

ZIMBABWE ASSESSMENT

October 2001

Country Information and Policy Unit

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I. SCOPE OF DOCUMENT

1.1 This assessment has been produced by the Country Information & Policy Unit, Immigration & Nationality Directorate, Home Office from information obtained from a variety of sources.

1.2 The assessment has been prepared for background purposes for those involved in the asylum determination process. The information it contains is not exhaustive, nor is it intended to catalogue all human rights violations. It concentrates on the issues most commonly raised in asylum claims made in the United Kingdom

1.3 The assessment is sourced throughout. It is intended to be used by caseworkers as a sign-post to the source material, which has been made available to them. The vast majority of the source material is readily available in the public domain.

1.4 It is intended to revise the assessment on a 6-monthly basis while the country remains within the top 35 asylum producing countries in the United Kingdom.

1.5 The assessment will be placed on the IND Website (<http://www.ind.homeoffice.gov.uk/>). An electronic copy of the assessment has been made available to the following organisations:

Amnesty International UK
Immigration Advisory Service
Immigration Appellate Authority
Immigration Law Practitioners' Association
Joint Council for the Welfare of Immigrants
JUSTICE
Medical Foundation for the Care of Victims of Torture
Refugee Council
Refugee Legal Centre
United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees

II. GEOGRAPHY

2.1 The Republic of Zimbabwe in southern Africa has an area of 390,757 sq km. Zimbabwe is land-locked and is bordered to the north-west by Zambia, to the east by Mozambique, to the south by South Africa and to the west by Botswana. [1]

2.2 In 1997 the population was estimated officially to be 12,293,953. The capital is Harare, with a population of 1,189,103 in 1992. Other important towns are Bulawayo (population 621,742 in 1992), which is the capital of Matabeleland province, Chitungwiza, Mutare, Gweru and Kwekwe. [1]

2.3 Zimbabwe has a diverse population. The largest ethnic group is the Shona, who make up 82% of the population. The Ndebele make up 15% of the population and are concentrated in

Matabeleland province in western Zimbabwe. The white population, most of whom are descendants of European, principally British, settlers from the colonial era, numbered some 223,000 people in the mid-1980s, although numbers had fallen to 75,000 by 2000. There is a small Asian population of 20,000. Other minority groups include the Tonga, Sena, Hlewenge, Venda and Sotho. Official languages are English, Chishona and Sindebele. [1][2][3a][4a][27]

2.4 The economy is dominated by agriculture, which employs two thirds of the working population. The white minority owns much of the productive commercial farming sector and land ownership has been a contentious political issue since independence. Mining and manufacturing are also important and generated 45% of export earnings in 1995. [1]

III. HISTORY

For a detailed history prior to independence in 1980 refer to Africa South of the Sahara (source [1]) and Annex A: Chronology

FOUNDATIONS OF ZIMBABWE

3.1 The Republic of Zimbabwe achieved formal independence from the United Kingdom on 18 April 1980. The country was established in the late nineteenth century as the British colony of Southern Rhodesia. In 1965 the white-dominated **Rhodesia Front** administration of Prime Minister **Ian Smith** made an illegal unilateral declaration of independence (UDI) for Rhodesia from the United Kingdom. [1]

3.2 Following UDI, black nationalists fought for majority rule. The principal nationalist groups were the Ndebele-dominated Zimbabwe African People's Union (**ZAPU**), led by **Joshua Nkomo**, and the Shona-dominated Zimbabwe African National Union (**ZANU**), led initially by the **Reverend Ndabaningi Sithole** and later by **Robert Mugabe**. [1]

3.3 ZAPU and ZANU merged their military efforts in 1976 in an uneasy alliance called the **Patriotic Front**. In 1979 the UDI administration concluded an 'internal settlement' with some black nationalists, under which **Bishop Abel Muzorewa** became Rhodesia's first black Prime Minister. Later in 1979, all parties to the conflict, including the Patriotic Front, participated in the Lancaster House Conference in London, which agreed an independence settlement in December 1979. [1]

3.4 In elections in February 1980 Robert Mugabe's ZANU-Patriotic Front (ZANU-PF) party won 57 of the 80 'common roll' seats with 63% of the vote. Joshua Nkomo's Patriotic Front (effectively ZAPU) party won 20 seats and Bishop Muzorewa's party took three seats. The Rhodesia Front won all 20 seats reserved for Zimbabwean whites. The **Reverend Canaan Banana** became Zimbabwe's first President, with ceremonial duties only, and Robert Mugabe became Prime Minister, leading a coalition government. [1]

3.5 Robert Mugabe adopted a conciliatory stance initially, stressing reconciliation of all Zimbabweans. The three undefeated armed forces - the Rhodesian forces and the ZANU and ZAPU guerrilla armies - were integrated into a united force. However, Mugabe soon pressed the case for a one-party state but was opposed by ZAPU's Nkomo, who Mugabe demoted in government in 1981 and dismissed in 1982. [1]

MATABELELAND INSURGENCY 1983-87

3.6 The discovery of large caches of arms on ZAPU-owned properties in Matabeleland in 1982 led to Nkomo's dismissal from government office. Dissidents from Nkomo's former guerrilla force, ZIPRA, perpetrated indiscriminate acts of violence. The Government responded by sending the North Korean-trained Fifth Brigade to Matabeleland in early 1983 to quell dissent. The mainly Shona Fifth Brigade was accused of committing atrocities against civilians in its pacification campaign and it alienated support for the Government amongst Matabeleland's Ndebele population. It has been estimated that at least 5,000 and as many as 10,000 to 20,000, civilians died during the Fifth Brigade's campaign between 1983 and 1986. [1][2][3a][5a][6]

3.7 A unity agreement between ZANU-PF and ZAPU was reached in 1987, ending the conflict in Matabeleland. The merged party retained ZANU-PF's name and Nkomo became one of the party's two vice-presidents and took a senior post in a new cabinet. An amnesty proclaimed in 1988 led to a rapid improvement in the security situation in Matabeleland. Constitutional changes in 1987 led to the end of reserved seats for whites and the creation of an executive Presidency, replacing the ceremonial post of President, held by Canaan Banana since independence, and incorporating the post of Prime Minister. Mugabe became Zimbabwe's first executive President at the end of 1987. [1][4b]

3.8 In July 1999, at the funeral of Vice-President Joshua Nkomo, President Mugabe expressed his regret for the actions of the Fifth Brigade in Matabeleland during the 1980s. At a memorial service for Nkomo in October 1999, Mugabe announced the willingness of the Government to compensate the families of the estimated 25,000 people killed during the insurgency. [4b]

(See also Sections 5.15 - 5.16 on the Ndebele)

ELECTIONS 1995 & 1996

3.9 ZANU-PF won a fourth decisive election victory in 1995. Eight opposition parties boycotted the poll but the turnout of 57% was higher than expected. ZANU-PF took 82% of the vote, securing 118 out of 120 seats, 55 of them uncontested. Reverend Sithole's small **ZANU-Ndonga** party won two seats. Most observers reported the elections to have been free and fair although they criticised ZANU-PF's domination of the media and aspects of electoral procedures. ZANU-PF lost a seat to an independent in a by-election in November 1995. [1]

3.10 Robert Mugabe was re-elected in presidential elections held in May 1996. Although he received nearly 93% of votes cast, turnout was only 32% of those eligible to vote. [1]

MOVEMENT FOR DEMOCRATIC CHANGE (MDC)

3.11 **The Movement for Democratic Change (MDC)** was formed as an opposition political party in September 1999 under the leadership of **Morgan Tsvangirai**, Secretary-General of the 700,000-strong Zimbabwe Congress of Trade Unions (ZCTU). The aim of the MDC was to be a broadly based party, capable of overcoming the poor organisation and factionalism that other opposition parties had suffered from. [1][2][5b]

3.12 A former ZANU-PF party official, Tsvangirai led the ZCTU for ten years and in that time moved it away from its previously close ties to ZANU-PF. The ZCTU emerged as a political force in 1997 when it led a general strike against tax increases. In 1989 Tsvangirai was imprisoned for six weeks on charges of spying for South Africa. In 1997 he was beaten and nearly thrown from his office window by people assumed to be Government thugs. [1][5b]

(See also Sections 4.5 - 4.7 on the MDC)

CONSTITUTIONAL REFERENDUM, FEBRUARY 2000

3.13 A constitutional referendum was held in February 2000, called by President Mugabe in a bid to consolidate his powers by amending Zimbabwe's independence constitution to allow the Government to confiscate mainly white-owned land without compensation. The referendum was seen as a barometer of public feeling about Mugabe's unpopular administration. Despite tireless campaigning to ensure victory, the referendum result was a rejection of the Government's proposals, by 55% to 45%. [1][3b]

3.14 Despite losing the referendum, the Government pushed through a constitutional amendment in April 2000 to allow the seizure of mainly white-owned farms without compensation. The constitutional amendment states that white farmers dispossessed of their land would have to apply to the "former colonial power", the United Kingdom, for compensation. [1][5c]

PARLIAMENTARY ELECTIONS, JUNE 2000

Background

3.15 Elections for 120 of the 150 seats in Parliament were held in June 2000. Of the remaining 30 seats, 10 are held by traditional chiefs elected by the Council of Chiefs, 12 are non-constituency MPs appointed by the President and 8 are provincial governors, also appointed by the President. This gave ZANU-PF an immediate 20-seat advantage over the opposition. The election of the ten chiefs was postponed, apparently because the Government feared that some might favour the opposition. [1][2][3c]

3.16 Only ZANU-PF and the MDC fielded candidates in all 120 constituencies. A number of small parties and independents fielded candidates in various constituencies. The United Parties, led by Bishop Muzorewa, fielded 59 candidates, mainly in northern and eastern areas. A party calling itself ZAPU, after the late Joshua Nkomo's party that merged with ZANU-PF in 1987, fielded 23 candidates mainly in Matabeleland, advocating a federal state to counteract Shona dominance of the Ndebele. The Zimbabwe Union of Democrats (ZUD), led by Margaret Dongo, outgoing MP for Harare South, fielded 16 candidates in Harare and the east. Reverend Sithole's small ZANU-Ndonga party, which held two seats in the outgoing parliament, also contested seats. [3c]

Election Violence & Farm Occupations

3.17 The elections were preceded by a Government-sanctioned systematic campaign of violence towards supporters and suspected supporters of the opposition. Many acts of violence were perpetrated by ZANU-PF militants and 'war veterans', many of whom were too young to have participated in the war of independence and were suspected of having been paid to join in. As many as 37 people died in the violence, many of them opposition supporters. Many opposition candidates and supporters had to go into hiding during the election campaign, including Roy Bennett, the MDC candidate in Chinaminani, whose pregnant wife was attacked, as a result of which she suffered a miscarriage, and Blessing Chebundo, MDC candidate in Kwekwe. Following the elections, MDC leader Morgan Tsvangirai called for President Mugabe to be impeached for inciting the violence that marred the election campaign. [1][2][3d][5d][5g]

