

## The Executive Summary

The problem of political intolerance still continues as evidenced from reports received during October 2003.

As reflected in Figure 1, cases of assault remain high between supporters of Zanu PF and the MDC. It is quite surprising that even today, a year since the last Presidential elections, people are still beating each other for belonging to a different political party. With the approaching 2005 Parliamentary elections the situation is likely to worsen.

The Zimbabwean society should desist from being politically used and live together peacefully as a community. In some areas, it is

reported that Zanu PF supporters and war veterans are evicting all suspected MDC supporters from the occupied farms. This is against the principle that all Zimbabweans should be allowed to have a piece of land. Politicising the land means that the land issue may continue for a long time since this is likely to come up again in the future.

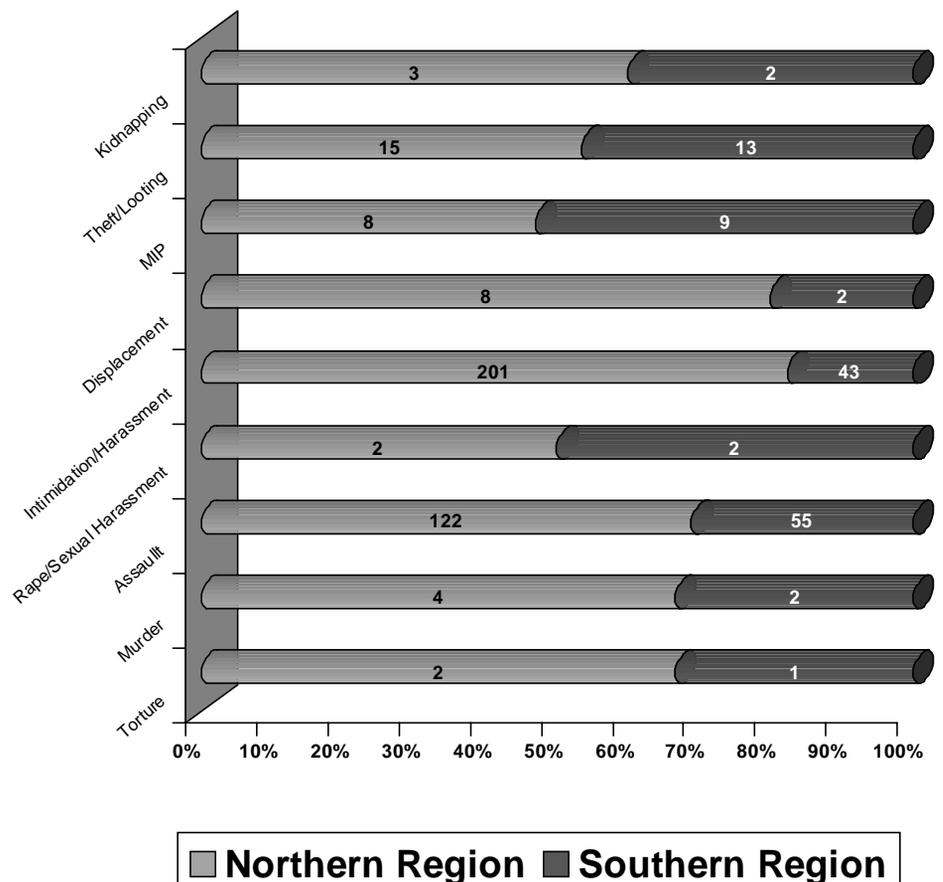
In Masvingo people have already started positioning themselves for the parliamentary post left vacant after the death of Vice President Muzenda. This is reported to have already caused a lot of politically motivated

violence and the situation is likely to deteriorate as we move towards the actual voting dates.

As mentioned above Zimbabweans need to be tolerant and accept that one has a right to choose. In the reports we received there are cases of people who were barred from attending the funeral of Vice President Muzenda just because they were suspected of supporting the MDC.

In provinces like Matabeleland North it is alleged that Zanu PF militia have been

*Figure 1: Comparison chart showing the human rights violation cases received from the Northern and Southern region during October 2003*



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## EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

deployed to all GMB food collection points. Their role is to allegedly screen people for their eligibility to receive food supplies. Suspected MDC members and supporters are allegedly barred from accessing the food. As a result some people are going without food in this province.

In the provinces, there are increasing reports of suspected members of the uniformed forces taking political sides. In order to maintain peace and tranquility in the nation, it is imperative for the police and armed forces to refrain from taking political sides.

Reports from the provinces show that generally most perpetrators of violence are male and the victims include both men and women. Youths are involved in most cases of politically motivated violence.

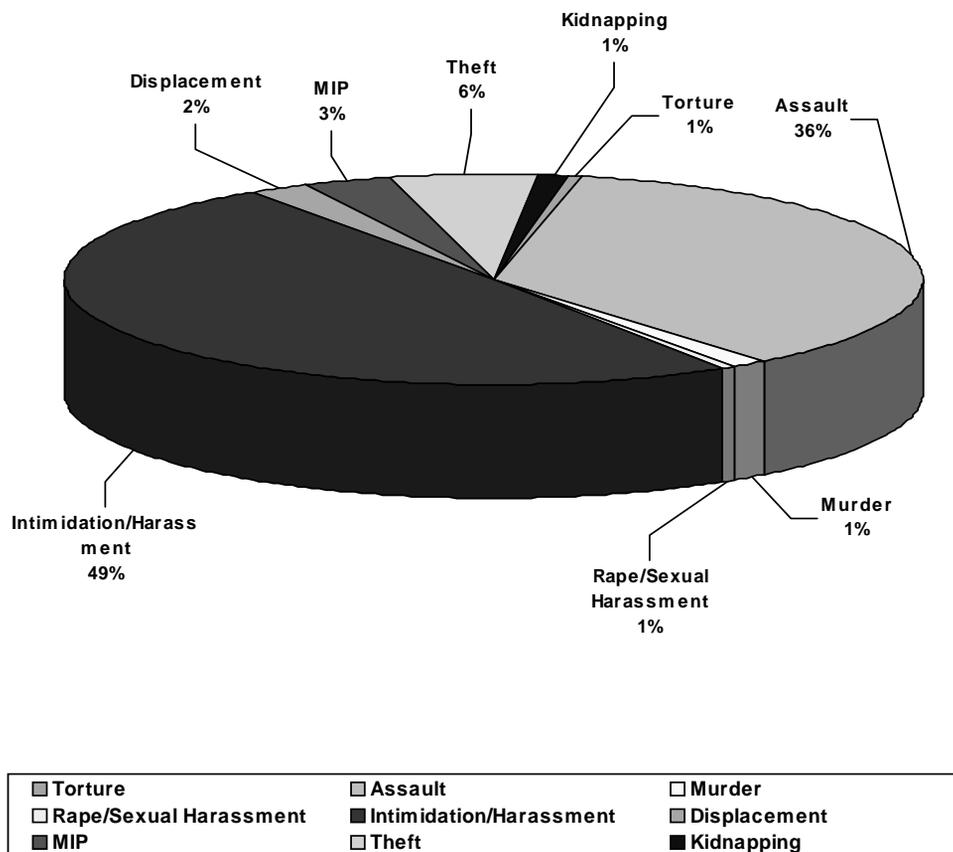
As reported in The Africa Woman March 2003 issue, "...there is a wide belief that the violence and the general tense atmosphere that has characterised the Zimbabwean political landscape since 2000 discourages women from active politics. Women and violence do not mix. It is open knowledge that both Zanu PF and MDC do not have gender sensitive policies. There are few women in the top structure and neither party has a quota system to encourage the participation of women in politics".

