

Skeletons and Ghosts of Political Violence: A Phenomenological Investigation into the Aetiology of violent Political Behaviours in Zaka

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Abstract: Political violent behaviours characterize much of African politics and has psychologically caused diverse perturbations in the psychological stamina of the individual by posing debilitating effects such as trauma amongst other effects. It is in Zimbabwe and particularly in Zaka district that elections have been characterized by political violent behaviours hence this has prompted research to find a deep understanding of the phenomena of violent behaviours in Zaka district. The research used a qualitative approach to research, interviewing three respondents who are survivors of political violence in an ethical frame to have a deep insight of causes of political violence. Findings from this research revealed violent behaviours resulting from multiple sources some of which are unemployment, presence of party youth soldiers, political indoctrination among a plethora of causes. These issues call for structural rebuilding of institutions which enforce and maintain order during elections, setting up political ethics committees which censor political parties which foment violence. In issues of political violent behaviours it is for the best interest of the aspirations of the people of Zaka, Zimbabwe and researchers that more is done to understand this phenomena psychologically so as to understand the harm it poses to people.

Keywords: Behaviours, Foot-soldiers, Indoctrination, Phenomena, Political violence, Psychologically

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I. INTRODUCTION

Issues of political violence have been documented all over the world and Africa appears to be having topical issues of election related violence. In the past few years, very violent elections have occurred in countries such as Cote d'Ivoire, Kenya, Nigeria and Zimbabwe (The Nordic Africa Institute 2013/3). We have seen widespread violence in the (CAR) a South Sudan attack by Boko Haram in Nigeria and Alshabab in Kenya and Somalia (Mercy Corps). A snapshot of explosive conflict in today's Africa presents a worrying picture of Eritrea, and Ethiopia DRC, Rwanda, Uganda, Namibia, Zimbabwe, Sudan (Bujra 2002). Since independence Zimbabwean society faced the threat of organized violence (Zimbabwe Human Rights NGO forum April 2004). It is from such organized violence that a culture of violence seems to have been created in Zimbabwe. History of political violence in independent Zimbabwe can be traced back to the Matabeleland disturbances in the 1980s in which estimated 20000 lives lost (Human Rights NGO Forum April 2004). In Zaka district from 2000 to 2008 lives were lost due to political violence. This paper seeks to phenomenologically document the occurrence of violence which will be done with a psychological niche and also seek to understand how violent behaviours happen during elections.

A culture of violence has developed in Zimbabwe and mainly in Zaka during election periods. Batsanov(2006) cited in Zimbabwe human rights report of April 2014:10 defines a culture of violence as a system of government based violence, submission and brutal force. A culture of violence may leave an impression that violence is mysterious and can not be pinned down. Colaguori(2010)termed "naturalization of violence" in which continued existence of violence is justified as inevitable and unavoidable. It is the task of this research to unmask the mysteries of violence and demystify violence from its naturalized stance to an unnatural stance by way of clearly showing how it occurs. In so doing it can be easily planned and followed on how it can be halted within Zimbabwean communities like Zaka. It's also important to note that within Zimbabwe, violence has a gender face. Zimbabwe Human Rights NGO forum (2014) states that there is a gender face of violence in Zimbabwe with a number of cultural belief systems which endanger women. Zimbabwe has been haunted for several years with

psychological violence which is directed especially on the psychology of individual such as structural violence. Structural violence is seen as the physical and psychological harm that result from an exploitative unjust social, political and economic system. Mercy corps state that even a single instance of a family member being attacked in the past year corresponds with being five times more likely to participate in political violence. Scientific study have shown that violence can result in mental health challenges such as post-traumatic stress disorder and depression. Steel, Chey, Silove, Marnave, Bryant, and van Ommeren (2009) concluded that even a comprehensive meta-analytical study of 161 reports of studies carried out in 40 countries, on 81866 victims concluded that irrespective of whether the victims were refugees or persons living in conflict countries, torture was predictive of post traumatic stress disorder (PTSD) and accumulative exposure to potentially traumatic events was predictive of depression. Exposure of minors to violence has a highly negative consequences. Pswarayi and Reeler (2012) echoed that exposure of children to violence has a highly unbearable consequences of modelling violence on younger children, with implication that political violence is acceptable. Pswarayi and Reeler (2012) further opined that there is ample evidence that exposing children to violence can have serious effects on mental and social adjustments of children.