3.18 In a campaign supported by President Mugabe, war veterans led by Chenjerai 'Hitler' Hunzvi launched a series of illegal occupations of 1,000 white-owned farms in February 2000. These acts appeared to be retaliation for the Government's defeat in the constitutional referendum (see Sections 3.13 - 3.14). In April 2000, President Mugabe threatened war against the farmers and declared that they were "enemies of the state". Squatters murdered five white farmers during the violent occupation of the farms and also attacked many black farm workers. The police did little to apprehend those responsible for the murders and violence and would not act against the squatters occupying farms, despite High Court rulings in favour of the farmers. Farmer Martin Olds was murdered on his Matabeleland farm in April 2000; most of the 70 assailants were Shona supporters of ZANU-PF who had reportedly been bussed in to the area. [1][3e][3f][5e]

Election Results

3.19 ZANU-PF won 62 of the 120 seats with just over 49% of the vote and the MDC won 57 seats with just under 48% of the vote. ZANU-Ndonga won one seat. The results highlighted regional divisions. The MDC won all 19 seats in Harare, all 8 in Bulawayo and took 13 of the 15 seats in Matabeleland. ZANU-PF took every seat in the farming province of Mashonaland Central. Results by cities and province were:

Harare - 19 MDC
Bulawayo - 8 MDC
Manicaland - 7 MDC, 6 ZANU-PF, 1 ZANU-Ndonga
Mashonaland Central - 10 ZANU-PF
Mashonaland East - 11 ZANU-PF, 1 MDC
Mashonaland West - 10 ZANU-PF, 2 MDC
Masvingo - 12 ZANU-PF, 2 MDC
Matabeleland North - 7 MDC
Matabeleland South - 6 MDC, 2 ZANU-PF
Midlands - 11 ZANU-PF, 5 MDC

[5f][7]

(See Annex D for a full list of election results, listing all candidates and votes for each constituency - hard copy only)

3.20 Seven Ministers from the outgoing Government lost their seats, including Emmerson Mnangagwa, who had been considered a possible heir to Mugabe. He lost his Kwekwe seat by a 2 to 1 margin to the MDC's Blessing Chebundo, who had to go into hiding during the election campaign. One notable winner for ZANU-PF was Chenjerai Hunzvi, the controversial war veterans' leader. [3g][5g]

3.21 Notable wins for the MDC included those of Welshman Ncube, the party's Secretary-General who beat his ZANU-PF opponent in Bulawayo North East by 21,100 votes to 2,864. MDC leader Morgan Tsvangirai failed to win Buhera North, the seat he contested in ZANU-PF's rural heartland, by only 2,534 votes. However, the MDC successfully challenged the result in Buhera North and the result was nullified by the High Court in April 2001. A by-election will be held to fill the seat. Four whites won seats for the MDC, including David Coltart, the party's legal secretary and a prominent human rights lawyer, who secured his Bulawayo South seat with 86% of the vote, in a predominantly black-populated constituency. [3g][3h][5h][5i]

3.22 Small parties fared less well. Margaret Dongo of the ZUD lost her Harare South seat to the MDC. Only one of the opposition MPs in the outgoing parliament, Wilson Khumbula, Vice-President of ZANU-Ndonga, retained his seat and is the only MP in the new Parliament who is not from ZANU-PF or the MDC. The United Parties, ZUD, ZAPU or either of the Liberty Party factions in Matabeleland, won no seats. [3g][5h][7]

3.23 Although most election observers agreed that the voting process itself generally was peaceful, there were irregularities and an estimated 15% of voters were turned away at the polls for various technical reasons. [2]

POST-ELECTION VIOLENCE & INTIMIDATION

3.24 In October 2000 President Mugabe issued a decree granting a general amnesty for politically motivated crimes that occurred between 1 January and 31 July 2000, which effectively protects and pardons the majority of those responsible for the violence in the election campaign from prosecution. The amnesty does not cover the offences of murder, rape, sexual assault, robbery, theft and possession of arms, but does cover other serious offences such as common assault and assault with intent to cause grievous bodily harm. The amnesty permitted the immediate release of prisoners convicted of the latter two offences. Two war veterans arrested in August 2000 for their part in the torture of MDC members in Bulawayo by ZANU-PF supporters in March 2000 had charges against them dropped as a result of the amnesty. [2][3i]

3.25 Acts of violence continued after the elections. In September 2000 a grenade exploded outside the MDC's headquarters in Harare. There were no injuries. The MDC accused the Government of being behind the attack. Following the attack, police raided the MDC's offices, seizing documents and computer discs. Four officials were arrested and released several hours later without charge. They included Nelson Chamisa, head of the MDC's youth wing, and Gandhi Madzingwa, Morgan Tsvangirai's personal assistant. [3j][3k]

3.26 In December 2000, white farmer Henry Elsworth was murdered, the sixth white farmer to die in 2000. Farming representatives described the act as a political assassination. Elsworth was an MP in Ian Smith's Rhodesia Front, who, in 1982, had broken with Smith and became an ally of Robert Mugabe, who appointed him to Parliament in 1987, where he served until 1990. [5j]

3.27 In February 2001, Job Sikhala, MDC MP for St Mary's, was assaulted by at least 50 soldiers who raided his home. His pregnant wife and others in the house were also beaten. Shortly afterwards, Nelson Chamisa, the MDC youth wing leader, was arrested and detained by police. Gibson Sibanda MP, the MDC's Vice-President, was also summoned for questioning by the police. He was released but, along with Chamisa, who was held in custody, was charged with inciting violence. At the time, troops had been patrolling opposition strongholds in townships, in response to what the Government claimed was a campaign of violent insurrection being planned by the opposition. [5k][8a]

3.28 Later in February 2001, Peter Nyoni, MDC MP for Hwange East in Matabeleland, and three senior MDC officials were arrested on charges of inciting violence, relating to inflammatory remarks they were alleged to have made at an MDC rally. They appeared before a magistrate and were then released. [9a]

3.29 In March 2001, the police imposed a ban on MDC rallies in the Chitungwiza township near Harare. The MDC announced its intention to challenge the ban in the High Court. There has been a major drive by Government supporters and security forces in Chitungwiza against MDC supporters. Nightly raids and beatings by police have been reported. Local MDC MP Job Sikhala claimed that the campaign was aimed at removing opposition ahead of presidential elections due in 2002. [5l][10]

3.30 In March 2001, Gloria Olds became the seventh white farmer to be murdered. ZANU-PF supporters and war veterans murdered her son, Martin Olds, in April 2000. A man appeared in court in Bulawayo later in March 2001 charged with Mrs Olds' murder, the first time that anybody had faced court over any of the murders of white farmers. [5m]

3.31 In April 2001 ZANU-PF supporters and war veterans began a new offensive against Zimbabwean whites by targeting white-owned businesses. Several factories in Harare were invaded by chanting mobs of people claiming to be war veterans, demanding the reinstatement of workers they claim were unfairly dismissed. In one case, the general manager, a black Zimbabwean, was assaulted and frog-marched to ZANU-PF offices where he was interrogated for three hours and accused of supporting the MDC. He was released only after being forced to reinstate the sacked workers, and he afterwards fled to South Africa. In another case the white managing director of a business was harangued by gang of 80 men who entered the company's premises with the help of police. A white manager was arrested and held overnight in cells. A German development organisation was also targeted by war veterans in April 2001 and the incident was only resolved after the intervention of the German Ambassador; police refused to intervene. [5n][5o]

3.32 In April 2001 war veterans' leader Chenjerai Hunzvi MP reportedly threatened that war veterans would target foreign diplomatic missions and NGOs that it considers oppose President Mugabe. Some diplomatic missions are reported to have threatened to leave Zimbabwe if the government fails to protect them, as it is required to under the Vienna Convention on diplomatic relations. However, following condemnation by foreign governments and the European Union of the reported threats, Hunzvi denied that he had made them. [3m][9b]

3.33 MDC leader Morgan Tsvangirai will appear in the High Court in May 2001 on charges of terrorism and sabotage stemming from a statement he made in September 2000 advising President Mugabe to resign or risk being removed by force. Tsvangirai is being charged under

the Law and Order Maintenance Act. If convicted he faces life imprisonment. The Government claims that Tsvangirai's statement amounted to inciting people to violently overthrow the Government. The impending trial follows close after Tsvangirai won his petition to the High Court challenging ZANU-PF's election victory in Buhera North, which he contested in the June 2000 elections. Gibson Sibanda, the MDC's Parliamentary leader, also faces charges under the Law and Order Maintenance Act (LOMA) of inciting violence and is due to appear in court on 28 May 2001. Other MDC officials charged under the LOMA are Nelson Chamisa, the party's youth chairman, Hwange East MP Peter Nyoni and five provincial executive members from Victoria Falls. [9c]

3.34 In August 2001 a mob attacked whites at random in the town of Chinhoyi in the Mashonaland West province north-west of Harare. ZANU-PF supporters attacked whites, stabbing one man, and stoned cars. Police told whites to stay out of the town. The attacks followed the arrest of 22 white farmers who had come to the aid of a fellow farmer whose farm had been occupied by squatters. Police arrested the farmers and charged them with assaulting the squatters. Rampaging mobs swept through the Chinhoyi area, looting farms and forcing white farmers off their land. The farmers criticised the police for failing to protect them and the Daily News reported that police were even assisting the invaders. [4e][5a1]

3.35 The farmers detained in Chinhoyi were released on bail in August 2001 after two weeks in prison. All but one were barred from returning to their homes as the High Court Judge who granted them bail considered that their return to Chinhoyi would spark further arson attacks and looting. Around 100 white families fled the Chinhoyi area for safety and 35,000 farm workers and their families were thrown out of their homes as the campaign of farm occupations spread from Chinhoyi to the Hwedza area of Mashonaland East. [4f][11d]

LEGAL CHALLENGES TO 2000 RESULTS, & BY-ELECTIONS

Legal Challenges

3.36 After the June 2000 elections the MDC announced that it would mount legal challenges against the results in 37 of the 62 seats won by ZANU-PF. The MDC complained of violence during the election campaign and irregularities during polling. In December 2000 President Mugabe decreed that no court hearings could be held to invalidate disputed election results, but in January 2001 the Supreme Court declared the President's decree unconstitutional. [3g][3h][5i]

3.37 In March 2001, in the first of the legal challenges against the election results to be heard, the High Court dismissed the MDC's application to have the result in Zvishavane constituency nullified. The Judge, while acknowledging that violence had occurred in Zvishavane, found that there was no evidence that the winning ZANU-PF candidate had approved the actions of war veterans and ZANU-PF supporters. The MDC will challenge the High Court's ruling on Zvishavane in the Supreme Court. [3g]

