



Zimbabwe
HUMAN RIGHTS
N G O F o r u m

POLITICAL VIOLENCE REPORT

November 2008

18 December 2008

A report by the Zimbabwe Human Rights NGO Forum

OVERVIEW

As the human rights and humanitarian situation in Zimbabwe continues to deteriorate, more voices of dissent are coming up to demand an end to the political impasse by the main political parties. Reminiscent of the previous month, civic groups such as the *National Constitutional Assembly*, (NCA) took to the streets to express their discontent. Medical professionals also added their voices to demand reforms in the health sector. The Zimbabwean authorities continued in their use of excessive force against these peaceful demonstrators, a trend that has become increasingly worrying and has left many peaceful protestors severely injured and imprisoned.

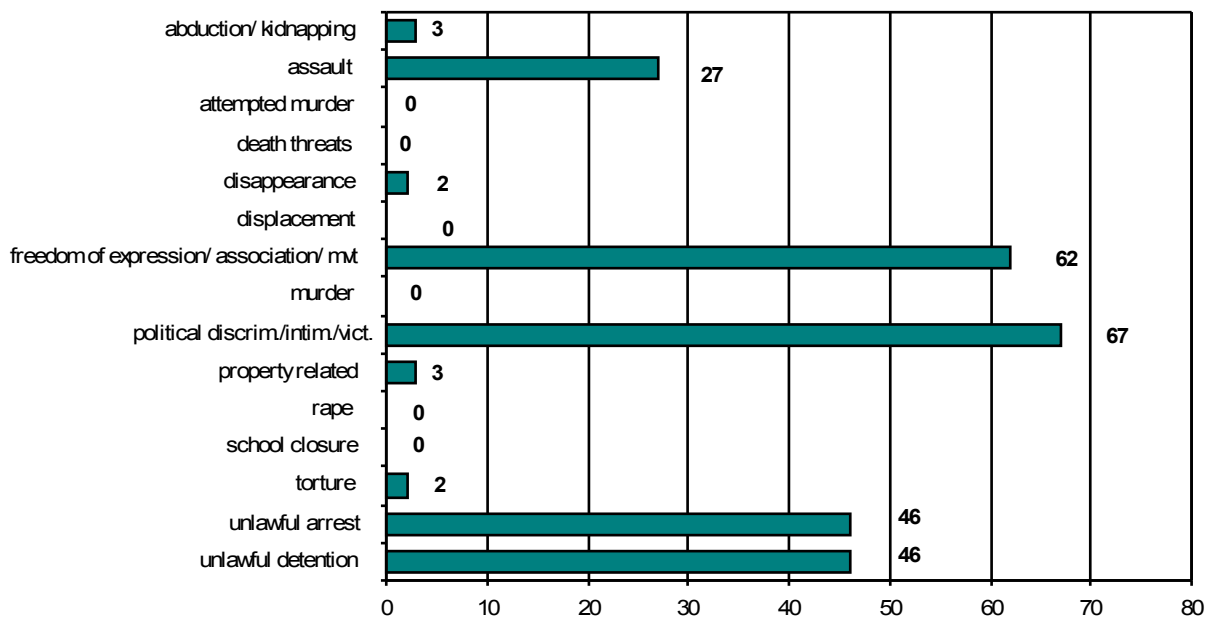
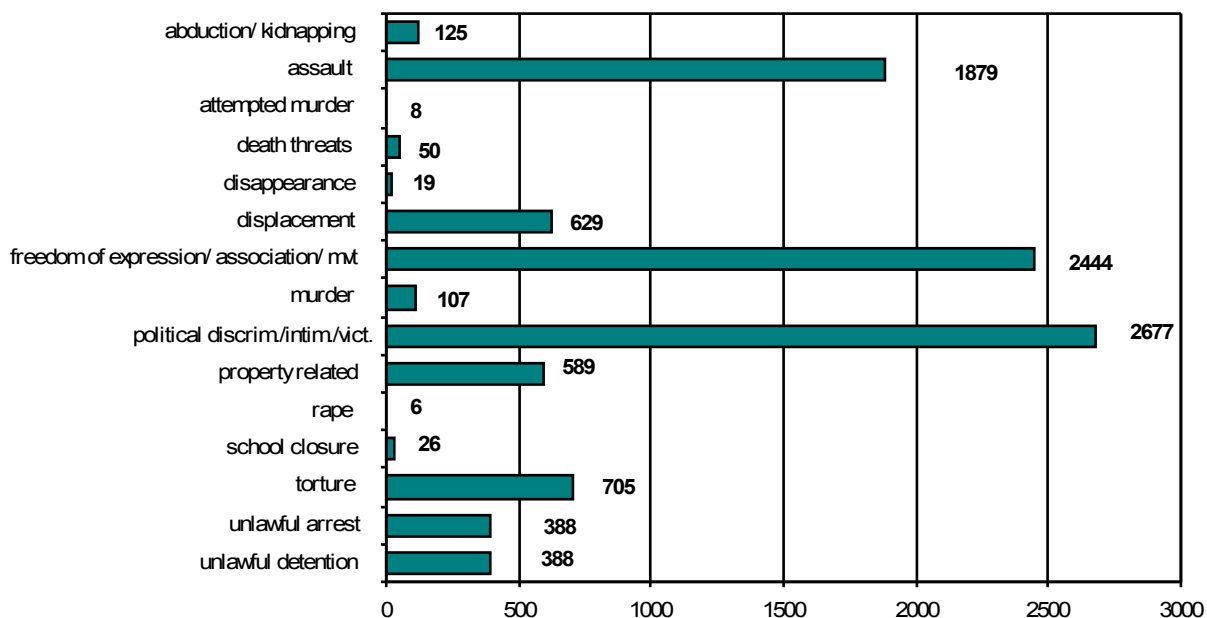
The protests by the NCA on 11 November in Bulawayo, Gweru, Harare, Masvingo and Mutare, to advocate for the implementation of a three point plan for 1) a Transitional Government, 2) a People-Driven Constitution, and 3) Free and Fair Elections, are an indication of the growing frustration among Zimbabweans with the non-implementation of the power-sharing agreement.

