

MWENEZI WEST

1. OVERVIEW

1.1 Study area

Mwenezi west constituency is in Masvingo province and is the biggest constituency in Zimbabwe covering almost 300km. Most people in the constituency are not registered voters which is why the delimitation commission stretched the constituency from Mateki hills to Mberengwa in order to cover the number of registered voters needed per constituency. It has 15 wards, 5 of which are politically active; they are Wards 8, 9, 10, 11 and 12.

The area is dominated by ZANU-PF. State machinery is used to instil fear in communities to support the former ruling party. In the 2008 elections, a number of MDC supporters were subjected to torture, intimidation and murder by ZANU-PF stalwarts, namely, Colonel Hungwe, Solomon Ndlovu (retired army chaplain), Shupai Zvidzai (youth trainer), and Alex Moyo (ZANU-PF district chairman).

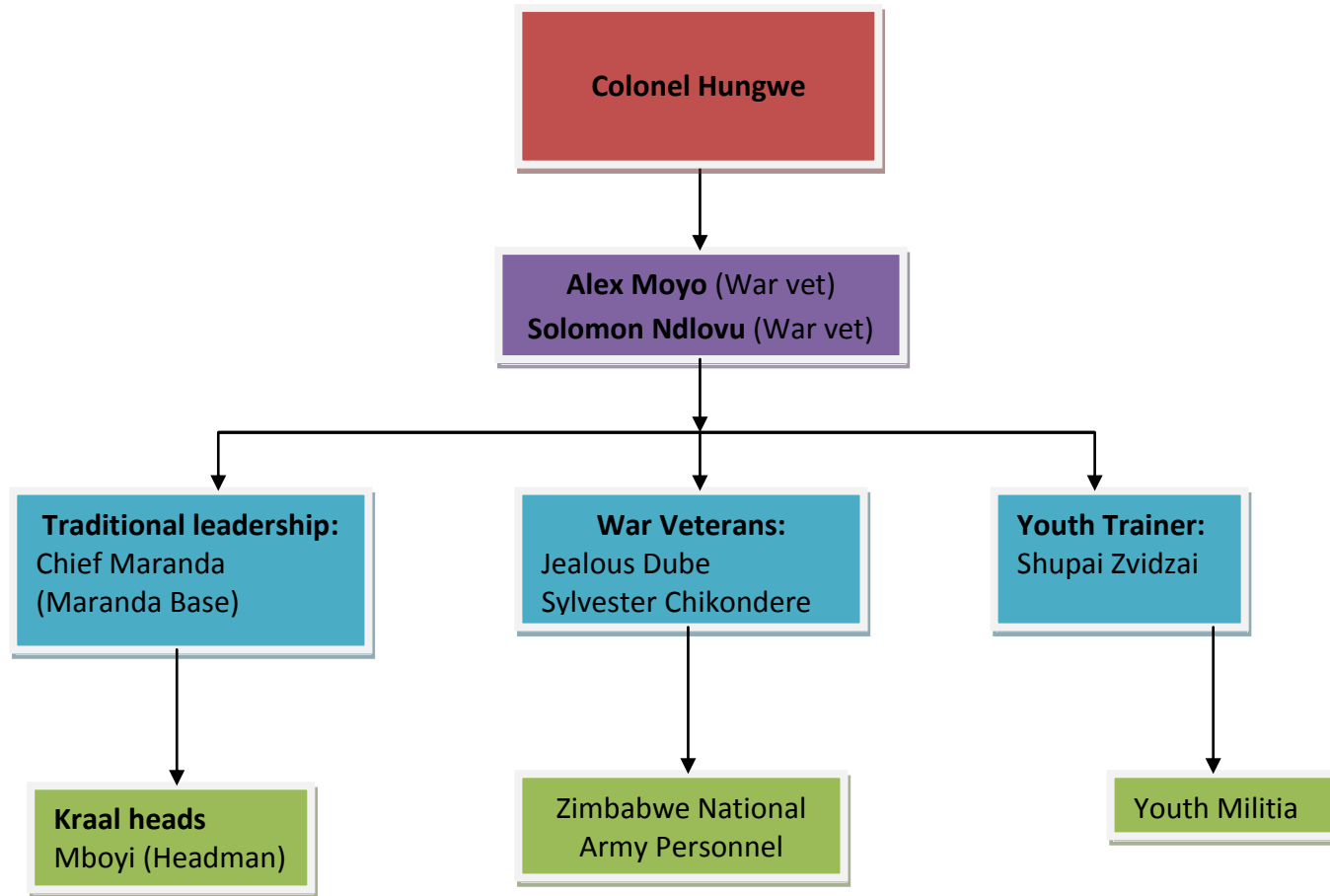
The constituency is characterised by a low rainfall pattern, forcing people to rely on cattle ranching and commodity trading. The area is home to commercial farms such as Mwenezana Sugar Plantation and Solomona Cattle and Wildlife Ranch. Many young people work in South Africa as the constituency is in close proximity to the Zimbabwe – South Africa border.