The levels of unemployment and use of paramilitary strategies have been identified as ways in which violent behaviors are extant during election periods. Millar (2014) state that political parties recruit and use foot soldiers to commit electoral fraud in order to win elections or to maintain control over state resources. Fielding(2015) states most attacks are carried out from bases manned by government party activist with indirect connection to the security apparatus. Pswarayi and Reeler(2012) stated that education has been political and militarized by setting up militia bases in schools, attacking teachers and exposing pupils to violence. In some embarrassing cases, the children were given whips to beat teachers. Zimbabwe has suffered serious socio-economic decline, that extremely large numbers of Zimbabweans have left the country migrant or refugee, and there has been high levels of organized violence (Pswarayi and Reeler, 2012).

Acts of murder and arson are documented as having occurred in Zaka district with the involvement of state officers being fingered in the attacks towards the June 2008 presidential runoff elections. The MDC has said two of its activists were killed while others have gone missing after an attack by suspected Zanu PF militia gang on the opposition party's offices in Zaka, Masvingo on June 3 2008. Fomer MDC Zaka central MP- elect, Harrison Mudzuri said the MDC activists were attacked by a militia popularly known as vakomana vehit squad (the hit squad boys) which has been terrorizing opposition supporters at Jerera Growth Point, Zaka since the March 29. Police chief spokesperson Wayne Bvudzijena confirmed there was violence in Jerera, but said he would have more details on it after being briefed by officers on the ground. According to Mudzuri they sprinkled petrol around the building and set it alight (The Independent June 6 2008).

Schools in Zaka were forced to close as teachers refused to return to work following violence and continued victimization by Zanu PF youths in the area. Documents reveal failure by some schools to open for the first term of 2009 as teachers refused to return to work following continued threats of victimization by Zanu PF youths in the area. Teachers in Zaka district like in most rural districts were forced to flee their homes and jobs prior to 27 June Presidential elections following intimidation by Zanu PF Youths (Zimbabwe human rights NGO Forum 2009 28 April).

In Zaka there were political interferences of democratic rights of citizens via state actors like the police by banning peaceful demonstrations by victims of political violence citing issues such as that the events are not procedural. Lance Guma (2010) 18 March SW radio Africa (London) stated that a demonstration by victims of political violence which was meant to take place on Thursday in Zaka, was blocked by police who claimed that the participants had not followed proper procedures. Most of the victims were targeted by Zanu PF militants in presidential runoff and wanted to show their dissatisfaction with the coalition government for not doing enough to get them justice.

People within Zaka are now living in trauma and fear following politically violent incidents. Memory Pedzerai, a survivor of the June 3 arson, who was bundled into an unregistered Mitsubishi single cab truck that the gunmen were using and later dumped her in a bush several kilometers from the growth point, said she was even scared to go to the polling station “ as a survivor who has a firsthand account of what happened on June 3 murders, I don't think I will be able to go to the polling station, I am scared that if I cast my vote for the political party I prefer lots of people will lose their lives”. Clemence Chikoro of Chandipwisa Village in Ward 28 under Chief Bota said the fear is still gripping many villagers. He said MDC supporters were fearful of wearing party regalia given to them “The memories are still fresh in our minds. I still have strong memories of this day, June 3 2008, when I woke up early in the morning from my village to Jerera Growth point to book a better place on the mealie meal queue” recalls Mbuya Getrude Gweme, 68[Lance Guma (2010) 18 March sw radio Africa (London)]

Issues of ideologies of political parties are some of the issues in which people have lost lives, with some accused of renegading from the ethos of the liberation struggle. Zuva Mugova 14/09/1932-07/06/2008 by far the eldest person to be killed in political violence in Zaka was brutally murdered at Svuuure base in Zaka after having been abducted from his homestead from his homestead by 20 youth, soldiers and war veterans. The deceased was accused of betraying the struggle of independence by influencing the younger generation to support the opposition. The deceased received a pauper's burial as most of his relatives and family had gone into hiding. The armed forces are reportedly said to have terrorized the area under an operation dubbed 'wakavhotera papi' (whom did you vote for) (MISA The Zimbabwean 30 September 2010).

