

# Crisis Report

June 8 Newsletter



A publication of Crisis in Zimbabwe Coalition  
Number 51 Longden Avenue, Belvedere, Harare

**Twitter :** @crisiscoalition

**Facebook:** Crisis in Zimbabwe Coalition

**Website:** [www.crisiszim.org](http://www.crisiszim.org)

**Email:** [info@crisiszimbabwe.org](mailto:info@crisiszimbabwe.org)

# contents

Father of boy killed by Zanu PF  
activists living in fear, appeals to ED  
/ 3

---

Zanu PF oiling its violence  
machinery ahead of 2023 elections  
/ 4

---

Democracy, free and fair elections  
hampered by judicial capture in Zim  
/ 5

---

Father Zimbabwe nation-building  
dream betrayed / 6

---

Crisis Coalition calls for peace ahead  
of elections in Zambia / 7

---

Set up SADC Humanitarian fund now  
/ 8

---

Corruption, illicit financial outflows  
affecting development in Zim / 9

---

CRT urges residents to get Covid-19  
vaccine / 10

---

DCCs: Zanu PF must stop violating  
people's rights / 11

---

ERC in voter mobilisation drive / 12

---

Chilonga evictions: The future is  
bleak for the Shangaan people / 13

---

**T**HE father of a two year old boy who was abducted and murdered by well-known Zanu PF activists in a suspected case of political violence in Glendale, Mashonaland Central province in 2018, has had to flee his home area following continuous threats by his son's murderers.

In an interview, Rambai Lumbe, father to the late two-year-old Professor Lumbe, said he was living in fear of his life.

Professor was abducted and murdered in June 2018 after his father left Zanu PF to join the National People's Party that was led by former Vice-President, Joice Mujuru.

Following his defection, Lumbe received numerous threats by Zanu PF activists, who told him that his move had put the lives of his family members at great risk.

Days later, Professor's body was found dumped away from his homestead and the then spokesperson of the Zimbabwe Republic Police (ZRP), Charity Charamba, said that a post-mortem had discovered that Professor had been murdered.

After this incident, President Emmerson Mnangagwa instructed police to investigate the crime as a matter of urgency and ensure the perpetrators were brought to book.

However, up until now, the alleged perpetrators are walking scot-free, with police saying investigations are still underway almost three years down the line.

"I have been engaging the police in Bindura, but they keep telling me that investigations are still ongoing and I am losing hope that justice will be served. I have been

# Father of boy killed by Zanu PF activists living in fear, appeals to ED

turned into a double victim as I have had to move to Chiveshe because Glendale was no longer a safe place for me as I was receiving threats on my life," Lumbe said.

Lumbe called upon President Mnangagwa to ensure his son's alleged murderers are brought to justice.

"It pains me so much to know that the murderers of my son are walking scot-free and they even go to the ex-

tent of threatening me again. I am making this passionate appeal to the President to ensure that the murderers are brought to book," he said.

"You will remember that when my son was killed, the President sent us a condolence message and said he had instructed the police to act and bring the perpetrators to book but up to now, no single arrest has been made despite the fact that the perpetrators are well known in the area."



**Mourners at the funeral wake of Professor Lumbe**

AS Zimbabwe braces for the 2023 elections, the writing is on the wall that the ruling party, Zanu PF is gearing for a bloody campaign.

On May 25, 2021 thousands of Zanu PF supporters (in direct disregard of Covid-19 regulations) gathered in Zimbabwe's capital, Harare for the unveiling of the statue of long gone heroine, Mbuya Nehanda.

What was meant to be a national event was turned into a party event with Zanu PF supporters threatening to unleash violence on opposition supporters ahead of the 2023 elections.

Despite calls by Crisis in Zimbabwe Coalition for Zanu PF to denounce the acts of thuggery by its supporters, the ruling party chose to remain mum on the issue.

Given Zanu PF's well-known track record of using violence during election periods, Zimbabweans have every reason to fear for yet another bloody election.

Zanu PF youth militia, the

# Zanu PF oiling its violence machinery ahead of the 2023 elections

armed forces as well as war veterans have been the major perpetrators of violence against opposition supporters.

During the bloody 2008 election, around 300 opposition supporters lost their lives as Zanu PF used violence to cling on to power.