1.2 Summary

- ***Organisation of violence***

Colonel Hungwe is at the helm of the structure of violence. He is assisted by Alex Moyo - a war veteran. Colonel Hungwe and Alex Moyo are responsible for strategy. Once a strategy is formulated, Alex Moyo engages the traditional leadership, war veterans and the youth trainer: Shupai Zvidzai. The traditional leadership identifies the potential victims and works with kraal heads to implement the violence agenda. War veterans engage army personnel to instil fear in victims and to seek military protection in case victims resist. The youth trainer Shupai Zvidzai provides the human resource in the form of trained youths. These militias, sometimes accompanied by army personnel, commit the murders, rapes and torture of MDC supporters. There are 5 dormant bases in the constituency and 1 active base, which is at chief Maranda's home.

- **Organisational structure**



2. DATA ON BASES

2.1 Table of bases

Name of base	Place (Building?)	Grid ref.	Status		Used			
				COPAC	02	05	08	10
Maranda base	Open space		Dormant	Active	√	√	√	
Nhongobwe	Open space		Dormant	Active	√	√	√	
Choungoto	Open space		Dormant	Active	√	√	√	
Maringa T/Ship	Shops		Dormant	Active	√	√	√	
Ward 8	Open space		Dormant	Active	√	√	√	
Chief Maranda's home	Home		Active	Active				√

Notes: All the bases that were active for COPAC are now dormant except for Chief Maranda's home.

2.2 2008 Violence
2008 incidents of serious violence (for each base/place)

MARANDA BASE (Maranda Shopping Centre; Obey Mbiza – Base Commander)					
Incident	Description of Incident	Source of info	Verification	Names/IDs of alleged perpetrators	Names/IDs of victims
1	<p>Abduction and Murder (14/07/08, 1000hrs) The ZANU-PF militia abducted the victim from his homestead and force him to walk to the base. Major Hungwe a serving member of the Zimbabwe National Army ordered the violence. The perpetrators used logs and iron bars to assault the victim until he died. The case was reported to the police (case number to be supplied) and no action was taken. The perpetrators are roaming free in Mwenezi.</p>	AM (son of victim)	The researchers saw the grave of the victim.	-Samuel Munyukwi -Dererai Mupari -Solomon Mabhenda -Ndlovu -Jaison Mupari -Alex Moyo (war veteran and retired army Chapel) -Shupai Zvidzai (youth trainer) -Nonokai Mboyi -Silver Chikondere -Learnmore Magwizi	KM

2	<p>GBH, Asorn and Stock Theft (08/06/08, 0800hrs) The perpetrators invaded the victim's homestead and assaulted him using sticks and iron bars, breaking his left hand in the process. The militia left him for dead and proceeded to burn six cotton bales, shatter windows and break doors. In addition, they looted some livestock. Major Hungwe ordered the violence.</p>	JD (victim)	The researchers saw the victim's disabled hand.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Samuel Munyukwi -Dererai Mupari -Solomon Mabhenda -Ndlovu -Jaison Mupari -Alex Moyo (war veteran and retired army Chapel) -Shupai Zvidzai (youth trainer) -Nonokai Mboyi -Silver Chikondere -Learnmore Magwizi 	JD
3	<p>GBH (04/06/08, 0900hrs) The victim was abducted from his homestead and was forcibly taken to the base where the perpetrators took turns to assault him using iron bars and logs. In anticipation of the victim dying, the perpetrators took him to Mwenezi hospital mortuary where he regained consciousness. Major Hungwe ordered the violence and Alex Moyo commanded the operation. Despite the victim being hospitalised, no police docket was opened and perpetrators are still free in Mwenezi.</p>	RN (sister to the victim)	The researchers saw victim's relatives who confirmed the incident. The victim is in South Africa	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Samuel Munyukwi -Dererai Mupari -Solomon Mabhenda -Ndlovu -Jaison Mupari -Alex Moyo (war veteran and retired army Chapel) -Shupai Zvidzai (youth trainer) -Nonokai Mboyi -Silver Chikondere -Learnmore Magwizi 	PN)

