



Zimbabwe  
**HUMAN RIGHTS**  
N G O F o r u m

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POLITICAL VIOLENCE REPORT

September 2008

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1 December 2008

A report by the Zimbabwe Human Rights NGO Forum

## OVERVIEW

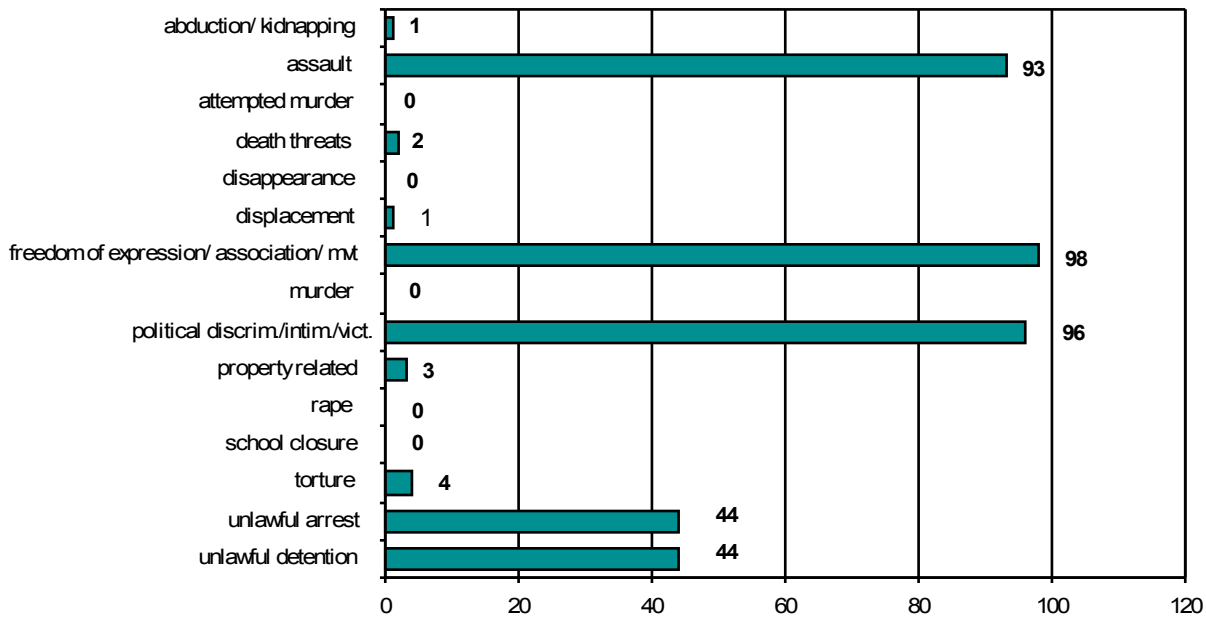
September 15 2008 saw the landmark signing of the power-sharing Agreement between ZANU PF and the two MDC formations. Under the Agreement, Robert Mugabe would remain the President of Zimbabwe and chair the Cabinet, Morgan Tsvangirai would become Prime Minister and chair the Council of Ministers as well as being the Deputy Chairperson of Cabinet whilst Arthur Mutambara would become one of the Deputy Prime Ministers. Under Article 11(2) of the Agreement, the parties agreed to “work together to create a genuine, viable, permanent, sustainable and nationally acceptable solution to the Zimbabwe situation and in particular to implement the (following) agreement with the aims of resolving once and for all the current political and economic situations and charting a new political direction for the country”. Further Article X (10) indicated that the parties had agreed there should be “free political activity throughout Zimbabwe within the ambit of the law”. Article XVIII (18.5(a)) committed the parties “to promote values and practices of tolerance, respect, non-violence and dialogue as means of resolving political differences” and the Government to “apply the laws of the country fully and impartially in bringing all perpetrators of politically motivated violence to book”(18.5(c)). This report marks the first test to some of the terms of the Agreement.

Contrary to the spirit and letter of the Agreement, politically - motivated human rights violations continue to be recorded with some violations being perpetrated by members of the ZRP under the guise of preserving public order. The September MPVR marks an increase in the total number of human rights violations and incidents from 81 in August to 385 in September. Furthermore most of the violations in the report occurred after the signing of the power - sharing Agreement. In situations that confirm the high levels of political intolerance attendant on the political scene in the country, violence broke out amongst rival supporters of ZANU PF and the MDC who were waiting outside the Rainbow Towers in Harare to witness the signing ceremony. In other matters relating to the power-sharing deal, the police allegedly arrested MDC supporters in Buhera and Masvingo for celebrating the signing of the Agreement. The report documents 44 cases of unlawful arrests and unlawful detention for the month of September whilst incidents of political discrimination rose from 19 in August to 96 in September.

