
**INTERNATIONAL REHABILITATION COUNCIL
FOR TORTURE VICTIMS**

**Organised Violence and Torture in
Zimbabwe**

Harare and Copenhagen, 6 June 2000

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1. Introduction

The AMANI Trust, through Council Member Anthony Reeler, requested the International Rehabilitation Council for Torture Victims (IRCT) to undertake a fact-finding visit to Zimbabwe with the greatest urgency. The current situation indicates that organised violence and torture is taking place on a very large scale, and that this requires independent verification.

Three areas of particular concern were identified:

- allegations that doctors have been involved in or condoned torture;
- allegations that health workers have been targeted by organised violence and torture;
- allegations that health services to victims of organised violence have been disrupted and that health workers have been prevented from rendering assistance to victims.

The current report is based on information compiled from both a wide range of sources and researched locally by the IRCT delegation. The IRCT delegation visited Zimbabwe from 29 May to 6 June 2000. The delegation comprised Maria Piniou- Kalli, MD, IRCT President and specialist dermatologist, Inge Genefke, MD.DMSc hc, IRCT Secretary-General and specialist neurologist, and Soraya Usmani Martinez, IRCT Project Coordinator for Sub Saharan Africa.

The IRCT is an independent, international health professional organisation which promotes and supports the rehabilitation of torture victims and works for the prevention of torture worldwide.

Established in 1985, the IRCT is comprised of an International Council with its headquarters in Copenhagen, Denmark. The IRCT Headquarters employs 46 staff, including 14 international employees, representing the global reach of the work of the IRCT. The IRCT promotes and support the rehabilitation of torture victims and the prevention of torture in collaboration with nearly 200 rehabilitation centres and programs worldwide. The rehabilitation centres form a unique network comprised of health professionals around the world providing rehabilitation treatment and support to victims of torture, often in very difficult circumstances and at great personal risk.

The IRCT works towards the global eradication of torture by providing support to new and existing rehabilitation centres and programmes worldwide, as well as through documentation, information and training. The IRCT is recognised internationally for its work against torture and has special consultative status with the United Nations Economic and Social Council.

The IRCT has held a long-term interest in Southern Africa in general, and with Zimbabwe in particular. In 1990, the IRCT organised the "International Conference on the Consequences of Organised Violence in Southern Africa". The AMANI Trust, which was formed in 1993, currently holds the position of the IRCT Africa Region Co-ordinating Centre. The IRCT has received regular reports on Zimbabwe (see Appendix A), as well as regular briefings on the human rights situation in Zimbabwe.

1.1 Summary of findings and recommendations

Torture:

Objective findings of physical and psychological torture were found in all 10 cases. Most cases had findings of both physical and psychological torture, whilst all cases had evidence of psychological torture.

Mass psychological torture

There is evidence that mass psychological torture is occurring. Three cases illustrate torture being used to renounce political party affiliations.

Community disruption

There is evidence of community disruption through intimidation to and violence against health workers and teachers.

Recommendations

1. It is imperative that the Zimbabwe Government sign and ratify the UN Convention Against Torture and Other Forms of Cruel, Inhuman and Degrading Treatment and Punishment as soon as possible.
2. There should be an independent judicial commission appointed to investigate all gross human rights violations.
3. A policy of reparations should be developed and implemented. This policy should include Restitution, Compensation and Rehabilitation.

2. Background

Zimbabwe has had an extensive history of gross human rights violations over the past three decades. The Liberation War of the 1970s, the low intensity war of the 1980s in Matabeleland and the Midlands, the deteriorating human rights climate in the 1990s, all form the context in which the current situation must be seen.

2.1 Liberation War

The Liberation War of the 1970s was well documented, both at the time by the Catholic Commission for Justice and Peace as well as subsequently by historians. There are now a number of reports on the human rights violations that took place¹. These are supplemented by scientific reports². These reports indicate human rights violations such as extra-judicial killings, physical torture, psychological torture, rape, mass terror, and disappearances, in addition to the more usual casualties of war. From the pattern of organised violence, the "pungwes" deserve special attention. These night meetings were a combination of traditional ceremony with songs and dances, but were also occasions for political education. "Sellouts" and political opponents were tortured and frequently executed at these "pungwes".

The long-term consequences are also described. A recent epidemiological study shows that the number of persons suffering from disabilities and psychological disorders is still very high: more than 1 person in 10 over the age of 30 was shown to have physical disability, psychological disorder or both³. Disappearances are also known to have a serious impact on survivors⁴. The gross rights violations of the 1970s were all excused by formal statutes of impunity beginning in 1975 and ending in 1980 with a formal amnesty for all human rights violators passed by the British government.

2.2 Matabeleland (Gukurahundi)

The pattern of gross human rights violations seen in the 1970s was repeated during the low intensity war that affected Matabeleland and the Midlands in the 1980s. This has been well documented in the *Breaking the Silence* report produced by the Catholic Commission for Justice and Peace (CCJP) and the Legal Resources Foundation (LRF)⁵. A Government Commission produced a report during the period in question, but its findings were suppressed by the government and the subject of a Supreme Court application currently.

The CCJP/LRF report has been corroborated subsequently by other reports⁶. These reports document extra-judicial killings, physical torture, psychological torture, rape, mass terror and

¹ See AMANI (1997)(a), *Survivors of Torture in Mount Darwin District, Mashonaland Central Province: Overview of Report and Recommendations*, LEGAL FORUM, 9, 49-60; AMANI (1998), *The Psycho-Social Needs of Survivors of Organised Violence and Torture in the Community*, HARARE: AMANI.

² See AMANI (1998), *Survivors of Torture and Organised Violence from the 1970s War of Liberation*, HARARE: AMANI; MUPINDA M (1995) *Loss and grief among the Shona: the Meaning of Disappearances*, LEGAL FORUM, 9, 41-49; REELER, A.P. (1998), *Epidemic violence and the community: A Zimbabwean case study*, COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT JOURNAL, 33, 128-139; REELER, A.P., & MUPINDA, M. (1996), *Investigation into the sequelae of Torture and Organised Violence amongst Zimbabwean War Veterans*, LEGAL FORUM, 8, 12-27.

³ See REELER, A.P., MBAPE, P., MATSHONA, J., MHETURA, J., & HLATYWAYO, E. (1998), *The prevalence and nature of disorders due to torture in Mashonaland Central Province, Zimbabwe*, TORTURE (submitted for publication).

⁴ See MUPINDA M (1995) *Loss and grief among the Shona: the Meaning of Disappearances*, LEGAL FORUM, 9, 41-49

⁵ See CCJP/LRF (1997), *Breaking the Silence. Building True Peace: A Report on the Disturbances in Matabeleland and the Midlands, 1980 to 1988*, HARARE: CATHOLIC COMMISSION FOR JUSTICE AND PEACE, & LEGAL RESOURCES FOUNDATION.

⁶ See AMANI [1998](c), *Survivors of Organised Violence in Matabeleland: Facilitating an Agenda for Development, Report of the Workshop*, BULAWAYO: AMANI; AMANI (1999) "A Report on the Exhumation and Reburial Exercise Overseen by the AMANI Trust in Gwanda District, 25 July to 3 September 1999" BULAWAYO: AMANI; EPPEL, Shari: "Drying the Tears of the Dead: A Way to Heal the Living": conference paper presented at the Traumatic Stress in South Africa conference, Johannesburg, January 1999.

disappearances of a very high magnitude. It is again worth noting the frequent occurrence of "pungwes". Torture and extra-judicial killings were frequent occurrences at these "pungwes", clearly used as instruments of mass psychological torture. The very high number of disappearances and mass graves remain a considerable cause for concern to the local communities⁷. A recent epidemiological study indicates that 5 in 10 adults are suffering from clinically significant psychological disorders, following this low intensity war⁸. The gross human rights violations of the 1980s were also covered by states of impunity, both during the emergency and with a formal amnesty at the end.

