, taken to a base where she was assaulted with baton sticks and electric cords. The assailants allegedly dared her to change the government of the day if she felt that there was the need to do so. She sustained severe bruises on her back, had her eyes contaminated from some form of powder thrown into her face, and sustained a swollen right arm. 2 truckloads of soldiers reportedly jumped over Margaret Kulinji's gate and severely assaulted her while Sonile was dragged into the bedroom, her legs were forced apart and a gun stuck into her genitals. Crispen was also assaulted. This attack on civilians is allegedly a move against MDC families and supporters by ZANU PF supporters.
- A group of soldiers allegedly came to Albert Gatsi's house at around 1 am and ordered him to come out of the house. They assaulted him with baton sticks, sjamboks, chains and electric cables. He was allegedly ordered to lie down in the mud in a prone position and further assaulted until he lost consciousness. He woke up later to discover them gone and having stolen his daughter's cellphone as well as \$3 000. His wife was also reportedly beaten.

25 March 2003

- TM was asleep at home when he was woken up by the sounds of a door being forced open. He claims that he found his bedroom door broken down and a group of soldiers standing around his bedside demanding his national identity card. He was allegedly dragged outside where two Defenders and a Mazda 323 were parked. He was assaulted with rifle butts and asked what course of action the MDC would take next following the mass stay away. A substance was sprayed into his eyes and as a result his eyes are now sensitive to the light and wind.

Mbare East

18 March 2003

- RZ was picked by the riot police in Ardbennie on accusations of disturbing the peace during the 2-day mass stay-away. They are said to have slapped him several times on the face, back and head. He was later taken to Mbare Police Station where they further assaulted him on his back with baton sticks.

19 March 2003

- BM was taking a walk close to Kingston Grounds in Mbare when a police Defender truck stopped in front of him. He ran off into a maize field but stopped when two shots were fired in the air. The group in the Defender vehicle then apprehended him and assaulted him with rifle butts, accusing him of blocking roads leading into the city centre during the mass stay away. He claims that he was then taken into police custody, detained for 5 days, and then released without charge. He has been coughing up blood-stained mucous since his release.

20 March 2003

- CM claims that ZANU PF youths and the police from the Neighbourhood Watch ordered him out of his flat at around 9 pm and accused him of having burnt a ZUPCO bus and having mobilized people into supporting the mass stay-away on 19 and 20 March 2003. They then force-marched him towards Mukuvisi River where they allegedly assaulted him all over the body with a fan belt. His attackers are then said to have stolen shoes and \$600 cash from him before throwing him into the Mukuvisi River. The victim only swam out of the river after they had gone. He reported the case at Mbare Police Station.

22 March 2003

- Ten uniformed policemen reportedly went to AK's house, entered his bedroom while he was fast asleep, and beat him up with a hosepipe, rope and electrical cable. They then dragged him to their vehicle and drove him to Makoni Police station where they further assaulted him and ordered him to shout "makopolo haipiswe" meaning "buses must not be burnt" and "masoja haarohwe" - meaning "soldiers must not be beaten up". He claims that he was then detained for three hours and he sustained injuries on back, buttocks and cuts on the mouth.
- Cephas Matotote is said to have been taken from his home in Mbare by soldiers and severely assaulted. He is currently hospitalised.

