

ZIMBABWE HUMAN RIGHTS NGO FORUM

**Teaching them a lesson:
A report on the attack on Zimbabwean
teachers**

20 September 2002

A report by the Research Unit of the
Zimbabwe Human Rights NGO Forum

INTRODUCTION

The attack of teachers has been ongoing against the backdrop of violence being perpetrated against civil servants (including district administrators, and nurses) by ruling party (Zanu PF) supporters, “war veterans” and the youth militia. Violence against teachers has continued unabated since June 2000. Violence against teachers has been concentrated in the rural communities where teachers are rightfully considered to be a group that has considerable influence on the communities in which they live. The reported attacks on teachers who support or are suspected of supporting the MDC seems to be a way of limiting their political influence on the rural populace. In July 2001 two ministers are alleged to have issued death threats against student leaders and their principals for supporting the opposition MDC. The threats were issued at a meeting between the ministers, student leaders and principals from Masvingo, Bondolfi and Morgenster teacher training colleges, Masvingo Technical College and Mushagashe Vocational Training College. The meeting was told that the only way that their safety could be guaranteed is if they supported Zanu PF. The Minister of Foreign Affairs, Stan Mudenge reportedly said:

“You are going to lose your jobs if you support opposition political parties in the presidential election. As civil servants, you have to be loyal to the government of the day. You can even be killed for supporting the opposition and no one would guarantee your safety.”¹

The Minister of Education, Sports and Culture told the meeting that:

“We cannot continue to pay our enemies. People have to know which side of their bread is buttered”

The threats came a month after the Deputy Minister of Education, Sports and Culture allegedly said that his ministry would not provide security to teachers affected by violence for supporting the opposition.² The threats by the two ministers were seen by ZIMCET Executive Director, David Chimhini, as having exposed civil servants to possible attacks by ZanuPF supporters.

The brutal attack on teachers has had far reaching consequences that go beyond the teachers themselves. Violence also affects the schoolchildren, when, in some instances, they are made to witness scenes of extreme violence such as beatings and torture. Schoolchildren may experience behavioural and emotional reactions after their experience of violence against their teachers, who are supposed to be their guardians in the school environment. The Canadian Centre for Victims of Torture (CCVT) says that ‘*a climate created by on-going organised violence can also produce generalised feelings of insecurity and uncertainty for children, thus making it impossible for children and youth to feel that they have a future*’.

In some instances, school children have become victims during attacks on their schools. In the Midlands province, pupils from five schools were allegedly abducted and taken for re-education classes by “war veterans” and Zanu PF supporters. At Chomuwuya High School “war veterans” reportedly disrupted a prize giving ceremony in October 2001, while in Masvingo “war veterans” are alleged to have disrupted lessons at Rusitu High School. Therefore the addressing of

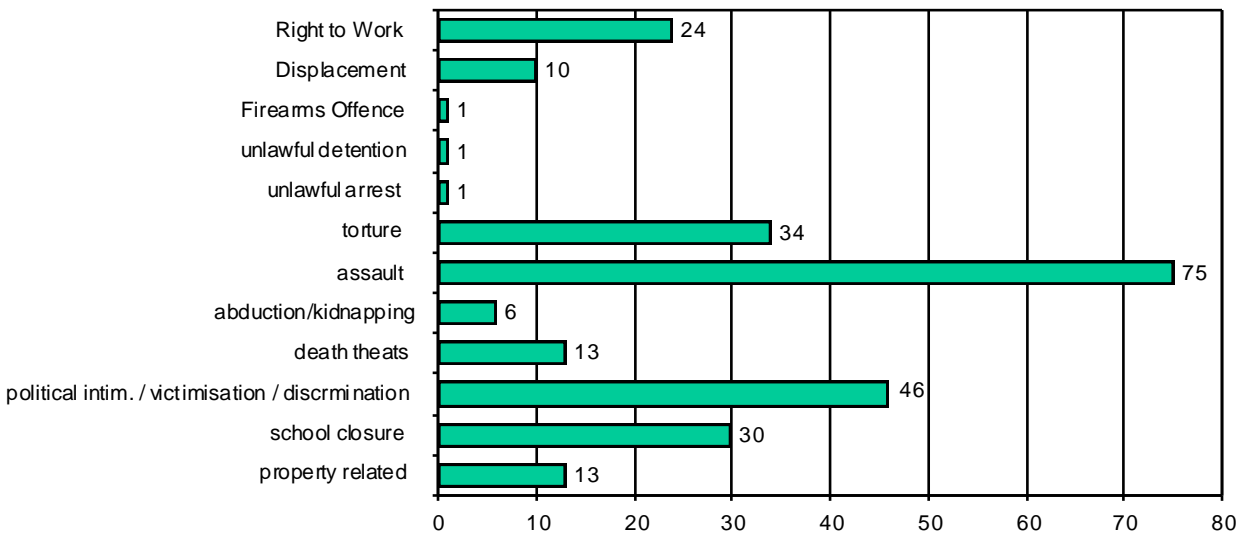
¹ Daily News, 18 July 2001

² Daily News, 19 July 2001

violence against teachers is not only directly beneficial to the victims, but also for the schoolchildren who are also victims indirectly.

This report documents 238 individual cases of human rights abuses against teachers for the 18 month period between January 2001 and June 2002. The Zimbabwe Human Rights NGO Forum believes the documented evidence that it has collected is merely the tip of a much bigger iceberg, and would wish to draw attention to the many previous cases reported in earlier reports of the Forum. We would also wish to draw attention to these many previous reports, and to note that a communication from the Forum is currently under consideration by the African Commission on Human and Peoples’ Rights. As the Presidents of South Africa and Nigeria and the Prime Minister of Australia meet in Abuja on Monday, 23 September, to consider the Commonwealth’s response to the Zimbabwe crisis, we hope that they will take into account this new report, as well as all the previous reports, including those specifically submitted to the Abuja initiatives.

Totals 1 January 2001 to 31 June 2002



Sources: Human Rights Forum legal statements, newspaper reports, Partner Organisation Statements.