2.3 Food Riots of 1998

The period from 1987 to 1998 was one of relative peace, and few gross human rights violations were identified. This relatively secure period was overturned in January 1998 with massive human rights violations occurring during the Food Riots. These human rights violations were well-documented at the time by the Zimbabwe Human Rights NGO Forum, and have been reported in several publications⁹. Extra-judicial killings, physical torture, psychological torture, and mass terror were all described. More than 40 cases have been the subject of civil litigation for compensation for gross human rights violations, and 10 cases have been settled in the complainants' favour. The event was also discussed before the United Nations Human Rights Committee. In its observations and recommendations¹⁰ to the Government of Zimbabwe, the UN body urged that all cases of alleged excessive use of force committed by members of the police or the army be investigated by an independent and impartial body. The UN Human Rights Committee also urged that action be taken against those officers found to have committed abuses and that compensation be paid to the victims. To date, the Zimbabwe government has not followed the recommendation, nor has there been any serious comment upon the findings of the report.

2.4 Torture in 1998 and 1999

Since 1998 there has been a continuous deterioration in the human rights climate of Zimbabwe, reflected in several human rights reports¹¹. These general reports have been supplemented by a recent report from the Zimbabwe Human Rights NGO Forum focusing on organised violence and torture in Zimbabwe¹². The most notorious case involved the kidnapping and torture of the two Zimbabwe Standard journalists, Mark Chavunduka and Ray Choto. This case has been widely reported and all the facts are known (see above-mentioned reports). The Amani Trust and the Human Rights Forum had instituted an urgent appeal for support to international partners. The IRCT and Amnesty International strongly supported this urgent action case.

⁷ See AMANI (1999) "A "Report on the Exhumation and Reburial Exercise Overseen by the AMANI Trust in Gwanda District, 25 July to 3 September 1999" BULAWAYO: AMANI; EPPEL, Shari: "Drying the Tears of the Dead: A Way to Heal the Living": conference paper presented at the Traumatic Stress in South Africa conference, Johannesburg, January 1999.

⁸ See AMANI [1998](c), *Survivors of Organised Violence in Matabeleland: Facilitating an Agenda for Development, Report of the Workshop*, BULAWAYO: AMANI.

⁹ See ZIMBABWE HUMAN RIGHTS NGO FORUM (1998), *Human Rights in Troubled Times: An Initial Report on Human Rights Abuses During and After Food Riots in January 1998*; ZIMBABWE HUMAN RIGHTS NGO FORUM (1999), *A Consolidated Report on the Food Riots, 19th to 23rd January 1999*, HARARE: ZIMBABWE HUMAN RIGHTS NGO FORUM.

¹⁰ *Concluding observations of the Human Rights Committee: Zimbabwe*. UNITED NATIONS HUMAN RIGHTS COMMITTEE, Sixty-second session. 4 August 1998, CCPR/C/79/Add.89

¹¹ See CHEATER A (1999) *Human rights developments July - December 1999* ZIMBABWE HUMAN RIGHTS BULLETIN 2 2-65; CHEATER A (1999) *Human rights developments January-June 1999* ZIMBABWE HUMAN RIGHTS BULLETIN 1 3-47; FELTOE G (1999) *Zero tolerance for torturers* ZIMBABWE HUMAN RIGHTS BULLETIN 1 109-132.

¹² See ZIMBABWE HUMAN RIGHTS NGO FORUM(2000), *Organised Violence and Torture in Zimbabwe in 1999*, HARARE: ZIMBABWE HUMAN RIGHTS NGO FORUM

GM

Had survived a murderous attack in June 1998. Subsequently he and his family were harassed and threatened by government agents on a regular basis. He was accused of conniving with elements of Zanu PF in order to link to the labour movement, especially the emerging political wing of the ZCTU. He was helped to seek asylum outside the country. The harassment of his family continued after his leaving the country. The latest incident involving his family was reported on the eve of the launch of the Movement for Democratic Change. State agents burst into his family home early in the morning, searching for GM examining documents and threatening his young son.

JK

Was severely tortured by officers of the Zimbabwe Republic Police (ZRP). On very flimsy grounds, she and her husband were arrested on suspicion of having murdered their maid. JK received very severe treatment, including beatings, suspension, electrical shock, and beatings to her genitalia. The Human Rights Forum is following up this case in order to get accurate details. A private lawyer is assisting her and her husband in making charges against the ZRP and claiming damages.

BS & AM

They are brother and sister. BS was arrested by police officers after protesting against the Epworth Local Board for destroying her house and crops. Policemen at Hatfield Police Station struck her with clenched fists, boots and a stick. After hearing of his sister's arrest AM went to the station where he was also detained and beaten with a truncheon under his feet. The Human Rights Legal Unit is now waiting for a pre-trial Conference date from the Registrar of the High Court.

P Z

PZ was assaulted by members of the ZRP after being overheard making comments about alleged corruption by the police. He was dragged off by an armed policeman and then beaten with rifle butts and truncheons, slapped and kicked with boots. The assaults stopped when Security Guards at a shop nearby heard his screams and came to his assistance. The policemen ran away. He made a statement at Matapi Police Station, corroborated by several witnesses.

RM & NZ

Were taken to Nyamweda Police Station in Mhondoro as suspects in a theft of maize grain case. They were beaten with truncheons, iron bars, plaited electric wires and a hosepipe. NZ apparently received a much more severe beating and died nine days after being released from police custody. The death certificate shows that death was caused by multiple-tissue injuries caused by a blunt object.

PM

He was assaulted on his back, buttocks, under his feet and all over his body by police officers who were investigating a case of theft of money from his employer. He was handcuffed with his hands at the back. His legs were forced between the handcuffs whereupon the policemen started assaulting him with a truncheon under his feet.

FN

He was assaulted on his back, buttocks, under his feet and all over his body by police officers who were investigating a case of theft.

MM RM, EK & LM

These men are related to each other. They were arrested by police in Bulawayo on allegations of theft of a motor vehicle. They were arrested at different times but they all complained of being

locked in a car boot and being assaulted. They were kept at Bulawayo Central Police Station for five days. They were later transferred to Harare where they were released without being charged.

EL

He was seen by policemen waiting at a certain place in Chitungwiza. He was dragged and shoved into the back of a police van. On the way to the station he was assaulted. He was dragged into a holding cell, then later released after paying a \$50.00 fine, presumably for loitering.

The Human Rights Forum also saw a number of cases, and the civil suits involving these cases are pending¹³. The Human Rights Forum maintains that in the cases seen by its Human Rights Legal Unit there is an apparent trend towards the police using forms of torture that are more difficult to initially detect. The Forum also highlights the use of electrical shock and "falanga" or beatings on the soles of the feet, adding that falanga has not been reported widely before in Zimbabwe, but its frequency increased throughout the 1980s and the 1990s.

