

ZIMBABWE HUMAN RIGHTS NGO FORUM

Report on political violence in Bulawayo,
Harare, Manicaland, Mashonaland West,
Masvingo, Matabeleland North, Matabeleland
South and Midlands

A report compiled by the Zimbabwe Human Rights
Non-Governmental Organisations Forum

29 July 2000

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 came together to provide legal and psycho-social 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 interhuman 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 wellbeing.

The Human Rights Forum operates a Legal Unit and a Research and Documentation Unit.

Member organisations of the Human Forum are:

- The Amani Trust
- The Catholic Commission for Justice and Peace
- The Legal Resources Foundation
- Transparency International (Zimbabwe)
- The University of Zimbabwe Legal Aid Clinic
- Zimbabwe Association for Crime Prevention and the Rehabilitation of the Offender
- Zimbabwe Human Rights Association
- Zimbabwe Lawyers for Human Rights
- Zimbabwe Women Lawyers Association

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All earlier reports can be found on the website.

MANICALAND

Attacks upon teachers and harassment of health workers

On 18 May a group of war veterans and their supporters and Zanu (PF) supporters, descended on the Chimanimani village in two trucks last Tuesday morning and raided various schools. The beat teachers and some were beaten into unconsciousness. Several teachers were hospitalised and three headmasters went missing initially. The attackers also dragged some teachers from their classrooms, accused them of being MDC supporters and stripped them naked in front of their students. They raided Tiya Primary School and assaulted four school teachers with sticks and whips, accusing them of supporting the MDC. They beat up three schoolteachers at Nyangu secondary and Chimanimani primary schools. The war veterans abducted three of the schoolteachers and detained them at a camp they have established at Charleshood Farm. They beat up these schoolteachers and then later released one of them. A number of teachers initially went missing after this attack.

In May in Mutare health workers reported threats to staff of various sorts.

Beatings, threats and damage to property

On the occasion when the war veterans beat teachers in Chimanimani, they also intimidated many people in the town. Tellers at the bank, workers at electricity supply company, the post office and the telephone company were all threatened and followed when they went home from work. Some were beaten and had their homes ransacked.” At the weekend people were told they had to attend a rally for the Zanu (PF

The war veterans also went to Border Timbers estate and lumber mill. After they had beaten several workers and threatened management the company closed down operations for a while. The company has since re-opened. The war veterans also invaded the farm of the MDC parliamentary candidate for Chimanimani, Roy Bennett. In response to death threats, Bennett said he would rather give up his farm than his allegiance to the MDC. But he left Chimanimani with his wife, Heather, after the war veterans had held her hostage for several hours. When finally he was able to return to his once prosperous coffee farm was in a shambles from looting and destruction. Many of his 600 workers have been badly beaten.

Other incidents

These incidents are mostly taken from newspaper reports. Some of the incidents reported include the following:

2 June, Birchenough Bridge

A group of 40 war veterans stormed Devure Ranch, disrupting a donor-funded practical course in integrated production for Agriculture and Extension Services (Agritex), claiming the farm was theirs.

3 June, Mutasa, Bvuma

In Mutasa house of MDC-members were burnt down and at Bvuma some shops and houses were attacked and business people threatened for supporting MDC.

3 June, Bvuma

The MDC candidate for the area, Evelyn Masaiti, was forced to flee to Mutare and could only return protected by security guards.

4 June, Nyanga and Headlands

Five presumed MDC supporters were beaten badly and had to be hospitalised. One homestead was petrol-bombed, and when an eight-year old girl tried to escape she was beaten by the attackers, as was her father who had to be hospitalised.

4 June, Eastern Highlands

18 houses belonging to MDC members were destroyed.

4 June, Mutare

Residents repulsed a group of war veterans trying to terrorize them; war veterans trying to invade a farm whose owner is popular amongst the villagers were forced to retreat thrice by villagers.

4 June, Sakubva

Residents beat up Zanu (PF) supporters trying to force them to join a rally addressed by the Mashonaland East provincial governor Border Gezi.

8 June, Honde Valley:

At least 90 MDC supporters have been left homeless after attacks on their homes by Zanu (PF) supporters, as we reported last week; the MDC candidate for Mutasa, Evelyn Masaiti, says her supporters in the area continue receiving threats of violence.

7 June, Chimanimani

Farm workers were prevented from marching into town by police, when they wanted to demonstrate against unpaid wages promised to them by war veterans when they invaded the farm they are working on.

16 June, Chimanimani

Inspector Patrick Mashayamombe, police chief in Chimanimani, had to take up a junior post in Mutare, after accusations that he sympathized with the MDC; the report has not been confirmed by his superiors.

18 June, Makoni East

War veterans and Zanu (PF) supporters were abducting children from schools for training, forcing them to attend night-long pungwes, mainly from Romsley resettlement area. Some weeks previously a Form 3 pupil was severely beaten up for refusing to attend one of the sessions.

19 June, Buhera

Several persons believed to be MDC supporters were assaulted and had their homes burnt down in Buhera North constituency by a group of war veterans led by Tom Zimucha and Bernard Makuve. In a suspected reprisal, two war veterans had their houses burnt down the following day.

20 June, Nyanga

Mr. Joseph Munondo, the MDC youth chairperson in Ruwange Ward in Nyanga, has again been harassed by Zanu (PF) supporters, after having received death threats earlier, in the presence of *Daily News* reporters.

20 June, Rusape

A ZUPCO bus conductor, Mr. Olphan Wilson, became indirectly a victim of the ongoing political violence in the country, when he died after nurses at Chikore Clinic refused to open the clinic at night because of the political violence in the area. Mr. Wilson had been stabbed in the neck by a passenger.

24 June, Makoni North

A Catholic priest was assaulted here last Tuesday by Zanu (PF) supporters, allegedly because he accepted a donation from the MDC candidate Mr. Mangoma, to help purchase medicines for the mission hospital.

24 June, Save

The CFU reports that at Save Conservatory a mobile polling station was accompanied by Zanu (PF) youths, whilst two MDC vehicles were stoned. In both cases no international observers were present.

MASHONALAND WEST

Deaths

On 25 April, Kariba

A large group of war veterans, led by Rex Jesus, abducted 18 MDC supporters and brutally assaulted them as a result of which two died.

On 31 May, Trelawney

Tony Oates, a commercial farmer was shot dead on his farm in Trelawney, was shot dead by a suspected attempted robbery by two robbers who broke into the house. The killing was not apparently political as Oates was not involved with any political party and his farm had not been invaded by war veterans. However, the robbers were obviously taking advantage of the lawlessness created by the invasion of farms.

Harassment of health workers

In May it was reported that health workers at Chinamora Hospital were forced to pay money in order to avoid being raped. Health workers at Karoi Hospital also reported to face similar threats. These cases were reported to the police but no police action was taken and the health workers fear for their security.

Assaults

These reports have been obtained from a variety of sources.

Case 1: Area Binga

A nun based at a Catholic Mission Hospital in the Binga area gave this account:

I was travelling to Gokwe Diocese for a funeral. At the bus stop at around 3.00 am some Zanu (PF) supporters arrived, first disguising themselves as MDC members and started shouting: “Pamberi neMDC”. That they did three times. Fearful for our lives we responded saying, “Pamberi”. Then they said, “So you are MDC supporters?”. But people refused saying that they were strong Zanu (PF) supporters and produced their party cards. One would be forgiven to think that they were after the Catholic Church because they then moved straight to me and asked me to produce a Zanu (PF) card which, of course, I didn't have. They accused me saying that I was on my way to address a Justice and Peace workshop. I tried to explain to them that I was on my way to a funeral, but they could not take it. They then asked me to choose between life and death, saying that I either surrender the money, to ensure that I don't travel or they would still kill me. So I had to surrender the purse containing the money and other particulars. They took away more than \$500.00 and threw away other particulars. Thank God they didn't search my travelling bag where I had hidden some of the money. I then picked up my particulars. One of the men at the bus stop, who works for the DDF tried to explain to them that Sisters are good people who do no harm to anyone. He was told that he would be killed together with me. From then on the man kept quiet. After they left, the man asked if he could help me with some money to travel, but I told him that I still had enough for the journey.

Around 4.15 am the Gokwe bus arrived and we reached the place safely. On Monday 1 May, the burial took place. My relatives, who happen to stay opposite the local MP, were very much afraid of the security situation in Karoi as well. Just two days before the burial two people had been killed and thrown by the road close to their house. So they had resorted to having supper early and retiring to bed by 7.00 or 7.30. However, on the day of the burial the situation was peaceful.

Early Tuesday morning around 2.00 am I took a taxi to the bus stop on my way back. The bus left Karoi around 2.30 pm. We were about 40 of us in the bus. I prepared myself to sleep in the bus, since the journey was long and I was tired from the previous day. I had a jacket and a pocket sheet with me and in no time I fell asleep. We reached Magunje Growth Point and there some Zanu (PF) activists came into the bus, about 10 in all. At the beginning I was still asleep. They began shouting slogans; “Pamberi neZanu (PF)” and I think in my sleep I responded with the rest in the bus, “Pamberi”. Then four of them approached me and asked me to produce my Zanu (PF) card. Strangely, nobody else in the bus was asked to do the same. When I replied that I had no card, they started beating me with sticks on the sides, hands and back. They then asked me to accompany them out of the bus, but I refused for fear they could or may kill me. I held on to the seat bar and said that they could only take me out dead not alive. I don't know where I got the strength to keep on holding the bar in the face of assault by four men. This infuriated them and one of them clapped me right on the face with such strength that I started bleeding through the nose and I fainted. A man seated on the seat behind applied First Aid to me until I recovered consciousness. He then told me that the Zanu (PF) activists left after assaulting me. Surprisingly, no one else was disturbed or touched. The man also told me that they afterwards told the bus driver to drive off and he came into the bus laughing as if nothing had happened. It was only when we reached Peter's store that I became fully conscious and then realised that my white habit was full of blood and my cheeks were swollen. I felt pain all over my body and I broke down in tears until we reached Chitsa.

I then decided to drop down at Tshoda because I simply wanted to narrate my ordeal to someone older, get advice and just to cry. I went to my aunt's place, but she was not there. I then proceeded to the Mission in the hope of seeing my parish priest, but he was not there. Then I went to my home. I narrated my ordeal to them. They told me the situation was no better in the area.

Other nuns are now afraid of wearing their uniforms in public and have attended their meetings in casual clothes. They advised me to take along the Zanu (PF) card of my deceased father, but the name of the surname wouldn't coincide. We agreed that I travel in casual clothes the following day, removing my habit and the cross, for they said Zanu (PF) activists get infuriated when they see a cross. Anyway, during the night, I thought it over and decided that I'll have to die on the journey. It was better to do so as a sister, with my full habit on, everyone knowing that I am religious. So in the morning I put on my habit and boarded a bus for Gokwe.

Case 2: Area Kariba

Kenneth is an MDC supporter. On 24 April Zanu (PF) supporters came to his residence. They knocked the door and he peeped through a window and saw a number of about 30 strong youths. They abducted him and led him to Zanu (PF) offices within Kariba town. He identified at least two youths but does not know their names. When they were at Zanu (PF) offices the youths began to assault him with wooden sticks on the legs and back. After the assault he was released. He reported this assault to the Police Station in Kariba but no paper work was completed.

Case 3: Area Hurungwe

On the 18 May Constance, an MDC co-ordinator went to visit the members of her party in the area. When the MDC members saw her they told her to go back because the Zanu (PF) supporters had warned them that they did not want to see any MDC people in the area. She was told that the situation was not conducive for MDC activities in the area. She decided to go back to Karoi urban, and got a bus at about 2.00 pm. As she arrived at a Township on her way back, the bus was ordered to stop by Zanu (PF) supporters in a blue Karoi council truck. He drove to the nearby police station. Constance was ordered out of the bus and told to get into the truck, in front of the police. She was then taken to the Township and was tortured and beaten severely at the ZANU (PF) offices. She was beaten using iron bars, wire, rubber sjamboks and wooden logs. She was asked to surrender all MDC cards and documents that she was in possession of. She was forced to sing MDC campaign songs and slogans, and was then beaten for doing so. She was also forced to denounce the MDC and Mogan Tsvangirai, and to resign from the MDC with immediate effect.

At about 7.00 pm, the Zanu (PF) supporters forced a taxi driver to take Constance to Karoi, a drive of about 80 km. The taxi driver demanded money from her, which she paid. She is currently receiving medical treatment in Chinhoyi for the bruises on the mouth, buttocks, under the foot, backbone, and calf muscles. She has since left her home in Karoi to live in Chinhoyi with friends, where she feels somewhat safer.

Case 4: Area Hurungwe

On 20 May at around 10.00 pm, a group of Zanu (PF) youths knocked on the door of Davidson, who worked for an NGO in a rural area of Hurungwe. Three of the youths entered the bedroom where he was sleeping with his wife and two children. They asked him to produce all personal identification. Among the particulars he had a Zanu (PF) party card which he had bought for security reasons. They searched his house looking for anything that belonged to an opposition party, because they accused him of teaching opposition politics. After failing to find any evidence, they told him to come the following day to clear the ground in preparation for the Zanu (PF) rally, which was going to be held that day.

Davidson was forced to attend the rally, which started with an intimidatory prayer where the almighty God and spirits of Ambuya Nehanda and Sekuru Kaguvi were asked to come and assist Zanu (PF) in eliminating the opposition, which is said to have sold the country out to the whites. As the meeting was about to start, the master of ceremonies said "All opposition supporters, could you please stand up now and show yourselves to the public before we point at you." Nobody stood up. The Zanu (PF) supporters had a list of names that they called out, but none of the people on the list was there. They asked all the teachers who were present to come up front and explain what they were teaching the students about. One of the teachers replied, "The authorized syllabus." The teachers were told to go somewhere with the war veterans, and it is not known what happened to them.