Note 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 eg. 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

NCA- National Constitutional Assembly

UMP – Uzumba Maramba Pfungwe

ZNLWVA- Zimbabwe National Liberation War Veterans Association

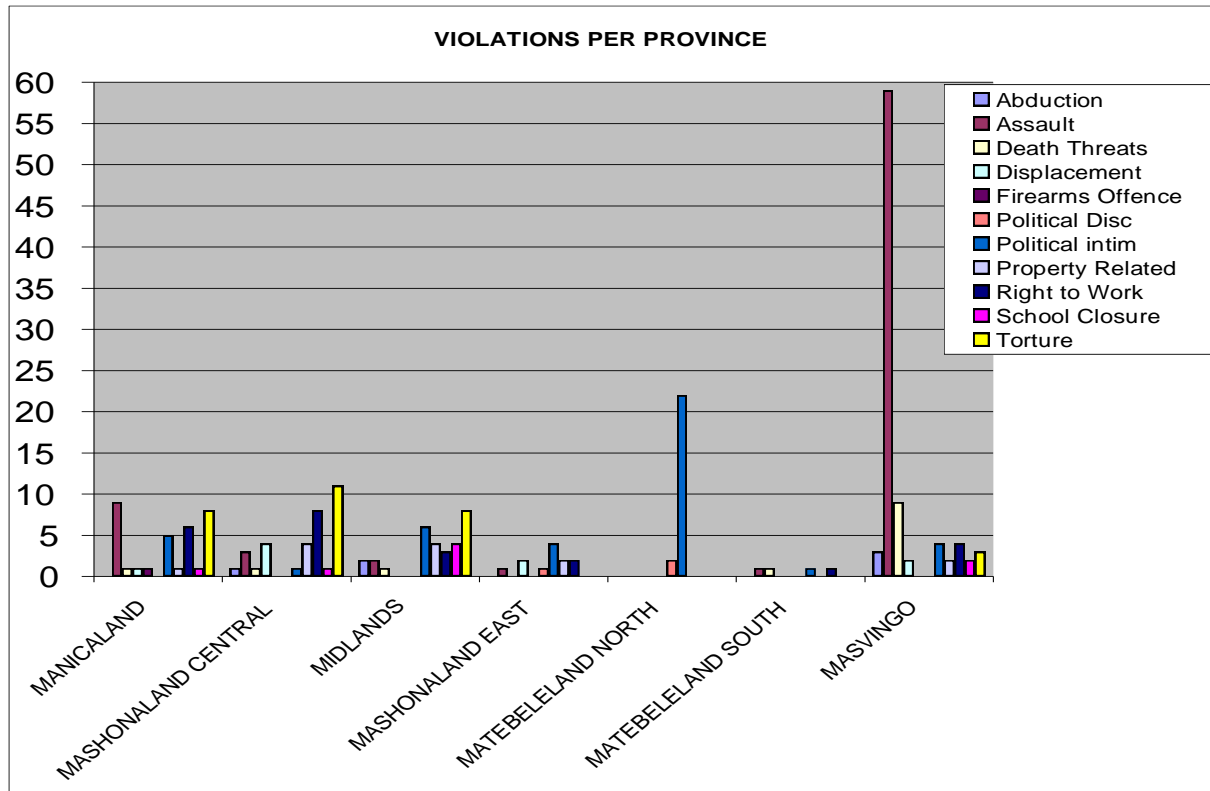
ZNA- Zimbabwe National Army

ZRP- Zimbabwe Republic Police

Zanu PF- Zimbabwe African National Union Patriotic Front

ANALYSIS BY PROVINCE

Incidents in this report account for eight of the ten provinces in the country. Harare and Bulawayo provinces had no reported incidences of violence against teachers. Masvingo province had the highest number of violations in the abduction, assault and death threats category.



MANICALAND

This province had the second highest number of torture and assault cases in the country carried out by Zanu PF supporters, youths and “war veterans”. Cases of state agent involvement were also reported. The CIO were reportedly involved in the torture of a teacher who is the MDC Provincial Vice-Organising Secretary, while another teacher alleged that he was constantly sought by the CIO at his home, until he fled. A pregnant teacher reportedly lost her baby soon after birth after a series of assaults by war veterans, Zanu PF youths and police officers. Her husband is the District Secretary for the MDC in the province. There was one school closure in the province.

Buhera North

11 February 2002

- A Zanu PF supporter allegedly attacked PM a teacher, with a beer bottle while he was having a drink with five people. One of them, Tafara Taderera, confronted him asking why PM wanted to kill him. Before he could answer he was struck on the left eye with a beer bottle. Taderera then used the broken bottle to scratch him all over his face and

head. He suffered facial and head injuries. PM was forced to apply for sick leave from the 18th of February to the 20th of March. The case was reported to the police but no arrests were made. It was not clear why the victim was attacked.

16 June 2002

- Fifteen youths clad in police uniforms allegedly assaulted RM, a teacher at Mamunyadza Secondary School with baton sticks all over his body. He suspects that they are youths from the Border Gezi Training Centre for National Youth Service in Mount Darwin. The youths came to the school armed with rifles and asked him what his name was and what post he held within the MDC. When he denied that he held any post, he was ordered to lie down and was severely assaulted. RM was accused of holding a post within the MDC hierarchy and that he was going to receive a truck from the opposition party. The youth barred anyone who wanted to render assistance to RM who could not even walk to the hospital. His wife and child witnessed the assault but managed to escape through the window. The case was not reported to the police.

19 June 2002

- Mai Gono, Tapfuma, and unnamed “war veterans” and Zanu PF youths reportedly assaulted AK, a pregnant teacher, because her husband was the District Secretary for MDC. The baby was born on the 29th of June but passed away on the 5th of July 2002. Medical reports attributed the death of the baby to the assault. “War veterans” and youths went to the victim’s school, being led by one Tapfuma, demanding to see her in the middle of a lesson. She was ordered to pack all her belongings and leave the school premises. She was taken to ZanuPF offices in the area and assaulted. One Mai Gondo, a “war veteran”, also assaulted AK with fists and open hands. She managed to dupe the group and escape. On the 26th of June 2002, the police and ‘green bombers’ (National Service Youths) came looking for AK’s husband. They threw teargas at them and fired twice in the air. The officers, who threatened to come back for her, assaulted AK. The officers are from Murambinda and Buhera ZRP, being led by Detective Superintendent Dowa.

