

NEWSLETTER

STATE SECURITY ORCHESTRATING DIAMOND LEAKAGES IN MARANGE AS THE HUMAN RIGHTS SITUATION DETERIORATES

INTRODUCTION

Evidence unearthed by CRD indicate rampant and reactionary attacks on citizens by state security forces in Marange-protected diamond areas. The attacks have seen an increased number of people falling victim to sexual harassment, assault and murder at the hands of state security forces during the course of this year.

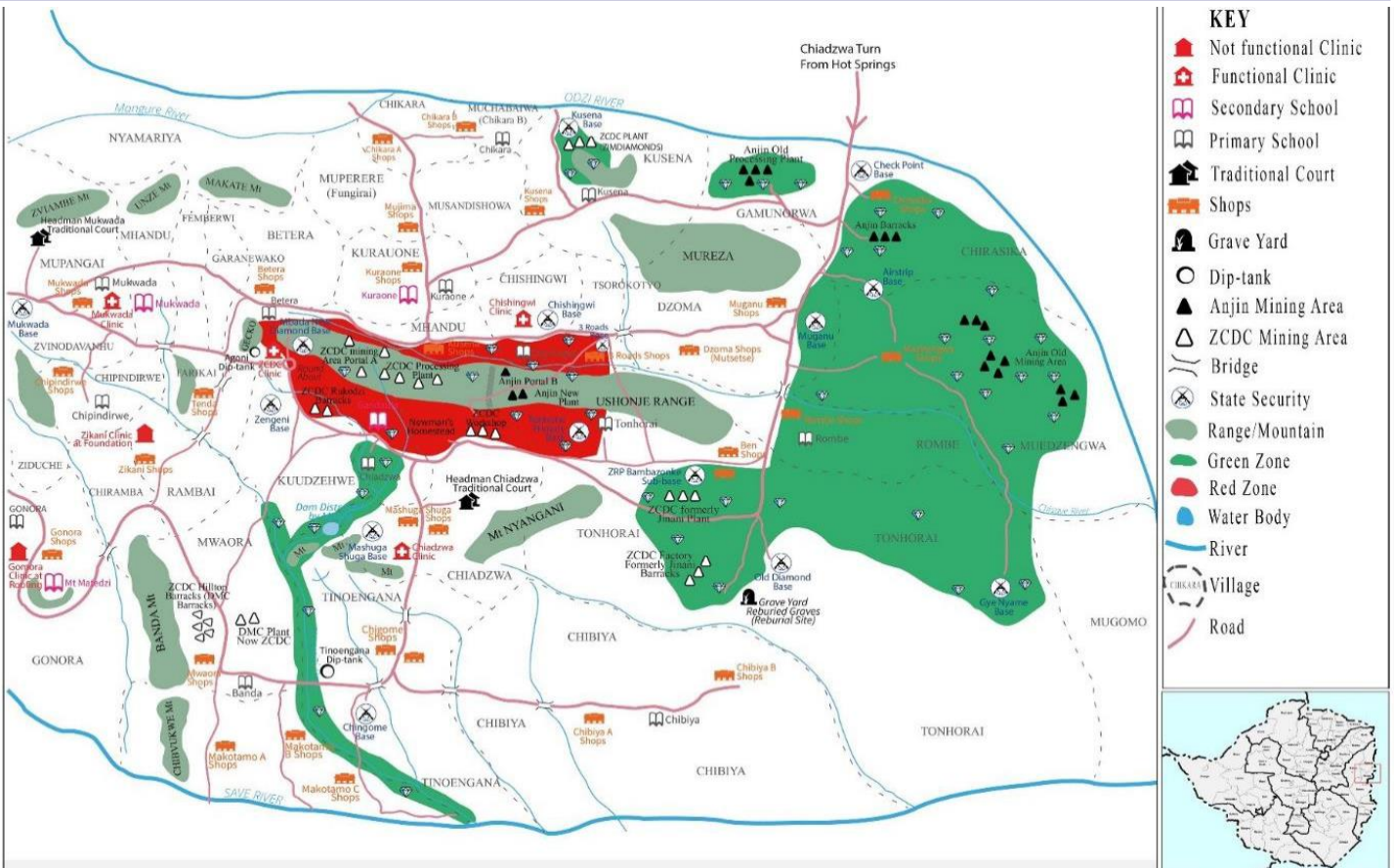
CRD observed that state security agencies are manipulating state powers enshrined in the Protected Places and Areas Act (PPAA) chapter 11.12 to commit these horrendous crimes in Marange. CRD is concerned that these ongoing senseless attacks on citizens are taking place in residential areas and public spaces such as business centres, marketplaces and even roadsides.