Davidson was again asked to produce his identity papers at the rally, where there were approximately 5000 people. He was also asked to explain the kind of education that he takes to the people. He explained, and was fortunate that he had once held a voter education meeting with the war veterans at their camp. Thus, the war veterans supported his claims that he was not teaching opposition politics, but other peoples were claiming that they personally knew him to be a member of the opposition. He was then told to carry out part of his education programme at the rally. He managed to win the hearts of many Zanu (PF) faithfuls as he was explaining about political tolerance as a principle of democracy. In his presentation it is said that Davidson was very careful that he did not refer to himself as an outsider, but rather as a member of Zanu (PF) (although he is not). Hence he escaped

Case 5 – Area Kariba

Isaac Mackenzie, the Zanu (PF) candidate for Kariba threatened whites in Kariba with death if they supported the opposition, especially the MDC. Mackenzie was addressing his first campaign rally in Nyamhunga Stadium in the resort town. Mackenzie said “Let me assure you whites here, that one you support MDC, Zanu (PF) is not going to treat you as business people, but like politicians. It is like signing your own death warrants. The political storm will not spare you. Let you be informed that our reserve force, the war veterans, will be set on you.” There were five white people at the rally, whose total attendance was set in the region of 1000. He warned the people that any association with the MDC was tantamount to “signing your own warrants, as Zanu (PF) will spit fire on you.” Zanu (PF) youths were intimidating members of the opposition. They were beating drums, and chanting intimidatory slogans such as “The enemy will be beaten to death by Zanu (PF)”.

Case 6 – Area: Hurungwe

On 10 May Mark Madiro, the current MP for Hurungwe is alleged to have brought a gang of youths to the township. When the people who went around the shops saw this, they ran away from the township to their homes. He mobilized the people for a rally, to which most people came predominantly because they were afraid. They had a list of MDC supporters, which they used to identify the opposition supporters. They handcuffed and tied an MDC youth chairman to a tree and started brutalizing him. They accused him of receiving training to make petrol bombs from a retired soldier. He was left tied to a tree for the whole night, as they had gone to call the war veterans to continue the interrogation. He later escaped when he was untied to go to the toilet.

Case 7 - Zvimba

On 21 May an MDC co-ordinator visited his rural home in Murombedzi. When he was at the bus stop on his way to Chinhoyi, three Zanu (PF) youths came and greeted him, saying “How are you, brother? Your ancestors have betrayed you by letting you come here, because you have fallen in to the hands of the devil”. They grabbed him by the collar, and accused him of being an MDC supporter. More than thirty people gathered around him, and they wanted to take him to the Zanu (PF) offices, but he refused. They attacked him with iron bars, rubber sjamboks, wire and knobkerries. In retaliation, he hit one of them, who lost a tooth.

Case 8 - Norton

The complainant was sticking up MDC posters in Norton, when he was spotted by a group of about 20 Zanu (PF) supporters. They gave chase, and when they caught up with him they assaulted him with an iron bar. Two of his fingers on his right hand were fractured. A report has been registered with the police.

Case 9 - Karoi

I am employed by General Agriculture Plantations Workers Union of Zimbabwe (GAPWUZ) as an organising secretary. On 1 May around 10.00 pm when I was coming from Chinhoyi GAPWUZ offices, I was assaulted by members of Zanu (PF). The gang was being led Paradzai whom I managed to identify. They followed me into a shop where I had gone to buy some cigarettes. They then accused GAPWUZ of sponsoring and having its offices being used by MDC. One of them said that they were going to deal with us but I took this lightly. On my way home just behind some shops in Chikangwe Township I was struck with an iron bar just above the left eye, forehead and left eye. Some of them used booted feet and hands to attack me and I lost conscious maybe because of the excessive bleeding. The people left me for dead and around 6.00am the police discovered me lying in a pool of blood. They then took me to the hospital where I received medication. Four of my assailants were arrested but I am not aware of the outcome. I am currently feeling some chest and back pains including my left leg. My left eye is also giving me some problems.

Case 10 - Norton

I am an ordinary MDC member. On 13 April, when we were attending an MDC rally in Chikangwe, a group of Zanu (PF) supporters came and attacked us with iron bars, pick handles and stones. They first of all ordered us to take off our MDC t-shirts, but we refused. There were over 80 of them, and some of our colleagues managed to escape, but Moses Chongovesa and I were captured. They assaulted us all over. I suffered multiple injuries and had to be stitched seven times on the head and two times just below the eye. My right hand is currently unable to function properly, and my whole body is painful. My colleague managed to strike one of them with an axe handle, and we escaped to the police station in Karoi, where we made our report. We gave them some of the names of our assailants, and no arrests have been made so far. When I went to enquire from the police what steps had been taken, they told me that I was troubling them and it had already been forgotten about. I went and sought treatment at Karoi Hospital as an outpatient for seven continuous days. I could not

continue with the treatment because the Zanu (PF) supporters would waylay us at the hospital gate, so I was afraid of another attack.

Other incidents in this province that have been reported

The following are some of the other incidents that have been reported:

3 June, Kadoma

two houses of suspected MDC supporters were petrol-bombed by unknown attackers, but they did not explode.

14 June, Raffingora

A garage owner of Raffingora Garages has been threatened with death by a group of about 20 Zanu (PF) supporters, after he refused to put up Zanu (PF) posters on the plate glass windows of the garage. In the meantime the Zanu (PF) youths had also set up a roadblock to the garage owner's home.

15 June, Tengwe

The CFU reports that on 11 June at a Zanu (PF) rally, people were told that if Zanu (PF) did not win "the foremen of all farms would be killed by 11 pm. and all whites would have their heads cut off and sent to America". Farmers in the area report extremely nervous people who will not want to vote anymore.

16 June, Karoi

10 members of the MDC were abducted and taken to the local Zanu (PF) offices, for putting up MDC posters in town.

15 June, Tengwe

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16 June, Karoi

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19 June, Kariba

The *Daily News* has published a photograph of the buttocks of a Kariba woman, who still cannot sit three months after she was severely assaulted by Zanu (PF) supporters, because she is a member of the MDC.

MASVINGO

Deaths

On 1 June in Bikita East Thadeus Runkuni, one of the MDC's prospective candidates for Bikita East, was beaten to death at his home. His relatives say he was attacked by a gang who sang Zanu (PF) songs as they delivered the fatal blows. The police first confirmed that he had been killed by Zanu (PF) supporters but later retracted this and claimed that he had died as a result of a domestic dispute.

Assaults on MDC personnel

On 21 June at Nyikavanhu Mr. Rioga, MDC candidate for Masvingo South, and another MDC member, Mr. Gwatinyanya, were severely assaulted by war veterans. Mr. Rioga had to be admitted to the Intensive Care unit of Masvingo Hospital, and had to be airlifted to Harare later, where he is in coma. He is still recovering from his injuries.

Attacks on teachers

In the Mwenezi area Neshuro primary and secondary schools and Mushava primary and secondary schools were closed as violence intensified and female teachers had been reportedly raped. The veterans have continued demanding the removal of five teachers at Mapanzure Secondary School, south of Masvingo, who they accuse of being staunch MDC supporters. Beatings also took place at several schools

in the Mataga area of Masvingo. In early June Edmore Hwarare the leader of the war veterans, occupying commercial farms in Masvingo and Midlands provinces threatened teachers with death. He was addressing a meeting between the war veterans and teachers in Masvingo.

In May health workers reported threats to staff at Masvingo.

Other incidents

Other incidents to be reported in this area include:

4 June, Masvingo

The leader of the war veterans occupying commercial farms in Masvingo and Midlands Provinces, Mr. Edmore Hwarare, said that ex-combatants would never accept election results if the opposition would win; he added that the MDC should train soldiers to fight the Zanu (PF) if it wanted to rule the country.

8 June, Gutu

The CFU reports that during a Star Rally President Mugabe said that if farmers try and resist war veterans taking their farms they (the war veterans) will kill them.

8 June, Gutu

The MDC candidate for Gutu North, Mr. Crispa Musoni, fled his home after receiving death threats from war veterans and supporters of his rival in the area, Vice-President Simon Muzenda. They tried to smash into his vehicle, and minutes of a meeting showed that they planned to abduct his wife and child.

9 June, Chivi

Zanu (PF) party has admitted that political violence that rocked Chivi district recently was perpetrated by its supporters. An army truck was used and teachers' houses were destroyed; but it added that the perpetrators were supporters of the Zanu (PF) candidates that went *Independent* after losing the primaries.

9 June, Makoni North

The MDC candidate for Makoni North, Valentine Ziswa, has pleaded for help from the international observers following a rise in threats and violence against him, his family and supporters.

10 June, Chivi

A supporter of Zanu (PF) has been stabbed to death during a scuffle with an MDC supporter, a report that has been confirmed by the police.

13 June, Gutu

Zanu (PF) youths have beaten up and injured MDC supporters at Mutero Catholic Mission.

15 June, Chikombedzi

45 MDC supporters went on the rampage, throwing missiles at the Chiredzi South Zanu (PF) candidate's house at Chikombedzi business centre. It is interesting to note that with the vast majority of the violence coming from Zanu (PF) supporters, and hardly anyone being picked up by police, this group of MDC supporters was picked up immediately, and also refused bail on June 20.

15 June, Mwenezi

Hundreds of war veterans and Zanu (PF) supporters launched a door-to-door campaign here, confiscating national identity cards and passports from villagers suspected to be MDC supporters. Without identity papers a person is not issued with a ballot paper.

15 June Chikombedzi

45 MDC at a business centre supporters mostly youths went on the rampage throwing stones at the house of Chiredzi South Zanu (PF) candidate, Aaron Baloyi. Windows were broken and a car was damaged. Property worth \$64 000 was destroyed.

19 June, Chiredzi

Two shop assistants at Tshovani Business Centre were injured by Zanu (PF) supporters and war veterans after their shop was attacked by a group led by Mr. Mutemachani, who was looking for MDC supporters.

23 June, Chiredzi

The *Daily News* reports that business in Chiredzi was brought to a halt yesterday as war veterans went from door to door ordering people to attend a Zanu (PF) rally where Vice-President Msika was speaking.

MATABELELAND NORTH AND SOUTH

The Archbishop Ncube, the Catholic bishop in this area has expressed his concern over the presence of military personnel sporting red berets, the type that was worn by the now-disbanded 5 Brigade during the reign of terror on civilians in the Matabeleland and Midlands provinces in the 1980s following an armed dissident uprising in the three provinces. Archbishop Ncube was adamant that the presence of military personnel in red berets was not just coincidental. He said the government was waging a psychological war to gain votes in the forthcoming parliamentary elections. Ncube said. "It is clear the government is afraid of losing the election so they have embarked on a psychological war," he said. "These people in red berets are meant to cow the ordinary people into voting for the government in the election. "The message is clear: 'Remember what we did to you in the 1980s? If you do not vote for us we will be back to repeat the torture,' is what the presence is saying. It is an intimidating tactic to ensure people vote the government back into power."

MATABELELAND NORTH

Interference with schools

War veterans and their supporters had invaded George Silundika High School in Nyamandlovu and Tsholotsho High School.

Threatening statements

On 28 May there was a Zanu (PF) rally at Matambo Farm, Nyamandhlovu. The meeting was addressed by Mr James Zinyemba who is the campaign manager for the ZANU (PF) candidate for the Bubyemba-Umguza constituency, Mr Obert Mpfu. Several hundred farm workers from neighbouring farms attended the meeting was meant to attend the meeting but at the commencement of the meeting it was advised that he could not attend because his father-in-law had died at Mpilo Hospital. A man describing himself as "Awusozeumpindeumbone" (meaning "you will not see me again") also spoke at the meeting. The purpose of the meeting was to campaign for the ZANU (PF) candidate Mr Obert Mpfu and to encourage those attending to vote for him. In the course of the meeting both Mr Zinyemba and "Awusozeumpindeumbone" said that people in Nyamandhlovu would be called to another meeting in Nyamandhlovu after our client, Mr Robin Greaves, "had been killed". At this meeting Mr Greaves' head, having been cut off, would be presented to the people. There was specific reference to the "old man Greaves". The meeting was advised that they (ZANU (PF)) did not want his son, Mr Harry Greaves. The reason that the "old man" was selected was because he was alleged "not to live peacefully with the people" whereas the son did. The meeting was further advised that they, namely ZANU (PF), "had already killed one person", namely Martin Olds, who was murdered on the 18th April. Also in the course of the meeting Mr Zinyemba advised those attending the meeting that after the elections, whether Mr Mpfu won or lost, they would "go after" MDC supporters and youth. Those attending the meeting were advised that they, namely Mr Mpfu and his supporters, would check each ballot box to see which area had voted for respective candidates. If it was found that certain areas had voted for the MDC candidate then retribution would be brought against that particular area. In the course of the same meeting security guards employed by commercial farmers in the area were called together and shown a pile of shamboks in

the back of vehicles driven by Mr Zinyemba and the ZANU (PF) members who had accompanied him to the meeting. The security guards were advised that the sjamboks would be used to beat people who were suspected of being MDC supporters.

Other incidents

Other incidents that have been reported in this province include the following:

29 March, Bubi farming area

The head of the war veterans, Chenjerai Hunzvi and around 70 of his supporters brought in from Mashonaland made an intimidatory propaganda visit to a white game rancher, together with television cameras from the government sponsored media. They proceeded to bully this man and confiscate his licensed weapons in front of the cameras. Property was destroyed and stolen. This was clearly a propaganda stunt – the farmer was accused of supporting MDC. The weapons were all later returned by the police, after Hunzvi's departure.

29 March, Bubi farming area

The above group of war veterans also beat up the black manager of the local bottle store.

Week of 12 April

Army units wearing red berets were seen in Bulawayo, and also in Matabeleland North and South: this is intimidatory, as it reminds people of the murderous 5 Brigade, who wore red berets in the 1980s.

18 April, Nyamandlovu

The murder of Martin Olds on his farm in by 120 armed "war veterans"

11 May Nkayi

Headmaster of local school beaten by war veterans. Their identities are known. He and his staff are accused of supporting MDC and are threatened with death. He escaped and fled to Bulawayo.

13 May Nyamandlovu

The MDC candidate has his house burnt to the ground by 15 Zanu (PF) youths, losing everything including his maize crop. Nearby villagers including women and a 7 year old, are brutally beaten during this incident, and have property destroyed. The candidate is absent and therefore escapes alive. The youth claim they were following orders from the local member of parliament, Mr Obert Mpofo. The MDC youths effect a citizen's arrest of some of the perpetrators, but at the police station, the perpetrators are freed and the MDC supporters are detained in jail.

14 May Nyamandlovu

Two MDC supporters are brutally beaten by Zanu (PF) supporters after being abducted at gun-point. One loses a testicle as a result of the violence. Property is also stolen.

16 May

4 MDC supporters are threatened with death.

16 May Ntabazinduna

War veterans terrorise the area from morning till evening. People are assaulted and threatened and property is destroyed.

22 May Nyamandlovu

A woman is severely beaten with sjamboks. A councillor is also severely assaulted. He ran away and his whereabouts are unknown.