Addressing the gender issue in politics may offer solutions to some of the problems reported from the provinces in this report. In any case, women make up over 51% of the population and yet their percentage in positions of authority and decision making is much less.

It is our hope that a number of organisations are doing their best to educate the society against violence and that as we move towards more elections and ultimately the 2005 Parliamentary elections Zimbabweans would have revived their senses and learn to live with someone who thinks differently but manages to be neighbours solely because they stay next door, in the same community and that they are all Zimbabweans and will one day need one another.

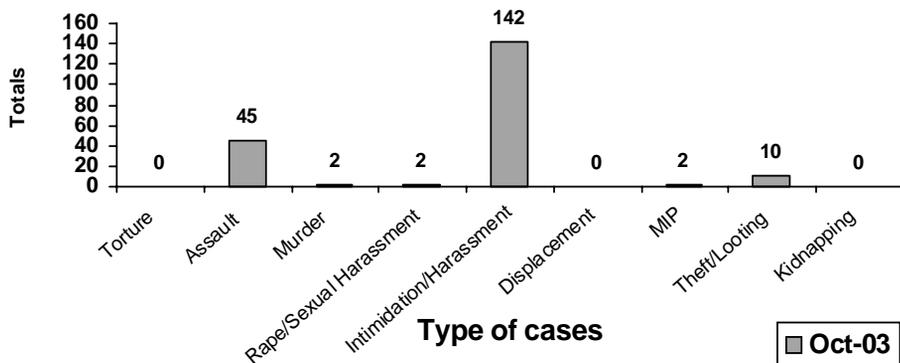
The pie chart in Figure 2 shows the cumulative reports of human rights violation cases received nationwide during October 2003. The chart shows that 49% of all politically motivated violence is in the form of intimidation/harassment followed by assault at 36%. Other politically motivated forms of violence occur at smaller frequencies.

**Figure 2: Cumulative chart showing the human rights violation cases received nationwide during the October 2003**



HARARE

Figure 3 Graph showing the types and levels of violence reported from Harare and Chitungwiza



Although the level of violence during the period under review decreased compared to the previous months, there were distressing reports of an onslaught on the people’s rights and freedoms exhibited by the state machinery. This was displayed by the arrest of participants in demonstrations organised by the National Constitutional Assembly (NCA) and Zimbabwe Congress of Trade Unions (ZCTU). Both demonstrations were thwarted before they even started. A number of activists from the two organisations were reportedly assaulted as they distributed fliers urging people to participate in the planned demonstrations.

Another worrying phenomenon that was reported during the month was the now common police raids on vendors who sell foodstuffs in the city centre and in high density suburbs on what is now commonly known as the black market. Given the high levels of unemployment (estimated at over 75%) in the country, many people have resorted to making a living through informal trading. However, many of them are now bitter that their efforts are being disturbed by these constant blitzes by the police who, in many cases, confiscate their wares.

Zengeza

A number of people in Chitungwiza are reportedly complaining that they were embezzled by a sitting Zanu PF councillor who pretended that he wanted to sell them his party’s membership cards. It is alleged that he was heard saying that he was aware that the people are MDC supporters and hence he would not give them the cards or even reimburse their monies.

In two classical examples of political intolerance, a Zanu PF district chairperson was allegedly violently ousted from her position by her colleagues who accused her of being too friendly to opposition members. In the same constituency, the MDC Member of Parliament for St. Mary’s was allegedly heard inciting people at a rally to use any weapons they can get their hands on to violently deal with council employees who would come to disconnect their water for not paying their bills. This followed the receipt by many residents of what they considered shocking water bills. The MP is said to have alleged that it was Zanu PF employees in the council who were aiming at discrediting the now predominantly opposition council.

In a related incident, after defeating the Zanu PF candidate in the council elections, an MDC councillor for Ward 5 was reportedly threatened by three unidentified men who warned him that they would take unspecified action against him if he took up his position as Councillor.

Kuwadzana

A war veteran was accused of attempting to disrupt a food aid programme run by an international relief agency and meant for children under the age of five. It is alleged that he wanted the scheme to benefit Zanu PF card holders only. It is reported that the war veteran only relented after the donor threatened to withdraw.

Elsewhere at Kuwadzana 4 Shopping Centre some police officers are alleged to have descended on and assaulted members of the public who were drinking beer around 1030 PM. Some of the people were reportedly subjected to some humiliating treatment such as being forced to jump up and down and do press ups.

Harare Central

A lodger in Ashdown Park, Mrs. M, had her money stolen by a relative of her landlord who manages the rented property. Although the suspect was arrested it is reported that he was released in no time at all. The complainant suspects that the investigating officer is covering up for the suspect. She alleges the two were seen drinking beer together.

It is reported that there was drama at Harvest House, a building housing, among others, the opposition MDC offices, when one of the tenants allegedly shot dead a security guard who had told him that no firearms were allowed in the building. The suspect is said to be the owner of a well-known car parts company, and is reportedly well-connected to the ruling Zanu PF party.

Hatfield

A girl, SC of Epworth, was allegedly waylaid by two men who raped her. She was rescued by another girl who came along the same path. The suspects ran away. The girls reported the case to the police who allegedly told them to bring the suspects to them.