3. Current human rights violations in Zimbabwe

3.1 Definitions

There are two definitions that must be considered here. The first is the definition contained in the United Nations Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman and Degrading Treatment and Punishment (1984). Torture is defined as:

'...any act by which severe pain or suffering, whether physical or mental, is intentionally inflicted on a person for such purposes as obtaining from him or a third person information or a confession, punishing him for an act he or a third person has committed or is suspected of having committed, or intimidating or coercing him or a third person, or for any other reason based on discrimination of any kind, when such pain or suffering is inflicted by or at the instigation of or with the consent or acquiescence of a public official or other person acting in an official capacity. It does not include pain or suffering arising from, inherent in or incidental to lawful sanctions'.

(UN Convention against Torture and other cruel, inhuman or degrading Treatment or Punishment (1984), Article 1)

The second definition is derived from the World Health Organisation's definition, originally produced in 1986, and amended at the 1990 International conference on the Consequences of Organised Violence in Southern Africa. Organised violence refers to:

'... the 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 survivor's feelings. Organised violence includes, most importantly, "torture, cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment" as mentioned in Article 5 of the UN Universal Declaration of Human Rights (1948). Violence which occurs in these and similar situations as a direct consequence of political repression, although it may appear random, is of a structural nature, and involves violation of basic human rights and can only disappear when human, social and political relationships are profoundly changed'. (WHO.1986)

Whilst both definitions cover the essential ingredients of torture, the latter also covers the features of mass terror and psychological torture in low intensity war and conflicts that have characterised

¹³ See ZIMBABWE HUMAN RIGHTS NGO FORUM(2000), *Organised Violence and Torture in Zimbabwe in 1999*, HARARE: ZIMBABWE HUMAN RIGHTS NGO FORUM.

the Southern African region. The report refers to the definition that is appropriate to the human rights violation being described.

3.2 Violence monitoring

The politically motivated violence, which has spiralled in the past two months of 2000, became a matter of immense concern to all the members of the Human Rights NGO Forum. The Human Rights NGO Forum accordingly started a project to record and act upon cases of political violence and to support and unify the initiatives being pursued by individual members of the Forum. It began gathering statements from victims on 11 May 2000. The project has already received a large number of survivors' accounts of torture and beatings, as well as cases of killings. Together with the numerous reports of political violence in the press, these victims' accounts provide yet more evidence that Zimbabwe is experiencing gross human rights violations.

The Human Rights Forum has issued a number of reports to date that have described the organised violence and torture¹⁴. These reports have been based upon press reports as well as eyewitness testimonies and the statements of victims themselves. Additionally, the AMANI Trust has produced a series of quantitative summaries of the violence.

3.3 Extra-judicial killings

- At the time of writing, 29 people are reported as having been killed. Reported cases of fatalities include the following¹⁵: In Bindura two MDC supporters were killed after a Zanu (PF) vehicle stopped the vehicle carrying MDC supporters back from a rally. Two persons from the Zanu (PF) vehicle then attacked the cab of the MDC vehicle with iron bars and then tossed a petrol bomb inside the cab. Two of the MDC supporters inside the cab died from burns.
- In Mhangura an MDC organiser was shot and killed.
- In Kariba MDC supporters were kidnapped by supporters of Zanu (PF) and badly beaten. Two persons died as a result of these assaults.
- In Harare Zanu (PF) supporters allegedly beat to death a person because he was wearing an MDC tee shirt.
- In Kariba a farm worker was killed allegedly after Zanu (PF) violently attacked farm workers on an estate village.
- In the Madziwa district a group of government supporters allegedly beat to death a person who could not produce a Zanu (PF) membership card when called upon to do so.
- In Macheke a white farmer, who was an active supporter of the MDC, was kidnapped from his farm by war veterans and their supporters and severely beaten and then executed by shooting him in the head.

¹⁴ See ZIMBABWE HUMAN RIGHTS NGO FORUM: VIOLENCE MONITORING PROJECT *The Unleashing of Violence: A report on political violence in Zimbabwe. Update for the week ending 15 May 2000*; ZIMBABWE HUMAN RIGHTS NGO FORUM: VIOLENCE MONITORING PROJECT *The Unleashing of Violence: A report on political violence in Zimbabwe. Update for the week ending 19 May 2000*; ZIMBABWE HUMAN RIGHTS NGO FORUM: VIOLENCE MONITORING PROJECT *The Unleashing of Violence: A report on political violence in Zimbabwe. Update for the week ending 26 May 2000*.

¹⁵ See ZIMBABWE HUMAN RIGHTS NGO FORUM: VIOLENCE MONITORING PROJECT *The Unleashing of Violence: A report on political violence in Zimbabwe. Update for the week ending 15 May 2000*; ZIMBABWE HUMAN RIGHTS NGO FORUM: VIOLENCE MONITORING PROJECT *The Unleashing of Violence: A report on political violence in Zimbabwe. Update for the week ending 19 May 2000*; ZIMBABWE HUMAN RIGHTS NGO FORUM: VIOLENCE MONITORING PROJECT *The Unleashing of Violence: A report on political violence in Zimbabwe. Update for the week ending 26 May 2000*.

- In Nyamandhlovu a white farmer, who was a supporter of the MDC, was attacked in his farm homestead by a large group of war veterans and their supporters and was shot and wounded and beaten to death.
- In Mukumbura the brother of an MDC parliamentary candidate, was allegedly beaten to death by a large mob of Zanu (PF) supporters. The mother and father of the brothers were also severely beaten.
- In Beatrice a white farmer, who was a supporter of the MDC, was beaten with concrete blocks and iron bars. He subsequently died from the injuries that had been inflicted. Another white farmer in Beatrice was shot and subsequently died, although it may turn out that this was a criminal rather than a politically motivated murder.
- Sgt Alex Chisasa was killed at 9:30 p.m., by a gang of 5-6 on the Jack Quinton bridge near his home in Mupinge, Chipinge area. He is thought to have been beaten to death with an iron bar. Chisasa was stationed at Chisambange police station. His killing is thought to have been political as immediately before the incident he was drinking beer in the township, dressed in civilian clothes. He was publicly criticising the political strategy of Zanu (PF) and the party's use of war veterans. His death was brought to the attention of the project, but no further details are available at present.
- Takundwa Chipunza an MDC supporter from Budiriro, Harare, was killed, allegedly by Zanu PF supporters, 12 of whom have been arrested and are on remand until 5 June.

3.4 Torture

- Whilst organised violence has been very commonly reported (see below), systematic torture has not been so commonly reported. Torture victims will often not seek assistance for fear of further retaliation, but nonetheless several cases have been reported¹⁶. 21 April 2000: MDC members were drinking at Wasara-Wasara beerhall in Gokwe, the Midlands, around 9:45 p.m. About 20 Zanu (PF) youths and “war veterans” approached them and one of them was abducted. He was taken to their office at the council building, where he was brought before around 200 Zanu (PF) supporters. He was then tortured with electric shocks and beaten on the soles of the feet at gunpoint. A war veteran named Shenje led the assault.
- 28 April 2000: An MDC member was tortured, allegedly at the hands of CIO operatives in Kambuzuma, Harare. He has given a detailed statement of his ordeal.
- 8-16 May 2000: Three people interviewed said they had been tortured at Chenjerai Hunzvi's surgery in Budiriro between these dates. Each claimed to have seen other people being tortured inside (there are unconfirmed reports of four more victims. Takundwa Chipunza, who died of beatings outside the surgery, is also suspected of having been tortured at the surgery).