3.38 In April 2001 the High Court overturned the election result in Buhera North, where the ZANU-PF candidate was declared the winner with 12,850 votes over the MDC leader Morgan Tsvangirai with 10,316 votes. On the same day the High Court also nullified the result in Hurungwe West, where the ZANU-PF candidate was declared the winner in June 2000 with a vote of 18,931 against the MDC's 4,532. By-elections will be held in both constituencies. In both cases the Judge ruled that there was evidence of intimidation of opposition officials and

supporters during the election. The High Court's rulings reduced the number of ZANU-PF seats to 61 of the 120 directly elected seats in Parliament. [3h][5i][7][11a]

3.39 Following the High Court ruling nullifying the result in Buhera North, armed police raided the offices of MDC leader Morgan Tsvangirai in Harare and arrested four members of his security team and a member of the public. The police stated that the men would be charged under the LOMA. A lawyer acting for the MDC was refused access to the detainees. [3h][9d][11a]

By-elections

3.40 A by-election was held in the **Marondera West** constituency in November 2000 following the death of the ZANU-PF MP. Although the seat is a ZANU-PF stronghold, with a majority of more than 6,000 over the MDC in June 2000, the by-election campaign was nevertheless marred by acts of violence by ZANU-PF supporters and war veterans against the MDC. One person died when ZANU-PF supporters fired on an opposition rally. Further opposition rallies had to be abandoned after armed ZANU-PF supporters dispersed another meeting. ZANU-PF won the by-election. [3I]

3.41 Amos Munyaradzi Mutongi, MDC MP for **Bikita West** in Masvingo province, died in November 2000. The MDC had won the seat in June 2000 by less than 300 votes. The subsequent by-election in January 2001 was marred by violence, perpetrated by both Government and MDC supporters. A ZANU-PF party member was killed during clashes at a political rally. Two MDC MPs, Renson Gasela and Willias Madzimore, were injured in the clashes. A motor convoy of MDC officials was petrol-bombed during the by-election campaign. The war veterans' leader, and ZANU-PF MP, Chenjerai Hunzvi organised much of the intimidation in Bikita West. Government supporters and war veterans occupied many polling stations in the constituency. The ZANU-PF candidate, who took almost two thirds of the vote, won the by-election. ZANU-PF took 12,993 votes against 7,001 for the MDC. Following the by-election, it was reported that ZANU-PF supporters and war veterans embarked on a witch-hunt of MDC supporters in the constituency. War veterans targeted teachers, who they claimed had campaigned for the MDC. Three schoolteachers were reportedly tortured by suspected war criminals. [3n][3o][5p][9e]

3.42 ZANU-PF won the **Bindura** by-election in July 2001. Bindura was won in June 2000 by Border Gezi, a close aide to President Mugabe. Gezi died in a car accident in April 2001. ZANU-PF's Elliot Manyika polled 15,864 against 9,456 for the MDC's Eliot Pfebve. In June 2000 the voting had been 13,329 for Gezi against 11,257 for Pfebve. Violence and tension marred the by-election campaign and Pfebve was detained and questioned by police over charges by the authorities of illegal campaigning but released after several hours. Voter turnout, at 61%, was high despite the tension. [3a9]

3.43 A by-election was held in **Makoni West** in September 2001, caused by the death in a car accident in May 2001 of Defence Minister Moven Mohachi. Although ZANU-PF only narrowly beat the MDC in June 2000, in the by-election its margin of victory increased to 66%. However, in the **Bulawayo mayoral elections** held at the same time, the MDC won by a landslide with 80% of the votes cast, a similar margin to that achieved by the party in urban seats in the June 2000 parliamentary elections. [3a11]

3.44 Chenjerai Hunzvi, MP for **Chikomba** and war veterans' leader, died in June 2001. The subsequent by-election in Chikomba in late September 2001 was won by ZANU-PF. ZANU-PF increases its majority by 2,000 votes while the MDC lost 1,500, compared to the result in June 2000. Polling in the by-election was peaceful but human rights groups said that murder and intimidation marred the run-up to the vote. Analysts commented that the result confirmed Zimbabwe's rural-urban split with the MDC gaining most support in urban areas, such as in the Masvingo and Bulawayo mayoral elections, and ZANU-PF winning rural by-elections. [3a10]

3.45 Following the Chikomba result, the fifth by-election to be won by ZANU-PF in a row, senior figures in the MDC expressed doubts about future participation in elections in view of electoral violence. The MDC's organising secretary in Chikomba was murdered during the by-election campaign and a coalition of human rights groups claimed that several others were tortured and that the MDC candidate had received death threats. [3a10]

IV. INSTRUMENTS OF THE STATE

POLITICAL SYSTEM

ADMINISTRATIVE STRUCTURE

4.1 Robert Mugabe and his ZANU-PF party have dominated the political life of Zimbabwe since independence in 1980. Although the Constitution allows for a multi-party system, opposition parties have been subjected to significant intimidation by the ruling ZANU-PF Government and security forces, particularly during the parliamentary elections of June 2000. [2]

4.2 Executive power is vested in the President, who is Head of State and Commander-in-Chief of the Defence Forces. The President appoints two Vice-Presidents and a Cabinet. The President holds office for six-year terms. President Mugabe's current term of office expires in March 2002. In April 2001 Mugabe announced his intention of contesting the next presidential election. [1][3p]

4.3 Legislative power is vested in the unicameral Parliament, consisting of the House of Assembly. There are 150 Members of Parliament, 120 of whom are directly-elected by universal adult suffrage, 12 are nominated by the President, ten are traditional Chiefs and eight are Provincial Governors. The life of the House of Assembly is ordinarily six years. Elections for the House of Assembly were last held in June 2000 (see Sections 3.15 - 3.23) [1]

ZANU-PF

4.4 Robert Mugabe's ZANU-PF has been the governing party since independence, and for much of its time in office has presided over a *de facto* one-party state. The party holds 61 of the 120 directly elected seats in Parliament. ZANU-PF won 62 seats in the June 2000 elections then won the Bikita West by-election in January 2001. In April 2001 the High Court nullified the results in two seats won by ZANU-PF in June 2000 and by-elections are pending in those seats. Although dominated by the Shona majority, there are also Ndebele and white party members, and there are Ndebele ministers and one white minister in the Cabinet. [1][32]

4.5 A number of the internal ZANU-PF factions are identified with Shona sub-groups, with Mugabe's own Zezeru being particularly favoured. For many years the main alternative has appeared to lie among the Karanga from Masvingo province, which include Eddison Zvobgo and Vice-President Muzenda. [32]

MOVEMENT FOR DEMOCRATIC CHANGE (MDC)

4.6 In its manifesto for the June 2000 elections, and reiterated in a policy press release in February 2001, the MDC outlined its key policies. The party identified five main priority policy areas:

- restoring economic stability
- "people-driven" land reform, overseen by a non-partisan Land Commission
- accountable and transparent government, and fighting corruption
- a "People's Constitution", that would limit Presidential power
- health issues [12a][12b]

4.7 The MDC announced a 16-member Shadow Cabinet in November 2000. The Shadow Ministers include Welshman Ncube, the party's Secretary-General, for Home Affairs and David Coltart, the party's legal affairs spokesman, for Justice. [12c]

4.8 MDC President Morgan Tsvangirai and the party's Parliamentary leader Gibson Sibanda are due to appear in court in May 2001 on charges of inciting violence, brought against them by the Government under the Law and Order Maintenance Act (see also Section 3.34). [9c]

(See also Sections 3.11 - 3.12 on the establishment of the MDC)

ZANU-NDONGA

4.9 The late Reverend Ndabaningi Sithole, who led ZANU before Robert Mugabe, set up ZANU-Ndonga. The party held two seats in Parliament prior to the elections in June 2000. The party won a single seat in June 2000; Tarugarira Wilson Khumbula, ZANU-Ndonga MP for Chipinge South in Manicaland province, is the only MP in the current Parliament who does not belong to either ZANU-PF or the MDC. [1][7]

LIBERTY PARTY/LIBERTY PARTY OF ZIMBABWE

4.10 The Liberty Party of Zimbabwe (LPZ), and a breakaway faction styling itself simply the Liberty Party (LP), is a minor party that contested a handful of seats in Matabeleland in the June 2000 elections. The leader of the LPZ is Canaan Zinothi Moyo. The LPZ contested 13 seats (including one seat, Umzingwane, where two candidates stood as LPZ) and the LP eight. [7][13]

4.11 The highest vote achieved by the LPZ in any seat in June 2000 was in the Bubi-Mguza constituency in Matabeleland North, where the LPZ candidate received 889 votes. However, the small ZAPU party received 1,272 votes and the seat was won by the MDC with nearly 13,000 votes. The only party receiving fewer votes than the LPZ in Bubi-Mguza was the breakaway LP, which polled 223 votes. The LPZ polled a total of 2,997 votes in the 13 seats that it contested, and the LP polled 791 votes in total in the eight seats that it contested. [7]

4.12 LPZ leader Canaan Moyo contested the Pelandaba constituency in Bulawayo. He received 54 votes. The seat was won by the MDC with over 16,000 votes. The ZAPU candidate received 270 votes in Pelandaba and the UP candidate received 57 votes. The candidate of the breakaway LP was the only candidate to receive fewer votes than Moyo, with 35 votes. [7][13]

OTHER MINOR PARTIES:

Zimbabwe Union of Democrats (ZUD)

4.13 The ZUD leader, Margaret Dongo, was the MP for Harare South prior to the June 2000 elections. She failed to come to an agreement with the MDC for the June 2000 elections and the seat was won convincingly by the MDC, with Dongo coming third with only 951 votes, behind the ZANU-PF candidate. ZUD contested a few other seats but failed to win any. [3c][7]

ZAPU (ZAPU 2000)

4.14 ZAPU, or ZAPU 2000, was formed as a resurgent group of the former ZAPU party of the late Joshua Nkomo in 1999. The party advocates a federal system for Zimbabwe, with considerable powers devolved to Matabeleland. The party was unable to agree an electoral alliance for the June 2000 elections with the MDC, as the latter does not support a federal structure. ZAPU candidates stood in most constituencies in Matabeleland and Bulawayo in June 2000 but failed to win any seats. [1][3c][7]

United Parties (UP)

4.15 The United Parties (UP) grouping was established by Bishop Muzorewa, leader of the UANC, in 1994 after UANC's merger with the Zimbabwe Unity Movement (ZUM). UP boycotted the 1995 general elections. In the Presidential elections in 1996, Bishop Muzorewa was denied permission to withdraw his candidacy prior to the ballot and received 4.7% of the vote. UP failed to win any of the 59 seats it contested in the June 2000 elections. [1][3c][7]

