

POLICE BRUTALITY AND HARASSMENT SHOULD NOT GO UNCHALLENGED



ZRP Officers attacking civilians during a peaceful demonstration

Zimbabwe's civic society has expressed concern over the increase in cases of police brutality which are likely to escalate to uncontrollable levels if corrective action is not taken.

Recently, five police officers Livingstone Zvimba, Tendai Musungambira, Sunday Nyaude, Khululekani Dale and Evans Mashonganyika took the law into their own hands and attacked a couple (Yvonne Magora (26) and Washington Gezana (32) at the intersection of Kenneth Kaunda and Julius Nyerere in Harare.

Washington Gezana was seriously injured and lost his eye while his wife sustained serious body injuries.

In a different but related incident, police officers in civilian clothes were caught on camera at the Magistrates Courts in Harare brutally handling an accused person.

The recent developments and many other videos and reports circulating on social media are testimony that police lack discipline and are the biggest violators of law, fundamental freedoms and rights.

“We are deeply worried that the ‘custodians’, of

the law have turned into the major violators of human rights. We maintain that the Zimbabwe Republic Police has since lost its integrity and is a captured institution that has been conflated with Robert Mugabe and his ZANU PF party,” said CiZC Chairperson Sally Dura.

Speaking to Crisis Report, Anglistone Sibanda, director of Shalom Trust said, “It is the duty of the police to be exemplary and uphold the law at all times. We are not taking such developments lightly and therefore calling for the Minister of Home Affairs and police Commissioner-General Augustine Chihuri to take necessary measures as guided by law to ensure that police act according to the constitution of Zimbabwe.

“As civic society we have experienced police brutality and harassment during demonstrations and constitutionally guaranteed gatherings. We cannot continue watching police acting in such shameless manner as we feel that if such acts are not tamed, they will become an unnecessary problem in our country. Civilians should not fear police but rather, they should feel safe and protected at all times.”

Heal Zimbabwe in a statement also produced a report showing an increase in state sanctioned violence amid widespread calls from citizens for a violence free environment as Zimbabwe edges towards the 2018 elections.

Together, Sonke, Tese!!!!

#2018Elections #Constitutionalism

Reflecting on the International Day of the Victims of Enforced Disappearance : ***Itai Dzamara's case must be brought to closure***



Itai Dzamara arrested by police at Africa Unity Square

The Crisis in Zimbabwe Coalition is greatly disturbed by the lack of urgency on the part of Robert Mugabe's government to bring to closure the case of Itai Dzamara's disappearance.

Itai Dzamara is a Zimbabwean journalist and political activist known in Zimbabwe mostly for his Occupy Africa Unity Square campaign against the government of President Robert Mugabe. He became famous through his hand delivered petition to the president of Zimbabwe and the Occupy he began soon after. On the morning of 9 March 2015, Dzamara was abducted by five unidentified men while at a barber shop in Harare's Glenview suburb and has never been heard of since then.

As Zimbabwe joins the rest of the world in commemorating the International Day of the Victims of Enforced Disappearance, CiZC takes this opportunity to implore the current government to come clean and **address the Dzamara issue**. Dzamara's family has gone through long periods of suffering and psychological trauma as they are in the dark with regards to what happened to Itai Dzamara and his whereabouts.

Enforced disappearances have frequently been used as a strategy to spread terror within society by undemocratic leaders. The feeling of insecurity generated by this prac-

tice is not limited to the close relatives of the disappeared, but also affects their communities and society as a whole as it strikes off individual security. Once a product of military dictatorships, enforced disappearance is now being used by a number of civilian-led governments as a means of political repression to silence opponents.

The CiZC is worried with the ongoing harassment of human rights defenders, relatives of victims, and civic society members who are determined to ensure that that cases of enforced disappearance come to an end.

Commemorations to mark this day started on August 30 2011 following a December 2010 resolution 65/209 by the UN General Assembly as it expressed deep concern on the increase in enforced or involuntary disappearances in various regions of the world, including arrest, detention and abduction, when these are part of or amount to enforced disappearances, and by the growing number of reports concerning harassment, ill-treatment and intimidation of witnesses of disappearances or relatives of persons who have disappeared.

By the same resolution the Assembly welcomed the adoption of the International Convention for the Protection of All Persons from Enforced Disappearance, and decided to declare 30 August the International Day of the Victims of Enforced Disappearances.

The Crisis in Zimbabwe Coalition is a broad based civil society network of over 72 active members comprising churches, women's groups, social movements, residents associations, labour unions, human rights lawyers, and health professionals. It was formed in August of 2001 to focus on democracy, human rights, good governance and sustainable development issues – working locally, regionally and internationally.