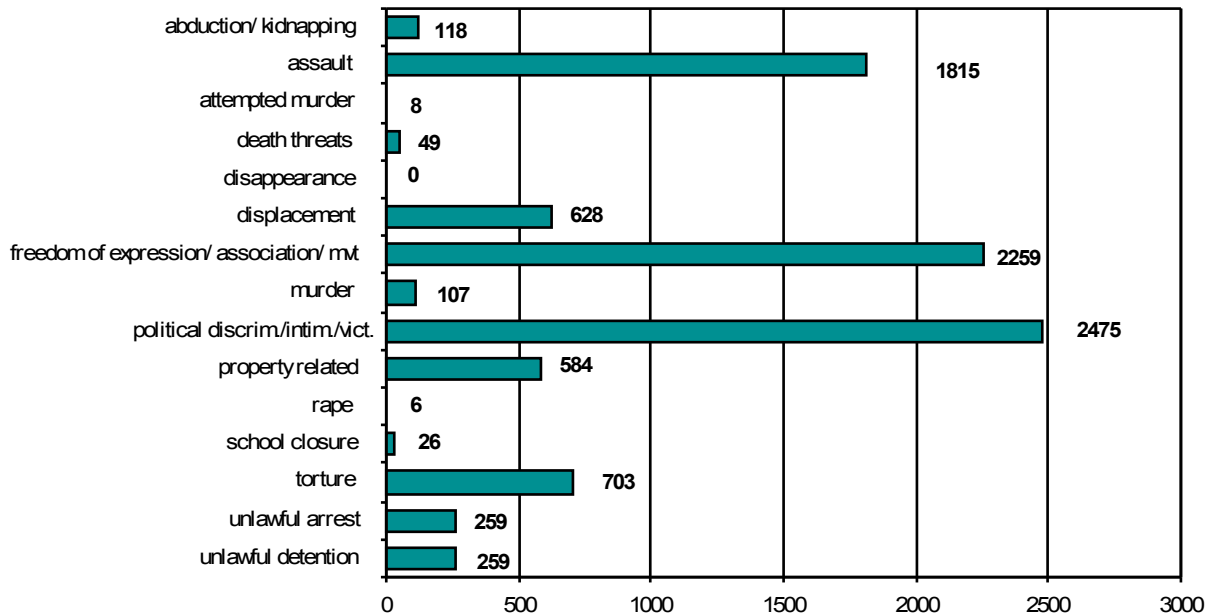
The report further documents 93 cases of assault. In Mbare, MDC supporters were allegedly assaulted by ZANU PF youths at Mbare Police Station as they attempted to reclaim their homes, which had been confiscated by ZANU PF supporters at the height of the June 2008 electoral violence. Apparently, the houses are owned by the Harare City Council and thus do not belong to individuals who are now facing victimisation for being MDC supporters. Other people fell prey to attacks by ZANU PF supporters after they were seen wearing MDC t-shirts. A remarkable incident is alleged to have occurred in Harare Central where an MDC supporter, clad in party regalia, was assaulted and told that the violence would continue until President Mugabe acknowledged Tsvangirai's role as Prime Minister.

The Human Rights Forum contends that whilst the numbers of violations recorded in this report seem very marginal as compared to the violence from March – June 2008, it is still deplorable that Zimbabweans are being victimized for their political affiliations. The state cannot purport to be protecting peace and stability in the country by trampling on citizens' rights to express their views on governance issues such as the provision of education, health and food. In the same vein, the Human Rights Forum condemns the arrest and harsh treatment of Bindura University students who were arrested for demonstrating against the hikes in tuition fees.

**TOTALS: 1 September to 30 September 2008**



**Cumulative Totals: 1 January –30 September 2008**



The graphs should be read along with the table depicting the monthly totals of violations for September 2008 on page 14.