In Mashonaland East, the ZexCom offices at Murehwa growth point is a known torture house. Chipesa Farm in Marondera is also a centre for the planning and implementation of violence. Karoi, the Zanu (PF) offices in the high-density suburb of Chikangwe are being used to house a militia who chant slogans and sing all night, bringing opposition members for beating there. There have also been serious allegations that the surgery belonging to D Cenjerai Hunzvi has been used as a torture centre.

Below the report refers to a further number of alleged torture cases that were investigated directly.

¹⁶ See ZIMBABWE HUMAN RIGHTS NGO FORUM: VIOLENCE MONITORING PROJECT *The Unleashing of Violence: A report on political violence in Zimbabwe. Update for the week ending 15 May 2000*; ZIMBABWE HUMAN RIGHTS NGO FORUM: VIOLENCE MONITORING PROJECT *The Unleashing of Violence: A report on political violence in Zimbabwe. Update for the week ending 19 May 2000*; ZIMBABWE HUMAN RIGHTS NGO FORUM: VIOLENCE MONITORING PROJECT *The Unleashing of Violence: A report on political violence in Zimbabwe. Update for the week ending 26 May 2000*

3.5 Rape

Rape has been reported, and at least 12 cases have been seen by non-governmental organisations. There are also reports of mass rapes, and even reports of health workers being raped at Nyadire Mission Hospital.

3.6 Mass psychological torture

There are numerous reports of "pungwes" and forced attendance at political meetings. Attendance at both these events is clearly under duress for many, and the references to "re-education" give the impression of situations of mass psychological torture. This is especially the case where the meetings have been accompanied by torture including beatings.

3.7 Organised violence

Organised violence perpetrated by political parties has been very commonly reported, with the majority of cases reported being of organised violence perpetrated by ZanuPF supporters on members of other parties, and mainly the MDC¹⁷.

- 13 April 2000: An MDC member from Bindura gave a detailed statement about an assault near Rushinga in Mashonaland Central on this date. He lost an eye as a result of a beating with an iron bar, allegedly at the hands of the Zanu (PF) candidate for Mount Darwin, Saviour Kasukuwere. He claims many others were beaten at the same time and the project is continuing to gather reports on this incident.
- 15 April 2000: An MDC member from Wedza reported injuries to his mouth and teeth following being ambushed and stoned by a gang of suspected Zanu (PF) supporters. He claimed that there have been several subsequent assaults upon MDC members in the area, including the local district chairman, who has now fled the area, and a youth whose leg was broken. He claims the perpetrators are not local, but are being organised by Zanu (PF) officials, brought in by them from the farms and housed at the growth point at weekends.
- 17 April 2000: In Gokwe, the Midlands, an MDC supporter, wearing a T-shirt, was stopped by seven Zanu (PF) youths who beat him with a beer bottle, fists and logs. The assault happened around 8:00 p.m. The victim was left cut and bruised, but he managed to make his way to Gokwe police station. They refused to take a statement because "it was politically motivated." He then went to hospital for treatment.
- 18-21 April 2000: The chairperson of MDC youth Mufakose, Harare gave a detailed statement saying he was living in fear and had been threatened repeatedly by men he believes were CIO operatives. He also alleged that there have been more than eight assaults upon MDC supporters in the suburb between. In one case an entire family and their lodgers were beaten. He said those responsible were well known locally and were staying at the Zanu (PF) offices near the Gwonyambira bar in Mufakose.
- 17-20 April: A mob of Zanu (PF) supporters, war veterans and state agents came looking for an NCA coordinator and ZimRights member in Nyadire Mission, Mutoko. When they failed to find him, they abducted his wife and child, threatened and insulted them and later released

¹⁷ See ZIMBABWE HUMAN RIGHTS NGO FORUM: VIOLENCE MONITORING PROJECT *The Unleashing of Violence: A report on political violence in Zimbabwe. Update for the week ending 15 May 2000*; ZIMBABWE HUMAN RIGHTS NGO FORUM: VIOLENCE MONITORING PROJECT *The Unleashing of Violence: A report on political violence in Zimbabwe. Update for the week ending 19 May 2000*; ZIMBABWE HUMAN RIGHTS NGO FORUM: VIOLENCE MONITORING PROJECT *The Unleashing of Violence: A report on political violence in Zimbabwe. Update for the week ending 26 May 2000*

them. They then set up a camp at Nyadire Mission Farm, where they brought several local residents and beat them.

- 17 April 2000: Zanu PF supporters invaded an election monitors training workshop in UMP, Mashonaland East accusing participants of belonging to an opposition party. The following day, the Zanu PF supporters began burning houses and attacking local residents. One woman's ear was cut off, another pregnant woman was badly beaten, a child was cut on the hand and several other people were badly beaten. Some of those attacked were UP supporters.
- 24 April 2000: An MDC member from Shamva gave a statement about an attack upon him by alleged Zanu (PF) supporters. A knobkerrie broke his hand, and his head was cut twice with an axe. He was also beaten by sjamboks all over his body. He was left for dead. 21 houses including his own were destroyed on the same day. He claims that CIO operatives came to hospital looking for him, and he has had to leave the area.
- 26 April 2000: A teacher from Gokwe, the Midlands, was severely beaten by Zanu PF officials, war veterans and supporters. He says "a prominent state security officer" accused him of being MDC and told him he was now in the hands of army generals. He was stripped naked, robbed, interrogated and beaten with a baton stick.
- 8 May 2000: A university student from Bindura, Alphonse Mushinyi, gave an account of an assault upon him by alleged Zanu (PF) supporters.
- 9 May 2000: Zanu (PF) supporters abducted an MDC member in Karoi, beat him severely and then left him unconscious on the outskirts of Chiedza township. He was badly bruised, but one of the Karoi hospital staff told him that: "we do not treat MDC people". When the incident was reported at the police station, an officer there was reported to have scolded the victim, saying: "I once warned you not to participate in MDC activities, but you did not bother to listen."
- 9 May 2000: War veterans and Zanu PF supporters occupied Pachedu farm belonging to Roy Bennett, an MDC candidate in Chimanimani. They began assaults upon farm workers and local residents.
- 10 May 2000: An MDC youth reported arming himself with an iron bar and a bottle in order to take part in a "rescue mission" of MDC supporters who had been abducted and taken to Hunzvi's surgery in Budiriro. He claims that on the way to attack the surgery, he was discovered by police, who set dogs upon him, found his weapons and then hit him in the ribs with baton sticks. He says he was detained for five days and placed in handcuffs and leg irons. A statement was also taken from another MDC supporter who was not armed, but was detained in the same incident.
- 13 May 2000: An MDC member from Macheke township was interviewed by the Forum. He reported being beaten on and chased from his home the following day.
- 14 May 2000: Zanu (PF) youths are alleged to have visited the home of two MDC members in Chiedza township, Karoi. When the targets did not open the door, the Zanu (PF) youths broke it down and attacked those inside. After a fight the youths retreated. The next day about 40 youths returned, surrounded the house and attacked the MDC members, one of whom was hit on the head with a stone. The house was damaged and property was stolen.
- 14 May 2000: An MDC member from Chinoyi was reading a newspaper at the Municipality offices when he was abducted and taken to a room in the municipality offices where he was badly beaten between 2-4:30 p.m.
- 15 May 2000: A man from a village in Murehwa reported assaults upon his wife, three children and a cousin. Another man from the village also reported being beaten in the same incident.

