



Weekly Organised Violence & Torture Report
01 September – 17 September 2016

By the Zimbabwe Human Rights NGO Forum

ACRONYMS

BUYA	Bulawayo Youth of Zimbabwe Arise
CBD	Central Business District
CID	Criminal Investigation Department
CIO	Central Intelligence Organisation
MDC-T	Movement for Democratic Change – Tsvangirai
NAVUZ	National Vendors’ Union of Zimbabwe
NCA	National Constitutional Assembly
OAUS	Occupy Africa Unity Square
OVT	Organized Violence and Torture
PDP	People’s Democratic Party
RTUZ	Rural Teachers Union of Zimbabwe
TNZ	Transform Zimbabwe Party
UMYF	Unemployed Mobile Youth Foundation
WOZA	Women of Zimbabwe Arise
ZAA	Zimbabwe Activist Alliance
ZANU PF	Zimbabwe African National Union – Patriotic Front
ZEC	Zimbabwe Electoral Commission
ZINASU	Zimbabwe National Students Union
ZNA	Zimbabwe National Army
ZPF	Zimbabwe People First
ZRP	Zimbabwe Republic Police

SUMMARY

From 1 – 17 September 2016, **28** victims of organised violence and torture sought treatment for their injuries. These victims had been assaulted in incidents in Harare, Epworth, Chitungwiza, Bindura, and Chiadzwa, or during the widespread violence on 17 September, in response to the NERA demonstration. While there continues to be violence on MDC-T activists and supporters by ZANU-PF youths, the majority of the violence in recent weeks was in response to the rise in protests across the country (See Appendix 1 for more details).

In addition to OVT, violence against protesters and activists has also taken the form of abductions. A disturbing new trend has emerged, whereby people are abducted by armed, masked groups of unknown assailants or military personnel either the night before planned demonstrations or immediately following demonstrations.

Of particular note is the increased carrying of weapons by perpetrators during incidents of targeted violence and abduction.

As in previous weeks, the abductions and torture are a response to the increase in vocal discontent across the country. The victims of state security agents are targeted for exercising fundamental freedoms, including the freedom to demonstrate and petition, and freedom of association, assembly and expression. State agents are using torture and abductions to interrogate and intimidate activists and citizens.

It is an indictment against the government that state organised violence and torture continue to be used as a tool for interrogation and intimidation, despite being prohibited in the new constitution. The Forum will continue to urge the Government of Zimbabwe to ratify the United Nations Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman and Degrading Treatment

Reported Incidents of OVT 1 – 17 September 2016

Date	Violation	Violation Narration	Perpetrator
17 Sept	Torture	Ten (10) people have sought assistance, having been assaulted by riot police for their involvement in the countrywide NERA demonstration on 17 September. Following the ban on protests in the central Harare, NERA called for protests in all constituencies. Many of these protests were violently broken up by the riot police, resulting in arbitrary arrests of many people.	ZRP
17 Sept		Police dogs viciously attacked three (3) men who were visiting relatives on a farm in Epworth.	ZRP
13 Sept	Abduction & torture	A Tajamuka activist and actor (arrested in April for staging a one-man play outside Parliament) was abducted from his home in Crowborough North, Harare. A group of 6 alleged state security agents, who were armed, forced entry into his home, blindfolded him, and transported him by car to an area near Lake Chivero. The assailants used a device to electrocute his genitals and fingers, and beat his body, hands and feet with bicycle chains. He was injected with an unknown substance and abandoned.	CIO
13 Sept	Assault	ZANU-PF supporters in Kambuzuma attacked an MDC-T official.	ZANU-PF Supporters
13 Sept	Assault	ZANU-PF supporters in Harare South attacked an MDC-T official.	ZANU-PF Supporters