3 June, Futhu, Bubi/Unguza

A shop belonging to *Independent* candidate Mr. M.H. Ncube went up in smoke after arsonists burnt it down; Mr Ncube has earlier received several threats from Zanu (PF) supporters for challenging their candidate in the Bubi/Unguza constituency.

6 June, Nyamandlovu

Mr. Robin Greaves, a white farmer, has filed charges against two Zanu (PF) campaign managers in the Bubi/Mguza constituency after they allegedly threatened to behead him. In a meaning with farm workers

of Matambo farm the campaign managers said Greaves would be decapitated and his head would be presented to the people.

22 June, Inyathi

Amani reports that two girls, aged 14 and 15, have been raped by a person who searched their house for MDC membership cards, ID cards and money. When he did not find the parents at home and had collected money and cards, he took the girls to the bush and raped them.

MATABELAND SOUTH

Teachers

Most primary schools in Filabusi were temporarily closed for most of the past two weeks as teachers in the area were accused of supporting MDC vice president Gibson Sibanda, who comes from the area.

Other incidents

Other incidents that have been reported in this province include the following:

Week of 12 April

Civilians living on communal farms near Empandeni Mission, Matabeleland South, were woken at 2 am and forced by armed war veterans to leave their homes and stake land claims on two white-owned commercial farms, against their will. They are being forced to remain on these farms, and told to build new homesteads there, but they are concerned about their crops at their original homesteads, as they now cannot harvest them, or protect them from monkeys.

Week of 25 April

Eyewitness accounts of the ZANU (PF) MP for Gwanda District conducting his election campaign mainly around the statement that those who did not vote for him would be murdered and their bodies thrown into the nearby dam.

Week of 25 April to the present, Matabeleland

Many first hand accounts given to AMANI Trust staff of gross intimidation including death threats, threats of assault, and most ominously threats of disappearance, being repeatedly given at ZANU (PF) rallies, and people feeling coerced into buying ZANU (PF) membership cards. These threats have been widely recorded in Gwanda, Matobo, Tsholotsho and Lupane Districts so far, and it is rural civilians who are being targeted.

3 May, Filabusi

The MDC candidate is very seriously assaulted by ZANU (PF) supporters, several other MDC supporters and bystanders seriously assaulted – reports and medical records still coming in on this incident. MDC candidate – serious head injuries, MDC driver - back injuries, MDC supporter – stabbed in head with screw driver: serious face to face death threats and beatings of several others including a local headmaster from surrounding villages, and women MDC supporters. This is home district of Gibson Sibanda, Vice President of MDC.

10 May, Bulilimangwe,

A villager accused of supporting MDC severely beaten by war veterans: continuing stories of forced resettlement of some villagers against their will, and of many verbal and physical threats. Violence reported at Plumtree business center and at nearby Diba, resulting in 10 hospitalisations

14 May Plumtree

A Zimrights member has his front door chopped down at 1.00 am by 20 war veterans and Zanu (PF) supporters and is accused of being an MDC supporter. He is beaten and so are his wife, his 4 year old child and his uncle. His house is searched. They find a medical card made from the side of packet of sterilised gloves is found. It has a picture of a hand on it and this is taken as evidence of his support for MDC. The man is nearly killed. He is hospitalised with three fractured bones and head wounds.

15 May Filabusi

The trial of the Zanu (PF) supporters accused of brutally assaulting an MDC candidate was postponed.

17 May Kezi

Two farm workers are beaten by war veterans.

18 May Malopa, Plumtree

Zanu (PF) supporters attack villagers gathered to attend MDC rally, assaulting several people.

20 May Plumtree

MDC supporter is severely assaulted. There is a police report on his injuries.

South

22 June, Beitbridge

The *Financial Gazette* reports that hundreds of Zimbabweans from Matabeleland are fleeing the country ahead of the elections, mainly to South-Africa and Botswana, claiming that they have been threatened with death if the MDC beats the Zanu (PF) in the elections, with some war veterans even referring to a return of "Gukarahundi", the North-Korean trained Fifth Brigade who massacred thousands of innocent civilians in the early 1980s in Matabeleland and Midland provinces.

19 June, Filabusi

South African observers based in Filabusi have reported to Amani Trust that there is a lot of fear in the area, with people mostly staying indoors, and locking themselves into their houses before sunset. They also report that they are generally welcomed warmly by MDC members, but treated with hostility by Zanu (PF) members.

20 June, Esigodini

Amani has received reports that black employees working for white employers (in this case a shoe-shop-owner) have been threatened by war veterans, saying whites should not exist in this country.

25 June Plumtree

An Amani Projects Officer reports that one war veteran lost an eye as he opposed the idea of preventing MDC having a meeting at Dingumuzi soccer stadium here; other war veterans who were also against the idea were dragged out of their homes or work places and wantonly assaulted by their comrades.

June, Bulawayo

According to an unconfirmed report from Nketa, two MDC supporters were abducted by Zanu (PF) supporters and war veterans, and beaten with guns, axes, machetes, knobkerries, sticks and iron bars. One managed to escape, but the other was severely beaten, especially on his private parts. Both were taken to Mpilo hospital for treatment.

4 July, Plumtree

Amani reports that two MDC members, Mr. C N and Mr. S N, have disappeared on the night of 26 June during the counting of votes at Plumtree High School, and have not been seen since.

Reports of MDC violence

The following incidents were reported in the *Sunday Mail* on 11 June

13 April Plumtree

MDC member Jaulani Ngwenya assaulted Freedom Tshuma, the Plumtree district chairman.

19 April Pumula.

Three ex-combatants were assaulted by a large group of MDC supporters at Pumula Shopping Centre. One of the ex-combatants was stabbed with a knife on the leg.

MIDLANDS

Killings

An MDC activist, Finos Zhau, 23, died on 9 June. He had been abducted together with his brother from a Growth Point in Mberengwa by a mob of Zanu (PF) supporters. They took the brothers to a nearby farm which was being used as a base by the war veterans. They were held for three to four days. Over that

period they were interrogated and viciously beaten up. After they were released Finos died and the other brother had to be rushed to hospital for treatment for serious injuries including a broken leg.

Also on 9 June in Mberengwa a Zanu (PF) died after being stabbed by an MDC member. The police say that the Zanu (PF) man was drinking beer at a business centre when a suspected MDC supporter ordered him to take off his Zanu (PF) T-shirt, saying it was out of place. This resulted in an altercation between the two. It is alleged that the MDC supporter pulled out a knife and stabbed the Zanu (PF) supporter in the chest and the victim died before he could be taken to hospital.

Rapes

On June 3 the MDC reported in the Mutaga area there had been nine reports of war veterans raping women. In one instance seven men claiming to be Zanu-PF supporters attacked the wife of a senior MDC official in her bedroom to “punish her for selling MDC cards” She was held down at each arm and each leg by four men, a fifth man sat on her neck and pummelled her while they took turns beating her and her husband claims she was raped. They beat her so severely that she can barely walk and her skin is navy with bruises. Sekai Holland, the MDC candidate for the area says: “the woman now walks around telling people she is no longer a person.” It is alleged that when the woman’s husband went to report the rape to the police they told him they had no time to help him. It is further alleged that the attackers later beat him up with rocks and when he reported to this to the police they said they could not assist. A few days later this man was taken off a bus and savagely beaten.

Violence against teachers and nurses

In Mberengwa about 30 people Zanu (PF) supporters harassed teachers at Mnene primary and secondary schools and abducted a temporary teacher.

1 June, Mberengwa

Seven schools in Mberengwa have been closed after suspected war veterans and Zanu (PF) militants launched a terror crusade at Matanga Growth Point and surrounding areas last Sunday. Scores of teachers were beaten up and fled for their safety. The militants first broke into an MDC office and confiscated a supporter’s register which they later used to identify teachers and villagers as MDC supporters.

On 1 June in Mberengwa West A group of war veterans forced at least two teachers at Ruvabku to go and victimize Nkomo, a teacher who had to flee from Chegato Primary School several teachers were singled out by war veterans suspected of being MDC supporters. At Maringambizi Secondary School war veterans descended on the female head and threatened two teachers before setting the school library on fire, which partly burnt.

1 June, Mnene

A nurse at Mnene Hospital and a teacher at a primary school are reported to have been beaten up with electrical cords and sticks threatened to be killed, stripped naked, forced to climb trees and jump from three meters, then frogmarched to Texas Farm where war veterans camp, serving as a self-styled re-education camp. The Lutheran Church issued a press release on the issue.

Violence against opposition party office bearers and supporters

The violence against members of the opposition started to intensify towards the end of May. One area that has been very badly affected are Mberengwa and Gokwe.

These are a selection of statements taken from victims:

Case 1 – Area: Mberengwa

A female MDC member relates how on 6 March about 20 Zanu (PF) members assaulted her and three other women. She was assaulted with a crowbar. One of the assailants whom she knows said: “I know you are members of MDC who want to disrupt Mberengwa. If we target you first then others won’t join the party.” She filed a report with the police after the incident. The on 28 May

Zanu (PF) supporters surrounded her house. They took her husband outside for questioning and told him to produce MDC cards and T-shirts. They then took her and her husband away. Her story goes on as follows:

They took me and my husband and force marched us. We met up with other MDC supporters, who were also brought along. In the end there was about twelve of us, and we were surrounded by about 500 Zanu (PF) supporters bearing spears, axes, knobkerries and planks with nails. They made us sit under some trees about 500m from the road. We were made to sit in a row, and they surrounded us, not allowing us to look around. They then started to beat us with their hands and their tools. One of us was already injured, since he had been beaten before as he tried to get away. After the torture, I was asked to go back home. They wanted me to collect everything from home – my register, MDC cards, T-shirts, and the names of people who had been beaten by the war vets previously. They threatened to cut my head off if I didn't agree. The Zanu (PF) supporters included youths and war vets, women and men. After I surrendered the items that they required, they made my husband pack, because he is from Zaka – they told him to go home. Christen Ncube went into the house and searched for all the items that belonged to my husband, and threw them into a suitcase. He carried the case to my husband at the tree, and threw it at him. There were 8 policemen there, whom we knew from Mataga, but they didn't accompany us. These policemen watched the beating. There was also Walter Mazhimhanga, a CIO officer from Mataga. Then one of the policemen, Mr Machingura (asked the Zanu (PF) members to produce a document from Rugare Gumbo, the Zanu (PF) candidate to say that my husband must leave. They could not produce such a document so the policeman said that my husband shouldn't leave.

My husband was allowed to go back to the house and stay. On 1 May we had moved into the premises of Mrs Holland's "Peace House". The Zanu (PF) members demanded that we leave the place where we live. There were normally three guys staying with us, the ones who had been attacked by Big Chitoro, but they were not there at the time. We didn't leave the house, because we were unable to get out without being captured.

On Monday we managed to escape, since the monitoring was continuing, and crept to the police where we made a report. We then spent the day in the forest. In the evening we came back. Zanu (PF) came and told us that some of them were looking for us and wanted to kill us. That evening my husband slept in the bush.

On Wednesday morning we went to a workshop held by Mrs Holland. There were mostly women there – over 20 of us – because it was a women's workshop. We were taught how to make peanut butter and soap. We were mostly outside, although there were some of us inside. The Zanu (PF) members came to disrupt the meeting. Our MDC security (16 guys) went outside and tried to prevent this, although they were trying not to pick a fight. The Zanu (PF) people threatened to machete our security, who then disarmed one of them and proceeded to beat him up. They took him to the police at Mataga. All of the Mataga police came around with guns and batons and started chasing our security. Most of them got away, but unfortunately some of the men were still in the house. Mrs Holland was taken to the police, and we were all remanded in police custody. We remained there overnight, and in the morning (1 June), we were ferried to Zvishavane in a police Defender. They had heard that the war vets wanted to cut off our heads. We were all taken at about 1130 am. 8 members of MDC (mostly men) were said to have been beaten by Zanu (PF), but not yet in Zvishavane.

The police never do anything. The Zanu (PF) people have a base at Bara farm, run by Zephaniah Hove. They are led by Big Chitoro, the war veteran. He patrols both Bara Farm and the Cold Storage Commission at the Mberengwa turnoff, which is another base. If a bus comes along the road, they will stop it and make people get off it. They then demand Zanu (PF) cards, saying it is a passport into the area – without it you cannot enter. If you do not carry a card they will not allow you in, stopping you by force. People are beaten for not possessing Zanu (PF) cards.

I cannot go back until after the elections – if they even see us they will kill us. They took all our property, but have only the clothes that we are wearing. The houses were burnt down, and we have nothing else. The Zanu (PF) people are now telling people that the ballot box machines record whether you vote for MDC, and they take your picture if you do. They are threatening people with death if they vote for Zanu (PF).

Case 2 – Area: Mberengwa

On 15 May he was attacked at his school house (he live beside his parents). The school house was destroyed, and the property inside was stolen and destroyed. 3 teachers were hurt and his 17 year old cousin was attacked, suffering injuries on the shoulder. He personally received two axe blows to the head, and suffered from a broken tibia as a result of five axe cuts. He was left for dead, and was unconscious for 30 minutes.

The attack was led by George Makombe (who threatened victim's father before the incident), and included some 10-15 ZANU (PF) supporters, 6-8 of whom were personally involved in the attack. They attacked with axes, knives, sticks and stones, and petrol bombed the house. Other perpetrators

included: Mr Mombe, a teacher from the neighbouring school (St Paul's), who has been involved in acts of violence for a long time and was active in disturbances in 1985; Bob Matsvimbo is said to have been present; Mr Madharani of Samambwa School; Engineer Mackenzie (Ncube?) Mackenzie's truck was involved in the attack (identified by villagers). Sithole is a major in the army. Various other Zanu (PF) officials at the district level (in Kwekwe) were involved in training and planning. Some of the people who attacked were ferried from Kwekwe to Zvombe in trucks. There were 2 vehicles (pickups), and about 20 people, who arrived at the same time at the primary school. The main reason for the attack is that they thought the victim was trained by the NDI and involved in the training of polling monitors.