Mufakose*2 March 2003*

- Sergeant Kasina, Constable Mubayiwa and two other policemen were allegedly beaten by Pilani Mukwayi and 17 other MDC supporters who demanded that they leave their rally in Mufakose, Area J Ground. They were reportedly attacked for being supporters of the Government when they refused to leave. Kasina and Mubayiwa sustained serious injuries and 2 service pistols and \$2 900 were taken from them. 17 people were arrested and charged under POSA then remanded on \$5 000 bail to 24 March 2003. The police had been notified of the holding of the rally. There were complaints from residents of Mufakose that the police later indiscriminately fired teargas and beat up people alleging that they were searching for the MDC youths that had assaulted them.
- Antinet Mandividza, Alison Nyirenda, Scholastic Gwira, Rhoda Mashavave, Mollen Gaparo and other unnamed women (28 in all) were arrested as they left an MDC rally in Mufakose. They were accused of assisting in the theft of two firearms from plain-clothes policemen at the rally, ordered to crouch in a line and beaten before being taken to the police station. At the police station they were ordered to strip naked and lie face down then beaten with sjamboks, baton sticks and booted feet on the buttocks and genitals. They were reportedly denied access to food while in custody.
- GM claims that he was forced to lie down on his tummy, trodden on the neck with booted feet, and assaulted with baton sticks by 8 members of the Support Unit police. He was then bundled into the truck and taken to Marimba Police Station. He claims that they demanded to know the whereabouts of one MDC supporter.
- PM claims that he was ordered to surrender his MDC card, t-shirt, and had his national identity card and professional certificates confiscated. He was purportedly pulled out of his lodgings, had all his clothes removed, nearly strangled once, and then assaulted all over the body with baton sticks while lying on the ground. Thereafter, he was taken to Marimba Police Station where he was detained up to 4 March 2003.

- RG claims that she was coming from an MDC rally at Musamuriwo Centre when ZRP officers started to indiscriminately assault everyone in sight. She managed to flee from the scene, jumped over a nearby fence, fell, and injured her leg.
- Forty-two unnamed people were arrested after an MDC rally in Mufakose addressed by MDC President, Morgan Tsvangirai. It is reported that the arrests followed the alleged assault of four police officers by MDC supporters attending the rally. The 42 were arrested and taken into cells, denied access to food as well as legal representation. 28 women were also arrested on the same allegations.

3 March 2003

- PM, HM, SC, EN, TM, BD, AM, MT and NG purport that police officers arrived at their homes in the evening and assaulted them on their backs, ankles, and knees with baton sticks, and then pushed them to the ground on accusations of confiscating guns from ZRP officers at an MDC rally in the area. PM claims that she sustained injuries on her lower and upper limbs as they pressed her to the ground, demanding that she hand over the confiscated guns to them. NG and the other victims were reportedly forced to frog jump for about 50m in a single file and then later made to lie in a prone position so that they could be assaulted. The victims were reportedly detained overnight at Marimba Police Station where they were interrogated all night by CIO agents on the whereabouts of the guns. They were later released without charges being preferred against them.
- ZK alleges that ZRP officers came to her home, accused her of having attended an MDC rally the previous day, and then assaulted her with baton sticks on the buttocks, back, legs, and thighs. She claims that she was then taken to Marimba Police Station where she was briefly detained and then released without charge.
- Ten riot police officers are said to have accosted MG, DG, AN at their homes, searched their houses for guns, and then assaulted them on their hands, lower limbs, and buttocks with baton sticks. MD claims that she was kicked on the back and had her small right finger and neck crushed with booted feet on suspicion that she supports the opposition MDC. DG and AN also purported that the assailants stole money from them during the ensuing melee. The police officers are then said to have detained them at Harare Central Police Station, releasing them on the same day without charges.
- TM, JM and BS, MDC supporters, are said to have been assaulted by the riot police on accusations of assaulting two police officers. The police officers are then said to have taken the victims from their homes to Marimba Police Station, forced them to frog jump for about 50m, ordered them to lie in a supine position, and then assaulted them on the chest and the whole body with booted feet. TM sustained injuries on his left ankle. The victims were detained overnight at Harare Central Police Station.

21 March 2003

- Soldiers are said to have banged at Ephengas Kondo (the Harare City Councillor for Ward 35, MDC)'s door in the evening, assaulted him when he had opened the door. He claims that they told him to surrender all papers that had MDC information. He was also assaulted on suspicion of having organised the two-day mass stay-away. It is reported that the assailants then blindfolded him and took him to a site he was not familiar with, later dumping him in a wooded area near the airport. (See photograph on page 28)

