

# **Zimbabwe Peace Project**

*Monitoring Reports & Findings*

***Aug - Sept 2003***

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# Executive Summary

The period under review saw a slight increase in the number of cases of violence and human rights abuse especially in areas where local government elections were held. The worst of such cases were recorded in the Midlands and Mashonaland Central provinces. It has been noted from reports received that much of the violence was blamed on members of the Zanu PF militia, many of whom were staying in bases during the campaign period. The most notorious militia base that has continued to be reported about is the one set up at Kamativi in Matabeleland North province.

It is reported that a number of MDC candidates in the local government elections were either threatened with dire consequences if they contested, or they were violently barred from filing their papers at nomination courts. As a result some of them failed to stand in the elections.

In some areas, it is reported that some Zanu PF aspirants in the elections resorted once again to using scarce food commodities as a campaign tool to woo voters. When such corrupt candidates lost it is reported that they demanded back the foodstuffs they had given people in their wards. It is alleged that those who failed to return the food were assaulted, threatened or forced to leave their homes.

By and large it appears that the problem of political intolerance still reigns supreme. Some examples of this lack of tolerance are being received from urban areas where people are harassed or wearing red attire and being accused of supporting the opposition. Even social gatherings such as football matches are also being politicised. Hence, there is a strong need for strategies to be worked out which will help people, and members of the security forces to realise that belonging to and supporting a political party of one's choice is a constitutionally guaranteed right which all persons must enjoy without hindrance.