Kambuzuma

Some Zanu PF youths reportedly confiscated foodstuffs sold by vendors. They allegedly assaulted vendors and members of the public whom they heard complaining and blaming the ruling party and government of the escalating cost of living.

Some police officers manning a roadblock at the National Sports Stadium were accused of soliciting for bribes from minibus drivers caught overcharging commuters. One driver complained that he was forced to part with \$20,000.

Reports of the unbecoming behaviour of some war veterans based at the J. Nkomo Heights section of Kambuzuma 5 continue to be received. It is reported that the war veterans bar non-Zanu PF supporters from buying grain and maize meal from the Aspidale GMB depot. A woman who spurned the advances of one of the war veterans was allegedly denied access to buy maize and she was accused of supporting the opposition.

On 21 October it is reported that some Zanu PF youths disrupted an NCA preparatory meeting held in Kambuzuma 5. A fierce scuffle ensued and the riot police had to be called in to quell the disturbances. It is alleged that the officers helped the Zanu PF youths to assault the NCA activists.

### Mufakose

In a case of factional fighting within Zanu PF, the district chairman was allegedly assaulted by some war veterans after he accused them of attempting to overthrow him from his post. The matter was not reported to the police but to the Zanu PF headquarters. At the same offices, it is alleged that an innocent man who was passing by the district Zanu PF office was assaulted by some drunken youths after he failed to respond to their slogans.

### St. Mary's

Six people walking home from Huruyadzo Shopping Centre were allegedly assaulted by some neighbourhood watch police details for no apparent reason. The officers reportedly ordered the men to lie down and searched them before assaulting them.

On 27 October it is reported that the owner of Mhiripiri Bus Company allegedly forced passengers on one of his buses to pay their fares at gunpoint. It is alleged that the passengers had boarded the bus in the city. The bus crew demanded fares of \$1,500 instead of the gazetted \$1,000. It is reported that the crew drove the passengers to their company depot where the owner was waiting for them. It is alleged that he got onto the bus with his pistol and forced the passengers to pay the increased fare. It is further reported that those who did not have the extra \$500 were taken away to an undisclosed place reportedly for disciplining.

### Highfields / Glen Norah / Glen View

A number of people were allegedly assaulted for repeating the rumour that the president was critically ill. In another case people were assaulted for complaining about the high cost of living, while others were assaulted for wearing red attire.

In a different case, it was reported that some Zanu PF youths obtained the scarce commodity paraffin. They sold it only to card-carrying Zanu PF members. It is reported that some desperate members of the public who

pleaded for paraffin on 25 October were allegedly assaulted by the youths when they failed to produce Zanu PF membership cards.

There was one report of rape in which a young housemaid was allegedly raped by the uncle of the girl's employer. The case is still being investigated.

On 8 October two boys that were seen distributing NCA flyers calling for a demonstration were apprehended by some police officers and were severely assaulted. Days later up to 50 NCA members were arrested by the police in the city centre.

### Dzivaresekwa

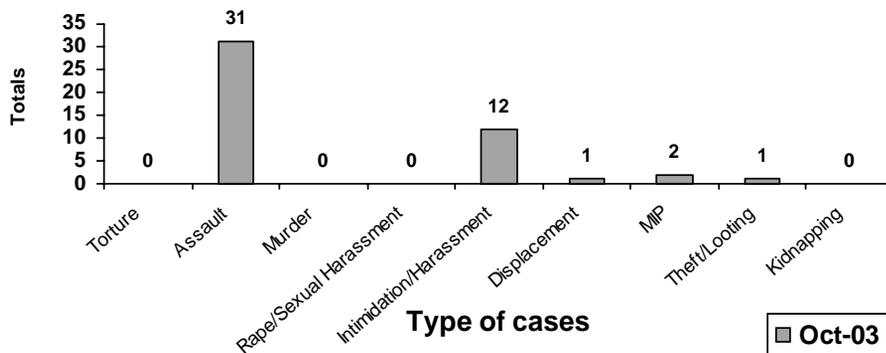
It is alleged that some Zanu PF officials in Warren Park D came on 17 October and promised their supporters some food and farming inputs. A list of names of interested supporters was made. It is reported that the promised food and inputs would be provided by government and not the party.

### Mbare West / East

Municipal police officers and members of the notorious Chipangano militia allegedly raided and assaulted food vendors confiscating their goods. It is reported that the confiscated food was not taken to the police but to the homes of those that confiscated it.

MASHONALAND CENTRAL

Figure 4 Graph showing the types and levels of violence reported Mashonaland East



Cases of politically motivated violence are prevalent in the province. Thirty-one cases of assault and twelve cases of harassment were reported as shown in Figure 4.

Chikomba

It is alleged that a well known MDC supporter H.G was beaten on 26 October 2003 by three suspected Zanu PF youths.

On 30<sup>th</sup> September 2003 T.D an MDC supporter was also assaulted by the same three youths. C.D was also assaulted by suspected Zanu PF youths for wearing something red, a colour associated with the opposition MDC.

In Chivhu town, L.M and two others were assaulted by suspected Zanu PF youths for supporting the MDC. R.M was also beaten by the same gang using an electric cable.

At Mauve township people who were suspected of being MDC supporters had their maize seed seized by Zanu PF youths. Some of these cases have been reported to the police but nothing was done.

Goromonzi

It is alleged that on 2 October 2003 six MDC youths were assaulted by Zanu PF youths in Gondo village.

In the same area, it is reported that five Zanu PF youth were attacked by three MDC supporters as they celebrated the closure of ANZ the publishers of the Daily News at Majuru Township.

In Ngoshi village B.M a suspected MDC supporter was assaulted by three Zanu PF youths using bicycle chains, while M.M was also attacked on 20 October 2003 at Chenyika

village accused of supporting the opposition. These cases were not reported for fear of victimization.

Hwedza

On October, 5, 2003 H.C of Chinhengo village was forced out of a commuter omnibus by war veterans who accused him of supporting the opposition MDC party. T.S an MDC supporter from Mukamba village was forced to attend a Zanu PF meeting whilst N.S, V.C, and P.N were not allowed to register for GMB seed packs because they are suspected MDC supporters.

Marondera East

As Marondera Mayoral elections drew near, the two main parties Zanu PF and MDC were reportedly harassing, intimidating and assaulting residents.

On October 12<sup>th</sup>, 2003 T.G of Zanu PF was assaulted for campaigning for his brother who was an aspiring candidate on an MDC ticket. The aspiring candidate was on 18 October 2003 allegedly forced not to contest the elections by Zanu PF youths.