4	<p>Abduction, Arson and Murder (14/06/08, 0900hrs)</p> <p>The militia abducted the victim, burning his house in the process and forced him to walk the base. The perpetrators intended to kill the victim because he was an MDC District Chairman. Major Hungwe was presiding over the case and Alex Moyo was second in command. The perpetrators, using iron bars and logs, assaulted the victim until he died. The case was reported to the police and no action was taken. The perpetrators are still roaming in the area.</p>	MZ JD	The researchers saw the victim's grave	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Jealousy Dube -Emmanuel Musipa -Maxwell Mutimukuru 	SM
5	<p>Arson (07/06/08, 2300hrs)</p> <p>The perpetrators sought to kill the victim and travelled to his homestead. The victim, aware of impending violence was hiding in a kopje near his homestead when the perpetrators arrived. The perpetrators, who wished to assault the victim were angered when they did not find him and petrol bombed his four roomed house, destroying all his property. Major Hungwe ordered the violence and Alex Moyo was commanding the militia. The case was reported to the police and the docket number is CR36/06/08. No action was taken against the perpetrators. The perpetrators are still free in the area.</p>	MZ (victim)	The researchers saw the burnt house.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Alex Moyo -Major Hungwe -Loice Mboyi -Lovemore Mangezi -John Banda 	MZ

6	Abduction and GBH (11/06/08, 1400hrs) The perpetrators abducted the victim and forcibly walked him to the base; they later shifted him from the base to a place on the river bank with a selected group of youths who then took turns to assault him. They used logs and iron bars to assault the victim and they left him for dead. The victim later gained consciousness and ran away. No police report was made and the perpetrators are still in the area.	CG (victim)	The researchers saw the scars on the victim	-Learnmore Magwizi -Nonokai Mboyi -Alex Moyo -Samuel Munyukwi	CG
7	GBH (14/06/08, 0300hrs) KM was beaten up and had his ribs broken. The perpetrators used logs and iron bars to assault the victim. He was taken to the Mwenezi hospital for treatment. The case was not reported to the police and perpetrators are roaming free in Mwenezi.	KM (victim)	The researchers saw the medical reports and the scars on the victim.	-Alex Mupari -Alex Moyo -Silver Chikondere, -Shupai Zvidzai	KM
8	Rape and Stock Theft (14/06/08, 0430hrs) After assaulting KD the perpetrators proceeded to his homestead and confiscated one goat and abducted his wife, RM, and force her to walk her to the base. On the way to the base, Alex Mupari raped the victim, ostensibly to save her from being killed. She was infected with HIV as a result. The case was not reported to the police and the perpetrators are still in the area. Alex Mupari ordered and carried out the rape incident.	RM (victim)	The researchers spoke to the victim and saw the medical report confirming her HIV status after the rape.	-Alex Mupari, -Jaison Mupari, -Alex Moyo, -Silver Chikondere	RM

Notes:

The victims of this base were coming from different wards across Mwenezi community.

KM, JD and PN are victims of violence that was ordered by base commander Colonel Hungwe.

Police can witness the incidents because the police base is very close to the militia base. The researchers approached the police and are yet to be given dockets numbers.

Shupai Zvidzai (youth trainer) gave youths military training.

