



Organised Violence & Torture Report
01 September – 30 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

In September 2016, **117** new victims of Organized Violence and Torture were documented and received medical treatment for injuries sustained in incidents of politically related violence reported from across the provinces of Zimbabwe. This figure included **41** victims of police brutality who were released from remand prison after detention for alleged involvement in protests during August 2016 after nearly a month of remand in detention without access to treatment by a medical practitioner of choice as enshrined in the Constitution of Zimbabwe Amendment (No. 20) Act 2013: Section 50 (1) (b) (ii). Of particular concern is that the majority of these detainees were members of the public going about their daily business and were dragged from the streets by the police during demonstrations and charged with public violence. While concerned citizens have staged a series of demonstrations across the country, in September a total of five (5) protests were held and the state responded violently quell the demonstrations (See Appendix 1 for more details). Many citizens were viciously assaulted in their homes and arrested by the police.

The month of September also witnessed a rise in cases of abductions occurring mostly at night. Five (**5**) people sought medical assistance after being targeted and abducted at gunpoint by unknown men in plain clothes and in unmarked vehicles. All were subjected to intense interrogation; physical beatings with blunt objects, barbed wire, and whips and were electrocuted. All reported being injected with an unknown substance and three were forced to have sexual intercourse with men or women. (See appendix 2 on cases of abductions)

The force of the violence shown by the state is worrying, as over 10% of victims' sustained fractures and over 20% required hospital admission. Spouses and children of the victims were subjected to beatings when the targeted person could not be located. Further, many of the families of the detainees in remand were visited by state security agents and threatened.

Of concern is the number of reports from victims of ZANU PF perpetrators carrying firearms during episodes of targeted violence.

All the issues noted in this month's report are reminiscent of the state violence perpetrated in 2007, and then escalated in April 2008 after the first round of the Presidential electoral process.

The table below does not include the narratives of the 41 arrested on 26 August and released in the last week of September.

Reported Incidents of OVT 1 –30 September 2016

Date	Violation	Violation Narration	Perpetrator
29 Sept	Assault	A civil society activist who had just been released from remand prison was attacked by unknown assailants at his home in Dzivaresekwa. The perpetrators forced entry into his house at around 0200hrs, they assaulted him in the head with a piece of wood.	State Agents
28 Sept	Assault	A Harare City Council employee sustained injuries when he was assaulted by anti-riot police. The victim was going to the council head office when the police who were chasing after youths demonstrating in the city centre assaulted him.	ZRP
25 Sept	Assault	Eight (8) senior members of the Zimbabwe People First party sustained serious injuries after ZANU-PF supporters in Guruve district attacked them. The victims had attempted to secure the release of another party	ZANU-PF Supporters

		member who had been under siege for three days at a farm. The police refused to assist them and arrested the victims after they had been assaulted.	
27 Sept	Abduction & torture	At around midnight four (4) men armed with guns abducted the wife of a civil society activist. They accused the activist of having been involved in organising demonstrations. They severely tortured her and dumped her in the Westgate area in Harare.	State Agents
27 Sept	Abduction & torture	Armed men traveling in two twin cab trucks abducted a member of the National Vendors Union of Zimbabwe (NAVUZ). They tortured and dumped him in Mazowe 22 km from Harare. They wanted to know where Stan Zvorwadza the NAVUZ president lived.	State Agents
23 Sept		A ZANU-PF activist in Kambuzuma suburb in Harare assaulted a People Democratic Party member. He was accused of supporting Tendai Biti and organising his meetings in Kambuzuma.	ZANU-PF Supporters
22 Sept	Assault	An MDC-T ward chairperson was attacked during the night by ZANU-PF youths in Glenview Harare. The perpetrators accused the victim of participating in demonstrations.	
17 Sept	Torture	Twenty- Three (23) 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	Assault	Police dogs viciously attacked three (3) men who were visiting relatives on a farm in Epworth.	ZRP
16 Sept	Assault	Four (4) people sought medical assistance after sustaining injuries in separate incidents of OVT. Soldiers in Highfield Harare assaulted one person with no known affiliation. ZANU-PF supporters in Mabvuku Harare assaulted a member of NERA. Another MDC-T member survived an attempted abduction along airport road in Harare.	
16 Sept	Abduction & torture	An armed gang in Gokwe district abducted an MDC-T ward official at 0200hrs. The perpetrators comprised a local ZANU-PF official and other people who are not known to the victim. He was taken to a local police base where he was assaulted and detained. He however managed to escape from a metal cabin where he had been kept.	State agents
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 Crow borough 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