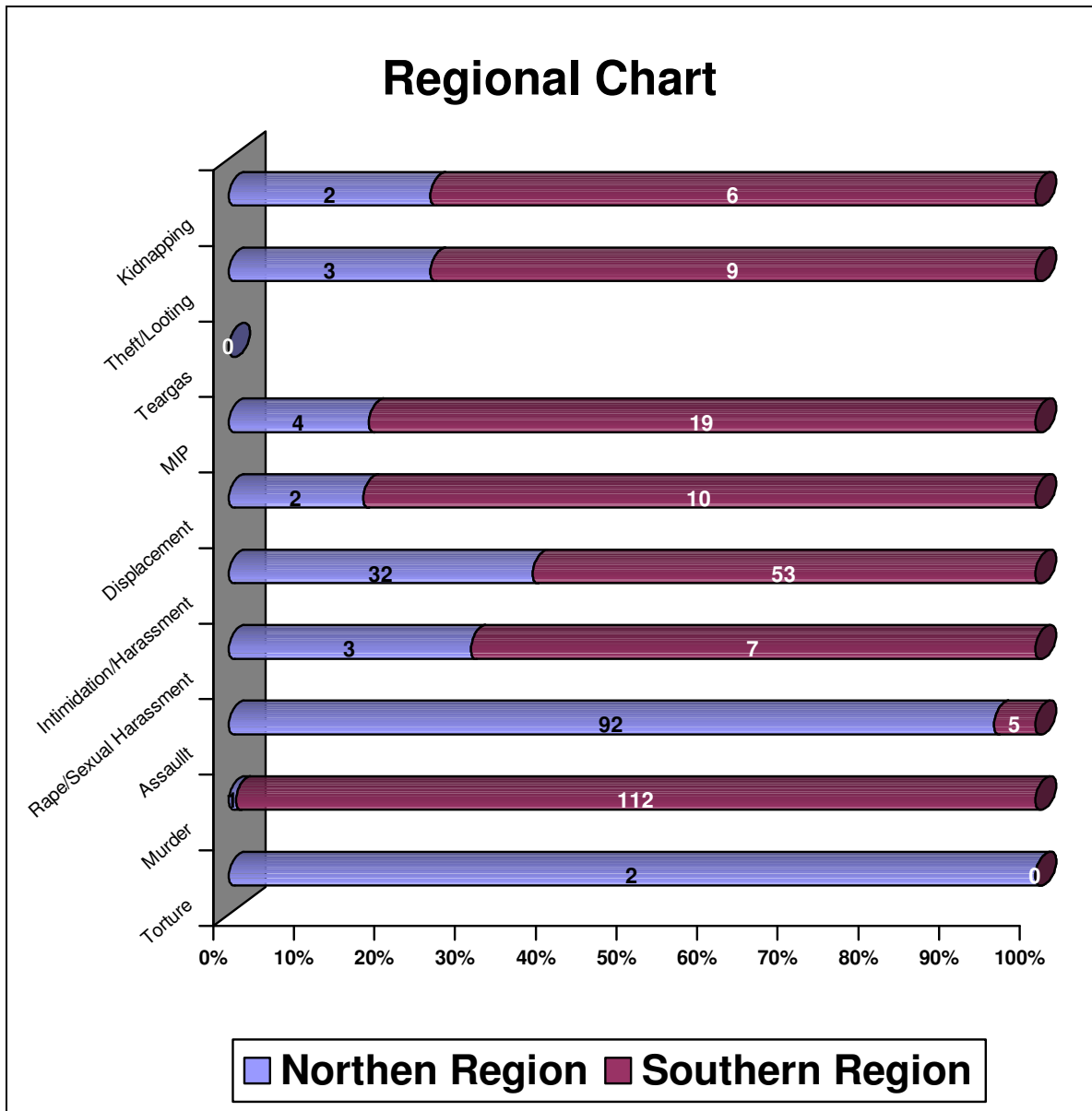


Figure 1

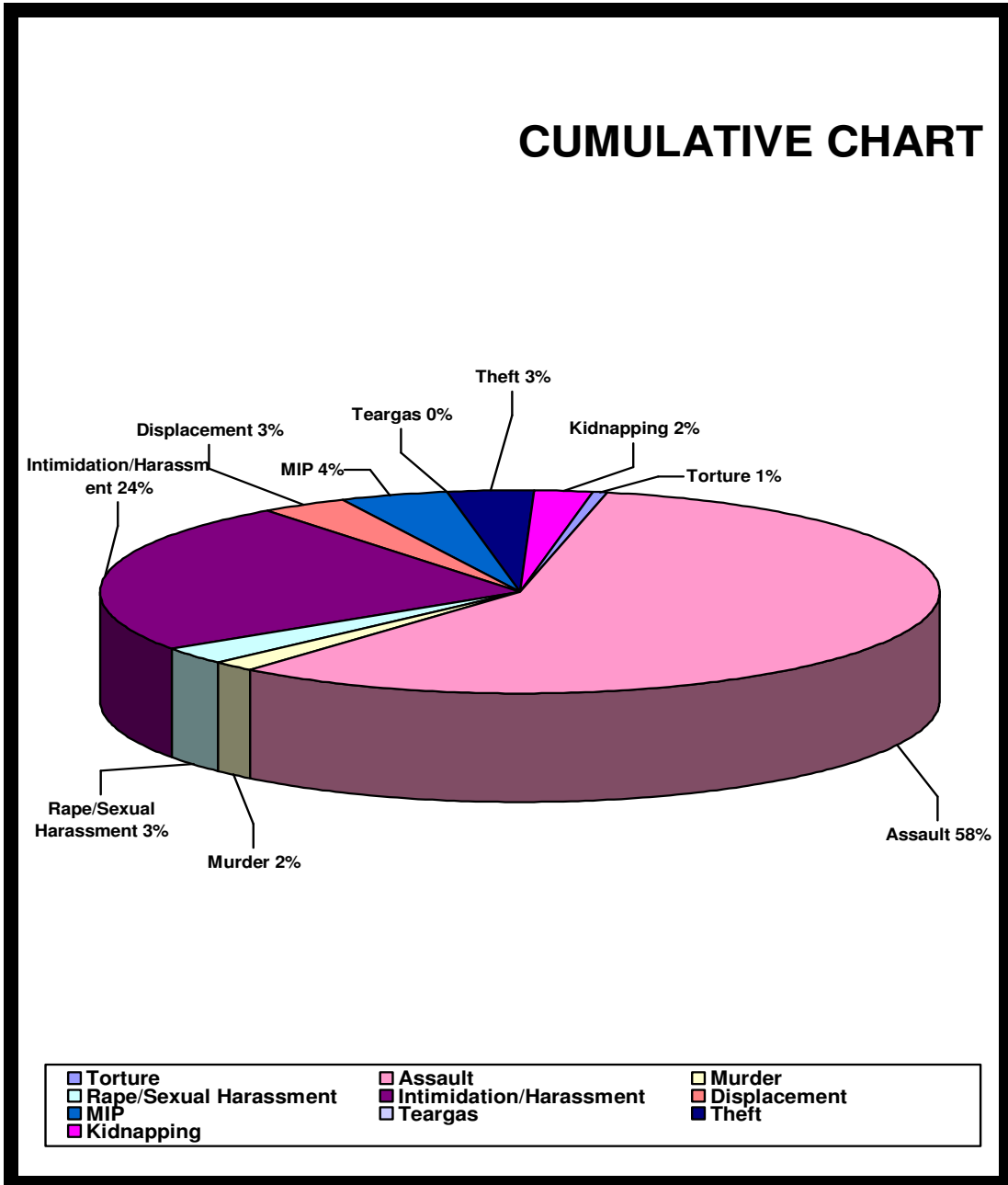


Figure 2:

# NORTHERN REGION

## HARARE/CHITUNGWIZA

### Introduction

The period under review saw a number of incidents of violence connected to the Council elections being committed. The majority of the reports received suggest that members of the ruling party Zanu PF perpetrated the majority of the cases, whilst the remaining were committed by opposition MDC supporters and the police. It is worrying that in the

cases of violence allegedly committed by police officers, they seemed to be doing so on behalf of the ruling party. Again, reports were heard of police officers refusing to arrest Zanu PF activists who committed crimes against opposition supporters and members of the public.

### Kambuzuma

Zanu PF youths are reported to have ordered some residents in Kambuzuma Section 6 to go and attend a meeting being held in the suburb. The youths are alleged to have forcibly cause the early closure of the barr and ordered patrons to go to the rally. Those who refused were assaulted.

just come from Harare Central where he had gone to campaign for the Zanu PF candidate. Soon after the by-elections, an MDC polling agent was threatened with death by a group of Zanu PF activists who saw her wearing an MDC T/Shirt.

In the same suburb, a group of MDC youths allegedly attacked a man who had

Two MDC supporters were severely assaulted by a gang of Zanu PF youths for wearing their party's T/shirts. They were saved by sympathetic on-lookers who quickly spirited them away from the place.

### Highfield, Glen Norah and Glen View

Although there were no elections in these constituencies, reports of violence were still received. In one incident, riot police officers allegedly went to a night club and accused patrons of organising a demonstration. This followed reports that the Zimbabwe Congress of Trade Union was contemplating demonstrating against government's failure to remedy the cash crisis. The patrons were allegedly assaulted indiscriminately and ordered out of the night club.

Station where they were forced to take off their MDC T/shirts. Even women had to go back home half naked after the police took their T/shirts. In Glen Norah an opposition supporter and his family were scolded by a tuck shop owner who went further to ban them all from buying at his tuck shop until they renounced their party affiliation. People seen wearing red clothes are still being targeted with some of them being assaulted while others had their red clothing confiscated.

Elsewhere, it is reported that known and suspected opposition supporters were assaulted by the police and Zanu PF youths. A number of people attending the funeral of an MDC supporter in Glen View were allegedly taken to Glen View 3 Police

On their part, it is alleged that some MDC youth coming from a rally in Glen Norah met and severely assaulted a young man who was wearing a T/Shirt inscribed "NO TO MASS ACTION". They allegedly accused him of persecuting opposition supporters.