Buhera South

1 July 2001

- TC was allegedly threatened and ordered to leave Gunde Primary School with immediate effect because she was an MDC supporter. Two Zanu PF youths came to the school alleging that they had been watching her MDC activities for a long time. She was warned that if she didn't leave the school premises she would be dealt with accordingly. She only managed to pack a few things and left the school on the 5th of July leaving behind the rest of her belongings with a friend.

7 May 2002

- Teddy Mugwari, Leonard Usavi, Benjamin Mwandifura (teachers) and Godfrey Marongwe (Deputy Headmaster) from Murambinda Secondary School were allegedly accused of supporting MDC and assaulted by “war veterans”. They were ejected from their work places. After the assaults they fled.

May 2002

- A number of unnamed teachers allegedly received letters from a J. Nyawo (Zanu PF councillor) demanding payment of \$500 per head to fund the celebrations for the President's election victory, which were to be held by the Gukurahundi Youth Group. Teachers in the area were also allegedly being asked to pay a 'protection fee' for their safety.

Chimanimani*7 October 2001*

- Zanu PF supporters reportedly summoned teachers in Biriwiri to a meeting where they were told that their jobs and lives were at risk if they supported MDC. This was in the wake of the disturbances at Biriwiri and at Charleswood Estate, owned by MDC MP, Roy Bennett, where Zanu PF members were urged to go and seize property.

April 2002

- The CIO allegedly constantly sought Hamilton Sigauke, a teacher, at his home. Following death threats from the state agents, he fled to Mutare. The MDC and Zanu PF were due to meet in Chimanimani on the 3rd of April 2002. Villagers in the district claimed that ZanuPF supporters and CIO officers had unleashed terror to punish them for supporting MDC.

Chipinge North*20 March 2002*

- It was alleged that teachers suspected to have voted for MDC from Checheche, Chisumbanje, Gumira, Machona, Rimbi and Vheneka Primary Schools, as well as Rimbi High School were assaulted by "war veterans" and Zanu PF supporters. The schools were forcibly closed resulting in the pupils fleeing for their homes.

Chipinge South*11 November 2001*

- MB, a teacher and the MDC Provincial Vice-Organizing Secretary, was at Maronga School at about 3 pm when he was allegedly approached by a group of six members of the Central Intelligence Organization in Chipinge in a cream Mazda pick-up truck. One of them produced a pistol and ordered him to get into the truck. He pretended that he needed to go into the house but instead escaped. They fired shots at him but missed. Cash in the amount of \$ 15 000 which he had withdrawn from the bank was taken from him, as well as shoes, shirts and trousers. As a result of his assault he sustained head injuries and is suffering from stomach pains. His genitals were also kicked. The case was reported to the local police station.

15 March 2002

- James Moyana, Chikukwa and six unnamed teachers of Checheche School in Chipinge were allegedly severely assaulted with knobkerries, iron bars, chains, and sticks by Zanu PF supporters. Four of the teachers were admitted to Chipinge hospital with

serious injuries, one was unable to walk. The police and the army were called in to restore order. 21 people were arrested. The attacks came two days after a call by Mike Madiro, Zanu PF's Manicaland chair, to weed out traitors to the revolution.

MASHONALAND CENTRAL

Of the eight provinces, Mashonaland Central had the highest number of teachers that were forced out of their places of employment due to political violence. In Mount Darwin South four teachers were ordered to transfer by "war veterans" and Zanu PF members because they were MDC supporters. In Shamva another four teachers were also ordered to transfer by a group of 30 "war veterans" and Zanu PF youths. The teachers were assaulted prior to being ordered out of the school. The group was camped at Chindunduma Two High School where the school matron gave them food rations. The group also had use of the school's Nissan truck. In Bindura, Uronga South Primary School was closed after six teachers were severely assaulted by a group of "war veterans" and Zanu PF youths.

Bindura

19 May 2001

- WT, a teacher at Chipadze Secondary School, and PM, were on their way to Trojan in a 504 station wagon when one Dickson Mafiosi, in a defender, allegedly indicated that they wanted to see someone in the 504. PM was asked to get out of the car. On asking why they had pulled them over, Dickson pulled them out of the car and slapped WT on the face. He said they had been looking for him because he was an MDC supporter. Dickson alleged that the then Governor, Elliot Manyika now the Minister of Youth, Gender and Employment Creation, allegedly said they had destroyed WT's house and that they wanted his blood. They assaulted him with iron bars, clenched fists and booted feet. There were eight people. WT passed out for some time as he had sustained injuries to his head and all over his body. The matter was reported to the police on the 19th of May 2001.

28 June 2001

- A group of "war veterans" and Zanu PF youths reportedly asked teachers at Uronga South Primary School for membership cards. Three teachers who had Zanu PF cards were left alone. The remaining six were severely assaulted in front of their pupils with clenched fists, logs and sjamboks for being opposition supporters as they had failed to produce Zanu PF party cards. The school was closed for three days. Bindura magistrate Feyi Gweshuro Tito sentenced the youths to three years in jail with 9 months conditionally suspended for 5 years. Upon review, Judge George Smith upheld the sentence as appropriate. Furthermore Justice Smith ordered the police Commissioner Augustine Chihuri to investigate the 'moral blameworthiness' of ZNLWVA commander. The judge noted that"

"The use of young men who want land as pawns in the political struggle and to make them go out and assault and intimidate innocent members of the public who are going about their own business, in order to qualify for land, cannot be condoned."

7 January 2002

- AB was on his way to Bindura when he came across a roadblock allegedly mounted by Zanu PF youths. They asked him for a Zanu PF card and, when they found that he did not have one, they slapped him three times. When he went to deliver something at the MDC Women's chairperson's house the next day, the Zanu PF militia accosted him, interrogated him, and then dragged him to his house. There they carried out a search and found an NCA booklet. They took him to their base and attacked him with open hands and a cable. He later managed to escape and fled to Harare.

Guruve North*March 2002 - 3 February 2002*

- In March 2000, "war veterans" and Zanu PF supporters allegedly demonstrated saying they didn't want DM at the school because he was an MDC sympathizer. He was forcibly transferred from the school to one in Upper Guruve and he left his car and other property at the school. When he returned to collect his property, he found that his car had been damaged and therefore had to look for the stolen parts. The looters came back on the 11th of November 2001 and damaged the vehicle completely, setting it ablaze. The case was reported to Mahuwe Police Station in November. On The 3rd of February 2002, Zanu PF supporters beat up DM for being an MDC supporter. They threatened to kill him if he went back to teach in that area.