On 24 October 2003 at a meeting held at the Zanu PF offices R.C was imposed as the mayoral candidate ahead of J.S, L.K and two others. Top Zanu PF officials from the area are accused of this imposition. Apparently, this did not go down well with other supporters and violence erupted. The police quickly came in but no one was arrested.

On the nomination day (28 October 2003) Zanu PF youths are alleged to have cordoned off the nomination court building

and no other candidates from opposition parties were allowed in. By the end of the day only Ralph Chimankire of Zanu PF had registered and declared the winner.

It is also reported that some people suspected to be MDC supporters were evicted from the pieces of land they had been allocated.

Marondera West

As what is happening in Marondera East, some families at Grobler Farm accused of not attending Zanu PF meetings have had part of their land taken over by Zanu PF youths.

On 13 October 2003, three suspected MDC members were assaulted by war veterans at Chiwanzamarara Township during distribution of seed packs.

War veterans in the area allegedly assaulted suspected two MDC supporters who were refusing to accept bearer cheques.

Murehwa North

T.M a suspected MDC supporter was assaulted by Zanu PF youths at Chirova village on October 4, 2003. W.M was also assaulted by M.M a Zanu PF Chairperson at Matenda village on October 10, 2003. P.C was also assaulted on October, 20, 2003 and accused of supporting the MDC.

J.M who stays at the growth point continues to be harassed by suspected Zanu PF supporters who want him to leave the area.

T.C had a violent land dispute with headman.

Murehwa South

In Nyanyena village T.H and P.M were reportedly assaulted by Zanu PF supporters for possessing MDC membership cards on October, 9 2003. In the same village, the same perpetrators assaulted D.N.

S.K and N.H clashed with Zanu PF youths at Nhende villages after showing that they did not support the ruling party. Opposition supporters were also denied access to seed maize from the G.M.B.

Mutoko South

A lot of intimidation and harassment of mostly opposition party members is alleged to be going on in the constituency. Mutoko rural

## NORTHERN REGION

district council employees were allegedly harassed by a group of Zanu PF supporters led by war veteran Mukamba on October 23 2003 over land rentals at Kushinga School.

A woman M.C. was forced to take up a Zanu PF post by her husband who is the past chairperson at a meeting held at Masvitsi School. On October 17, 2003, a war veteran Dumbuchena was harassed by MDC supporters at Corner Store.

### UMP

The constituency is reported to be very hostile to people coming from Harare. TM who had arrived from the capital was allegedly assaulted by Zanu PF youths on October, 2 2003. He was accused of being an MDC supporter. A teacher was assaulted by the ruling party youths for getting a teaching post without going through the national youth training. A Kukura Kurerwa bus conductor was assaulted at Chitsungo Township over bus fare increases.

## MASHONALAND CENTRAL

Fourteen cases of assault and eleven cases of harassment were reported in the province. Such cases increased during the period under review with isolated reports on displacements, property destruction and kidnapping. See figure 5.

### Rushinga

It is alleged that some Zanu PF youth leaders harassed and intimidated teachers at Magaranheva Secondary School. It is alleged that the youths incited students to refuse any form of school punishment. The teachers were accused of being MDC supporters. The reality is that it is very dangerous in the province to be labelled 'an MDC supporter'; it can cost you your life.

### Shamva

A number of cases have been reported where war veterans are alleged to have chased away new settlers from farms. It is also alleged that in some of these areas, settlers were assaulted, and some even imprisoned since the police and the Chief were involved.

Zanu PF leaders and war veterans in the area are alleged to have taken over or claimed the gold sites in the area. A number of citrus farms have also been taken over by suspected Zanu PF supporters. Zanu PF youths still continue to harass people at Wadzanai bus terminus.

### Guruve South

It is alleged that a teacher and the headmaster at Mpinyuri were harassed by suspected Zanu PF supporters for not attending party meetings. The headmaster was forced to sit on the ground and made to sing Chimurenga songs.

### Mazowe West

Resettled farmers that received assistance from the white farmers are allegedly accused of being supporters of the MDC. Some unfortunate settlers have been assaulted and others even evicted.

### Mt Darwin North

A man was kidnapped and severely assaulted for wishing the President dead. This was when the news about the death of Vice President Muzenda was announced.

Another man was also beaten for having monitored previous elections. He was allegedly accused of being an MDC supporter. A teacher was allegedly kidnapped and assaulted

for blocking an affair between his sister in law and a Zanu PF supporter. The man was accused of being an MDC supporter as he allegedly had MDC cards and T-shirts. A dead body was found dumped at a dip-tank. The perpetrators have not been identified.

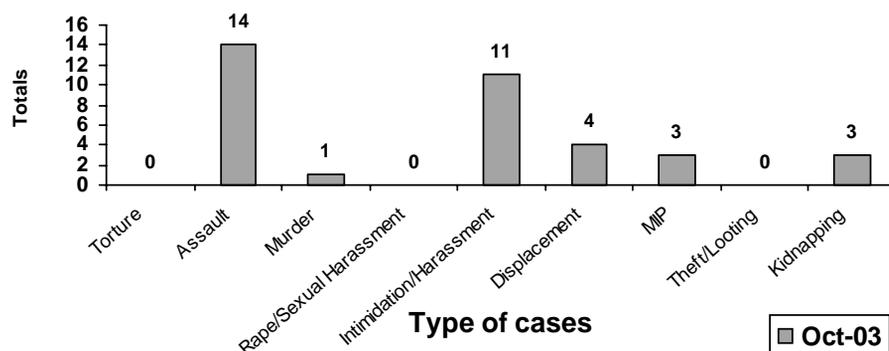
### Mt Darwin South

A number of people with close relatives resident in Harare are allegedly victimised in the constituency. These relatives are accused of supporting the opposition. A woman was taken away and beaten because her husband stays in Harare. As far as the local youths are concerned, they believe that anyone that stays in the towns especially Harare is automatically an MDC supporter.

