

# HWEDZA SOUTH<sup>1</sup>

## 1. OVERVIEW

### 1.1 Study area

Hwedza South falls under Mashonaland East province. The area has some land earmarked for resettlement, whilst other parts of the constituency are communal land. Researchers managed to cover 5 wards out of 8. The wards which were covered include Ushe, Goneso, Goto A, Goto B and Ruzane. These wards were hit hard by violence during the June 27 presidential run-off.

Residents in the area survive on farming. The Grain Marketing Board administers the distribution of agricultural inputs which are channelled along political lines to ZANU-PF sympathisers. The area is drought prone, hence the need for food relief programmes.

The area is the home area for Army Commander Constantine Chiwenga. Mernard Muzariri also visits frequently. The area is a ZANU-PF stronghold.

### 1.2 Summary

- ***Organisation of violence***

Orders were given by Major Makanandure (retired) to base commanders. The base commanders are: Mapako (Madzimbahwe Base); Enoch Kapaza (Mukamba Base); W Chimbare (Goneso Base); Cephas Murevererwi (Mhakwe Base); Jairos Kunonga (Chirimanetsvimbo Base); and Isaiah Kuimba (Goto Base).

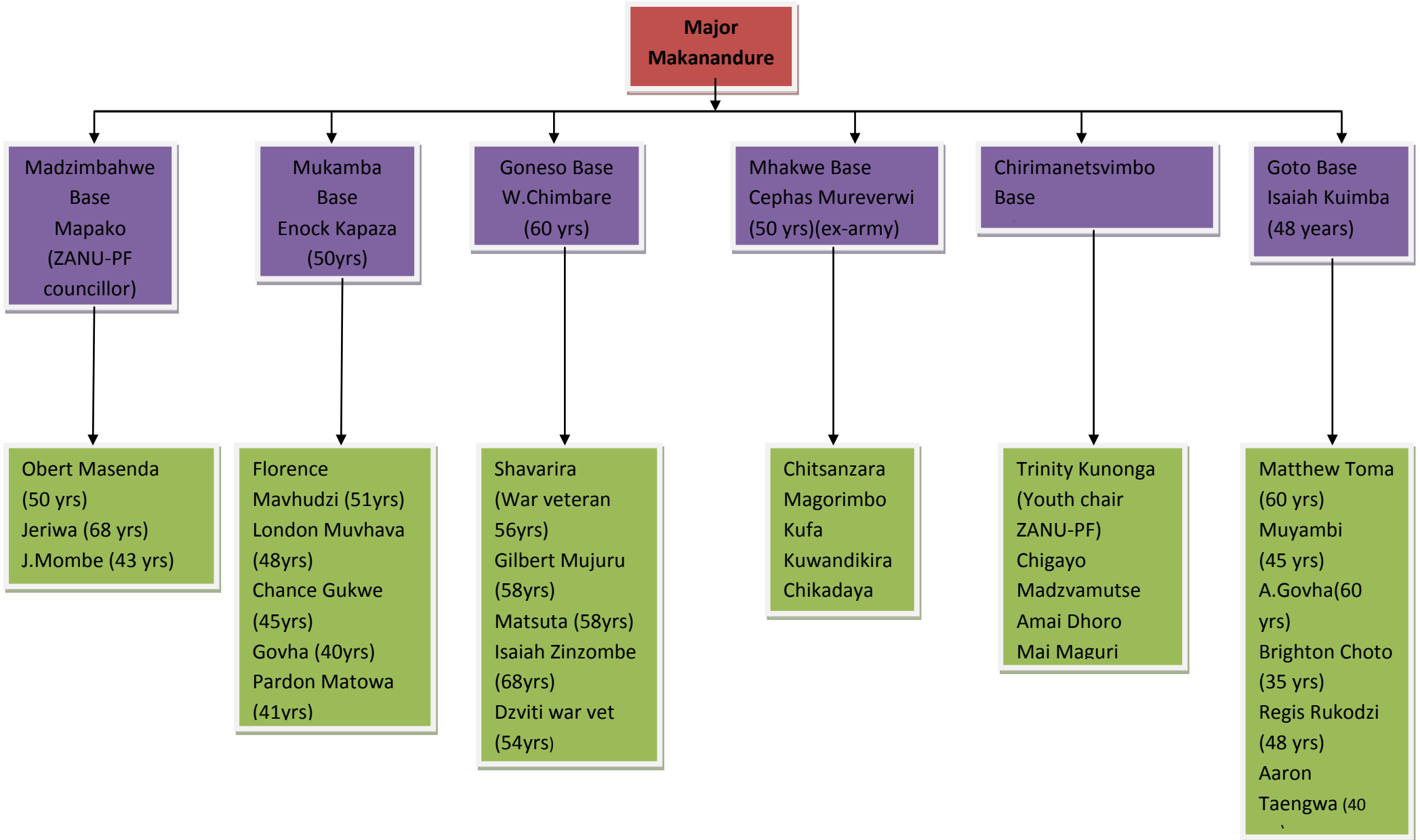
These base commanders would pass information to youth on the ground who would commit the acts of violence.