Although school heads were not involved in violence, they did exclude or discriminate people who were from rival political parties. For example: Lemon Moyo Matizirofa (Maranda High school head and also ZANU-PF central committee member) froze salaries of teachers at Maranda High who included Dickson Ncube (MDC parliamentary candidate campaign manager), Chigwidiri Sithole and Beckluwers Matavire.

2.3 Current intimidation and violence

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

CHIEF MRANDA'S HOME					
Incident	Description of Incident	Source of info	Verification	Names/IDs of alleged perpetrators	Names/IDs of victims

1	<p>Intimidation and threats (28/07/10, 1200hrs) Soon after the COPAC, the traditional leader Chief Maranda called for a ZANU-PF meeting at his homestead. The meeting was addressed by a member of the Central Intelligence Organisation, identified as Chimanikire. The CIO agent issued death threats against those who participated during COPAC meetings against ZANU-PF positions in the constitution. He called out names of the people who participated without permission during the COPAC meeting and emphasised that the CIO would take action against such people.</p>	AM	The community confirmed the incident	CIO boss Chimanikire	GB TD EM I SM
<p>Notes: The above base was formed just after the COPAC meetings. The chief's base is used to intimidate people so that they will remain fearful.</p>					

ALL BASES					
Incident	Description of Incident	Source of info	Verification	Names/IDs of alleged perpetrators	Names/IDs of victims

1	<p>Intimidation and Threats (Following COPAC meetings) Following the introduction of COPAC, all the bases that have been dormant were activated. Alex Moyo, Major Hungwe, and traditional chiefs have been constantly and openly making death threats to anyone who participates during COPAC meetings without permission.</p>			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Major Hungwe (ZNA) -Alex Moyo (war veteran) -chief Maranda -Solomon Ndlovu (coordinator) -Steven Chikondere (war veteran) -Jelous Dube (ward chairman) 	Mwenezi community MDC leadership MZ EM
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Notes: Maranda Base was the command centre and all the victims that were identified across Mwenezi were brought to Maranda base at one point or another. All the activities of the other bases were controlled at Maranda.

COPAC

In Mwenzi West, like in other areas around Zimbabwe, ZANU-PF thugs threaten people to remain silent (Operation Chimumumu) during the COPAC outreach programme. On the day of the outreach programme a few people bravely contributed their views to the outreach team.

2.4 Description of bases

MARANDA BASE (Chief's Homestead)

PERSONNEL						
<i>Name</i>	<i>Age</i>	<i>Sex</i>	<i>Organisation</i>	<i>Rank/ID</i>	<i>Role</i>	<i>Source of information</i>
Chimanikire	45	M	C.I.O		Supervising	AM
Major Hungwe	50	M	ZNA	Major	Strategising	
Alex Moyo	40	M	War vet	Coordinator	Coordinating	
Chief Maranda	55	M	Traditional leader	Chief	Mobilisation	
Mboyi (kraal head)	45	M	Traditional leader	Headman	Mobilisation	
FINANCE AND SUPPORT						
Payments to personnel (Q22, 23): The CIO agent and Chief are paid by the government. So are the ZANU-PF youth officers. Local supplies, food and provisions (Q24, 25): There is no food supplied at the base because militia do not live there but only come for meetings.						
VEHICLES						
<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>
Chimanikire	Mazda BT50	AAU4361		White		For administrative issues.
WEAPONS						
<i>Name of owners/users</i>	<i>Type</i>	<i>No.</i>	<i>Display(Yes/No)</i>	<i>Notes and comments</i>		
				The chief Maranda home base is active but is not a base used for torturing people but used for planning and intimidating MDC supporters. There are no weapons used here.		
ACCOMODATION AND EQUIPMENT						
<i>Description</i>	<i>Use</i>	<i>Notes and comments</i>				

Notes: Footprint (Q3-4):

The base is within the village about 500metres away from other homesteads. ZANU-PF supporters travel as far as 5km to Chief Maranda's home base.

NB: The researchers chose to attribute all violence to Miranda base and focus on Miranda base as it is the command base where all atrocities are planned.

2.5 Summary of means of control

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

Food in the constituency was sold based on political lines. Food sold from GMB was done through ZANU-PF councillors who denied MDC supporters access to food, for example: Ward 12 Councillor Chikwenure openly denied MDC supporters the opportunity to buy food.

