

# ZIMBABWE SECURITY FORCES TORTURE AND KILL

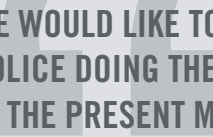
**AMNESTY**  
INTERNATIONAL



**'I WAS FORCED TO LIE ON THE  
GROUND AND WAS ASSAULTED BY  
ABOUT 15 SOLDIERS WITH THICK  
STICKS ON THE BUTTOCKS UNTIL I  
PASSED OUT... I PLEADED WITH THEM  
TO JUST SHOOT ME SINCE I WAS  
ALMOST DEAD... THEY TOLD ME THAT  
IT WAS THE LAST DAY OF MY LIFE.'**

A woman local official of the opposition  
Movement for Democratic Change, August 2008

# ZIMBABWE SECURITY FORCES TORTURE AND KILL



**WE WOULD LIKE TO SEE THE  
POLICE DOING THEIR WORK.  
AT THE PRESENT MOMENT IT  
IS A WASTE OF TIME TO REPORT  
A MATTER TO THE POLICE.**

74-year-old victim of state-sponsored violence from Gokwe, August 2008

During the 2008 elections, the security forces – army, police and intelligence service – were directly involved in committing human rights violations against suspected opponents of the ZANU-PF government. Together with some “war veterans”, they were the

main force behind the widespread political violence. They also organized ZANU-PF members to attack opposition supporters.

Among those stirring up violence were members of the Joint Operations Command, a group of senior military, intelligence, prisons and police officials, and government representatives. In March 2008, the Zimbabwe Defence Forces Commander publicly stated his loyalty to President Mugabe and declared he would not salute anyone



Anti-riot police beat a protester, Harare

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else if they were elected. In 2008, senior army and police officers threatened to kill those they suspected of voting for the opposition.

The government has conducted no investigations into human rights violations apparently committed by members of the security forces.

A culture of impunity also permeates the Zimbabwe Republic Police, in particular in the Law and Order Section and anti-riot unit. Police from these

units have beaten and tortured suspected government opponents, including human rights defenders. Police have also denied detainees in police custody their internationally guaranteed rights. Allegations of torture, excessive use of force and related violations by police have not been investigated and those responsible have not been held to account.

# ACT NOW

## WRITE TO THE ATTORNEY GENERAL, CALLING ON HIM TO:

- investigate the role of the security forces and the Zimbabwe Republic Police in human rights violations since 2000, including during the 2008 elections;
- ensure that perpetrators are held to account and that victims receive reparations for their suffering.

## WRITE TO:

The Attorney General  
Office of the Attorney General  
P. Bag 7714  
Causeway  
Harare  
Zimbabwe

Fax: +263 4 777 049

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