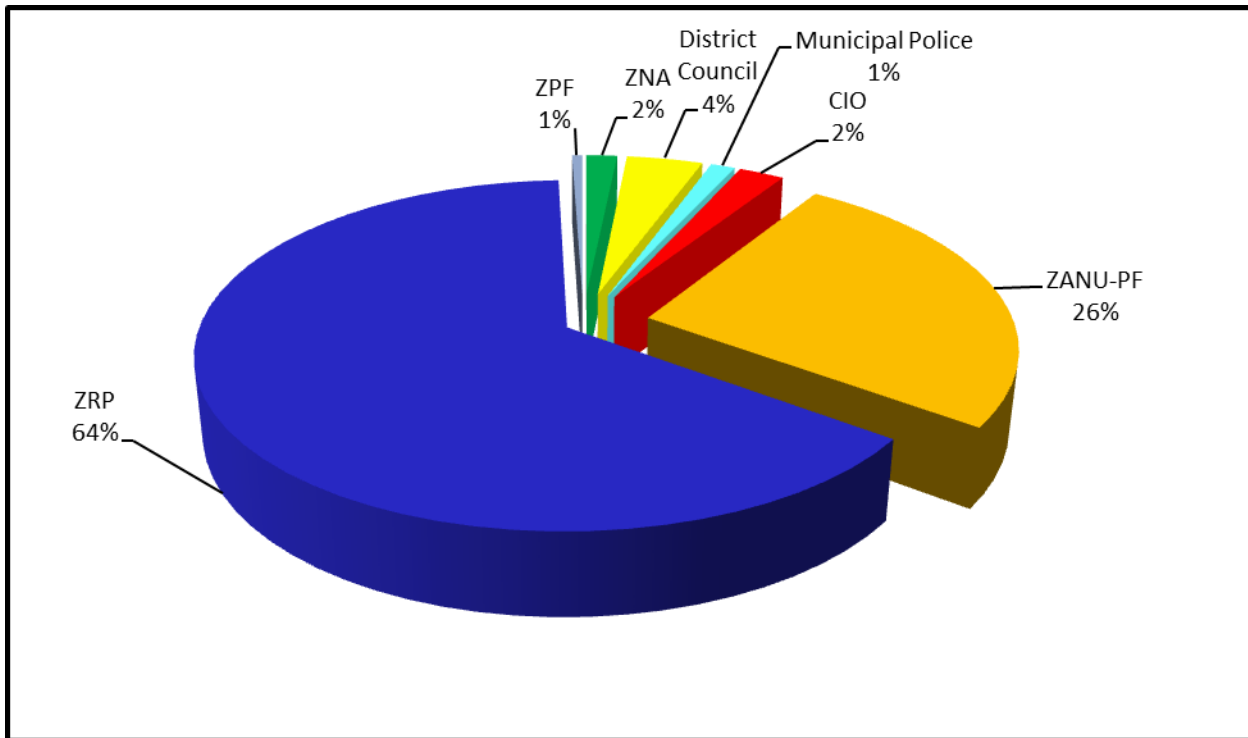
12 Sept	Torture	Six (6) uniformed Zimbabwe National Army soldiers assaulted a Harare South resident at his home and then drove him around for 2 hours in a minibus, torturing him and questioning him about his links with Tajamuka.	ZNA
12 Sept	Torture	The leader of NAVUZ was severely assaulted by the riot police after marching to Harare Central Police Station to petition the police to arrest Local Government Minister Kasukuwere for corruption.	ZRP
10 Sept	Assault	In the early hours of the morning, armed teams of alleged state security agents in facemasks drove around Epworth, breaking into the homes of five (5) MDC-T office bearers and assaulting them at gunpoint.	CIO
8 Sept	Abduction & torture	Four (4) alleged state security agents, who were armed, broke into the house of a civil society activist who has been involved in organizing demonstrations. They abducted him from his home in Kambuzuma, Harare at 2000hrs and drove him to Norton, 40km away. As they drove, they tortured him severely. They then dumped him on a farm.	CIO
08 Sept		Security guards at the Chiadzwa diamond fields shot two (2) diamond miners and then detained them for two days, denying them access to medical treatment.	Private Security Guards
05 Sept	Assault	ZANU PF youths assaulted an MDC-T supporter with an iron bar and hammer at a funeral in Unit D Chitungwiza. He reported the case to the police, who did not take any action.	ZANU-PF Youths
01 Sept	Assault	ZANU PF youths attacked an MDC-T activist in St Mary's, Chitungwiza. They kicked him and hit him on the head with an empty bottle.	ZANU-PF Youths