- 16 May 2000: A Mazda truck full of Zanu (PF) youths came to Chiedza township in Karoi and in full view of the police, abducted the local MDC vice-chairman, who has not been seen since.
- 16 May 2000: Eamonn Oliver, the production manager of Border Timbers in Chimanimani was captured by Zanu (PF) supporters and forced to attend a rally. He was beaten repeatedly and ordered to chant Zanu (PF) slogans.

3.8 Intimidation

Behind the overt psychological torture, there have been numerous threatening and intimidatory utterances have been made by government officials and persons connected with government. These statements create the climate of fear and threat so necessary for psychological torture to be effective.

- In mid-March one of the leaders of the National Liberation War Veterans Association threatened to use violence to overthrow the MDC if it won the upcoming election. Andrew Ndlovu said that the war veterans would never allow the country "to go back to Smith" and that if they did come back to power they would "declare a military government". Ndlovu said the war fighters had stashed arms in caches all over the country. We will get arms from government armouries. We are a reserve army and we have the right to use the arms to defend the government of Zanu (PF). We will invade military camps just as we have gone to the farms. This is statement amounts to a threat of treason as Ndlovu is, in effect, saying that if MDC is democratically elected, the war veterans will then overthrow it by the use of force. No government leaders have seen fit to condemn Ndlovu for advocating treason.
- A few days later speaking in Shona at a ceremony relating to the opening of the water pipeline between the Pungwe and Mutare, President Mugabe said: "Those who try to cause disunity among our people must watch out because death will befall them."
- At the beginning of May at a rally on a farm a leader of war veterans, Comrade Zimbabwe, warned farm workers that the opposition would pay dearly if the opposition won the elections He said: "If ZANU (PF) loses this election, you will not say that I did not warn you. If we lose, we will get out our guns. We cannot allow the MDC to sell our country." He also said: "We will be at the voting stations. If ZANU-PF loses, the way forward will be filled with war," You will witness our strength in the coming weeks. Comrade Zimbabwe wore a T-shirt marked "No Monkey Business – Vote Zanu PF".
- In mid-May the Masvingo Provincial Governor, Josaya Hungwe, threatened white commercial farmers in Chiredzi with war if they did not vote for the ruling party. He said he was not happy with the attitude of some of the farmers who were supporters of the MDC. They should vote for Zanu (PF) if they want peace. He said "We do not want another war. If you want peace you should support me and the ruling party. . . If you want trouble then vote for another party".

3.9 Community disruption

Community disruption is a frequent concomitant of organised violence, and, in the current situation, most serious of these have been attacks on health workers and teachers. At the time of writing more than 250 schools are reported to have been closed, whilst an unknown number of teachers have fled to safety, fearing that they will become targets of organised violence or torture. More than 6,000 people are reported to be internally displaced as a consequence of the violence.

Even more serious have been attacks on health workers. Nurses have been killed. Severely assaulted, abducted, and even raped. In one report, the hospital at Nyadire Mission was briefly

closed following attacks on health staff, who were reported to have been between and several raped. Health workers have been obstructed in their duties, and even prevented from rendering assistance to seriously ill patients. There are also reports that health workers have become fearful of treating victims of violence, with the basis of the fear being that such assistance would be interpreted as favour to one political party over another.

These more direct attacks on the functioning of civil society must be added to the prevailing climate of disruption induced by the violence.

Overall, the reports from the press and civil society are cause for considerable concern. The scale and the intensity are difficult to gauge, but it must be pointed out that previous experience in a number of different countries indicates that the effects of low intensity conflict do not usually manifest for some time afterwards. There is now persuasive evidence that the effects may even be inter-generational, and the experience of the IRCT indicates that the effects may be categorised as follows:

- Individual
 - Physical disorders and disability
 - Psychological disorders
- Family disorder and disruption
- Community dysfunction and poverty
- Inter-generational effects, both of a social and political nature.

4. Methods

4.1 Interviews of key informants

Meetings were held with a number of individuals and organisations (see Appendix B).

Health organisations:

Zimbabwe Medical Association

Zimbabwe Nurses Association

Community Working Group on Health

Legal Organisations

Legal Resources Foundation

Human Rights Organisations

AMANI Trust (Harare & Bulawayo)

Amnesty International

National Constitutional Assembly

ZimRights

Diplomatic Missions

The Royal Danish Embassy

The Embassy of Greece

The Delegation of the European Commission

Churches

Catholic Church

4.2 Examinations of victims

The examinations followed the standard IRCT medical questionnaire for examining torture victims. There was emphasis on the following:

creating trust and confidence;

health state before torture;

education;

social and family situation;

emphasis on alleged physical, psychological and social methods of torture;

Torture:

subjective complaints (physical, psychological and social)

Medical examination:

objective physical findings

objective psychological findings

5. Findings

5.1 Cases seen

5.1.1 Case A:

History

Mr N.N. has been a civil rights leader in X district for the past three years. On 13 May at midnight he was at home asleep with his wife and child. He heard a knock at the door and was told to come out by a voice that he recognised. Upon opening the door he saw about 20 armed men with axes, knobkerries, iron bars and pistols. He was able to identify one of them who was a war veteran and neighbour. He tried to close the door but it was chopped down with axes.

The assailants threatened to throw petrol on his house so he told them to let his wife and child go. A Shona speaking man told him to step outside while they searched the house for MDC cards. He was told that his wife would die but others among the attackers felt pity for the child who would become an orphan and thinks he was spared for this reason. When he stepped out they asked him to lie down whereupon he was beaten with branches with thorns on them. He was also beaten under the feet and has many thorns in his legs. Another man tried to axe him, when he asked why this was being done to him there was no answer. They took him 200 metres away and started to beat him on the chest and head with a knobkerrie, then he passed out. He estimates that this took place over a span of 3 hours.

He was left for dead. When he recovered consciousness he realised he had been beaten all over the body. He went to his house and saw that all the doors had been broken. People in the area had identified him as the MDC Chairman. They also beat another man with him when he was being

assaulted but this man was not beaten seriously. He cannot go back home, as the perpetrators have not been caught by the police. The police have been friendly and are investigating the incident. The man who axed him is in custody. However there were problems with the police statement which did not indicate the identity of his assailants whereas he had stated that they were ZANU PF.

While at the local in hospital his leg was put in plaster and he received stitches to his head, however he was only attended to by medical students and the male nurse at that hospital who is a war veteran and alleged torturer at the Hunzvi clinic in Harare has threatened the hospital staff (Commander Boyd Ndlhovu). The medical report similarly stated that he was assaulted by unidentified assailants. He is taking legal action and is currently living with parents in law although he feels concerned for their safety. Since the incident he met a businessman who threatened to chop his head off and has given the name of this man to the police. On 31/05 people told his agent as he is now standing in the forthcoming elections as a candidate that they would break his other leg. He telephoned the police but they never showed up.

Previous medical history:

In good health prior to torture. Never hospitalised.

Alleged Torture Methods

Psychological torture:	Threats, including death threats, and threats to kill spouse and son
Physical torture:	Unsystematic beating all over (using axe handle, sticks, thorned branches, metallic wire and sjamboks) Falanga (using thorny branches)

Subjective Complaints

Pain in the right wrist and lower left leg, anxiety

Objective Physical Findings

According to medical report after the assault:

Regio ventralis:	echymosis, 12 (15 cm
Regio gluteae:	echymosis, 15 (20 cm
Right wrist fractured	
Lower left leg fractured	

Examination by IRCT team:

Regio occipitalis:	alopecia metatraumatica 10 (15 cm, with scar 3 (4 cm in the centre
Regio tibialis sin:	open dorsum from dorsum manus to elbow, infected ulcer 2 (3 cm
Regio plantaris dxt:	5 scars, 1 (1½-2 cm Plaster of Paris on right wrist and left lower leg, pain from toes to knee

Objective Psychological Findings

Obviously in pain; depressed, easily moved.

