

PUBLIC

AI Index: AFR 46/25/00

19 July 2000

Further information on UA 189/00 (AFR 46/21/00, 30 June 2000) - Fear for safety

**ZIMBABWE** Archbishop Pius Ncube

**New names: David Coltart, Blessing Chebundo and Edwin Mushoriwa, recently elected MDC members of parliament, and other MDC members and supporters.**

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Amnesty International remains concerned for the safety of the Archbishop of Bulawayo, Pius Ncube, following death threats against him last month. The organisation is also concerned for the safety of members and supporters of the Movement for Democratic Change (MDC) following reports of violent attacks and death threats after the 25 June parliamentary election.

Amnesty International has received reports of death threats made by high ranking government officials against members of the MDC, notably against the MDC Member of Parliament (MP) David Coltart. In light of the pre-election violence, during which at least 30 MDC members were killed, David Coltart and other members of the MDC are taking these threats very seriously.

Blessing Chebundo, another MDC member was nearly burnt alive, beaten and his house set on fire in the period leading up to the elections. (see AI report *Zimbabwe: Terror tactics in the run up to the parliamentary elections, June 2000* - AFR 46/14/00). He repeatedly reported these incidences to the police who have yet to take any action.

On 28 June, three days after the elections, Edwin Mushoriwa, the MDC MP for the Harare constituency of Dzivarasekwa, and MDC supporters were beaten by members of the army. Around 200 MDC supporters were holding a victory rally when a truck load of soldiers arrived and beat them with rifle butts. Many MDC supporters were hospitalised.

These cases form part of a systematic pattern of violence and intimidation against real and perceived government opponents in the post-election period. The security forces are reportedly involved in some of the violent incidents and intimidation. Amnesty International is concerned that recent moves by the opposition to contest some of the election results will lead to more violence by government supporters.

Letters sent by the Amnesty International membership have been very well received in Zimbabwe. The Amani Trust, a Zimbabwe human rights organisation, asked us to pass on their thanks: "We write to you in response to the many copies we received from you of letters to high government officials of Zimbabwe in which you condemn acts of violence committed in the wake of the recent parliamentary elections here. THANK YOU SO MUCH to all of you!"

**FURTHER RECOMMENDED ACTION: Please send telegrams/telexes/faxes/express/airmail letters in English**

**to the minister of defence Mr. Moven Mahachi:**

- expressing concern that members of the army have reportedly been involved in acts of violence and intimidation against Edwin Mushoriwa and other opposition party members and supporters;
- calling for the minister of defence to ensure that the army respect the rights of freedom of expression, association and assembly;

- calling on the minister of defence to investigate reports of violence and intimidation committed by members of the military and to ensure that those responsible are brought to justice;
- urging the Minister of defence to publicly condemn the violence and ensure that the military respect the rule of law.

**APPEALS TO:**

Mr. Moven Mahachi  
Ministry of Defence  
PO Box 7713  
Causeway  
Harare  
Zimbabwe  
**Fax: + 263-4-731 313 / + 263-4-796 762**  
**Salutation: Dear Minister Mahachi**

**to police commissioner Augustine Chihuru and to the minister of home affairs  
Mr. John Nkomo:**

- expressing concern about the threats directed at perceived and real members and supporters of the MDC;
- urging them to guarantee the safety of members and supporters of all political parties irrespective of political affiliation;
- calling for the police to impartially investigate the death threats against David Coltard;
- calling for the police to impartially investigate the attacks against Blessing Chebundo with the aim of bringing the perpetrators to justice;
- calling on the police to impartially investigate the reports of army brutality against Edwin Mushoriwa and other MDC supporters following the victory rally held on 28 June 2000;
- expressing concern that investigation of attacks against opposition party members and supporters has reportedly been delayed.

**APPEALS TO:**

Mr. John Nkomo  
Ministry of Home Affairs  
Private bag 505D  
Harare  
Zimbabwe  
**Fax: + 263-4-726 716**  
**Salutation: Dear Minister Nkomo**

Mr. Augustine Chihuri  
police Headquarters  
PO Box 8807  
Causeway  
Harare  
Zimbabwe  
**Telegrams: Augustine Chihuri, Police Headquarters, Harare, Zimbabwe**  
**Salutation: Dear Mr. Chihuri**

**COPIES TO:**

**Human Rights Organisation**

Amani Trust  
2 Essex Road  
Hillside  
Bulawayo  
**Fax: + 263-9-75522**

**Newspaper**

The Standard  
PO Box 661730  
Kopje  
Harare  
Zimbabwe  
**Fax + 263-4-773854**  
**E-mail [standard@samara.co.zw](mailto:standard@samara.co.zw)**

and to diplomatic representatives of Zimbabwe accredited to your country.

**PLEASE SEND APPEALS IMMEDIATELY.** Check with the International Secretariat, or your section office, if sending appeals after 11 August 2000.