

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Cases of political violence and human rights abuses in Zimbabwe have become almost a sub-culture which is likely to live with us for some time. Every month we continue to receive reports of the same incidences reoccurring from at least all corners of the country.

Zimbabweans were known to be a peace loving people but it is surprising why such evils are always happening. Every election is now characterised by violence and it looks as if people have now a tendency of politicising even social issues as a way of punishing a neighbour. It has also been realised that some people are ignoring the laws of the country in order to please their masters. This has become a serious concern.

The period under review recorded many cases of people who were had been harassed, victimised and forced to contribute money towards the independence celebrations. In some provinces it is alleged that some people from cities especially Harare are harassed when they visit their rural areas. It is reported that the majority of them are being accused of supporting the opposition.

We would like to inform our frequent readers that we no-longer include the statistics of all recorded cases as we used to do BUT will always be availed to anyone who might need it upon request. We would like to apologise for this inconveniency caused.

Enjoy reading through what is happening around you. Thank you!!!!

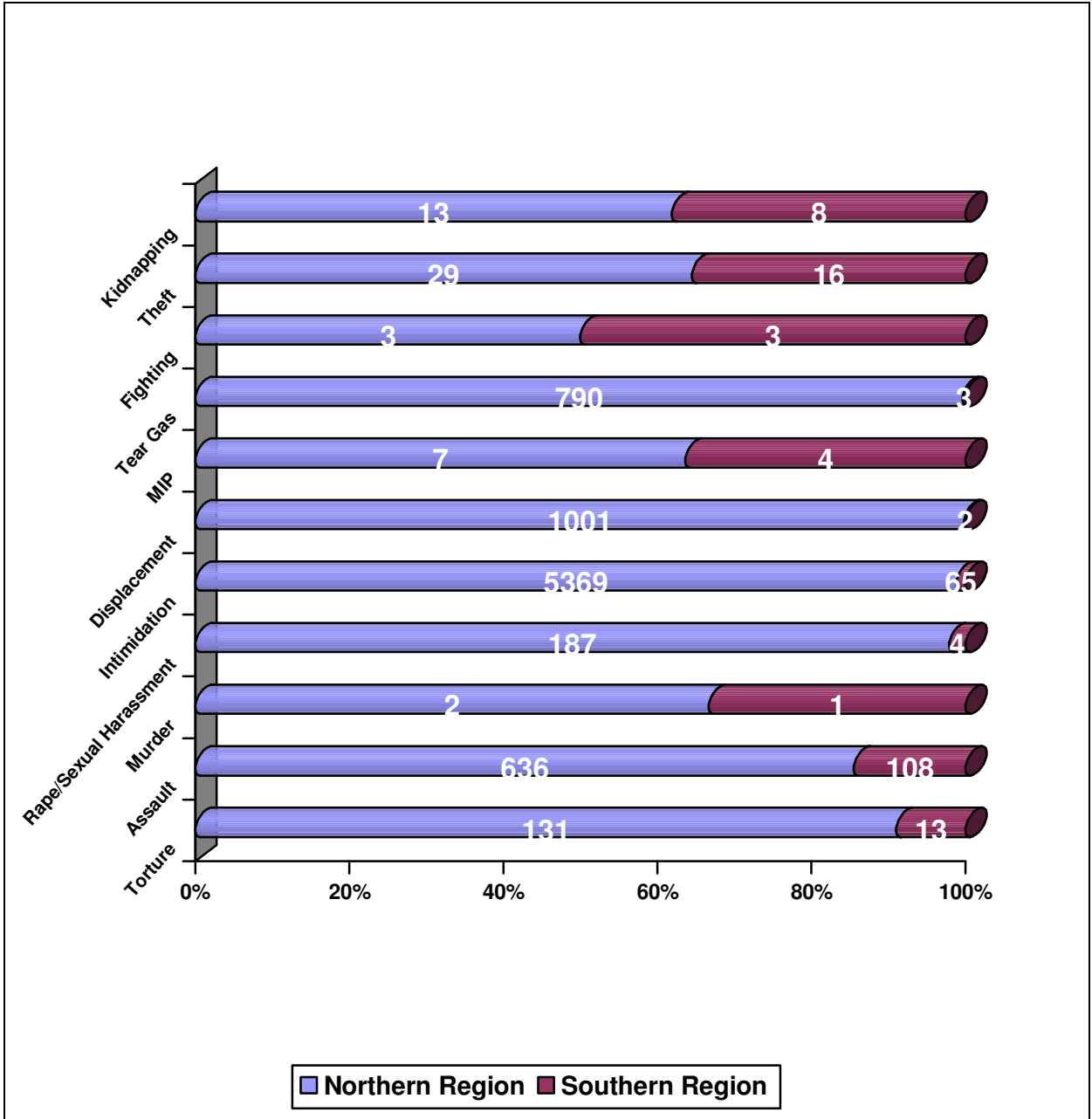


Figure 1: Northern and Southern Region cases of Human Rights violations for March/April 2003.