Case 3 – Area: Mberengwa (This incident occurred in May)

I had gone to see my brother. I started to go to the Post Office. A man from Zanu (PF) near the post office told me to stop. He came and told me to show them my Zanu (PF) card. I said I left it at home. Then I saw there were around 400 of the Zanu (PF) supporters around, the majority of them wearing Zanu (PF) T-shirts. One of them I knew, a man who charges batteries at Mutskanane, 6 kilometres away. I greeted him. Nobody knew me in Mataga except this guy. They said "Rufaro, you are MDC". I pushed into the post office and the workers shut the door. I ran behind the counter, where they kept the money, but 3 Zanu (PF) members came in from the back. They beat me and cut me with axes. It lasted about 6 minutes. Then police from Gweru intervened, threw a tear gas canister, and took me into their car. They caught one person, and I made a report with Mataga police. I was taken to Musumi hospital after 12 in the afternoon – I had been beaten with axes, and my hands were swollen and my head hurt. (Medical report shown - according to the report, he sustained injuries to the parietal region, and required dressings, which were still worn at the time of the interview).

Case 4- Area: Mberengwa

I am an ordinary youth member for MDC based at Mataga growth point. On 29 May 2000 at around 4.00 pm whilst we were at our shop, more than fifty armed Zanu (PF) supporters came chanting and shouting slogans. They demanded MDC T-Shirts and party cards. They started stoning us and destroyed our grinder and drilling machine. The police then came and dispersed them and took us to Mataga police station. They could not evacuate them from the growth point. Our whole family of five put up at the station for three nights. Again on 3 June around 9.00 pm they also came at our homestead and our homestead and burnt our granary and we lost all the property. The group was being led by Patrick Masonda, Langton Mangena, Tawona Siziba, Big Chitoro and another teacher at Zvishava primary known as Shiri. They also set fire on our clothes. On 4 June around 5.00 am they also came singing, assaulting our father who was forcefully took away our MDC cards and took us to a nearby bush and assaulted us with sticks and anything they could come across. I could not identify any of our assailants but were being sent to harass us by Big Chitoro's group. We were told not to report the matter or seek medication. When we returned all our clothing had been stolen from thereon they were threatening us day in day out and said that they did not want to see any MDC member at Mataga. Currently I am having problems with my back because of the matter but no action was taken.

Case 5- Area: Mberengwa

I am an ordinary MDC member based at Utsanana Business Centre. It was on 4 June 2000 around 7.00 pm when a group of about twenty Zanu (PF) supporters came to my place demanding my MDC membership card and demanded me to chant their slogan. They were being led by Judson Hove, Hlazo Moyo a headmaster. I managed to escape and footed all night and then hitchhiked to Zvishavane then Bulawayo. When I left they assaulted my wife and took away our membership card. They took her to a nearby township where they forced her to buy a Zanu (PF) card together with one of my sons. When she came back she discovered that four of her pots were missing and seven blankets. I reported the matter at Bulawayo central police station but no action has been taken. I then went and stayed with my brother. I managed to go back and vote but not in our area. After elections on Friday 7 June Judson and his young brothers came threatening to burn my whole homestead. I did not report the threats to the police.

Case 6 - Area: Mberengwa

I am the youth secretary for MDC based at Chingoma (Mataga). On the 24 May at around 8.00 pm several Zanu (PF) supporters came to my homestead and demanded to see me. They started assaulting me with sticks. The group was being led by one Langton Mangena, Festo Jamela (war veteran), Endsen Dube Chilami, Davison Chipenyu, Clifford Donsa and others. Previously they had held a rally in the neighbourhood and had been influenced by one Elia Dube who had told the gathering that our whole family belongs to MDC. They then took clothing including my children's one mattress and burnt them. Also taken away was my bicycle and \$3000.00 cash and ordered me

to take them to one of the MDC members. They started assaulting Chiwe Hove (Mai Anna) who was an MDC member. They also came and killed one of my beasts and left it and then demanded my MDC membership card which I gave them. They told me that they were assaulting me for being an MDC member. I told them that I was going to report them, but they said that they had the blessing of Early Shiri and Josphat Shumba (former MP), Mai Shirichena and Big Chitoro, and the police were not going to arrest them. Also Abel Masiya Machambanje, Kennedy Hove (war vet), Patrick Dube Karichana (war vet), Tobia Makwati Badza were the ring leaders. It was now difficult to campaign for MDC in the area, because of the threats and assault to opposition members by the Zanu (PF) supporters.

Case 7 - Area: Mberengwa

I am a security member for the MDC based at Mataga. On 25 May at around 11.00 pm I was at Mataga Night Club with 2 of my friends. Suddenly the doors were closed. Some Zanu (PF) youths and ex-combatants started abusing me and accusing me of being a sellout. The security guard for the night club then handcuffed me. His name is Later. They then started assaulting me with open hands, iron bars and booted feet. My colleagues managed to escape. He (Later) ordered the youths to stop assaulting me, and then he and Samuel Hungwe took over. They assaulted me and demanded my MDC membership card and the t-shirt. Lost consciousness.

They took me to a certain room in the night club when I came around. One of them ordered the others to take me to the ZRP camp. Along the way they started assaulting me again, and they tightened the handcuffs. We arrived at the camp around 3am, and the handcuffs were removed. They left me there, and a man called Ngwenya came and explained the whole incident to the police. Some members of the MDC then came around at 6.00 am and took me to Musume Hospital, where I received medication. The following day they came again and took the list of MDC members from our offices and then burnt it. Although a report was made, no arrests have so far been made.

Case 8 - Area: Mberengwa

I was a polling agent for the MDC, which was being represented by Mrs Sekai Holland in Mberengwa East. On 23 June, at around 7.00 pm, I alighted from a bus that had brought me from Zvishavane to Musume Mission in Mberengwa. As I alighted, I was abducted by a group of 3 people that I do not know. They were calling me by my name. They asked for any ID and they had an issue of the *Daily News* that had the names of some polling agents based at Musume. They compared the list, and my name appeared. They demanded a Zanu (PF) card from me to prove that I was not an MDC member, which I failed to produce. They started assaulting me with iron bars. There was now fifteen of them, and they took cash amounting to \$700 from me. I suffered head and back injuries. The people then ran away, leaving me bleeding profusely from the head. I spent the night on the verandah of a shop at Musume Business Centre, and the following morning I went and reported the matter at Mataga Police station. I was referred to Musume Hospital for treatment, but I could not go back to the same place where I was assaulted. I went to a nearby clinic, where I received medication (Mataga Health Centre). When I left there had been no arrests, but CID officers had been deployed to the area to try and arrest the culprits.

Case 9 - Area: Mberengwa

I am the MDC chairperson for Mberengwa East, based at Mataga. It started when the results of the February referendum came out. They started intimidating me because I was the chairperson. They alleged that I was responsible for the campaigning of the no vote. From there, they attacked my shop several times, and I made reports to the police on 39 different occasions. No action was taken at any point. Windows were destroyed, and the telephone was disconnected and vandalized. On another occasion cash amounting to \$3000 was stolen, together with several MDC documents. The Zanu (PF) supporters were being led by Early Masendu Shiri and Later, who is a security guard at Mataga Night Club. Joram Chirasha, who is a businessman, and the provincial Zanu (PF) headquarters were providing the transport to ferry the supporters to meetings. One headmaster, Munyaradzi Ndlovu, Mai Matavire, Mai Mapingire, P.P. Shumba (an ex-combatant), Fidzi Shiri, Ernest Shoko, Sikhangizile and Sithaviso Mataka, and Joyce Chinyoka were present in all the disturbances, and intimidation. My shop was burnt down on 31 May, and I lost property worth over \$700 000.

On 11 May, Zanu (PF) held a rally at Mataga Council Hall, addressed by Richard Hove, and it was ordered that I should be murdered by 24 and 25 April (election date). On the hit list were more than 20 MDC members who were also supposed to be eliminated by election time. We could not easily campaign because they could come and intimidate us.

On 30 May, I fled after some Zanu (PF) supporters had planned to abduct and kill me. I went and stayed at Buchwa, with another family. Before that I had spent 7 days hiding in the mountains. On 31 May I was assaulted by 7 people whom I do not know. They were using sticks to hit me, and I suffered some injuries, including my left knee and arm. This was the seventh and last time I was

assaulted. I then went and sought refuge in Zvishavane, where there were about 40 to 50 other political refugees. My house was also destroyed, along with all the property inside it, and they are currently using my house as a toilet. I discovered this when I went there with the NCA people. My family and workers have deserted the place, without any other property than the clothes that they were wearing (the same applies to me). I received medication for the injuries sustained during the assaults. Some sort of compensation was promised for the property that had been destroyed. On several occasions the Mataga police could not take action and at times shouted at us for disturbing their nights with their wives because of the numerous reports of violence.

Case 10 - Area: Mberengwa

I was an MDC polling agent at Chipfumba Primary School in Mberengwa. On 24 June we were being deployed to our polling stations in the back of an open truck. As we passed through Tom shopping centre, some Zanu (PF) supporters led by Biggie Chitoro started throwing stones at us. One of the stones struck me on the knee, and I began to bleed. We managed to escape, and were deployed. We made a report to the police at ZRP Mataga, but no arrests had been made by the day we left. I received treatment for my knee at Zvishavane district hospital.

Case 11 - Area: Mberengwa

I am the youth secretary for MDC based at Mataga in Mberengwa. On 30 May, a man called Later came leading a group of about 2000 Zanu (PF) supporters to my house at around 3 pm. They were singing revolutionary songs, and started destroying window panes. They broke through the door and dragged me out of the house. There were two of us in the house and the other one, (Tsodzo), who had come in from Harare with Mrs Holland was initially left alone. They started assaulting me with sticks and batons. I lost consciousness, and when I came around, they had already left the scene. Some of the people involved were: Ronica Siluli, Alice, Portia, Phidz Hugwe, Learnmore, Memory, MaNdlovu, Ernest and several others whom I recognized. Others are Sithabile and Sikhangezile Mataka.

I had messed myself when I woke up, and they came back singing. I hid in the toilet, and they started burning our clothes and books, cutting up mattresses, and burning the blankets. They could not locate me in the toilet. I managed to escape to the ZRP camp at around 7.00 pm, and made a report. We spent one day at the camp, and left for Zvishavane. We then left for Harare (8 of us), and were transferred to a house in Waterfalls. We managed to go and vote back in Mberengwa.

Case 12 - Area: Mberengwa

I am an ordinary MDC member based in Mberengwa. On 10 June I repaired two punctured tyres for an MDC official who had come for a rally in Mberengwa. 5 Zanu (PF) supporters came to my house, but they could not locate me. Three people came back on 24 May and they accused me of being a sellout. The people were Chitova, Svinurai and another whose name I have forgotten. They ordered me to lock my doors and follow them. I asked them our destination, but they refused to tell me. One of them entered my room and grabbed me by the hand, and I pushed him away. He signalled for his other colleagues to come, and they surrounded my place (there was about thirty of them). They started assaulting me with booted feet and open hands.

They tied my hands and ordered me to go to Texas Farm, which is about thirty kilometers away. I was being forced to dive into the water whenever we came across a pond or river, and was assaulted all the way to the farm. At the farm I was assaulted by yet another group of people, who were singing Chimurenga songs. Two other people who had been abducted were also brought. They started assaulting all of us with sticks. We were forced to go to the cattle dip and made to swim. We were not allowed to come out of the tank, even when we began to tire. They had surrounded the tank, and they assaulted any one of us trying to come out of the tank.

After that we were ordered to come out and wriggle on the ground like snakes for a distance of about 20 to 30 metres, but we could not. They then continued assaulting us, but saw that we couldn't take much more. We were then told to jump like frogs, but we couldn't. They allowed us to walk to their base. Some of them told us to climb a tree then jump out of it headlong, but we refused. The assault then continued. They took some hot ashes and poured them down the trousers of the other two people.

Then one of their commanders (Makoni) arrived and told them to stop. We then warmed ourselves by the fire, and we slept there. The following day we could not walk, so we put up there for another night. They then escorted us back to our villages. We were told not to report to the police or to seek medication, but I had to. I went to Munene Hospital and received some treatment. They could not take an X-ray because there was a power cut, and I did not come back when they asked me to, for fear of another abduction.

Case 13 - Area: Mberengwa

I am a branch secretary for the MDC in our home area, Mataga. Several threats were being issued by Hlazo Moyo (a headmaster at Chomonyaka Primary School), Judson Hove, Dennis Hove, Ziziso Mutsungi, and Zaranyika Hove, who were the ring leaders. They said they were going to abduct and kill myself and my fellow MDC members. On 3 June, there was a meeting (Zanu (PF)) which was addressed by one Rugare Gumbo, Vunganai Ngezvenyu, Ziviso Mutsungi and Hlazo Moyo, where our names were mentioned so that we could be targeted together with our families. The same day saw my whole homestead being burnt down to ashes, and I lost the whole property.

The group which burnt my homestead was being led by Webster Khumalo, and included Judson Hove and Zenias Mutsungi. This all happened when I had gone to Mataga to apply for a liquor license for my young brother. We were both arrested, but I was later released. My brother is out on bail, but I am not being charged with anything. I then sought refuge at the MDC centre in Zvishavane, where I have been staying since 2 June. I only went back to my home together with Australian journalists, who wanted first-hand information. Lost virtually everything, and the property is worth more than \$800 000.

We were promised some compensation by the MDC. I could manage to go and vote in Chief Mataruse at Chemimwe Secondary School, which is some distance from my home area.

The MDC could not campaign in the area, because of the intimidation and the assaults by Zanu (PF) supporters, who could use anything to attack us. After elections I went back to my place and discovered that only a bed and a wardrobe had been spared the fire. My children are no longer going to school, because they do not have uniforms.

Case 14 - Area: Mberengwa

I am the MDC organizing secretary in the Manyenge area. On 1 May, at around 11.00 pm the Zanu (PF) supporters began to intimidate all the MDC members in earnest. It all began when I had gone to a development meeting in our area. I was approached by Senzeni Mapingire, who is a member of the Zanu (PF) central committee. She also called ward councilor Phillip Chishava and Marias Gambiza (who is the ward secretary). Senzeni then asked me whether I was conducting meetings for MDC and I was mobilizing support for the opposition party. I denied it, and asked them for the source. Previously, I had been the Zanu (PF) secretary in the same area. From then on they asked every MDC member to surrender all MDC material to PP Shumba, who is an ex-combatant and a teacher at a nearby school. Several members were assaulted and had their villages burnt by the Zanu (PF) supporters, who were being led by S Mapingire, Rudo Mabhena, and Madhafu Moyo (Dube), a war vet. They also assaulted severely 2 teachers who suffered serious injuries.

When I went back to my homestead after the meeting with Senzeni, my husband told me that the Zanu (PF) people had spent the whole day looking for me. I fled to my parents' home area, but the problem was even worse there. I went back to my place and spent two days sleeping in the bush. One of my husband's brothers, Brilliant Zhou, came looking for me, trying to abduct me. I had already fled to Chivi at that time (I left on 1 May). He beat my children, trying to get them to tell him where I was, and was assaulted by my husband before some of his Zanu (PF) colleagues appeared. I heard about this on 22 May.