## Key Abbreviations

AIPPA – Access to Information and Protection of Privacy Act	WOZA – Women of Zimbabwe Arise
CIO – Central Intelligence Organisation	ZANU PF – Zimbabwe African National Union Patriotic Front
MDC – Movement for Democratic Change	ZCTU – Zimbabwe Congress of Trade Unions
MP – Member of Parliament	ZNA – Zimbabwe National Army
NAGG - National Alliance for Good Governance	ZPS – Zimbabwe Prison Service
NCA – National Constitutional Assembly	ZRP – Zimbabwe Republic Police
OVT – Organised Violence and Torture	ZNLWVA – Zimbabwe National Liberation War Veterans Association
POSA – Public Order and Security Act	ZIMTA – Zimbabwe Teachers Association
PTUZ – Progressive Teachers Union of Zimbabwe	ZUPCO – Zimbabwe United Passenger Company
UMP – Uzumba Maramba Pfungwe	ZINASU – Zimbabwe National Students Union

Sources: The information contained in this report is derived from statements made to the Public Interest Unit of the Zimbabwe Human Rights Forum, its members and statements taken by a network of human rights activists and newspaper reports,

Notes to the tables:

**Torture:**

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

The four elements of torture are:

- 1 **Severe** pain and suffering, whether physical or mental
- 2 **Intentionally** inflicted
- 3 With a **purpose**
- 4 By a state official or another individual acting with the **acquiescence of the state**.

Those individuals referred to in point # 4 as state officials include the ZRP, ZNA,

**Unlawful arrest and detention:**

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

**Abduction/kidnapping:**

A kidnapping by a member(s) of an organised group that is not the ZRP, ZNLWVA, ZNA, ZPS and the ZNLWVA (as a reserve force of the ZNA).

**Disappearance:**

Kidnapped persons whose whereabouts remained unknown at the time of reporting.

**Property related:**

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

## **Cases of Political Violence**

*Note: The identities of victims whose names have not been published in the press and are not public officials are protected. This is done in order to protect the victim from further violence, intimidation and possible recriminatory attacks.*

*The purpose of this report is to record the nature of the politically motivated violence and intimidation that continues to prevail in the country. The Monthly Political Violence Reports are primarily based on victims' accounts, accompanied by medical evidence where possible, obtained from member organisations of the Forum and other partner organisations. Use is also made of press reports.*

*The Report cannot be considered as the exhaustive record of all incidents of politically motivated violence in Zimbabwe in the period under review. Nevertheless, every incident reported to the Human Rights Forum directly or through its members is meticulously documented and included in the reports. Care is also taken to record the incidents in the language in which they were reported to the Forum.*

*The situation prevailing in the country is such that it has not been possible to verify all of these accounts. The Human Rights Forum has done what it can to verify the reports, and is satisfied that the vast majority of them are substantially true. It is also not possible to rule out whether a victim's account is exaggerated or contains inaccuracies.*

**All reports derived from the press are denoted with the symbol  $\Sigma$**

## **BULAWAYO**

**Bulawayo West***The Zimbabwean**02 September 2008*

Σ. A Bulawayo business woman Rejoice Sibanda-Ncube was evicted from her farm in Nyamandlovu after she refused to provide food for ZANU PF supporters camped at a base adjacent to her farm. The victim and her three children were force-marched out of their home at midnight by a group of war veterans from Redwood Farm and accused of refusing to provide them with food, inviting MDC supporters to the farm and not attending ZANU PF meetings in the area. The war veterans told her never to set foot on the farm as it now belonged to them. The victim returned with her gardener the following Sunday to seek permission from the war veterans to collect some clothes for her and her children but they refused and warned her that if she returned to the farm they would shoot her. The victim reports that the war veterans had already begun looting some of her farming equipment.

**HARARE****Epworth***The Zimbabwean**08 September 2008*

Σ. MDC officials reported that the wife of Epworth Member of Parliament Eliah Jembere was detained by police and interrogated for seven hours on September 8. The victim was only released after Alec Muchadehama, a lawyer for the party intervened. Eliah Jembere was arrested on charges of rape just before he was to be sworn in on August 25.

*16 September 2008*

Four female victims report that they were assaulted by four police officers and a ZANU PF youth for allegedly celebrating the signing of the power sharing agreement. The four assailants got to the four women's homes while they were asleep and took them to the ZANU PF base at Ruben shopping centre in Epworth where they made them roll on the ground whilst singing MDC songs. The police officers also forced the victims to push a vehicle from the base to the police station where they were assaulted by the police officers who were on duty. They only stopped the assault when their shift had ended. The victims were later taken to Harare Central Law and Order section where they were detained overnight.