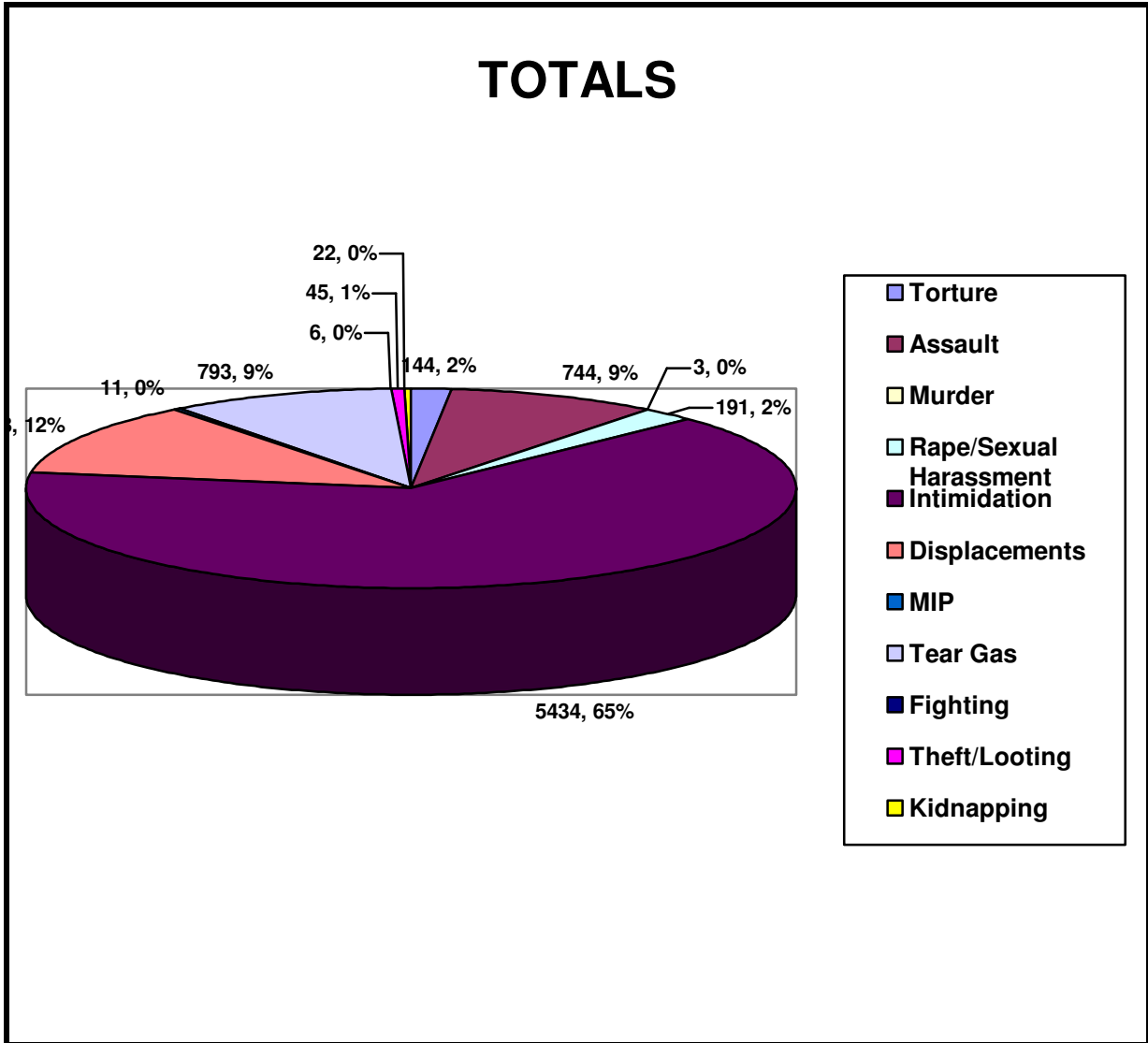


Figure 2: Cumulative figures of HR violations for March/April 2003.

NORTHERN REGION

HARARE / CHITUNGWIZA

Reports received, the month of April had the worst reports on human rights abuses so far, perpetrated mainly by members of the security forces. Many people were assaulted in several high density suburbs, while some were arrested and detained for days, only to be released without charge.

The Highfield and Kuwadzana by-elections as well as the March 18–19 stay away organised by the opposition MDC provided the security forces and suspected ruling party activists with an opportunity to descend heavy-handedly on known and suspected MDC supporters and some innocent members of the public.

Mbare

A demonstration against the Mayor of Harare was held on 24 March and many people attended. It later emerged that the majority of the demonstrators were innocent people who had been forced by a group of mafia-type Zanu PF activists called Chipangano. It is alleged they rounded anyone they met in Mbare, including vendors and people who were

travelling to rural areas, and ferried them into town.

The Chipangano vigilantes also harassed and assaulted people from Highfield and Kuwadzana who had gone to Mbare accusing them of voting for the opposition.

Highfield

As has become the norm, the by-election held in the suburb was violent. Most members of both opposition and public were assaulted by Zanu PF activists (green bombers), the police and the army.

There were widespread reports of vote buying by the Zanu PF candidate Joseph Chinotimba who was alleged to have been distributing scarce food such as maize meal, cooking oil and bread.

On the day election results were announced police fired tear gas among the MDC supporters, who were celebrating the victory of their candidate at Cyril Jennings Halls. Soldiers also went on rampage in bars and night clubs assaulting revellers and accusing them of voting for the opposition. At Tsungai Primary school, tear smoke was thrown from a helicopter on 19 March, the second day of the MDC organised stay away. A number of teachers and pupils were injured in the stampede.

Kuwadzana

Similar reports of torture and assault were received from Kuwadzana where a by-election was also held. The Zanu PF candidate David Mutasa is reported to have sold tonnes of maize

meal to people in the constituency. The loss by the Zanu PF candidate caused violence as people in nearby suburbs like Kambzuma, Mufakose and Budiro were also assaulted.