From Chivi I then went to Zvishavane, and was staying at an MDC house. All the MDC members were ordered to surrender their membership cards so that their safety could be guaranteed. I also sent mine from Zvishavane to P.P. Shumba. We were forced to buy Zanu (PF) cards and road blocks were being set up to search for anyone without a Zanu (PF) card. People were being assaulted for not possessing one and I renounced my MDC card and bought a Zanu (PF) card so that I could travel safely. The MDC could not campaign in my home area because of the intimidation and assaults by the Zanu (PF) supporters.

I heard from my husband that one time when they came looking for me in early June they took 3 blankets, one bedspread, 2 sets of cups and a set of plates. There were about seven schools which had been closed before the elections because the teachers were being accused of supporting the MDC. Some of the MDC members (11) were assaulted twice in June by Zanu (PF) supporters led by Rudo Mabhena. Also, one Biggie Chitoro, who does not know me, came looking for me and met my husband at Chirovandowo Township. He asked for my whereabouts, but my husband lied to him. Chitoro said that he wanted to get rid of me because of my allegiance to the MDC. They also burnt a car and some clothes of a Mr Mlilo, whose house we were using as a meeting place.

I am currently afraid to go back to my place for fear of victimization by the Zanu (PF) supporters. They said, through PP Shumba, that I could come back if I was brave enough, but they could not guarantee my safety.

Case 15 - Area: Mberengwa

On 28 May, at 11.00 am, 500 Zanu (PF) supporters came to the complainant in Mataga and demanded that he surrender all his MDC property. This included 500 party cards, and 500 T-shirts.

He was forced to chant Zanu (PF) slogans and to denounce the MDC and its leadership. Then he was assaulted using open hands and sjamboks. The police were present, and just watched from a safe distance of about 100m. On 31 May he was arrested at a UNDP workshop, whilst Zanu (PF) supporters burned down the Guta Steel Works.

Case 16 - Area: Mberengwa

The client was trying to cross the Nyamuzara River on 14 May, at around midnight, when he was accosted by 51 Zanu (PF) supporters. They assaulted him, using open hands, clenched fists, and booted feet. They also pulled his ears with pliers. On 17 May, at 8.00 am, Stan Muzondo and Tendai Teketa abducted the complainant from his home, handcuffed him, and then assaulted him. He sustained multiple injuries, and still has problems with his ears (he is unable to hear clearly).

Case 17- Area: Mberengwa

On 27 April, at about midnight, the complainant was attacked at Taruvunga Village by a group of about 100 war veterans and Zanu (PF) youths. The group had gathered at about 5.00 pm at CCB Investments Bottle Store in Kwavamutangwe Shopping Centre, and was accompanied by Terence Gumbo. They forced entry into the bottle store (where he was hiding), so he escaped through the window. He was pursued. Kudakwashe Matsheza reported this to the Mataga police.

On 15 May, about 150 ex-combatants and Zanu (PF) youths armed with knobkerries and chains came to his house at about 8.00 am. They demanded that three people come forward. The complainants' ID and MDC party card were taken.

The assailants were identified as: Absent Foloma (Zanu (PF) youth leader), David Chihora, Taruvonga Ngwenya (war vet), Tyson Ngwenya (youth leader), Mr Shiri (a teacher from Zvishava Primary School, and the person who provided the transport), and Big Chitoro (who led the attack. He is 27, and is commanding operations throughout the area).

Case 18 - Area: Mberengwa

The complainant was sold out by her brother who identified her as an MDC supporter. On the 24 May, at 11.00 pm, 40 Zanu (PF) youths and ex-combatants arrived at her house, armed with knobkerries and sjamboks. They assaulted her, and forced her to chant Zanu (PF) slogans and songs. She was also forced to attend Zanu (PF) rallies in the area. She was admitted to hospital on the 3 June. She is 9 months pregnant, and requires medical attention. The client was able to identify a man called Andson as one of her assailants

Case 19- Area: Mberengwa

On the 15 May on or about 8.00 pm a group of about 20 Zanu (PF) supporters attacked the Mudondo family where 19 year old Tinomutenda was sleeping. They forced entry into the house and unlawfully removed there from all his clothes and bedding material. Tinomutenda escaped and he fled to Zvishavane where he stayed with Farayi Maruzani the MDC candidate for Zvishavane constituency.

On 23 June Tinomutenda went to Rwavamutange where he was supposed to be the MDC polling agent. As he boarded off the bus he was ambushed by a group of Zanu (PF) supporters who assaulted him using chains, sjamboks, knobkerries and various other hard and sharp objects. Tinomutenda sustained bruises all over his body and his kidneys were damaged. On 24 June he was taken to White Hospital in Zvishavane and on 26 June he was admitted at the Avenues clinic.

Tinomutenda can identify Absent Foloma as the leader of the group that attacked him in Rwavamutange.

Case 20- Area: Mberengwa

On 3 June a Zanu (PF) rally was held at Mutsanana Shopping Centre. At the rally a least of all people perceived to be MDC supporters was read out. These people were urged to surrender MDC party cards or risk facing unspecified harm. This announcement was made by a man only identified as Mr Shiri.

On 4 June around 8.00 pm a group of war veterans made a raid on the Mutengwa family. The war veterans removed all property belonging to Bramwell from the house and they set it on fire. The group which made the attack on this family was under the command of Tavona Chigwengwenene.

Case 21- Area: Mberengwa

Taruvona Moyo was a Zanu (PF) supporter before he defected to MDC. On 11 May a Zanu (PF) rally was held at Gwai Business Centre. The rally was addressed by the party's provincial leadership. At this gathering Taruvona Moyo was approached by Tavona Dziva of chief Chingoma

from Chikona village. He was accused of being a sellout and was then subjected to severe beating. This attack was made in front of Joram Gumbo, then the incumbent MP for Mberengwa West who did not do anything to stop or restrain the Zanu (PF) supporters.

On 23 May at 12 midnight a group of 25 Zanu (PF) supporters made another attack on Mr Moyo. They dragged him out of his house and assaulted him using logs and various other hard and sharp objects. In the attack he lost \$1500 which was in his pocket. Further he was instructed to report to Lyford Nkomo every morning and evening and not to travel beyond a radius of 2 kilometres. He was warned that death would befall him if he made any attempt at reporting the matter to the police. As a result of the house arrest Mr Moyo could not seek medical attention.

Mr. Moyo can identify his assailants as Lyford Nkomo, Langton Mangena, Festo Jamela, Handsome Dube and Davison Matutu.

Case 22 - Area: Mberengwa

The complainant is the MDC chairperson for a district in Mberengwa. On 18 May at around 11.00 pm 5 Zanu (PF) youths approached Mr Dube and demanded that he chant Zanu (PF) slogans. He refused and with the help of two boys staying with him managed to chase the intruders away from his premises. The following day 19 May at around 8.00 pm the Zanu (PF) youths returned to his house and made a second attempt to attack him. To ward off the attack the complainant dowsed his assailants with paraffin and attempted to light them on, they fled off.

On 21 May around 10.00 pm a bunch of Zanu (PF) youths returned to the complainant's premises for the third time. They demanded from him a list of all those people who supported MDC. If he would not cooperate with them he was threatened with death. To demonstrate their seriousness they whipped him with a sjambok in the face. To defend himself the complainant armed himself with a knife and a spear. He forced his way into the crowd and disappeared into the bush. For 10 days he stayed in the bush.

The complainant later fled to Zvishavane and he has never returned home. He has been advised that most of his property was destroyed by the Zanu (PF) thugs. Specifically 5 cattle are missing, the granary was destroyed and all household goods was burnt.

The complainant can identify his assailants. They are Ritchard Hove of the Zanu (PF) central committee who instructed the party youths to beat up supporters of the opposition, Joram Gumbo who instructed Zanu (PF) area executives to spearhead the terror campaign, Milcoat Dziva who was commanding the operations on the ground and also Vice Chairman of the Zanu (PF) district executive, Abel Masiya Machambani (the Chairperson of the district) and Paul Maphosa (a deputy headmaster at Makuwaza school) and also Zanu (PF) chairperson of Mhokonya district, Dunda ward .

No action has been taken by the police.

Case 23- Area: Mberengwa

On 25 May at about 12 midnight a group of Zanu (PF) youths handcuffed Jemison Zhou and assaulted him using chains, sjamboks, open hands, clenched fists and booted feet. They assaulted him for almost 2hrs and he lost consciousness. At around 3am they dumped him at the police station alleging that they had effected a citizen's arrest for carrying a dangerous weapon.

The group which attacked Jemison was being led by Later Mapiye who is a security guard at Mataga Rural District Council Night Club. Mapiye was acting in common purpose with Samuel Hungwe and Stabile Mataka.

Case 24 - Area: Mberengwa

On 28 May a mob of 50 Zanu (PF) supporters went to Mataga Shopping Centre chanting party slogans. They denounced MDC and its leader Morgan Tsvangirayi. The group went to Tea Best Velt premises, where the complainant was staying. The mob demanded MDC party cards from her. She managed to escape and she fled to Mataga Police Station before leaving for Zvishavane at 0400hrs.

On 31 May the complainant, a woman, went back to Mataga together with Mrs Holland the MDC candidate for Mberengwa West constituency. On the day they arrived there was a UNDP workshop which was being attended by most women at the Growth Point, the complainant joined in. No sooner than they had began the workshop a group of about 200 Zanu (PF) supporters pounced on the women and started verbally assaulting them. The thugs latter abducted the complainant and assaulted her using baton sticks, sjamboks, axes and other various hard and sharp objects. All property in the complainant's house was either set on fire or taken away.

Sunungurayi identified her assailants as Latter Mapiye, Phillip Hungwe, Ronica Silului, Skanyisela Mataka, Stabile Mataka, Rejoice Chinyoka and other women only identified as Memory, Alice and Portia.

Case 25 - Area: Mberengwa

On 6 May at about 7.00 pm the complainant was denied entry into Mataga Night Club. Later Mapiye the security guard told her that the place was a no go area for MDC supporters. As she left the place she was followed by a group of Zanu (PF) supporters who physically assaulted her

On 27 May she was attacked by a group of Zanu (PF) supporters while she was at her house. She was forced to flee from her home and she went to Zvishavane. On 31 May she returned home together with Ms Holland the MDC candidate for Mberengwa West. On the day she returned home she joined a group of women who were at a UNDP workshop at the Growth Point. No sooner had the workshop began a group of men and women chanting Zanu (PF) slogans came and disrupted the meeting. They assaulted the women using sjamboks, sticks, open hands, clenched fists and booted feet. The group proceeded to forcefully open doors at houses belonging to perceived supporters of MDC. They unlawfully removed furniture and pieces of clothing from these houses.

In the group of assailants the complainant managed to identify Stabile Mataga, Mr. Jokonya and a woman only known to the complainant as Mandlovu.

Case 26 - Area: Mberengwa

The complainant is the MDC branch secretary for Mataga area. On 6 May the complainant was denied entry into Mataga Night Club. She was told by Later Mapiye the security guard that the premises the property of Mataga Rural District Council was no go area for MDC supporters. As the complainant left the premises she was followed by a mob of Zanu (PF) supporters. The group of about 10 men demanded Zanu (PF) party T shirts from her. The group alleged that she no longer was a Zanu (PF) supporter and had therefore to return the party's property. Without being given the opportunity to comply with the demand the complainant was struck in the face with an iron bar. She sustained a deep cut on the forehead close to the left eye.

On 8 March she was admitted at Musumi Hospital for medical attention.

On 28 May she was abducted by a group of about 200 Zanu (PF) supporters. She together with other suspected MDC supporters were forced to chant Zanu (PF) slogans and to utter the following derogatory terms "Tiri imbwa dza Tsvangirayi"

Case 27 - Area: Mberengwa

On 23 March the complainant was approached by 2 war veterans namely Walter Chiguzeni and Vambire Ncube. The war veterans accused the complainant of having campaigned for the no vote against the draft constitution. He was threatened with death for betraying the government by his participation in the no campaign. Further he was told that as a civil servant he was supposed to be loyal to the government.

On 5 May a group of about 38 Zanu (PF) youths and war veterans abducted Trynos Shava and Brighton Chinyaka who were sleeping at the complainant's business premises. The group had intended to kidnap the complainant but they had failed to locate him as he was in Bulawayo on business. Mr Shava and Mr Chinyaka were subjected to torture cruel, inhumane and degrading treatment. They were assaulted with various weapons including sticks and sjamboks. The two sustained multiple injuries including broken ribs and head injuries.

On 9 May the complainant received a death threat which was not signed but he reasonably believed this to be the work of Zanu (PF) supporters who had made a foiled attempt on his life.

On 11 May a Zanu (PF) rally was held at Mataga and one Absent Foloma read out the names of people who were on Zanu (PF) hit list. The complainant's name was among those names. Acting on a tip off, the complainant fled to Zvishavane.

On 13 May a group of about 80 Zanu (PF) supporters attempted another raid on the complainant. They did not find him as he had fled to Harare. The group has warned that they will deal with the complainant when he goes back.

Absent Foloma a war veteran is the leader of the group that is threatening the complainant.

Case 28- Area: Mberengwa

The complainant was the campaign manager for the MDC candidate for Mberengwa, Mrs Sekai Holland. Sometime in May but on a day which the complainant cannot specifically remember a group of Zanu (PF) youths and some war veterans did the following unlawful acts

On a day on which the MDC candidate was due to hold her campaign rally at Mataga business centre a mob of Zanu (PF) youths and war veterans gathered at the same venue. The group verbally abused the MDC candidate and her supporters and in an intimidating manner advanced towards them. The MDC supporters fled from the advancing group which was being led by Shiri; Eddie Nkomo, Taona Dziva, Kenneth Hove and Foloma from Gweru. The campaign team sought refuge at Mataga police station.

After the MDC supporters had left the Zanu (PF) youths and war veterans burnt down Guta Steel Work a business enterprise owned by Mr Nkomo. All welding machinery and office equipment in the building was destroyed. The property destroyed is valued at \$100 000.

No police action has been taken

Case 29- Area: Mberengwa

On 24 May the complainant was brutally assaulted by 30 Zanu (PF) youths who were armed with chain, sticks, sjamboks and iron bars. The youths also used open hands, clenched fists and booted feet to assault the complainant. He sustained multiple injuries including head injuries. Further was he forced to utter the following derogatory words “Ndiri imbwa yaTsvangirayi”. This incident was witnessed by the police who watched from a safe distance of about 50m.