### Mufakose and Kuwadzana

Food vendors at Kuwadzana 4 shopping centre are reported to have been assaulted by a group of Zanu PF youths for refusing to leave their products to go and attend the funeral of the late Robert Marere at the Heroes Acres. The ruling party had hired some buses but residents were not interested in attending the funeral.

Residents of the suburb are also said to be complaining about the conduct of the police. A number of the complaints have allegedly been received of people, especially revellers arrested for public drinking, who are forced to pay bribes to the police in order for them not to pay fines. Even when called to control queues at retail outlets, some police officers were

said to be soliciting for bribes from people wishing to get preferential treatment. At one store, some people complained about this, but the police responded by beating up people indiscriminately.

In Mufakose, a former Zanu PF activist who had defected to the opposition MDC was severely assaulted by Zanu PF supporters who accused him of spying when he passed by their office. To confirm that there is a general intolerance of opposition supporters, it is reported that there are some youths who go round confiscating maize grain from vendors accusing them of supporting the MDC. Some of the vendors were even taken to the police where their wares were being confiscated.

### Chitungwiza , Zengeza and St Mary's

A number of cases of violence were reported in the run up to the Council elections, and both Zanu PF and MDC supporters were implicated. It is reported that some MDC youths clashed with a group supporters of a Zanu PF candidate, the wife of the former Mayor. The MDC youths pulled down the woman's campaign posters and chased away the Zanu PF supporters telling them that their party had no place in the town. However, during the election days, she was accused of having bussed in people from outside her ward. Fortunately, the people were barred from voting because they did not appear in the registers. Sensing defeat, it is alleged that she sent youths round the ward forcing people to come and vote for her, promising them rewards if she won. Her supporters allegedly turned away some voters known to support the opposition..

An MDC youth who dared to attend a Zanu PF meeting was manhandled and assaulted. He was threatened with death if he remained in Chitungwiza. He is now understood to have fled to South Africa where he is now living as a refugee. After the announcements of the election results, MDC supporters who were seen celebrating their party's victory were allegedly attacked by a group of irate Zanu PF youths. No one was seriously injured because the police quickly broke up the feuding sides.

It is alleged that some Zanu PF supporters said that Chitungwiza would not receive any food deliveries because the people had dared to reject the ruling party which has the power and resources to ensure that people are fed and provided with all necessary services.

### Mabvuku and Hatfield

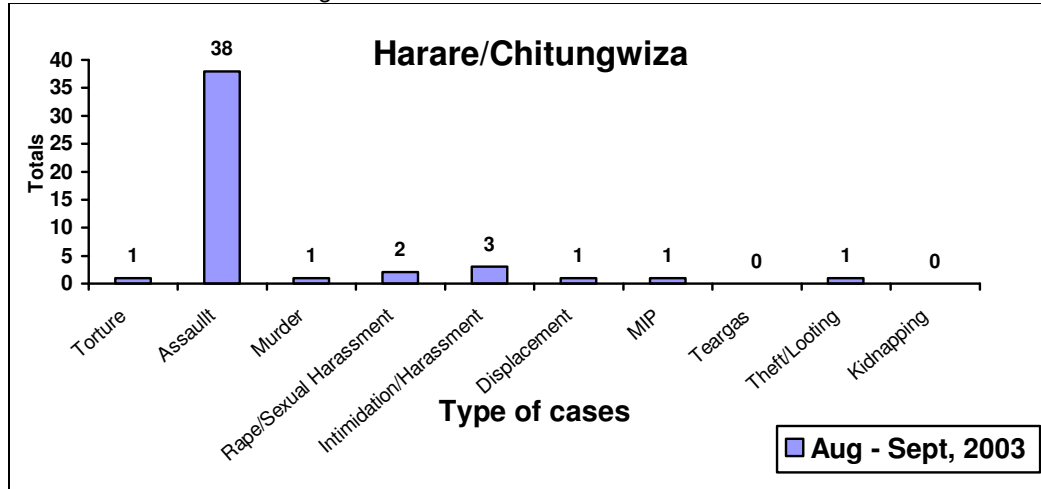
It is reported that a rogue gang also calling itself Chipangano, like the notorious Mbare gang has been formed in Tafara. The gang is allegedly terrorising residents, especially suspected members of the opposition. The gang allegedly boasts that they act above the law as the police will never arrest them.

Still in Tafara, it is alleged that a Zanu PF activist and two war veterans fought after disagreeing on how to share money collected from people squatting at Bob Farm where they have been promised residential stands. Actually it is reported that the money in question was collected with the understanding that it would be used to service the stands, yet these three

people were converting it into their personal use.

In Epworth, it is alleged that a man went into a house where two girls were asleep in the same bedroom. He allegedly threatened to kill them if they screamed. He raped the two, one after the other and left.. As soon as he left the girls screamed

but the man had already made good his escape. The matter was reported to the police who allegedly only told the girls and their brother that they would look for the culprit. The man has not been arrested yet.



## MANICALAND

### Introduction

Violence was still rampant in the province, targeting mainly opposition supporters during the Council elections period. Also a cause of concern were reports which indicated that because of the proposed policy on NGOs by government, politicisation of food seems to be rearing its ugly head once more.

has been learnt that a new institution for them has been opened in Burma Valley, Vumba. These youth and others from Rusape and Nyanga were heavily involved in spreading violence before and during the Council elections. It is alleged that in Nyanga the youths were working alongside members of the army, generally spreading terror.

Much of the violence in areas like Nyanga and Mutare was being perpetrated by the government – trained youth militias. It

In Rusape it is reported that the opposition was barred from contesting in the local government elections.