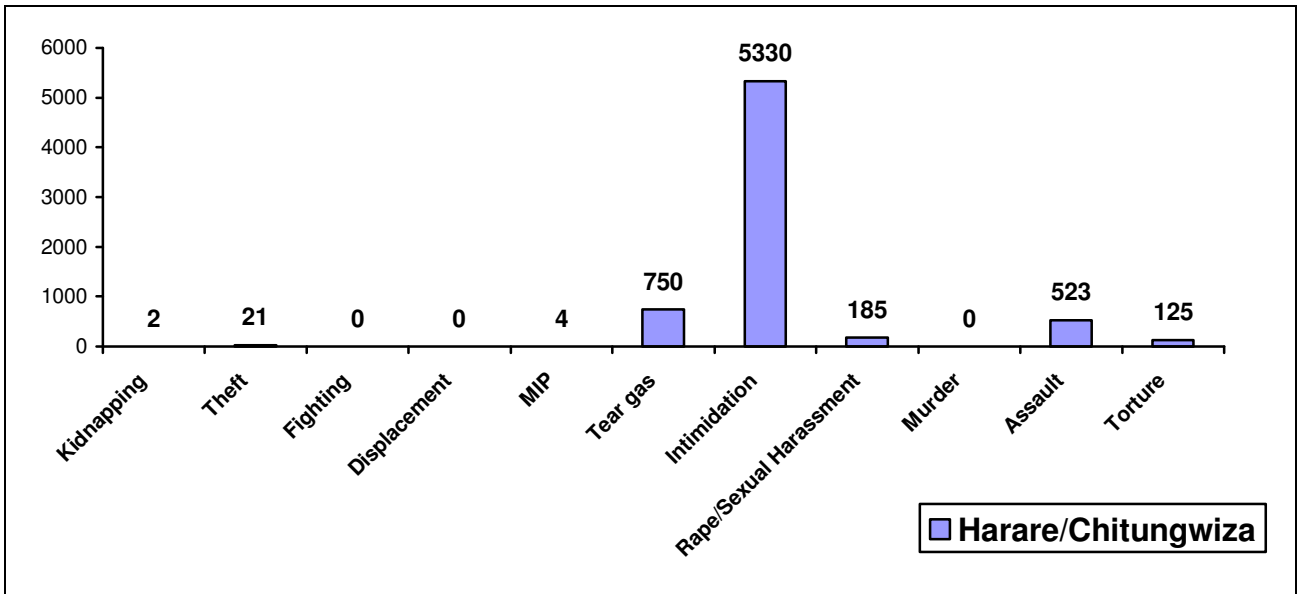


Figure 3

MASHONALAND EAST

Cases of assaults are on the increase. A total of fifty cases were reported during the period under review. It is alleged that Zanu PF

tops the list of the perpetrators. The period under review was politically volatile because of the independence celebrations on 18 April.

Goromonzi

Five cases of violence were recorded in which Zanu PF youths attacked suspected MDC youths. In another case it was reported that members of the Police Support Unit

went and assaulted people they were evicting from one occupied farm in the district.

Chikomba

The constituency recorded six cases of assault. In five of the cases it is alleged that the perpetrators were Zanu PF members against suspected MDC members. The

sixth was of MDC members who attacked members of Zanu PF. It is also alleged that Zanu PF members are being protected whenever they commit crime.

Marondera East

Like in most urban areas, cases of assault are usually high. Nine cases were reported. In one incident an MDC member was allegedly stabbed with a knife after it was

discovered that he wanted to contest in ward 3 Council elections. The assailants were arrested but released without any charge.

Marondera West

Political tension rose towards the Independence holiday. It is alleged that people were forced to contribute money towards the

celebrations. All those who refused were assaulted and accused of being MDC sell-outs.

Murehwa South

Eight case of assault were recorded in the district and although the majority were reported to the police, no action was taken since the main perpetrators were Zanu PF

members. There was a report of soldiers who assaulted members of the public who were looting from a broken-down lorry.

Mutoko South

Members of the public were forced to contribute towards the Independence celebrations. It is alleged that those

who refused were assaulted or labelled MDC members. These cases were not reported to police for fear of victimisation.

Seke

Army officers are alleged to have assaulted members of the public. In Ruwa it was reported that suspected MDC supporters from

Mabvuku assaulted Zanu PF members. The constituency recorded a total of nine cases of assault.

Uzumba-Maramba-Pfungwe

A teacher at one school in the district was assaulted for reading the Financial Gazette. It is alleged that the paper was confiscated

and burnt. Just like in other districts, people were forced to contribute towards the Independence holiday.

Hwedza

Four cases of assault were reported and one of malicious injury to property. These were allegedly

carried out by Zanu PF members against suspected MDC supporters.

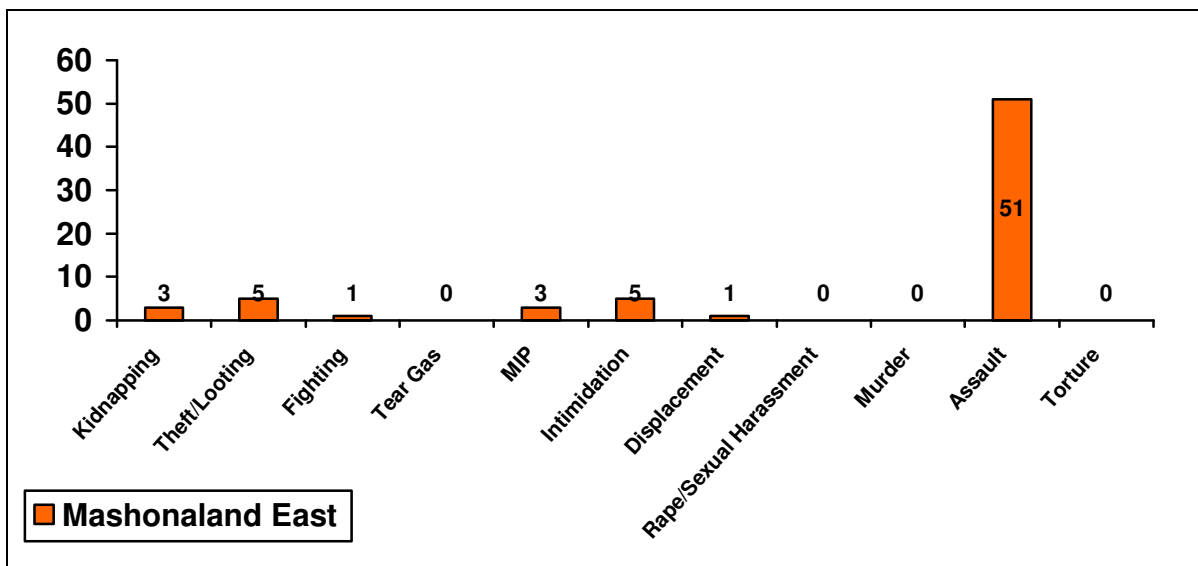


Figure 4

MANICALAND

The level of political intolerance amongst suspected Zanu PF supporters is allegedly worrying in the province. It is alleged that members of the security forces ignored politically motivated crimes committed

against opposition supporters. People were also assaulted for celebrating the MDC victory in Kuwadzana and Highfield. A total of 1154 cases of violence were reported.

Mutare Central

Cases of violence were very high in the constituency because of the stay away organised by the MDC. It is alleged that the army was deployed in the suburbs where they assaulted and subjected civilians to inhuman treatment and accused them of being MDC supporters. It is reported that thirteen MDC supporters including MP Giles Mutsekwa were arrested on allegations of mobilising the stay away.

It is alleged that the people arrested were assaulted and released without any charge.

Reports from the area alleges that some Border Gezi youths were planted by the state to cause chaos which would be blamed on the MDC. It is reported that these militia were wearing civilian clothes instead of their green uniform.

