



NO to Political Violence

MDC-T Should Promptly Act Against Perpetrators

(Harare, February 17, 2014) – The MDC-T leadership should take immediate steps to investigate and hold accountable those responsible for the reported assault of its deputy treasurer-general Elton Mangoma, party youth leader Promise Mkhwananzi and other senior members of the party on Saturday, February 15, 2014. We condemn, in the strongest terms, the use of violence in pursuit of any cause, including in expressing or settling political differences.

Crisis in Zimbabwe Coalition consistently condemns violence wherever it occurs, whatever its justifications and regardless of the identity of the perpetrators. Violence is a human rights violation that degrades the victim. It is both wrong and criminal; we expect the MDC to deal with the matter internally and also to allow the law to take its course.

We expect the MDC to demonstrate zero tolerance to violence by taking measures to bring the perpetrators of this shameful act to book and to send a clear message to everyone that violence will not be tolerated. Previously, intra-party violence in the MDC broke out in 2005 when the party split, and more recently ahead of the 2011 party congress in Bulawayo; this time we expect a very public process of discipline to nip this practice in the bud and prevent impunity.

Non-violent dialogue should be the hallmark of democracy, and not the easy resort to political violence. This incident presents the MDC leadership with an opportunity to demonstrate commitment to democratic values through ensuring justice for the victims, while bringing the perpetrators to book. Failure to decisively deal with the violence in its midst will greatly undermine the MDC's integrity and credibility nationally and internationally.

Crisis in Zimbabwe Coalition is a strictly non-partisan and independent civil society platform for the coordination, convening, and amplification of voices of civil society organizations concerned with good governance, democracy and human rights issues. Its vision is a democratic Zimbabwe.

Inserted by Crisis in Zimbabwe Coalition Management Board.

Contact Persons:

1. Mfundo Mlilo, Spokesperson, Mobile: +263 772 127 397 / +1 612 483 0685
Email: mfundomlilo@gmail.com
2. Joy Mabenge, Acting Executive Director, Mobile: +27 11 838 9642,
Email: coordinator@crisiszimbabwe.org
3. Email: info@crisiszimbabwe.org ; publications@crisiszimbabwe.org
Website: www.crisiszimbabwe.org