The Zimbabwean authorities continue to target human rights activists for arrest, detention and abduction. As documented in this report, the police raided the home of the NCA Chairman Lovemore Madhuku at dawn with the intention of arresting him to prevent him from participating in the planned NCA protests on 11 November 2008. Employees of the *Zimbabwe Peace Project* (ZPP) were also arrested while on a field trip in Harare's Budiro suburb. Their arrest and subsequent detention, as well as that of the NCA Chairman, indicates the growing intolerance of the Zimbabwean authorities of the activities of civic organizations.

Five months after the Presidential Run-off Election, intolerance and harassment of known and purported MDC supporters by ZANU PF youths, members of the police and army, continue. This report documents the assault of five suspected MDC supporters in Manicaland and a retributive attack on a suspected MDC supporter who had reported to the police in June, an attack by ZANU PF supporters. Abductions of MDC personnel have also been on the increase raising fears that the callous murders of MDC activists such as Tonderai Ndira in advance of the 27 June 2008 Run-off elections could be repeated. Such reports cast doubt and raise concern over the political will of the Zimbabwean authorities to implement the power-sharing agreement of 15 September.

The abuse of office by some members of the ZRP continues unabated. This report documents the torture of two men while in police custody and a subsequent ploy by the officers detaining them to extort money from them in order to secure their release. The Human Rights Forum condemns such actions by the police and calls upon them to exercise due professional conduct.

Although this report documents lower incidences of violence as compared to the October report, the trends of violence remain alarmingly the same. This report documents 46 cases of unlawful arrest and detention, a significantly lower figure than that of 83 recorded in October. The violation of the freedom of assembly/association/movement is recorded in the report as 62, another significant drop from the figure of 123 recorded in October. The drop in the November figures cannot however, be attributed to the subsiding of violence, as some cases were still being reported at the time of the production of this report.

TOTALS: 1 November to 30 November 2008**Cumulative Totals: 1 January –30 November 2008**

The graphs should be read along with the table depicting the monthly totals of violations for November 2008 on page 11.