Latest victims of state security attacks on citizens

SUMMARY OF CASE STUDY FINDINGS

CRD MAP ON MARANGE DIAMOND COMMUNITY



As illustrated on the map findings by CRD indicate 14 state security bases and checkpoints namely Air strip, Muganu, Old Diamond Base, Mbada diamond base, Jesi 03, Tonhorai Primary, Mashuga shuga, Chingome, Zengeni, Diamond Base, 3 roads Base, Chirasika and Dzomo which are dotted around the protected diamond area of Marange were porous and unsustainable because state security forces responsible for manning the area are corrupt and compromised. The security forces are behind the influx of over 9000 illegal diamond miners, buyers and traders

They collect bribes from these operators to allow them to access protected diamond fields. CRD witnessed illegal diamond buyers driving top of the range vehicles freely in and out of Marange diamond protected areas. Moreso, illegal diamond buyers had firmly established networks with state security forces and guards of mining companies to facilitate illegal diamond mining and smuggling activities. As illustrated on the map, these illegal networks are more pronounced in Singwizi valley, the green zone concession of Zimbabwe Consolidated Diamond Mining Company (ZCDC).

CRD noticed that over 3000 illegal miners digging for diamonds in the valley were under the watchful eyes of illegal buyers and state security forces. Their operations are widely spread in Makotamo, Tinoengana, Mwaora, Rambai and Kuudzewe villages of Singwizi valley. CRD discovered state security forces do not carry out reactions in these areas because they are the ultimate beneficiaries of the illegal diamond trade.

In 2019 Government awarded 5340 hectares of a diamond mining concession in Singwizi Valley to Marange community. However the condition set by government does not allow the community to mine in the concession or form joint venture partnership with investors of their choice. 9000 illegal diamond miners, buyers and traders operating in Marange. According to government, only ZCDC, a government mining entity has the mandate to mine in the concession and retain 70% shares with the Marange community receiving 30% shares. CRD observed that there is no legislation to operationalize this arrangement. There were no time lines either, set by government for ZCDC to undertake mining activities in the concession to enable the community to derive revenues from their 30% shares. Efforts by Marange community leadership to operationalize the arrangement with ZCDC through the two parties signing a binding community benefit agreement (CBA) has not been approved by government. Sadly, government has turned a blind eye to ongoing plunder of diamonds in the community concession by syndicates controlled by state security forces. Sources in ZCDC pointed out that another geological survey was required to ascertain the viability of the mining concession following an influx of illegal mining activities that have been digging pits of up to 15 metres to extract diamonds for the past 5 years.

An authorised officer under Section 5(1-5) of PPAA has discretionary powers on people seeking to enter, or being in a protected area and may detain any such person for the purpose of searching him. The section also gives power to the authorising officer to deal with any other matter in manner that the officer considers to be necessary or desirable. In 2010 government declared ward 30 and some parts of ward 29 diamond mining areas and that 4000 households from these areas were set for relocation. Government also directed local authority to ensure that permanent structures were not constructed in these areas.

As a result of this directive, 26 business centres with over 346 unlicensed shops that have sprouted in protected areas of Marange have no licences. These business entities are losing up to US\$10 000 dollars of revenues every month to paying bribes to various state security agencies in order to continue operating. When they fail to pay them the response is vindictive and ferocious. Government made a cabinet decision to award a diamond concession to the people of Marange in 2019. The depletion of alluvial diamonds as a result of state facilitated plunder forced government to abandon relocation plans.

The 2022 population and housing census figures for ward 29 and 30 is 26461. This figure exclude thousands of diamond fortune seekers and hawkers flocking to the diamond fields on regular basis. It cannot be over emphasized that the enjoyment of fundamental rights and freedoms enshrined in the constitution for close to 26 461 people, such as the right to freedom of movement, right to privacy, right to human dignity to name but just a few are being trampled by discretionary powers of an assistant commissioner.