Guruve South*15 January 2002*

- Wellington Mudanwa (Zanu PF Chairman), Mahembe and Tanaka Chibvongodze went to Negomo Secondary School and took OM from his class to the headmaster's office. He was asked about his political affiliation and forced to roll on stones. He suffered multiple injuries. He was then taken to Bowen farm where he was later released. The matter was not reported to the police.

15 March 2002

- Zanu PF youths allegedly broke 15 windowpanes and doors at CM's home after the elections and declared that they had taken over the house because the victim belonged to the MDC. The victim, a teacher fled together with his family and he was informed that one Newton Hakata, two Chisi brothers, Sydney Mavhangira, Terrence Nhamburo and Magoro are residing at his home. They are using his property and one of them was seen putting on the victim's jacket. CM owns the house and has been living in it since 1991. He reported the matter at Bindura Police Station to one Constable Dimba. At the time of the report the case was still pending.

Mount Darwin North*March 2001*

- Katikiti, Majoni, Marufu, and Muringai were allegedly ordered to transfer to other schools by Joseph Nembire Nyabvudzi, who is acting Chief Nembire because they were MDC supporters. Acting Chief Nembire, a Zanu PF supporter is alleged to have requested the transfer of the four teachers saying that his MP, Saviour Kasukuwere,

had given the Acting Chief power to enlist the help of National Service Youths to remove the teachers who were described as being 'dangerous'. The Chief, a policeman, is reported to have claimed that the Nembire family was facing serious problems through the political activities of the four. In February 2001, Zvavamwe, Education Officer for Mt. Darwin, was evicted from his house after he had been accused of recruiting MDC supporters as temporary teachers. The letter from the Ministry of Education sanctioning removal stated:

"You are advised that teachers who are not wanted within their employment environment, for whatever reason, should be assisted to transfer to other areas."

Mount Darwin South

June 2001

- Unnamed teachers and a headmaster were allegedly harassed and assaulted by Zanu PF members. They were forcibly removed from the schools at which they were teaching in compliance with the demands of Zanu PF youths in the area. Teachers were warned that they would be removed from their places of employment if it were proved that they belonged to the MDC.

Shamva

13 January 2002

- Collin Kamarizeni (Deputy Headmaster), Florence Usayi (Senior female teacher), Kennedy Mapondera (Senior male teacher) and an unnamed temporary teacher were allegedly assaulted by a group of "war veterans" and Zanu PF youths. They ordered the transfer of four teachers on allegations that they were MDC supporters. A report was made to the police but no action had been taken at the time of the report. A group of thirty "war veterans" and Zanu PF youths set up a base at Chindunduma Two High School. They were receiving free food rations from the school kitchen. Christine Dhewa, the school matron, also the Zanu PF District Chairperson in the women's league, was allegedly giving the group food and material support. The school head Ella Pawandiwa, allowed the group to use the school's Nissan truck in their terror campaigns in the area. Lakayana Dube, the Mashonaland Regional Director for Education, denied any knowledge of the forced transfers. However it is alleged that Dube facilitated the transfers.

15 March 2001

- TZ is MDC District Chairperson while her husband, GT, is the District Co-ordinator in Shamva. In May 2000, the couple was allegedly attacked several times by Zanu PF members. They used stones and at one time used a petrol bomb, which failed to explode. In mid-May 2000, Kwezani, Noah Ndombo, Artwell Chiwara, Themba, Augusto and several others allegedly sent by Mr. Sydney Chiwara and Mr. Mudukuti went to the victim's home armed with stones, petrol bombs and sticks. They destroyed windowpanes and then set the house on fire. The victims lost all furniture in the dining room and bedroom as well as clothes. They managed to escape through the back door and sought refuge at a friend's place until July (after the parliamentary elections). GT has been forced out of any school he secures employment with. At the time of the

report he was not employed having been forced out of his last school in December 2000. In February 2001, Zanu PF members passed through their home throwing empty bottles and destroying the windowpanes. On the 15th of March 2001 at around 8pm, a group of Zanu PF members went to the victims' home singing and chanting slogans. They managed to escape and hid next door with their children. The group destroyed their property and set the house on fire. They lost all property. They eventually escaped to Harare. The matter was reported to Shamva Police Station but no action has been taken as yet.

MIDLANDS

Four schools were allegedly closed in the province due to disturbances caused by war veterans. It was reported that two bases had been established at Tenda and Mashumba Primary Schools in Gokwe North by Zanu PF militia, and were being used as torture centres. Eight teachers were reported to have been tortured in the whole district, including a pregnant female teacher. In Mberengwa teachers fled from Vutiki High School after pupils had been abducted by war veterans for 're-education' classes.

Gokwe North

12 October 2001

- "War veterans" and Zanu PF supporters allegedly besieged Mashumba Primary School and attacked teachers, who then fled 40 kms on foot to Zomba. Midlands Regional Director of Education, Isaac Tanyanyiwa, reportedly claimed to be 'unaware' of this and other disturbances in his precinct. The teachers wanted their security guaranteed before returning to the school. Zanu PF militants were reported to be camped at Tenda and Mashumba Primary Schools and to have established torture centres at each of the schools.

12 October 2001

- Zanu PF supporters and "war veterans" reportedly disrupted a prize-giving ceremony and assaulted 3 teachers at Chomuwuyu High School. Midlands Regional Director of Education, Isaac Tanyanyiwa, reportedly claimed to be 'unaware' of this disturbance. The teachers wanted a security guarantee before returning to the school.

Kadoma West

October 2001

- Two schools in Sanyati were allegedly closed after an unspecified number of pupils were abducted to a war veterans' base in Gokwe. These schools were among seven schools in Kwekwe and Kadoma districts closed under similar circumstances

November 2001

- "War veterans" and Zanu PF supporters allegedly assaulted five unnamed teachers at Sanyati and Nyamatsane Primary Schools with sticks when they failed to produce ZanuPF party cards and chant party slogans. A report was made to Sanyati (Arda) Police Post but no action was taken. One of the teachers who were assaulted was pregnant.