Chief Svosve, Governor Chigwedere, Florence Goto (MP for Hwedza South) and some kraal heads all supported perpetrators of violence by giving them food, transport and shelter. Perpetrators were motivated by being given food packs and beer.

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<sup>1</sup> The constituency is still know by its old name: Wedza

- **Organisational structure**



## 2. DATA ON BASES

### 2.1 Table of bases

Name of base	Place (Building?)	Grid ref.	Status	Used				
				02	05	08	10	Copac
Mhakwe	Hungwe farm		Dormant			√		√
Chirimanetsvimbo	Bitva farm		Dormant			√		
Mukamba	House at Mukamba clinic		Dormant		√	√		
Goneso	Mujaji bottle store		Dormant		√	√		
Goto	Headmaster's house St. Anne's sec. school		Dormant		√	√		
Madzimbahwe	Madzimbahwe business centre		Dormant		√	√		

**Notes:** At the moment all the above bases are not being used and there are no people staying at the bases. However, it is probable that bases will be activated again in future elections.

## 2.2 2008 Violence

- 2008 incidents of serious violence (for each base/place)

MHAKWE BASE (Mhakwe farm house)					
Incident	Description of Incident	Source of info	Verification	Names/IDs of alleged perpetrators	Names/IDs of victims
1	<p><b>Murder (21/06/08, 1700hrs)</b></p> <p>The victim was abducted whilst at Hwedza Growth Point. He was ferried by a vehicle owned by Major Makandure to Mhakwe base. The victim was tortured using wood sticks, iron bars, and barbed wire. He died at the base and was ferried to and dumped at Chinei Business Centre during the night. Cephas Mureverwi ( Z.N.A.) was the base commander. The base commander actually resides at the base. The base is situated at the farm house which the commander invaded during the fast track land reform. The perpetrators are roaming freely in Hwedza.</p>	AM	The researchers saw the grave of the deceased.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-Cephas Mureverwi</li> <li>-Magorimbo</li> <li>-Major Makanandure</li> <li>-Chitsanzara</li> <li>-Kufa Kuwandikira</li> </ul>	Mr H
2	<p><b>Abduction and G.B.H (18 /06/08, 1500hrs)</b></p> <p>Major Makanandure ordered the violence and Cephas Mureverwi [ex army official] was the base commander. The victims were forcibly taken from their homes by the perpetrators using a vehicle owned by major Makanandure to Mhakwe base where they were kept in a tobacco drying barn until June 29 (after the runoff election).The victims were subjected to torture and brutality daily during their stay in abduction. The perpetrators used iron bars, barbed wire and sticks to assault the victims. The case was not reported to the police and the perpetrators are still free in the area.</p>	AM	The researchers saw permanent scars on the victims	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-Chitsanzaara</li> <li>-Kufa Kuwandikira</li> <li>-Magorimbo</li> <li>-Cephas Mureverwi</li> </ul>	Mr CT EM SC
<p><b>Notes:</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. The above base was only used during the June 2008 runoff elections</li> <li>2. Mr H was assaulted with sticks, barbed wire, logs and knobkerries until he died. He was killed because of being an MDC supporter.</li> <li>3. Mr CT, EM, SC were brutally assaulted. The case was not reported to the police.</li> </ol>					