Political violence left some women widows and children orphans. Joshua Chiyo 08/08/1976-25/12/2008 is survived by a wife and four children, a grand child of chief Bota in Zaka West was tortured at a base called Munyoro. He was assaulted for being the campaign manager of the then 2008 MP Festus Dumbu during the 2008 harmonized elections. He was assaulted on the chest and head and sustained internal injuries which saw his condition deteriorate for four months until he passed away on 25 December 2008(MDC roll of honour).

Gory stories of women being victims of political machinations have been documented in Zaka. Bertha Dzigarwi 15/09/1960-07/06/2008, the deceased was forced by youth militias to drink poison. Circumstances leading to the death of Bertha are still mysterious more than two years after her death. The husband, Crispin Mukanga could not hold tears when he narrated how her wife was killed. He highlighted that police reports were made yet no arrests have been made yet (MDC roll of honour).

Violence in Zaka has resulted in some people having life injuries. Kudakwashe Tshumele, 22, lied mutilated and bed ridden, six months after armed thugs set to fire the opposition party office where he was working as a campaign volunteer. If he could leave his brick shanty, his relatives said he might face what they do: taunts from ruling party backers, promises of more blazes(30 November 2008 Washington post).

A similar violent culture from colonial governments has been witnessed in Zaka during the era of a black government rule. In a recent book, when a State Turns on its Citizens (Jacana Media, Johannesburg), we observed that political violence has deep roots in Zimbabwean society and would therefore require a holistic and concentrated approach to address it (Sachikonye, 2011). First the roots can be traced to colonial state structures and practices which ruthlessly suppressed moderate African nationalism in the 1950s, with the, unintended consequences of fostering a more radical, uncompromising African nationalism in the 1960s. The arsenal of the state colonialism included sjamboks, dogs, guns and poison as well as torture against activists and liberation fighters (Sachikonye 2011). It is this same culture of violence that has been widely repeated by current government that it can be wisely be suggest that the art of violence has been inherited form white colonial masters.

People in Zaka have been displaced due to political violent behaviors. At least 1000 people have been displaced in Zaka and Gutu districts alone because of post-election violence in Masvingo province three weeks after the presidential election (Dailynews 4 February 2002). Mushagashe training centre, about 20 kilometers north of Masvingo town, has been turned into a Zanu PF training, where scores of youths are being churned out every week. Retired army captain Francis Zimuto also known as Black Jesus, was leading the training centre (Dailynews 4 February 2002).

II. METHODOLOGY

Participants were drawn from survivors of political violence from year 2002- 2013 via a purposive sampling technique adapted with changes from Mtemeri and Maziti (2015) Qualitative study on beliefs and prejudices of Christians on homosexuality in Zimbabwe. Survivors of political violence who were willing to participate were used in the study. Qualitative research method was used because knowledge of suffering cannot be conveyed in pure facts and figure reports that objectify the suffering of countless persons(Chop 1986). Participants gave details through interviews. Open ended questions were used to gather data. Prior arrangements were made with those whom the researcher had identified. Three participants were interviewed in the study. The researcher informed the participants on why they were participating in the research and on how the data was going to be handled. Participants were assured confidentiality since issues of politics often result in tensions in Zimbabwe.

III. RESULTS AND DISCUSSIONS

Respondents views have been written in italics and for the sake of maintaining confidentiality data is presented in such a way that it does not identify the respondents in any way to their statements.

Perceived Fairness and Easiness of Committing Violence

We lost our livestock to these Zanu PF supporters mainly in 2001-2002 people like Eddy Munjanja would come to your cattle pen and point with his finger to your cattle and it would be slaughtered to provide food to the 'bases'. People like Hazvidihope and Chomujiki used to beat us willingly saying you are sellouts and many people lost their lives, they were never arrested however they later died in mysterious deaths Hazvidihope died shortly after being hospitalized in Musiso hospital in Jerera and Chomujiki collapsed at the growth point in Jerera and died these deaths occurred years after terror campaigns, Eddy Munjanja was years later arrested of murder and sentenced to 20 years in jail.