Conclusions

The objective physical finding correspond to alleged unsystematic beatings and falanga with thorny branches.

5.1.2 Case B:

History

This lady is the wife of Case A and was beaten at the same time as her husband. She was subsequently treated in hospital as she was beaten with knobkerries under the breasts. Her child was on her back and witnessed the incident. She only partially saw the incident regarding her husband.

Previous medical history:

In good health prior to torture.

Alleged Torture Methods

Psychological torture: Threats, including death threats

Witnessing torture of her husband (partly seen, partly overheard)

Physical torture: Beaten in the front part of her body and heart (while wearing her 4-year old son on her back) using wooden clubs and fists

Subjective Complaints

Pain in the left shoulder and under left breast. Headaches, dizziness, anxiety attack in the form of flashbacks

Objective Physical Findings

Nil

Objective Psychological Findings

Sad, introvert, depressed, anxious

Conclusions

The subjective complaints and objective psychological findings correspond to the physical maltreatment and psychological torture.

5.1.3 Case C:

History

Child of cases A and B. Four years old.

Previous medical history:

In good health prior to torture.

Alleged Torture Methods

Psychological torture: Eye-witnessing and hearing the torture of parents (mother was beaten whilst carrying the subject on her back).

Subjective Complaints

For two days following the torture, the victim was in a state of shock, without talking, not responding to speech, and clinging to his mother the whole time. Thereafter the victim has avoided any discussion about the torture, and has rejected the father (whom he was previously very close to) showing signs of deep anger towards the father.

Objective Physical Findings

Nil

Objective Psychological Findings

Calm, sad, hostile towards father.

Conclusions

The objective findings are consistent with the after effects of psychological torture.

5.1.4 Case D:

History

Mr M.C., a member of MDC since 06/99 was tortured on the 8th May. On his way to work he was asked to surrender his MDC T-shirt by a group and to accompany them. He was told to write information regarding the MDC structure on paper. The he was hit with a wire cord on the buttocks while lying on his stomach and he was beaten in the soles of the feet. He was tortured for half an hour by 2 men who took it in turns to beat him. Then he was taken to another room and 5 women took turns to beat him in the face and used bottle tops to squeeze into his legs. Then he was taken and beaten by 3 men. The torture began at 1100a.m. until 2200h. He was then released and has filed a complaint to the police.

Previous medical history:

In good health prior to torture and never hospitalised.

Alleged Torture Methods

Psychological torture: Threats including death threats
threats to give up his political beliefs
Physical torture: Unsystematic beating over entire body
Falanga

Subjective Complaints

Nil

Objective Physical Findings

Regio plantaris dxt: 2 round scars, diameter ½ cm
Regio plantaris sin: 2 round scars, diameter ½ cm

Objective Psychological Findings

Nil

Conclusions

The objective physical findings correspond to the alleged torture by falanga.

5.1.5 Case E:

History

Mr M.S an MDC supporter and brother of an MDC Coordinator was abducted in the 13th May at 8 p.m. by 5 people, some of whom wore ZANU PF T shirts and taken to Budiriro 4. He was singled out in his opinion because his brother is a well-known MDC Coordinator. On the way to the surgery he suffered beating to his genitals. At the Clinic he suffered 4 days of beating and ill treatment. He was kept in a toilet during daytime and in a Landrover outside the clinic at night. He was kicked and beaten with a broomstick in his back, buttocks, feet and hands in a room with 16 people by someone referred to as the "Quartermaster" until he feigned lack of consciousness and was taken to a medical room. He suffered bleeding through the nose and mouth. His third day of torture was described as the worst. He was told to confess to being an MDC Supporter by 2 officers and a Commander known as Mataga. He was told to write a letter to his brother asking for his

release. He was eventually released upon confession and went to the house of a friend. 2 war veterans have been arrested in connection with this incident

Previous medical history:

In good health prior to torture and never hospitalised.

Alleged Torture Methods

Psychological torture: Threats including death threats
Threats to give up his political beliefs
Sexual torture
Physical torture: Unsystematic beatings all over body until unconscious.
Falanga.

Subjective Complaints

Headache, dizziness, back pain, pain while walking

Objective Physical Findings

Regio facialis: echymosis around the right eye and right part of the regio frontalis, 8 (5 cm
Regio dorsalis, mamis sin: linear scar, 6 cm; three irregular scars without clear demarcation, 4 cm, 3 cm, 1-2 cm.
Regio dorsalis, regio limbalis dxt: excoriation, 10 (5 cm;
Regio plantae pedis sin: 2 round scars, ½ cm diameter with oedema
Regio plantae pedis dex: 3 round scars, ½ cm diameter with oedema

Objective Psychological Findings

Nil

Conclusions

The objective findings correspond to alleged beating with fists in the face, alleged beating with a thin iron stick on the left hand, alleged beating with a brick on the left hand, and alleged falanga of both feet. The subjective complaints are consistent with the after-effects of psychological torture.

5.1.6 Case F:

History

Mr G.S., 61years old, is retired and an MDC candidate. He is one of the founding members of MDC in his constituency. He was kidnapped on his way to an MDC rally in Avoka Business Centre on the 3rd May before the eyes of the current MP and 3 police. He was on his way to his 3rd rally that day. At about 1400 hours he saw 20 people wearing ZANU PF T-shirt. 9 ZANU PF blocked his car armed with sticks and sjambocks. He was with his driver. He was pulled out of his car and into theirs and was driven for 3 km into the bush with 6 people. Then he was taken out of the car and kicked and trampled on until he lost consciousness. They thought that he was dead. When he woke he saw his driver who was also bleeding and has cuts to his body.

Mr G.S. had a swollen face and a very painful head. He was driven to Filabuzi Hospital late at night and was seen by nurses and given painkillers and ointment. They wanted him to be examined by a doctor and he waited 5 hours to be seen. The medical report states that there were 7 scars on his body. He intends to take legal action against his attackers and confirms that he will be able to

identify them. All 6 have been called for questioning. He thinks that the police will make arrests and that the current MP ordered the event. He went to the police who witnessed the incident till the point of abduction to report the case. They informed him that they did not intervene as they were scared to do so. On the same day as he was attacked the MDC Chairman for the same area was stabbed in the head and 2 youths were beaten up.

Previous medical history:

In good health prior to torture. Never hospitalised.

Alleged Torture Methods

Psychological torture: Threats including death threats

Physical torture: Beatings over entire body with sjamboks, sticks and boots, until unconscious

Subjective Complaints

Headache, dizziness, muscular pains, anxiety attacks, nightmares, interrupted sleep, depression, diminished concentration.

Objective Physical Findings

Blood pressure:	140/100
Upper extremities:	diminished movement of 1 phalanx dxt
Regio brachialis sup. dorsalis dxt:	linear scar, 7 (3 cm
Regio brachialis sup. dorsalis sin:	linear scar, 3 cm
Regio iliaca dxt:	irregular scar without clear demarcations, 4 (3 cm

Objective Psychological Findings

Calm, sad, depressed, and obviously in pain.