Key Abbreviations

AIPPA – Access to Information and Protection of Privacy Act

CIO – Central Intelligence Organisation

MDC – Movement for Democratic Change

MP – Member of Parliament

NCA – National Constitutional Assembly

OVT – Organised Violence and Torture

POSA – Public Order and Security Act

PTUZ – Progressive Teachers Union of Zimbabwe

ROHR- Restoration of Human Rights Zimbabwe

UMP – Uzumba Maramba Pfungwe

WOZA – Women of Zimbabwe Arise

ZANU PF – Zimbabwe African National Union Patriotic Front

ZCTU – Zimbabwe Congress of Trade Unions

ZNA – Zimbabwe National Army

ZPS – Zimbabwe Prison Service

ZRP – Zimbabwe Republic Police

ZNLWVA – Zimbabwe National Liberation War Veterans Association

ZIMTA – Zimbabwe Teachers Association

ZINASU – Zimbabwe National Students Union

ZUPCO – Zimbabwe United Passenger Company

Sources: The information contained in this report is derived from statements made to the Public Interest Unit of the Zimbabwe

Human Rights NGO 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 Σ

HARARE

Budiriro

20 November 2008

Three employees from Zimbabwe Peace Project (ZPP) were arrested as they were conducting field work in Budiriro suburb, Harare. The arrested employees were Broderick Takawira, Lazarus Makova and Barbra Nyangairi. At the time of their arrests they were photographing scenes of uncollected refuse, bank queues and they had also taken a photograph of a coffin of one of the victims of cholera at a clinic. The ZPP staff were detained for three days initially at Glen View Police Station and eventually taken to Harare Central Police Station as police struggled to find a suitable sustainable charge against the detainees.

Chitungwiza

22 November 2008

The male victim, an MDC member, reports that he was forcibly taken from a meeting by suspected ZANU PF supporters. He was attending an MDC Youth Forum meeting at St Mary's Hall when two unidentified men, who came in a truck without a registration, number confronted him. The assailants hit him on the legs, carried him to the truck and drove off. The incident was witnessed by other MDC supporters who got into another car and followed the truck. When the truck had slowed down the victim managed to jump out, but was then beaten with a knobkerrie on the back of his head. The other MDC youths who had followed the truck then rescued him from the assailants and took him to hospital for treatment.

Epworth

8 November 2008

Two male victims report that they were assaulted by suspected ZANU PF youths on allegations that they are MDC supporters. The two were walking from Epworth towards Hatfield when they were confronted by the youths who forcibly took a bag of clothes from them. The youths found an MDC t-shirt in the bag and force-marched the victims to a small room nearby. The victims were forced to lie on their abdomens and assaulted on the back and buttocks with large sticks. The youths then took the MDC t-shirt and a membership card belonging to one of the victims before ordering them to go home.

Harare Central

26 November 2008

SW Radio Africa

Σ. It is reported that Chris Dlamini the MDC Director for Security was abducted from his home in Harare and his whereabouts are unknown. Dlamini, who is reportedly a former police officer, had been working with the MDC in various security portfolios. Another abduction of an MDC member was reported in Norton, west of Harare. The name of the victim was only given as Baba VaSarudzai (father of Sarudzai).

8 November 2008

The female victim reports that she was assaulted and detained by the police for allegedly undermining the authority of the police. She was doing her shopping in town when she saw police officers arresting a group of women who were demonstrating. She expressed sympathy with them and was immediately apprehended, assaulted and accused of undermining the authority of the police. She was taken to Harare Central Police Station where she was detained for about five hours.

9 November 2008

The male victim reports that he was assaulted and detained by the police on allegations that he had assaulted a police officer. He was staying at the Holiday Inn in Harare and had left the hotel premises to buy credit for his cellphone when he was confronted by the police officers who accused him of ignoring them when he was called. They handcuffed him, threw him into their truck and drove to Harare Central Police Station. He was hit on the back of the head with a baton stick and sustained a cut. At the police station, the victim was accused of assaulting police officers and detained overnight. He was denied medical attention having sustained the cut at the back of his head. The victim was also denied food during the detention. He was released the following afternoon without charge.