LEGAL FRAMEWORK & THE JUDICIARY

4.16 The judiciary is generally independent but the Government often refuses to abide by court decisions and frequently questions the authority of judges and threatens their removal. For example, the Defence Ministry ignored three separate High Court rulings ordering the release of two detained journalists in 1999. When four judges asked President Mugabe to reaffirm his commitment to the rule of law he called upon them to resign. The journalists were later released (see Section 5.37 for further details). [2][14a]

4.17 In June 2000 the Government described white judges as a "foreign cancer". At the time, the Chief Justice, Anthony Gubbay, and four of the 19 High Court judges were white. Angry at the judiciary's independence and its insistence on upholding the rule of law in defiance of Government-backed violence during the campaign for the June 2000 elections, ZANU-PF questioned the judges' loyalty. [5q]

4.18 In February 2001 the Government ordered Chief Justice Gubbay to retire, several months ahead of his agreed retirement date. The Justice Minister had told Gubbay to leave his post amid

threats of violence against judges by ZANU-PF supporters. Many of Zimbabwe's lawyers, who are mostly black, backed the judges, who they saw as merely doing their job of upholding the law and the constitution. [3q]

4.19 After resisting Government pressure to leave his post, Chief Justice Gubbay succumbed in early March 2001 and agreed to take early retirement. Although Gubbay extracted promises from the Government that it would respect the independence of the judiciary, few lawyers have any faith in these pledges, coming as they do from an administration that has routinely ignored inconvenient court rulings. Gubbay's departure leaves one white and one Asian judge, Judges Nicholas McNally and Ahmed Ebrahim respectively, among the five Supreme Court members. It is expected that they will come under increasing pressure to resign, leaving the way clear for President Mugabe to appoint a pliant majority on the Supreme Court. [5r]

4.20 A week after the announcement of Chief Justice Gubbay's early retirement, Godfrey Chidyausiku, a former ZANU-PF deputy minister and attorney general, was appointed as acting Chief Justice, and head of the Supreme Court. The Supreme Court is the final arbiter of the constitution and the only restraint on the sweeping powers of the President. Some lawyers hope that Judges McNally and Ebrahim will be able to withstand Government pressure on them to resign, thus maintaining a semblance of independence for the judiciary. [3r][5r]

4.21 A panel of judges and lawyers, drawn from a number of different countries, from the International Bar Association (IBA) visited Zimbabwe in April 2001 on a fact-finding mission. Their report concluded that democracy and the rule of law were in grave peril in Zimbabwe. The IBA commented that the Government had intimidated judges and lawyers, and observed that the killings of and assaults on landowners may not have happened if the Government had implemented court rulings ordering squatters on white-owned farmland to end their illegal occupations. The IBA's report stated that Government efforts to pressure former Chief Justice Gubbay to resign were a serious breach of the judiciary's independence. [3s][5s]

V. HUMAN RIGHTS SITUATION

INTRODUCTION

5.1 The Government's poor human rights record worsened significantly during 1999 and 2000. In 1999 President Mugabe intensified verbal attacks on the opposition, the judiciary, the press and white Zimbabweans. In 2000 the Government supported and orchestrated a campaign of political violence and intimidation that claimed over 30 lives. Government supporters and war veterans occupied mainly white-owned commercial farms and killed, tortured, beat, abused and threatened farmers and their workers who they believed to be opposition sympathisers. There were unconfirmed reports of politically motivated disappearances during 2000. Members of the security forces committed serious human rights abuses during 1999 and 2000. The death of Vice-President Joshua Nkomo in 1999 re-opened discussions on atrocities committed by security forces in Matabeleland in the 1980s. [2][14a]

5.2 Although the judiciary is generally independent, the Government often refuses to abide by court decisions and frequently questions the authority of judges and threatens their removal. Press freedom is restricted and journalists are intimidated. Academic freedom is restricted. The Government has exacerbated resentment of the white minority. [2]

HUMAN RIGHTS ORGANISATIONS IN ZIMBABWE

5.3 Although the Government permits local civic and human rights groups to operate, it monitors their activities closely. National human rights groups include the Amani Trust, the Catholic Commission for Justice and Peace, the Legal Resources Foundation, Zimbabwe Lawyers for Human Rights, the Zimbabwe Women Lawyers Association, the National Constitutional Assembly, the Musasa Project, the Association of Zimbabwe Journalists and the Human Rights Research and Documentation Trust of Southern Africa. The Zimbabwe Human Rights NGO Forum was formed in 1998 to support victims of food riots. It has taken the lead in co-ordinating reports on human rights violations and abuses during and since the June 2000 elections. [2]

5.4 International human rights groups such as Amnesty International, Transparency International and the International Committee of the Red Cross operate in Zimbabwe. The Government generally does not discourage international human rights groups from visiting the country. [2]

SPECIFIC GROUPS

WOMEN

5.5 Women and men enjoy equal rights in Zimbabwe, although there is a disparity between women's legal status and the treatment they receive on an everyday basis. Domestic violence and discrimination against women remains widespread. Divorce and maintenance laws are favourable to women but women generally lack awareness of their rights under the law. The government campaigns actively to change perceptions of the role of women in society and NGOs also work to increase women's awareness of their rights. Traditional perceptions of women are more deep-rooted among rural populations, including among women themselves. For example, in many rural families, while women worked in the fields their husbands controlled the income from the sale of produce. [2][15]

5.6 Domestic violence against women, especially wife beating, is common. It was reported that domestic violence accounted for 60% of murder cases tried in the Harare High Court in 1998. The first shelter for victims of domestic violence was opened in Harare in 1997 by the Musasa Project, a women's rights organisation. [2]

5.7 Women face many obstacles in reporting rapes. Many police stations are not prepared to handle properly the investigation of rape cases. Also, women are reluctant to report rape because of social stigma. Women's groups believe the actual number of rapes is under-reported considerably. When cases do reach the courts lengthy sentences for rape and wife beating are generally imposed. The Ministry of Justice is considering legislation to increase the penalties for sexual abuse, including rape of a spouse. [2]

5.8 At least eight cases of politically motivated rape of women were reported in the run-up to the parliamentary elections in June 2000. However, human rights groups estimate that the actual number of politically-motivated rapes may be closer to 800, including incidents of gang rapes of young girls and elderly women and rapes of women farm workers and health workers. [2]

5.9 Zimbabwe has ratified the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women, which requires that states safeguard women's rights through legislation. While legislation exists in Zimbabwe to protect women whose rights have been violated by their husbands, women are often unaware of legal safeguards or, as in domestic violence cases, are reluctant to seek the help of the authorities. Illiteracy, economic dependency and prevailing social norms prevent rural women in particular from fighting societal discrimination. [2][15]

5.10 Women are under-represented in government and politics. Fifteen of the 150 MPs in parliament, elected in June 2000, are women, including the Deputy Speaker, one minister and one deputy minister. This compares with 20 female MPs in the previous parliament. There are no legal restrictions on the participation of women in politics. However, their husbands often direct married women, particularly in rural areas, how to vote. In 1999 the ZANU-PF congress decided that a third of party positions should be allocated to women. In 2000, 50 new positions reserved for women were added to ZANU-PF's powerful 180-member central committee. [2]

CHILDREN

5.11 Female genital mutilation (FGM) is performed rarely in Zimbabwe. However, it has been reported that initiation rites practised by the small Remba ethnic group in Midlands province include infibulation, the most extreme form of FGM. [2]

5.12 Indigenous churches that combine elements of established Christian belief with some beliefs based on traditional culture and religion generally accept and promote polygyny and the marriage of girls at young ages. Where adolescent girls are forced into marriage, laws on the age of majority and rape can be invoked. [2][15]

5.13 The traditional practice of offering a young girl as compensatory payment in inter-family disputes continues. [2]

ETHNIC GROUPS:

Shona

5.14 While all major ethnic groups are represented in Parliament and in the Government, most members of the Parliament and Government, including President Mugabe, and most ZANU-PF officials, are affiliated with the majority Shona ethnic group, which makes up 82% of the population. [2]

Ndebele

5.15 According to government statistics the Ndebele make up 15% of Zimbabwe's population and are concentrated largely in the Matabeleland province of western Zimbabwe. Other sources estimate the Ndebele population, including the related Kalanga group, to comprise between 17 and 20%. During the 1980s Robert Mugabe's Shona-dominated Government suppressed a brief Ndebele insurgency in Matabeleland with a 5-year pacification campaign, led by the mainly Shona North Korean-trained Fifth Brigade, that killed an estimated 10,000 to 20,000 Ndebele

civilians. Relations between the Shona and Ndebele have since improved but the disproportionate number of Shona-speaking teachers in Matabeleland's schools remains a sensitive issue and the Ndebele continue to criticise the Government for unequal distribution of natural resources and its failure to compensate victims of the Matabeleland killings in the 1980s. At a memorial service for the late Joshua Nkomo in July 2000, just after the Parliamentary elections saw ZANU-PF win only two out of 25 seats in Matabeleland and Bulawayo, President Mugabe described the atrocities in Matabeleland as act of madness, saying that both sides were to blame. [1][2][3t][27]

5.16 In 1999 two NGOs, the Legal Resources Foundation and the Catholic Commission for Justice and Peace, issued a summary of their 1997 report *Breaking The Silence, Building True Peace* about atrocities committed in Matabeleland during the 1980s. It was the first major report to document human rights violations committed during the insurgency. Vice-President Nkomo's death in 1999 re-opened the discussion on the atrocities. The report detailed atrocities committed by the Fifth Brigade in two districts of Matabeleland and was based on the testimony of over 1,000 people over a five-year period. [6][14a]

(See also Sections 3.6 - 3.8 on the Matabeleland insurgency)

Whites

5.17 While the Constitution provides for equal rights for all citizens irrespective of colour or ethnic origin, President Mugabe and his Government continue to exacerbate resentment of the economically prominent white minority. Racial tensions between blacks and whites subsided after independence in 1980 and remain low, despite the Government's continuing efforts to blame the white minority for Zimbabwe's economic problems. [2]

5.18 On many occasions in 2000 and 2001, President Mugabe's Government attempted to reignite resentment of the white minority. During 2000 the Government embarked upon a 'fast-track' resettlement programme for land reform in which commercial, mainly white-owned, farms were designated for seizure with no means for compensation. In the run-up to the parliamentary elections in June 2000 Government supporters and war veterans occupied commercial farms and assaulted farmers and their workers. Six white farmers were murdered during 2000 in violence related to farm seizures. Mugabe denounced white farmers as "enemies of the state" during the election campaign, accusing them of trying to reverse Zimbabwe's independence. Government supporters singled out whites when they attacked a peaceful demonstration in Harare in April 2000, assaulting marchers with stones, whips and clubs. Following the elections Mugabe threatened to arrest two of the MDC's white MPs who had drafted the MDC's unsuccessful impeachment motion against him. At ZANU-PF's party congress in December 2000 Mugabe repeatedly denounced Zimbabwe's white minority and announced that he would continue to ignore court rulings that prevented the Government from acquiring white-owned land. He urged delegates to "continue to strike fear into the heart of the white man, our real enemy". [2][5t][8b]