CHIRIMANETSVIMBO (WARD 4)					
Incident	Description of Incident (Date, Time)	Source of info	Verification	Names/IDs of alleged perpetrators	Names/IDs of victims
1	<b>Abduction and Rape (25/06/08, 1330hrs)</b> Jairos Kunonga ordered the violence and he was also the base commander. Miss Parewa was taken from her home in Musengezi to Chhirimanetsvimbo base. She was raped three times by Jairos Kunonga. She was later released the following day. She died from AIDS and stress related sicknesses in July 2010. The case was reported to the police and the perpetrator is on the run facing murder and rape charges. Currently Jairos is not in the area	AM		-Jairos Kunonga (Base commander at Chirimanetsvimbo)	Miss P
2	<b>G.B.H and Arson (25/06/08, 1700hrs)</b> Jairos Kunonga ordered the violence. Andrew Mugodhi and Nhamo Mugodhi were beaten thoroughly at their house. Their two huts were burnt and livestock were killed before they were taken to Chirimanetsvimbo base. They were subjected to torture using sticks and iron bars. In the process, Andrew lost two teeth. The case was not reported to the police for fear of further victimisation	AM	The researchers saw the scars on the victims. In addition AM	-Jairos Kunonga -Madzvamutse -Chigayo -Trinity Kunonga (ZANU-PF activists)	AM NM)
<b>Notes:</b> All victims were targeted because they are MDC supporters.					

### 2.3 Current intimidation and violence

- Incidents of current violence and intimidation (for each base/place)

MHAKWE BASE (Mhakwe farm house)					
Incident	Description of Incident	Source of info	Verification	Names/IDs of alleged	Names/IDs of victims
1	<p><b>Intimidation (31/07/10, 1000hrs)</b>            A meeting for COPAC was convened by Ephraim Muchina (war veteran). At the meeting people were intimidated and discouraged from making independent contributions to COPAC. They were mobilising villagers to support the “revolutionary leader’s” agenda of staying in power. The war veterans asked the ZANU-PF chairman for the area to identify MDC supporters. The chairman denied this request saying this would leave him under the surveillance of the police.</p>	SM (an ordinary villager and MDC activist)		-Ephraim Muchina (war veteran based in the area)	Mrs M (MDC Activist) and other opposition members who were at the meeting.

### 2.4 Description of bases

MHAKWE BASE (Mhakwe farm house)						
<b>PERSONNEL</b>						
Name	Age	Sex	Organisation	Rank/ID	Role	Source of information
Ephraim Muchina	65	M	Zimbabwe Liberation War Veteran’s Association		Informer (identified MDC activists for victimization)	SN
<b>FINANCE AND SUPPORT</b>						
Payments to personnel (Q22, 23). The perpetrators do not receive any payment in cash, but were motivated by beer from Major						

Makanandure. Local supplies, food and provisions (Q24, 25). No food was supplied during meetings.

<b>VEHICLES</b>						
<i>Name of owner/ driver</i>	<i>Make/model</i>	<i>Reg.No</i>	<i>Year</i>	<i>Colour</i>	<i>Marking</i>	<i>Use</i>
<b>WEAPONS</b>						
<i>Name of owners/users</i>	<i>Type</i>	<i>No.</i>	<i>Display(Yes/No)</i>	<i>Notes and comments</i>		
<b>ACCOMODATION AND EQUIPMENT</b>						
<i>Description</i>	<i>Use</i>	<i>Notes and comments</i>				

**Notes:** Footprint (Q3-4). The area where the meeting was held catered for people in areas which are three kilometres away from the venue

Base (Q5-7).

