



Home Office

# Home Office Response to IAGCI Review Zimbabwe OGN, February 2013

17 June 2014

Review Conclusions/ Recommendations	Response
<p><b><u>Country Assessment</u></b></p> <p><b>Para. 2.2</b> – The FCO annual report does offer a good overview of human rights issues in Zimbabwe, but surely there is nothing to be lost and everything to be gained from including one or two other alternative sources that include similarly reliable and authoritative overviews, especially where these have been edited with similarly/appropriately focused objectives and updated versions are regularly published? (Presumably this last element is key if the reference is to remain consistent).</p> <p>For example, the US State Dept Country Reports on Human Rights is frequently cited in the body of this document – indicating that it is otherwise considered a useful source. Is this a reason to exclude it from this paragraph? The most recent publication from such a source appears to be that of the Bureau of Democracy, Human Rights and Labour’s <i>Country Report on Human Rights Practices</i> (April 2013) available at <a href="http://www.state.gov/j/drl/rls/hrrpt/2012/af/204183.htm">http://www.state.gov/j/drl/rls/hrrpt/2012/af/204183.htm</a> (accessed 29 Dec, 2013).</p> <p>And is there not an additional argument for including a similar source that is non-Governmental? For example, the Zimbabwe Human Rights NGO Forum publishes a <i>Biannual Report on Human Rights and National Institutions</i> available at <a href="http://www.hrforumzim.org/category/biannual-human-rights-report/">http://www.hrforumzim.org/category/biannual-human-rights-report/</a> (accessed 6 Jan 2014).</p>	<p>This is a standard paragraph in all OGNs and its purpose is simply to provide a pointer to an overview of the human rights situation in the country concerned for background purposes. To that end we think it reasonable to point to a single report which has been produced by another part of government.</p> <p>For the purpose of making decisions on individual applications, decision makers are directed to refer to the relevant COI Service (as was) country of origin information material (see para 2.1 of February 2013 OGN) which is based on a much broader range of sources.</p> <p>We would also point out that this section of the OGN will not feature in the new combined COI and guidance product.</p>
<p><b><u>Actors of Protection</u></b></p> <p><b>Para.2.3.2</b> – This appears to cover the key elements and information and simply needs updating with reference to more recent versions of the same selection of authoritative sources.</p>	<p>Accepted. This was updated in the November 2013 version of the OGN.</p>

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<p><b>Para 2.3.3 – 2.3.6 Police:</b></p> <p>There seems to be only one obvious omission from this section that is particularly relevant to the police role as “actors of protection” and this is their common practice of arrest and detention of people (opposition activists, civil society leaders, LGBT people etc.) on charges that either never actually get to court or are eventually thrown out of court as baseless. The COI report contains many examples of such action (eg. sections 14, 16, 20) which, combined with the culture of impunity, allows the police to operate as an instrument of intimidation, harassing people for months before even the courts whose independence is compromised are obliged to dismiss the charges as baseless.</p>	<p>Accepted. The November 2013 version of the OGN updates this section and makes more explicit reference to the police regularly invoking and misusing legislation for political purposes; and the police <a href="#">abusing people with impunity, often ignoring basic rights regarding detention, searches, and seizures. (Paras 2.3.8 – 2.3.11, 3.9.10 of Nov 2013 OGN refer.)</a></p> <p>When making decisions on individual applications, decision makers are directed to refer to the full COI report where this information is set out in more detail.</p> <p>In addition, as above, we believe the new combined COI and guidance product will in future overcome this issue.</p>
<p><b>Para 2.3.8 – 2.3.10 Military :</b></p> <p>Some mention of the JOC and its role would seem appropriate here. This is particularly the case as this section could be argued to understate the significance of the military in maintaining specific structures of governmental power and leadership, and their involvement in key sectors ordinarily not considered the domain of the military (eg. their engagement in governance, party leadership, business, mining, agricultural land ownership etc.) (see COI ss.8 and 29). Thus while the section makes clear the military’s support of ZANU-PF, it is important to acknowledge the extent to which the party is dependent on maintaining the support of the military, and the power that this gives senior military leadership.</p>	<p>Accepted. However, as mentioned above, decision makers are directed to refer to the full COI report when making decisions on individual applications where this information is set out given.</p> <p>In addition, as above, we believe the new combined COI and guidance product will in future address this concern.</p>