**Harare Central**

*15 September 2008*

The female victim reports that she and other MDC supporters were assaulted by the police. The victim was part of a group of MDC supporters who had gone to witness the signing of the power-sharing Agreement between ZANU PF and the two MDC formations. When she arrived at the hotel she was ordered by members of the ZRP to wait outside. A group of ZANU PF supporters arrived and they were allowed access into the hotel. The victim and other MDC supporters complained about the preferential treatment that the ZANU PF supporters had received. They were then assaulted with baton sticks.

*15 September 2008*

The female victim reports that she was assaulted by ZANU PF youths while passing through Rainbow Towers Hotel during the signing of the power sharing agreement. She passed a group of ZANU PF youths who were arguing with each other near the hotel and had moved a few meters from them when she saw the group running towards her. Fearing that they would attack her she ran towards a group of police officers who were standing across the road but was attacked before she could get to them. The assailants hit her on the back with a large stick and also threw stones at her. Following the attack she went to Harvest House (MDC Headquarters) to seek assistance.

*15 September 2008*

Two female and two male victims report that they were assaulted by police officers at Rainbow Towers Hotel during the signing of the power-sharing Agreement. They were part of the crowd that was trying to enter into the Conference Center where the signing was being held. As the crowd forcibly pushed its way through the gate that was manned by the police. The police started beating them with baton sticks. One of the victims reports that he was beaten on the head and sustained injuries.

*18 September 2008*

The male victim reports that he was assaulted by ZANU PF youths for being an MDC supporter. The victim used to work as a Rank Marshall at 4<sup>th</sup> street bus terminus in the city centre. He reports that sometime in March 2008, ZANU PF youths went and took over the place and declared themselves the new Rank Marshalls. In September he was allowed back at work but the youths insisted on keeping his earnings. When he asked for his money, they alleged that he was an MDC supporter and assaulted him all over his body.

*The Zimbabwe Situation*

*21 September 2008*

Σ. Berison Bvirivindi, a street vendor, was assaulted by suspected ZANU PF supporters for wearing an MDC T shirt. The victim reports that ZANU PF youth seized him at his stall in Harare's Road Port bus station. He alleged that they assaulted him and told him that they would continue attacking MDC supporters until Robert Mugabe told them to stop and Morgan Tsvangirai was acknowledged as Prime Minister.

***Harare East***



*The Zimbabwe Times**26 September 2008*

Σ. It is reported that former soccer star Masimba Dinyero was placed in detention for three weeks after he allegedly criticized Robert Mugabe for continuing to cling to power while police officers starve. Police sources revealed that Dinyero, a serving police officer, allegedly criticized President Mugabe during a casual discussion with a fellow policeman. He was summoned before a police disciplinary hearing which recommended that he be detained for 21 days at Harare's Chikurubi Barracks. This is the maximum period a police officer can be detained for any breaches of a police disciplinary code.

**Highfield***5 September 2008*

The male victim reports that he was arrested and detained for four nights on allegations that he is an MDC supporter and had caused public disorder in the Norton area. He was arrested while at his place of work in Highfields where he is a security guard. He was taken to Norton Police Station where he was detained for four nights without appearing in court. He was latter released without charge.

**Mabvuku***15 September 2008*

The male victim reports that he was assaulted by suspected ZANU PF youths for wearing an MDC t-shirt. He was on his way to fetch water when he was confronted by two men who accused him of being a trouble causer because he is an MDC supporter. He was hit with an iron bar on the head before the assailants forced the metal bar into his mouth. Three of his teeth fell out as a result.

*22 September 2008*

The male victim reports that he was assaulted by ZANU PF youths for being an MDC supporter. He was wearing an MDC t-shirt while operating his phone shop at the local shopping when he was approached by a group of ZANU PF youths who warned him that he would be killed if he did not remove the t-shirt. He went back home to change and a few hours later was confronted by six ZANU PF youths who assaulted him and also took his cell phone, money and destroyed his pay phone.

*23 September 2008**The Zimbabwe Situation*

Σ. Edmore Ngadziore, the MDC District Treasurer for Mabvuku was assaulted at the Red Bull Shopping Centre by about 10 ZANU PF supporters for wearing an MDC t-shirt.

**Mbare**

*15 September 2008*

The male victim reports that he was assaulted by ZANU PF youths while escorting his friend after work. The youths alleged that he was part of a group of MDC supporters that had earlier marched in the streets celebrating the power - sharing Agreement before assaulting him. They punched him with clenched fists, kicked him with booted feet and hit him with blunt objects.