**Perpetrators of violence (Q15)**

Ephraim Muchina and other war veterans could not be identified at this point in time. DOPs are working on their identification.

## 2.5 Summary of means of control

- **Denial of access to food, resources and benefits**

Food and agricultural inputs are distributed through the Grain Marketing Board. MDC supporters are denied access to this facility. The lists of beneficiaries of this state-initiated programme are compiled at village level. The traditional leadership working with ZANU-PF councillors segregate MDC supporters and reward members of ZANU-PF who are the key perpetrators of violence. Stanley Mapako, the councillor for Ushu ward, is the chief culprit.

- **Raiding resources and destroying property**

During times of elections ZANU-PF loot food and livestock from known MDC supporters. The loot is supplied as food at bases. Houses belonging to MDC supporters are burnt or destroyed.

- **Coercion, threats and violence**

Youths from ZANU-PF force villagers to join their toyi toyis. Villagers are forced to attend Zanu-PF rallies especially when a ZANU-PF high ranking official is attending the rally. Constable Chipara protects ZANU-PF perpetrators from being arrested.

## 3 COMMUNITY STRATEGIES AND TACTICS FOR VIOLENCE-FREE ELECTIONS

### 3.1 Background

- **Community assessment**

#### Level of fear

*Able to speak freely*

1	2	3	4	5
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*Unable and unwilling to speak freely*

#### Willingness to resist violence

*Strong will to resist violence*

1	2	3	4	5
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*No will to resist violence*

#### Capacity to resist violence

*Well organised, strong leadership*

1	2	3	4	5
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*Weak organisation and leadership*

#### **Comments**

- Although the people interviewed were able to speak freely to us, the level of fear in Hwedza area is high.
- The MDC activists and victims are very much willing to resist violence on their own.
- The most affected people do not have the capacity to resist because there is lack of coordination and strong leadership. Most MDC leaders in the constituency reside in Harare for fear of violence.

- **Non-governmental Organisations**

There are no organisations working in the area.

### 3.2 Organisation

- **Establishment of committees and operational unit**

Peace committees have been set up in each ward comprising a membership of 10 people and an average of 4 Defenders of Peace. The constituency of Hwedza South is very big rendering the task for forming committees very tough. Sub committees have thus been formed to address this problem.

Researchers also managed to establish the main peace committee at constituency level as well as a team of Defenders of Peace. The DOPs at district level assist wards whenever it is felt that there is a shortage.

Defenders of Peace at district and ward levels are the cadres who can move swiftly and carry out vital actions within their respective wards.

- **Building of membership**

Established committees will initiate membership drives within their areas. As confidence builds through the proposed strategies below, it is hoped that membership will increase.

### **3.3 Information and communication**

- **Methods of gathering information**

DoPs will gather information on ZANU-PF structures to establish what perpetrators are planning. Defenders of Peace shall also monitor the situation and movement of key perpetrators. They will be positioned at shopping centres to observe any early warning signs of danger.

- **Methods of relaying information**

The area has good network coverage and therefore cell phones can be used for information dissemination. Word pass shall also be used within wards to carry information. The media shall be used when relaying information to areas outside the constituency.

### **3.4 Strategic Objectives**

- To build the capacity of the locals to prevent election-related and politically-motivated violence.
- To facilitate the reduction of fear, and the building of morale as well as confidence so that citizens cast their votes freely in the next election
- To facilitate the cleaning of the voters' roll and the registry of new voters.
- To facilitate the holding of an internationally recognised elections.

### **3.5 Key Strategies**

- **Food security and livelihoods**

It is necessary that food supplies be sufficient before elections. Whenever elections are near, blackmailing of MDC supporters is rampant. Equal access to agricultural inputs will boost morale and confidence of voters.