Elections in Zimbabwe have often been associated with violence and in 2018, despite promises of a new dispensation; soldiers killed 6 people in cold blood following protests over electoral fraud.

The army killings attracted global condemnation but despite this, Zanu PF continued to victimize opposition sup-

porters and cases of abduction, rape and torture were recorded with the army being the major perpetrators.

It is quite apparent that violence and electoral fraud are the key strategies by Zanu PF to retain power.

Ahead of the 2023 elections, the government has revived the National Youth Training Service and knowing the role of youths from the Border Gezi Training Institute in unleashing violence, we have reason to fear for the worst.

President Emmerson Mnangagwa has also urged war veterans, who are also notorious for unleashing violence against opposition supporters to campaign for Zanu PF ahead of the 2023 elections and again, we should fear for the worst.

The world would remember that before the 2018 elections, a senior Zanu PF official declared that President Emmerson Mnangagwa is a soldier who stands ready to shoot for power- and events that unfolded after the 2018 elections when soldiers shot civilians in cold blood, testified to this.

As Crisis in Zimbabwe Coalition, we implore the ruling party, Zanu PF to desist from violence during election periods.



THE nature and process in terms of how senior members of the judiciary in Zimbabwe are now appointed as a result of the Constitutional Amendment Number 2 Act of 2021 is a move meant to entrench judicial capture while furthering authoritarianism.

The Constitutional Amendment number 2 Bill passed through Senate in May (2021) and Zimbabwe's President, Emmerson Mnangagwa hurriedly signed the controversial Bill into law.

The Constitutional Amendment Act Number 2 gives the President the power to appoint the Chief Justice, Deputy Chief Justice, the Judge President and senior judges without subjecting them to public interviews, a move that creates a subservient judiciary and an imperial Presidency.

According to Crisis in Zimbabwe Coalition spokesperson Marvellous Khumalo, judicial capture has negative implications on the rule of law as well as the conduct of free and fair elections.

This has further been worsened by the fact that the State has weaponised the judiciary to clampdown on dissenting voices.

Quite often, pro-democracy activists have been denied bail and detained for long periods on flimsy charges only for the upper courts to point out to a miscarriage of justice on the part of the lower courts.

Khumalo said it is unfortunate that through the controversial Constitutional Amendment Act (No. 2) judges will be accountable to the appointing authority and this acts against the independence of the judiciary and consequently affects the justice delivery

# Democracy, free and fair elections hampered by judicial capture in Zim



**President Emmerson Mnangagwa**

system in the country.

"This has negative implications on democracy and free and fair elections. At the moment, the judiciary is being used as a weapon to punish opposition political activists and civil society activists by way of denying them bail when they are brought before the courts on politically motivated charges," he said.

"Again, if we check the 2018 elections it took the courts to decide on the election outcome and if the chief justice is now accountable to the President and not Parliament or the citizens of the country, it becomes very tricky when we go for elections.

"In the event of a disputed outcome, the courts will always rule in favour of the appointing authority, who happens to be the President and not in favour of the merits of the case before the courts. That is why as the civil society we are saying a captured Judiciary will make it difficult for Zimbabwe to have democracy or to enjoy free and fair elections."

Crisis in Zimbabwe coalition is on record saying the current constitutional crisis in Zimbabwe is a call to action for civic society organisations to hold the government to account and defend constitutionalism.

AS Professor Sabelo Gatheni Ndlovu rightly puts it, Zimbabwe lacked a blueprint on nation building since the attainment of independence in 1980.

The Gukurahundi massacres, which resulted in the death of an estimated 20 000 people in the Matabeleland and Midlands provinces in the 1980s, dealt a huge blow to the concept of nationhood and marked the beginning of state sponsored violence against citizens.

What followed after the Gukurahundi massacres was a series of state brutality against citizens and hundreds lost their lives.

The late iconic Vice President of Zimbabwe, Dr. Joshua Nkomo was among the major proponents of nation building but because of authoritarian tendencies among some of his fellow politicians, his passionate calls fell on deaf ears.

# Father Zimbabwe's nation-building dream betrayed

Below we republish one of his most famous speeches on peace and nation building delivered after Zimbabwe attained independence in 1980.