11 November 2008

The NCA staged demonstrations in Bulawayo, Harare, Gweru, Masvingo and Mutare. With the exception of Masvingo, the police disrupted the protests arresting NCA members and injuring others. Six protestors report that they were assaulted by the police during the protest in Harare and treated at a local clinic for injuries. Police detained NCA National Chairperson Dr. Lovemore Madhuku for four hours prior to ransacking his home in the early hours of the morning thereby preventing him from participating in the protest in Harare. The protests intended to push for a three point plan aimed at achieving democracy in Zimbabwe. The plan indicated the necessity of 1) a Transitional Government, 2) a People-Driven Constitution, and 3) Free and Fair Elections. 11 protestors were reportedly arrested in Harare and 25 others in Bulawayo, Gweru and Mutare combined.

18 November 2008

On 18 November 2008, health workers from Harare Central and Parirenyatwa Hospitals protested against the state of the public health system. These health workers have continued to attempt to deliver health services in extremely difficult circumstances and planned to march to the offices of the Minister of Health and Child Welfare at Kaguvi Building to present a petition calling for urgent action to be taken to restore accessible and affordable health care to Zimbabwe's population. Heavily armed riot police prevented the group from proceeding further than Leopold Takawira Street outside of Parirenyatwa Hospital where they had gathered at 08:00hrs. The group then held their protest within the grounds of Parirenyatwa Hospital for four hours before riot police entered the hospital grounds at 11:45hrs and forcibly dispersed them, heavily assaulting several health workers in the process.

27 November 2008

The NCA staged a peaceful protest in Harare that was disrupted by armed anti-riot police. The protestors were demanding a transitional government, a people driven constitution and subsequent free and fair elections. The anti-riot police fired teargas into the crowd of protestors as they approached the Parliament building. Six NCA members report that they were assaulted with baton sticks and received treatment for the injuries sustained. Two members were reportedly arrested during the protest.

Waterfalls

11 November 2008

Radio Voice Of The People (VOP)

Σ. Zimbabwe police reportedly raided National Constitutional Assembly (NCA) Chairman, Lovemore Madhuku's home in an attempt to arrest him ahead of a planned anti-government protests. Madhuku's lawyer reported that police raided the NCA Chairman's home at dawn but failed to arrest him as he was not at home. Madhuku latter handed himself over to the police at Harare Central Police Station accompanied by his lawyer Alec Muchadehama.

MANICALAND***Mutare Central***

11 November 2008

Four male victims report that they were assaulted by anti-riot police while taking part in an NCA demonstration. The protest was carried out to outline a three point plan that emphasised the necessity for 1) a Transitional Government, 2) a People-Driven Constitution, and 3) Free and Fair Elections. The victims were assaulted with baton sticks and booted feet all over their bodies as the police violently dispersed the protestors. Nine NCA members were reportedly arrested during the protest, and detained at Mutare Remand Prison. Among them was a three months pregnant woman who miscarried after being assaulted while in police custody. The other detainees were also reportedly assaulted by the police while in custody. The arrested were charged with public violence and released on bail pending trial.

Dangamvura

20 November 2008

Five male victims report that they were assaulted by members of the army for allegedly supporting the MDC. The soldiers used baton sticks and clenched fists and beat the victims on their heads and abdomens.

Headlands

27 November 2008

The male victim reports that he was assaulted by ZANU PF youths while coming from his field. He managed to identify one Ashton Neshena as one of the perpetrators. The attack was in retribution for a report the victim had made to the police in June after having been assaulted and having some of his property taken by the ZANU PF youths. The assailants kicked the victim with booted feet in his abdomen. The victim reported the incident at Rusape Police Station and received treatment for his injuries at a clinic in Harare.

MASHONALAND EAST

Goromonzi South

9 November 2008

Two male victims report that they were assaulted and illegally detained by the police. The two were repairing a generator at a client's home when one of them was confronted by a police officer and a young girl who alleged that the victims and three other people had taken part in assaulting an unidentified person. The two men were taken to Ruwa Police Station where they were beaten with broken hose pipes while naked. After being assaulted for an hour, they were thrown into the cells where they were detained overnight. A witness to the assault they had been accused of was brought in the following morning and told the police that the two were not involved. The police demanded US\$150 as a fine before both victims could be released. One Constable Tigere, eventually asked them to pay US\$50 each. One of the victims did not have the demanded amount and eventually paid Z\$1 500 000.00 before being released.