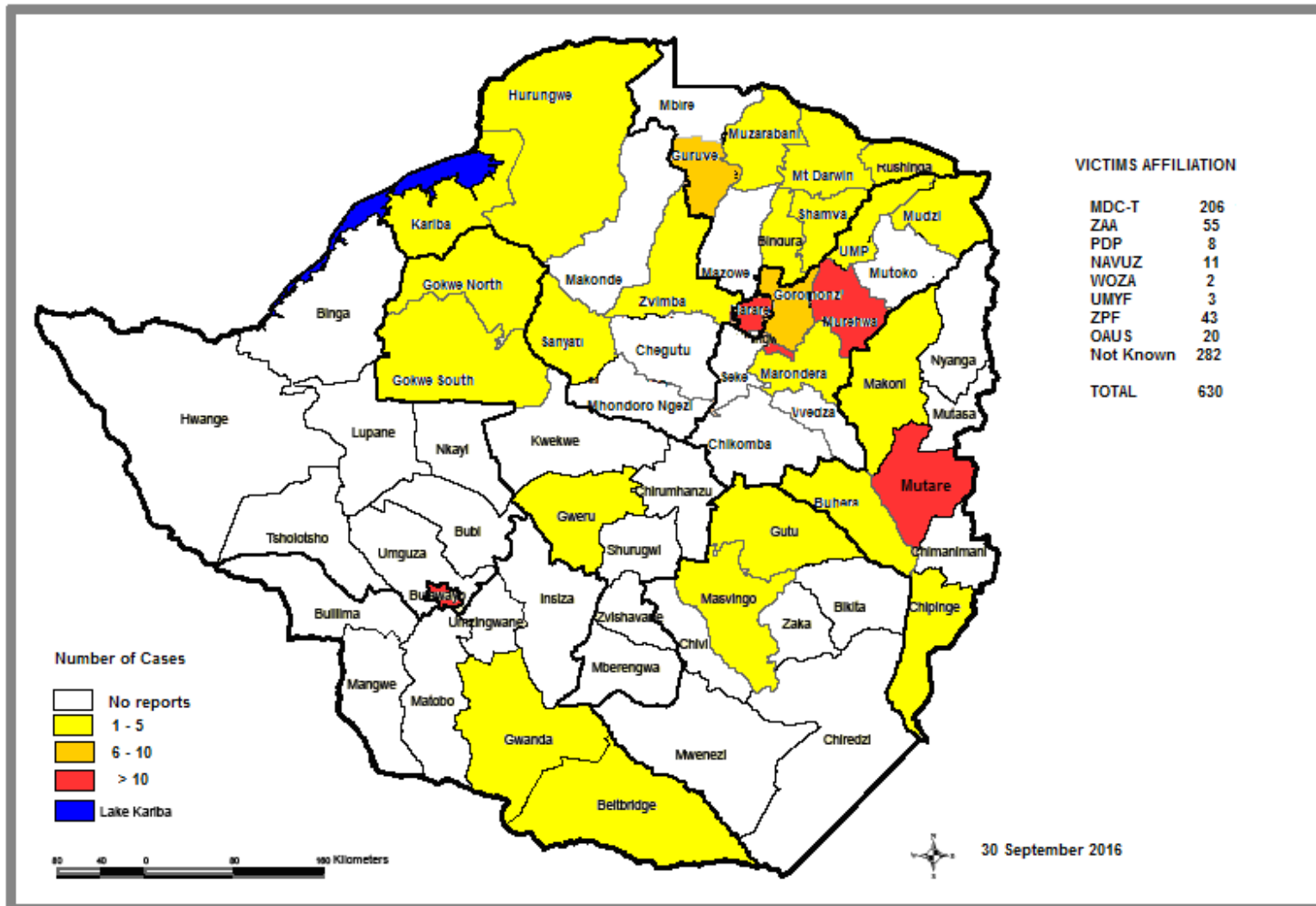
10 Sept	Assault	In the early hours of the morning, armed teams of alleged state security agents in facemasks drove around Epworth, breaking into the homes of five (5) MDC-T office bearers and assaulting them at gunpoint.	CIO
8 Sept	Abduction & torture	Four (4) alleged state security agents, who were 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 at a farm in the area	CIO
08 Sept	Assault with deadly weapon	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.	Mine 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: Political Violence: New Cases by District and Affiliation: 1 January to 30 September 2016

District	MDC-T Office Bearer	MDC-T	ZAA	PDP	NAVUZ	WOZA	UMYF	Zimbabwe People First	Occupy Africa Unity Square	Not Known	Total
Beitbridge										3	3
Bindura		5									5
Buhera		1	1								2
Bulawayo		2				2				88	92
Chipinge		1									1
Chitungwiza		15						7		17	39
Epworth	3	11		1						41	56
Gokwe North	1	1									2
Gokwe South		1									1
Goromonzi								3		10	13
Guruve		1						8			9
Gutu		1									1
Gwanda								1			1
Gweru		2									2
Harare	20	111	53	5	11		3	24	20	78	325
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	26	180	55	8	11	2	3	43	20	282	630