Bujra(2002) states that if it is easy for one group to start a rebellion, it is equally easy for another to do the same, and when one rebellion starts soon it is followed by others. On the 6th of March 2002 police spokesperson stated that 16 lives were lost during the run of the presidential election. 'The figures now stand at 16 said police spokesperson Wayne Bvudzijena six of the killings took place in Bikita and Zaka districts while the rest were scattered across the country. The police said in the first 25 days of February, 520 cases of genuine political violence had been reported of which 241 could be traced to the MDC, while Zanu-Pf was responsible for perpetrating 223 cases. Therefore it is explicit from these reported documents that there is easiness of committing political violence hence 520 cases of political violence are committed in 25 days and also 16 murder cases.

Unemployment

In 2002 youths who were trained in Boarder Gezi in Mushagashe training centre were promised jobs in the army, police and air force. Mostly because of these promises they beat up people in this village acting as if they were already soldiers, some youths who normally are loafers joined in because they were given money to buy beer 'mascud' [opaque beer] they terrorized the village beating people older enough to be their parents and grandparents if they perceive that they support opposition party, they would beat them calling them sellouts who wanted to sell the country to colonial whites were the country was liberated from.

Some of these youths who run about within villages looking for beer would beat us as women saying your brother supports MDC so you also support that party. At times these youths could call us to the base (a place where political sloganeering and indoctrination would be done all night] and we would sing). Some prostitutes would be called off from their night dealings to the bases to offer their services to these unemployed youths as a way to show patriotism, solidarity by giving their services for free they would usually say to them 'sema komuredhi hatinyimani' (we don't starve each others as fellow comrades')

Youth unemployment has reached shocking levels. The Parliamentary Portfolio Committee on youth Development, indigenization and Empowerment said Youth unemployment in Zimbabwe is four times higher than that of adults, the committee said unemployment currently is estimated at 80 percent [Rawling Standgun Madenge 2 May 2013 Nehanda radio news online]. Population is increasing dramatically in urban centers, while the economies of most African countries have been deteriorating thus raising urban unemployment to a very high numbers (Bujra 2002). High numbers of unemployed youths are highly susceptible to be used as tools by political violence instigators such as political aspirants.

Consolidation of power

Those in power do not want to relinquish power because it is for their own benefit to amass wealth "mashefu anoda kuramba vachingoluma vari vega kumusoro ikoko saka havadi kubva nokuti vanoziva kuti havazodyi"(They still want to benefit on their own in government offices for personal benefit and they know that if they move from those posts they will not stand to benefit economically). The bigwigs don't care that we are beaten, if the beating causes people vote for them. At one point one of the military chefs came and told us before June 2008 elections that a country is not taken by a pencil but by a gun exposing the gun and firing shots in the air at a public rally which they had forced villagers to attend, everyone was terrified.

Miller (2014) echoes that disputed presidential elections and other countries are accompanied by mass killings, destruction of property and displacement of several communities and that elections are characterized by bitter struggles over access to state resources. Fielding(2015) states that most of the electoral violence in Africa is perpetuated by incumbent governments. Hence the need to access national resources has resulted in incumbent governments causing violence as a way to retain power and access continually state resources.

Foot Soldiers

In 2000-2002 elections, the Zanu PF trained youths green bombers would mount up roadblocks going into areas which connect Zaka and Bikita and would stop buses and omnibuses checking if the passengers had Zanu Pf

membership cards. Those who had no such cards were forced to leave the bus and were taught the hard way, normally they would be made to sing Zanu PF songs. In between the songs slogans would be chanted saying “vasingazive ngavadzidziswe “ and people were not taught the normal way they were given lashings with large weeps. Hunzvi known better as Hitler as he called himself patrolled during this period before his death, in some parts of Bikita and it is him who gave backing to these youth militia to terrorise citizens. Our relatives in the city would not come to visit us during those periods because they would be beaten or lose their lives. The foot soldiers mainly would say that those from the city are sellouts as they voted for MDC in the cities.

In Zaka foot soldiers have been present, intimidating, assaulting, abducting murdering people who refuse to be in line or whom they suspect are not its members. *When you are without a party membership card from Zanu PF you are in for real trouble.*

The presence of the foot soldiers is another source of political violence during elections. Afrobarometer survey by Kirwin and Cho (2009) reported that a majority 81% of Ghanaians agreed that some of the activities of party foot soldiers brand of party activism had potential to derail the country’s democratic development. Political parties in Africa often make use of foot soldiers to ensure that they win elections or to maintain control over state resources (Millar 2014). “The militia is turning children into vandals who murder their uncle and torture their neighbours” said the human rights activist, who asked not to be named (Droits de l’homme 2003). The mere presence of party foot soldiers is problematic as it is the oasis of violent behaviours. Millar(2014) notes that, foot soldiers brand activism has features of lawlessness and the line between convectional participation and contentious politics becomes blurred.

