



Zimbabwe - Researched and compiled by the Refugee Documentation Centre of Ireland on 27 July 2010

The most recent info available for the situation for those involved with MDC.

A report by the *United Kingdom Foreign and Commonwealth Office* states:

“Supporters of the Movement for Democratic Change (MDC) and members of civil society continue to suffer abuse and intimidation at the hands of the police and the army” (United Kingdom Foreign and Commonwealth Office (March 2009) *Annual Report on Human Rights 2009*, p.168).

While not mentioning the MDC, *Amnesty International* in February 2010 reports:

“Torture, harassment and politically motivated prosecutions of human rights defenders and perceived opponents have persisted, while villagers in parts of Zimbabwe have suffered ceaseless intimidation by supporters of former ruling party ZANU-PF” (Amnesty International (10 February 2010) *Abuse of human rights in Zimbabwe continues under unity government*).

A report by *Human Rights Watch* states:

“Recent research by Human Rights Watch in Zimbabwe suggests that there has been no meaningful political transition, and that ZANU-PF continues to engage in political violence against perceived opponents” (Human Rights Watch (12 February 2010) *Zimbabwe: One Year On, Reform a Failure*). This report also states: “In the first week of February 2010, police disrupted MDC-organized constitutional reform meetings, beat up participants, and arbitrarily arrested 43 people in Binga, 48 in Masvingo, and 52 in Mt. Darwin” (Human Rights Watch (12 February 2010) *Zimbabwe: One Year On, Reform a Failure*).

A report by *The Economist* states:

“Human-rights and MDC activists are still being beaten up and arrested. MDC provincial governors have still not been allowed to take up their posts” (The Economist (18 February 2010) *Bring on the polls*).

According to the *United States Department of State*:

“There were numerous credible reports of politically motivated abductions and attempted abductions during the year. MDC leaders reported that state security agents and ZANU-PF party supporters abducted and tortured dozens of opposition and civil society members, as well as student leaders, as part of an effort to intimidate MDC supporters and civil society members and leaders” (United States Department of State (11 March 2010) *2009 Human Rights Report: Zimbabwe*, Section).

A report by the *Zimbabwe Peace Project* states:

“The MDC T continue to complain of cases in which their legislators and party activists are arrested, detained, and convicted in circumstances that they say smack of use of state organs to mete out persecution of political opponents” (Zimbabwe Peace Project (25 September 2009) *Report on Politically Motivated Human Rights Violations: Jan - July 2009*).

References:

Amnesty International (10 February 2010) *Abuse of human rights in Zimbabwe continues under unity government*

<http://www.amnesty.org/en/news-and-updates/abuse-human-rights-zimbabwe-continues-under-unity-government-20100210>

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<http://www.lexisnexis.com> (This is a subscription website)

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(Accessed 27 July 2010)

This response was prepared after researching publicly accessible information currently available to the Refugee Documentation Centre within time constraints. This response is not and does not purport to be, conclusive as to the merit of any particular claim to refugee status or asylum. Please read in full all documents referred to.

Sources Consulted:

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Danish Immigration Service
European Country of Origin Information Network
Google
Human Rights Watch
Immigration and Refugee Board of Canada
IRIN News
Lexis Nexis
Online Newspapers
Refugee Documentation Centre Library
Refugee Documentation Centre Query Database
Refugees International
Relief Web
UNHRC Refworld
United States Department of State