5.19 In April 2000 MDC leader Morgan Tsvangirai stated his support for orderly land reform but stressed that whites were a part of Zimbabwean society and would be forever. He criticised President Mugabe for exploiting race and land as issues to sustain his rule. Four whites were elected as MDC MPs in June 2000. [5h]

5.20 In the run-up to the June 2000 elections the Government criticised white judges, who make up a substantial part of Zimbabwe's still independent judiciary. At the time two of the five Supreme Court judges and four of the 20 High Court judges were white. The Government disregarded court orders to take action against the illegal occupation of farms by ZANU-PF supporters and war veterans. [2][5q]

5.21 In October 2000 President Mugabe threatened to prosecute former members of the Rhodesian armed forces. Since independence an amnesty has protected both sides of the conflict between white-ruled Rhodesia and black guerrillas led by Robert Mugabe and the late Joshua Nkomo. Wifred Mhanda, who was second-in-command of Mugabe's guerrilla army in the 1970s, criticised Mugabe's statement, saying that the struggle was against a system, not against whites themselves. Mugabe would, however, need parliamentary approval to repeal the amnesty. [5u]

5.22 In March 2001 the Government published a new law tightening rules against dual citizenship. Zimbabweans entitled to a foreign nationality will be stripped of their Zimbabwean nationality if they do not inform their other country of nationality within six months that they are renouncing their entitlement. Previously they had to renounce their other nationality only to the Zimbabwean authorities. The MDC commented that the new law was aimed at Zimbabwe's white minority and was designed to reduce support for the opposition ahead of the presidential election due to be held in 2002. [3u]

5.23 In April 2001 ZANU-PF supporters and war veterans embarked upon a campaign of invading white-owned businesses, demanding the reinstatement of sacked workers. (See also Section 3.31) [5n][5o]

Asians

5.24 There are some 20,000 people of Asian origin in Zimbabwe. Although they are a smaller group than Zimbabwean whites, in many towns they are more visible than whites because they run shops and factories rather than farms. During the violence of the campaign for the June 2000 elections, there were reports that racial intimidation was spreading beyond the white-owned farms to include the Asian business community. Pamphlets were reportedly circulated in Bulawayo threatening Indians. [4a]

Farm workers of Malawian, Zambian & Mozambican origin

5.25 There are between 350,000 and 400,000 farm workers in Zimbabwe, who number up to two million with their families. Most of these people are third generation Zimbabweans whose grandparents came to Zimbabwe from Mozambique, Malawi and Zambia during the colonial era. Many have lost contact with their countries of origin and have lived on white-owned farms throughout their lives. 'War veterans' have targetted these farm workers in their campaign against white ownership of commercial farms. Hundreds of thousands of farm workers have reportedly been displaced along with the white owners of commercial farms when the farms have been occupied by squatters, in what commentators have referred to as ethnic cleansing. [3a6][11c]

Other Ethnic Minorities

5.26 The Shangaan, Venda and Tonga peoples make up about 2% of the population. The Shangaan and Venda live mainly in the far south of Zimbabwe. In 1985-86 the government introduced teaching in primary schools in these groups' own languages. In 1995 the national radio station began broadcasting programmes in the three minority languages. [16][27]

5.27 The Tonga live in north-western Zimbabwe. In the 1950s about two thirds of their population, some 57,000 people (in both Zimbabwe and Zambia) were moved from their ancestral lands to make way for the Kariba Dam. Tonga leaders have claimed that central government investment and relief, including cultural support such as primary school instruction in the Tonga language, has been inadequate. [16][27]

HOMOSEXUALS

5.28 Sex between men is illegal in Zimbabwe. The law makes no mention of sexual acts between women. Zimbabwean law recognises three classes of 'unnatural offence': sodomy, bestiality, and a group of proscribed acts referred to generally as an 'unnatural offence'. The categories make no distinction between consensual and non-consensual acts. There are reported to be fewer than 200 paid-up members of gay organisations in Zimbabwe. [17][18a][19]

5.29 In his New Year address on 1 January 2000 President Mugabe criticised homosexuality, describing homosexual relations as an abomination and decadence. In the mid-1990s, when gay rights group Gays and Lesbians of Zimbabwe (GALZ) applied to take part in Harare's prestigious international book fair, President Mugabe described homosexuals in a speech as "worse than pigs and dogs". He also called homosexuals "a scourge planted by the white man on a pure continent". Although GALZ participated in the book fair, the following year their stand was attacked and destroyed. [3v][18a]

5.30 Gays and Lesbians of Zimbabwe (GALZ) was established in 1990. GALZ has offices in Harare and Bulawayo and is considering forming a group in Mutare. The organisation reports itself to be relatively well funded and it owns its premises in Harare. GALZ made a submission to the Constitutional Commission in 2000 appealing for the inclusion of a sexual orientation clause in the draft constitution. GALZ has reported that it discussed lesbian and gay issues with the MDC, which reportedly stated that it would pursue a policy of tolerance towards gays and lesbians. [18b]

5.31 GALZ claims that police arrest members of the organisation on trumped-up charges and that they are pressured at work and at home to renounce their sexual orientation. The Government has encouraged the media to criticise homosexuality and report it negatively. The state-controlled Herald has published articles that GALZ headquarters is a "pick-up point" for local and foreign homosexuals that offers teenage boys for hire, accusations that GALZ has denied. [3v][19]

5.32 GALZ is active in the field of HIV/AIDS and through its support group, GALZ Positive, provides home-based care training for members. In 2000 six workshops on sexual activity within and outside relationships were held in Harare and Bulawayo. [18b]

Canaan Banana's Trial

5.33 In 2000 Zimbabwe's former President, the Reverend Canaan Banana, was sentenced to ten years in prison, nine of them suspended, for sexually assaulting and sodomising his bodyguards, one of whom claimed he was forced into a homosexual relationship with Banana in the 1980s. Banana had been convicted by the High Court in 1999 on eleven counts of sexual offences, including two of sodomy, but appealed to the Supreme Court against the conviction. However, the Supreme Court upheld the High Court's ruling. Banana denied being homosexual. The charges brought against him were more to do with rape and abuse of his position than to do with the issue of homosexual rights. It was reported in January 2001 that Banana, who had been receiving medical treatment for several months, was released from prison. [3a4][3a5][29]

OTHER ISSUES

FREEDOM OF ASSEMBLY & POLITICAL ASSOCIATION

5.34 In April 2001 Parliament passed a law banning foreign funding of political parties, a move clearly aimed by the Government at the MDC. While ZANU-PF is financed largely from state sources, the MDC relies on aid from local and foreign donors. MDC leader Morgan Tsvangirai criticised the new law as unconstitutional, saying that it impinges on freedom of association. [3w]

FREEDOM OF SPEECH & OF THE PRESS

General

5.35 Although the Constitution provides for freedom of expression it allows for legislation to limit this freedom on grounds such as defence and public order. The Government continues to restrict press freedom and monopolises radio broadcasting. Journalists faced increasing difficulties in 2000 as the Government sought to extend its control over the news in the face of political crises. The Government enforces restrictive laws against journalists and intimidates them. Security forces have arbitrarily detained journalists and have refused to punish security force members who have tortured journalists. In September 2000 the Supreme Court ruled the Government's monopoly on broadcasting to be unconstitutional. [2][30]

Newspapers

5.36 During 2000, the independent press grew substantially in relation to the newspapers that belong to the Mass Media Trust holding company, which is heavily influenced by ZANU-PF. Before the campaign for the parliamentary elections in June 2000, circulation of the independent Daily News grew significantly while the readership of the pro-Government Herald fell sharply. Although the major independent newspapers monitored Government policies and allowed opposition critics to write, most of them continue to exercise a degree of self-censorship owing to growing Government intimidation and the prospect of prosecution under criminal libel laws. [2]

5.37 In some areas during 2000 the Government appeared more tolerant of the press, such as in its criticism of official corruption while in other respects, such as reporting of Zimbabwe's

military involvement in the Democratic Republic of Congo, it showed itself to be more intolerant of press freedom. The Committee to Protect Journalists (CPJ) blamed President Mugabe for deliberately creating an atmosphere of danger and suspicion within Zimbabwe's independent media. In particular the CPJ condemned the campaign of harassment against the independent Daily News newspaper. [2][20a]

5.38 In January 1999 military and civilian police detained and tortured two journalists from the independent Standard newspaper, Mark Chavunduka and Ray Choto, who had reported that 23 army officers had been arrested in connection with an alleged planned army coup. The journalists were charged, under the colonial-era Law and Order Maintenance Act (LOMA), with publishing a false story capable of causing alarm or despondency. Defence Ministry officials ignored three separate High Court rulings ordering the journalists' release before they were finally freed. Clive Wilson, the Standard's editor, was also threatened by military police, who refused to identify themselves. The journalists subsequently sought compensation from the authorities for their torture and illegal detention. In April 2000 the Supreme Court ruled that the section of LOMA under which the journalists had been charged was unconstitutional. The journalists' legal challenge for their mistreatment was still pending at the end of 2000. [2][14a][14b]

5.39 In February 2000 the publisher of the Standard and two of the paper's journalists were arrested on charges of criminal defamation after the paper published an article accusing the Government of printing the country's new draft constitution without incorporating all the public's views. [2]

5.40 During the election campaign for the June 2000 parliamentary elections, ZANU-PF supporters and war veterans harassed, intimidated and abused journalists who they considered to be sympathetic to the opposition. All Zimbabwean media came under intense pressure during the election to cover the ZANU-PF Government in a positive way. The Government accused international journalists of colluding with the MDC and white farmers to discredit ZANU-PF. In April 2000 a Daily News journalist, photographer and driver were detained for two hours by ZANU-PF supporters and war veterans on a farm near Harare, and were threatened with death for allegedly supporting the MDC and white farmers. The newspaper staff were forced to chant ZANU-PF slogans, in view of police. [2][30]

5.41 Also in April 2000, the Daily News received a letter threatening the editor if the paper did not desist from criticising the Government and President Mugabe in particular. Three days later a bomb exploded in an art gallery below the offices of the Daily News. An Associated Press photographer was arrested in connection with the bombing later in April 2000 but was released in early May 2000 with no charges having been filed against him. In January 2001 a bomb exploded in the printing plant of the Daily News. The attack followed a warning from the Government's Information Minister, Jonathan Moyo, that it was only a matter of time before people put a stop to what he called the newspaper's "madness". War veterans' leader Chenjerai Hunzvi MP had also announced that war veterans intended to "ban" the Daily News. [2][3x][30]