Business centre designated by LA (MRDC)	Ward	Old Shops	New Shops	Licensed	Unlicensed
1.Muganu	30	4	-----	4 expired	---
2.Chirasika	3	2	1	2 expired	1
3.Tonhorai	30	4	7	4 expired	7
4.Mashuga shuga	30	15	41	15 expired	41
5.Chingome	30	7	32	7 expired	32
6.Chibiya A	30	1	5	1 expired	5
7.Gonora	30	4	6	4 expired	6
8.Muchena	29	3	69	3 expired	69
9.Betera	29	1	15	1 expired	15
10.Mukwada	29	5	7	5 expired	7
11.Chipindirwe	30	4	15	4 expired	15
12.Chikara	29	1	1	1 expired	1
13.Mujima	29	4	12	4 expired	12
14.Kusena	29	1	11	1 expired	11
TOTAL		56	222	56	222

Newly established business centre	Ward	Number of New Shops	Licensed	Unlicensed
1.Machangwa	30	21	2 expired	19
2.Dzoma (Mutsetse)	30	16	1 expired	15
3.Rombe	30	1		1
4.Tenda	30	83	60 expired	23
5.Zikani (Ma crèche)	30	23		23
6.Makotamo A	30	4		4
7.Makotamo B	30	15		15
8.Chibiya B	30	4		4
9.Mwaora (Banda)	30	6		6
10.3 Roads	29	9		9
11.Kurauone	29	3		3
12. Mukamba (Rusama)	30	2		2
TOTAL		187	63	124

**NB: Overall total number of both old and new shops is 465
Construction of the shops are still ongoing**

Concerned with worsening rights violations CRD lobbied community representatives, community based organisations (CBOs), Civil Society Organisations (CSOs) to agree to a meeting with state security operatives, ZCDC and Anjin diamond mining companies on 17 July 2022 to raise concerns about the human rights situation in protected area of Marange. Assistant Commissioner (ASCOM) Masepa the ground commander in charge of state security operations in Marange at that time, defended the actions of the security forces. He reiterated that that security forces were empowered by the PPAA to apply force in order to achieve intended objective in Marange operations. He admitted that provisions of the PPAA limited people's freedoms and security forces were only implementing security measures as directed by the provisions of the PPAA.

ASCOM Maseko directed community actors to challenge the provisions of the PPAA with parliament if they feel that their rights were being violated. He also declared that state security operations were to remain in Marange until mining companies prove that they had the capacity to secure the diamond fields. However community actors were quick to remind the commissioner that the conduct of security forces in Marange were unlawful. They pointed out that the PPAA did not provide for state security forces to abuse people and engage in illegal diamond mining in protected areas of Marange. CRD reiterated its call for the demilitarisation of Marange diamond fields to end human rights violations and diamond leakages, in its submissions to the Parliamentary Committee on Defence and Home Affairs in July 2022.

State Security forces

- Diamond Fields are under PPAA and limit freedoms for citizens hence the clash between community and citizens.
- Citizens must comply with pass laws, instructions and directives from law enforcement. Law enforcement may use necessary force to achieve desired outcome.
- Current mining companies have no capacity to take full control of security of mining area hence the continued presence of state security operatives.
- Undeniability of state security complicit in corruption because they are mortals hence inclusivity in fighting corruption in Marange
- Community in protected Area is harbouring illegal miners and sending vulnerable groups like women and children to pan for diamonds in restricted areas
- Law enforcement is implementing provisions of PPAA and aggrieved citizens/community can seek audience with parliament for policy review.

Community Representatives

- Selective application of law
- Supremacy of constitution violation by security operations. "reasonable measures are no longer reasonable measure"
- State security orchestrating Illegal diamond mining, leakages and rights abuse in Marange protected areas. Some lead criminal diamond syndicates, demand bribes from illegal miners, ordinary residents, and unlicensed businesses.
- Illegal diamond mining in Singwizi Valley is controlled by state security officials.