Mutare North

Because of the stay away the army was deployed in the constituency. It is alleged that some MDC leaders were assaulted for having encouraged people to engage in the stay away. Two people were assaulted by Zanu PF youths near the home area of Opah Muchinguri the governor of Manicaland. It is alleged that the two were blamed for celebrating the MDC victory in Kuwadzana and Highfield.

It is also reported that the Zanu PF youths disrupted the commissioning of a borehole in Mundenda village by the British High Commissioner

War veterans led by one Gumbo are alleged to have assaulted a prosecutor (Chikafu) for having granted bail to 13 MDC activists. A bomb scare was reported in the area.

Mutare South

It is reported that on the first day of the stay away, suspected MDC youths in Zimunya blocked all roads leading into the city centre. Soldiers are

also alleged to have assaulted revellers at Chikanga bar and MDC supporters were denied food relief.

Mutare West

All civic and volunteer organisations are barred from holding any meetings since they are alleged to be pushing for an MDC agenda. War veterans are reported to

have assaulted one World Food Programme Security guard accusing him of guarding MDC food. The war veterans are said to have stole part of the food.

Buhera South

In one report received, a police officer kidnapped one woman and nearly raped her after accusing her for supporting the MDC. It is also

alleged that personal grudges are increasingly being turned into political issues.

Buhera North

The constituency recorded the highest cases of assault and intimidation in the province. It is alleged that suspected MDC supporters were assaulted and denied food relief. War veterans are reported to be corruptly

recruiting temporary teachers. It is alleged that the District Education Officer who was opposed to the recruitment of Zanu PF supporters without good qualifications was dismissed.

Makoni North

War veterans in the district are reported to have forced the MDC shadow MP off his farm. They are reported to have told him that MDC members are sell outs and should not own any land since they did not fight for it. All youths in the area are being forced to attend the national

service programme. Parents are threatened and even assaulted if they try to bar their children from joining the National Service. During the period under review fifteen people were hospitalised after being assaulted by soldiers who went on rampage in Rusape.

Makoni East

Two girls were alleged to have been kidnapped and it is reported that the police seem not to be investigating the case. The whereabouts of the two primary school girls is not yet

known. CADEC is reported to be under threat from war veterans who are suspecting that the organisation is supporting MDC members.

Nyanga

One GMB supervisor is alleged to be denying suspected MDC supporters food. NGOs are vetted in the area before being allowed to operate. There is also a report of one

shop, which was torched, and one of the attendants was severely burnt and later died.

Chimanimani

Over one thousand workers from Charleswood Farm owned by MP Roy Bennett were evicted and dumped at Ngangu. They were guarded so that no one would visit or

even assist them. It is alleged that one of the managers was assaulted, kidnapped and released after 3 days. The notorious Joseph Mwale of the CIO allegedly led this action.

Mutasa

Women going to collect grain from the GMB were harassed by one soldier, Marufu, and forced to chant Zanu PF slogans. Soldiers in Honde Valley harassed

people accusing them of celebrating the MDC victory in Kuwadzana and Highfield. It is alleged that soldiers were ruthless since the constituency is under an MDC MP.

Chipinge North

War veterans are controlling all food distribution points and fuel queues in the area. Political tension is high with the coming

council elections in August 2003. Zanu PF is alleged to be intimidating other parties' candidates so as not to contest.

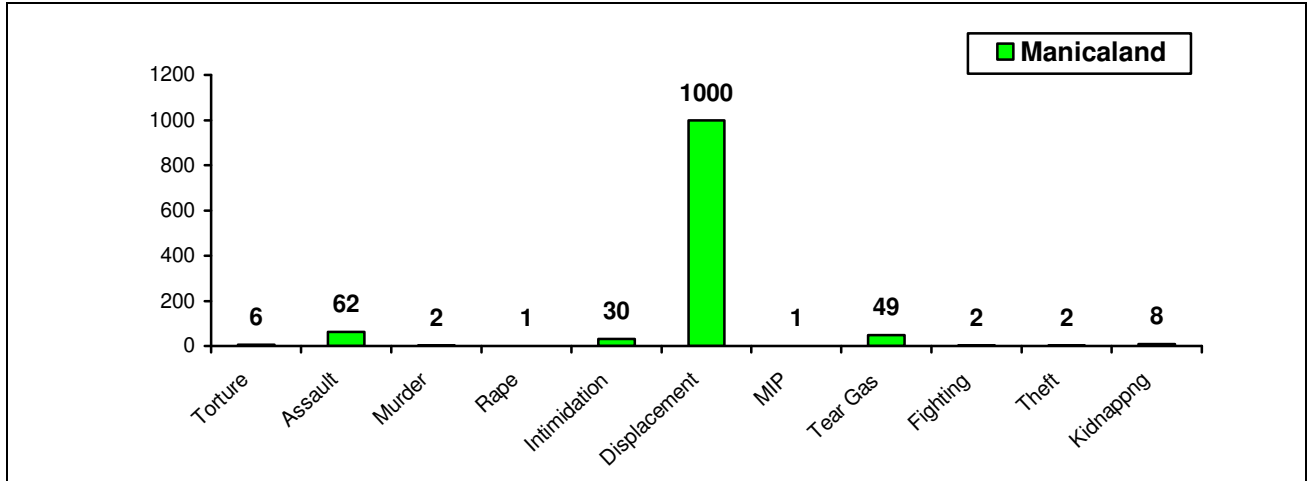


Figure 5

MASHONALAND CENTRAL

Though normally a politically quiet province the election results from Kuwadzana and Highfield did not go down well with people in the province.

It is alleged that what raised the political tempers was that Zanu PF lost despite

reports that four lorries ferried youths to vote in the election.

It is reported that soldiers assaulted some people after the success of the MDC led stay-away. Cases of assault are usually very high followed by abduction or kidnapping.

Guruve South

War veterans were alleged to be above the law in the district. It is alleged that they are assaulting people suspected to be cattle

rustlers and those who listen to the music of Thomas Mapfumo among other things.

Bindura

Soldiers and Zanu PF youths were alleged to have assaulted civilians in the town. One police officer was also assaulted for staying at a house of a suspected MDC member. Also assaulted were people who were heard supporting America during the war against Iraq.

Since Mashonaland Central is believed to be a Zanu PF stronghold, people were assaulted and harassed for distributing stay away flyers.

It is alleged that Trojan Mine Workers were harassed and accused of hiding MDC sympathisers.