On 31 May the Zanu (PF) youths damaged the complainant’s butchery and grocery shop. Property valued at \$100 000 was destroyed.

The assailants are known as Masunda, Jamela, Sam Ncube, Taona Dziva, Portia Hove, Mandlovu and P Hungwe. Mr Hove had to flee his home and he says he is afraid to go back

Case 30- Area: Mberengwa

I am a Zanu (PF) cardholder based at Chingoma 1 in Mberengwa. On 24 May, at around 8:00 pm, a crowd of 56 Zanu (PF) supporters came to my homestead, and 14 of them entered my house. They smashed the door and got in. I grabbed one of them, but they overpowered me and lifted me out of the room. One of them, Clifford Nkomo, tried to strangle me and beat me unconscious. When I regained consciousness, one of them suggested that I be thrown in a dam, but another one refused. The group was being led by Abel Masiya and Masunda Nyoni. I lost my cigarettes and \$150 in cash. I was being assaulted because I did not attend one of their rallies (Zanu (PF) when I had gone to attend a funeral. I reported the matter at Mataga and I was referred for medication. I am currently still suffering pain in my ribs. No were made before I went to find out with the police. Then I took them to the houses of those responsible, and several people were arrested. They are currently out on bail.

Case 31 – Area: Gokwe

A ZUD supporter states that on 13 May he was approached a group of people including the aspiring candidate of Zanu (PF) Nr Mukahla. He says he told them that they wanted to give him a good post in Zanu (PF). He told them he had decided to join ZUD. He says that the person leading the team, a Mr Moyo, said he would be given a car and good salary if he left his opposition party. The statement then goes on as follows:

I was to be given a car and a good salary if I was to leave the opposition party so as to accommodate Mr Mukahla to win the post. After this they left. About 10 to 15days later Moyo said if I do not leave the opposition party my life will be sour.

On 27 May a group of ZANU surrounded my shop, house, intimidating all opposition parties singing slogans calling out that I will be killed by ZANU. Another man was severely beaten and struck by an iron bar. This was reported to the police but nothing was done. Instead the injured man was locked in by the police. He was never treated.

ZUD supporters retaliated and the ZANU youths ran and took refuge in the council premises. 20 ZUD supporters locked them in there then reported the matter to the police. The police arrested the ZUD supporters instead of ZANU members who had started with the violence. On return to my house I could not get access to it. I was also told that my shop had been closed on Thursday. I slept in the bush and had to walk 15 to 20km to get a bus to Harare.

Case 32 – Area: Kwekwe

The complainant is a factory assistant who is an MDC campaign manager. He has suffered intimidation and psychological trauma since the rejection of the draft Constitution. He alleges that Zanu (PF) tried to bribe him into leaving MDC. He was then threatened with death and he was told by an army officer who came to his house that a decision had been made to assassinate him. He was advised not to walk alone. After that date he saw a car parked outside his house with two 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. Four days later at 8.00 pm approximately, three 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. Two 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.

Newspaper reports – Area: Gokwe

On the 12 June it was reported that

A ZUD candidate in Gokwe and his campaign manager have fled from the Midlands area after threats from Zanu PF supporters. Gumbo said he had to leave because the police were not taking any action against the culprits. “We cannot campaign because of the threats,” he said. “We had a meeting with the police but they are not helping.” Some ZUD supporters were abducted by suspected Zanu PF members and forced to buy Zanu (PF) party membership cards.

Three members of the MDC say police officers watched helplessly while a gang of suspected war veterans and Zanu (PF) supporters tortured them about eight kilometres from Mataga Growth Point in Mberengwa East. The three were among five MDC youth leaders who went to Mberengwa on 3 June to campaign for Sekai Holland, the party's candidate for Mberengwa East. Simbarashe Muchemwa, 25, one of the victims was still in pain as he related their ordeal. He sustained bruises and burns to the back, the crotch and the belly after their tormentors burnt him with plastic. They also whipped him. His torturers are still at large. Muchemwa said their truck ran out of diesel while they were going to Zvishavane. They went back to Mberengwa to buy diesel. Upon their return, they were suddenly surrounded by a gang of strangers. “There were more than 20 men who were very friendly at first. We were surprised when they turned hostile, tied our hands and feet and began kicking and whipping us all over and calling us traitors.” Muchemwa said they asked him about his rural home and when he said that he came from Buhera, they said everyone from Buhera supported the MDC. Morgan Tsvangirai, the MDC leader, comes from Buhera. “Some members of the gang undressed me, lit plastic paper and took turns to torture me, Muchemwa said, still in agony. “It was the most painful experience I have ever had. I screamed and pleaded with them to release me but they would not listen. “What hurt me most is that some policemen stopped in a truck while we were being tortured. They did not do anything. “They told us that their leader, Big Chitoro, was coming the following morning to gouge out our eyes and I began planning to escape.” Muchemwa managed to escape during the night. Meanwhile, their torturers released Muchemwa's colleagues and set their truck a Toyota Hilux on fire. A Good Samaritan gave Muchemwa a lift to Zvishavane General Hospital. He said he asked to be discharged on Thursday last week after some people came to the hospital looking for him.

Involvement of Zanu (PF) officials

It is alleged that the Zanu (PF) candidate for Gokwe Central is involved in organising the Zanu (PF) youths at one of the local bases. In Gokwe North is alleged that a Zanu (PF) candidate is leading Zanu (PF) youths stationed at one of the Council offices.

Bases from which the war veterans and their supporters have been operating

In Mberengwa the bases are said to be Texas Farm, Bara Farm, a farm said to be owned by a Zanu (PF) member and the Cold Storage Commission at the Mberengwa turn off. These bases are said to be under the leadership of a notorious war veteran named Big Chitoro. In Gokwe the base is alleged to be the Rural District Council offices, which are usually used as the polling station. There were about 71 youths there at the time of the observation. The leaders are said to be the Zanu (PF) candidate for Gokwe central and an ex-combatant. In Gokwe North the base is allegedly the Council offices in Mutora Nembudziya Growth Point. In Gokwe East the base is thought to be the Council offices in Buka. The Zanu (PF) candidate for the area is said to be leading 53 youths stationed at the Council offices there. These youths are not locals.

Violence against Zanu (PF) members

In its compilation of alleged MDC violence *The Sunday Mail* (11 June) reported the following incidents in the province from February onwards:

At the end of March it is alleged that Sylvester Majekuzwa, the Midlands North organising secretary and some whites beat up Sebastian Tshuma, a war veteran and member of Zanu (PF). (No details are given of the injuries suffered.)

In early April in Zvishavane MDC youths attacked Zanu (PF) youths who had gathered for a political meeting. (No details are given of the injuries suffered).

At the end of May 15 MDC youths attacked three Zanu (PF) supporters, one of them an ex-combatant at Matage Growth Point, Mberengwa East. The youths were allegedly ferried to the area by the MDC aspiring candidate for Mberengwa East, Sekei Holland, in her vehicles. (No details are given of the injuries suffered).

In mid April in Gokwe MDC youths damaged a Zanu (PF) truck. 11 MDC members were arrested in connection with this incident.

Other incidents

Other incidents reported in this area include the following:

1 June, Mberengwa

Seven schools in Mberengwa have been closed after suspected war veterans and Zanu (PF) militants launched a terror campaign at Matanga Growth Point and surrounding areas last Sunday. Scores of teachers were beaten up and fled for their safety. The militants first broke into an MDC office and confiscated a supporter's register which they later used to identify teachers and villagers as MDC supporters.

1 June, Mberengwa

War veterans have meanwhile mounted a roadblock along the road linking Matanga with Mnene Hospital and Zvishavane. Buses are stopped and passengers checked; those found without Zanu (PF) membership cards are assaulted with iron bars and forced to buy cards.

1 June, Mnene

A nurse at Mnene Hospital and a teacher at a primary school are reported to have been beaten up with electrical cords and sticks threatened with, stripped naked, forced to climb trees and jump from three metres, then frogmarched to Texas Farm where war veterans camp, serving as a self-styled re-education camp.

1 June, Mberengwa West

A group of war veterans forced at least two teachers at Ruvabku to go and victimize Nkomo, a teacher who had to flee from Chegato Primary School several teachers were singled out by war veterans suspected of being MDC supporters. At Maringambizi Secondary School war veterans descended on the female head and threatened two teachers before setting the school library on fire, which partly burnt.

2 June, Mataga

Zanu (PF) supporters went on the rampage here on 31 May, burning down the houses of suspected MDC supporters and razing a shelter for victims of violence set up by Mrs Holland. They beat and axed several of her supporters, but eight of her supporters have been charged with attempted murder for protecting themselves against their attackers.

2 June, Kwekwe

Vendors of privately-owned newspapers, the Zimbabwe *Independent*, the Standard the *Daily News*, and the *Financial Gazette* were under fire from the war veterans and Zanu (PF) supporters who are blocking distribution of the papers in Kwekwe. The same reports come from other places.

8 June, Gokwe

The ZUD candidate for Midlands, Mr. Jasael Chimbendure, had to flee to Harare, after Zanu (PF) supporters had threatened to kill him. At least 100 Zanu (PF) supporters have allegedly changed the offices of the Rural District Council at Nembudzia growth point into a base from where they launch attacks on the opposition.

3 June, Kadoma

Two houses of suspected MDC supporters were petrol-bombed by unknown attackers, but they did not explode.

8 June, Gweru

The chairman of the CFU in Gweru is being threatened with violence by war veterans, after the arrest of two members of the CIO and a war veteran, allegedly for poaching. The war vets also threatened staff at Debshan Ranch and threatened to burn down houses and kill the farm manager.

11 June, Zvishavane

War veterans and groups of Zanu (PF) supporters are forcing teachers in Mberengwa district to pay Z\$100,- a day for their general upkeep. MDC reports on the same issue that teachers are forced to pay between Z\$300 - and Z\$1000,- to Zanu (PF) supporters.

12 June, Mataga

More than 20 Zanu (PF) supporters tortured three MDC members in Mberengwa East this week, burning them with plastic; police stood by but did not act.

12 June, Gokwe

The campaign manager for the ZUD candidate for Gokwe North, Mr. Etwell Gumbo, had to flee the area because of threats from Zanu (PF) supporters.

12 June, Gokwe

Some ZUD supporters were abducted by Zanu (PF) supporters, and forced to buy Zanu (PF) membership cards.

16 June, Gweru

The United Parties (UP) candidate for Mkoba constituency, Maxwell Mupukuta, has withdrawn alleging that the poll will not be fair and free because of the violence during the run-up.

16 June, Gokwe

Mrs. Tabeth Zvhwati, a member of Zanu (PF) was severely beaten up by other Zanu (PF) supporters who accused her two sons of supporting the MDC. The sons and their wives have also been assaulted by the same group.

22 June, Gokwe

Two MDC candidates for Gokwe have fled the area after receiving death threats from alleged Zanu (PF) supporters.

23 June, Gokwe

On 22 June an MDC supporter was killed by Zanu (PF) supporters in Gokwe. This has not yet been confirmed by other media.

26 June, Mberengwa

Two teams of MDC polling agents have been abducted by Zanu (PF) supporters and war veterans here, preventing them from attending to their tasks.

Report of MDC violence

The following incidents were reported in the *Sunday Mail* on 11 June

28 April Evans Ruzvidzo the MDC district co-ordinator in the company of MDC youths threw petrol bombs at 40 Zanu (PF) youths in Mushamavale suburb in Kadoma. The Zanu (PF) youths were distributing campaign pamphlets. As a result Zanu (PF) flags and campaign literature valued at \$13 200 were destroyed.

BULAWAYO

21 March, Magwegwe, Bulawayo

There was an attack on the chairman of MDC for this suburb: he was beaten and left for dead by his front gate at night. He later required emergency brain surgery (medical records).

18 April, Bulawayo

An MDC rally was broken up by armed men.

2 May, Bulawayo

There were reports of door to door intimidation by Zanu (PF) supporters in North End, who threaten to note down house numbers and send the Youth back to “sort you out”, if people cannot produce Zanu (PF) cards.

4 May, Bulawayo

War veterans tried to force civilians off buses at Renkini Bus Terminus and to board buses for the airport to welcome Presidents Mugabe and Mbeki to Bulawayo. The civilians objected and violence threatened to erupt, but the police controlled the situation.

4 May, Bulawayo

A street vendor selling herbal products that carry a warning in Ndebele that touching the product makes the palm of the hand hot, is accused of supporting MDC, on the grounds that his product mentions the palm of the hand! His wares were confiscated, and when he resisted, he was severely beaten on the street, then taken to nearby Zanu (PF) headquarters where he is further beaten. He was hospitalised.

15 May, Bulawayo

There were repeated threats against life and property of an MDC committee member, a woman, and against her family.

25 May, Bulawayo

3 MDC supporters helping to prepare White City Stadium for the Star rally on Africa Day, were locked in a room by war veterans and PISI, are brutally beaten and threatened with death.

31 May, Bulawayo

The Zanu (PF) chairman for Bulawayo Province, Mr. Edson Ncube, and two other senior party officials were beaten up by war veterans after failing to provide transport and funds for the party’s election campaign in the city.

June, Bulawayo

According to an unconfirmed report from Nketa, two MDC supporters were abducted by Zanu (PF) supporters and war veterans, and beaten with guns, axes, machetes, knobkerries, sticks and iron bars. One managed to escape, but the other was severely beaten, especially on his private parts.

19 June, Bulawayo

The *Chronicle* reports that on Sunday 18 June a senior photographer of the *Chronicle*, Mr. Zibusiso Ndlovu, was attacked by Zanu (PF) supporters, when he tried to take pictures of the group as they clashed with ZAPU party followers in Nkulumane suburb. The Zanu (PF) Bulawayo Provincial chairman Mr. Effort Nkomo as well as the Bulawayo war veterans chairman Mr. Cain Nkala, have apologized for the assault.

June, Bulawayo

Mr. Titus Sibanda, MDC Chairman of Ward 25 of Bulawayo South Constituency reports that serious intimidation has taken place in the Insuza area of Bubi-Umguzi constituency of Matabeleland North

province; Zanu (PF) supporters were burning down homes belonging to villagers singled out as MDC supporters in addition to a series of beatings.