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<p><b>Para 2.3.11 War Veterans:</b></p> <p>It needs to be acknowledged that the war veterans do not always enjoy an easy relationship with government and repeatedly hold government hostage through volatile expressions of discontent that continue to this day<sup>1</sup>, resulting in payouts that significantly impact the public purse (as is clear from COI para.3.08).</p> <p>Also important is the recognition that while the ZNLWVA is the largest war veterans association and is intricately associated with ZANU-PF, it is not the only war veterans association. For example, the Zimbabwe Liberators Platform (ZLP)<sup>2</sup> have been repeatedly and actively critical of government in their long campaign for social justice<sup>3</sup>. The ZLP and the Zimbabwe Liberators for Peace Initiative are MDC aligned and in 2003 were suggested to have a combined membership of 21000 (while the ZNLWVA was assumed to have about 30 000 members at the time)<sup>4</sup>.</p>	<p>Accepted. This will be reflected in the next product.</p>

<sup>1</sup> News Day (30 Oct 2013) “Protesting war veterans clash with police in Harare” <https://www.newsday.co.zw/2013/10/30/protesting-war-veterans-clash-police-harare/>; also Zimbabwe Independent (16 August 2013) “War vets make fresh demands” <http://www.theindependent.co.zw/2013/08/16/war-vets-make-fresh-demands/> both accessed 7 Jan 2014.

<sup>2</sup> Details of this organisation are listed on Kubatana, though the site also suggests it is not contactable as of August 2008 (<http://www.kubatana.net/html/sectors/zim026.asp>). I am not sure why this is, as the organisation clearly still exists and operates as can be seen from more recent articles featured on Kubatana itself ([http://www.kubatana.net/html/archive/opin/110816kub2.asp?sector=opin&year=2011&range\\_start=61](http://www.kubatana.net/html/archive/opin/110816kub2.asp?sector=opin&year=2011&range_start=61)) and from those cited below.

<sup>3</sup> For example, see SW Radio (1 June 2011) “Zim Liberators Platform launches scathing attack on Brigadier” <http://www.swradioafrica.com/news010611/zimliberators010611.htm>; also Crisis in Zimbabwe Coalition (27 August 2013) “National Hero selection process condemned” <http://www.crisiszimbabwe.org/advocacy/local-advocacy/item/949-national-hero-selection-process-condemned.html> both accessed 7 Jan 2014.

<sup>4</sup> McCandless, E. “Polarisation and Transformation in Zimbabwe” Lexington Books; 2011; p.92.

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<p><b>Paras. 2.3.12 – 2.3.15 ZANU-PF YOUTH MILITIA:</b></p> <p>While attempts were made by the GNU to disband these volatile gangs responsible for significant violence directed (primarily but not exclusively) at MDC members, there have been announcements since the re-election of ZANU-PF of their resuscitation.<sup>5</sup></p> <p>It may also be relevant (in reference to “actors of protection”) to note that it is frequently these militia who attack and threaten legal counsel defending human rights and civil society leaders in court, including by invasion of the actual courtroom to disrupt the trial process (as is consistent with the final line of para 2.3.17).</p>	<p>Accepted. This will be reflected in the next product.</p>
<p><b>Para 2.3.18 HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION</b></p> <p>In addition to the restrictive limits of the HRC’s remit (as is recognized here), the HRC is further compromised by its dependence on government for funding, and the failure of government to allocate the resources necessary for it to even start operating. The first Chairman of the HRC (Prof Reg Austin) resigned in protest at the totally inadequate resources provided for the HRC to function<sup>6</sup>. His successor Jacob Mudenda (whose impartiality was contested) has since been appointed Speaker of Parliament, and the acting Chairperson is Ellen Sithole. The HRC is not yet operational and efforts to change this are still ongoing and uncertain, and remain in the gift of the very government it is designed to hold to account<sup>7</sup>.</p>	<p>Accepted. This section was updated in the November 2013 OGN and included reference to Prof. Austin’s resignation and comment that the HRC lacked both resources and legislative enforcement mechanisms to fulfil its mandate (Para 2.3.15 of Nov. 2013 OGN refers)</p>

<sup>5</sup> Zimbabwe Situation (19 Oct 2013) “Zim Govt Revises Infamous Youth Militia Training” [http://www.zimbabwesituation.com/news/zimsit\\_zim-govt-revises-infamous-youth-militia-training/](http://www.zimbabwesituation.com/news/zimsit_zim-govt-revises-infamous-youth-militia-training/) accessed 8 Jan 2014.