RECOMENDATIONS

- Binding CDA/CBA with community security operational model; Recognise communities in protected areas as strategic partners not subjects in securing diamond fields.
- Review of the notice on PPAA powers for Marange in view of government failure to relocate people from diamond mining areas. Government has since abandoned plans to relocate 4000 families from Marange. According to Zimbabwe Statistical Agency (Zimstat) population according to 2022 census figures for ward 29 and 30 in Marange stands at 26 461. Hence application of PPAA in populous and open communities like Marange now requires urgent review
- The constitutional rights of those communities to economic development and secured livelihoods need to be upheld.
- Mandatory wear of name tags for security officers on duty in protected diamond area as a stop gap measure.
- The state has a responsibility to balance business and human rights

Human rights abuses and diamond leakages in pictures



Kudzana Chiradza and Dzikamai Muzenda of Mukono village in Marange were attacked by state security reaction at Chingome Business centre in protected diamond area of Marange last Friday night on 16 September 2022. Hundreds of citizens found at local business centres in Marange by state security raids are brutalised and some left with life threatening injuries every month. These vicious and notorious raids to flush out illegal miners are carried out at least 5 times a week. Tenda, Mashuga Shuga, Makotamo, Muchena and Chingome business centres are raided every day. A lot of victims caught during the raids are detained in 2 open cages at Mbada diamond base where they are forced to sleep for 3 days without blankets if they fail to pay bribes or raise a fine of US\$10 equivalent of Zimbabwe dollars fine. Victims have complained of inhuman treatment at the detention barracks. Women traders caught selling their merchandise have often complained of being molested by state security forces when climbing into their big military trucks. Some break their legs whilst attempting to climb the trucks. Locals are traumatised by state security brutality in protected diamond areas.

To watch the video click the following link ----->

<https://www.dropbox.com/s/w8xqm5zzgftzvcr/Victims%20Video.mp4?dl=0>



Justice Zimunya lost teeth and sustained a broken leg from vicious assault by his syndicate led by soldiers for failing to declare a 7 carat diamond piece to the syndicate. Justice's illegal diamond buyer had networked with soldiers who facilitated Justice's entry into restricted mining zones under ZCDC. Justice's case is yet another example of the complicity of state security forces in sustaining diamond leakages in Marange for their own benefit. Picture C reveals one of the notorious army trucks (parked at Chingome shops in diamond protected area of Marange) used by security forces in Marange to conduct raids on citizens. Parked far right to the army truck is a Toyota GD-6 vehicle popular with illegal diamond buyers. These buyers enjoy unfettered access to protected diamond areas at the hands of state security forces.



A

B

C

Maud Makowa of Muedzengwa village was assaulted by Munashe Masvaure a soldier stationed at Airstrip base in Chirasika base for turning down his sexual advances. She was assaulted at her shop at Machangwa business centre on 14 September 2022. She reported her case at Tonhorai Police substation. Thomas Ziruwi was assaulted on Monday 12 September 2022 by 3 soldiers around 7pm in Tonhorai village. The soldiers jumped into Thomas's skotch cart without his permission. Thomas was pulled from the moving skotch cart and severely beaten for questioning the conduct of these soldiers. Citizens in protected diamond community of Marange are suffering in silence from wanton abuse by state security forces. A lot of these cases go unreported.

To watch the video click the following link ----->

<https://www.dropbox.com/s/vc4fokt1zir2omx/Victim%20Video%203.mp4?dl=0>



A

B

C

D

(Picture A and B) Unidentified and decomposing body of a suspected murdered artisanal miner found floating in a shallow pool at Anjin concession behind ZCDC workshop in February 2022. The police were alerted by Anjin guard. For fear of being held accountable for murder, mining companies dump bodies of artisanal miners in slime dams to rot before alerting the police. Due process by the state in handling pauper's burials for victims from Marange is compromised because state institutions have reneged on their responsibility to balance business and human rights. Some of the state operatives are involved in committing these crimes. Picture C and D) According to Casper Mapuranga an eye witness account the victim was sliced by a razor wire with 2 well known CID officers in hot pursuit. Upon noticing that the victim had died, the officers fled the scene. The incident occurred in July 2022 in protected diamond area of Marange.

To watch the video click the following link ----->

<https://www.dropbox.com/s/ahoh1v8tnhrhduo/Victim%20Video%202.mp4?dl=0>



A

B

C

Over 3000 illegal miners, buyers and traders have invaded Singwizi valley, a diamond mining concession reserved for Marange community by government. State security forces are behind illegal diamond operations taking place in Singwizi valley.

To watch the video click the following link ----->

<https://www.dropbox.com/s/3l70gx0binwklrp/My%20Video2.mp4?dl=0>