### Mutare Central, South and North

Since the sitting of the nomination court, violence was the order of each day, with indications that the opposition MDC was going to wrestle the local authority from the ruling party. Sensing this

inevitable fact, the ruling party resorted to the use of intimidation and violence, especially in Sakubva and Dangamvura. Members of both the ruling Zanu PF and opposition MDC were implicated.



**Nyanga**

Two notorious Zanu PF youths M.M and K.M, were allegedly victimising members of the public, even targeting staff of NGOs such as the Catholic, Development Commission (CADEC), whom they accused of working with the MDC. At one time they said are said to

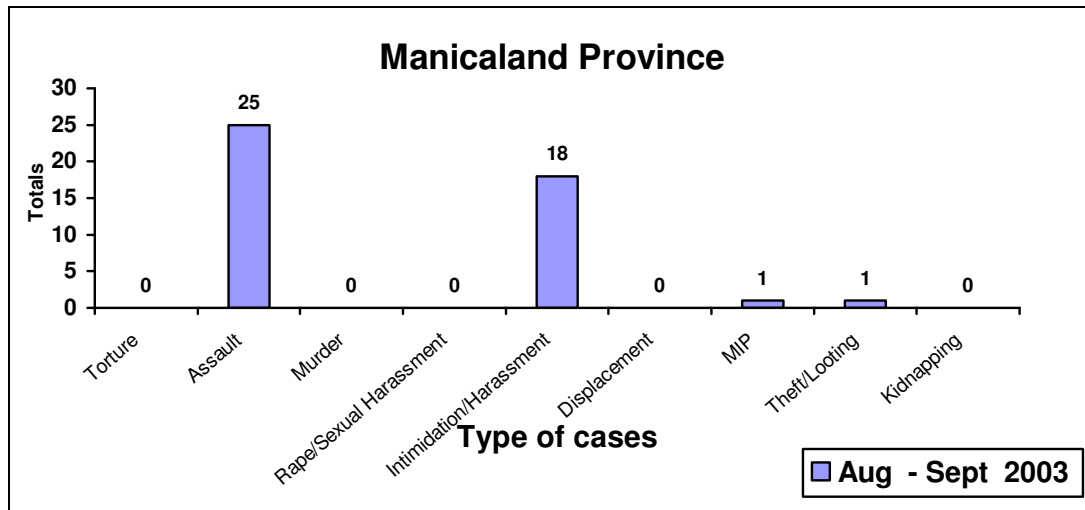
have alleged that MDC cards were discovered in grain bags. After making the allegations they went on to disrupt the feeding programme, going round victimising and assaulting people. Even the MP of the area has been threatened with expulsion from his constituency.

**Mutare West and Buhera South**

There has emerged a trend in these adjoining constituencies of politicising even simple issues. It is reported that at a meeting at Domboshava Training Centre, Mutare South, the Governor of Manicaland, Ms O.M ordered headmen and Councillors to rid these areas of all MDC members. This therefore led to lawlessness as people began to do the unimaginable in the name of Zanu PF. Residents of the constituencies, especially those of Mutiusinazita and Birchenough Bridge, began to see a whittling down of a number

of their rights and freedoms. Soldiers at Birchenough Bridge have been accused of impunity as they victimised ordinary people, especially commuters passing through the area.

The food situation in the area is reported to be very critical, most of the problems being caused by Zanu PF officials who politicised access to basic food stuffs. It is also reported that there is still jostling for land among war veterans in the area who are grabbing land from each other.



## MASHONALAND EAST

### Introduction

Human rights violations in the province were still prevalent as evidenced by the several reports received on harassments and torture meted on members of the public especially those who were heard complaining about the current economic situation of the country.

Ruling party Zanu PF supporters, law enforcers and intelligence officers were implicated in the perpetration of most of the human rights violations. During the close of August 2003, a ZPP Coordinator had to flee for a few weeks following pursuits from CIO members.

### Chikomba

Zanu PF youths in the area were reported to be randomly harassing and assaulting members of the public suspected to be supporting MDC and known MDC members. C.M, M.C, E.M

and E.M, all known opposition MDC supporters, were allegedly assaulted by the ruling party youths. However, this kind of behaviour has seen some perpetrators arrested by police.

### Goromonzi

During the period under review, the constituency has seen a rise in incidents of assaults and intimidation towards the public. J.M and C.M were assaulted for publicly criticising government.

On a different note, a fresh farm invasion was recorded in the area when Orbit Farm was served with an eviction notice.

### Marondera East

The just ended Municipal elections that were held on 30 – 31 August 2003 were reported to have been marred by intimidation and harassment of opposition party members and members of the public hence the elections were not free and fair. One C.N a known MDC member was kidnapped and harassed by CIO and Zanu

PF youths for two days prior to the Council elections. Farm workers in the area were being threatened with job losses and farm closures if they did not vote for Zanu PF.

On the other hand, illegal settlers that had invaded Mushangwe Farm were dispersed and evicted by police.

### Marondera West

Marondera West constituency recorded an increase in assault cases during the period under review. A Zanu PF youth leader M.M was assaulted by his fellow

party cadres after they were not paid for the election campaigns. War veterans and Zanu PF youths attacked and assaulted people for selling sugar at inflated price.

### Murehwa North

Cases of political discrimination were recorded in the area, One such case was reported when people had applied for

temporary teaching posts were denied the chance because they had not trained with Border Geri National youths service.

### Murehwa South

Three cases of assault and one of theft/looting were recorded in the constituency. F.M, and K.T were assaulted for supporting the opposition MDC party while a farmer had his beasts

looted by Zanu PF youths for refusing to donate towards the Heroes Day Celebrations.