### Bindura

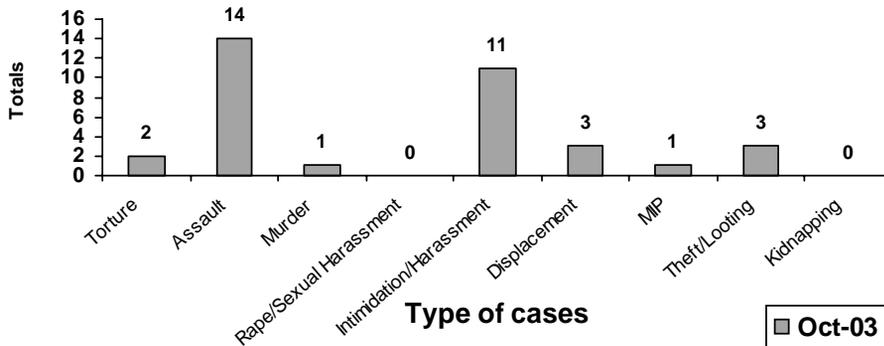
One man was severely beaten for wearing a ZIMCET T-shirt, which was later torn. Suspected Zanu PF youths are alleged to be vetting all people involved in gold panning in the area. All suspected opposition members are barred from panning. A Tel-One employee was allegedly accused of being an MDC member. Some members of the CIO are also reported to have been harassing the same employee.

**Figure 5 Graph showing the types and levels of violence reported in Mashonaland Central**



MASHONALAND WEST

Figure 6 Graph showing the types and levels of violence reported in Mashonaland West



Fourteen cases of assault and eleven cases of harassment were reported in the province. Isolated incidences of displacement, looting and torture including one murder were also reported as shown in figure 6.

Kariba

B.T of Nyamhunga Township was reportedly assaulted for selling firewood without a permit. He was injured and had to be referred to the clinic for treatment.

Mhondoro

It is alleged that on October 23 a man died after he was ambushed and assaulted by a group of people. D.D from Chibikira village was attacked by D.Z, G.K and D.Z. The three were singing revolutionary songs and they are alleged to have stolen \$120 000.00 from the man. D.D reported the case to the police but no action was taken. The Councillor for Ward 7 was allegedly threatened by Zanu PF supporters. They demanded that he step down from being a Councillor.

Chinhoyi

It is alleged that G.K who is facing charges of arson following the burning for the Zanu PF offices was picked up by police and detained. He is being accused also of burning the Chinhoyi magistrate's courts. It is reported that whilst in police custody he was assaulted.

Kadoma

On October 16 ZCTU members who had gathered at the Kadoma main Post Office for

a demonstration were assaulted by the police and forced to disperse. It is alleged that the leaders were arrested and some were injured during the incident.

It is alleged that on October 24, 2003, six MDC youths who were putting up posters in the city were attacked by suspected Zanu PF supporters. The two parties started throwing stones at each other causing a temporary closure of the road. Two people were arrested when police intervened.

It is alleged that the owner of Spar Supermarket fired all workers suspected to be MDC supporters. It is reported that war veterans incited the dismissals and ordered the owner of the Supermarket to employ Green Bombers. It is reported that the employees who resisted the dismissals were assaulted by suspected Zanu PF supporters.

Makonde

D.B of Runene was assaulted by war veterans for publicly denouncing the closure of the Daily News. It is alleged that he was accused of being an MDC supporter. He is reported to have sustained injury on the left eye. Because of constant harassment by the war veterans, D.B is alleged to have fled the area for Harare.

MANICALAND

The situation remains tense in most rural areas although urban areas are relatively peaceful. The majority of perpetrators are male. Twenty five cases of harassment and seventeen cases of assault were reported as shown in Figure 7. These figures remain very high.

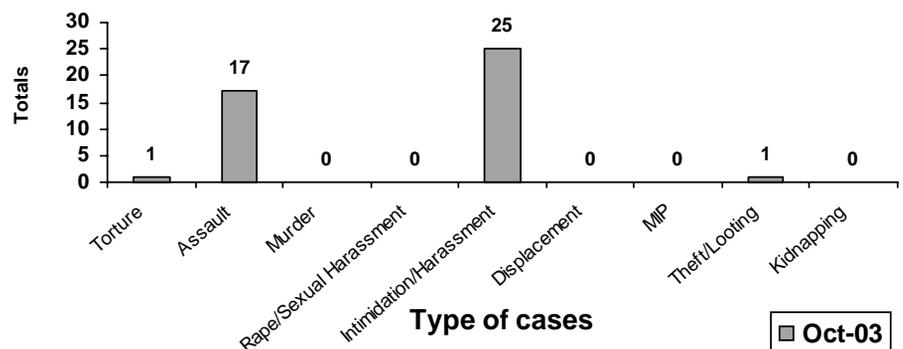
Mutare North and Central

About 100 NCA activists were reportedly bussed to Harare to take part in demonstrations on the new constitution. It is alleged that the majority of these activists were youths.

Buhera South

It is alleged that the army personnel from Birchenough Bridge are harassing local people and even participating in petty squabbles of the community. It is also reported that members of the police are being brutal to any suspected MDC supporters. In one incident it is alleged that some MDC supporters assaulted

Figure 7 Graph showing the types and levels of violence reported in Manicaland



Zanu PF supporters as a revenge of previous attacks. It is reported that some NGO employees in Musana area were harassed by suspected war veterans who accused them of spying on behalf to the MDC. The NGO also alleges that it has become dangerous to hold any workshop in the area since workshops are perceived as strategies to mobilise people on behalf of the MDC.

**Chipinge North and South**

It is alleged that on October 12, a group of war veterans led by one CIO occupied Denton Farm on behalf of one black farmer who is going to take over the farm. It is reported that farm invasions are still continuing in the two constituencies. It is also alleged that headmen are being questioned by Zanu PF leaders if they allow any MDC celebrations to take place in their areas.

**Makoni**

It is alleged that M.B a prominent Zanu PF supporter took relief food meant for some beneficiaries in the village and is reported to be threatening anyone who queries this.

Because of poverty most people are starting to reveal some of the politically motivated crimes committed in the past. On 9 October C.M exposed S.C of having burnt down houses belonging to M.S after an argument. It is also reported that Zanu PF supporters are looting public funds through selling dubious party cards. One of the card vendors got into trouble when one man demanded his money back.

**MASVINGO**

Thirteen cases of assault and isolated cases of harassments, sexual assault, theft and one murder were recorded from the province. Please refer to Figure 8 for the nature and magnitude of the violence reported.

**Chivi South**

One National Service graduate is allegedly causing a lot of havoc in the constituency by forcing people to take political teachings of the national service.

Two people were allegedly barred from attending the funeral of the Vice-President Muzenda since they were suspected of being MDC supporters. It is reported that teachers are being forced to contribute money towards the December 2003 Zanu PF annual congress.