*15 September 2008*

The female victim reports that she was assaulted by ZANU PF youths while she was on her way to the Rainbow Towers to witness the signing of the power - sharing Agreement. She was clad in MDC regalia. They assaulted her with a pick handle and kicked her on her right ankle.

*16 September 2008*

Three male victims, who are MDC supporters, report that they were assaulted by ZANU PF youths from the "Chipangano" group which operates in Mbare for putting on MDC t-shirts. The three were walking from Sunningdale to the Rainbow Towers Hotel to witness the signing of the power - sharing Agreement and were passing through Mbare when they were attacked. They were beaten with large wooden sticks and one of the victims was stripped naked by the ZANU PF youths.

*18 September 2008*

The male victim reports that he was was assaulted by suspected ZANU PF youths for allegedly celebrating the signing of the power-sharing Agreement. He was standing at a street corner with a friend when they were confronted by a group of more than 10 ZANU PF youths. His friend managed to escape but the victim failed to flee from the assailants and was beaten with large sticks all over his body and sustained injuries to his head.

*25 September 2008*

*The Zimbabwe Situation*

Σ. It is reported that close to 61 families were attacked by ZANU PF militia in full view of members of the police force at Matapi Police Station. It is reported that the police took no action as these families were attempting to reclaim their homes from which they were expelled in June 2008 at the height of the election-related violence. Although the victims were accompanied by a court officer and the Mbare Member of Parliament, they were met with serious and violent resistance by the ZANU PF supporters. Witnesses said two truckloads of ZANU PF militia including the notorious "Chipangano" gang invaded the police station chanting slogans denouncing the MDC while the police looked on. ZANU PF youths militia evicted MDC supporters from houses owned by the city council in the Mbare, Nenyere and Matapi flats. It is alleged that the youths were led by the losing ZANU PF council candidate for Ward 11 in Mbare, Jim Kunaka.

**Mufakose**

*09 September 2008*

The male victim reports that he was assaulted by ZANU PF youths. He was at Adlina Butchery at Mhishi Shopping Centre with his friends when two twin cab vehicles loaded with suspected ZANU PF supporters arrived. They alleged that he was the head of the MDC youth and started assaulting him. He was assaulted with clenched fists and booted feet before being thrown into the back of one of the trucks and taken to a place near Mufakose High 1 School. The assailants submerged him in a dish full of water and further assaulted him. They threatened to kill him and asked him to name all MDC supporters in the area. He was forced to put on a ZANU PF t-shirt before being blindfolded and taken back to the shopping centre.

***Mount Pleasant***

*7 September 2008*

The male victim, a farmer, reports that he was assaulted by ZANU PF youths who had come to forcibly take over his farm. The group led by one Mr Kaduku produced an offer letter that was allegedly written at the Ministry of Lands and Agriculture. The victim was ordered to pack his belongings and move out of the farm house. He then asked to be given more time to pack his belongings and to verify the offer letter with the Ministry of Lands but the assailants refused and went on to assault him with large sticks. One of the assailants hit the victim with a golf club on the leg resulting in a fracture. They threw him into their truck and drove him to the farm house where they began taking his property out of the house. The police arrived at that moment and ordered them to stop taking out the furniture. The assailants were arrested and the victim was taken to hospital for treatment.

**MANICALAND**

***Buhera North***

*The Zimbabwe Situation*

*23 September 2008*

Σ. Police Officers in Buhera arrested close to 25 MDC supporters for celebrating the signing of the power-sharing Agreement. The charges were however changed to a more serious one, that of stock theft when the police realised that they could not sustain the one they had arrested the victims for earlier. Those arrested were held at Murambinda Police Station.

**Mutasa North**

22 September 2008

The male victim reports that he was assaulted by ZANU PF youths for wearing an MDC t-shirt. He was at a shopping centre when he was attacked by a group of ZANU PF youths who dragged him behind the shops and assaulted him under the feet with large sticks. He was told he was being punished for being an MDC supporter.

**MASHONALAND CENTRAL****Bindura North**

*The Zimbabwe Situation*

09 September 2008

Σ. Marauding ZANU PF youths from Bindura forced a law firm that has been representing MDC activists in the town to close down. The ZANU PF youths raided the offices of Dinha, Bonongwe and Partners, before taking away office furniture and hundreds of files. It is alleged that the youths were working on instructions from Mashonaland Central Governor Advocate Martin Dinha. Dinha is one of the founder members of a local NGO the Zimbabwe Lawyers for Justice and a silent partner in the firm.