**Seke**

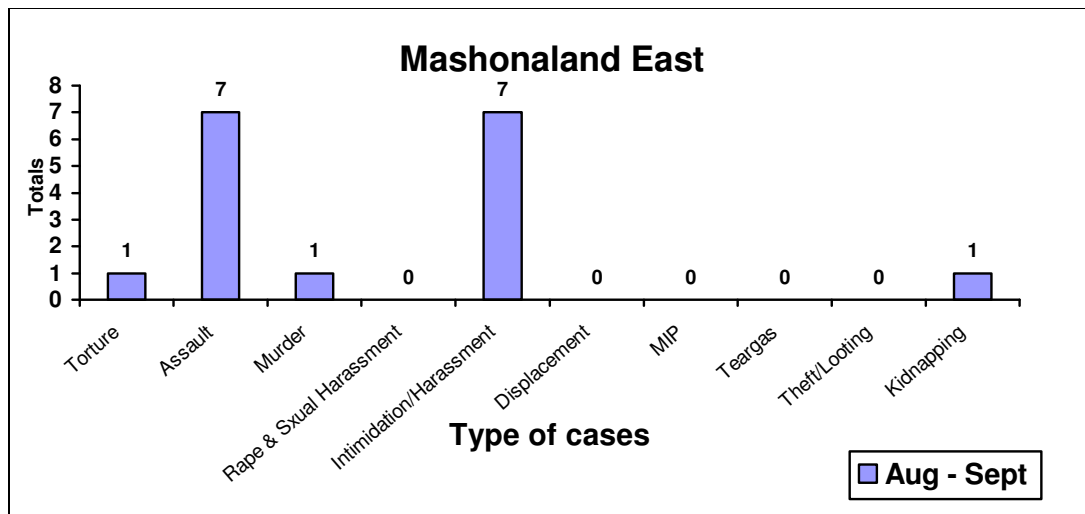
The Council elections held in Ruwa, saw MDC candidates taking over 3 wards out of nine and this was the first

time the Rural Local Board has had opposition party members to sit on the Council.

**Uzumba Maramba Pfungwe**

The constituency has recorded a high figure of intimidation and harassment for the period under review teachers were being threatened and harassed by Border Gezi trained youth militia. At Mapaya School, teachers on holiday were forced to

water the school garden. Visitors from cities like Harare were also subjected to threats and harassment by the youth as they were suspected to be members of the opposition.



**MASHONALAND WEST**

**Introduction**

The period under review is dominated by Council election activities. A number of people were assaulted or harassed.

**Kadoma**

It is reported that MDC supporters provoked violence when they verbally abused suspected Zanu PF supporters. A fight broke out at the election counting centre resulting in eleven people being injured.

the polling stations. One Zanu PF Councillor ordered his supporters to identify MDC supporters on the voting queue. They were ordered to go back home without voting and those who refused were assaulted.

During the Council elections the majority of MDC supporters were stopped from going to vote by suspected Zanu PF supporters who barricaded the gates of

On 31 August 2003, one election observer was harassed by Zanu Pf supporters when she entered the polling station.

**Chinhoyi**

On 29 August 2003, E.M a suspected MDC member was assaulted by suspected Zanu PF supporters for supporting MDC. He is alleged to have sustained leg injuries and the assailants were arrested.

alleged that E.M had refused to attend a Zanu PF meeting and he was assaulted and sustained head injuries. Two of the perpetrators were arrested whilst the third one was still at large.

On 31 August 2003, another E.M, suspected MDC member was assaulted by three suspected Zanu PF supporters in Cold Stream at around 1130 hours. It is

In another case, F.B a Zanu PF supporter is alleged to have been assaulted by two suspected MDC members for wearing a Zanu PF outfit.

**Mhondoro**

It is alleged that an MDC candidate for Council elections in ward 1 had his house burnt by suspected Zanu PF supporters. This was done to try and intimidate him from contesting the

elections. In the same constituency, D.C a Zanu PF supporter was beaten by suspected MDC youths on September 8 2003.

**Norton**

After the MDC had won the ward 8 elections M.M a commissariat member with Zanu PF ordered two youths to destroy windows and doors of D.D's house. D.D is the leader of the MDC in the town. It is also alleged that on September 11, 2003 an MDC supporter T.H had her house burnt because MDC had won in the Council elections. The

lady sustained injuries and had to be hospitalised.

MG an MDC supporter was found dead on August 25 after being assaulted by suspected Zanu PF youths led by the Chairperson who was trying to discourage other contestants in ward 10.

**Hurungwe East**

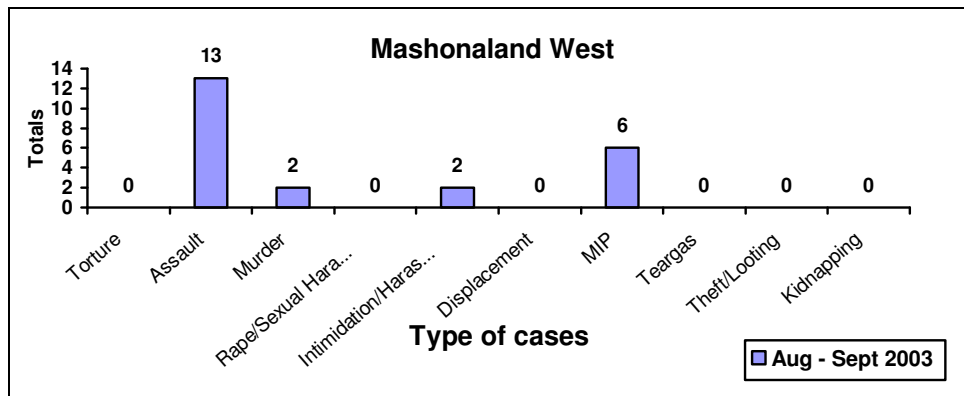
A pastor with AFM was assaulted by a Zanu PF supporter when he visited the MP's shop to see his church members. The MP accused the pastor of supporting

the MDC. It is alleged that the MP asked the workers to verbally abuse the pastor and told him never to visit the shop again.