**Gutu North**

People who did not attend the funeral of the former Vice President Muzenda were allegedly removed from the food relief list.

Many people are reported to be positioning themselves to take over the MP post left vacant by the death of Vice President Muzenda. People are also being forced to buy Zanu PF cards.

**Masvingo North**

Members of the police force are reported to be beating innocent people during investigations. Some people suspected of being MDC members were refused food distributed by CARE.

**Bikita East**

It is alleged that some people were assaulted for attending the NCA meeting in Harare. People who did not attend the Zanu PF meeting in Chegwiti were reportedly assaulted.

**Masvingo Central**

There are reported cases of favouritism at the Masvingo University. It is alleged that MDC supporters are being favoured ahead of others.

**MIDLANDS**

Twenty seven assault cases and twenty four harassment cases were reported from the province. An unusually high number of kidnapping was also reported; see Figure 9. The Mayoral and Council election held in August left a trail of hatred among locals in the province. People who have been assaulted or harassed are now seeking retribution.

**Gokwe West**

On 6 October 2003, the headmaster of Svisvi Primary school was reportedly accused of not attending Zanu PF meetings and misusing school funds. CADEC employees who provided pre-school children with food were barred from doing so and told that only Zanu PF had the duty to feed its people.

**Gokwe Central**

Some Zanu PF National Service trained youths assaulted an informal trader at the Gokwe Centre. The Cobbler was accused of being an MDC activist.

**Figure 8 Graph showing the types and levels of violence reported in Masvingo**

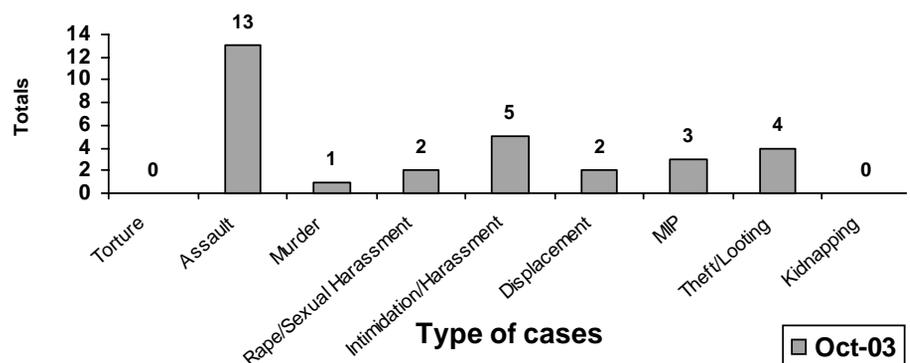


Figure 9 Graph showing the types and levels of violence reported in Midlands



On October 12, 2003 E.T allegedly led Zanu PF youths to force-march families who had not attended a ruling party meeting. G.M a Zanu PF chairperson was ambushed by four people who allegedly assaulted him and stole \$30000 from him. The man accused his party members for the attack saying that they were jealous of his position in the party.

**Gokwe East**

W.M was reportedly forced by two soldiers led by T.C to remove the MDC T-shirt he was wearing on October 4, 2003.

On the same day two rallies were organised by Zanu PF and MDC at Tongwe Business Centre. Violence erupted as members of the two parties came for the rallies.

War veterans and former soldiers allegedly demanded or forced GMB employees to distribute food and maize seed.

Reports of cases of locals trying to force people from other areas to leave the constituency have been received.

**Gokwe South**

On October 2, 2003, a Councillor for Ward 5 threatened the people of the ward that they would not get relief food if they did not vote for him. Such threats are reportedly common where sitting contestants pretend as if they were solely responsible for bringing in relief food. It is alleged that on October 10, 2003 some MDC supporters were assaulted during a Zanu PF District Committee meeting. One of the victims had his shirt taken away by assailants.

**Kwekwe urban**

Suspected Zanu PF supporters allegedly stoned Dr Madyorera’s Surgery on October, 1, 2003. The doctor is suspected to be an MDC sympathiser. On October 11, 2003 R.M was assaulted by gold panners who now call themselves soldiers of the Third Chimurenga. Police did not do anything since the case not reported.

People were reportedly forced by Zanu PF youths to attend the farewell party for the outgoing Mayor. On October, 16, 2003 M.M was assaulted by Zanu PF youths led by Takaruya and window panes of his house were smashed. The same gang broke more window panes at T.S’s house. A woman who was in the house escaped serious injury.

S.C an MDC elected Councillor in a Zanu PF dominated Council had his house smashed by Zanu PF youths. It is reported that the new Councillor has since left the area and was now staying with other MDC Councillors.

On October 25, 2003 all known MDC supporters were assaulted during a Zanu PF victory celebration.

**Silobela**

On October 16, the Ward 1 MDC Councillor was severely assaulted by Zanu PF youths. When the Councillor reportedly went to report to the police he was arrested and spent three days in custody. The following day another MDC Councillor for Ward 2 was severely assaulted. It is alleged that he led a gang that destroyed a Zanu PF supporter’s house. He was only released at about 2100 hours.

**Gweru Rural**

G M and Z.M both NCA members were threatened by Zanu PF supporters on October 6 in the new resettlement area. O.M an MDC supporter was allegedly assaulted by war veterans S.M and SM.

On October 11, 2003 the MP for Lower Gweru and S.N were forced to call off a rally 15 minutes before the scheduled starting time by police. The police officers were alleged to have said that they had an instruction from the top that the meeting should be called off.

During a Zanu PF meeting held in Somabhula resettlement area people were force-matched to the rally by Zanu PF youths.

M.B a suspected MDC supporter was allegedly accused of disturbing the peace in the area by organising MDC rallies at Nyevera Village. M.B was picked up by the police who made him pay a fine of \$3000.00 at Tongogara.

**Gweru Urban**

P.M of ZCTU was allegedly arrested and brutally assaulted by riot police outside Gweru Theatre on October 8. He was accused of organising the ZCTU stay away.

D. N was also attacked by people in Zanu PF T-shirts during the night of October 18.

**Mkoba**

On 1 October 2003, two MDC members had their house stoned by suspected Zanu PF youths who were in a Gweru Council Nissan truck. The asbestos sheets were reportedly damaged and window panes broken, a VCR, cellphone and television were stolen. The matter was reported to the police but no action was taken since the police allege that it was a political issue.

It is alleged that on 19 October, an MDC Councillor called for a ward meeting. Riot police cordoned the venue and barred people from entering. It is reported that the police had to use tear gas when people tried to enter the venue by force.