Table 2: Distribution of cases of OVT by district and affiliation 1 January – 17 September 2016

District	MDC-T Office Bearer	MDC-T	ZAA	PDP	NAVU Z	WOZA	UMYF	ZPF	OAUS	Not Known	Total
Beitbridge										3	3
Bindura		5									5
Buhera		1	1								2
Bulawayo		1				2				88	91
Chipinge		1									1
Chitungwiza		14						7		17	38
Epworth	3	11		1						41	56
Gokwe North	1	1									2
Gokwe South		1									1
Goromonzi								3		10	13
Guruve		1									1
Gutu		1									1
Gwanda								1			1
Gweru		2									2
Harare	15	84	32	4	7		3	20	20	75	260
Hurungwe		6	1								7
Kariba		1									1
Makoni				2							2

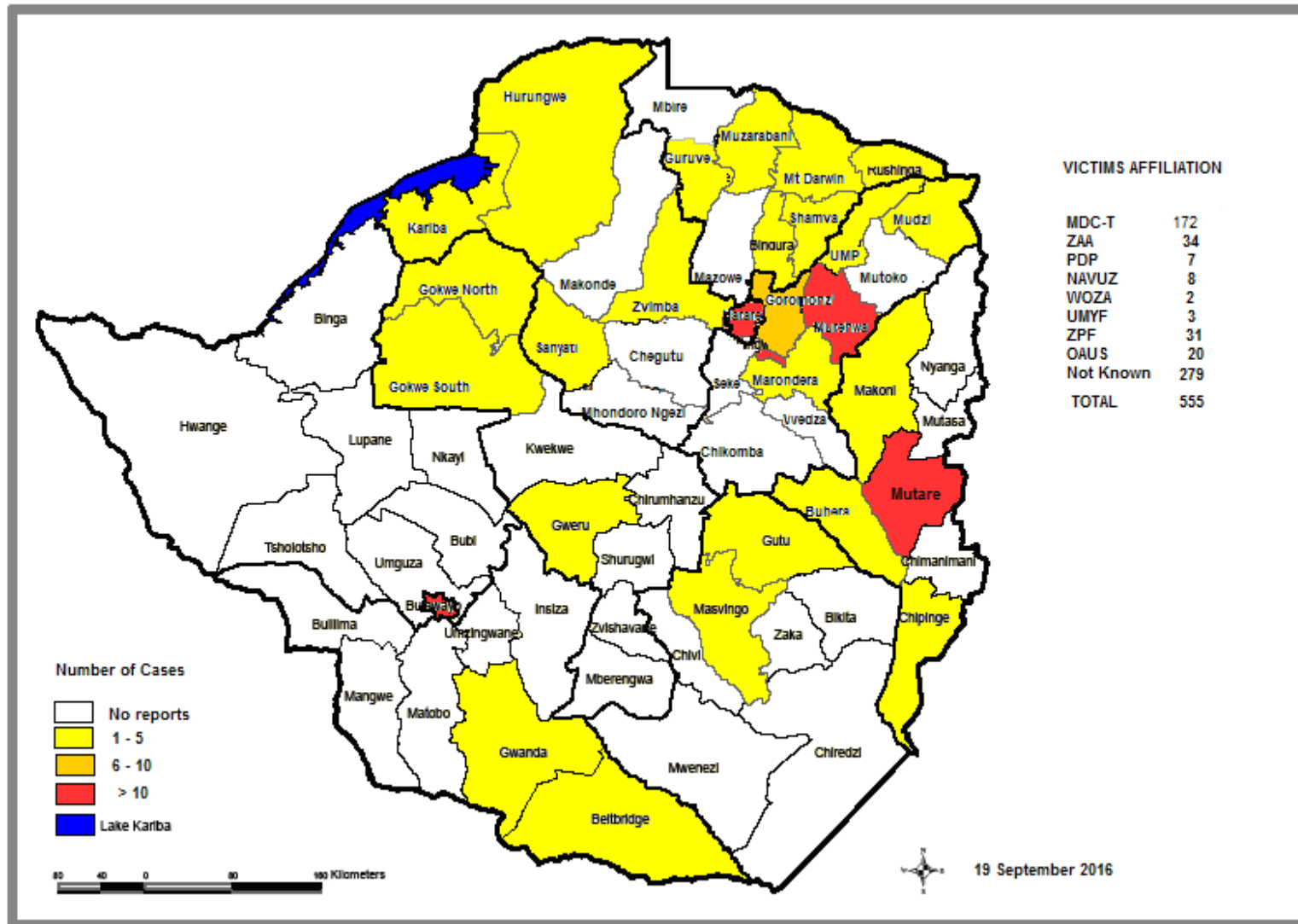
Marondera		4									4
Masvingo									1		1
Mount Darwin		2									2
Mudzi	1	1									2
Murehwa		1							22		23
Mutare		4							22		26
Muzarabani		2									2
Rushinga	1	1									2
Sanyati		1									1
Shamva		2									2
UMP		2									2
Zvimba		1									1
Total	21	151	34	7	7	2	3	31	20	279	555