- **Conflict avoidance: Getting out of harm's way**

**Evacuation:** When the tide of violence become insurmountable it is good to move those targeted out of the area. There is need to move them to safe houses in towns where violence is normally lower. Defenders of Peace however have to remain within the constituency so that they defend property and possessions. When elections dates draw near those evacuated should come back and cast their votes.

- **Neutralising key points in structure of violence and control**

Stanley Mapako's influence needs to be neutralised. He is the councillor for Ushewani ward and is the chairperson for Hwedza rural district council where he was once sacked before the Minister of Local Government reinstated him. Stanley Mapako was the base commander for

Madzimbabwe base in June 2008. At the moment he is renting a shop and bottle store at Chirumbiro. Chirumbiro shop was used as a base in 2005.

There is also Mr Madhanha (ZANU-PF shadow MP) who is running a youth football and netball tournament. These youths are addressed after the tournament and the possibility that they will be used as perpetrators of violence is high. The tournaments have recruited hundreds of youths who are interested in soccer. There is therefore a need to neutralise the effects of the tournaments.

Another key person in the structure of violence is the sitting ZANU-PF MP, Rosemary Goto. As she is a very violent character, there is need to encourage ZANU(PF) supporters to vote against her during primary elections. Rosemary Goto finances the base at Goto.

### **3.6 Tactical Actions**

- **Food security and livelihoods**

Engagement of NGOs involved in food distribution is a viable option for Hwedza. Defenders of Peace have also opted to confront the kraal heads on the issue of a partisan food distribution initiative by the Grain Marketing Board. Peace committees commented that a NGO could become engaged in food distribution to nullify the partisan distribution.

- **Conflict avoidance: Getting out of harm's way**

Peace committees have suggested that they will make arrangements clandestinely with the owner of a commuter omnibus operator who will ferry people out of danger whenever violence goes beyond the capacity of locals to contain it. Arrangements will be made when there are early warning signs of violence and payments will be made in advance when the atmosphere points to an eruption of violence. Everything relating to how the omnibus will leave the area will be the responsibility of Defenders of Peace.

When elections are held those evacuated shall be ferried back to Hwedza, either on the date of voting or earlier, depending on the environment. Transport shall be hired so that soon after casting votes their votes, those targets can simply leave the area again.

- **Neutralising key points in structure of violence and control**

To neutralise the influence of Stanley Mapako, villagers will be discouraged from buying anything from his shop and bottle store. It should be known that the same strategy was employed in 2005 and it worked. The shop was eventually closed. Claims that the shop thrives on the blood of those who were killed during election times shall be circulated. Furthermore peace committee members shall suggest that for his businesses to run smoothly there is a need for still more blood.

Peace committees have also said they will mobilize villagers to isolate Stanley Mapako by failing to greet him (i.e. ostracise him) and abscond from meetings called by him. Whenever there is bereavement in his family, villagers should be discouraged to attend.

Stanley Mapako was involved directly in several cases of looting of livestock and destruction of houses. Prosecution by way of civil cases shall also be used to neutralise him.

To neutralise football and netball tournaments organised by Mr Madhanha, peace tournaments – more organised than those of Madhanha – shall be initiated. People who appeal to the community more than Madhanha shall be invited as Guest of Honour.

Rosemary Goto should be out of the race for the parliamentary post. She should be voted out during ZANU-PF's primary elections stage. Villagers shall be mobilised to question her on what she has done for the constituency from the time she assumed office. Hansard from the parliament shall be brought in to show that she is ineffective in parliament and does not contribute to development or to law and order in the country. The community will therefore be advised to shun meetings called by someone who has not contributed anything in terms of the development of Hwedza. A moderate ZANU-PF candidate will sprout in the process and will be backed by constituents. Community members will be advised to vote during ZANU-PF primary elections to oust Rosemary Goto.

There is need for T-shirts with messages of peace. This builds confidence and morale amongst villagers.

#### **4 SUPPORT**

- Legal support from Zimbabwe Lawyers for Human Rights
- Funding partners to assist with funds.
- Transport fares
- Food reserves and agricultural inputs from NGO sector
- Football and netball kits