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



Appendix 1

Demonstrations 1 June to 30 September 2016

Since the beginning of June, Zimbabwe has seen a sharp increase in demonstrations. On 1 September, the police banned marches and peaceful protests in central Harare with the issuance of Statutory Instrument 101 A of 2016. This order was challenged in the High Court and declared unconstitutional, and the ban was lifted a week later. However, on 13 September, the ban was re-imposed on the Central Business District of Harare using the Public Order and Security Act, until December 2016. 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 Budiro 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	Harare CBD	NAVUZ	NAVUZ demonstrated against the worsening economic conditions and growing restrictions on vendors by the police. The Riot Police violently broke up the demonstration, firing large amounts of teargas.	5
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. The leadership and supporters of ZPF, who were in Gweru for a party rally, joined them.	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	43

			CBD. Over 70 people were arrested.	
12-Sept-16	Harare CBD	NAVUZ	NATIONAL Vendors' Union of Zimbabwe (Navuz) leader Standrick Zvorwadza led a group of protesters against cash shortages by addressing people in Queues at banking halls.	0
17-Sept-16	National	NERA	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.	23
26-Sept-16	Harare CBD	NAVUZ	Vendors protested against the municipal police in Harare. The municipal police were confiscating the vendor's wares and this resulted in a violent reaction by the vendors who chased away the municipal police officers and deflated the council tractor tyres. The ZRP anti-riot squad moved in with teargas and dispersed the protesters.	0
26-Sept-16	Chiredzi Town	Sugar Production and Milling Industry Workers Union of Zimbabwe	Workers from the sugar plantations protested against the Land seizures by the Provincial Governor and other senior state officials. They were concerned that the move was resulting in many workers losing employment as production stops as soon as the land is taken over. Some ZANU-PF supporters who are against the land expropriations also joined the workers.	0
27-Sept-16	Harare CBD	NAVUZ, ZANU-PF youths	ZANU-PF allegedly attacked NATIONAL Vendors' Union of Zimbabwe (Navuz) offices in Harare. Members of the union reacted and there were clashes in the street. A member of NAVUZ leadership was abducted in the evening of the same day.	1

Appendix 2

Abductions Reported: 1 January to 30 September 2016

District	Location	Name of Victim	Violator Institution	Date of Incident	Details of incident	Comments
Gwanda	Pakama Business Centre	ES	Suspected State Agents	17 February 2016	The people who forcibly took Elliot arrived in two unmarked twin Cab trucks. They forced him into one of the trucks and drove away	He was tortured and released.
Harare	Mupedzanhamo Market Mbare	PJ	Suspected State Agents	1 April 2016	Three men travelling in a black BMW car attempted to grab Peter but he managed to escape.	He jumped over a wall and escaped.
Harare	Mupedzanhamo Market Mbare	IN	Suspected State Agents	1 April 2016	Three men travelling in a black BMW car attempted to grab him together with Peter Jack but they managed to escape.	They jumped over a wall and escaped.
Harare	Harare CBD,	GS	Suspected State Agents	26 August 2016	Four men and a woman abducted him; they took him to The ZANU-PF HQ where he was tortured. He was forced to have sex with a woman who was there and he resisted.	He was then taken to Harare Central Police Station.
Harare	Harare CBD	O.S.	ZANU-PF	26 August 2016	Men traveling in a car abducted him at the corner of Kaguvi and Raleigh street. The abductors took him to ZANU-PF HQ where he was severely tortured.	He was produced by unknown people at Harare Central Police Station.
Harare	Harare CBD	JM	Suspected State Agents	26 August 2016	She was force marched at gunpoint to ZANU-PF HQ. She was tortured and forced to have sex with an elderly man.	She was taken to The Harare Central Police Station.
Harare	Rotten Row area Freedom Square	KC	Suspected State Agents	26 August 2016	He was abducted by two armed men while coming from a NERA rally	He was handed over to the police at Harare Central Police

					venue. He was taken to the ZANU-PF HQ where he was tortured.	Station.
Harare	Harare CBD	M.N.	Suspected State Agents	29 August 2016	The victim was grabbed by three men and bundled into a car along Harare Street in the CBD. They drove around Harare interrogating him asking why he had been to the courts and his links with Evans Mawarire.	He was finally left at his home and was advised to stay away from politics.
Harare	Kambuzuma	TM	Suspected State Agents	8 September 2016	Four armed men abducted him from his home at around 2000hrs. They tortured him and dumped him at a farm in Norton.	The victim was assisted by some farm workers with accommodation and bus fare.
Harare	Crowborough	SM	Suspected State Agents	13 September 2016	Armed men abducted the victim from his home. He was severely tortured and dumped in Norton.	He was assisted by local people to call for help.
Gokwe North	Kabuyuni	Manjengwa	Suspected State Agents	17 September 2016	Four armed men abducted an MDC-T ward chairman from his home at 0200hrs. He was severely assaulted.	He was detained in a make shift structure where he managed escape.
Harare	Harare CBD	KK	Suspected State Agents	27 September 2016	Armed men travelling in two double cab trucks abducted him from the city centre at around 2100hrs.	He was tortured and dumped in Mazowe 22 Km from Harare
Harare	Dzivarasekwa	AT	Suspected State Agents	27 September 2016	Armed men who were looking for her husband abducted her. They broke into her house and took her away.	They tortured her and dumped her in Westgate Harare.