"Now that Zimbabwe is free and independent, the priority is now nation building, social and eco progress. We cannot move forward if we are divided. We have to work as a nation together. Zimbabwe has people of various colours but they are one. They speak different languages but they are one. They have different backgrounds but they are one. Once we all understand that, once we give our best to our country Zimbabwe is a wonderful country. We have natu-

ral resources, we have human resources as are not known in many countries. We should come together and see that Zimbabwe progresses. The most important thing in that progress is to see that there is peace and tranquility, the observance of the rule of law, the return to our people that peace that they require for developing their country. To be able to do so, our law enforcing agents must be free. The army and the police must not be interfered with. They have powers given them by the constitution of the country. No government must try and interfere with those powers. It is not necessary therefore, to have the police answerable to political parties."

Events that unfolded after Zimbabwe attained Independence in 1980 show a betrayal of Father Zimbabwe's dream.

The Gukurahundi massacres, party state conflation, capture of the judiciary, the police and the army by Zanu PF, militarization of key state institutions, corruption and plunder of national resources by the political elite have largely worked against nation building.

Due to the continued economic meltdown, Zimbabwe continues to suffer from brain drain as citizens seek greener pastures in other countries.

Zimbabweans need to pursue the unfinished business of nation building and fulfill the dreams of the late iconic leader, Joshua Nkomo.



The late Vice-President Joshua Nkomo

# Crisis Coalition calls for peace ahead of elections in Zambia

CRISIS in Zimbabwe Coalition calls for the observance of peace ahead of the Zambian elections set for August 2021.

As the Chair of the Southern African People's Solidarity Network (SAPSN) Human Rights and Governance Cluster, we are concerned by the continued shrinking of the democratic space in Zambia ahead of the elections.

We have noted with huge concern, cases of police bru-

tality, clampdown on media, clampdown on opposition parties, violence against government critics as well as violation of citizens' fundamental rights among other ills ahead of the elections.

We call upon Zambian authorities to ensure that peace prevails and that citizens are able to enjoy their fundamental human rights.

Current events unfolding in Zambia are a cause for con-

cern as they point to a sham, bloody election.

Free and fair elections are a key component of a democratic society and we urge Zambian authorities to uphold key tents of democracy.

We further urge the Southern African Development Community to ensure that Zambian authorities uphold peace ahead of the August 2021 elections.



ON May 29, 2021 volcanic eruption in the city of Goma in the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) left an estimated 32 people dead while thousands were left homeless after they were forced to flee their homes for safety.

A total of 61 earthquakes were also reported within 24 hours following the volcanic eruption. The earthquakes caused damage to infrastructure.

Tens of thousands were forced to flee their homes following fears of a second volcanic eruption in Goma.

The volcanic eruption in the DRC has created a major humanitarian crisis and this has been worsened by the low supply of basic commodities as well as spiralling prices of these basic goods.

While the support from humanitarian organisations and other continental blocs is appreciated, there is an urgent need for the Southern African Development Communi-

# Set up Sadc humanitarian fund now

ty (SADC) to operationalise the SADC Humanitarian and Emergency Operations Centre

Crisis in Zimbabwe Coalition is on record imploring SADC to urgently set up a humanitarian fund that will assist member countries in times of disasters.

As a coalition of civic society organisations operating in Zimbabwe, we are on record making calls for the setting up of the humanitarian fund since November 2020.

Our position came following the conflict in the Cabo Delgado region of Mozambique which has led to the displacement of an estimated 700 000 people and left around 1.3 million people in urgent need

of humanitarian assistance.

On May 27, 2021 during an Extraordinary Double Troika Summit on Mozambique, SADC Leaders noted progress towards the establishment and operationalization of the SADC Humanitarian and Emergency Operations Centre which will aid efforts towards risk and disaster management within the region.

As Crisis in Zimbabwe Coalition, we call upon SADC to move with speed in operationalizing the SADC Humanitarian and Emergency Operations Centre and prioritize humanitarian intervention and restoration of livelihoods in countries affected by disasters.



CORRUPTION and Illicit financial outflows are among key factors that are working against development and domestic resource mobilisation in Zimbabwe, according to the Zimbabwe Coalition on Debt and Development (ZIMCODD).

Of late, cases of high level corruption and gold smuggling have been on the increase in Zimbabwe.

The cartels are mostly linked to government officials and other powerful politicians.