- ES claims that because his wife is a known MDC activist, he has been continually threatened and followed by various members of the army and Central Intelligence Organisation, (CIO) since last year. For three months, he did not live at home, as he was being followed and he did not want to jeopardise the security of his family. However, he recently moved back home. Around 1am on Friday March 21, “war veterans” and soldiers allegedly came to his family’s home. They started yelling at the gate for his wife, so she jumped over the wall around their homestead and ran away. The attackers came into their home and attacked ES also beating his two children, aged 11 and 14 in the process. They told the children to stretch out their arms so that they could beat their backs. The children were later taken to hospital for treatment. ES’s wife is a member of a women’s cooperative. In this cooperative, the women take turns buying groceries in bulk and distributing them between members. Thus there was about 3 months worth of groceries and household goods in the house. These were looted. The assailants opened the cupboards and put ES’s wife’s MDC t-shirt next to his old army uniform, and beat him, telling him that even if he was retired he was supposed to stay loyal to Zanu PF and Robert Mugabe. The men are said to have then blindfolded ES and driven away with him. They kept him blindfolded and drove around with him for the whole day. They would occasionally stop and take him out of the car to beat him. Then they would put him back in the car, tie his hands behind his back, and drive somewhere else. Finally around 10pm on Friday (almost 21 hours after the thugs came to his house), ES was dumped in a ditch and his captors drove away. He managed to get the blindfold off, and realised he was in Msasa. He walked towards the road where he managed to get a lift. ES told the driver he had been attacked by thieves and mugged. The car took him to the police station, where he told the same story, and was taken by ambulance to hospital. He was unconscious in the hospital until Sunday morning, when he was able to contact his family. The family is now afraid to go home, as neighbours report that the attackers have been back to the neighbourhood, asking after their whereabouts and waiting for them. (See *photograph on page 28*)

22 March 2003

- Soldiers are said to have searched JC’s house at around 3am, assaulted him and his family on accusations of having information linked to the mass stay away called for on 19 and 20 March 2003. They reportedly assaulted his wife and two of his children, stole toiletries, \$5 000 cash and a wrist – watch from his house. They are then said to have assaulted JC with sjamboks all over his body, blindfolded him and then bundled him into a car and took him to an unknown destination where they further assaulted him. He was then dumped near Manyame Airbase later that morning.

St. Mary’s

20 March 2003

- It is alleged that a group of soldiers came to the DC’s home at around 3 am and beat up everyone in the house when they did not find him there. When DC eventually arrived, he was reportedly apprehended and then assaulted with sjamboks all over his body. He claims that he was later made to lie in a prone position and beaten on his buttocks and back. After some time he was bundled into a truck and dumped at Mbudzi.

24 March 2003

- PM claims that seven soldiers carrying guns came to his lodgings at around 3am, knocked down the door, and gained entry into the room. They are said to have assaulted her with baton and wooden sticks, as well as the butts of their guns, accusing her of burning a Mhiripiri Bus and of supporting the MDC. PM then went to seek medication for her injuries at hospital and she claims that on her way home, she was again apprehended by some war veterans who ordered her off the bus she was travelling in and beaten up because she was coming from seeking medical treatment.

25 March 2003

- Five men allegedly went to SM's house at around 12 midnight, knocked at his door, introduced themselves as soldiers, and ordered him to open the door. When he did he realised that they were in civilian clothes and they asked him to chant the MDC slogan and to surrender everything that belonged to the MDC. They are then said to have banged his head against the wall and slapped him several times on the face. When he fell down, he was trampled on the chest with booted feet.

MANICALAND

Buhera North

March 2003

- 10 villagers claim that they were forced to flee their homes following various incidents of violence incited by ZANU PF youths. Some had their properties burnt.

10 March 2003

- About 15 war veterans reportedly assaulted CC, because he holds opposing views by supporting the MDC. He ran away from them, was pursued and then assaulted. He managed to crawl back home and he reported the incident to the police. He suffered two broken ribs, a deep wound on right leg, left hand, and bruises all over his body.

Chimanimani

March 2003

- 53 people, 21 of them school children were allegedly displaced at Cashel Valley in Chimanimani in a massive violence purge by ZANU PF supporters. It is alleged that they are also being driven off the land they were resettled on soon after Independence.