Mt Darwin South

It is reported that people who criticise or say anything against war veterans are being harassed. In one serious case a person was forced to drink urine after saying that he did not belong to any

political party. In some villages people were beaten for not contributing towards the independence celebrations.

Mt Darwin North

Zanu PF is alleged to be telling villagers that food distributed by World Vision was coming from President Mugabe. It is reported that in one village a man was severely assaulted for pointing out that the food was not coming from the president. All rallies which, had been organised by the MDC,

were thwarted before taking off and the organisers were allegedly assaulted. All people who fled the constituency during the presidential elections are still not allowed back into the district. A teacher was beaten for predicting an MDC victory in Kuwadzana.

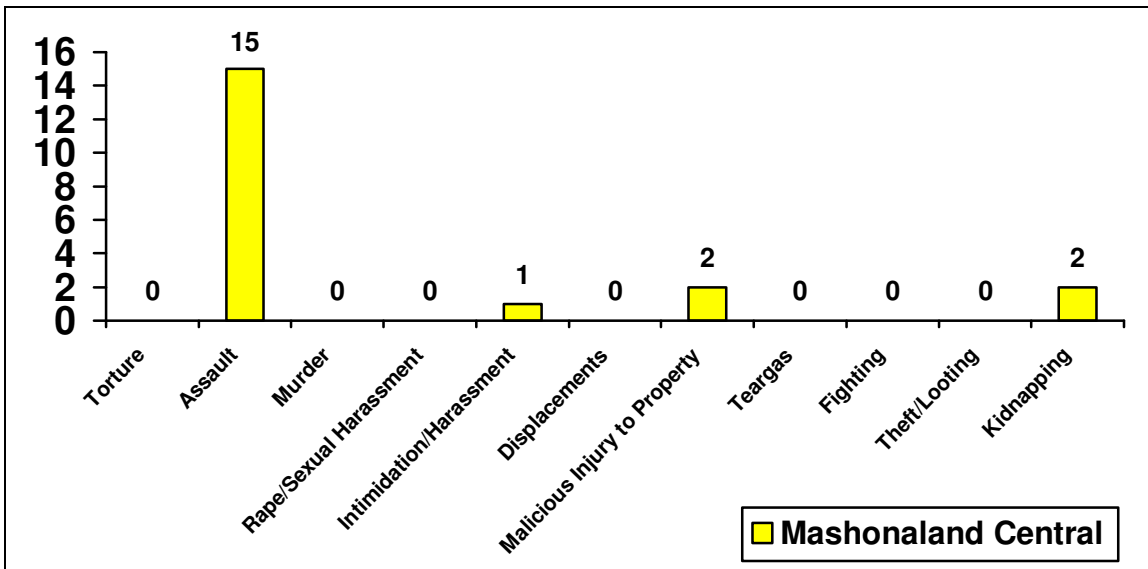


Figure 6

MASHONALAND WEST

Karoi

It is alleged that people from towns suspected to be MDC members are harassed on arrival in rural areas.

Some people alleged that their goods especially food items were confiscated by war veterans and Zanu PF youths. The Daily News remains banned in the area and people are allegedly being

assaulted if found reading the newspaper. Cases of people being forced out of their areas are still high.

It is alleged that some people have been threatened and forced to go and stay in other towns.

Zvimba North

Employees from former commercial farms are allegedly being victimized by new settlers. It is reported that one Riverhead farm security guard was forced out of his job

for not allowing the settlers to illegally fish in one of the farm dams.

Also the new settlers are allegedly forcing white farmers in the area out of the area.

Hurungwe West

Fighting is reported to be on the increase in the area especially between youths from Zanu PF and the MDC. It is alleged that the main cause of such incidences is that of

revenge. We have also received reports that some business people are being harassed by Zanu PF youths for allegedly sponsoring the MDC.

Hurungwe East

It is alleged that Temba Mliswa and the Zanu PF gang called Top Six were causing havoc in the area. It is reported he got one worker fired after he forced the employee to accept a cheque, which later bounced. The group is also reported to have barred two white

commercial farmers from collect their belongings from their former properties. It is alleged that the group is forcing white farmers to leave so that they can loot their belongings which they later sell.

Mhondoro

Atending Zanu PF rallies is compulsory in the area. People are allegedly assaulted for not attending Zanu PF rallies. Zanu PF

youths are reported to be still operating their bases, one of which is in Chirairo area.

Makonde

Suspected members of the MDC were reportedly harassed and assaulted since they were being blamed for burning down the Zanu PF office in Chinhoyi. Some suspected MDC member had their houses stoned

and electrical goods looted. The area will soon have a by-election, and Zanu PF supporters are being forced not to support Kindness Paradza but Leo Mugabe.

Chinhoyi

After the bombing of the Zanu PF offices in Chinhoyi, anyone who passed through the offices was either harassed or assaulted. On March 21 at around 1720 hours a man was severely assaulted by Zanu PF youths in the presence of Phillip Chiyangwa the area MP and police officers for walking past the burnt office. It is also reported that on the same day the NCA office were invaded by police who assaulted people who had come for a workshop. Some people were picked up and spend the night in police custody at either Harare Central or Chinhoyi police station.

Mashonganyika, the MDC provincial driver, was beaten by Zanu PF's Top Six and accused of driving away people who bombed the Zanu PF office.

Although the majority of the people assaulted were mainly suspected MDC members, Gideon Godoba a Zanu PF member was assaulted by suspected MDC supporters for wearing a party T/shirt and cap. Zanu PF now associates the colour red with the MDC and it is alleged that some people are being assaulted or harassed for wearing anything red.

Murombedzi

Suspected MDC members were assaulted and it is reported that they were all being blamed for bombing the Zanu PF office in

Chinhoyi. Members of the notorious Top Six Zanu PF gang are reportedly harassing people. It is alleged that the gang is torturing even old women.

Mhangura

A number of teachers in the area were reportedly assaulted by green bombers who had heard that the Zanu PF office in Chinhoyi had been bombed. The green bombers also went to Greenfield's School where they

allegedly assaulted the Headmaster and some teachers who later fled to Chinhoyi forcing the school to be closed for some days.

