



Refugee Documentation Centre (Ireland)
LEGAL AID BOARD

Zimbabwe - Researched and compiled by the Refugee Documentation Centre of Ireland on Thursday 8 November 2012

Information on human right abuses committed by Zanu PF in 2012 and available police protection

In October 2012 *IRIN News* notes:

“Ahead of parliamentary and presidential elections, the sabotaging of businesses and projects affiliated with Prime Minister Morgan Tsvangirai’s MDC party has grown increasingly widespread” (*IRIN News* (11 October 2012) *Zimbabwe: The politics of suffering*).

Commenting on this and other incidents involving ZANU PF this report also states:

“The incidents have been reported to the police, and the names of the perpetrators disclosed, but no arrest have been made” (*ibid*).

In October 2012 a report issued by the *United States Congress Tom Lantos Human Rights Commission* notes:

“There remains a widely-held perception that ZANU-PF supporters are above the law and this appears to be substantiated when police only arrest opponents of ZANU-PF” (*United States Congress Tom Lantos Human Rights Commission* (18 October 2012) *Human Rights in Zimbabwe (Testimony of Sarah Hager, Amnesty International USA)*).

Radio Netherlands Worldwide in October 2012 notes:

“According to starving villagers in southern Zimbabwe, officials of President Robert Mugabe’s ZANU-PF party are denying them food. Why? Because they didn’t vote for the right party in previous elections” (*Radio Netherlands Worldwide* (25 October 2012) *Zimbabwe: Food as political weapon*).

A report issued in October 2012 by *IRIN News* states:

“An attack on a political rally by uniformed soldiers is stoking fears of a reprise of state-sponsored violence against NGOs, human rights activists and parties opposed to President Robert Mugabe’s ZANU-PF in the lead-up to a referendum on a draft constitution and scheduled parliamentary and presidential elections in 2013” (*IRIN News* (1 October 2012) *Zimbabwe: Security sector reform key to peaceful elections*).

This document also states:

“The military has been unambiguous in its support of ZANU-PF. Zimbabwe Defence Forces Chief of Staff Maj-Gen Martin Chedondo reportedly told about 3,000 soldiers of 2 Brigade earlier this year during a training exercise that they should accept no political party but ZANU-PF” (*ibid*).

It is also noted in this document that:

“The formation of the unity government saw ZANU-PF retain control of the security apparatus, including the army, air force, police and the Central Intelligence Organisation (CIO), the national intelligence agency and headed by Happyton Bonyongwe. The CIO reports directly to the office of the president” (ibid).

A report issued in August 2012 by *Zimbabwe Human Rights NGO Forum* states:

“The clients interviewed reported that they were turned down by the police when they tried to lodge complaints arising from political violence perpetrated by ZANU PF supporters. Some clients also reported that they were actually apprehended, arrested and detained by the police, when they tried to report incidents of political violence perpetrated against them by ZANU PF supporters” (Zimbabwe Human Rights NGO Forum (July 2012) *A Culture of Impunity In Zimbabwe, A Report on Access to Justice for Survivors of Organized Violence and Torture (OVT) In Zimbabwe*, p.11).

This report also notes:

“It was also a common trend in most of the areas that, the survivors of OVT were assaulted at ZANU PF bases in full view of the police, who seemed to acquiesce to the acts of violence” (ibid, p.12).

OVT is an acronym for Organized Violence and Torture.

A publication released in July 2012 by *Sokwanele* notes:

“Those who stand up for their rights and join demonstrations or canvass for political parties other than ZANU-PF face possible arrest, severe beatings and torture in custody” (Sokwanele (15 July 2012) *"I Can Arrest You", The Zimbabwe Republic Police And Your Rights*).

References

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This response was prepared after researching publicly accessible information currently available to the Refugee Documentation Centre within time constraints. This response is not and does not purport to be conclusive as to the merit of any particular claim to refugee status or asylum. Please read in full all documents referred to.

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