**Karoi**

On August 29, 2003, B.H's house was petrol bombed by suspected Zanu PF supporters. Household property was destroyed and he was assaulted as he tried to flee. He reported the case but it is alleged that the police dismissed the case for lack of evidence.

On the same date the house of N.S an MDC was also petrol bombed and property was destroyed. One, W.C was found dead and is suspected to have been killed by suspected Zanu PF youth led by G.M.



## MASHONALANDS CENTRAL

### Introduction

The province, a stronghold of Zanu PF recorded several cases of intimidation, harassment and other human rights violations being perpetrated by Zanu PF supporters, and the law enforcers especially during the campaigning periods

for the August 30 – 31 August 2003, Municipal elections. In the rural parts of the province cases of political differences, farm invasions, and harassments were still prevalent.

### Bindura

The Bindura municipal elections were not held because MDC members were barred from attending a nomination court by Zanu PF supporters and this saw only Zanu PF candidates being deemed as duly elected Councillors.

Trojan Mine by MDC youths. In a different case, a man was assaulted by Zanu PF supporters for moving alone at night and in a different case a man was assaulted for wearing a red cap and was forced to wear a Zanu PF T-shirt. Another farm invasion was witnessed where a white farmer was forcefully removed to make way for a female ex –combatant.

A Zupco bus ferrying Zanu PF youths to a funeral was allegedly barred from entering

### Mt Darwin North

In Mt Darwin North, cases of assault were high during the period under review. Two people were assaulted in

separated incidents for allegedly criticising the State President and the local Member of Parliament.

### Mt Darwin South

In Mt Darwin South, a man was allegedly stabbed by war veterans on accusations that he was an MDC supporter, while

another was assaulted for singing a song that was popular during the Muzorewa reign.

### Guruve

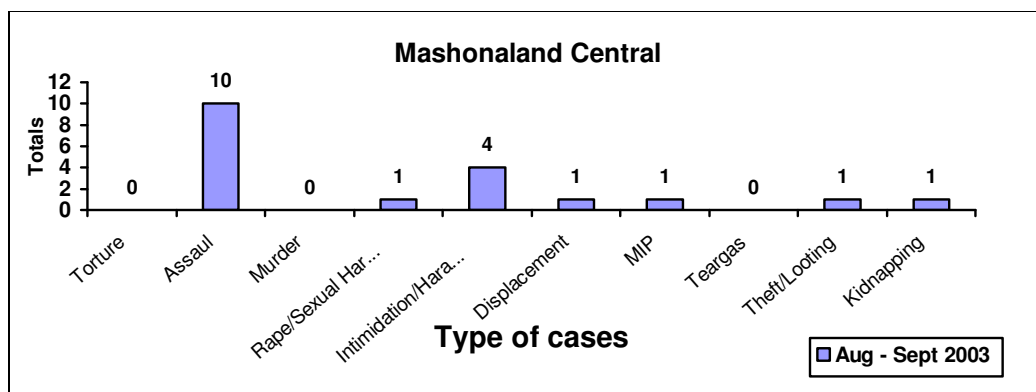
Farm invasions in the Guruve constituency were still lingering. On a different note, a man was severely assaulted for refusing to join the Zanu PF

youths who were on the road singing and chanting Chimurenga songs. Some people in the area were denied access to maize by Zanu PF supporters.

### Shamva

During the month under review Shamva recorded a low number of incidents of human rights violations save for 3 cases where a man was forced to crawl on his belly while 5 civilians were

assaulted for openly criticising the “Rambai Makashinga:” song. One case of intimidation was recorded when Zanu PF youths threatened a man for complaining about the cash crisis in the country.



# SOUTHERN REGION

## BULAWAYO

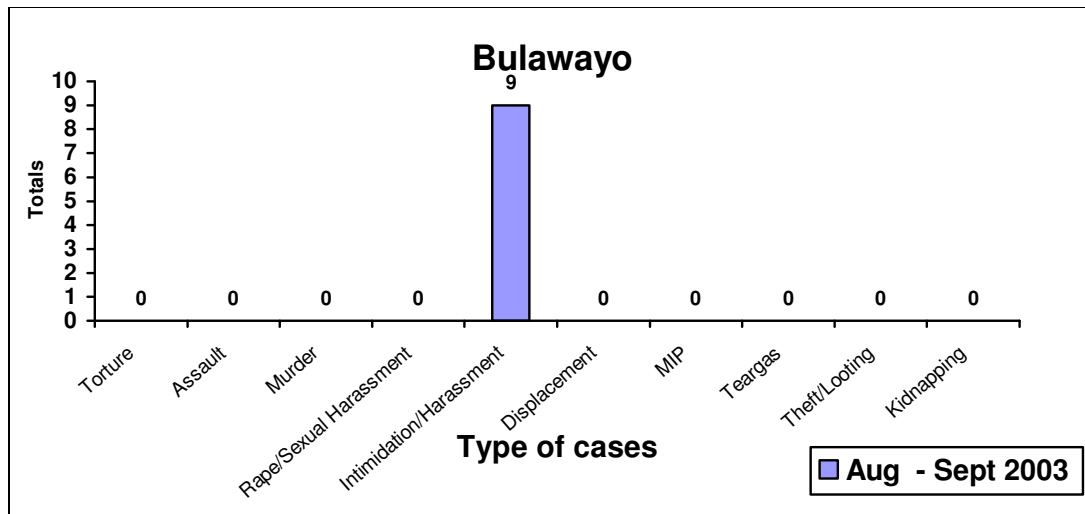
### Introduction

The period under reviewed focused on the Council elections which were held on the 30<sup>th</sup> - 31<sup>st</sup> August 2003.

### Urban Council Elections

The elections held in Bulwayo were said have been marred by voter apathy as observed in the Pelandaba,

Lobengula Magwegwe, and Mpopoma areas.