**Shurugwi**

The Zanu PF district Chairperson was chased away from the party celebrations at Hanke on 3 October. He was allegedly accused of looting food during the previous Presidential

rally. It is alleged that police officers are wily nilly harassing people especially those from rural areas. It is reported that some have approached gold panners and demanded rent for panning in the area.

**Chirumanzu**

Reports of tribalism are increasing in the constituency. For example the Shona are not happy with the Ndebele settling among them and vice versa.

On 19 October J.C a suspected MDC member was threatened by Zanu PF supporters for not attending their rallies.

**Zvishavane**

It is alleged that on October 1, M.P a Zanu PF supporter was approached by three MDC supporters who demanded that he renounce his membership to the ruling party. The man was reportedly assaulted.

It is also reported that the Zanu PF Councillors who lost in the previous elections are refusing to give up their post and are denying the new MDC Councillors the right to function.

J.M and other MDC youths were allegedly assaulted by drunken suspected Zanu PF youths. G.M and T.M were harassed by Zanu PF supporters when they went to attend a school development meeting wearing MDC T-Shirts.

**Mberengwa West**

On October, 1, M.Z was allegedly assaulted by a 47 year old man who accused him of supporting Zanu PF . B.M and her sister S.M assaulted a man who had destroyed windows of their house. The man had accused the girl's mother of reporting his brother to the police.

**BULAWAYO**

Cases of violence are still being witnessed in the province although they have decreased since the council elections in August. Six cases of assault and eight cases of harassment were reported see Figure 10.

**Figure 10 Graph showing the types and levels of violence reported in Bulawayo**



**Bulawayo North East**

A group of 15 people led by T.N harassed the bus crew of Siphosami Bus Company on 29 September 2003. The perpetrators reportedly blocked the road and accused the crew of campaigning for MDC, and also denying them the opportunity to ferry passengers to Zanu PF rallies.

On September 30, 2003 M.B was on her way home when she met M.L with four youths. She was accused of writing Zanu PF supporters' names. She was handcuffed and assaulted. The incident was reported to the police who instead threatened to arrest her.

J.M who claimed to be working for the Red Cross victimised M.N's aunt on 6 October 2003 and accused her of supporting MDC and spreading wrong information about Zanu PF and the government.

**Pumula-Luveve**

D.S an MDC youth assaulted another youth M.N over differences in political opinion. M.N was injured and it is not known whether he managed to seek medical treatment.

A group of about five suspected and drunk war veterans attacked a man without provocation accusing him of being an MDC member because he was wearing an NCA T-shirt. The perpetrators declared that "MDC supporters should buy their clothes in Britain and not in Zimbabwe since they are saboteurs". However, the victim managed to run away before sustaining serious injuries.

After a Zanu PF meeting which was held at Luveve Primary School, the supporters,

randomly assaulted people injuring L.M and A.M. The two who were injured are believed to be MDC youths.

On October 6, two militias tried to bar an MDC youth from buying maize accusing him of campaigning for MDC. The victim was verbally assaulted but villagers of the area came to his rescue when they pleaded for him and he was able to procure the maize.

On 16 October, 2003 C.M an MDC youth was allegedly stabbed by a fellow MDC youth on allegations that he wanted to topple him from a leadership post within their wing. The victim noticed the aggressor writing down her house number on 20 October 2003 and on challenging him on this, the perpetrator further insulted her accusing her of inciting youths in the area to be anti-government. The victim has now resorted to changing sleeping places on a daily basis to avoid repeated attacks.

On 22 October 2003, L.B a worker at a filling station at Luveve was allegedly assaulted by war veterans who had visited the filling station accusing the workers of hoarding fuel. The victim was assaulted for answering back at the war veterans. He sustained injuries for which he received treatment at a local clinic. It is reported that on the following day another victim was waylaid at the gate of his house and harassed by suspected war veterans who accused him of supporting the opposition MDC party. The victim was saved from further beatings when the perpetrators noticed that the neighbours' attention was attracted by the commotion.

**Lobengula-Magwegwe**

On 30 September 2003 when a ZLP activist was reportedly carrying out his advocacy work at Magwegwe West church, which was the venue for the workshop. However during the workshop M.M who resides nearby started labelling the activists and the Pastor, accusing them of being MDC agents. She further stated that the war veterans would burn down the church and arrest them.

**Pelandaba**

As residents were waiting to buy mealie-meal at Iminyela shopping Centre on 25 September 2003, the victim a board member tried to control the queue. Two MDC youths wearing party T-shirts who were also in the queue confronted the victim and threatened her.

On 29 September 2003 residents of Old Lobengula had reportedly gathered at the hall preparing to elect a new board for the new councillor to work with in the area, then suddenly youths wearing Zanu PF T-shirts came into the hall and ordered everyone to leave the hall. The youths reportedly stated that no one should change the present executive board.

**MATEBELELAND NORTH**

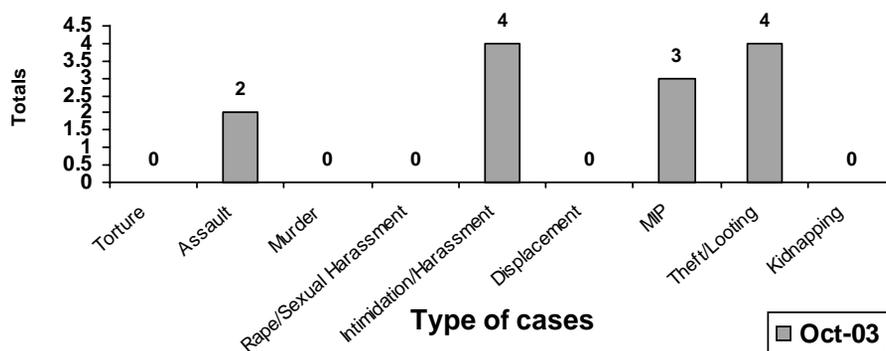
The period under review recorded sporadic incidences of human rights violations across the province. Most of the cases were perpetrated by members of the National Youth Service and most conflicts were centred on food distribution.

**Hwange West**

ZESA employees heeded the call for a stay away by their union to force for a salary review. The Human Resources Manager who happens to be a Zanu PF provincial Chairperson suspended all those who had participated in the stay away. He is alleged to have described the act as sabotage.