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

Table 1

	January	February	March	April	May	June	July	August	Sept	Oct	Nov	Total
Abduction/ kidnapping	3	11	3	31	26	37	5	1	1	4	3	125
Assault	56	45	270	550	435	281	66	19	93	37	27	1879
Attempted murder	0	0	0	4	1	1	2	0	0	0	0	8
Death threats	1	0	5	17	9	12	3	0	2	1	0	50
Disappearance	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	17	2	19
Displacement	0	0	0	412	160	55	0	0	1	1	0	629
Freedom of expr/ass/mvt	94	410	108	712	600	182	35	20	98	123	62	2444
Murder	0	0	0	10	14	60	19	4	0	0	0	107
Political Discrim/ intim/vict	67	410	287	783	466	277	70	19	96	135	67	2677
Property related	1	0	8	280	195	82	11	4	3	1	3	589
Rape	0	0	0	0	0	6	0	0	0	0	0	6
School closure	0	0	0	11	5	10	0	0	0	0	0	26
Torture	2	10	24	560	58	35	6	4	4	0	2	705
Unlawful arrest	56	42	19	26	18	44	5	5	44	83	46	388
Unlawful detention	56	42	19	26	18	44	5	5	44	83	46	388

Monthly Totals	336	970	743	3422	2005	1126	227	81	385	485	258	10 039
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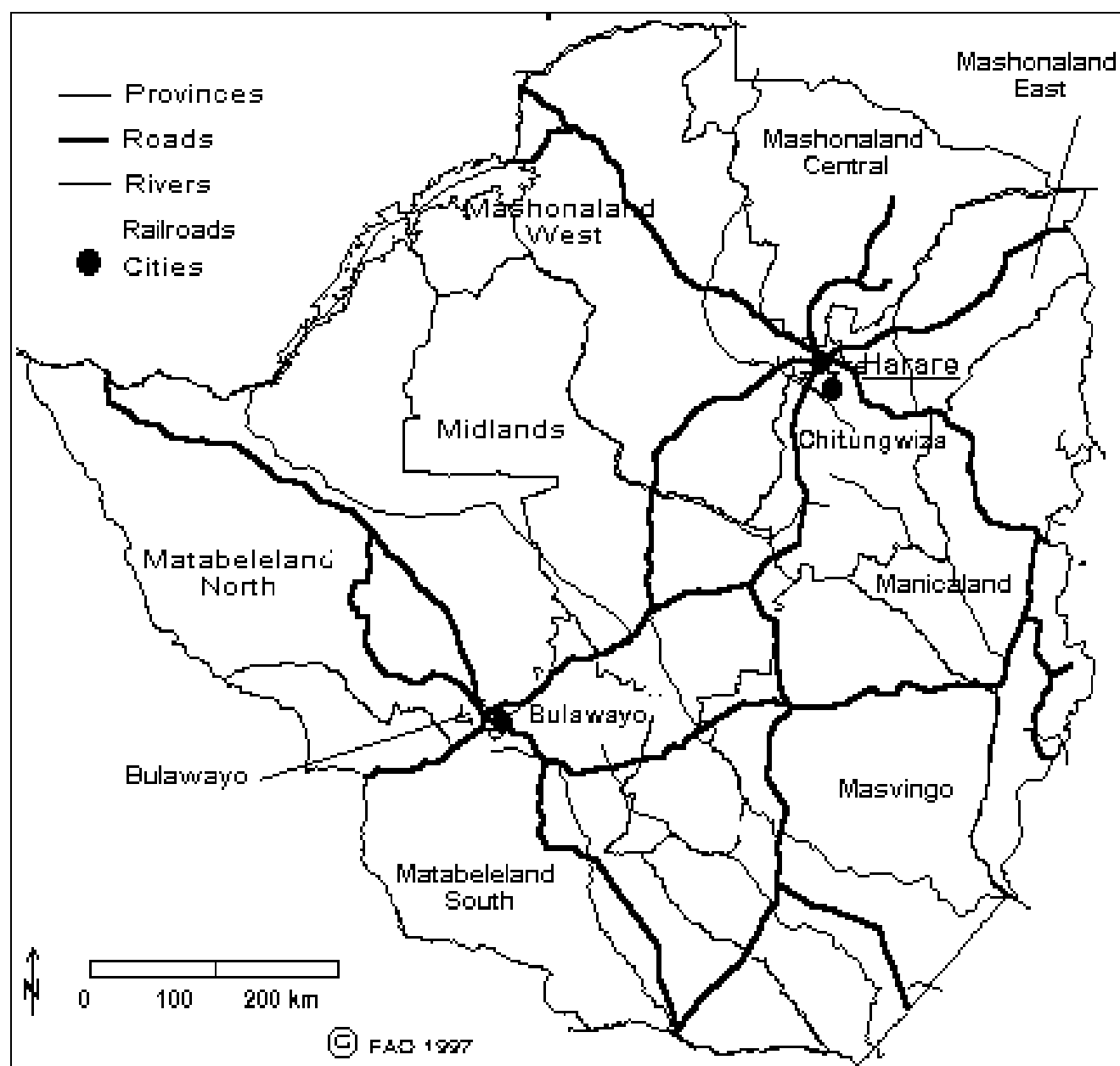
	MAIN EVENTS 2008
January	
22	MDC 'Freedom March' is banned by the police.
23	Morgan Tsvangirai is picked up by the police from his home in the early hours of the morning and detained. MDC members are assaulted and arrested as they marched towards Glamis Stadium for a rally.
25	Members of <i>Restoration 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 takes place.