Below, we publish a statement by ZIMCODD that outlines how corruption and illicit financial outflows are disabling effective domestic resource mobilisation in Zimbabwe.

### **ZIMBABWE SHOULD LIFT ITSELF OUT OF POVERTY WITH GOOD ECONOMIC GOVERNANCE**

The case that Zimbabwe has adequate resources to finance its own development has persisted with various arguments presented.

One side of the argument which this edition of the weekend reader is considering is that Corruption and Illicit financial outflows are the key factors that are disabling effective Domestic Resource Mobilisation in the country.

On the 9th of May 2021, social media was awash with news of a man who was suspected to be coming from Zimbabwe who was arrested at OR Tambo International Airport with 23 pieces of gold worth R11 000 000.

Using the ZAR1: USD0,0711255 or the US\$1: ZAR14,0597 exchange rate, the value of the gold is US\$782 380,37.

# Corruption, illicit financial outflows affecting development in Zim

This points to excessive revenue leakages and poor public resource management especially following another incident where Henrietta Rushwaya in October 2020 was caught at the Robert Gabriel Mugabe International Airport whilst trying to smuggle 6kg of gold to Dubai<sup>1</sup>.

The Rushwaya's case involved an estimate of US\$333 000 worth of gold.

Illicit financial flows in Africa and Zimbabwe continue to erode potential revenue that can lift the continent and the country out of the economic situation that it finds itself in.

Economic Development in Africa Report of 2020 notes that Africa losses approximately US\$89 billion to illicit financial flows per year which is equivalent to 3,7 per cent of the continent's gross domestic product.

This figure has steeply gone up from at least US\$50 billion annually which was reported in the High-Level Panel on illicit financial flows from Africa Report led by the Mbeki Commission in 2011.

An adverse irony is that Africa is losing more through illicit financial flows than what it receives annually as Official Development Assistance.

Evidence in the case of Zimbabwe shows that the illicit financial flows are fuelled through State capture and rent-seeking.

Zimbabwe has lost approximately US\$32,179 billion to illicit financial flows in the last two decades and approximately US\$1,5 billion in gold smuggling in 2020 against US\$800 million official Fidelity exports.



THE Chinhoyi Residents Trust (CRT) has embarked on a programme meant to mobilise residents to get vaccinated against Covid 19.

CRT Coordinator, Peter Lewanda said they had equipped their community leaders with knowledge on Covid 19 and the vaccination programme as part of community mobilisation efforts.

He said CRT embarked on the sensitisation programme following resistance (to get

# CRT urges residents to get Covid-19 vaccine

vaccinated) by some sections of the community.

“Most people have hesitated getting the vaccination

because of opinions from religious leaders as well as pseudo scientists in our communities who have likened the vaccination with anti Christ. We had a meeting last month where we brought in experts on health to try and unpack the vaccine; its effects and why getting vaccinated is the way to go. We were targeting CBO leaders and opinion leaders in the community”, he said.

Lewanda said that as a result of the sensitisation programme by CRT there has been notable change of behaviour among Chinhoyi residents.

On another note, Lewanda said that informal traders in Chinhoyi ha been hard hit by the Covid 19 pandemic after their stalls where destroyed by council.

“The informal sector has been most hit by the advent of the pandemic. Firstly they had to endure the destruction of infrastructure that was being used by vendors in town at the start of the lock downs with the council promising state of the art infrastructure but nothing has been done yet,” he said.

Lewanda added that the Covid 19 pandemic has also stalled the operations of Residents’ Trusts as people are still prohibited from picketing at council offices or meet with council leaders for accountability.



CiZ director Blessing Vava getting the Covid-19 jab

HEAL Zimbabwe expresses concern over the manner in which the Zanu PF district co-ordinating committee (DCC) exercise is being rolled out in rural communities.

In the month of May 2021 alone, Heal Zimbabwe received verified reports where traditional leaders (mostly village heads), teachers and school development committees (SDCs) have been forced to set up Zanu PF structures.

The ongoing Zanu PF DCC restructuring exercise targets a total of five million voters by 2023.

In Gutu and Zaka, village heads have been directed to convert village household registers into structures for Zanu PF.

The same directive is being issued every Wednesday during DCC meetings.

Other areas where this practice is rampant include Mutasa, Nyanga, Muzarabani, Maramba Pfungwe and Bikita.

