



Australian Government
Refugee Review Tribunal

Country Advice

Zimbabwe

Zimbabwe – ZWE39467 – Police/military
camps in Braeside – Treatment of Seventh
Day Adventists
24 November 2011

1. Is/was there a ZANU-PF military campsite at Braeside, Harare?

No sources were located indicating the presence of a ZANU-PF or a Zimbabwean military campsite at Braeside, Harare. Reports were found, however, of a Zimbabwe Republic Police (ZRP) camp/police station in Braeside. Reports indicate that the police station is used to detain political prisoners with allegations that detainees are beaten during interrogations at the Braeside police station.

A report on *zwnews.com* (a London-based pro-democracy news service¹) indicates that a ZRP station, with members residing on site, is located at Braeside.² The report claims that this facility, and 12 other military and police stations/camps were moved into the electorate of Harare Central in an alleged attempt by ZANU-PF to increase its vote in that seat. A Google Map satellite image (see Photo 1) of the Braeside Police Station suggests that the „station’ consists of a number of buildings.

Several reports from 2007 to 2009 indicate that Braeside Police Station has been used to hold anti-government dissidents who were arrested or detained for questioning. Two sources indicate that an office of the Central Intelligence Organisation (CIO), the Zimbabwean secret police, was located at Braeside. NGO and news reports also allege the use of torture and denial of food to detained activists held at Braeside.

- A 2009 *New Zimbabwe* (described by *worldpress.org* as an independent news service³) report claimed that an office of the CIO was located at Braeside Police Station.⁴ The report claimed an activist was moved (while covered in blankets) between Braeside Police Station and a nearby military camp in Seke Road (See photo 2 at the end of the response). No further reports were located to clarify the location of this military camp.

¹ Stanford University Library (undated), „Zimbabwe Newspapers and News on the Internet’, <http://library.stanford.edu/depts/ssrg/africa/zimbabwe/zimnews.html> - Accessed 23 November 2011

² Majoni, T. 2005, „Row over constituency boundaries’, *Sunday Mirror*, 13 February, *zwnews* website, <http://www.zwnews.com/print.cfm?ArticleID=11220> - Accessed 23 November 2011

³ World Press (undated), World Newspapers and Magazines – Zimbabwe, <http://www.worldpress.org/newspapers/AFRICA/Zimbabwe.cfm> - Accessed 23 November 2011

⁴ Mbele, F. 2009, „Karidza says CIO accused him of backing Mnangagwa’, *New Zimbabwe*, 13 November, <http://www.newzimbabwe.com/pages/chiyangwa30.12738.html> - Accessed 23 November 2011 ;

The presence of the CIO is also discussed at: „Attempt to kill Mujuru?’ 2006, *The Zimbabwean*, 2 August <http://www.thezimbabwean.co.uk/news/4838/attempt-to-kill-mujuru.html> - Accessed 23 November 2011

- A 2008 Amnesty International report referred to a claim made by a senior (un-named) Movement for Democratic Change (MDC) official that 14 female MDC members were denied access to food while being detained at Braeside Police Station.⁵
- In 2008 *The Zimbabwean* (an online news service based in South Africa and the UK) reported a claim by a Movement for Democratic Change (MDC) activist that he was tortured to the point where officers had to call for a doctor to assess his condition.⁶ The activist claimed to have been water-boarded while held at Braeside Police Station.
- A March 2007 *ZimOnline* (an „independent’ online newspaper based in South Africa) story on the trial of a group of MDC officials reported that a female defendant suffered severe injuries following “savage assaults at the hands of crack commandos in police attire during her detention at Braeside police station.”⁷

Photo 1 – Google Maps satellite photo showing Braeside Police station (marked at A).⁸



⁵ Amnesty International 2008, *Zimbabwe A trail of violence after the Ballot*, AFR 46/014/2008, p. 4

<http://www.amnesty.org/en/library/asset/AFR46/014/2008/en/38638bc6-323b-11dd-adb0-a55f274f1a5a/afr460142008eng.pdf> - Accessed 23 November 2011

⁶ „Magistrate orders probe into activists' torture claims’ 2009, *The Zimbabwean*, 1 September

<http://www.thezimbabwean.co.uk/human-rights/17682/magistrate-orders-probe-into-activists-torture-claims.html> - Accessed 23 November 2011

⁷ Muranje, B. 2007, „The MDC’s ‚courtroom unity’ and Mugabe’s dogs of war’, *ZimOnline*, 14 March

<http://www.zimonline.co.za/Article.aspx?ArticleId=1015> - Accessed 23 November 2011

⁸ Google Map (undated), „Satellite view of Harare, Zimbabwe showing Braeside Police Station’,

<http://maps.google.com.au/maps?q=Police+Station,+Braeside,+Queensway,+Harare,+Zimbabwe&hl=en&ll=-17.841229,31.059229&spn=0.003963,0.010278&sll=-17.848552,31.087961&sspn=0.06536,0.131922&vpsrc=6&hq=Police+Station.&hnear=Queensway,+Harare+South,+Harare,+Zimbabwe&t=h&z=18> - Accessed 23 November 2011