Mberengwa East*21 December 2001*

- TH was allegedly abducted at midnight by a large number of Zanu PF youths. The victim and a friend, DT, were coming from Mataga Growth Point with the intent of making final wedding preparations. As they approached Mundi Bridge they met the youths who demanded that they stop. They asked them to produce Zanu PF cards, searched them and used TH's belt to tie his hands. They were taken to their base at Chingoma Secondary School where they were questioned. They vowed that DT who was supposed to get married the next day would not do so. TH failed to answer several of the questions that they asked and was slapped for this. They were then taken to an empty water tank and tortured. TH sustained chest injuries and bruises on back. They managed to sneak out of the school when their friends arrived and chased the assailants away. The following morning the victims were dumbfounded to find that the police were filing charges of public violence against them. They were taken into custody and spent the next 6 days in the police cells under terrible conditions. TH developed heat rash due to poor ventilation in the cells.

Mberengwa West*October 2001*

- Pupils of Vutika High School preparing for "O" and "A" level examinations were allegedly forced to attend 'pungwes' and undergo political 're-education' conducted by "war veterans" and Zanu PF supporters. Teachers Gumbo, Marufu and V. Moyo and Hove the Headmaster, were victimised and had their property destroyed. After the incident they fled from the school. The perpetrators include Walter Mucheregwa (ZNLWVA, teacher), Divine Chitoro and Nyasha Koke.

March 2002

- "War veterans" and Zanu PF supporters allegedly accused Kudawashe Matsheza and Johnson Zhou of supporting MDC. The two were assaulted and threatened on the basis of these accusations. They then fled the area.

Mkoba*January 2002 - 23 February 2002*

- "War veterans" allegedly attacked SG because he assisted his brother in running as the MDC candidate for the Gutu North Parliamentary seat in June 2000. He applied for a letter of transfer from the Ministry of Education. His brother was running for the Gutu North Parliamentary seat in 2000. The victim returned to the school on the 9th of February but the situation was tense so he went away. When he went back the "war veterans" threatened him again and he had to leave on the day in question. SG has not been able to go back to work and payment of his salary has been ceased. The Ministry of Education has said that they will facilitate a transfer for him. Zimta is also assisting with the application for transfer.

Zhombe*October 2001*

- Unnamed teachers from Zhombe Primary and Tenda High schools fled to Gweru after “war veterans” allegedly abducted pupils from these schools to a base in Gokwe. The two schools were among seven schools in Kwekwe and Kadoma districts closed under similar circumstances.

Zvishavane*11 March 2001*

- AM, a teacher at Mhondongore School and an MDC supporter gave testimony in court in February 2001 in the MDC cases. The following Monday the case was reported in the public press. The “war veterans” in his community allegedly started harassing him and claimed that he showed his allegiance to MDC by testifying in their case they held a meeting at which he was sent packing from the school. The victim alleges that he went to the Ministry of Education but they refused to help.

MASHONALAND EAST

The province was characterised by incidents of teachers being forced to contribute towards independence celebrations and the President's birthday celebrations.

Chikomba*7 April 2001*

- Zanu PF supporters allegedly went to BM's homestead. The victim was however not at home. They threatened his brother-in-law with death. They claimed that an MDC meeting was taking place at his homestead. They broke down the door and searched underneath beds, wardrobes and threw clothes around. They threatened to burn the house down. The victim had to ask his wife to take their three children and go to her rural home for their own safety. No report was made to the police as Inspector Mpofo, the Member in Charge, is a “war veteran”, and “war veterans” and Zanu PF supporters previously assaulted the victim.

27 June 2002

- Mucheneripi Chikato, Jairos Mutasa and two other Zanu PF supporters allegedly went to NW's residence armed with sticks and stones. The victim managed to flee the area together with his wife before they could attack him.

Hwedza*16 July 2001*

- VM and AK from Hwedza High School were members of MDC, ZimRights, NCA and ZESN based at Hwedza. In January 2000 they were allegedly forced to stop supporting the MDC and did so, but continued their association with the other organisations. In July, “war veterans”, being led by Chirinda, allegedly went to the school where the victims teach and started singing and chanting slogans. VM and AS hid in the

schoolyard. The “war veterans” told the headmaster that the teachers had to leave the area, as their services were no longer required in Hwedza. The headmaster then communicated this to the District Education Officer. The victims and others telephoned NCA and they were provided with transport to leave the area. A report was made at Hwedza Police Station but no action was taken.

Marondera East

9 January 2002

- A group of about 10 youths allegedly went to JM's house and asked to see his son, TM. One of the youths was wearing a black t-shirt with Border Gezi's face on it. He asked the others to search the house and during the search a wall clock and JVC Video Cassette Recorder were dropped and damaged. A report was made at Dombotombo Police Station, Marondera.

Mudzi

4 January 2001

- Teachers from Mutoko High School, Mutoko Government Secondary School and Donzwa Primary School were allegedly forced to contribute \$100 each towards President Mugabe's Birthday Celebration and \$50 towards Independence Day Celebrations. Female teachers were forced to contribute an additional \$100 each towards the Women's League and were threatened with unspecified action if they failed to pay.

Mutoko North

20 February 2002

- At 7pm, PM, some ex-combatants called a temporary teacher at Chidiye Primary School, for supper at another teacher's house. He agreed and while he was eating they started to accuse him of being an MDC supporter. They then assaulted him using sticks, firewood and open hands. This lasted throughout night. The people who were involved were Nyamukapa and other youths whose names are unknown to the victim. He then passed out and came to the next morning. He reported the matter on 22 February 2002 at Mutoko Police Station.

Mutoko South

6 May 2001

- Zanu PF supporters assaulted GM for supporting the MDC. He was ordered to attend a Zanu PF meeting, where Cde Nyamande accused him of supporting the MDC and of insulting and castigating ZanuPF supporters. He is alleged to have campaigned for MDC during the June 2000 elections and to have organised strikes in Harare. He was taken up a hill by the youths who assaulted him with sticks. GM sustained injuries all over his body and passed out. When he regained consciousness he was taken to Mutoko Hospital and then to Avenues Clinic. He was forced to go on sick leave from 8 May to 24 July 2001 because of the injuries he sustained. Kaitano, who was absent when the assaults were occurred, was leading the youths.