*The Zimbabwe Situation*

17 September 2008

Σ. Ten Bindura State University Students were arrested during a protest where they were demanding chiefly among other things the reversal of school fees increment and better living conditions on campus. The Zimbabwe National Students Union (ZINASU) Secretary for International Relations Chiedza Gadzirai, Laswet Savadye, Respect Ndanga, Titus Chigama, Josephine Majurira, Tawanda Kanogoiwa, Artwell Simbaure and three others were detained in police custody. They alleged that the police assaulted them and accused them of trying to incite students to further the MDC agenda. The group was charged with criminal nuisance and fined 20 Zimbabwe dollars each.

**MASHONALAND EAST****Chikomba West**

9 September 2008

The male victim reports that he was assaulted and abducted by ZANU PF youths for being an MDC supporter. He was at Nharira Township when he was forced into a white Isuzu truck by four men. They drove him to the home of the ZANU PF candidate in the March harmonised elections. He was assaulted with large sticks during the drive there. He was forced to remove the MDC t-shirt he was wearing before it was burnt by the youths. He was later released and had to walk back home a distance of more than 10km.

## **MASVINGO**

### ***Masvingo Urban***

*The Standard*

*13 September 2008*

Σ. Three MDC officials were arrested in Masvingo and more than 100 party supporters were arrested and detained for four hours at Masvingo Central Police Station after they took to the streets celebrating the power - sharing Agreement. Tachiona Chiminya, Masvingo West MP, Jefferson Chitando, Masvingo Central legislator and provincial chairman, Wilstaff Chitemere moved around with scores of MDC supporters in the city of Masvingo singing party songs and celebrating. The MDC supporters, some in a lorry and others in an open truck and the rest toyi-toying on the streets, were blocked by police vehicles in the city centre and force - marched to the Masvingo Central Police Station, where they were detained for about four hours. They were later released without charge after the intervention of party lawyer and Masvingo Urban legislator, Tongai Matutu.

## **MATEBELELAND SOUTH**

### ***Matobo North***

*6 September 2008*

The male victim reports that he was assaulted by suspected ZANU PF supporters who alleged that he is an MDC supporter because he lives and works in South Africa. He gave the four men a lift to Bulawayo and as they were driving along during a conversation the victim was forced to stop his car and his hands and feet were tied. He was thrown in the trunk of the car and the assailants drove around for a while. He later managed to free himself and drove to the MDC offices in Bulawayo.

**Monthly totals of human rights violations from 1 January 2008 – 30 September 2008**

Table 1

	January	February	March	April	May	June	July	August	Sept	Total
Abduction/ kidnapping	3	11	3	31	26	37	5	1	1	<b>118</b>
Assault	56	45	270	550	435	281	66	19	93	<b>1815</b>
Attempted murder	0	0	0	4	1	1	2	0	0	<b>8</b>
Death threats	1	0	5	17	9	12	3	0	2	<b>49</b>
Disappearance	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	<b>0</b>
Displacement	0	0	0	412	160	55	0	0	1	<b>628</b>
Freedom of expr/ass/mvt	94	410	108	712	600	182	35	20	98	<b>2259</b>
Murder	0	0	0	10	14	60	19	4	0	<b>107</b>
Political Discrim/ intim/vict	67	410	287	783	466	277	70	19	96	<b>2475</b>
Property related	1	0	8	280	195	82	11	4	3	<b>584</b>
Rape	0	0	0	0	0	6	0	0	0	<b>6</b>
School closure	0	0	0	11	5	10	0	0	0	<b>26</b>
Torture	2	10	24	560	58	35	6	4	4	<b>703</b>
Unlawful arrest	56	42	19	26	18	44	5	5	44	<b>259</b>
Unlawful detention	56	42	19	26	18	44	5	5	44	<b>259</b>
Monthly Totals	336	970	743	3422	2005	1126	227	81	385	<b>9232</b>