23 June, Bulawayo

Shop owners in Tshabalala suburb were forced to close their shops after war veterans ordered them to release staff for the president's rally in White City Stadium, last Saturday. Ahead of the rally intimidation and beatings have been reported at the local bus terminus of Renkini, in Nketa, Tshabalala, and Nkulumane suburbs. People were forced to get off minibuses at the Stadium. On the same issue Amani has received reports that Zanu (PF) supporters went into houses beating up people, telling them to attend the president's rally; four people were hospitalized.

24 June, Bulawayo

Police tear-gassed nearly 100 Zanu (PF) youths in Nyamandlovu business centre last Thursday, when they disrupted an MDC rally.

25 June, Bulawayo

Amani received a report from the Holy Cross Parish in Tshabalala suburb, stating that on 23 June Zanu (PF) posters of minister Dabengwa were put up at their church's fence; the Zanu (PF) supporters threatened to burn down the church if anyone would take them away.

26 June, Bulawayo

The *Daily News* reports that a Bulawayo South MDC polling agent, Mr. Patrick Nyabanyama, has been abducted last June 19 by Zanu (PF) supporters. One week later he has not been found yet, and police are still carrying out investigations.

HARARE

Cases

The following is a selection of cases from Harare:

Case 1: Kambuzuma

I am an MDC official in Kambuzuma. On 28 April I held a meeting at the section 3 shops to arrange for primary elections the next day. After the meeting we went to drink beer. Around 9.00 pm I left for home. On my way I saw a blue 504, a white Sunny and a cream Mazda 626. The owner of the Sunny is CIO [Central Intelligence Organisation]. About 500 metres from the shops, the 626 sped ahead and stopped in front of me. The back passenger stepped out and pointed a gun at me. He slapped me in the face and pushed me into the car. He said we should not hold MDC meetings anywhere. They said: "You think you are clever; you MDC people are now behaving like you are already ruling the country." There were four men in the back of the car and two in the front. One of them I recognise. He is from the President's office. I recognise him from Kambuzuma. I know where he lives. They were also CIO men in the car.

I was forced to sit on the lap of one of them who was sitting in the back. I was sitting in the middle and my arms were outstretched. Each arm was handcuffed and it was held by the two guys sitting on either side of the car. The guy in the front seat was slapping me in the face. The other one was sitting behind me and hitting me at the back. I screamed and a cloth was put in my mouth. The car moved. I was bleeding. They took me to the bush near Willowvale industrial area.

When they parked, the driver didn't come out, but the others took me out. I was made to lie on my back and one of them was standing on my stomach. Two were holding handcuffs with arms outstretched. One of them took a wire from the car and put it in my anus. Then he put it in my penis as well. I fainted and they left me for dead.

I came round twice, once on the spot, and then I got to the road and a car found me and took me to Kambuzuma police. I came round again at the police station. An ambulance was called. I fainted again and I don't know how I got to hospital.

At the hospital, they came two times asking for me. The first time they came on the 3rd of the month. One of the guys came to the hospital, when I was in bed. I saw him and I told the sister who was in the ward and she went to call the police, but he went away. The following morning he came

and said he was a doctor. He actually came and examined my stomach. I recognised him. My brother was there. Afterwards when the doctor came back the CIO went away. My brother asked the doctor about him and he confirmed he's not a doctor, saying he thought he must have been a friend of ours. He was wearing a blue T-shirt.

Case 2: Mufakose

Our first incident of harassment occurred sometime in February when, after we had held a successful peaceful rally, we accompanied the elderly and the women as a security strategy to their homes. The unexpected came like a bombshell. Little did we know that although we were many in terms of numbers, some thugs employed by Sabina Thembani, [a Zanu (PF) parliamentary candidate] were watching and monitoring our movements.

Just a few hundred metres away from the site of our rally we were attacked by about fifteen people armed with iron bars, axes, hoes and stones. We had not anticipated such violence and as a matter of fact we did not have anything to defend ourselves and everyone that could run away. Unfortunately five of our members were assaulted, one of them an elderly man of about 76 years old. He was severely assaulted and sustained deep cuts on the back of his head.

The whole incident occurred while Mrs Denga, who also failed to run away, watched helplessly. They left the old man, perhaps convinced that he was dead and in a bath of gushing blood from the deep cuts sustained during the assault. Mrs Denga helped the old man to Marimba Police Station, who were extremely uncooperative. They did not even bother to take him to hospital despite his profuse bleeding. The old man was later taken to hospital by a good Samaritan about three hours after the incident.

Since that time, Sabina Thembani has employed more thugs. The whole business is a lucrative one to the thugs who are paid a weekly salary of \$700, provided with food and beer, paid \$500 for any T-shirt taken forcibly from an MDC supporter and a ridiculous \$50, 000 for killing an MDC supporter. All prizes are said to be paid instantly on production of proof of such assaults having been made. Incidents of people being systematically assaulted have become the order of the day.

Despite the assaults we continued to hold our meetings and Sabina Thembani has launched another phase of her operation. She is now targeting the MDC leadership, which she claims she will exterminate. Two MDC officials were abducted from their homes and taken to Sabina Thembani's Zanu (PF) offices in Mufakose and severely assaulted. They both fainted during the assaults, were doused with water and as soon as they recovered they were beaten again until Sabina herself claimed she was tired of beating and called off the assault. They were then dragged out of the office premises.

A number of other persons were assaulted. (Names supplied). Some of the assaults are not reported. A guard on duty at a local beerhall was fatally assaulted. After massive retaliatory measures were taken by Mufakose youth, Zanu (PF) has now employed the state machinery. A ward youth chairperson whom they failed to assault, was visited by these two CIO operatives at his workplace and at home and firmly told that he was not a hero and would soon face the consequences should he continue with his chairmanship. He was forced to surrender MDC party card and T-shirts and he is being monitored on a daily basis.

Case 3: Mufakose

My husband is an official in the MDC. Right now my husband is under the blankets at home. I'm afraid they might take my daughter when she boards the bus to school. She is 13 years old. They have already taken a boy away to ask him where his father was. They released him, but imagine if it was a girl.

It was the MDC chairman's son who was taken. They say they have a list and are going door to door following that. That day, after less than 30 minutes, Sabina Thembani's car came and went away. About 8:00 pm, a government car came and parked by my gate. I saw that car. It waited 10 minutes and it went away. I went to see. Maybe they wanted to see if he was there. Those people are always moving with Sabina, going door to door. They went to the MDC chairman's house and destroyed that and assaulted his wife. There's another guy in Aspindale who appeared on the BBC. After that they told him to leave. His wife, family, and boss at work told him to move away to save his life. Most people come to our place, youth, and women.

Sabina Thembani is using a gang of thieves and thugs in Mufakose: Amon, Chimombe, Farai, Cobra, David Bachelors, Richard Kaphumbata, Manyebo, Chaplin, Bany Marokora.

Case 4: Mufakose

On the 16 June, at 1.00 am, four men came and took me from my house. They took me to my gate, where a red Datsun Bluebird arrived to pick me up. I recognised one of the men, who used to be an MDC member, but has since changed sides.

The car drove for a while, but I don't know where to. We passed through Marimba on the way. They dropped me inside a Durawall house, belonging to Thembani. They are operating from this house in Msasa, but I do not know exactly where. They began beating me and pouring cold water from a bucket over me, saying "You are an MDC member". They forced me to say more about the MDC, including the whereabouts of other members and the leaders, telling them where I was staying, and demanding to know why I refused to wear a Zanu (PF) T-shirt.

There were at least 11 of them in the house. They took me into the toilet, and made me stand on a square of iron sheet (about 30cm by 30 cm). They then connected jump leads to the sheet, and passed electricity through it. They made me stand on it for 2-3 hours. Sometimes I fell down, and sometimes I lay on the walls. Then they brought me out and told me to take off all my clothes. I did so, and they told me to lie on the lawn. Then they said "Today is the end of your life if you don't tell us more about the MDC". But I refused, and when they realized that they couldn't make me, they told me to go into the house.

They locked me in a room, and I spent the whole day there. Thembani came at around 4-5 am, with beer and meat, to give to her boys. They told her that they had captured one of us, and she said to them "He's all yours – you do whatever you want to him". They replied that they were "still dealing with me". At around 8.00 pm, they brought me out, and said "We're going to torture you for the last time; we don't care whether you die or not." They beat me on my private parts, using fists and kicking with their boots. Then they said that they were going to release me, but told me not to tell anyone that I had been abducted for the whole day. They took me, and dropped me of about 150m away from my home at about 10 or 11 pm. I walked from there to my house, and told my wife that I had been beaten by Zanu (PF) members.

I slept the whole of the next day. I was in pain, because my testes were swollen. Then I went to the police, who wrote me a letter to go to the hospital, but the doctor told me to go home. The police said that they would deal with Thembani. The police said that they would deal with Thembani. They arrested Cobra and Diamond at the place, but the others have not been arrested.

Case 5: Mufakose

I am an MDC official in Mufakose. I heard that there were threats that my house would be destroyed and I would be killed. I went to the police, but the police told me they do not take action on the basis of threats. I organized 20 MDC youths to guard my home. On the 10 June, while I was at home, Border Gezi and Sabina Thembani drove past my house in two cars. They were pointing at my house.

The police also passed the house, and I told them what had happened. At about 1.00 pm, a white truck came to my house, with about 30 Zanu (PF) youths on it. They threatened the youths that I had organized, but left after exchanging some words. The police came immediately thereafter. The police asked how many people there were at my house, and when I told him, he wanted to know why there were so many. After I had explained, he said that everyone should leave, and that I should remain on my own.

The Zanu (PF) youths came again, and were repelled by our youths. I then dismissed about 14 of my guys, leaving 6 to protect the house. I went out with two guys to buy flour to make paste for sticking up our posters. While we were out, the Zanu (PF) youths came again. This was around 7.00 pm. They broke all the windows, broke into the house, and destroyed furniture. They entered my bedroom as well. There was about \$18 000 in the house, and they took this, along with my wife's sewing machine. The estimated damage they did was about \$30 000 to \$60 000 worth of property.

My wife and daughter were at the house whilst the Zanu (PF) people were destroying it. My daughter was choked, and my wife was struck on the hip with an axe. We went to the police to make a report, after recalling the guys that I had dismissed. My wife and the 3 other people who were there can identify the people who did it. We gave the names to the police.

Two days later, on the 12 June, the police came around in the afternoon. They searched the house, claiming that we were keeping guns and petrol bombs on the premises. They did not find anything. Our guards were told to leave, and they did so, but came back after the police had left. They were picked up by the police on the 16 June, and are being held at the Central Police Station.

Case 6: Mufakose

At about 10.00 pm on the 9 June, 5 men carrying iron bars came to our house I didn't recognize them, and they were wearing ordinary clothes. My husband answered the door, and they asked him if he was an MDC member. He said yes, and they said "You are the most important, so we want to deal with you". There were only three of us in the house. They beat him between the legs with an iron bar.

The neighbours came to see what had happened, and the men disappeared. We went to MDC members to tell them what had happened. They gave him money to go to hospital, but he still hasn't been able to get any medicine.

Last night some Zanu (PF) members came to me and asked me where my husband was. They said “ We are Zanu (PF) members, and we want your husband. Where is he?” I said that he was staying far away, but he’s really in Budiriro where the members are staying. They told me to open the door, but I refused, saying that they would hit me. They stayed for 5 minutes, demanding to know where he was, and then they left. There were four of them, but I don’t know where they were from.

Case 7: Budiriro

On Monday last [8 May] Zanu PF people came to my workplace and told me to surrender T-shirts and cards and caps. I am an advisor to the MDC youth in the area. They told me they were going to take me to Hunzvi’s surgery. This was around 11.00 am. I gave them all the T-shirts and cards. I didn’t have any caps, but because I didn’t surrender any, they started hitting me with an iron cord. They beat me until I surrendered all the information. I told them about the structure of MDC in Budiriro 4. Then they released me by 7.00 pm. All the time they were beating me with electrical wires. There were about 120 war veterans and Zanu (PF) supporters. They spoke both Shona and Ndebele. Both men and women beat me. They beat me with the kind of electrical cord used by ZESA (the electricity company). They were beating me on my back and some of the women were using bottle tops (metal) to pinch the skin around my groin.

It was the same three men who beat me each time and three ladies. The ladies were using their hands to slap me. There was an officer and a commander in charge. The officer was from Matabeleland, an Ndebele man known as Dube. The other man was an old man, more than 50 years old, a war veteran. He was from Manicaland, but he was just known as the “Commander”. There were also some who said they were CIO there, but they didn’t carry a card.

I was telling them names. I told them that the chairman of Budiriro district is Chimedza and I told them where he lives. Then they released me. I was afraid. The police said they have been told not to enter the place. Later on I talked to the CID squad. They said there is nothing they could do for me. I was in a lot of pain and couldn’t work. I still have pains. They are starting to heal. I am back to work doing light duties.

Case 8: Budiriro

I am unemployed as a result of Zanu (PF). I was working at a transport company, which is owned by my uncle. It is a small business in Budiriro. They began coming there after the referendum, sometimes once or twice a week looking for me. One day they came and I was there and I told them that I was not Oliver. They were from the CID and CIO. They came in white Defenders with private number plates, and that is how I know who they were. I had to leave work then.

I am now living in Budiriro 4 with other MDC supporters. We all moved there as a result of political violence. Last night seven of them came, armed with AK47s. They threw stones. Some of those who came were people who later tortured me. They threw two petrol bombs into the house and we managed to put out the fire.

Last Monday [8 May] I was taken to Hunzvi’s surgery. We were at the shopping centre trying to buy bread, myself and two others. I am well known. Someone must have pointed me out. There were about 20 of them. But they were also about 90 war veterans who came to the shops. It was about 7.30 in the morning. They caught me and one other.

They took us to the surgery and told us to remove our clothes. They started to beat us on the ribs with a wooden stick. They tortured us with car jumpers [jump leads]. They gave us electric jolts under the arms and on the genitals. They wanted to know our names and positions. They came with a book where names and positions were written. I told them a false name, but when I was checking the book I saw my real name. No 10 on the list with a star beside it. They told me the names with the star are the ones we want. Then they asked me where the others are and where they stay. They beat me under my feet using electrical wires. We were tortured in shifts of guys and including women and they were different people who came each time. I told them that I am not MDC but in the NCA so they started to ask me about Lovemore Madhuku and others. The commander there is an old man, an ex-combatant. A group of them came from Gutu and some from my home village there.