<sup>6</sup> Zimbabwe Situation (12 Sept 2013) “New government to cripple human rights commission?” <http://www.zimbabwesituation.com/news/zimsit-government-to-cripple-human-rights-commission/> accessed 7 Jan 2014.

<sup>7</sup> Crisis in Zimbabwe Coalition (30 Oct 2013) *Crisis Report – Issue 233* “Civil Society welcomes prospect of rights commission secretariat” [http://www.kubatana.net/html/archive/demgg/131030ciz.asp?sector=DEMGG&year=0&range\\_start=1](http://www.kubatana.net/html/archive/demgg/131030ciz.asp?sector=DEMGG&year=0&range_start=1) accessed 7 Jan 2014.

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<p><b>Para 3.6.9</b> refers to the intention to hold the referendum on the new constitution in March 2013, followed by the general elections in late July 2013. In updating this section to reflect the passing of both these events, it is worth noting that while the constitution was adopted prior to the elections, the short interval of time between the two ensured that it was impossible to implement the institutional and structural reforms promised by the new Constitution and necessary for a free, fair, and properly democratic process<sup>8</sup> (see paras 3.6.15 &amp; 17 of OGN as well). Thus, after Mugabe won the Presidential elections with 61% of the vote in the first round and ZANU-PF gained a two-thirds majority in parliament, monitors and observers (including from the AU and SADC) focused on praising the poll for being peaceful, but noting numerous irregularities they omitted to pronounce it “fair”<sup>9</sup>. Significant rigging of the voters roll, various machinations around the location, capacity and use of polling stations (including a very high number of “assisted voters” where individuals are accompanied by one or more “helpers” into the booth) are just a few of the strategies widely agreed to have ensured Mugabe’s landslide<sup>10</sup>. Importantly, ZANU-PF’s two-thirds majority in parliament also means they have the power to change the constitution, leaving open to question not only the implementation of the new Constitutions’ reforming provisions, but their very existence.</p>	<p>Accepted. This section was also updated in the November 2013 OGN.</p> <p>Specifically:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Para 3.9.4 refers to the outcome of the March 2013 constitutional referendum and also that by calling for elections to be held at the end of July, Mugabe had made sure there would not be enough time for all reforms to take place.</li> <li>• Paras 3.9.12 – 3.9.15 cover the July 2013 elections including the concerns that have been expressed about their conduct.</li> </ul>

<sup>8</sup> Research and Advocacy Unit (3 October 2013) “Of Camels, Constitutions and Elections” and “Report on the Conditions for the 2013 Harmonised Elections” both (and others) available at [http://researchandadvocacyunit.org/index.php?option=com\\_docman&view=list&slug=2013-elections&Itemid=159](http://researchandadvocacyunit.org/index.php?option=com_docman&view=list&slug=2013-elections&Itemid=159) accessed 3 Jan 2014.

<sup>99</sup> Richard Dowden (12 August 2013) “How an Exultant Robert Mugabe took on the world and won Zimbabwe” <http://www.theguardian.com/world/2013/aug/12/how-robert-mugabe-won-zimbabwe> accessed 8 Jan 2014.

<sup>10</sup> For the most concise and clear analysis see Election Resource Centre (15 Aug 2013) “Zimbabwe election: A guide to rigging allegations” <http://www.erc.org.zw/index.php/new/107-zimbabwe-election-a-guide-to-rigging-allegations>; but also see Research and Advocacy Unit (1 Nov 2013) “Fairly Fair: The 2013 Elections” (and other RAU publications available at [http://researchandadvocacyunit.org/index.php?option=com\\_docman&view=list&slug=2013-elections&Itemid=159](http://researchandadvocacyunit.org/index.php?option=com_docman&view=list&slug=2013-elections&Itemid=159) :all accessed 7 Jan 2014.