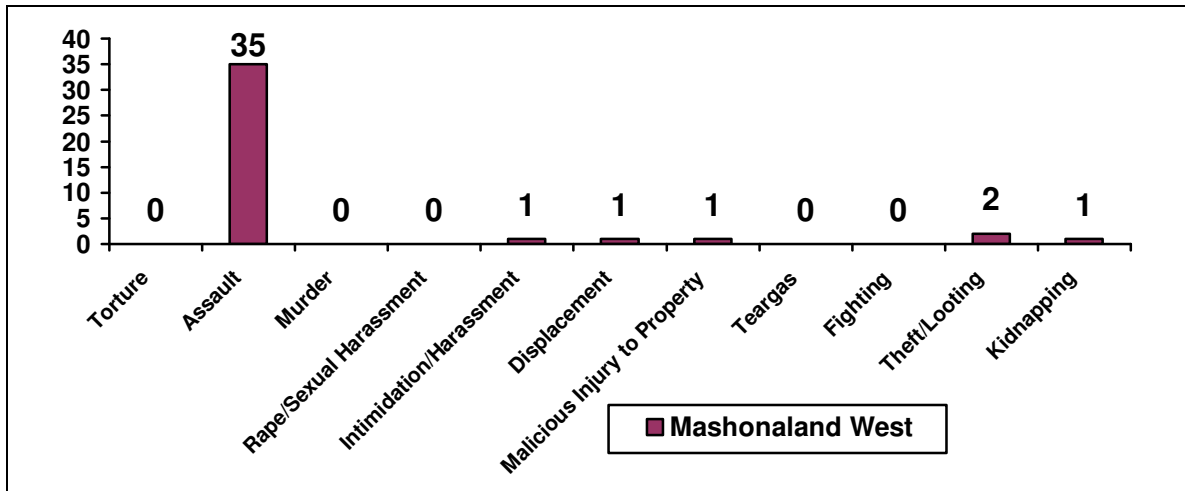


Figure 7:

SOUTHERN REGION

MIDLANDS

Acts of retribution are very high in the province. A number of people have been tortured, assaulted or intimidated. Suspected Zanu PF supporters commit the majority

of these cases, and opposition supporters and members of the public are targeted for having participated in the stay away called for by the MDC.

Gokwe

Because of the intensity of hunger in the area, Zanu PF officials are trying to gain political mileage using food relief distributed by Care International. Teachers are being vetted by war veterans. It is alleged that those

found without Zanu PF cards are labelled MDC sell-outs and are denied food relief. Some are even expelled from the school and replaced by unqualified Zanu PF card-holders.

Zhombe

It is reported that Zanu PF officials are discouraging people from receiving relief food from World Food Programme agencies. It is alleged that Zanu PF officials are claiming that the food is poisoned and that one woman

was caught trying to poison the food so as to blame the MDC if people had died. The case was reported but nothing was done to the woman who is a strong Zanu PF activist in the area.

Kwekwe / Silobela

It is alleged that Zanu PF has introduced a concept they have dubbed “Putting our youths on alert.” The aim is to mobilise and politicise youths along Zanu PF ideologies. Redcliff Primary and Rutendo Secondary School have been earmarked

for the pilot project. In Mbizo three ladies and two men were assaulted for allegedly celebrating MDC victory in Kuwadzana. State agents were alleged to have terrorised civilians in the area during the stay away period.

Gweru / Mkoba

On 25 March 2003 soldiers are alleged to have stormed Simunye Beerhall and assaulted patrons. The Border Gezi militia are also alleged to have harassed civilians during the period under review.

Suspected Zanu PF militia are said to have committed the crimes on the 6th and

10th of April 2003 near Guinea Fowl Secondary school and Midlands State University. A murder case was also recorded in the province although details were not yet very clear at the time of producing the report.

Shurugwi

It is alleged that MDC youths attacked Zanu Pf youths, and they were later arrested. As has become the norm, MDC supporters are always arrested but Zanu PF members are left free if they break the law. In an act of retribution one, Zanu PF youth raped an MDC supporter. It is alleged that when

she went to report the case, the police asked her to go to clinic and then go home.

One police sergeant in the area is reported to have raped a 12-year-old girl but the case was never investigated.

Chirumanzu

It is alleged that war veterans have taken up the job of recruiting job seekers for future jobs in hospitals and schools. The leader of the local war veterans vets all prospective employees

and removes all those without Zanu PF cards. People of Ndebele origin are labelled traitors in the area and some are even forced out of the constituency.

Zvishavane

Traditional leaders are holding frequent meetings with their subjects to weed out all suspected MDC supporters. Those who do not attend such meeting are alleged to be traitors and are excluded from the food

relief list or forced out of the constituency. Zanu PF militia are also reported to be harassing suspected opposition supporters.

Mberengwa₁

It is alleged that the local MP has vowed to ensure that the area becomes Zanu PF stronghold before he retires. It is alleged the MP, assisted by councillors, gets the maize from the GMB and sell it to Zanu PF supporters only. The Border Gezi militia and war

veterans are confiscating property such as radios, television sets and even clothes from suspected MDC members. This is because they now know that nothing will be done to them as long as it is a crime committed against an MDC supporter.

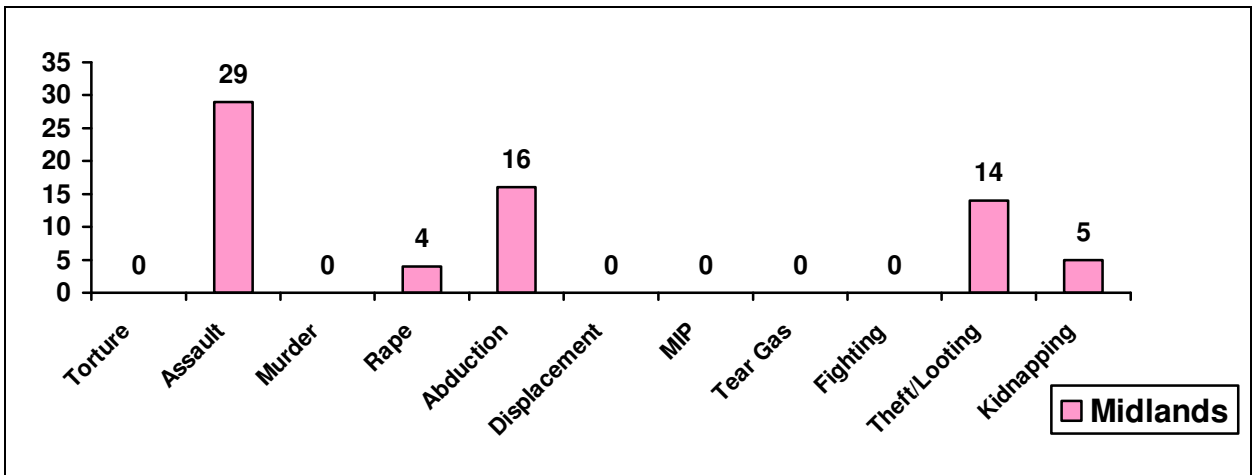


Figure 8

BULAWAYO

The majority of reports received were centred around the stay away organised by the MDC on the 18th and 19th of March 2003. Both

political parties were implicated in perpetrating acts of violence during that period.