Spokesperson's Desk: March in Support of Violence Despicable



The Crisis in Zimbabwe Coalition is alarmed at the ZANU PF Youth League March in support of first lady Grace Mugabe's 'victory' over Gabrielle Engels.

A fortnight ago, Mrs. Mugabe attacked and assaulted Gabrielle Engels in South Africa over unclear circumstances. Mrs. Mugabe evaded prosecution by negotiating for diplomatic immunity from the South African government and her actions have attracted global condemnation over her conduct.

We are appalled that the ZANU PF leadership finds it 'revolutionary' to celebrate violence and a culture of impunity on the part of the first lady. It is our strong belief that the first lady and ZANU PF must apologize to the nation for bringing the name of the country into disrepute.

We have observed that young people have been forced to travel as far as Mutare and were camped at the Ambassador Hotel (state owned hotel) last night in order to participate in the march dubbed "In Solidarity with Dr Amai." CiZC is worried that creating non accountable leaders will continue to plunge the country in deeper governance crises and we believe that justice should be administered for the survivor of Grace Mugabe's violence.

We reiterate our position that Mrs. Mugabe's diplomatic immunity must be with-

drawn and she must be brought before a court of law to answer criminal charges in South Africa.

We equally take offense over the forced closure of businesses in Harare CBD, especially vending stalls at Mbare Musika and Mupedzanhamo using Chipangano to force-march people to the ZANU PF Headquarter in Harare. ZANU PF continues with its culture of disregard to the rights of association enshrined in Section 58(2) of the constitution by forcing citizens to participate in their activities under duress.

Today's march is not only a celebration Grace Mugabe's violence but is strategically positioning her in President Mugabe's vision and succession matrix of replacing the Republic by creating a family dynasty with his wife tipped to take over presidency.

We are equally puzzled that the police have given authority to ZANU PF to march celebrating violence while the National Elections Reform Agenda Youth Forum's notification was turned down when they wanted to march denouncing a culture of impunity and violence. It is this selective application of the law that reflects that the Zimbabwe Police Services is a captured institution and an extension of the ruling ZANU PF that has since failed to execute its mandate in line with Section 219 of the Constitution.

Lastly we bemoan the continued manipulation of unemployed youths to execute activities that seek to glorify failed and mediocre leadership and safeguard interests of the ruling elite who are at the centre of denying young people opportunities. We make a clarification call to the First Family to desist from wanton violations of the law and spare already disempowered young people from legitimizing an oppressive statecraft by supporting a family dynasty.

For and On Behalf of the Crisis in Zimbabwe Coalition

Dumisani O. Nkomo

CIZC Spokesperson

Election Update

The 2018 general elections are rapidly gathering momentum. Institutions such as ZEC and registrar's office have been receiving attention with regards 2018 elections. It is important to note that the Registrar General is no longer mandated with registering voters but in this case, his sentiments that metal Identity Cards will not be accepted for Biometric Voter Registration purposes, sparked interest on his capacity to issue such comments.

Election date

The Media recently reported on possibilities of an early general election next year as rightly provided for by the constitution. Section 144 of the constitution states that a general election can result from dissolution of parliament making it one of the most possible scenarios given **ZANU PF's current control in both upper and lower house**. Constitutionally, the next elections are scheduled to take place between July 23 and August 21, 2018. However, if ZANU PF pushes for an election, it has to obtain the dissolution vote first and plan for an election

within 90 days and thereafter announce an election which should be within 44 days from the date of proclamation and the Election Day.

Registration of Voters

ZEC has indicated that registration will start on the 2nd of October 2017 for a fresh voter registration exercise.

The Registrar's office

The registrar general's office will, from the 4th of September 2018, roll out a three month national mobile registration exercise for national identity cards, birth and death certificates in preparation for voter registration. While on it, Mudede revealed that metal identity cards will not be accepted for voting as they are not machine readable and will therefore need to be replaced. Tsbaiwa Mudede has a long history of putting in place systems and mechanisms that favour ZANU PF in national elections.

Traditional Leaders Castigate Violence ahead of 2018 Elections

Traditional leaders, who have a long history of bedding with Robert Mugabe during elections, have publicly condemned violence and called for unity and peace ahead of the 2018 watershed elections.

Speaking during two separate sports for peace tournaments in Gokwe and Mbire organised by Heal Zimbabwe under the theme 13 Million Voices For Peace, some traditional leaders vowed to work hand in

glove with the youths in a quest for peaceful and violent free elections.