Chipinge

11 March 2003

- Stanley Mabuyaye was reportedly arrested for selling copies of newspapers (The Daily News) bearing an "offensive" headline: "Mugabe Must Be Tried". The story quoted the International Bar Association urging the International Criminal Court to prosecute President Mugabe for serious human rights violations. Inspector Muchikwa (ZRP) and two members of the ZNA allegedly confiscated 150 of the copies then detained the vendor for 6 hours before releasing him without charge.

Mutare Central*19 March 2003*

- SK, a journalist, accompanied a colleague to a police station when one police officer overheard him talking about the 19 to 20 March 2003 mass stay-away on his mobile phone. He was approached and asked why he was talking about the stay-away, as well as to whom he was talking. The officer is then said to have snatched his phone away, searched through his phone for numbers, and accused him of being a sell-out and an MDC supporter when he found numbers of MDC officials in Mutare on his person. He claims that he was then pushed into an office, arrested, and denied access to his lawyer.

8 March 2003

- It is alleged that the MDC was barred from holding a rally at Sakubva Stadium by Chief Superintendent Emilia Moyo who questioned why the opposition party had Tendai Biti (MDC MP for Harare East) as the main speaker. It was alleged that Biti was likely to incite violence. Moyo barred the MDC from holding the rally but refused to put the reason in writing as required by POSA.

MASHONALAND CENTRAL**Bindura***18 March 2003*

- PM reiterated that he was accosted by a group of ZANU PF and Border Gezi National Service Training Centre youths, on accusations of having distributed flyers calling for people to heed to the call for the 19 to 20 March 2003 stay-away, and for being a member of MDC. He was reportedly abducted and taken to Kitsiyatota Farm where the youths tied him to a tree with a piece of wire and left him there for about 20 minutes. He was then untied and beaten on the head with an iron bar. They are then said to have taken him to a drainage canal and threatened to throw him in. They then assaulted him with sticks and booted feet throughout the night. In the morning they reportedly took him to Budiriro police station and told the police that PM had been distributing flyers about the stay-away the night before. The police reportedly took him into custody for a few hours and then to court. He was remanded in custody and kept at the station for five days. He claims that he was made to pay \$2000 bail, and told to report at court on 4 April 2002. He sustained a sprained wrist, a cut on the scalp and some bruises.

MASHONALAND EAST**Chikomba***3 March 2003*

- SM was asleep when some people pretending to be soldiers came to her home and demanded of her to open the door and do the MDC slogan. When she refused, she claims that she was slapped on the face, stepped on, and had her head knocked on the ground. She alleges that the assailants also stole her blankets, pots and food.

Goromonzi*26 March 2003*

- Some ZANU PF supporters are alleged to have confronted RM and accused him of being an MDC supporter. They assaulted him using sjamboks, open palms, booted feet, knobkerries

and iron bars. He sustained a fractured upper jaw. He reported the matter at Domboshawa Police Station.

Murehwa North/ South

20 March 2003

- CIO agents reportedly forcibly took EB, MDC District chairman for Highfield, in a car to Murehwa, detained him for three hours, administered electric shocks on him and beat him up. He was allegedly threatened with death, had deep cuts and hence sustained bruises on the back and wounds on both hands. He claims that he was taken to some bush blindfold, had his dreadlocks cut, and then dumped in the bush. In the second incident on 23 March 2003 the CIO agents chased him and his family from his home, damaging the lodgers quarters in the backyard and chasing them away.

Seke

19 March 2003

- Isobel Gardiner and her husband Norman, the farm manager at Roy Bennet's farm in Ruwa (MDC MP for Chimanimani) were beaten by soldiers on allegations of having backed the 18-19 March mass stay-away.

20 March 2003

- A group of about 30 soldiers came to Big Tull Farm in 3 armored vehicles with concealed licence plates. They told TM and his colleagues to repeat for them what they usually say about soldiers in their absence. The victim and others then repeated for the soldiers whatever they usually say about them and were therefore beaten up with baton sticks and booted feet. The victim sustained a fracture on the left arm and bruises on the lips. Witnesses to the incident are Tonderai Mwemba and Mr. Maxwell both of Big Tull Farm.