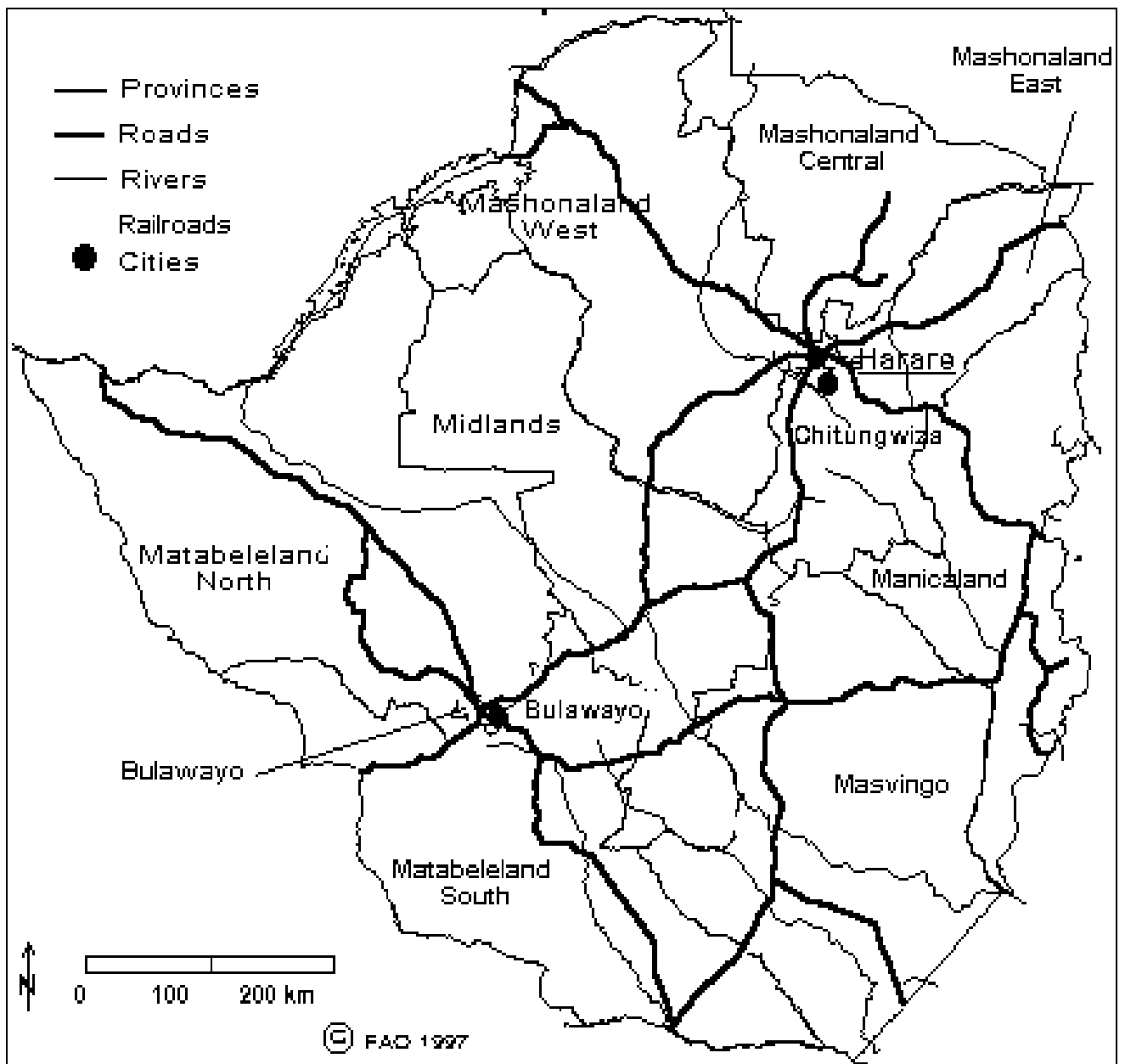
	MAIN EVENTS 2008
January	
22	MDC 'Freedom March' is banned by the police.
23	Morgan Tsvangirai is picked up by the police from his home in the early hours of the morning and detained.
25	MDC members are assaulted and arrested as they marched towards Glamis Stadium for a rally. Members of <i>Restoration of Human Rights Zimbabwe</i> are arrested and detained following a peaceful demonstration.
February	
13	Student leaders are arrested and assaulted for demonstrating in Harare and Bulawayo.  The MDC (Tsvangirai faction) Mabvuku Parliamentary candidate is arrested outside the party's headquarters allegedly for planning a demonstration.
19	Nine members of the <i>Progressive Teachers Union</i> of Zimbabwe are abducted and assaulted by suspected ZANU PF supporters before being handed over to the police.
24	The MDC (Tsvangirai) Parliamentary candidate for Mhondoro/Ngezi is detained at Mubaira Police Station for 34 hours on allegations that his campaign team had used abusive language during a campaign session.
March	
8	WOZA demonstrates on International Women's' Day. Three members are assaulted and fifty are injured in the assaults by anti-riot police.
10	Seven women are assaulted in Epworth while coming from an MDC rally. Two of them are stripped of their party regalia leaving them half naked.
29	Voting in the Harmonised General, House of Assembly, Senate and Local Government elections take place.