5.42 In June 2000 war veterans beat and abducted a journalist for the Daily Independent newspaper, a foreign journalist, and his cameraman in Mutoko district. Police rescued those abducted within a few hours. No charges were filed against the perpetrators. In July 2000 war veterans assaulted Standard journalist Cenetayi Zvanya at a news conference at ZANU-PF headquarters. The war veterans detained Zvanya for two hours then released him. [2]

5.43 In February 2001 the BBC's Zimbabwe correspondent, Joseph Winter, fled the country after the Government withdrew his visa and his home was picketed by arm men. Also in February 2001 a Uruguayan journalist working for a South African newspaper was also expelled from Zimbabwe. [3y][3z]

5.44 In March 2001 the Government sacked the editors of Zimbabwe's largest state-controlled newspapers, intensifying a campaign by Minister for Information Jonathan Moyo to gag the media ahead of the 2002 presidential election. The editors of the Herald and the Sunday Mail were sacked without explanation shortly after the dismissal of the chairman of Zimbabwe Newspapers, which publishes the Herald and Sunday Mail, after he refused to implement a Government directive to fire editors perceived to be critical of government policy. The move was criticised by the Media Institute of Southern Africa, which described the action as a form of harassment against journalists. [4c][11b]

5.45 In April 2001 the chief editor and two reporters of the Daily News were questioned by police after being charged with defamation of President Mugabe following the publication in 2000 by the newspaper of reports linking Mugabe and Emmerson Mnangagwa, the Speaker of Parliament, to 'kickbacks' allegedly paid for awards of contracts paid for a new airport for Harare, that allegedly favoured ZANU-PF politicians and their business associates. The Daily News editor described the charges as evidence of 'continuing harassment' of independent journalists. [3a1][8c]

5.46 In June 2001 the Harare correspondent of the British Daily Telegraph newspaper was ordered to leave Zimbabwe. The International Press Institute in Vienna was among several groups to criticise the expulsion, seeing it as part of a consistent policy by the Zimbabwean Government to prevent the media, both inside and outside Zimbabwe, from discussing what is happening in the country. In July 2001, the Zimbabwean Government suspended the accreditation of BBC correspondents, accusing the BBC of "distortions and misrepresentation". [5z]

5.47 In August 2001, Geoff Nyarota, editor of the Daily News, was arrested along with his deputy, news editor and a reporter on charges of publishing rumour or false information likely to discredit the security forces after the paper published an article alleging that police had been involved in looting white-owned farms in Mashonaland West province. The journalists were released a few hours later after a High Court judge ruled that the charges were illegal but they were re-arrested on new charges of publishing subversive material, under the provisions of the Law and Order Maintenance Act, then released. [3a8][4d][31]

Radio and Television Broadcasting

5.48 Radio is the most important medium of public communication, especially for people in rural areas. The government controls all domestic radio stations through the state-owned Zimbabwe Broadcasting Corporation (ZBC), supervised by the Minister of Information and Publicity. In the President's Office. Ministers are reported to routinely review ZBC news and delete reports on the activities of political opponents. [2]

5.49 In September 2000 the Supreme Court declared the government's broadcasting monopoly to be unconstitutional. Despite a statement by the Information Minister that no private radio stations would be allowed to broadcast until the Government had set up a proper regulatory

framework for private operators, a private radio station called Capital Radio began operating. In October 2000 police shut down Capital Radio and seized its equipment, despite the issue by the High Court earlier the same day of a decision barring the seizure. The police also searched the homes of the station's co-owners and others associated with the station, including MDC MPs Michael Auret and David Coltart. The High Court ordered the return of the seized equipment and directed the Government to issue a licence within ten days. Most of the equipment was returned but a licence was not issued and, that same day, President Mugabe issued by decree temporary regulations giving the Information Minister the power to issue and deny broadcasting licences. Later in October 2000, a legal committee of Parliament, in a non-binding resolution, declared the new regulations unconstitutional. Capital Radio intends to appeal to the Supreme Court that the regulations are discriminatory. [2][5v][30]

5.50 In 1999 the Supreme Court ruled that the Government's monopoly on telecommunications was unconstitutional because it interfered with the right to freedom of expression. The Government subsequently granted a broadcasting licence to a private television station, Joy TV. However, the President's nephew, Leo Mugabe, is reported to have financial ties with Joy TV and the ZBC reportedly exercises editorial control over the station's programming. International television broadcasts are freely available through private cable and satellite firms. [2]

5.51 In April 2001 Parliament passed a sweeping new law establishing the Broadcasting Authority of Zimbabwe and giving the government control of broadcasting. The new law gives Jonathan Moyo's Information Ministry the final authority to issue broadcast licences and the right to withdraw licences from independent broadcasters. It also stipulates that independent broadcasters should give the government one-hour a week to air its policies. The law prohibits foreigners and non-residents from owning shares in broadcasting companies and limits individuals to a maximum of 10% in station ownership. The MDC criticised the new law as a crackdown on free speech ahead of presidential elections due to be held in 2002. [3w][30]

Internet Access

5.52 The Government does not restrict access to the Internet. However, in April 2000 Parliament passed legislation permitting the authorities to monitor all international e-mail messages entering and leaving Zimbabwe. The extent to which the security services may have used this authority to intercept e-mail communication is not known. Under the Posts and Telecommunications Bill of 2000 a new regulatory board was established with powers over Internet services. All Internet Service Providers (ISPs) will have to apply for private licences. The Government can take up to eight months to grant or accept applications for such licences and ISPs with less than 51% Zimbabwean ownership are ineligible. The Bill also gives the Government power to monitor communications in the interests of national security or maintenance of law and order. [2][30]

FREEDOM OF RELIGION

5.53 There is no state religion in Zimbabwe. The Constitution provides for freedom of religion and the government generally respects this right in practice. The government generally recognises all religions. Religious institutions do not have to be registered, although religious organisations that run schools or medical facilities must register those institutions with the ministries involved in their regulation. [2][28]

5.54 Estimates of the percentage of the population that is Christian vary between 55% and 60 to 70%. The Anglican Bishop of Harare heads the Zimbabwe Council of Churches, which has 20 member churches. At the end of 1998 Roman Catholics were estimated to number a little over one million. Bishop Abel Muzorewa, leader of the United Parties and a former Prime Minister, heads the United Methodist Church, which has 45,000 members. There is a small Muslim population, estimated at less than 1% of the population and comprising mainly Asian Zimbabweans. There are 12 mosques in Harare. In recent years Muslims have begun proselytising among the black population with some success. The Jewish population numbered 897 members at the end of 1997. President Mugabe has expressed scepticism about the increasing membership of evangelical and indigenous churches and has indicated that he believes that they could be subversive. [1][2][28]

5.55 Relations between the different religious groups are generally amicable. The Muslim, Jewish, Hindu and Buddhist populations are relatively small and are generally not in competition with Christian churches. There have been complaints by Muslims that private employers have refused them sufficient time to attend mosques on Fridays. [2][28]

5.56 There were reports in 2000 of growing tensions between mainstream Christian churches and practitioners of traditional indigenous religions. Several Christian leaders denounced what they claimed was an increase in 'Satanic' practices, which allegedly included drinking human blood and eating human flesh. There were continuing reports of ritual murders associated with traditional religious practices although the government actively enforces the law against ritual murders. [2][28]

5.57 In March 2001, the Reverend Paul Andrianatos, an Anglican priest, was ordered to leave Zimbabwe. Andrianatos had presided at the funeral in 2000 of Martin Olds, a Matabeleland farmer murdered by war veterans during the violence surrounding the land seizures and the election campaign, and in 2001 at the funeral of Martin Olds' mother Gloria, who was also murdered on her farm. At both funerals Andrianatos accused the Government of encouraging lawlessness and violence against white farmers. He stated that after conducting Martin Olds' funeral in 2000 he had been visited by members of the Central Intelligence Organisation who asked him about his comments at the funeral. South African-born Ordinate, married to a Zimbabwean, had been in the country for seven years. Shortly before presiding at Gloria Olds' funeral he was informed that his work permit would not be renewed. [20c][3a3]

WITCHCRAFT

5.58 Belief in witchcraft is strong and witch-hunting is a thriving business in rural communities. A number of ritual murders, seen as a form of witchcraft, have come before the courts. [20b]

5.59 The 1890 Witchcraft Suppression Act, dating from the early colonial era, criminalises witchcraft and carries penalties including imprisonment; anyone accusing another of witchcraft is subject to a fine or three years' imprisonment and a witch hunter may face seven years in gaol. The law reportedly defines witchcraft as the practice of sorcery without reference to the consequences intended by the practitioner. It is also an offence to brand another person a witch. Since 1997 the Zimbabwe National African Traditional Healers' Association has proposed amendments to the 1890 Act that would redefine witchcraft in terms of intent to cause harm including illness, injury or death. Mainstream Christian churches have, however, opposed any such change to the legislation. [2][20b][28]

5.60 There is some tension between the government and indigenous churches because of the churches' opposition to Western medical practices that result in the reduction of avoidable childhood diseases and deaths. Some members of indigenous churches believe in healing through prayer alone and refuse to have their children vaccinated. [2][28]

FREEDOM OF TRAVEL

5.61 Although the Constitution provides for the rights of freedom of movement and travel within and outside Zimbabwe, the Government has at times restricted these rights. There were various incidents during the campaign for parliamentary elections in June 2000 in which people's rights of free movement were interfered with. [2]

5.62 The Government invoked the Law and Order Maintenance Act in April 2000 to prevent the movement of political party supporters between different districts. In May 2000 police sealed roads leading into Masvingo, where an MDC rally was being held. [2]

MILITARY SERVICE

5.63 The 1980 Constitution does not mention conscription and leaves it to Parliament to fix the conditions of service in the armed forces. According to a government statement in 1997, Zimbabwe does not have compulsory military service. The 1979 National Service Act provides for the introduction of conscription, if considered necessary. [21]

5.64 Conscientious objection is legally recognised; Section 24 of the 1979 National Service Act provides for exemption from military service on conscientious grounds, such as religious beliefs, if conscription were to be introduced. It is not clear whether this exemption applies to professional serving members of the armed forces. [21]

5.65 After independence in 1980 the former Rhodesian armed forces and the black guerrilla forces, ZANLA and ZIPRA, were integrated into a new national defence force. Total numbers in the forces were reduced from 50,000 in 1993 to 39,000 in 1999; 35,000 in the army and 4,000 in the air force. The strength of the army is being reduced and it is planned to merge the air force into the army. [1][21]

5.66 Zimbabwe became involved in the civil war in the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) in 1998 when President Mugabe sent 11,000 troops, almost a third of the Zimbabwean army, to defend the late President Laurent Kabila's Government against rebels backed by Uganda and Rwanda. Although Angola and Namibia joined the alliance protecting Kabila's regime, Zimbabwe has more troops in the DRC than any other country. The Zimbabwean Government and businessmen have numerous commercial interests in DRC. [1][5w]