It is reported that a genuine labour issue was politicised since all the fired seventeen workers were members of MDC. Two Councillors both belonging to the MDC were also suspended although they did not take part

**Figure 11 Graph showing the types and levels of violence reported Matebeland North**



in the alleged stay away. The labour court ordered that the employees should be reinstated but ZESA appealed against the ruling.

In the same constituency S.B who tried to contest as a Councillor on an MDC ticket was assaulted by a gang led by T.S.

**Hwange East**

E.C a supporter of Zanu PF was severely assaulted by suspected MDC youths during an argument over the current hardships faced by Zimbabwean youths. One pregnant woman is reportedly battling for her life after being assaulted by suspected Zanu PF youths. She broke her back as a result of the attack and went into premature labour. She gave birth to a deformed baby because of the incident. The mother and child are both in a critical condition.

**Bubi - Umuza**

An MDC Councillor called a meeting with people from his ward to discuss the issue of constructing a Secondary School. It is alleged that Zanu PF youths disrupted the meeting urging the Councillor that no donor funds should come to the constituency.

**Tsholotsho**

The National Service youths have been deployed to all GMB food collection points. The youths are alleged to be the ones who decide on who should receive GMB maize or any other food handouts. In most cases, all suspected and known opposition supporters have been denied access to the food.

C.S who had been denied access to the

food handouts tried to attack one of the youths but was refrained by members of the community who also supported the idea that this youth leader who is from Lupane should leave their area because he was causing a lot of problems.

It is also alleged that Zanu PF food task force members and war veterans confiscated maize from J.N and gave it to their friends and relatives. The maize had been bought from the GMB.

**MATEBELELAND SOUTH**

**Gwanda North**

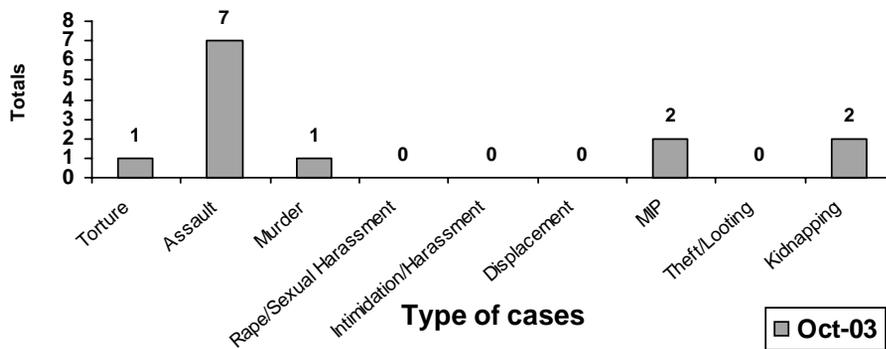
After the MDC had won the majority of the Council seats in the previous elections, it is alleged that some war veterans and Zanu PF supporters went about beating up people and accusing them of being sell-outs. It is reported that four people in Wabayi village were injured and five were arrested. Those arrested were soon released without charge.

At Tshobayi School, it is reported that a ward developmental meeting turned political. It is alleged that some people initiated this so as to identify people with MDC views. It is also reported that this led to a confrontation and two people were wounded.

At Blanket Mine four people were alleged to have confronted S.N a member of the NCA who had attended a meeting called by F.M. She was assaulted and sustained injuries for which she received treatment.

In Gwakwe village suspected Zanu PF supporters who were resettled at Sindi Ranch

**Figure 12 Graph showing the types and levels of violence reported Matebeland South**



Farm clashed with farm workers after they were suspected of stealing heifers from the white farmer. It is reported that seven people were injured and hospitalised. Eight people were reportedly arrested but released after questioning.

In Maphane village Zanu PF youths were allegedly mobilised to go into Wenlock Community beating anyone suspected to be a member of the opposition MDC. As a result nine people were injured and five hospitalised.

**Gwanda South**

It is alleged that PS of Gwakwe Village had his house burnt while he had gone out to look for his cattle. He said he had received threats from an MP in the area.

In Sigodo village 13 suspected Zanu PF youths kidnapped two MDC supporters who had just arrived from Gwanda. The two were held hostage for about three hours and released after noticing a police vehicle approaching them.

**Umzingwane**

It is alleged that J.T was attacked, kidnapped and tortured by war veterans in Esigodini. The war veterans are alleged to have demanded that they should be appointed to monitor food distribution from the World Food Program (WFP).

It is reported that Z.N was asked by the Mawabeni chief to move out the area if he wanted to separate the community along party lines in the projects. It is alleged that Z.N had angered people when he said that suspected Zanu PF supporters should not join Ostrich Project that is operational in the area. Some of the angry people destroyed and burnt down some of the Ostrich runs which had been constructed. Three people were allegedly arrested.

Three youths believed to be militias tried to bar a victim from buying maize accusing him of having campaigned for opposition candidate in the council elections on 6 October 2003. They verbally insulted and threatened him. Other villagers pleaded for him and he ended up buying the maize despite the humiliation.

**What is Zimbabwe Peace Project**

Zimbabwe Peace Project (ZPP) is a broad-based, non-partisan, non-profit organisation founded in 2000 by the churches in partnership with like-minded civil society organisations. It is inspired by Christian values and the desire to see Zimbabweans embrace and cherish justice, peace and respect for human dignity and freedoms, in a country that values democracy, the rule of law and the security of all persons.

**Vision**

To be an authoritative institution in documenting acts of political violence and human rights abuses and promotion of conflict transformation initiatives.

**Mission Statement**

To promote a culture of peace, non-violent resolution of conflict, reconciliation and the respect of rights, freedoms and dignity of all human beings..

**How to contact ZPP**

The Zimbabwe Peace Project has offices in all provinces of the country. If you wish to know more about the organisation you are free to approach our officers at any of the following addresses:

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**Mutare:** 27 Fifth St. Cell: 011 423 186

**Marondera:** Motsrud Building, 1510, Pine St. Ext. Cell: 011 401 340

**Masvingo:** 7 Robin House, S. Mazorodze Ave Cell: 011 423 192

**Gweru:** 90B-10th St. Cell: 011 423 185

**Hwange:** Zeco Mess, Rm. 19, Baobab Hill Cell: 011 423 184

**Gwanda:** Health Care Pharmacy, New Complex Cell: 023 232 707

**Chinhoyi:** Stand 5332 Midway Ext. Cell: 091 381 496

**Bindura:** 3162 T. Gadzikwa St Aerodrome or 98-2nd St. Bindura Cell: 011 423 187