Figure 1: Affiliation of perpetrators of OVT 1 January – 17 September 2016



Thus far in 2016, the main perpetrators of OVT have been the Zimbabwe Republic Police (64% of reported violations) and ZANU-PF supporters (26% of reported violations).

Figure 2: Map showing the distribution of OVT in Zimbabwe 1 January – 17 September 2016



Appendix 1

Demonstrations 1 June to 17 September 2016

Since the beginning of June, Zimbabwe has seen a sharp increase in demonstrations. On 1 September, the police banned protests in central Harare. This order was challenged in court, and the ban was lifted a week later. However, on 13 September, the ban was re-imposed. Nevertheless, activists and opposition parties continue to maintain a steady pressure on the authorities.

Date	Location	Organisations	Notes	Number of injuries documented
01-Jun-16	Africa Unity Square, Harare	OAUS, ZAA, ZINASU, Zimbabwe Women in Politics	Beginning of 16 day sit-in to protest the deterioration of the economy and the human rights abuses by the government	0
03-Jun-16	Africa Unity Square, Harare	OAUS, ZAA, ZINASU, Women in Politics	Activists occupying Africa Unity Square were assaulted by the Riot Police	5
08-Jun-16	Africa Unity Square, Harare	OAUS, ZAA, ZINASU, Women in Politics	Activists occupying Africa Unity Square were assaulted by the Riot Police	8
09-Jun-16	Africa Unity Square, Harare	OAUS, ZAA, ZINASU, Women in Politics	Activists occupying Africa Unity Square were assaulted by the Riot Police	3
20-Jun-16	Africa Unity Square, Harare	OAUS	The activists whose sit-in had been broken up by the Riot Police re-grouped and moved back into Africa Unity Square, only to be assaulted again.	5
24-Jun-16	Sheraton Hotel, Harare	ROHR, NAVUZ, Tajamuka	Activists protested the lengthy, costly residence of Vice President Mphoko at the Sheraton Hotel.	0
27-Jun-16	Harare	Prayer Network of Zimbabwe	Members of church organisations staged a peaceful protest against the imposition of a national pledge by the Minister of Education.	0
27-Jun-16	Bulawayo	BUYA	BUYA activists demonstrated against grinding poverty and joblessness. 30 activists were arrested.	0
01-Jul-16	Beitbridge	Cross-Border Traders	People angered by the import limitations of SI64 protested at the border post, setting a warehouse alight.	0
04-Jul-16	Bulawayo; Epworth; Hatfield; Mabvuku; Ruwa; Zimre Park	Commuter Omnibus Operators	Commuter omnibuses went on strike in Bulawayo and Harare. In high-density suburbs in Harare, they barricaded the roads with bricks and burning tires. In many areas the police responded violently.	42
06-Jul-16	Nationwide Stay Away	#ThisFlag	On 6 July a national Stay Away coincided with a civil servants strike against their delayed pay dates. In some areas the Stay Away was successful and peaceful. However, in Budiriro and Mufakose the police attacked and assaulted participants in the Stay Away, in Bulawayo people were severely assaulted and tear gassed. In Bulawayo some protesters established barricades to block roads into town.	104
13-Jul-16	Harare	#ThisFlag, Tajamuka, OAUS	Following the arrest of the #ThisFlag figurehead, Pastor Evan Mawarire, thousands of people gathered at the Harare Magistrate Court in solidarity with him.	0
15-Jul-16			NAVUZ demonstrated against the worsening economic conditions and	5