UMP*1 March 2001*

- CH was demoted from being acting Head of Department at Mugabe Secondary School and denied promotion for refusing to support Zanu PF. He was harassed at work by the headmaster and fellow teachers who are Zanu PF supporters. His wife was forced to join Zanu PF, which led to the breakdown of the marriage. He was forced out of school housing and spent 18 days sleeping in the bush, without food for seven of these days. He took the matter up legally with Felix Muzawazi of Muzawazi and Partners. The Education Regional Director for Mashonaland East Province responded by freezing his Beverly Account (No 3625843A and Pass Book No. 23615). An urgent chamber application was made by his lawyer to have the account unfrozen and the High Court granted this following which the Ministry complied. They were supposed to transfer the victim from the school and promote him to teach 'A' level but they returned him to the same school. The victim had to run away as he alleges that the CIO officers were after him. He stayed at Murehwa hotel for one night, but moved out and stayed in the bush after some people tried to force the door down and gain access to his hotel room. CH alleges that he was informed that his name was going to be cancelled from the pay sheet.

MATEBELELAND NORTH

This province has the highest number of political intimidation cases in the country. The province was also characterised by threats coming from a top government official. The Governor, Obert Mpofu, was reported to have threatened teachers at Sawmill Primary School in Nyamandlovu, who supported the MDC, that they would be thrown out of the province. Some teachers in Tsholotsho were allegedly transferred due to their support of the opposition MDC.

Bubi-Umguza*April 2001*

- Teachers at Sawmill Primary School in Nyamandlovu were allegedly threatened by Obert Mpofu, the Matabeleland North Governor, for supporting the opposition. They were told that they would be thrown out of the province.

Hwange West*6 February 2002*

- A group of Zanu PF supporters reportedly ordered the closure of Ndangababi Primary School after intimidating about 20 teachers. About 60 toyi-toying youths chanting Zanu PF slogans closed the school after force-marching about 20 teachers to a base. The frightened teachers vowed not return.

Tsholotsho*April 2001*

- The Ministry of Education allegedly transferred Elton Mdingwa, Mtombeni and other unnamed teachers for sympathising with the MDC. "War veterans" then removed Mdingwa's property from his cottage to ensure that he would leave the province.

MATEBELELAND SOUTH

There was only one report of violence against a female teacher in Matabeleland South. She was assaulted in November 2001 for not attending a Zanu PF rally. Soon after the Presidential Elections she was assaulted for having being absent during the voting period. The victim fled the area and sought refuge in Harare leaving behind her niece who was under her charge.

Beitbridge

14 March 2002

- On the 25th of November 2001 a group of six Zanu PF supporters entered GM's home at Zezani Secondary School while a group of about 25 remained outside chanting Zanu PF slogans. She was asked why she had not attended a Zanu PF rally that had been held at Lutumba at 3pm that day. She responded by saying that she did not know that there had been a rally. Jabulani Dube punched her on the mouth, resulting in her losing two teeth. She had to travel to Harare to seek medical treatment. During the Presidential Elections, GM went to Harare to vote. When she had returned, about 20 Zanu PF supporters assaulted her and, amongst them, were Elijah and Vincent Nleya of Dalibazimu in Beitbridge. The group was carrying a list of suspected MDC supporters and those who were absent during the voting period. GM and three others were told to go to Tsvangirai's country. They had to hitch hike into Bulawayo since they had been banished from the area. GM left her niece whom she was in charge of. She sustained injuries on her shoulders, chest and had internal side injuries. After the assault she was experiencing pain when breathing and could not sit for extended periods.

MASVINGO

Masvingo had the highest figures of violations in the three categories of abduction, assault and death threats. Teachers in the province were assaulted for being MDC supporters and some were given notices to leave the province and seek employment elsewhere. Mapanzure School has been subjected to repeated attacks including two school closures.

Bikita East

14 January 2002

- At 4pm, about 40 Zanu PF youths, led by one "war veteran", armed with heavy logs went to VMR's home. The victim had just returned from an opening school meeting. They accused him of supporting the opposition MDC and possessing party regalia and cards. They then forced him to lie down and assaulted him using logs on his back. The victim was threatened that if he told anyone he would suffer or lose his life. He did not seek medication because of the threats on his life.

16 January 2002

- Zanu PF supporters and militia held a rally at Chinyamapere School where SM teaches. They accused him and others of supporting the opposition MDC. He was force marched from the public and forced to toyi-toyi for 15 minutes. He did 30 press-ups and was beaten up. He was then told to leave immediately. The group went back to his house and searched it. He was beaten up again at his home area on the 21st of January 2002. The victim claims that his heart nearly failed and that he experienced chest pains after the assault.

19 January 2002

- Macdonald Chinaka and other Zanu PF supporters assaulted KKC on the back with sjamboks. He was struck about twelve times and sustained cuts to his back. He made a report at Bikita Police Station on the 20th of January 2002.

7 February 2002

- Just after break, a group of about 70 Zanu PF youths went to Dungu School asked for AM, and accused him of being a member of MDC. A number of them took turns to assault him using thick sticks and copper wire, open hands and whatever they could find. When they were tired, they chased him from his work place and threatened him with death upon being seen at the school or reporting for duty. The assault took place in full view of ten teachers and over 460 pupils. The case was not reported to the police as he had been threatened with death if he did so. The victim also did not seek treatment due to the threats.

Bikita West

14 January 2002

- At Masarira School a gang of thirty Zanu PF supporters and “war veterans” called all teachers for a meeting at the staff room. Two unnamed teachers were beaten in the presence of other teachers as one of the lady teachers had reported them as being MDC supporters. Their clothes and property were destroyed. They were then taken to the clinic.

15 January 2001

- AT, together with other teachers, was tortured and issued with death threats by “war veterans” and Zanu PF supporters soon after the election. The teachers were accused of having campaigned for the MDC. The teachers refused to return to their schools until their safety was guaranteed.

January 2001

- Teachers at Kushingira and Gwindingwi Schools were threatened with danger. Some teachers ran away from the area. The teachers were accused of having campaigned for the MDC. They refused to return to the schools until their safety was guaranteed.

1 March 2001

- “War veterans” and Zanu PF supporters threatened a male teacher at Gumunyu School with death for supporting MDC.

16 January 2002

- Members of Zanu PF assaulted four teachers and the headmaster of Chitsanga Primary School for chanting MDC slogans in class. Their houses were also ransacked. The school was closed on 17 January 2002 after all the teachers had fled.