Uzumba Maramba Pfungwe

10 March 2003

- ZANU PF youths and war veterans reportedly attacked SC's homestead, threatening to set alight the hut and burn the people inside. They are said to have set up a fire at the entrance to the hut but SC managed to escape, sustaining burns on the forehead. She claims that they then beat her up, and when her husband tried to escape, they cornered him and severely assaulted him with sticks and stones. He was deeply wounded on the right leg and had some of his bones fractured. She reported the case to Constable Mushori, who promised to return with a police vehicle and ambulance to assist them, however never returned.

MASHONALAND WEST***Chinhoyi***

22 March 2003

- The building housing the ZANU PF offices and Mashonaland Turf club in Chinhoyi was reportedly petrol bombed by MDC supporters. Cosmas Mupambwa, Gift Muchoka, Peter Luanda and another unnamed person were implicated. 13 people were arrested in connection with the incident.

28 March 2003

- At around 6 pm, CID officers reportedly confronted FZ and accused her of being connected to the burning of the Mashonaland Turf Club building and of stocking petrol bombs in her home. She claims that the agents assaulted for three hours, demanded to know the details of her doctor, who the MDC donor is, and who is the Head of Security within MDC. They are said to have threatened her to stop campaigning for the post of councillor in the area on the pretext that she did not fight in the liberation war. Her son who at the University of Zimbabwe was allegedly told not to go back to study there, but to study in Britain.
- War veterans, CID and CIO agents, are said to have abducted GM from his home around 11 pm, taken to CID Chinhoyi offices by armed riot police, and then tortured. He claims that they tied his genitals with twine, beat him up with baton sticks and booted feet, told him to hit his head on the walls, and demanded to know who his lawyers are and which political party he supports.

MASVINGO

Masvingo Central

21 March 2003

- Lucia Masekesa (the Provincial Chair for MDC Women's Assembly) allegedly had her home severely damaged by ZNA agents who claimed they were looking for subversive material and dangerous weapons. Armed with AK rifles, they reportedly attacked the house, smashed windows and doors. Masekesa was not at home at time of the attack.

Zaka East/ West

3 March 2003

- MM's husband is a member of the MDC. She claims that every time he comes home from Harare, ZANU PF youths come after him and force him to go back to Harare "where the MDC people are". The assailants have allegedly made threats on his life such that he now fears coming home.

MATABELELAND NORTH

Nkayi

8 March 2003

- Mthulusi Mlilo was reportedly dragged from Nkabayinde Business Centre to a District Development Fund truck that had no number- plates by Khiwa and unnamed ZNLWVA members. Mloyi's clothes and underwear were discovered the following day at the spot he is believed to have been abducted. He was reportedly detained for more than a day before his release. He was severely assaulted during the period of his abduction. Mloyi was part of a group of MDC youths preparing for a rally to be addressed by MDC vice-president Gibson Sibanda. Several other youths escaped from the group of war veterans who disrupted preparations for the rally assaulting the youths. The rally was cancelled as a result.

MIDLANDS***Kwekwe****10 March 2003*

- Abednico Malinga (MP for Silobela, MDC) was allegedly assaulted by ZANU PF supporters while in a fuel queue at a service station. They told him to “refuel his car in Britain” as the fuel there “did not belong the MDC President”. He was also hit on the head with an empty bottle and sustained a deep cut. He made a report to Kwekwe Central Police Station. Two police officers were dispatched to guard his car while he sought medical treatment. It is alleged that while under police guard, the windscreen of his car was smashed and an attempt made to set it alight.