Reification of Party Leaders

Supporters of Zanu PF view their leaders highly esteemed even to levels that at any point we are not supposed to speak bad about them, criticize them and even talk of areas that they have clearly gone wrong, even talking of his age you are blacklisted as being rebellious or even get arrested for that.

ZANU-PF youth chairperson Kudzai Chipanga described Mugabe as ‘Jesus’, Webster Shamu described him as ‘Cremora’ it is those views of political ‘god fathers’ which created political parties that then result in violence in Zimbabwe as supporters would do anything within their power to protect them in their ‘godly positions’ even if it means to injure, harm or kill those within alternate views.

Easy Access to Weapons and Inheritance of Violence

When these Zanu PF supporters came to my house during the night they had machetes, knobkerries, large weapons, cater pulls, steel bars and knives these are normally tools used for common jobs here in rural areas and every home has at least some of those tools

Governments typically have access to an extensive state security apparatus, and in many cases they have originally come to power through a civil war of independence struggle that tends to instill “a culture of violence”(Omotola,2010). Fielding(2015) states that most of attacks in Zimbabwe are carried out from base manned by government party activist with only indirect connection to the state security apparatus.

Ministry of defence Sydney Sekeramai was once quoted in the government press as saying that the National Youth Service could form a reserve force, under military command to defend the nation(Droits del l’homme IRIN 8 September 2003). By announcing an intention to train youth in weaponry, the minister had finally owned up to “a defacto” government policy. State sponsored terrorism was a common feature in the Rhodesian bush war and more recently it has been used by Zimbabwe’s President Robert Mugabe to silence dissent and maintain power (Forest and Giroux 2011). Chabal and Daloz (1999) state that since in most countries the ‘state’ not only fails to protect the population from crime but itself is responsible for a high level of violence. Countries seem to have mastered the art of violence from past governments and perfected it to this day. It is in this aspect that party activists have access to weaponry that causes violent behaviours.

Violence an Election Instrument

People are afraid of voting against Zanu PF. *When politicians come they remind us the villagers that they don’t want to repeat the incident. They say “kana mukavhotera pasipo tinotanga hondo”, if you vote for a wrong party war will start. People when they are beaten some killed and houses burnt they vote for those people because they fear worse things would occur to them or even their close family members.*

Zimbabwean President Robert Mugabe has never been so close to losing power, and appears willing to use all means available to physically beat his opponents into submission (Jamal Jafari May 12 2008). Fielding (2015) did clearly stated that incumbent regime violence did succeed in influencing the result of the election, but this

violence was largely targeted at MDC supporters. Zimbabwean experience has also been used to motivate recent theoretical models of electoral strategies which predict violence and intimidation will be preferred to bribery and fraud when the level of core support of the incumbent regime is relatively low (Chaturvedi, 2005; Collier and Vicente, 2012). The use of violence as a political strategy has proven to be a cause of political violent behaviors.

Exposure to Violence

At the start in 2000 to 2002 the green bombers used to beat up people themselves in 2008 the green bombers were with other youths who used to accompany them singing "toyi toyi" and this new group has grown to be worse if they beat you, you will not recover "vakakurova vafanha ivavo haupori" some of them have joined the CIO I think with that same attitude they are now very dangerous.

Pswarayi and Reeler (2012) echoe that exposure to violence, especially by other youth can incalculable both a culture of violence even future participation in violence. Social learning theory by Bandura expounds that such acts might lead to vicarious learning and is clearly outlined in his Bobo doll experiment, where children who had witnessed aggressive behavior being exhibited to the doll by the model tend to do the same to the doll when presented to them (Dworetzky 1989). Exposing children to political violence can have serious effects on the mental and social adjustment of children, it is important to note the possible impact of violence in engendering a culture of violence for the future of Zimbabwe (Pswarayi and Reeler, 2012). Exposure to violence has devastating effects in that it turns those who have been exposed to it into violent personas.