MDC supporters, MZ, CG, MM and EM were denied access to buy food, agricultural implements such as fertiliser, and seeds. The resources were distributed to ZANU-PF supporters.

- **Raiding resources and destroying property**

ZANU-PF supporters maintained control by taking livestock and destroying property belonging to MDC supporters.

- **Cohesion, threats and violence**

MDC supporters were subjected to torture and murder publicly as a means to control the will of the constituents.

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

After a productive discussion, the community indicated that they are willing to resist violence. They have now set up a peace committee. At the moment they are beginning to mobilise other villagers and educate them about the strategies to counter violence. MDC supporters are starting to organise meetings so that they are able to protect themselves from any form of violence. From the researchers' understanding the leadership is very strong and is willing to resist violence in any way.

3.2 Organisation

- **Establishment of committees and operational unit**

The researchers managed to establish Peace Committees and DOPs. There are up to 31 members who are willing to work as Defenders of Peace. EM, who is the chairman of the committee and MZ are the most influential members.

- **Building of membership**

More people promised to join the committee, but they are still afraid of being targets of violence. So far 31 members have joined. They are in Wards 8, 9, 10, 11 and 12.

3.3 Information and communications

- **Methods of gathering information**

DOPs shall attend ZANU-PF meetings to glean information on plans to perpetrate violence. Counter strategies to reduce the impact of the violence will then be devised. Peace committees, assisted by Defenders of Peace, shall monitor the movements of key perpetrators.

- **Methods of relaying information**

The area of Mwenezi has very bad network coverage. Within the constituency word pass shall be used as a method of relaying information.

3.4 Strategic Objectives

- To facilitate the capacity of locals to prevent or reduce pre-election violence
- To reduce fear amongst potential voters and also to increase their confidence
- To demoralise perpetrators of violence so that they will not kill, maim and rape villagers
- To produce a credible election that will be accepted by the international community
- To register new voters and clean the voters' roll

3.5 Key Strategies

- **Food security and livelihoods**

The area is characterised by poor rainfall patterns, so there is need for food distribution before the elections to avoid manipulation of voters using food as a weapon. It is also necessary to prevent the partisan distribution of agricultural inputs.

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

If all other tactics are exhausted, people need to be evacuated to Masvingo town where there is less violence. There should be constant transport available which must be used to ferry people to Masvingo.

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

There are some key ZANU-PF figures such as Solomon Ndlovu (who owns a farm in the local community), Alex Mupari, Jealous Dube and Nonokai Mboyi. There is need to neutralise the influence of these people. The base at Chief Maranda's homestead should be neutralised.

3.6 Tactical Actions

- **Food security and livelihoods**

Peace committees have recommended that the leadership of the Voice for Democracy should assist them in engaging NGOs involved in food distribution. The NGOs should distribute food before elections. Proposed NGOs include Care International, Christian Care, Plan International, Concern International, IOM and World Vision among others.

To prevent the manipulation of food distribution peace committees have said that they will push for the establishment of an inclusive food committee comprising both ZANU-PF and

MDC supporters. The inclusive committee will be a reflection of the national composition of the inclusive government. The committee will have the power to write down the list of intended beneficiaries of food distribution.

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

To evacuate people, Defenders of Peace shall escort those targeted to the bus stop during early morning hours. Peace committees will engage the owner of a commuter omnibus operating in Masvingo. Evacuation shall be done mostly at night or in the early morning. Safe houses where these people will stay need to be secured in Masvingo.

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

Personnel:

Solomon Ndlovu shall be neutralised by discouraging villagers from buying his poultry. Alex Mupari's rape case shall be pursued as a civil case. Nonokai Muboyi's murder case on 14 June 2008 shall also be pursued as a civil case.

Residents of Chivi South shall be mobilised to shun buying anything from Colonel Hungwe who owns a shop at Ngundu shopping centre.

Villagers shall be mobilised to confront the chief and bring their cases before the traditional courts. Judgements passed by the chief shall be published to the media.

4 Support

- Legal representation from ZLHR. Funding is sought from the donor community
- Bus fare for those evacuated
- Food from NGOs involved in food distribution