"...We are very grateful for the sports for peace tournaments as they help build peace and tolerance among the youths. Violence must be condemned and we will assist and support the youths as they campaign for peace ahead of the 2018 elections", said one Traditional leader.

According to Heal Zimbabwe youths are usually targeted to

perpetrate violence by unscrupulous political actors. It is against this background that the organisation introduced the National Peace Campaign for peaceful 2018 elections. The campaign seeks to raise awareness on the need for peace and tolerance ahead of the 2018 elections.

Zim's Civic Society Calls for Electoral reforms



Heal Zimbabwe Director, Rashid Mahiya

Poll watchdog, the Election Resource Centre in partnership with Crisis in Zimbabwe Coalition, Zimbabwe Election Support Network and Heal Zimbabwe, deployed a delegation ahead of the SADC summit to push for comprehensive alignment of electoral reforms with the constitution of Zimbabwe. Zimbabwe has been hesitant to align its country's laws with the new constitution.

In 2013, just after the July 31 disputed elections, the regional body, SADC, gave a plethora of issues around violence and intimidation, media coverage, political environment, freedom of association and assembly among others, that the government must consider before another national election. However, four years after the recommendation, government has only made a few minor changes.

“Zimbabwe heads towards yet another General Election in less than 12 months. The election comes in the wake

of outstanding irregularities as raised by regional and local observers such as the Southern Africa Development Community (SADC), the African Union (AU), and the Common Market for Eastern and Southern Africa (COMESA), based on observations from the 2013 elections.

“In that light, election stakeholders, particularly civil society organisations and political parties in Zimbabwe have continuously called for comprehensive reforms towards peaceful, free, fair and credible electoral processes with the Election Resource Centre (ERC) emphasising on legislative, environmental and administrative frameworks guiding elections in the country,” the ERC executive director, Tawanda Chimhini said.

Chimhini added that while his organisation intends to advocate for a regional **strategy to address Zimbabwe’s administrative, legislative and environmental electoral frameworks ahead of the 2018 elections.**, **“SADC must encourage Zimbabwean government to respect the independence of the Zimbabwean Electoral Commission (ZEC).”**

Further to that, the ERC executive director also said his organisation intends to **“implore SADC to urgently deploy a good mission to assess progress on state of prepared-ness to conduct peaceful, free, fair and credible elections in Zimbabwe.”**

CITIZENS CORNER:- OF CYBER CRIME AND CYBER SECURITY BILL AND SILENCING THE VOICES OF THE STRUGGLE

The voice of many Zimbabweans is in danger of being lost in the struggle for a democratic developmental state as Robert Mugabe's government, through its repressive and ideological state apparatus is channeling its energy to ensure that those that speak against tyranny, corruption, human rights violations and economic deterioration are silenced by every means possible.

Activists, ordinary people and civic society leaders have over the years found themselves behind still bars, harassed and experienced all sorts of police brutality.

There is a notable resurgence of targeted persecution of human rights defenders, civic society leaders and political activists in the pro-democracy movement. Courts are seized with numerous cases of 'alleged public nuisance and violence' that has seen voices of the struggle spending more time in courts and less standing for the people. We believe that it is Robert Mugabe and his cronies strategy to silence those that speak against his rule.

Robert Mugabe's government has taken another new low as they are fast tracking the Cyber Crime and Cyber Security Bill as it seeks to tighten its grip over the control of cyber space and spy on citizens. One concerned citizen said this is the 'AIPPA and POSA' of social media. It openly infringes on people's right to free expression.

Remember, government through its tight

media laws has silenced the voices of many Zimbabweans and continue to do so through its grip on print and electronic media. The rise of the internet and social media opened a platform for citizens to mobilise themselves, register their disgruntlements and by so doing, became a platform for activism and engagement.

It is against this background that the Cyber Crime and Cyber Security Bill is being introduced, to suffocate and silence the voices of the struggle. There are many cases where police have arrested innocent citizens on trumped up charges and have had to spend long periods in detention as was done towards the run up to the 27 June 2008 Presidential elections. ZANU PF is well known for enacting draconian and repugnant laws especially towards elections in an effort frustrate citizens in expressing their rights.

As Lucky Dube rightly puts it across in his song **Still Bars**, "...I will fight forever till the end of time...", we take this opportunity to encourage citizens to stand firm against Robert Mugabe and his ZANU PF. While they take us to prison, let us remind them that ZANU PF has reduced the Jewel of Africa to a prison status where citizens have access to nothing. There are no jobs, no food, no money in banks, poor roads, silenced voices, free falling economy, human rights violations and many other ills that the country is now associated with.