21 February 2002

- A Zanu PF rally was organised by Major Zephania, Colonel Bangidza, Captain Masabeya and Emma Rugarangana (Zanu PF Provincial Executive Member) at Rusitu High School, interrupting 'A' level lessons. They forced the students to attend; however the students ran away due to fear. The officials then accused EC, GU, HS, and one other teacher of having something to do with MDC and threatened to order Zanu PF youth militia to kill them. The following day the Zanu PF youth militia surrounded the headmaster's home armed with axes and knobkerries. The victims managed to escape and went into hiding. A report was made at Chimanimani Police Station.

Gutu South

1 January 2002

- Zanu PF militia allegedly besieged Machingambi Primary and Secondary Schools, Chatikobo School and Soti Source School. They assaulted teachers and threatened to kill them. Teachers fled the area leading to closure of the schools. The teachers vowed to return only after the presidential elections.

13-31 March 2002

- Unnamed teachers of Masvingise, Mundondo and Nerupiri Schools were assaulted and threatened with death by militia trained at Mshagashe (Masvingo North) by Francis Zimuto, alias "Black Jesus", and camped at Nerupiri School. They were given 'notices' to leave the schools.

Masvingo Central

24 January 2001

- Three unnamed teachers were abducted and handcuffed by about 100 "war veterans" who had descended on Masvingo to force striking civil servants to return to work. The three teachers were attacked after they had mistaken the "war veterans" for fellow striking teachers and made MDC slogans at them. They were taken to the police station. Police released the teachers soon afterwards.

9 March 2002

- An ex-combatant went about labeling teachers in the area as sell-outs because they were MDC supporters, threatening to deal with them after the Presidential Election.

Masvingo South

21 June 2002

- Unnamed teachers from Mapanzure Secondary School had their homes ransacked by suspected "war veterans" who led a rowdy mob of Zanu PF supporters. The incident was reported at Muchakata Police station. No arrests had been made by the time of the report. The Masvingo Provincial police spokesman refused to comment. The group ordered teachers suspected of supporting the MDC to leave the area. The group then went into a number of teacher's houses, seizing all their property before confiscating

office and house keys. Property was thrown out of the houses and the victims were told to leave the area within twenty-four hours.

8 July 2002

- Mapanzure Secondary School was closed indefinitely after some of the 50 teachers, including Joel Hita and Tsana Guwa, were beaten up by suspected Zanu PF supporters who accused them of being MDC supporters. Four of the teachers were reported as having been seriously injured. This was the second closure of the school following a similar closure in May 2000 in the run up to the June 2000 Parliamentary elections, as a result of clashes between Zanu PF and MDC supporters after the parents accused the teachers of belonging to MDC. The Zanu PF supporters are alleged to have arrived in a white Nissan truck and dragged the teachers out of the classrooms and beat them up in full view of the students.

Zaka East

13-31 March 2002

- Francis Zimuto, alias 'Black Jesus', and unnamed Zanu PF supporters reportedly threatened unnamed teachers from Chimedza, Chitonhora and other schools with death. They were also chased out of their schools and homes. The teachers were reported to have fled the area.

July 2002

- Zanu PF youths have allegedly unleashed a reign of terror, beating up teachers they accuse of supporting the MDC, ahead of the rural district council elections scheduled for September. The police said that they had received reports of harassment of teachers in the district and were still investigating them. Obert Mujuru, the Masvingo Regional Director of Education confirmed the incidents, saying he was worried about the escalating harassment of teachers in the province.

MASHONALAND WEST

Hurungwe East

9 March 2001

- "War veterans" accused SM of being an MDC supporter. He was forcibly removed from Tsengurwe Primary School where he was teaching. He was also threatened with unspecified harm if he resisted the removal.

The following is list of perpetrators that were identified by the victims of political violence. Names in bold are perpetrators that committed several incidents of violence. Also given is the constituency and province in which the incident of violence occurred.

MAN	Chimanimani	Bangidza, (Colonel) (3)	State: ZNA, Zanu PF
MAN	Buhera North / South	Chinamasa, Patrick	Zanu-PF
MAN	Buhera North/ South	Gono (Mrs)	Unknown
MAN	Chimanimani	Masabeya, (Captain) (3)	State: ZNA, Zanu PF
MAN	Chimanimani	Mutasa, Didymus	Zanu-PF
MAN	Chimanimani	Nyawo, J	Zanu-PF
MAN	Chimanimani	Ruparangana, Emma (2)	Zanu PF
MAN	Buhera North	Taderera, Tafara	Zanu pf
MAN	Buhera North/ South	Tapfuma	Unknown
MAN	Chimanimani	Zephania, (Major) (3)	State: ZNA, Zanu PF
MC	Bindura	Chibvongodze, Tanaka	Zanu PF
MC	Bindura	Chingwaru, Christopher	Zanu (PF)
MC	Bindura	Kwezani,	Zanu-PF
MC	Bindura	Mafiosi, Dickson	Zanu (PF)
MC	Guruve North/South	Mahembe,	Zanu PF
MC	Guruve North/South	Manyika, Elliot	Zanu (PF)
MC	Guruve North/South	Mudanwa, Wellington	Zanu PF
MC	Shamva	Murape, Angella. B	Zanu (PF)
MC	Shamva	Ndombo, Noah	Zanu-PF
MD	Mberengwa East / West	Chitoro, Divine	Zanu-pf, znlwva
MD	Mberengwa East	Hove, Josikia	Zanu-PF
MD	Mberengwa East / West	Koke, Nyasha	Zanu-pf, znlwva
MD	Mberengwa East / West	Mucheregwa, Walter	Zanu-pf, znlwva
MD	Mberengwa East	Musengezi, Takawira	Zanu-PF
MD	Mberengwa East	Mutati, Ezekiel	Zanu-PF
ME	Chikomba	Chikato, Mucheneripi	Zanu PF
ME	Chikomba	Chirinda (2)	Zanu-PF
ME	UMP	Gundai, Chris	State: Ministry of Education, Sport and Culture, Zanu-PF
ME	Hwedza	Gundumura, T.	Zanu-PF
ME	UMP	Gunduruma, T.	State: Ministry of Education, Sport and Culture, Zanu-PF
ME	Mutoko North	Mutasa, Jairos	Zanu PF
ME	Mutoko South	Nyamande	Zanu-PF
ME	UMP	Nyamukapa	ZNLWVA
MN	Bubi-Unguza	Mpofu, Obert (2)	State: MN Governor
MS	Beitbridge	Nleya, Vincent	Zanu-PF
MV	Bikita East	Chinaka, Ben Dzingai	Zanu-PF
MV	Bikita East	Chinaka, Macdonald	Zanu-PF
MV	Bikita East/West	Kandoro, Mufundirwa	Zanu-PF
MV	Bikita East/West	Murahwi, Nehemia	Zanu-PF
MV	Zaka East/West	Zimuto, Francis ('Black Jesus') (2)	Zanu-PF

