



ZESN/ZPP/ZLHR INDEPENDENT CONSTITUTION MONITORING PROJECT (ZZZICOMP) ALERT4

ZANU PF YOUTHS ON A RAMPAGE IN CHIVI

Harare, 26 July 2010- A district administrator in Masvingo has gone into hiding fearing for his life after he was threatened by Zanu PF militias for his contributions at a constitutional outreach meeting at Chivi Centre.

Bernard Hadzirabwi, the District Administrator for Chivi District, is in trouble after suggesting in his contribution that the country's Prime Minister should have executive powers. This did not go down well with the Zanu PF supporters and CIO agents present at the meeting two weeks ago.

According to the ZZZICOMP observers on the ground, the Zanu PF youths on Monday, July 26, 2010, were busy organising a demonstration against Hadzirabwi at the centre and threatened the security guards at his offices accusing them of protecting a Movement for Democratic Change (MDC) supporter.

After receiving the threats on several occasions, Hadzirabwi has not been reporting for duty since last week fearing for his life.

Following on the contributions from the same outreach meeting, Zanu PF District Coordinating Committee (DCC) Chairperson Sanders Magwizi has summoned the head of the District Development Fund (DDF) in the area Ernest Temba to his office.

It is alleged that Temba made contributions that are against Zanu PF's views and the Kariba Draft during a COPAC outreach meeting in the area.

In the same district, an official in the Ministry of Women's Affairs, Gender and Community Development a Mugarajira has also received violent threats from the Zanu PF youths for the contributions he made at the outreach meeting held at Chivi Centre. The youth militias are not happy with the contributions which are believed to be anti-Zanu PF and they are accusing him of being a sell-out.

Meanwhile in Manicaland a ZZZICOMP monitor was detained for more than three hours on Friday last week following a COPAC outreach meeting in Mutasa North Ward 4 at Dumba Business Centre.

John Ziyera ((29) who was observing the proceedings under ZZZICOMP was detained after Zanu PF supporters accused him of being a stranger adding that he should not be part of the meeting. The Zanu PF supporters became riotous and wanted to physically assault Ziyera who was saved by David Chimhini one of the Constitution Select Committee (COPAC) team leader, who handed him over to the police. He was later taken to Mutare Central Police Station.

Zimbabwe Lawyers for Human Rights lawyer based in Mutare Blessing Nyamaropa attended to Ziyera and facilitated his release on the same day.

Ziyera said he was interrogated by the police from the Law and Order section throughout his stay at the police station but was not told of the charges he was facing.

Upon his release on Friday around 9PM he was told to report back at the police station the next morning.

“The following day they only recorded his profile and told him that they will call him if they find a case against him before releasing him,” said Nyamaropa.

For further information and comments please contact ZZZICOMP

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Background of the Partnering Organisations

ZESN

The Zimbabwe Election Support Network is a network of 30 independent, non-partisan NGOs that has been observing all aspects of the electoral process in Zimbabwe since 2000. Its vision is a Zimbabwe where democratic electoral environment and democratic processes are upheld. The organisation has also been observing elections in other countries and deriving best practices for electoral reforms. Over the years observation of electoral processes by ZESN has contributed immensely to instilling confidence, deterring electoral fraud and providing independent findings to various stakeholders. ZESN reports have thus been used and referred to by many as sources of reliable and credible information.

ZLHR

Zimbabwe Lawyers for Human Rights is a not for profit human rights organization whose core objective is to foster a culture of human rights in Zimbabwe as well as to encourage the growth and strengthening of human rights at all levels of Zimbabwean society through observance of the rule of law. ZLHR is committed to upholding respect for the rule of law and the unimpeded administration of justice, free and fair elections, the free flow of information and the protection of constitutional rights and freedoms in Zimbabwe and the surrounding region. It keeps these values central in its programming activities.

ZPP

Zimbabwe Peace Project is an NGO which promotes peace through monitoring and documentation of politically motivated human rights violations. The vision of ZPP is sustainable justice, freedom, peace, and development in Zimbabwe for all. ZPP has strong a monitoring and documentation system with a presence in the 210 constituencies of Zimbabwe. ZPP is one of the premier organizations compiling information on the human rights situation on a regular basis in Zimbabwe. ZPP reports have been used as reference material by local and regional election observers, civil society organizations, embassies and international organizations.

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