## MASVINGO

### Introduction

The period under review saw a significant decrease in the number of incidents of politically motivated violence in the province, particularly in Masvingo

urban, though there were a few cases of intimidation and assault soon after the local government elections.

### Chiredzi

L.S was allegedly assaulted by six war veterans. Another war veteran led Zanu PF youths to assault game scouts at Oscro Farm whom they accused of selling out by protecting a white man's property. V.C, yet another war veteran allegedly led some youths to attack T.M, an MDC

supporter. Another war veteran O.N. assaulted MDC members who had gone to collect his party T/shirts and cards. War veteran A.D assaulted three farm workers at 44 Sauzier Farm for refusing to give him the farm's tractor which he wanted to use for free to plough his land.

P.N, an MDC candidate in the Council election was allegedly threatened with expulsion from the village by his kraal head. In another report, it is alleged that the Zanu PF militia guarding the Cotton Marketing Board Depot were stealing goats from neighbouring homesteads. It is reported that people were afraid to report them to the police for fear of victimisation.

#### Chivi

An MDC member was allegedly murdered by two suspected Zanu PF youths L.M and G.S. It is alleged that in spite of the matter having been reported to the police, the culprits have not been apprehended. Police manning a road block at Chivi turn-off from the Beitbridge highway are said to have allegedly tortured a man whom they forced to leave 100 litres of petrol as well as \$10 000 for which a receipt was not issued.

Two Zanu PF supporters, T. D and J.N, who were vying for the Chairmanship of the District, argued and fought over the

#### Mwenezi

issue. In another incident M.T, an MDC supporter assaulted his wife for singing Zanu PF songs at their home.

A corrupt policewoman solicited for a bribe from a man who was travelling along the Harare/Masvingo highway. In a different incident, war veteran and his

#### Gutu

group of youths forced residents to pay \$5000 to join Zanu PF and no receipt was issued.

A Zanu PF activist and teacher at Mutenda Primary School, allegedly severely assaulted S.M, a student for failing to sing a Zanu PF song, "Rambai Makashinga" A woman, E.M , was raped by a man who is currently on the run. An MDC couple lost goods and cash worth

#### Masvingo Rural

more than \$2 million to a gang of youths. Although the case was reported to the police, no one has yet been arrested. A peace monitor was accused by a group of Zanu PF supporters of being an opposition informer. He however managed to escape..

During the Council elections, a presiding officer at a polling station in ward 2 chased E.M away, an accredited election observer, accusing him of being agent of the British Government. In the

#### Masvingo Urban

same area, a green bomber was on the receiving end when he was assaulted by a group of Zanu PF youths who accused him of campaigning for MDC

A man reportedly died after eating vegetables from his garden which had allegedly been poisoned by one C.M. No one has been arrested. A number of MDC supporters were allegedly assaulted by

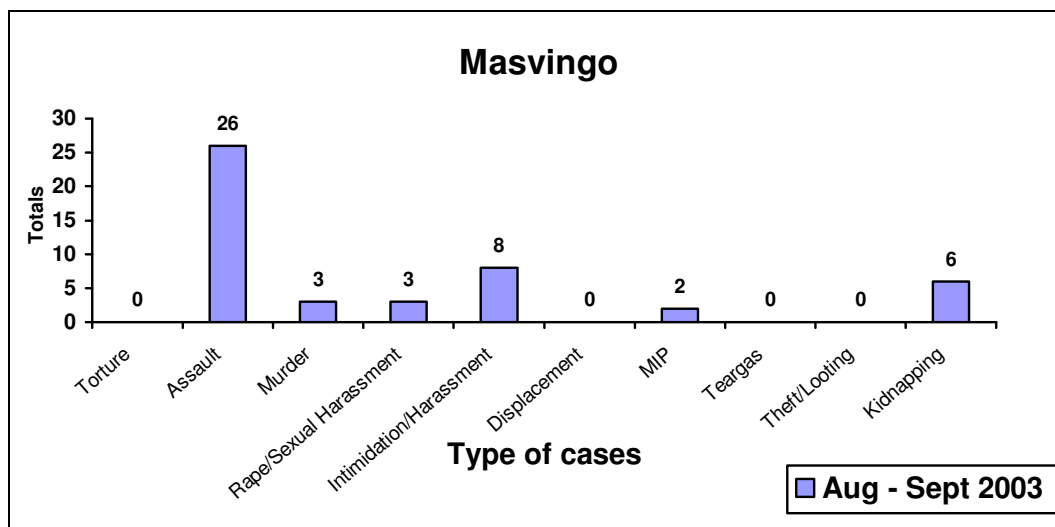
#### Zaka

Zanu PF activists in different incidents for different reasons including reading the Daily News.

An MDC supporter, A..M was severely assaulted by one who claims to be a war veteran. In the same district, a ten

#### Bikita

year old girl, A.M was allegedly raped by her uncle.



## MIDLANDS

### Introduction

Most of the cases of violence which have been reported during the period under review are alleged to have been perpetrated by ruling party activists against opposition supporters whose party won comfortably in the local government elections. It is instructive to note that gold panners in such areas as Shurugwi, Kwekwe and Silobela were used to cause

havoc among potential voters. It is rumoured that the gold panners were arm twisted into working for the ruling party by being threatened that if they refuse to do the party's bidding, their gold claims would be allocated to others who were willing to be used. Another group that was manipulated in the same way was the newly resettled farmers.

### Zvishavane

Before the Council elections it is alleged that some Zanu PF candidates went round selling maize to residents for as little as \$1000 a bucket which normally costs around \$8000. They further promised people that after elections they would receive free 50 kg maize bags if Zanu PF

won. Zanu PF went on to win 5 out of 10 contested wards. This irked the losing Zanu PF candidates who were now demanding the maize or money back from the residents of the wards in which they lost.