Conclusions

The objective findings concerning scars and function correspond to alleged beatings. The objective psychological findings are consistent with the after effects of psychological torture. Additionally this person has suffered a concussion.

5.1.7 Case G:

History

Mr T.M., 28 years old. He is educated but currently unemployed. He is an MDC organiser. On the 24th May, he was with 2 other colleagues preparing for an MDC rally at 7 p.m. 20 –30 people who he considered to be war veterans, CIO, and PISI arrived and took him and his colleagues outside the building and proceeded to strip them and make them lie down on the floor face down. They were then beaten with shamboks, on the head and face and kicked. He was punched in the ribs. Cigarettes were lit and stubbed out on his skin. He received falanga. He was tortured in this manner for approximately one hour. The reason for his torture was because he was accused of selling the country to the whites. He was told that he was being taught a lesson. As one of the youths had run away and was on his way to fetch the police he was taken to a room that was dark and without ventilation where he was beaten again and asked to give names of MDC. He was told that he was going to be killed. However a policeman arrived and his assailants ran away. He was taken to the nearest police post and from there to a hospital where he felt that the staff there did not want to treat him. For this reason he went on to the Central Hospital where a full medical report was made of his case and where he stayed for 4 days. The CID came there to investigate the incident. He knows 3 of the perpetrators and is taking legal action.

Previous medical history:

In good health prior to torture. Never hospitalised.

Alleged Torture Methods

Psychological torture: Threats, including death threats.
Humiliation (stripped naked).
Physical torture: Unsystematic beatings with sjamboks and sticks all over until unconsciousness.
Falanga
Burning with cigarettes

Subjective Complaints

Headaches, anxiety attacks, depression, diminished concentration.

Objective Physical Findings

Regio frontalis sin: hypertrophic scar, 2 (1½ cm
Oculus dxt: echymosis around the eye
Oculus sin: bleeding in the conjunctiva
Regio mandibulis dxt: fractured jaw (verified by radiology)
Regio brachialis dorsalis dxt: excoriations, 2 (2 cm
Regio michae et dorsalis: 6 circular scars with atrophic centre, peripheral hypertrophic white surrounding
Regio renis dxt: Excoriations and ulcer, 8 (4 cm

Objective Psychological Findings

Calm, sad, depressed.

Conclusions

The objective physical findings correspond to alleged beating and cigarette burning (characteristic scars). The subjective complaints and objective psychological findings are in accordance with the psychological after effects of torture.

5.1.8 Case H:**History**

Mr D.D. is 25 years old and a member of MDC, he is currently unemployed. He went to an MDC rally at approximately 7 P.M. and found that there was a ZANU PF meeting at the Stadium. He was taken inside a room where there were more than 30 men who he identified as war veterans and was handcuffed by them. He was stripped and beaten on the chest and face with rubber sticks, and shambocks by people who took it in turns to hit him for about half an hour. For about 10 minutes He was also beaten under the feet (Falanga) so as not to run away. During this time he was screaming so loudly that he alerted his friends that were arriving for the MDC meeting. He was told by the perpetrators that he was going to be killed and would be taken away by car to be killed in another place. He was put in a room which was locked. The ZANU PF came back and unlocked the door but at that moment other MDC arrived and his friends took him to a police station. He was asked to tell his story and was able to phone for an ambulance. The police made a statement and he was taken to a hospital. Upon arrival he showed his injuries but felt that the hospital staff did not want to treat him as their attitude was not friendly. He had X rays taken and was given painkillers. To date the police has carried out no investigations. He is afraid that these people will find him and torture him again.

Previous medical history:

In good health prior to torture.

Alleged Torture Methods

Psychological torture: Threats including death threats.
Humiliation: stripped naked.
Physical torture: Unsystematic beating
Falanga
Burning with cigarettes

Subjective Complaints

Pain all over body, difficulty while walking, anxiety, nightmares.

Objective Physical Findings

Regio mandibularis dxt: Excoriations, 4 (2½ cm; 1 circular scar, atrophic centre, with peripheral hypertrophic white surrounding
Regio brachialis sup dxt: Excoriations, 4 (3 cm; 1 circular scar, atrophic centre, with peripheral hypertrophic white surrounding

Objective Psychological Findings

Anxious, depressed.

Conclusions

The objective physical findings correspond to alleged unsystematic beatings, cigarette burns (characteristic scars) and falanga. The subjective complaints and objective psychological findings are in accordance with the psychological after effects of torture.

5.1.9 Case I:

History

Mr O.M has been an active MDC member since June 1999. He was kidnapped while buying groceries. He was detained for 1 day and tortured by 90 people. His clothes were removed and he suffered electrical torture between the arms and legs as well as beating with wooden sticks in the side of the ribs. He was beaten under the feet with an electric wire which made it difficult to walk for 2 days after the event. 3 people sat on his legs while he was beaten with electric cords. 2 of the torturers were soldiers and most were women. He was rescued by the Police Support Unit at the request of the Police. 2 other people were released at the same time as him, one of them he has not been seen or heard of since. He reported the case to the police who later arrested 47 war veterans /ZANU PF supporters who have been refused bail. The arrests took place on the 18th May. After the death of an MDC activist on the 17th May. Following his release and before the arrest of the presumed perpetrators people came and burnt his clothes and he was too fearful to live in his house and is living together with others in the same area. He has sought legal representation which is being carried out. After the event his local doctor recommended him to see a specialist which he has not been able to do for lack of funds.

Previous medical history:

In good health prior to torture and never hospitalised.

Alleged Torture Methods

Psychological torture: Threats including death threats
Humiliation: stripped naked
Physical torture: Unsystematic beatings over entire body and electric shocks

Falanga
Electric shocks

Subjective Complaints

Headaches, back pains.

Objective Physical Findings

Regio brachialis, sup ventralis dxt:	2 round scars, diameter ½ cm
Regio brachialis, sup ventralis sin:	2 round scars, diameter ½ cm

Objective Psychological Findings

Nil

Conclusions

The objective findings correspond to alleged electrical shock torture.

5.1.10 Case J:

History

Mr A.S. was an assistant in a factory and is the campaign manager for an MDC candidate. He has suffered intimidation and psychological trauma since the rejection of the draft Constitution. On 30/03 2 police officers came to his house as he was accused of being involved in the destruction of the local ZANU PF

Offices. He was taken to court on this issue and detained. Upon release he was asked to give up politics for the sum of 700,000 ZIM dollars. In April an army Brigadier came to his house and was told that the decision to assassinate him had been taken. He was advised not to walk alone. After that date he saw a car parked outside his house with 2 people in it. His neighbours claimed to have seen guns inside the car. His child was asked whether MDC meetings were being held at his house and informed that the house would be burnt.

Sympathetic police officers in the area were transferred therefore the police were too scared to act. He heard that death threats were made against him at a public meeting and the police did not inform him of this. Members of the community at the meeting questioned the death threat so people from outside the community were brought in. The candidate was attacked on his way to work and doused in petrol. There were witnesses to the incident. 4 days later at 8 p.m. approximately, 3 trucks full of people arrived at his doorstep. They entered his home and poured 20 litres of paraffin on his property. All his children were beaten and one of them was doused in petrol. Another child sustained head injuries. The house was petrol bombed and his family went into hiding. 2 people were taken to hospital and his wife and children are currently in another part of the country. He cannot maintain his job and he has nowhere to live. He is currently forced to hide.