April 13	MDC claims that that 10 of its supporters have 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 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 rd 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 rd 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.

October	
14	ZINASU members march to Parliament to deliver a petition to legislators expressing concern over the deteriorating standards of education. Five students are arrested and several injured when anti-riot police violently disperse the crowd.
16	Nine WOZA members including Jenni Williams and Magodonga Mahlangu are arrested during a peaceful march in Bulawayo in which the protestors were calling for the access to food aid for all Zimbabweans.
20	SADC Troika meeting on Zimbabwe scheduled for Mbabane in Swaziland fails to take place after the Zimbabwe Registrar General's Office refuses to issue Morgan Tsvangirai a new passport.
27	An emergency SADC Summit to save Zimbabwe's Power Sharing Agreement is held. The rival parties fail to reach an agreement.
27	More than 40 women are arrested and several others injured after anti-riot police break up a peaceful protest organised by the Women's Coalition calling for a speedy conclusion to the the power-sharing talks between ZANU PF and the two MDC formations.
28	ROHR takes to the streets to protest against the delay in the conclusion of the peace talks between ZANU PF and the two MDC formations. Seven protestors are reportedly arrested while 23 are injured when police violently break up the gathering.

November	
11	Anti-riot police break up NCA demonstrations staged by the NCA in Harare, Bulawayo, Mutare , Masingo and Gweru. The protests intended to push for a three point plan aimed at achieving democracy in Zimbabwe.
18	Health personnel stage a protest against the deteriorating health delivery system. Anti-Riot police block the protestors from Parirenyatwa Hospital and assault several health workers.
20	The Zimbabwean authorities deny entry into the country to three of the “elders”, a group of prominent personalities comprising the former United Nations (UN) Secretary General Kofi Anan, the Former United States President Jimmy Carter and the Former South African First Lady Graca Machel. The group were intending to assess the humanitarian situation in the country.
27	NCA stages another demonstration in Harare, pushing for the three point plan. Anti-riot police thwart the demonstration.



ADMINISTRATIVE MAP OF ZIMBABWE

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:

The Executive Director, P O Box 9077, Harare – email: admin@hrforum.co.zw

The Public Interest Unit, P O Box 9077, Harare – email: legal@hrforum.co.zw

The Research Unit, P O Box 9077, Harare – email: research@hrforum.co.zw

Address: 8th Floor Bluebridge North, Eastgate, Harare; Telephone: 250511 - Fax: 250494

The International Liaison Office, 56- 64 Leonard Street London EC 2A 4JX– email: IntLO@hrforumzim.com

Telephone+44-20-7065-0945 Website: www.hrforumzim.com