5.67 Observers blame military involvement in the DRC's civil war for wrecking the Zimbabwean economy and causing a desperate shortage of fuel and hard currency. The war has cost Zimbabwe about £20 million a month and is deeply unpopular. [5w]

5.68 All sides began disengaging from the DRC civil war in March 2001 in accordance with a peace deal signed in Lusaka in 1999, giving President Mugabe a face-saving formula for a

withdrawal of Zimbabwean forces. 200 front-line Zimbabwean troops left their positions in DRC in April 2001 with another 2,000 expected to follow in coming weeks. It is expected that some Zimbabwean forces will remain in the DRC, to protect President Joseph Kabila's regime and Zimbabwean commercial interests; Zimbabwean businessman and senior army officers run diamond mines in the DRC. [5w][32]

PRISON CONDITIONS

5.69 Prison conditions are harsh. Extreme overcrowding, shortages of clothing and poor sanitary conditions persist. The harsh conditions and a high incidence of HIV/AIDS are widely acknowledged to have contributed to a large number of deaths in prison. The Zimbabwe Prison Service recorded 1,051 cases of prisoners dying of AIDS-related causes during the past three years. [2]

5.70 To alleviate prison overcrowding the government established a successful community-sentencing programme. A human rights training programme for prison officials has also been established, in co-operation with the Legal Resource Foundation. Officials who mistreat prisoners are punished routinely. [2]

5.71 Female prisoners are held in separate cellblocks from male prisoners. There are an estimated 2,000 women in prison, out of a total prison population of over 21,000, increasingly for crimes of prostitution, fraud, petty theft and abandonment of children. Many women prisoners have to raise their children in prison if they have nobody outside to care for them. [2]

5.72 While the government permits international human rights monitors to visit prisons, the procedures to do so are difficult. Permission to make a visit is required from the Commissioner of Prisons and the Minister of Justice, which sometimes takes a month or longer to obtain or may not be granted at all. A local NGO that deals with prison issues was granted access on a number of occasions during 2000. [2]

HEALTH ISSUES

General

5.73 The improved health status achieved by Zimbabwe in the immediate years following independence has begun to deteriorate. Strong government financial support for the health sector in the 1980s led to rapid improvements in health, fertility and nutrition. Emphasis was placed on prevention, primary health care, family planning and child survival interventions. However, by the 1990s health indicators, although high relative to other sub-Saharan African countries, had stagnated or declined. Much of this deterioration can be attributed to HIV/AIDS. Also, economic difficulties resulted in a reduction in real terms in health spending and the pay of health workers in the 1990s. [22]

5.74 While HIV/AIDS has had a major negative impact on health indicators, some indices, such as those associated with women's preventative practices, are still impressive. Since 1988, the percentage of women giving birth in a medical facility and the percentage of children fully immunised has remained consistent at 69 % and 68% respectively. Antenatal care coverage has remained constant at over 90%. [22]

5.75 Heavy increases in the cost of some life-saving drugs were reported in early 2001. The increases were blamed on the falling value of the Zimbabwean dollar and general inflation in local costs. The price increases, coupled with recent increases in hospital fees, have further pushed the price of health care beyond the reach of many Zimbabweans. [23]

HIV/AIDS

5.76 Zimbabwe has one of the highest rates of HIV/AIDS prevalence in the world. The impact of HIV and AIDS on Zimbabwe saw life expectancy fall from 61 to 39 years by 1998. An estimated 1,500,000 people, a quarter of Zimbabwe's adult population, were infected with HIV/AIDS at the end of 1999. There were an estimated 160,000 deaths attributable to AIDS in 1999. It was estimated that there were over 620,000 orphans under 15 at the end of 1999 who had lost their mother or both parents to AIDS. The number of tuberculosis cases has risen five-fold since 1995, about two thirds of whom are HIV-positive. [2][22][24][25]

5.77 Basic treatment for infections related to HIV is available. However, owing to the volume of cases, patients are often discharged early from hospital. Antiretroviral therapy is only available privately and at high cost. Urban areas are better served than rural areas but even urban areas are increasingly underfunded. [26]

5.78 Treatment for most opportunist infections, e.g. tuberculosis, is state funded but there is increasing evidence of drug shortages. Other treatment is beyond the reach of most people. The usual range of drugs is available but often monotherapy is prescribed, for cost reasons. [26]

5.79 Government policy on HIV/AIDS focuses on prevention, treatment of opportunistic infections and home-based care. There is a national AIDS levy, a 3% tax, but this is not intended to cover shortages in regular state expenditure. [26]

5.80 President Mugabe's views on homosexuality can affect the rights of people who become infected with HIV/AIDS, e.g. prisoners. Overcrowding and poor sanitation aggravate outbreaks of HIV/AIDS-related illnesses among prisoners. [2][26]

LAND REFORM

5.81 During the colonial era, white settlers forced many black Zimbabweans off their ancestral lands. The issue of land ownership was a major cause of the guerrilla war against the white minority administration in the 1960s and 1970s. According to Government figures, some 4,400 white Zimbabweans own 32% of agricultural land, around 10 million hectares. One million black Zimbabwean peasant farmers farm around 16 million hectares. Many of the farms owned by whites were purchased after 1980 with certificates of no interest from the government; these farms were therefore not seized from the original African occupants. [3a2][32]

5.82 Whites own much of the highly productive land in fertile areas with better rainfall whereas black-owned land is often in drought-prone regions. While it is the case that whites own a disproportionate share of the better agricultural land, there are concerns that redistributing land from the efficient, mainly white-owned, commercial farming sector to people without the means to manage the land properly will be disastrous for Zimbabwe's economy. [3a2]

5.83 Following independence in 1980 a programme of land reform was begun, based on the 'willing seller, willing buyer' principle. The United Kingdom has provided £44 million since 1980 for land reform. However, much of the redistributed land has ended up in the hands of Zimbabwean Government ministers and officials rather than the landless peasants who were supposed to benefit from the redistribution programme. The British Government and other international donors have therefore refused to support further land reform unless the process becomes more transparent. [3a2][5x]

5.84 In 1997 President Mugabe promised to seize 1,500 mainly white-owned farms without compensation. The International Monetary Fund forced him to withdraw his threats in 1998 and abide by the constitutional requirement to pay compensation for acquired land. In 1999 the Government bought only 50 farms. [3a2][5x]

5.85 A land conference was held in 1998 and a 10-year programme of land redistribution was agreed between farmers, the Zimbabwean and British governments and other donor countries. However, the Zimbabwean Government broke the agreement later in 1998 when it published a list of 800 farms for compulsory acquisition. Farmers were able to appeal against the proposed seizures and the programme was halted. Frustrated by this, President Mugabe pushed through a constitutional amendment in February 2000 that removed farmers' rights to compensation. [5x][32]

5.86 President Mugabe has exploited the unresolved land issue in an attempt to restore his falling popularity. In a pattern of electoral violence, a campaign of farm occupations began in February 2000. Squatters, claiming to be war veterans, occupied 1,000 white-owned farms and five white farmers were murdered in the violent run-up to the June 2000 parliamentary elections. The war veterans also attacked many black farm workers. The police did little to apprehend the perpetrators of the violence. [3e][3f][5e][5x][5y]

5.87 At a meeting of Commonwealth ministers held in Abuja, Nigeria in September 2001 Zimbabwe signed an agreement aimed at resolving the land issue. The agreement provided for the ending of illegal occupations of white-owned farms and a return to the rule of law in return for financial assistance to fund land reform. The United Kingdom agreed to provide £36 million to compensate white farm-owners whose land would be redistributed. ZANU-PF approved the Nigerian-brokered deal, but representatives of war veterans who have spearheaded the farm invasions since 2000 announced that they did not feel bound by the Abuja deal. Farmers reported that invasions had continued following the Abuja agreement. [3a12][3a13]

5.88 In October 2001 a group of ministers from Commonwealth countries visited Zimbabwe to investigate allegations of human rights abuses and assess the implementation of the Abuja land agreement. They heard that farm occupations had continued since the agreement had been made. All parties remained committed, in public, to the agreement. [3a14][3a15]

ANNEX A

CHRONOLOGY

1890 - British Colony of Southern Rhodesia established; subsequent influx of white settlers, mainly from United Kingdom and South Africa

1953 - Southern Rhodesia united with Northern Rhodesia and Nyasaland, also British territories, to form the Central African Federation (CAF)

1962 - white voters in Southern Rhodesia vote into power the Rhodesia Front party, committed to maintaining white rule and achieving independence from UK

1963 - UK dissolves CAF; Northern Rhodesia and Nyasaland granted independence by UK under majority rule administrations, as Zambia and Malawi respectively

1963 - black nationalist opposition splits and Zimbabwe African National Union (ZANU) led by Reverend Ndabaningi Sithole breaks away from Joshua Nkomo's Zimbabwe African People's Union (ZAPU)

1965 - Rhodesia Front Prime Minister Ian Smith makes illegal unilateral declaration of independence (UDI) for Southern Rhodesia from UK, renaming the territory Rhodesia

1976 - ZAPU and ZANU combine their military efforts in the Patriotic Front (PF) alliance

1979 - Ian Smith's administration concludes an 'internal settlement' with some black nationalists; Bishop Abel Muzorewa becomes first black Prime Minister of "Zimbabwe-Rhodesia"

12/1979 - Lancaster House constitutional conference in London, attended by all parties including the PF produces independence settlement for Rhodesia; whites to be guaranteed 20 seats in new 100-seat parliament

2/1980 - Robert Mugabe's ZANU-PF party wins 57 out of 80 'common roll' seats and Nkomo's PF (ZAPU) wins 20 seats; Bishop Muzorewa's UANC party wins only three seats and Rhodesia Front wins all 20 seats reserved for whites

18.4.1980 - Independence of Zimbabwe - Robert Mugabe of ZANU-PF becomes Prime Minister and Reverend Canaan Banana becomes President, with ceremonial duties only

1982-87 - insurgency in Matabeleland; Government sends mainly Shona Fifth Brigade to quell dissent - thousands killed during pacification campaign, causing resentment of Government by the Ndebele

1987 - reconciliation between ZANU-PF and ZAPU ends Matabeleland conflict; ZANU-PF and ZAPU merge, keeping ZANU-PF name; reserved seats for whites abolished; Prime Minister Mugabe becomes executive President

1988 - amnesty proclaimed in Matabeleland, leading to rapid improvement in security; Edgar Tekere expelled from ZANU-PF for persistent denunciation of party leadership and policies

1989 - Edgar Tekere founds Zimbabwe Unity Movement (ZUM) in opposition to ZANU-PF

3/1990 - Mugabe wins Presidential election, polling 2.03 million votes against ZUM's Edgar Tekere's 413,840; ZANU-PF wins 117 of the 120 contested seats in parliamentary elections, with ZUM taking 20% of the vote and two seats