N.B. IT WAS DIFFICULT TO OBTAIN DATES AND MORE SPECIFIC INFORMATION ON THE INCIDENT DUE TO THE LEVEL OF TRAUMA SUSTAINED BY THIS PERSON.

Previous medical history:

In good health prior to torture. Never hospitalised.

Alleged Torture Methods

Psychological torture: Physical and psychological attack on the family (wife and 5 children beaten up).
1 son (20years old) beaten unconscious and left in the family's burning house. The son is heavily injured, but alive, whilst the other

children needed hospitalisation. The family is now hiding, although the victim doesn't know where.
Threats, including death threats. Victim in hiding.

Subjective Complaints

Anxiety, nightmares, sleepless, depressed, diminished concentration, guilt feelings and memory loss

Objective Physical Findings

Nil

Objective Psychological Findings

Visibly traumatised; crying, depressed, anxious, shivering.

Conclusions

The subjective complaints and objective psychological findings are in accordance with the psychological after effects of torture.

5.2 Mass psychological torture ("Pungwes" and political rallies)

The mass psychological impact of the beatings and humiliation of individuals in front of their communities has led to the creation of mass psychological torture, including helplessness and anxiety, on a large scale. It is impossible to estimate the scale, and previous experience indicates that the full scale will only be seen in the future.

The forced attendance of people at "pungwes" and political meetings constitutes psychological torture. The additional coercion, supported by some of the cases seen, for person to publicly renounce their party affiliations causes severe psychological distress, the effects of which have long-term social and political consequences.

5.3 Community disruption

Through interviews of both the victims and the key informants, the following picture has emerged:

Health services have been disrupted:

Health facilities have been closed;

Ambulances have been stopped or denied access to victims;

Threats to victims who seek medical assistance or make reports to the police after assaults or torture;

Threats to victims who seek medical reports from the police.

Health workers prevented from rendering assistance:

Informants indicated that there was a threatening atmosphere around clinics and hospitals that inhibited health workers from carrying out their duties on occasion;

War veterans are reported to have exhibited threatening behaviour to health workers.

Health workers intimidated or attacked:

Health workers have been assaulted;

Health workers have been raped.

6. Conclusions

6.1 Torture

Objective findings of physical and psychological torture were found in all 10 cases. Most cases had findings of both physical and psychological torture, whilst all cases had evidence of psychological torture.

6.2 Mass psychological torture

There is evidence that mass psychological torture is occurring. Three cases illustrate torture being used to renounce political party affiliations.

6.3 Community disruption

There is evidence of community disruption through intimidation to and violence against health workers and teachers.

7. Recommendations

1. It is imperative that the Zimbabwe Government sign and ratify the UN Convention Against Torture and Other Forms of Cruel, Inhuman and Degrading Treatment and Punishment as soon as possible.
2. There should be an independent judicial commission appointed to investigate all gross human rights violations.
3. A policy of reparations should be developed and implemented. This policy should include Restitution, Compensation and Rehabilitation.

Appendix A

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APPENDIX B.

Organisations and Individuals consulted.

Mr A P Reeler
Clinical Director
AMANI Trust

Mrs S Eppel
Director
Matabeleland Programme
AMANI Trust

Ms Rachel Sevenzo
Violence Monitoring Project
Zimbabwe Human Rights NGO Forum

The Ambassador
Mr George Chritofis
Greek Embassy

Mr Lars Kjillberg
First Attache
Royal Danish Embassy

Mr Michael Auret
Former Director of Catholic Commission for Justice & Peace and parliamentary candidate.

Dr Hedvig Pelle
Medical Consultant
Royal Danish Embassy

Dr Bowman
Member of National Executive Committee Zimbabwe Medical Association

Mrs Zengwa
President
Zimbabwe Nurses Association

Dr Charles Todd
Regional Health Adviser
European Commission Delegation

Dr Rene Loewensen
Chairperson
Community Working Group on Health

Mrs Eileen Sawyer
National Director
Legal Resources Foundation

Mr David Coltart
Trustee
Legal Resources Foundation

Mr Isaac Maposa
Director
National Constitutional Assembly

Mr Munyaradzi Bidi
Director
ZimRights

Dr Audrey Chivaura
Secretary-General
Zimbabwe Medical Association

Mr Farai Makuta
Director
NASCOH

Mr TorHugne Olsen
Researcher
Amnesty International

Archbishop Pius Ncube
Archdiocese of Bulawayo

Fr Titus Sikhosana

Mr Michael Cotton
Consultant Surgeon

Appendix C.
Statements of International Medical Bodies

THE DECLARATION OF TOKYO

World Medical Association, 1975

The Declaration of Tokyo has been, since its adoption in 1975, the most comprehensive statement produced by the medical profession on the question of torture and cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment of detainees. It was adopted by the 29th World Medical Assembly, Tokyo, Japan.

The text is as follows :

DECLARATION OF TOKYO

It is the privilege of the medical doctor to practise medicine in the service of humanity, to preserve and restore bodily and mental health without distinction as to persons, to comfort and to ease the suffering of his or her patients. The utmost respect for human life is to be maintained even under threat, and no use made of any medical knowledge contrary to the laws of humanity.

For the purpose of this Declaration, torture is defined as the deliberate, systematic or wanton infliction of physical or mental suffering by one or more persons acting alone or on the orders of any authority, to force another person to yield information, to make a confession, or for any other reason.

1. The doctor shall not countenance, condone or participate in the practice of torture or cruel, inhuman or degrading procedures, whatever the offence of which the victim of such procedures is suspected, accused or guilty, and whatever the victim's beliefs or motives, and in all situations, including armed conflict and civil strife.
2. The doctor shall not provide any premises, instruments, substances or knowledge to facilitate the practice of torture or other forms of cruel, inhuman, degrading treatment to diminish the ability of the victim to resist such treatment.
3. The doctor shall not be present during any procedure during which torture or other forms of cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment are used or threatened.
4. A doctor must have complete clinical independence in deciding upon the care of the person for whom he or she is medically responsible. The doctor's fundamental role is to alleviate the distress of his or her fellow men, and no motive whether personal, collective or political shall prevail against this higher purpose.
5. Where a prisoner refuses nourishment and is considered by the doctor as capable of forming an unimpaired and rational judgment concerning the consequences of such a voluntary refusal of nourishment, he or she shall not be fed artificially. The decision as to the capacity of the prisoner to form such a judgment should be confirmed by at least one other independent doctor. The consequences of the refusal of nourishment shall be explained by the doctor to the prisoner.

6. The World Medical Association will support, and should encourage the international community, the national medical associations and fellow doctors, to support the doctor and his or her family in the face of threats or reprisals resulting from a refusal to condone the use of torture or other forms of cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment.

Statement of Support to the Physicians and Health Workers of Zimbabwe

“Hereby the World Medical Association the global representative of physicians urge the medical profession and all other health workers in Zimbabwe to continue providing the highest possible standard of health care to patients regardless of their political affiliation race religion or gender. Torture of any kind is condemned as a major violation of basic human rights and should actively discouraged and stamped out where proven.

The WMA pledges to continue its struggle against torture and the violation of human rights with partners such as the International Rehabilitation Council for Torture Victims and urges the health profession and non-governmental organisations in Zimbabwe to participate in this international drive towards a world intolerant of torture.”

Dr Delon Human
Secretary-General and Chief Executive Officer
WMA.