Heal Zimbabwe notes that forcing traditional leaders to engage in partisan politics goes against the grain of section 281(2)(c) of the Constitution that highlights that "traditional leaders must not further the interests of any political party or cause".

Added to this, such a practice also compromises the constitutional obligation of Traditional leaders to respect the fundamental freedoms and human rights of citizens in compliance with section 281(1)(a).

In Gutu and Nyanga, teachers at most schools together with SDCs have also been directed to set up Zanu PF structures at most schools.

Those who have delayed

# DCCs: Zanu PF must stop violating people's rights

establishing these structures have been threatened with dismissal and further action.

While Heal Zimbabwe appreciates the importance of citizen participation in politics, forcing citizens to do so against their wish is a gross violation of their rights such as political rights that are exclusively provided for in section 67 of the Constitution.

In light of the above, Heal Zimbabwe implores political parties to respect human

rights of citizens such as political rights.

The issuing of threats such as denial of food aid or dismissal must not find expression in a society that has laws that respect and protect fundamental human rights and freedoms of citizens.

Heal Zimbabwe has facilitated for affected communities to report cases of human rights violations to the police and the Zimbabwe Human Rights Commission.



AHEAD of the 2023 Zimbabwean elections, the Election Resource Centre (ERC) has embarked on a massive voter mobilization exercise.

The Crisis Report spoke to the ERC's Legal and Advocacy Officer, Takunda Tsunga and below we publish Tsunga's presentation on the ERC's 'Register to Vote Campaign'.

"The Register to Vote Campaign is an online campaign which seeks to address issues around the importance of voter registration, issues around ensuring that the youths, women and marginalized groups actively participate in the voter registration process.

As you have noticed in the 2019 Zimbabwe Electoral Commission report, approximately 1 444 people registered to vote nationally which was a very appalling and alarming figure in terms of voter registration in a year when over 500 000 youths reached the age of 18.

Therefore the ERC sought to create platforms where citi-

# ERC in voter mobilisation drive

zens could engage around voter registration and the importance of voter registration and through these engagements, the ERC provides the shuttle service which assists citizens who would like to register to vote.

One of the biggest concerns around voter registration was issues around the distance.

The ERC introduced the shuttle service, which had been available in 2018.

When people call our call centre, we take them to the nearest registration centres and wait for them to register and return them to where they would have been picked up.

This has proven to be a very effective tool in getting citizens out to vote.

Secondly the ERC is working with corporates who want to assist with the mobilisation drive.

Corporates by nature have a larger following, they have a large loyal backing therefore they should be in a position where they are using their platforms to assist citizens to mobilize to register to vote.

The ERC has been working with Joys Pizza in Harare which has been providing us with pizzas to ensure that we are able to use the pizzas in an innovative way to mobilize citizens to register to vote.

Therefore, we had targeted University of Zimbabwe and Harare Polytechnic students where we had been providing pizzas to students who actually registered to vote.



THE planned evictions of the Chilonga community from their ancestral land in Chiredzi will worsen the plight of the victims due to loss of livelihoods, low adaptive capacity and the tendency by the Zimbabwean government to pay a blind eye to the plight of displaced populations.

In an interview with the Crisis Report, the director of Masvingo Centre for Research Advocacy and Development, Ephraim Mtombeni bemoaned that despite resistance from the Chilonga community, the state is adamant to implement the evictions.

An estimated 13 840 people will be affected by the evictions.

“The displaced people have low adaptive capacity in responding to the government induced evictions. Painfully, the Shangani people expressed that they were never consulted or involved in the processes relating to their an-

# Chilonga evictions: The future is bleak for the Shangaan people

cestral land and the looming evictions,” said Mtombeni.

The eviction of the Chilonga community is set to pave way for a lucerne grass project.

Mtombeni said history has taught that government often neglects displaced people who often are relegated into abject people following eviction from their ancestral lands.

“The fears of the Chilonga community are not isolated or emanating from space. They

have solid examples of people who were evicted and forgotten. The other fear is on the loss of accessing basic amenities after relocation. Is the government going to provide them with adequate schools, clinics, hospitals roads or other critical infrastructure after relocation?” said Mtombeni.

In February 2021, President Emmerson Mnangagwa gave notice of eviction of the Chilonga community through Statutory Instrument 50 of 2021.