2. Deleted.

3. Does the government of Zimbabwe discriminate against the Seventh Day Adventist Church and/or its members?

No references were found explicitly stating that the Zimbabwe Government discriminates against the SDA Church or its members. The 2010 US Department of State (USDOS) *International Religious Freedom Report (July-December)* notes that the SDA Church has a long history in Zimbabwe particularly in the building and operation of educational facilities from primary schools to universities.⁹ No information is provided in the USDOS report to indicate that the SDA Church or its members are discriminated against by the Zimbabwean Government or at a societal level. The SDA website indicates the church has 1,324 churches in Zimbabwe and 679,849 members (out of a total Zimbabwean population of approximately 12 million).¹⁰

Two sources were located (one dated and one recent) containing quotes from individuals alleging that SDA members are discriminated against on the basis of a perceived link to the MDC. A 2002 article in *The Daily News* (described by worldpress.org as pro-opposition¹¹ but accused of being under the control of the CIO by another Zimbabwean news site¹²) quotes a source (who refused to be named citing security fears) as commenting that “members of the Seventh Day Adventist and the Zion Christian Church were ... attacked for being MDC „apologists’.”¹³ The report did not provide any details on the nature of these attacks, nor were other references located to verify the claim.

A May 2011 report in anti-government, British-based news site *The Zimbabwean* quoted MDC officials claiming that SDA members in Mutoko were prevented from hiring a local school to conduct their services.¹⁴ The article claims the decision to ban the hiring came from “overzealous” local ZANU-PF supporters on the basis that some local SDA members were also MDC members. No independent sources were located to confirm the incident occurred or that the denial of public buildings such as schools to SDA congregations is an official policy.

In contrast to the above, reports from 2011 indicate that the Zimbabwe President, Robert Mugabe, has a favourable opinion of the SDA Church. These reports relate to the attendance of Mugabe at the wedding, held at an SDA church, of the daughter of Mugabe’s farm manager.¹⁵ As part of the wedding ceremonies, Mugabe made a speech in which he praised

⁹ US Department of State 2011, *2010 International Religious Freedom Report (July-December)*, 13 September, www.state.gov/g/drl/rls/irf/2010_5/168438.htm - Accessed 23 November 2011

¹⁰ Adventist Organizational Directory 2011, „Zimbabwe Union Conference Online Statistics’ 26 October, <http://www.adventistdirectory.org/viewAdmField.aspx?AdmFieldID=ZBUC> - Accessed 23 November 2011

¹¹ Stanford University Library (undated), „Zimbabwe Newspapers and News on the Internet’, <http://library.stanford.edu/depts/ssrg/africa/zimbabwe/zimnews.html> - Accessed 23 November 2011

¹² „Scandal rocks Zimbabwe media industry’ 2009, *newzimbabwe.com*, 13 November, <http://www.newzimbabwe.com/pages/ciogate.12973.html> - Accessed 23 November 2011

¹³ Immigration and Refugee Board of Canada 2003, *ZWE40814.E Zimbabwe: Treatment of Seventh-Day Adventist Church members (January 2002 - January 2003)*, 10 February at http://www.unhcr.org/refworld/publisher/IRBC/_ZWE.3f7d4e4018_0.html - Accessed 23 November 2011

¹⁴ Kwaramba, F. 2011, „Zanu thugs ban church in Mutoko’, *The Zimbabwean*, 28 September, <http://www.thezimbabwean.co.uk/news/zimbabwe/53197/zanu-thugs-ban-church-in.html> - Accessed 24 November 2011

¹⁵ Carpenter, A. 2011, „Adventist Vice President: "President Mugabe preaches the same gospel we preach."’, *Spectrum*, 16 May, <http://spectrummagazine.org/blog/2011/05/16/adventist-vice-president-president-mugabe-preaches-same-gospel-we-preach> - Accessed 24 November 2011

the SDA particularly for its stance against homosexuality,¹⁶ and describing the SDA Church as having “the best music”.¹⁷ The *Zimbabwe Herald* noted that the SDA singing group (who sang at the wedding) has performed for the first family since the 1980s.¹⁸ The *Zimbabwe Herald* in a different article reported that at the wedding, the SDA Church vice president for Southern Indian Ocean Division, Pastor Paminus Machamire, gave a speech praising Mugabe.¹⁹