### Shurugwi

The ruling party won in all the 12 wards of Shurugwi, but it is reported that the level of intimidation before the elections was extremely high. It is alleged that residents who did not have Zanu PF membership cards had their identity card

numbers and house numbers noted. As a result many people resorted to buying the cards for their safety. It is further alleged that gold panners were recruited to instil fear in the residents of the mining town.

### Chiumanzu

Cases of intimidation and harassment of opposition supporters continue to be received from the constituency. It is alleged that mostly those people who have

resettled on farms under the land reform programme are being threatened with expulsion from the newly acquired farms if they did not support the ruling party.



**Gweru Rural, Gweru Urban and Mkoba**

Although the ruling party lost overwhelmingly in the local government elections in these constituencies it is alleged that many dirty tactics were employed. It is reported that the Speaker of the House, E.M was on record as having provided the ruling party's Gweru campaign task force with a whopping \$18 million in order to ensure that the party wins the Council elections. It is further reported that the campaign strategies employed included registering

as many Zanu PF supporters as possible even after the expiry of the registration period. Especially targeted were newly resettled farmers in the peri- urban areas and others were bussed from rural areas. Many scarce commodities were also bought and distributed to known Zanu PF supporters at very low prices. A week after the elections, there were reports of running battles between MDC and Zanu PF.

**Kwekwe and Silobela**

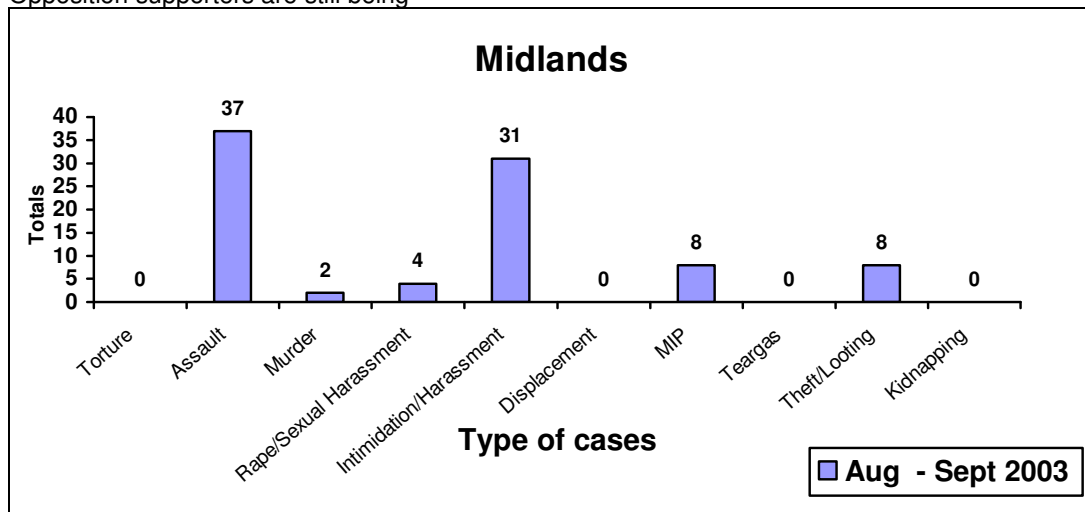
It is reported that the ruling party employed gold panners from around Kwekwe to campaign for it in the Council elections. As in Gweru and Shurugwi, it is alleged that the campaign methods were unorthodox and involved compiling lists of Zanu PF supporters and intimidating members of the opposition. During the election days, it is alleged that the youths actually made sure that people who had access to the polling stations were only

those who appeared on their lists. Unconfirmed reports say that some voters were only allowed into the polling stations after they had agreed to disclose the ballot paper numbers to the presiding officers. It is alleged that the whole system was made to be so cumbersome and dangerous for the opposition that many people decided to refrain from voting.

**Gokwe**

Although no Council elections were held in Gokwe, it is alleged that violence still continues, with known and suspected opposition party members being targeted. Opposition supporters are still being

hounded out of their homes, with some of them being forced to flee to the relative safety of urban areas.



## MATABELELAND NORTH

### Introduction

The campaigning period in the run up the local government elections were disrupted in Hwange and Victoria Falls as independent and opposition candidates were harassed and intimidated by sitting Councillors who wanted to retain their posts. It is reported that on the eve of the elections, suspected Zanu PF supporters sang defamatory songs and threatened to burn down houses owned by opposition

members who wanted to contest in the elections. Ironically, during this campaign period scarce food commodities like grain flooded the market and were being sold at much lower prices. There are some areas where youths are still camped in bases, and it is these areas where violence is still rampant. Some of such areas are Binga, Cross Dete, Dete and Kamativi.

### Victoria Falls

Squatters were victimised by suspected Zanu PF supporters who threatened to burn down their shacks if they voted for the opposition party. As a result of the

high level of intimidation and harassment there was very serious apathy as people desisted from voting.

### Hwange West

On 13 September 2003, it is alleged that the youths based at the National Service youths base in Dete went about

assaulting known members of the opposition using whips, sticks and iron bars. Four people were reportedly injured.

### Tsholotsho

It is reported that all known organisers of the June 2003 mass acting are still being victimised. On 9 August 2003 E.N was attacked and accused of organising the mass action. He was taken to the police station where he was forced to pay a fine for which no receipt was issued.

members of the community as she tried to recruit youths from Tsholotsho. It is alleged that she explained to the people that youths would receive military training to enable them to guard the sovereignty of the country against enemies such as the opposition.

A national service instructor at Kamativi Youth Training Centre was harassed by

### Binga

Youths trained in Gokwe under the Nation Service Programme besieged the district education offices to be allocated schools to replace untrained teachers who had not gone through the Boarder Gezi training. This irked residents

who are now currently lobbying the education ministry to have their mother tongue taught in their school. This was in protest against the removal of teachers who speak their language in favour of outsiders.