	Harare CBD	NAVUZ	growing restrictions on vendors by the police. The Riot Police violently broke up the demonstration, firing large amounts of teargas.	
16-Jul-16	Bulawayo; Kwekwe; Chitungwiza	MDC-T	MDC-T women protested the deteriorating economy and growing hunger by beating their cooking pots.	0
26-Jul-16	Bulawayo	WOZA	WOZA staged a protest against police brutality and the deteriorating state of the economy.	0
03-Aug-16	Harare	Tajamuka	Tajamuka activists protested the government's threat to introduce bond notes to the economy. Riot Police broke up the protest violently, injuring journalists as well as activists.	10
11-Aug-16	Africa Unity Square, Harare	OAUS, Tajamuka	OAUS and Tajamuka activists gathered in Africa Unity Square to demand the return of Itai Dzamara. They offered cake and flowers to the Riot Police.	0
13-Aug-16	Gweru	MDC-T, ZPF	MDC-T held a demonstration to protest Robert Mugabe's failure to solve the economic crisis. They were joined by the leadership and supporters of ZPF, who were in Gweru for a party rally.	0
15-Aug-16	Uzumba Maramba Pfungwe	RTUZ	Teachers from RTUZ began a 200km, 10 day march to protest the poor pay of rural teachers and to protest police violence. Later in the week they were arrested and threatened, so cut the march short.	0
17-Aug-16	Harare CBD	Tajamuka	The Riot Police fired teargas and attacked protesters from Tajamuka, who were demanding that Mugabe step down.	3
18-Aug-16	Bulawayo	WOZA	WOZA held a peaceful demonstration in Bulawayo to demand that government scrap school levies.	0
18-Aug-16	Harare Central Police Station, Harare	NAVUZ, Tajamuka	Activists marched to Harare Central Police Station, where they handed the police flowers as a peace offering. The leader was severely beaten.	1
18-Aug-16	UNICEF Offices, Harare	OAUS	Members of OAUS demonstrated outside the UNICEF offices, following a statement from UNICEF supporting the state media's criticism of OAUS allowing children to be present at peaceful demonstrations.	0
24-Aug-16	Harare CBD	MDC-T	MDC-T activists held a march to protest police brutality. The march was violently broken up by the Riot Police, using teargas and water cannons.	18
25-Aug-16	Harare CBD	Zimbabwe Pastors' Conference	Heavily armed police disrupted a peaceful march by church leaders to protest misrule and police brutality.	0
26-Aug-16	Harare CBD	NERA	People from the activist groups and from the political parties working together under the NERA platform attempted to hold a march asking for electoral reforms. The march was violently thwarted by the Riot Police, who then fought running battles with small groups of protesters in the CBD. Over 70 people were arrested.	43

31-Aug-16	Bulawayo	BUYA	Activists in Bulawayo held a demonstration against economic deterioration and misrule. 7 activists were arrested.	0
31-Aug-16	Nationwide	Tajamuka	Tajamuka held another Stay Away to protest the continued economic deterioration	3
05-Sep-16	Harare CBD	NAVUZ	Activists from NAVUZ defied the ban on demonstrations and staged a peaceful demonstration in Harare.	0
09-Sep-16	Parliament, Harare	Tajamuka	Activists marched to present a petition to Parliament, but were blocked by the Riot Police, who fired teargas.	0
12-Sep-16	Harare Central Police Station, Harare	NAVUZ	NAVUZ marched to Harare Central Police Station with a petition that the police arrest Kasukuwere. The leader was severely assaulted.	1
15-Sep-16	Bulawayo	Tajamuka	Tajamuka activists barricaded the main road and sang anti-government songs.	0
17-Sep-16	Nationwide	NERA	In response to a ban on demonstrations in the Harare CBD, NERA staged a countrywide demonstration, with activists mobilizing people to march in their own constituencies. Many planners were assaulted on the night before, protests were broken up violently by the Riot Police, and many protesters were assaulted for having taken part in the action. At least 87 people have been arrested.	10