8/1990 - Joshua Nkomo becomes Vice-President, in addition to existing Vice-President Simon Muzenda

1994 - ZUM merges with Bishop Muzorewa's UANC; Muzorewa forms United Parties grouping later in year

4/1995 - ZANU-PF wins decisive victory in general elections, although eight opposition parties boycott polls - ZANU-PF takes 118 seats and Sithole's ZANU-Ndonga two

10/1995 - Sithole charged with conspiracy to assassinate Mugabe

3/1996 - Mugabe wins Presidential elections with nearly 93% of the vote, but turnout less than 32%

7/1997 - criminal charges brought against former President Canaan Banana for alleged sexual assault against a former male employee

12/1997 - Sithole found guilty of plotting to kill Mugabe and sentenced to two years' imprisonment, but released on bail pending appeal

11/1998 - Banana convicted on 11 charges of sexual assault, sentenced to ten years' imprisonment in 1/1999 - most of the sentence suspended but Banana to serve a minimum one-year in prison

7/1999 - Vice-President Joshua Nkomo dies

5/2000 - Former President Canaan Banana ordered to serve a year in prison for sexually assaulting a male bodyguard

6/2000 - MDC wins 57 of 120 directly-elected seats in parliamentary elections marred by a violent campaign, perpetrated mainly by Government supporters against the MDC and white farmers that leaves 37 people dead

11/2000 - ZANU-PF holds Marondera West in by-election

2000 - Reverend Ndabaningi Sithole, leader of ZANU-Ndonga, dies

1/2001 - ZANU-PF wins Bikita West in by-election from MDC; campaign marred by violence

1/2001 - Canaan Banana reportedly released from prison

4/2001 - 6/2000 election results in Buhera North, in which ZANU-PF's candidate was declared the winner over MDC leader Morgan Tsvangirai, and in Hurungwe East nullified by High Court; by-elections pending

7/2001 - ZANU-PF holds Bindura in by-election with increased majority; violent campaign and MDC candidate detained by police

9/2001 - MDC wins Bulawayo mayoral elections with landslide majority; ZANU-PF holds Makoni West and Chikomba parliamentary seats in by-elections with increased majority - results emphasise rural-urban political divide

ANNEX B

MAIN POLITICAL ORGANISATIONS

Zimbabwe African National Union-Patriotic Front (ZANU-PF) - governing party of Zimbabwe since independence in 1980; mainly Shona-based but includes Ndebele and whites, led by President Robert Mugabe; holds 61 of the 120 directly-elected seats in Parliament (by-elections pending in Buhera West and Hurungwe East, where ZANU-PF election wins overturned by High Court 4/2001) and, with Presidential appointees and Chiefs, effectively holds 91 seats out of 150 in total

Movement for Democratic Change (MDC) - official opposition since 6/2000 when it won 57 seats in Parliament (subsequently lost one seat in a by-election); formed 1999; multi-racial party with Shona, Ndebele and white MPs; led by Morgan Tsvangirai, former Secretary-General of Zimbabwe Conference of Trade Unions (ZCTU)

ZANU-Ndonga - formerly ZANU-Sithole, led by the late Reverend Ndabaningi Sithole until his death in 2000, won one parliamentary seat (Chipinge South) in 6/2000 elections

United Parties - led by Bishop Abel Muzorewa, former leader of UANC, founded 1994

Zimbabwe Union of Democrats (ZUD) - led by Margaret Dongo, MP for Harare South until June 2000; fielded 16 candidates in 6/2000 elections but did not win any seats

ZAPU (or ZAPU 2000) - a minor Ndebele-based party that contested, unsuccessfully, some seats in Matabeleland in the 6/2000 elections

Conservative Alliance of Zimbabwe - successor to the Rhodesia Front, supported by sections of the white population

Liberty Party of Zimbabwe (LPZ) - minor Ndebele-based party led by Canaan Moyo; fielded 13 candidates in Matabeleland in 6/2000 elections but achieved very few votes; a breakaway group, which contested 9 seats in 6/2000, styles itself simply the Liberty Party

Zimbabwe African People's Union (ZAPU) - mainly-Ndebele party led by the late Joshua Nkomo that, with ZANU, fought while rule in the 1970s; merged with ZANU-PF in 1987

Rhodesia Front - governing party of Rhodesia to 1979, renamed the Republican Front after independence in 1980 and then the Conservative Alliance of Zimbabwe

Patriotic Front - alliance of Mugabe's mainly-Shona ZANU and Nkomo's mainly-Ndebele ZAPU that fought together against white rule in the 1970s

United African National Council (UANC) - former party led by Bishop Muzorewa, won three seats in pre-independence elections in 1980, merged with ZUM 1994

Zimbabwe Unity Movement (ZUM) - founded by ZANU-PF's former Secretary-General Edgar Tekere 1989, won two seats in Manicaland in 1990 elections, merged with UANC 1994

ANNEX C

PROMINENT PEOPLE, PAST & PRESENT

- **Robert Gabriel Mugabe** - Shona, first Prime Minister of independent Zimbabwe 1980-87, first executive President 1987 to present, leader of governing ZANU-PF party
- **Morgan Tsvangirai** - Shona, President of opposition MDC, previously Secretary-General of Zimbabwe Conference of Trade Unions (ZCTU) and onetime ZANU-PF party official
- **Gibson Sibanda MP** - Vice-President of MDC and leader of MDC MPs in Parliament
- **Simon Vengayi Muzenda** - ZANU-PF, one of two Vice-Presidents of Zimbabwe
- **Joseph Msika** - ZANU-PF, one of two Vice-Presidents of Zimbabwe, replaced Joshua Nkomo after his death in 1999
- **Professor Jonathan Moyo MP** - Ndebele, ZANU-PF Minister of State for Information & Publicity
- **Professor Welshman Ncube MP** - Ndebele, Secretary-General of MDC, MP for Bulawayo North
- **David Coltart MP** - white Zimbabwean, prominent human rights lawyer, MDC MP for Bulawayo South
- **Chenjerai 'Hitler' Hunzvi MP** - leader of war veterans in farm occupations, elected as ZANU-PF MP for Chikomba in 6/2000; died in car accident 6/2001
- **Ian Douglas Smith** - Prime Minister of colonial Rhodesia in 1960s, declared illegal independence (UDI) from UK 1965, PM of Rhodesia until 1979
- **Joshua Nkomo** - Ndebele, leader of ZAPU until party's merger with ZANU-PF in 1987, Vice-President of Zimbabwe 1990 until his death in 1999
- **Reverend Canaan Banana** - first, non-executive, President of Zimbabwe 1980-1987; sentenced to a year in prison in 2000 for sexually assaulting a male employee, reportedly released from prison 1/2001
- **Bishop Abel Muzorewa** - Prime Minister of "Zimbabwe-Rhodesia" under power-sharing 'internal settlement' in 1979, former leader of UANC, leader of United Parties since 1994, United Methodist Church's Bishop of Zimbabwe
- **Reverend Ndabaningi Sithole** - former leader of ZANU, latterly leader of small ZANU-Ndonga party, died 2000

- **Margaret Dongo** - leader of Zimbabwe Union of Democrats (ZUD), MP for Harare South until lost seat in 6/2000 elections
- **Edgar Tekere** - former ZANU-PF Secretary-General, expelled from party 1988 for denouncing plans for one-party state, founded opposition Zimbabwe Unity Movement 1989 and unsuccessfully challenged Mugabe for Presidency in 1990
- **Tarugarira Wilson Khumbula MP** - ZANU-Ndonga MP for Chipinge South, the only MP not from ZANU-PF or MDC in 6/2000 elections

ANNEX D

PARLIAMENTARY ELECTION RESULTS JUNE 2000

[AVAILABLE IN HARD COPY ONLY]

Note:

- Marondera West was held by ZANU-PF in a by-election in November 2000
- Bikita West was won by ZANU-PF from the MDC in a by-election in January 2001
- Bindura was held by ZANU-PF in a by-election in July 2001
- Makoni West was held by ZANU-PF in a by-election in September 2001
- Chikomba was held by ZANU-PF in a by-election in September 2001
- In April 2001 the High Court overturned the results in Buhera North and Hurungwe East (both declared ZANU-PF victories in June 2001); by-elections are pending in both constituencies

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 - (d) Fugitive farmer becomes MP, 27 June 2000
 - (e) Court blow for Zimbabwe veterans, 19 April 2000
 - (f) Fifth white farmer killed, 1 June 2000
 - (g) Winners & losers, 27 June 2000
 - (h) Zimbabwe court boosts opposition, 26 April 2000
 - (i) Zimbabwe amnesty on election violence, 10 October 2000
 - (j) Blast at Zimbabwe opposition HQ, 12 September 2000
 - (k) MDC offices raided again, 15 September 2000
 - (l) Zimbabwe opposition by-election defeat, 27 November 2000
 - (m) Zimbabwe veteran denies threats, 29 April 2001
 - (n) Tight security ahead of Zimbabwe poll, 2 January 2001
 - (o) By-election boost for Mugabe, 15 January 2001
 - (p) Mugabe to seek re-election, 17 April 2001
 - (q) Zimbabwe's top judge told to go, 27 February 2001
 - (r) Mugabe man named top judge, 9 March 2001
 - (s) Zimbabwe rejects lawyers' criticism, 23 April 2001
 - (t) Madness of Matabele deaths, 2 July 2000
 - (u) Zimbabwe tightens citizenship laws, 27 March 2001
 - (v) Homosexual & hated in Zimbabwe, 12 August 1998
 - (w) Mugabe tightens hold on media, 4 April 2001
 - (x) Zimbabwe newspaper bombed, 28 January 2001
 - (y) Why I left Zimbabwe, 19 February 2001
 - (z) Mugabe opponents predict early poll, 20 February 2001
 - (a1) Zimbabwe press on defamation charges, 5 April 2001
 - (a2) Who owns the land, 26 April 2000
 - (a3) Priest ordered out of Zimbabwe, 11 March 2001
 - (a4) Banana loses sodomy case appeal, 29 May 2000
 - (a5) Banana slips out of prison, 30 January 2001
 - (a6) 'Thousands of blacks' evicted in Zimbabwe, 30 August 2001
 - (a7) Zimbabwe acts against BBC, 26 July 2001
 - (a8) Zimbabwe arrests revive media crackdown fears, 20 August 2001
 - (a9) Mugabe's party wins key Zimbabwe poll, 30 July 2001
 - (a10) Mugabe's opponents threaten boycott, 25 September 2001
 - (a11) Zimbabwe's political divide deepens, 12 September 2001
 - (a12) Text of Zimbabwe agreement, 7 September 2001

- (a13) ZANU-PF approves land deal, 18 September 2001
- (a14) Delegation divided over Zimbabwe, 27 October 2001
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- (e) Zimbabwe police help the looters, claim farmers, 15 August 2001
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