Political Doctrines

During the night we were made to sing songs of the liberation war songs which extolled Zanu PF. Some would preach using the bible 'Gabriel mutumwa wakatumwa kubva kudenga hapana anomubvisa' referring to the president's second name Gabriel stating him as an angel. Songs such as 'Zanu yakakurera ukakura Morgan wotengesanya nyika kumabhunu watokanganwa'. Zanu PF kept you until you are of age Morgan Tsvangirai, now you have forgotten you are selling the country to the white man. Slogans were done during the night and those who were beaten were also given the time to confess and rescind their opposition membership in public and chant Zanu PF slogans in public.

Indoctrination in political issues is another source of political violent behaviours. Establishment of national youth service(NYS) training lasting for three month which was full of political indoctrination was reported to last three months and was said to entail self –defense, patriotism, reports however claim that youths were trained in 2001 have been used to terrorise the political opposition (BBC Monitoring 24 November 2001). The Zimbabwean of 27 July (2009) stated that "green bombers have been deployed to schools.

Structural violence

The police do not act when villagers make reports about political violence or even do they open dockets for future investigation. In 2001-2002 towards the presidential elections some police would say they were told not to act on political matters by their superiors. Normally police will know that Zanu PF youth are causing havoc and calling for bases but they would act as if none those things are existing.

I 've personally been assaulted by some known members but the police ended up arresting me.

Structural violence is a form of political violence that has sought of engulfed the state of Zimbabwe. Structural violence is seen as the physical and psychological harm that results from exploitative and unjust social, political and economic systems (Gilman 1963). Structural violence may be conceived as the killing, infliction of psychological harm and physical harm, or deprivation through socio-economic or political structures (Galtung 1969). Rawson(2012) states that structural violence is a product of historical process of social economic and political change. While, direct violence involves the use of visible force, structural violence involves the use of invisible force, structural violence in these cases does not require one to see harm in operation or to say someone intended its use(Zimbabwe human rights NGO FORUM April 2014). The blame of structural violence is generally blamed by the perpetrators of it on the victim.

Language

We are often called sellouts by Zanu PF and at times most of them they call us enemies in chanting their slogans saying 'Pasi nemhandu' down with enemies referring to us. Zanu PF often call us 'nhundira mutsime' or 'nharadada' meaning spoilers. Our leaders are often viewed as puppets or being used by whites and to them that makes it not a crime to hit or kill a sellout.

The use of dehumanizing language during electoral periods is another cause of electoral violent behaviors during elections. The same type of dehumanization made it easier to kill (Moss 2008). During Vietnam war, as one sergent testified: colonels called them gooks, the staff all called them gooks, they were dinks, you know subhumans (Lifton 1985:202). In almost all case of wars and atrocities, the enemy was depicted as less human by the use of derogatory terms(Moss 2008)the Japanese officer during “Rape of Nanking” was quoted as saying: “I regard them (the Chinese) as swine we can do anything to such creatures,”(Ferguson ,2006). It is from such cases of violence being caused by reckless statements that are dehumanizing that one fathoms that, such suffering is structured.

Unjust Laws

Most times laws have been put to make things hard for us, when we want to gather for political gatherings, the police enforce laws such as POSA to us, they say we have to apply for permission for them to hold such meetings. Often they will not approve us to hold public meetings, but Zanu PF does not go through the same rigorous process that we are coerced to under go. Zanu PF works closely with the police when we say we have our meeting in Jerera police would say that it has already been booked by Zanu PF so you have to postpone the meeting.

Political violence has and can be caused when laws which are devoid of justice are enacted, but this is a form of structural violence. Enactment of repressive legislation by the government of Zimbabwe as part of its clampdown on dissenting voices, AIPPA (Access to Information and Protection of Privacy Act, Chapter 10:27), Public Order and Security Act(Chapter 11:47)(POSA), criminal law(codification and reform Act of communication Act[Chapter 11:20] and the official Secrets Act[11:09]. These pieces of legislation restricted the rights of majority of Zimbabweans to freely assemble associate and express themselves thereby allowing government to stifle civil liberties (Zimbabwe Human Rights NGO Forum April 2014). Muchena(2013) opines that there was no freedom of expression during the colonial period in Rhodesia (Now Zimbabwe). What is disheartening, however is that after 32 years of independence, freedom of expression continues to elude the majority of Zimbabweans.