Pictures of Victims of Violence in March 2003

1 ES of Mufakose



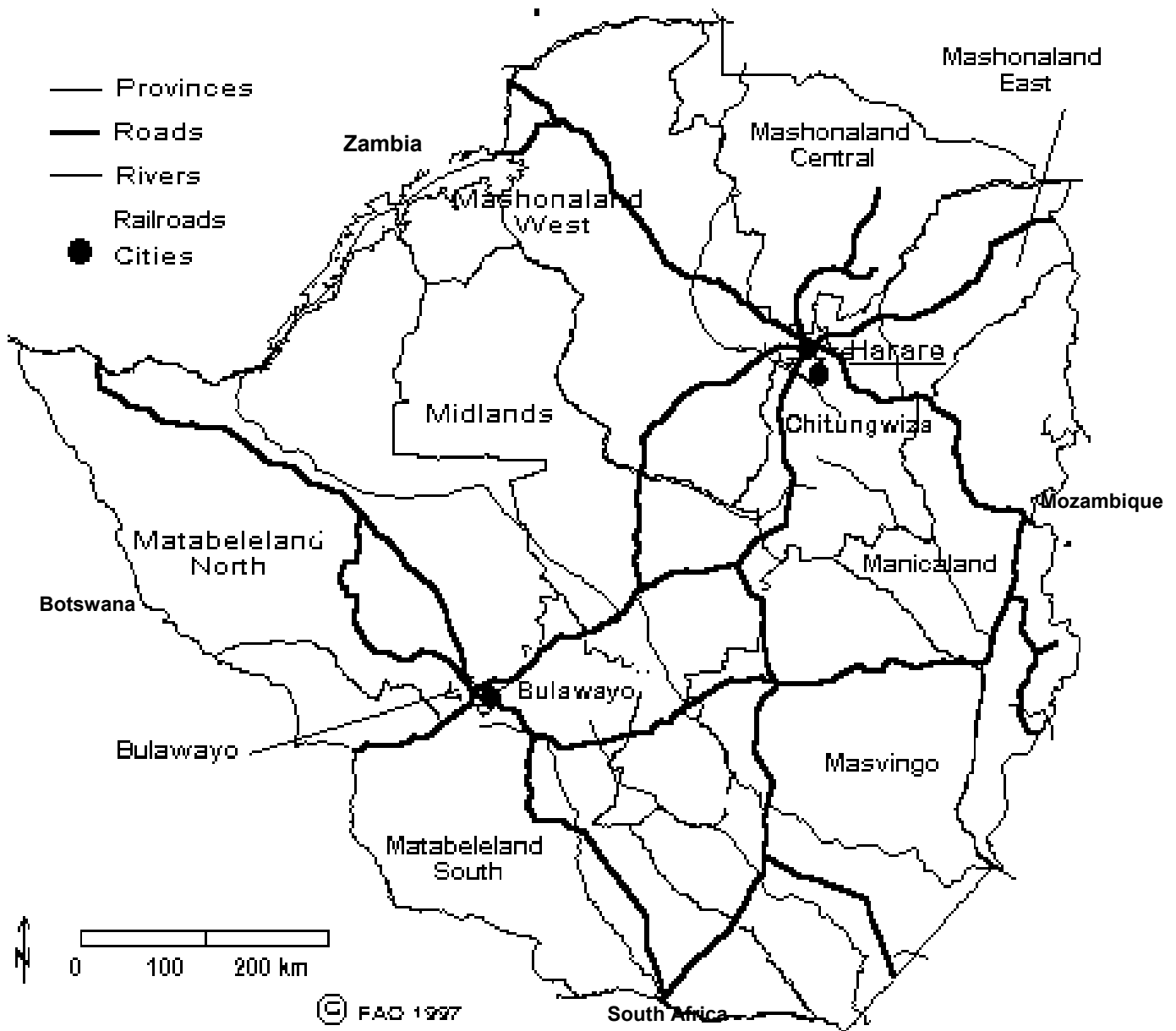
2 Injuries sustained by Ephenas Kondo, Harare City Councillor Ward 35 - Glen View.



3 The following photographic evidence is of farm workers and their families assaulted at Roy Bennett's (MDC MP for Chimanimani) Farm outside Harare on 20 March 2003.
Back injuries of the tortured farm workers



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
- 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)

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

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