April 13	MDC claims that that 10 of its supporters had died as a result of political violence.
18	Zimbabwe celebrates Independence Day. The main celebrations take place at Gwanzura Stadium in Harare.
19	Zimbabwe Election Commission starts the recount of the harmonised election votes in 23 constituencies.
May 2	Official Presidential Election results are announced.
13	Tonderai Ndira an MDC activist is abducted from his home in Mabvuku by suspected state agents.
22	The body of Tonderai Ndira is discovered in a Harare morgue.
28	MDC Offices at Jerera Growth Point in Masvingo are set on fire by armed men killing two people.
June 4	Social Welfare Minister orders international aid groups to suspend operations
12	Tendai Biti is arrested and charged with treason and communicating falsehoods prejudicial to the state.
22	Tsvangirai pulls out of 27 June Presidential Run Off citing violence against his supporters.
27	The Presidential Run Off takes place.
29	Election results are announced and Robert Mugabe is declared winner and sworn in for a sixth term as President.



July	
17	King Muteta a police officer in Mudzi North is allegedly severely assaulted by ZANU PF youths and war veterans and dies on 25 July 2008 due to injuries sustained in the attack.
21	A Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) to begin interparty talks is signed by ZANU PF and the two MDC formations.
August	
11	Zimbabwe celebrates Heroes Day followed by the Defence Forces day the following day.
25	Lovemore Moyo, MDC National Chairperson, is elected the 1st Speaker of Parliament from an opposition party since Independence in 1980
26	The first session of the seventh Parliament of Zimbabwe is opened by President Mugabe.
September	
15	The leaders of the three main political parties sign a power - sharing deal agreeing on the framework for power sharing. Robert Mugabe remains President, Morgan Tsvangirai becomes the Prime Minister and Arthur Mutambara becomes the Deputy Prime Minister.
18	The parties hold talks regarding the allocation of ministries but fail to reach an agreement.
19	The President leaves for a trip to New York for the 63 <sup>rd</sup> Session of the the United Nations General Assembly before swearing in the Prime Minister, Morgan Tsvangirai.
25	The President delivers his statement at the 63 <sup>rd</sup> Session of the UN General Assembly. He reiterates that his party, ZANU PF, would abide by the spirit and letter of the power – sharing Agreement.

### ADMINISTRATIVE MAP OF ZIMBABWE



## ADMINISTRATIVE MAP OF ZIMBABWE

### Zambia

The Zimbabwe Human Rights NGO Forum (also known as the “Human Rights Forum”) is a coalition comprising 16 member organisations. It has been in existence since January 1998 when non-Governmental organisations working in the field of human rights joined together to provide legal and psychosocial assistance to the victims of the Food Riots of January 1998.

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

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

The Human Rights Forum operates a Research and Documentation Unit and offers legal services to assist victims of organised violence and torture claim compensation from perpetrators through its Public Interest Unit.

Member organisations of the Human Rights Forum are:

- Amnesty International (Zimbabwe) (AI (Z))
- Catholic Commission for Justice and Peace (CCJP)
- Gays and Lesbians of Zimbabwe (GALZ)
- Legal Resources Foundation (LRF)
- Media Institute of Southern Africa (MISA)

- Media Monitoring Project of Zimbabwe (MMPZ)
- Nonviolent Action and Strategies for Social Change (NOVASC)
- Transparency International (Zimbabwe) (TI (Z))
- Women of Zimbabwe Arise (WOZA)
- Zimbabwe Association for Crime Prevention and the Rehabilitation of the Offender (ZACRO)
- Zimbabwe Association of Doctors for Human Rights (ZADHR)
- Zimbabwe Civic Education Trust (ZIMCET)
- Zimbabwe Human Rights Association (ZimRights)
- Zimbabwe Lawyers for Human Rights (ZLHR)
- Zimbabwe Peace Project (ZPP)
- Zimbabwe Women Lawyers Association (ZWLA)

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

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