Reported Militia Bases

N.B The following is a list of schools that were reportedly used as militia bases in the run up to the March 2002 Presidential Elections. The information on the alleged was derived from

Secondary sources. The Human Rights Forum was not able to independently verify them. The list was compiled from various coherent sources in which the same locations were reported as being used as ZanuPF militia bases. The bases were used as camping grounds, torture centres, and launch pads for terror raids. As the bases were in operation well before the election, and schools were only closed for the election weekend, it is highly likely that teachers and pupils were indirectly exposed to this violence in the least. It is even more disturbing to note that some of these schools were used as polling stations, which certainly affected the electorate's ability to exercise their right to vote without fear.

§ = Polling station

Province	Constituency	Base Name	Political Affiliation of Militia
BYO	Lobengula-Magwegwe	Fusi Primary School, Gwabalanda	Zanu PF
§BYO	Bulawayo North East	Hugh Beadle Primary School, Saucertown	Zanu PF
§HRE	Mbare West	Frank Johnson Primary School	Zanu PF
MC	Muzarabani	Mucheya Secondary School	Zanu-PF
§MC	Mount Darwin North	Kamutsenzere School	Zanu-PF
MC	Mount Darwin North	Mavuradonha High School	Zanu-PF
MC	Rushinga	Mukosa School	Zanu-PF
§MC	Shamva	Chindunduma Secondary School	Zanu PF
MD	Mberengwa East	Mketi Primary School (Mketi Ward)	Zanu PF
MD	Kwekwe	Chara Primary School (Mbizo)	Zanu PF
ME	Mutoko South	Masvitsa School, Hoyuyu Resettlement Area	Zanu PF
MN	Nkayi	Setshanke Primary School	Zanu-PF
§MN	Nkayi	Gwelutshena Primary School	Zanu PF
§MN	Nkayi	Bhubhu Primary School	Zanu-PF
§MN	Nkayi	Ingwalathi Primary School	Zanu-PF
§MN	Nkayi	Sebhumane Primary School	Zanu-PF
MN	Nkayi	Gampinya Primary School	Zanu-PF
MN	Nkayi	Bhodobhodo Primary School	Zanu PF
§MN	Nkayi	Mathetshaneni Primary School	Zanu PF
§MN	Nkayi	Guwe Primary School	Zanu-PF
MN	Nkayi	Lukona Primary School	Zanu-PF
MN	Nkayi	Mkalathi Primary School	Zanu-PF
MN	Nkayi	Komayanga Primary School	Zanu-PF
§MN	Nkayi	Zenka Primary School	Zanu-PF
§MN	Nkayi	Fudu Primary School	Zanu-PF
MN	Nkayi	Mbumba Primary School	Zanu-PF
MN	Nkayi	Gwiji Primary School	Zanu-PF
MN	Nkayi	Mdlawuzeni Primary School	Zanu-PF
§MN	Nkayi	Tohwe Primary School	Zanu-PF
§MN	Nkayi	Zinyangani Primary School	Zanu-PF
§MN	Tsholotsho	Khumbula Secondary School	Zanu PF
§MN	Tsholotsho	Mgomoni School	Zanu-PF

SCHOOLS

Schools closed with the name of the school, constituency and date of closure.

Baro Secondary School	Chirumanzu	25 February 2002
Chatikobo School	Gutu	January 2002
Checheche Primary School,	Chipinge North,	20 March 2002
Chinorumba School,	Bikita/Zaka,	16 January 2002
Chisumbanje Primary School,	Chipinge North,	20 March 2002
Chitsanga Primary School,	Bikita West,	16 February 2002
Garaji School	Bikita/Zaka,	16 January 2002
Gumira Primary School,	Chipinge North,	20 March 2002
Kushinga School,	Bikita/Zaka,	16 January 2002
Machingambi Primary School	Gutu	January 2002
Machingambi Secondary School	Gutu	January 2002
Machona Primary School,	Chipinge North,	20 March 2002
Mapanzure Secondary School	Masvingo South	8 July 2002
Marirangwe School	Bikita/Zaka,	16 January 2002
Mudzami School,	Bikita/Zaka,	16 January 2002
Museki School,	Bikita/Zaka,	16 January 2002
Ndangababi Primary School,	Hwange West,	06-Feb-02
Negovano School	Bikita/Zaka,	16 January 2002
Nhema School,	Bikita/Zaka,	16 January 2002
Rimbi High School,	Chipinge North,	20 March 2002
Rimbi Primary School,	Chipinge North,	20 March 2002
Rusere School,	Bikita/Zaka,	16 January 2002
Soti Source School	Gutu	January 2002
Tagura School,	Bikita/Zaka,	16 January 2002
Tenda High School,	Zhombe,	October 2001
Unnamed,	Kadoma West,	October 2001
Unnamed,	Kadoma West,	October 2001
Urunga South Primary School,	Bindura,	28 June 2001
Vheneka Primary School,	Chipinge North,	20 March 2002
Zhombe Primary School,	Zhombe,	October 2001

The Zimbabwe Human Rights NGO Forum (also known as the “Human Rights Forum”) has been in existence since January 1998. Nine 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 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 Legal Unit and a Research and Documentation Unit.

Core member organizations of the Human Rights Forum are:

Amani Trust

Amnesty International (Zimbabwe)

The Catholic Commission for Justice and Peace

Gays and Lesbians of Zimbabwe

The Legal Resources Foundation

Transparency International (Zimbabwe)

The University of Zimbabwe Legal Aid and Advice Scheme

Zimbabwe Association for Crime Prevention and the Rehabilitation of the Offender

Zimbabwe Civic Education Trust

Zimbabwe Human Rights Association

Zimbabwe Lawyers for Human Rights

Zimbabwe Women Lawyers Association

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