There were about 150 people there altogether. It is a big house with seven rooms. The women were fond of electrical jolts; they seemed like war veterans. They were not only war vets - some of them were young, some even less than 22. They spoke Shona, Ndebele, Venda. They just wanted me to go back from MDC. They want us to surrender T-shirts and cards and said that if you join us then we can give you money. They said some of the people there used to be MDC but have changed to Zanu (PF), but I didn’t see any I knew, they may be lying.

After about three hours then the police support unit came. They didn’t come in, but those inside saw the police and told me to put on my clothes and get out of the surgery. They let me out but not my friend.

Case 9: Budiriro

On 11 May I happened to be moving around. I saw Zanu PF people were at the shops having a meeting. They asked me: "Where do you come from." I said Budiriro 2. I'm here to see a person". I was not wearing an MDC T-shirt, but I am an MDC member. They said I was an MDC spy. I was taken to Dr Hunzvi's surgery and there I found two young boys, aged about 17-20 who had been caught on a rally. They had no T-shirts or cards. They were also from Budiriro.

When I got inside I was given a paper on which to write all of the structures of MDC, the Chairman, organising secretary, MP etc. As a member I have never participated, and didn't know anything. They detained me from just before 12 midday on Thursday to around 1.00 pm on Friday. They were beating me and using electric wires. They changed over, sometimes there were three, sometimes two. They took our clothes. Three of us were locked, all naked, in one room. Three people could be hitting one person at a time. I have wounds from wires all over my body.

At around 11.00 pm on Thursday night, they took us out into the yard inside the wall around the premises, but outside the house. There were a good number of them, more than forty. They wanted us out so they could sleep inside. We were guarded outside. I was beaten. I can't hear with this ear and someone stuck his finger in my eye. I could identify only one person who resides in Budiriro. I have known him since about 1996. Most of the guys are Ndebele speakers.

Some of the people at the surgery are war veterans, others are not. The last guy who released me is a soldier from Mutare. Even around 12 midnight where we were. He was near us just outside, trying to get them to release us. During the day the police were not allowed inside the wall, but at night they were allowed to come and take victims out. Those young guys were not released because they wrote down some names of those in the party structures. They were kept and told that they would be released if the other guys whose names they had mentioned were found and brought in. I was allowed to go, but the others were not. The policeman remained inside and continued to try and persuade them to release the others. I made a report to the police and they gave us letters to go to hospital.

Case 10: Budiriro

I was coming from a rally and they took me to Gladys Hokoyo's place. It was a Sunday, before the Easter weekend - I think it may have been 16 April. They tortured me and I pretended to look like I had died and so they left me close to her house. They beat me with sticks and tied strings tightly around my neck and penis. Hokoyo was not there but the moment she arrived she took me to the police station and she said I had gone to her house to stone and set the house on fire. Police arrested me. I only know one of the Zanu (PF) guys who was there. Since then there was a visit to my home during my absence, of about six guys in the Twincab, which is Hokoyo's car. I have moved from there to another house.

Case 11: Budiriro

The complainant is the MDC chairperson for Budiriro constituency. **Sometime in March but** on a day which the complainant cannot specifically remember Zanu (PF) supporters assaulted an MDC supporter, Francis Kagonye. The MDC supporter sought refuge at her house in Budiriro.

Following this incident some were instructed to guard her. On 8 May the guards were kidnapped while shopping in Budiriro. They have not been found since then.

On the day her security personnel was kidnapped. The complainant fled her house since she no longer felt secure. On 15 May a group of war veterans broke into her house and unlawfully removed therefrom certain pieces of furniture. On 16 May on or about 2.00 pm war veterans returned to her house and set it alight. All property in the house was destroyed by fire. The property is valued at \$179 468,97

Police witnessed the whole incident but did not move in as the war veterans were armed with firearms.

Case 11: Dzivarasekwa

On 12 June at about 5.00 pm a group of 20 Zanu (PF) supporters clad in party T-shirts ambushed the complainant at his home and hit him with a metal rod. The complainant fractured one of his ribs. The matter was reported to the police.

Case 12: Mabvuku

On 9 June, at around 5.00 pm, I was with a group of about 20 MDC youths who were sticking up MDC campaign posters. We were approached by 3 pick-up trucks carrying Zanu (PF) supporters, and so we fled. As I was running, I fell, and so they caught up to me and began to assault me. I sustained a fractured left arm. I took refuge in a nearby house, and when it was safe I made a report at Mabvuku Police Station (RRB 429510)

Case 13: Mabvuku

On 20 June, the complainant was amongst the Election Monitoring Team that left Harare in 4 Combi minibuses. However, he was left behind on the 26 June when the team departed for Harare. He was assaulted by 10 Zanu (PF) youths, who said, “Ndima vanhu vaTsvangirai tinoda kukuuraya”. They assaulted him with knobkerries, some hard objects, clenched fists, open hands and booted feet. After some time the complainant managed to escape into the bush. He lost all the belongings that he had in his bag – 2 torches, 3 jackets, 1 jersey, 1 Zambia (cotton cloth), 2 blankets and the bag itself. The property was valued at about \$7500. He also sustained multiple injuries, and appears to have lost his memory. His eyes were red and painful at the time of interview.

Case 14: Epworth

On 20 June on or about 10.00 pm a man and his wife were assaulted by a group of Zanu (PF) supporters. The following are the details of the attack. The complainants were sleeping when they heard loud noises outside their house. Distinctly they heard the following words, “Tasvika pamba penhunzvatanzva dze MDC”. Without warning the door to their house was forced open. A group of about 100 or so gathered outside the house. Some men wearing Zanu (PF) T-shirts demanded Zanu (PF) party cards from the complainants. They failed to produce the cards and they were subjected to severe beating. They were attacked with open hands, clenched fists, booted feet, sticks and baton sticks. The two sustained multiple injuries including head injuries. All their household goods and effects were either destroyed or unlawfully removed from the house.

At about 11.00 pm the complainants reported the attack at Hatfield Police Base. Mr Mashiri attended to them. They were referred to Parirenyatwa hospital for medical treatment.

Gabriel has not fully recovered from the attack. He is experiencing severe pain in the back and as a result he has failed to report for work. Eunice has partially lost sight in the right eye.

Other than the fact that they are Zanu (PF), the assailants are unknown to the complainants.

Case 14: Mabvuku

I am the MDC district secretary, organizer for Highfield. On 21 May, at around 7.00 pm while we were guarding our aspiring MP's house in Mabvuku, the police came and rounded us up. We were 12 in number, they arrived in a police vehicle. They took six of us initially, and another two later (four managed to escape). They took us to Mabvuku Police Station and beat us all over our bodies until 10 pm. I was assaulted with sjamboks, baton sticks and electric cables. They beat me all over, including on the feet (falanga) continuously. They then took us to the cells. The officer in charge, Mabvuku also joined in the assault, using an electric cable. I suffered injuries all over the body, including the head. I can identify some of the officers who assaulted me, although not by name. The following day we were taken to Harare Central Police Station, where statements were taken from us. They alleged that we had assaulted a person that is unknown to me. We were taken for an identification parade, where the person could easily pick on us because of the dirty attire which we had. The other people were all dressed in clean clothes. On 26 May, we were remanded in custody until the 26 June. Bail was granted (\$1000 per head). I still feel pain in the head, back and legs because of the assaults. I told the magistrate that I was assaulted, but nothing was written down.

Case 15: Chitungwiza

On 1 June I was campaigning on Derbyshire Farm, near Chitungwiza, at around 3.00 pm. I had an entourage of 36 people, and there were about 120-150 people attending the meeting. While I was addressing the people, a Mazda pick-up, white in colour, came up, bearing 15 to 17 people wearing Zanu (PF) T-shirts. I know some of them: Ali Majengwa, Edmore Tinaruro, Miriam, Jahannes, Mudhuwiwa, Stanley, “Rasta”, Paddington Nyama, George Tsvuura, and several others. They were wielding sjamboks, iron bars, bicycle chains and knobkerries. Since my people were not armed, I advised them to flee for their lives. The Zanu (PF) people started attacking everyone who was present at the rally. I ran away. It's a rocky area, and many people fell down, injuring themselves. The Zanu (PF) supporters caught up with me, whilst shouting, “We want Musasiwa!” Ali Mangwenya pushed me over a cliff. I fell a distance of about 6metres into the dip and injured my left leg on the shin. I crawled for about 40 to 50 minutes, trying to get away from the assailants (they did not know that I was Musasiwa). I managed to reach the Seke road, and hired a lift to Chitungwiza Police Station, where I made a report.

They took me to the site, together with some police from Waterfalls Police Station, who had been phoned by the Chitungwiza guys. We arrived to find that the tyres on my car had been deflated, and some of the property and parts of the car had been stolen. The damage to the car comes to about \$10 000, and the spare wheel, jack, wheel spanner and my jacket were also stolen. There was a sum of about \$38 000 stolen in cash as well. A report was compiled by the Waterfalls Police, and I was told to go. The police are now claiming that they have lost the docket. I have fled

my home and am staying in my offices in Union Ave. I had earlier applied for a peace order against Tony Gara and Douglas Mutyoramwendi, which was set for hearing in October.

Other incidents in Harare

1 April, Harare

A peaceful NCA march of estimated 4000 civilians was attacked by 150 armed war veterans, resulting in at least 12 serious injuries.

22 April

Daily News office had bomb thrown at it, destroying an art gallery.

4 May

Mbare East MDC candidate received a death threat and a petrol bomb was delivered to him.

7 May

MDC chairman for Rugare ward was severely beaten.

13 May

Police colluded with war veterans wielding iron bars and clubs, and allow them to attack NCA supporters and completely undermine a rally intended to give all political parties in the country a platform ahead of the elections, and to condemn the violence.

16 May

In Budiriro there was violence in the vicinity of Hunzvi's surgery results in damage to the house of an orphan and five other buildings. 47 people were arrested in connection with the violence.

19 May

A white 19 year old girl was assaulted and accused of being an MDC supporter, while walking in town.

23 May

An MDC candidate for St Mary's had his car smashed by rivals.

26 May,

In Hatcliffe political violence erupts when Zanu (PF) supporters attacked supporters on an *Independent* candidate. The Police used tear gas to stop the disorder.

19 June

The *Daily News* reported that on Thursday 14 June, after a rally addressed by *Independent* candidate for Mbare East Constituency Mr. Robert Musasiwa, 23 people were injured, of which 4 were seriously, after attacks by a gang of Zanu (PF) supporters.

20 June

The *Daily News* reported that the house of ZUD leader Mrs. Margaret Dongo had been stoned on June 18, by Zanu (PF) supporters.

Reports of MDC violence

The following incidents were reported in the *Sunday Mail* on 11 June:

6 February

MDC youths attacked Zanu (PF) members who were gathered at the Party District Offices. Zanu (PF) property was damaged. Later the same day, they attacked Zanu (PF) members who were holding a meeting at Cde Idah Mahonganika's residence in the same suburb. Cde Mashonganyika's car and house were damaged during the attack.

11 March

About 200 MDC supporters beat up 100 Zanu (PF) supporters at Budiriro 1 Shopping Centre. As a result 60 Zanu (PF) supporters were seriously injured.

25 March

Tendai Mutumbe, a Zanu (PF) member in Budiriro was severely assaulted by about 35 MDC youths for putting on a T-shirt written, "Vote Yes". The same youths went on to damage war veteran's leader Dr

Chenjerai Hunzvi's surgery in the same suburb. These MDC youths also attacked ex-combatants who were drinking at Budiriro 4 Shopping Centre.

30 March

MDC youths in the Porta Farm area disrupted a meeting of about Zanu (PF) members. The youths later attacked ex-combatants who had questioned why they were disturbing the meeting.

4 April

MDC youths attacked and destroyed windowpanes at the flat of the Zanu (PF) Matapi District Chairman.

8 April

MDC youths numbering about 30 attacked three ex-combatants left guarding properties in Parklands 2. Nyoni Zinhanga, an ex-combatant, was taken hostage, beaten thoroughly and released later.

15 April

A Zanu (PF) youth was severely beaten during a campaign confrontation with the MDC youths in Budiriro.

15 April

1000 MDC supporters vandalised Sabina Mangwende's house in Glen View 3.

19 April

About 150 MDC youths who were attending the funeral of the late Tiahaona Chiminya in Highfield attacked 16 Zanu (PF) youths who were at President Mugabe's house in Highfield. During skirmish, 23 windowpanes were broken.

30 April

20 MDC youths stoned and damaged the house belonging to Tobias Mutazu, the Zanu (PF) Budiriro chairman.

20 May

Romeo Tungwe was assaulted by 20 MDC youths in New Mabvuku for wearing a "Vote Yes" T-shirt.

21 May

Langson Mukabvi was confronted by four MDC members while walking along Chipisa Street, New Mabvuku for wearing a Constitutional Commission T-shirt inscribed "Vote Yes". He was dragged to an MDC candidate Justin Mutendazamera's house where he was severely assaulted before being taken and dumped at the Mabvuku-Mutare junction.

2 June

MDC supporters attacked Zanu (PF) members residing at Shawasha Flat Block 5, Mbare in Harare. A petrol bomb was used in the attack. No injuries were reported but there was extensive damage to doors and windowpanes.

13 June, Kambuzuma

A suspected CIO agent tried to abduct Beligent Marova, the campaign manager for Willas Madzimore, the MDC candidate for Kambuzuma, from bed in a Harare hospital, using his pistol and ordering him to go with him. This *Daily News* message has been confirmed by hospital authorities. Mr. Marova had been admitted to hospital after having been severely assaulted by Zanu (PF) supporters the day before, beating him up, pricking his private parts with bicycle spokes.

14 June, Mbare

After a rally addressed by *Independent* candidate for Mbare East Constituency Mr. Robert Musasiwa, 23 people have been injured, of which 4 seriously, after attacks by a gang of Zanu (PF) supporters.

16 June, Harare

The Zimbabwe *Independent* reports that police has suspended its probe into the torture of six MDC members at the private surgery of Dr. Hunzvi, the leader of the war veterans, because of political interference, postponing his arrest over the accusations until after the elections.

19 June

At an MDC rally at Rufaro Stadium three suspected Zanu (PF) supporters have been attacked by MDC youths, and were saved.

20 June, Harare

The house of ZUD leader Mrs. Margaret Dongo has been stoned on June 18, by Zanu (PF) supporters.

22 June, Zengeza

Alleged Zanu (PF) supporters have been stoning houses belonging to MDC supporters here.

22 June, Mbare

Mrs. Maggy Kambarami from Mbare was tortured by Zanu (PF) supporters last June 18, for supporting an *Independent* candidate.