Pumula / Luveve

One young man from Luveve 5 suburb was assaulted for refusing to reveal his political affiliation. It is also alleged that an MDC Organising Secretary was arrested by

police and detained at the Central police station. No reason for his arrest was given. Border Gezi youths are also reported to have harassed residents in the suburb.

Bulawayo South

It is alleged that the Nketa 6, ward 24 Residents Association Chairperson and Secretary, were threatened over the phone by two people who claimed to be CID officers. The two reported that they were told not to disturb the activities of the ruling party.

Bellevue Spar workers were harassed by a gang of youths when they opened the supermarket during the stay away days. The shop was later closed. In another incident it is alleged that residents who were queuing for bread were severely beaten by the police.

Makokoba

A rogue group of suspected MDC supporters is alleged to have smashed and destroyed windows of Oriental Take away as they went round forcing businesses to close down

on one of the stay-away days. The case is being followed up to identify the culprits and establish whether they were arrested.

Lobengula / Magwegwe

Close to 100 suspected MDC youths allegedly harassed commuters who wanted to go into town. The gang was forcing people to observe the stay away organised by

the MDC. One commuter omnibus was allegedly stoned and burnt.

Bulawayo North East

Members of the army and police force combined to assault some residents in Northwood

accusing them of supporting the MDC. Other members of the public were also assaulted at Waterford.

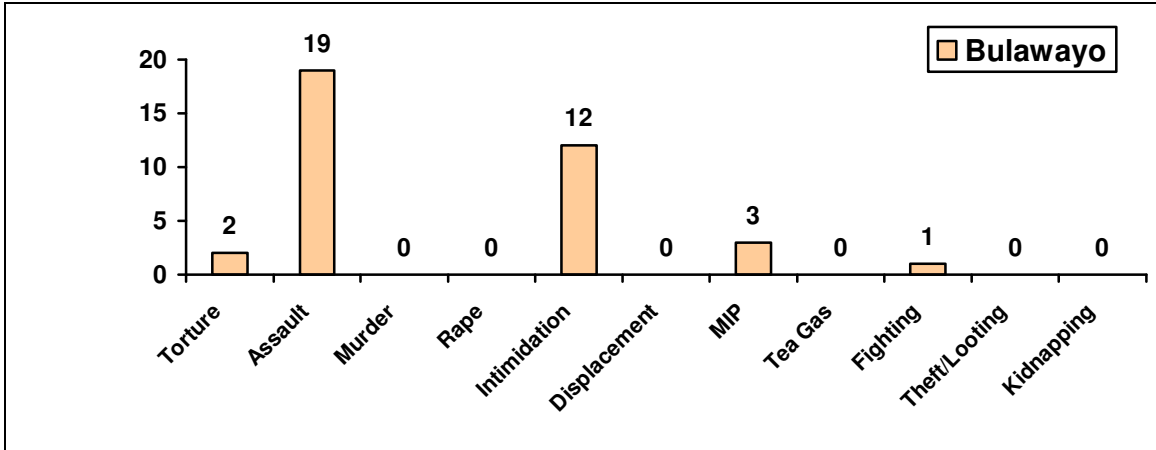


Figure 9

MATEBELELAND SOUTH

Gwanda North

On 30 March 2003 a gang of Zanu PF supporters, war veterans and youths were reported to have attacked four people who were looking for their livestock near Mtshabezi Mission.

It is also alleged that a ward development meeting at Sofa Hall was abandoned when Zanu PF supporters

came and harassed members of the MDC.

It is alleged that suspected MDC members are forfeiting their livestock to Zanu PF supporters as punishment for supporting the opposition. In another case, victims who had been assisted by some NGOs were being harassed and accused of being funded by the MDC.

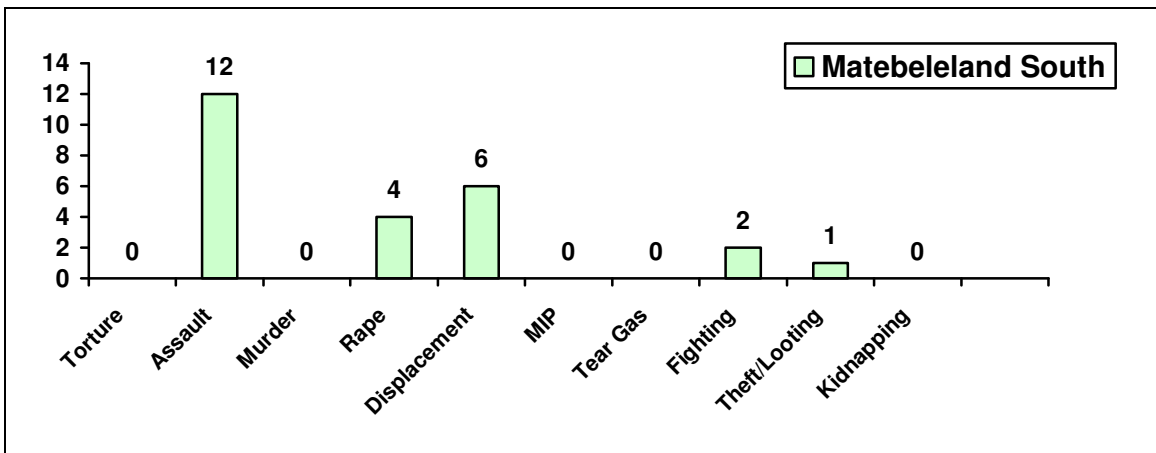


Figure 10

MATEBELELAND NORTH

Activities that took place in the province characterise a country on the brink of social breakdown. There are a number of

institutionalised types of violence which took place in most of the constituencies in the province.