The most important human rights problems remained the government’s targeting members of non-Zanu PF parties and civil society activists for abduction, arrest, torture abuse, and harassment; partisan application of the rule of law by security forces and the judiciary and restrictions on civil liberties, including freedoms of expression and assembly (2016 Human Rights Report US. State Department).

Sexism

When elections are near we women often suffer, we are forced to provide labour for free such as cooking and fetching water for the bases. If you pretend to be a Zanu PF member they fondle you on sensitive parts you can’t report them. Its very humiliating, at times women were called at these bases and sing all-night even when you are having your menstrual cycles they didn’t care what they care is that they are achieving what they want to achieve. As women we would confess if our children were MDC supporters and confess that our children have repented from supporting the opposition so that as a family we would be forgiven by Zanu PF Youths this was done at the full view of the public.

Her appeals for medical attention were rejected, and so Rebecca Mafukeni died or was killed (Moshenberg 2013). Chopp (1986) states that the horror of suffering is not only its immensity but the faces of the anonymous victims who have little voice, let alone rights, in history. Farmer (1996) aptly states that throughout the world women are confronted with sexism, an ideology that denigrates them as inferior to men. Rogaldo and Lamphere(1974) states that a group of feminists anthropologists surveyed the status of women living in several disparate settings they found that in every society studied, men dominated political, legal, and economic institutions to varying degrees in no culture was the status of women genuinely coordinate, much less superior to that of man . Women are always at the receiving end of violence. Farmer (1996) states that power differential has meant that women’s rights are violated in innumerable ways. Ward (1993) echoes that women, are at risk because poverty is the primary and determining condition of their lives. It should be understood that as women are most in poverty, this poverty according to Farmer (1996) wields its destruction at each and every stage of human life

Extreme Teachings

People are often told during Zanu PF cell meeting, rallies and even radio that Zimbabwe came into being by war and without the war Zanu PF will not move out of power. We have heard in radio and newspapers. Army bosses stated that they were aligned to Zanu PF and that they were only acceptant to a political leader with war credentials and such teaching here caused us villagers to be terrorised as the Zanu PF supporters terrorise us as they see us as being in war with them when in actual fact we are not, we only support our candidate people.

When violence especially political violence is extolled as a virtue to deal with challenges especially in political arenas, political violent behaviors are bound to occur hence such extreme teachings of a former guerilla veteran being an only capable leader in Zimbabwe foment violent behaviors. Except for pacifists, most people justified some killings (Moss 2008). People who view political violence to be justified and sometimes necessary are more likely to take part in political violence (Kirwin and Cho 2009). Radical teachings are at the epitome of extolling violence as a virtue. Ironically, a central figure in the development of radical Islamic ideologies in Sudan (a state sponsor of terrorism in Africa) was Hassan Abdulla al Turabi was a former dean of the school of law at the University of Khartoum and had been secretary general of the Sudanese Muslim brotherhood (Elbushra and Taylor 2006: 450-451).

IV. LIMITATION OF THE STUDY

Limitations of the study were in that the research data could not be extrapolated to a wider section as there were only three respondents in the research. The study focused only on one district in Zimbabwe which has ten provinces. Hence the results can not represent all the causes of political violent behaviors in Zimbabwe.

V. CONCLUSION

The study aimed the phenomena of political behaviours occurrence during electoral periods amongst the Zaka community. It is from this study that the study found that the aetiology of political violent behaviours in the Zaka area has multiple sources and cannot be ascribed to totally one single factor. The research was a qualitative research approach which had a purposive sampling, harnessed polyphonic voices which brought to the fore that violent political behaviours have multi-sources which range from perceived unfairness and easiness of committing violence unemployment, consolidation of power, foot soldiers, reification of party leaders, easy access to weapons and inheritance of violence, use of violence as election instruments, exposure to violence, political doctrines, structural violence, use of language, unjust laws, sexism and extreme teachings.

In handling issues of political violent behaviour to be controlled and at best stopped it is the ever wish of its paper that elections within the community of Zaka and Zimbabwe are done in the letter and spirit of the word free and fair. It has been noted that issues of violent of behaviours when there is an atmosphere of free and fairness of the elections cease to inhabit in those conditions.