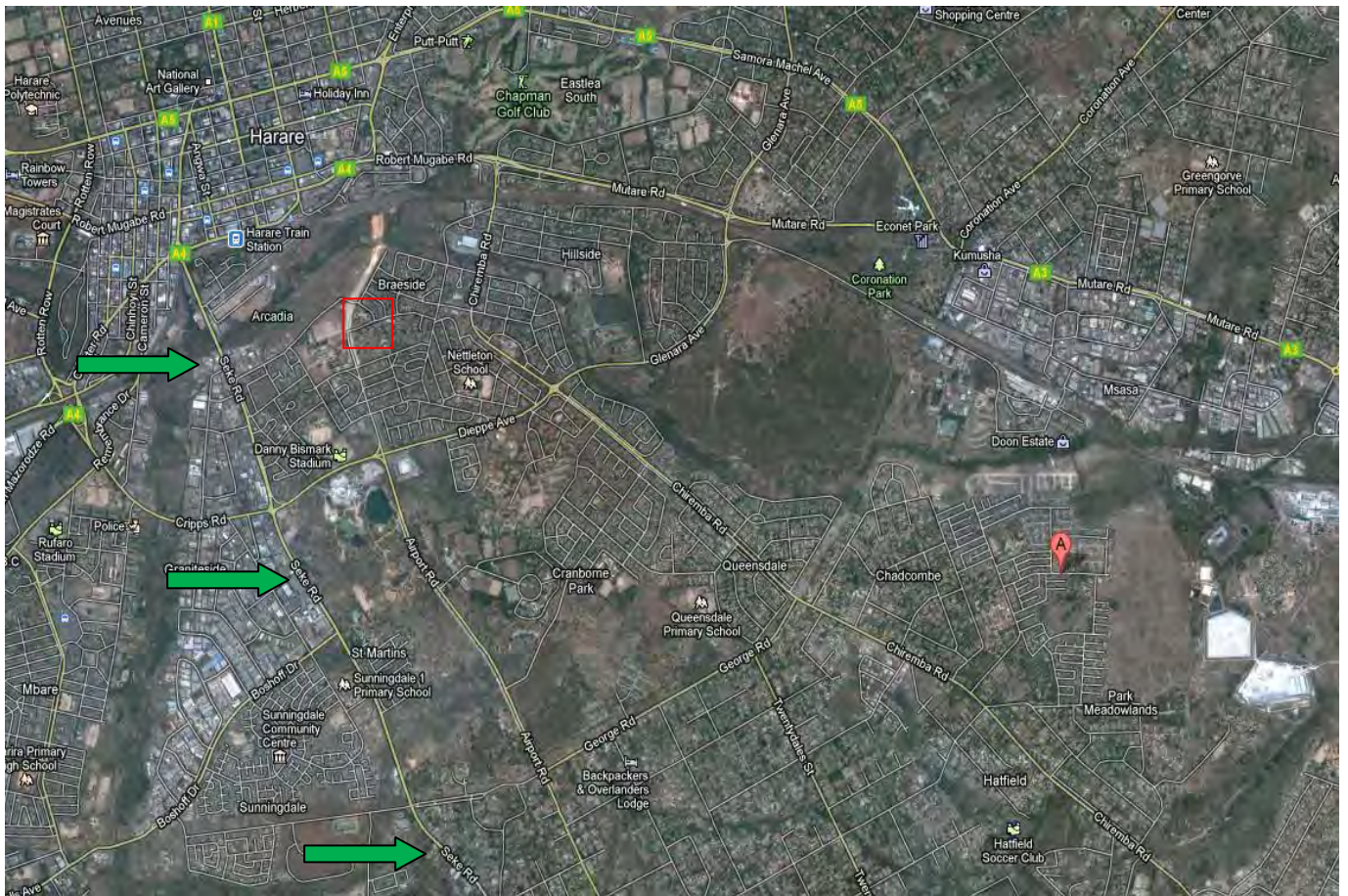
¹⁶ Carpenter, A. 2011, „Adventist Vice President: "President Mugabe preaches the same gospel we preach."”, *Spectrum*, 16 May, <http://spectrummagazine.org/blog/2011/05/16/adventist-vice-president-president-mugabe-preaches-same-gospel-we-preach> - Accessed 24 November 2011

¹⁷ Nemukuyu, D. 2011, „President Hails Seventh-Day Adventist Church Choral Music’ *The Herald*, 16 May, All Africa website <http://allafrica.com/stories/201105170076.html> - Accessed 24 November 2011

¹⁸ Nemukuyu, D. 2011, „President Hails Seventh-Day Adventist Church Choral Music’ *The Herald*, 16 May, All Africa website <http://allafrica.com/stories/201105170076.html> - Accessed 24 November 2011

¹⁹ Nemukuyu, D. 2011, „Bogus Churches Slammed’, *The Zimbabwean*, 15 May, http://www.herald.co.zw/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=10033 - Accessed 24 November 2011

Photo 2 – Map of locations referred to in this response. Seke Road is shown with green arrows, the police station at Braeside with red box, and Msasa Drive with an A.²⁰ Note that Seke Road continues for some distance past the end of this map and the exact location of the military camp located on Seke Road is not known.



²⁰ Google Maps (undated), 'Satellite view of Harare, Zimbabwe showing Braeside, Seke Road, and Msasa Drive' <http://maps.google.com.au/maps?q=Msasa+Dr,+Harare,+Zimbabwe&hl=en&ll=-17.848552,31.087961&spn=0.06536,0.131922&sl=-17.84177,31.074743&sspn=0.065362,0.131922&vpsrc=6&hnear=Msasa+Dr,+Hatfield,+Harare,+Zimbabwe&t=h&z=14> - Accessed 24 November 2011

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