Tsholotsho

As reported in our previous report, the allegation of traditional leaders being stripped of their titles for not supporting Zanu PF continues. Traditionally, these leaders

should not be aligned to any political party. It is alleged that in Sipepa a kraal head was punished for not attending Zanu PF meetings.

Binga

One suspected MDC supporter was allegedly kidnapped and severely assaulted by Zanu PF supporters led by one national service

commander of the area. The man was left for dead but managed to escape to Hwange. It is alleged that police managed to arrest the perpetrators.

Bubi-Umguza

With rumour that the constituency is to be divided into two, both Zanu PF and MDC have identified candidates who are

allegedly campaigning in the area. The rumour has already caused political unrest.

Hwange West

It was alleged one Black Jesus addressed a Zanu PF meeting and demanded that all people have Zanu PF cards. He is reported to have

declared Kamativi a Zanu PF territory. All suspected members of the opposition are being evicted from the compound.

Hwange East

It was reported that 30 MDC supporters were picked up by police for questioning following the mass stay away. One school teacher was

allegedly assaulted by demonstrating MDC youths. Some of the detained MDC youths complained of police brutality whilst in their custody.

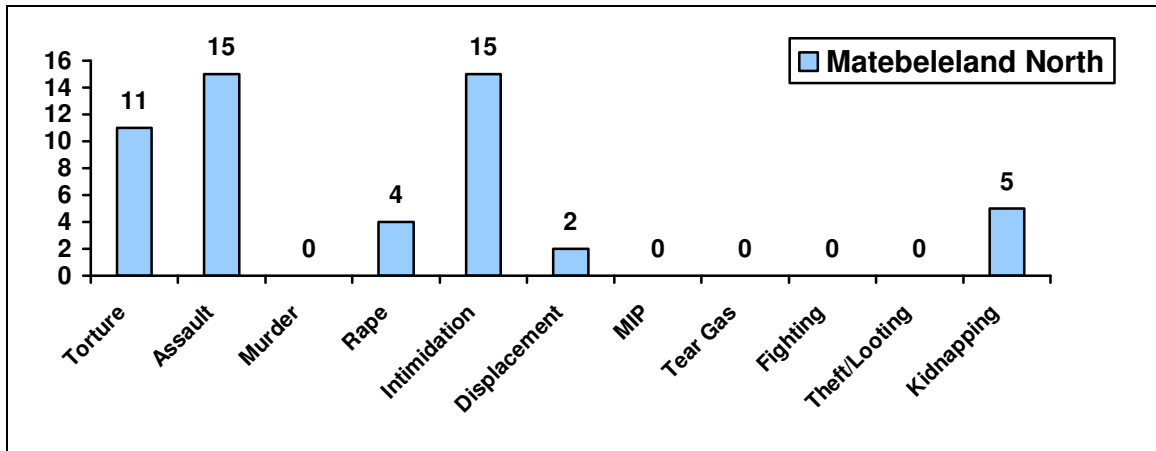


Figure 11

MASVINGO

The period under review showed a little decline in cases of torture and kidnapping. However, state agents were alleged to be

indiscriminately assaulting civilians. During and after the stay away, suspected MDC activists were allegedly arrested and detained

Masvingo Urban

It is alleged that members of the public were harassed by security agents (police, army and CIO officers) before, during and after the stay

away organised by MDC. Some opposition activists were reportedly arrested and detained.

Bikita

Some Red Cross officials were allegedly threatened by Zanu PF youths who accused them of being sympathetic to opposition members. A Zanu PF district coordinator was

assaulted by suspected MDC supporters whom he had also threatened and assaulted in the past.

Chivi

Reports were received alleging that a war veteran and prominent Zanu PF leader raped two of his daughters. Another man is alleged to

have raped his daughter aged 15 years. It is understood that both cases have not been reported to the police.

Chiredzi

It is reported that the remaining white farmers in the area are constantly threatened and harassed by suspected Zanu PF supporters. There are also

cases of looting of assets from the properties of the white commercial farmers.

Gutu

Zanu PF youths are reported to have force marched people to attend rallies which were addressed by Mrs Maud Muzenda, wife of the vice president. In another case the

son of Minister Mudenge evicted an old white farmer from the small piece of land that was left for him after the larger part was taken for resettlement.

Zaka

One war veteran and some local Zanu PF youths are reportedly relieving long distance travellers of their goods, accusing them of

supporting the opposition MDC, as urban resident are known for doing. Items like sugar and maize are taken away whilst the owners are harassed.

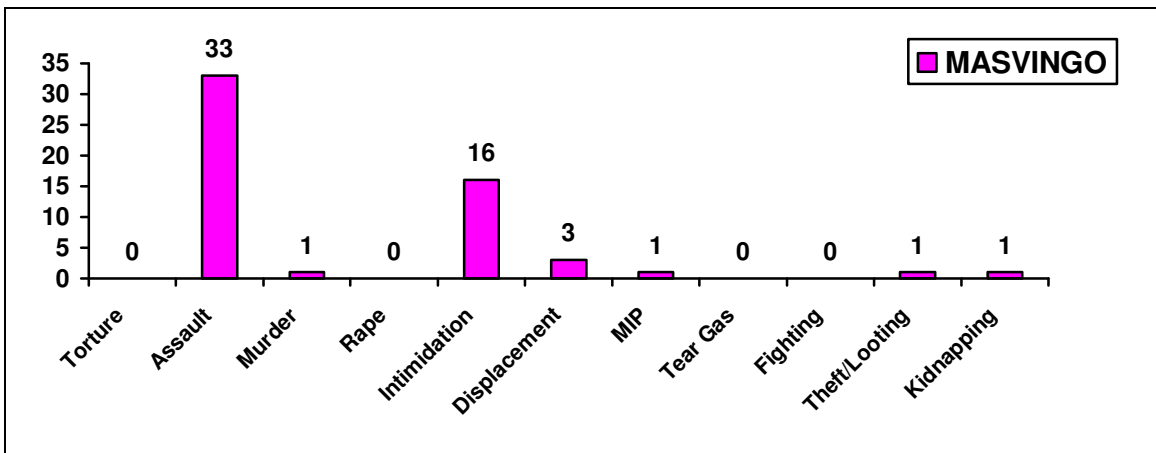


Figure 12