It is also the aspiration of his paper that violence ceases to be easy to commit and this is achievable if there is structural strengthening of institutions which enforce laws such as the police and the courts. This is achievable if issues of structural violence are stopped from hence forth and each body performs its mandated constitutional duty without partially as espoused by the supreme law of the land. Hence when laws are maintained and courts and police are seen to maintain the rule of law violent behaviours in Zaka community and even beyond will cease to exist as people will be aware that exhibition of political violent behaviour despite one's political affiliation is punishable.

It is of the belief of this paper that dealing with unemployment is of mutual benefit to individual and national aspirations of its citizen. The paper is of the view that the vices of political violence stem from unemployed youths which are then manipulated by political entrepreneurs. It is of benefit to the Zaka community and Zimbabwe at large that youth find gainful employment in industries. In so doing there would be absence of the party foot soldiers as they would be employed in industries, and hence forth violent behaviours would cease as those capable of committing violence would be employed within industries.

Consolidation of power has also been problem which political violent behaviour emanate from. It is the view of this paper that in Zaka and Zimbabwe at large we have single term offices, for public office holders which are ordained into office via elections. Single term elections will make it not possible for public office holders to abuse office as they would be having only a single term to serve; hence they would not have the opportune and reason to manipulate state resources to expedite violence so that they would extend their term in office.

Foot Soldiers are the carries of most political violent behaviours in Zaka and Zimbabwe. It is the view of this paper that currently political parties disband use of foot soldiers and that there is also empowerment of electoral bodies such as Zimbabwe Electoral Commission [ZEC] to monitor and sanction any errant political party activists and call to order with harsh punishment political parties whose activists are found fomenting any form of political violent behaviours.

Reification of party leaders has been found as a cause of political violent behaviours as supporters would do anything including being violent to protect their leader who they have been put on a position of a deity beyond criticism and being opposed. The paper is of the position that it is the moral obligation of political party leaders to see to it that they restrain their party members from any form of violent behaviours and also ensure that they do not in any form either voluntary or involuntarily portray themselves as deities amongst their supporters and if any wishes to do that they should promptly do enough as leaders to restrain and correct them.

Easy access to weapons and inheritance of violence have been found as sources of political violent behaviours. Research is of the view that there be limit to access to tools which can be used as weaponry during electoral periods. It is the view of the paper that countries who have been liberated via wars to gain their independence should receive counselling so that they are reintegrated to civilian life and would not seek to solve decisions of life such as plebiscites with war or, military tactics in so doing this will cause violent behaviours to be extinct during elections. Also communities should receive community counselling on the use of home-made tools so that they would not turn them into weapons against political opponents during elections.

Violence as an election instrument and exposure of people to violence is another identified source of political violent behaviours. The paper is of the position that political parties amongst their political strategies they should not include violence as a way to coerce or harness support from the electorate. Parties should in polyphonic sense speak against violence and also be found acting against any form of violent behaviours in so doing violent behaviours will not find place in this contemporary society of Zaka and Zimbabwe at large, and this will also ensure that individuals are not exposed to violence so that in future they will not use it on others.

Political doctrines and extreme teachings have used to prepare and condition members of the society to exercise harm without restraint to political opponents who are often viewed as enemies and subhuman in doctrines and extreme teaching. The wish of the paper is that here be established a political ethics committee which maintains checks and balances amongst political parties to ensure that their ideologies and party propaganda do not foment violence either in implicit or explicit form. The presence of such political ethics committee will ensure and guarantee that elections in Zaka and Zimbabwe at large are liberated from malignant forms of political behaviours.

Unjust laws have also fomented violence in that it has allowed state forces to draw heavy state machinery and weaponry to civilians in the name of maintaining peace and order and enforcing state laws. It is the aspiration of his paper that repressive laws, such a POSA, AIPPA, BSA be scrapped so that state violent behaviours will cease to be extant amongst Zimbabwean nationals during political matters.

Sexism is also a factor which has negative impacts to the women and the girl child mostly in electoral issues and periods. It is the view of this paper that there be full implementation and alignment of amendment number 20 of the constitution of Zimbabwe 2013 so that rights of people which women are, are fully implemented and that there is no political interference and there is respect of separation of powers from these arms thus the executive, parliament and judiciary in so do doing violent acts in politics against women will cease to be attractive or rewarding as they would be punishable by the courts of the land in Zimbabwe, hence they will cease be issues of sexism in Zaka and Zimbabwe at large.

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