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<p><b>Para 3.7 – <u>Teachers</u></b></p> <p>In addition to the incidents mentioned here, it was at Masvingo Teacher’s College that the Masvingo Provincial Party Chairman of ZANU-PF announced that it was mandatory for ZANU-PF supporters to display a sticker on their house to identify themselves as members<sup>11</sup>. More comprehensively, Sokwanele offers a database recording incidents of violence and intimidation directed at teachers throughout 2012 and 2013 in the lead up to the elections at the end of July (<a href="http://www.sokwanele.com/search/node/Teachers">http://www.sokwanele.com/search/node/Teachers</a> - accessed 8 Jan 2014).</p>	<p>The updated November 2013 OGN included references to more recent examples of incidents of ill-treatment directed at teachers particularly in ZANU-PF dominated areas.</p> <p>We are grateful to the reviewer for identifying the Sokwanele database recording such incidents and this will be used when preparing future products.</p>

<sup>11</sup> ZPP (23 Nov 2012) “ZPP statement on ZANU-PF’s call for members to have stickers on their homes” [http://www.zimpeaceproject.com/index.php?option=com\\_content&view=article&id=24:zpp-statement-on-zanu-pf-s-call-for-members-to-have-stickers-on-their-homes&catid=11:statements&Itemid=161](http://www.zimpeaceproject.com/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=24:zpp-statement-on-zanu-pf-s-call-for-members-to-have-stickers-on-their-homes&catid=11:statements&Itemid=161) accessed 7 Jan 2014.

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<p><b>Para 3.8 – <u>Gay men, lesbians, bisexual and transgender persons</u></b></p> <p>Para 3.8.2 cites the <i>US State Department Country Report on Human Rights Practices for 2011: Zimbabwe</i> (footnote 71). It is important to note that there is a significant error in the original source. Immediately following the information (“one year in prison or a fine..”) that appears in the OGN, is the sentence “There were no known cases of charges being brought to prosecute consensual same-sex sexual activity”. While this latter sentence is not quoted in the OGN (in fact the OGN contradicts this in para 3.8.5 and footnote 79), it is quoted verbatim in the COI (para 20.09) and also appears in the 2012 edition of the same US State Dept report. To avoid further repetition and because it is a significant error, it is necessary to correct it here.</p> <p>First, Nigel Ruredzo (28) and Shine Njawara (29) appeared in the Bindura Magistrates Court on charges of sodomy on 19 December 2010.<sup>12</sup> Second, in October 2011, I received personal communications from GALZ and from ZLHR about the arrest of two men for having consensual sex. The incident was also reported in the press<sup>13</sup> and is well summarized by Amnesty ....<sup>14</sup></p>	<p>Noted. The updated November 2013 OGN includes (at para 3.11.12) references to further more recent reports of arrests. The message being conveyed in the OGN – and consistent with the caselaw of <a href="#">LZ (homosexuals) Zimbabwe CG [2011] UKUT 487 (IAC) (26 January 2012)</a> – is that whilst same sex activity is criminalised, actual prosecutions are rare.</p>

<sup>12</sup> New Zimbabwe 19 December 2010 “Gay Pair Plead Guilty on Sodomy Rap” <http://www.newzimbabwe.com/news-4092-%E2%80%98Gay+pair%E2%80%99+admit+sodomy+charges/news.aspx> accessed 7 July 2011.

<sup>13</sup> Nehanda Radio (1 Dec 2011) “Court frees ‘sodomy’ accused residents” <http://nehandaradio.com/2011/12/01/court-frees-%E2%80%98sodomy%E2%80%99-accused-residents/>; and New Zimbabwe.com (2 Aug 2012) “Mbare men charged with sodomy” <http://www.newzimbabwe.com/news/printVersion.aspx?newsID=8734> both accessed 9 Jan 2014.

<sup>14</sup> Amnesty International, *Amnesty International Annual Report 2012 - Zimbabwe*, 24 May 2012, available at: <http://www.refworld.org/docid/4f8e38fe1a.html> accessed 9 January 2014



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<p><b>Para. 3.8.3</b> suggests that Tsvangirai reversed his initial denouncement of LGBT rights to support their inclusion in the new Constitution. In fact, this is only one of a number of reversals on the issue by Tsvangirai who was unable to sustain this support<sup>15</sup>, and the OGN needs to note that the newly adopted Constitution not only omits sexual orientation from the prohibited grounds of discrimination, but goes so far as to explicitly prohibit same-sex marriage (s.78 Constitution)<sup>16</sup>. Tsvangirai paid lipservice to recognizing gay rights in front of the International press, but balked at any expression of support when addressing a local audience. In March 2010, at a local celebration of International Women’s Day, Tsvangirai publicly concurred with homophobic comments made by Mugabe and, dismissing calls to include “gay rights” in the New Constitution, he stated “Women make up 52% of the population; there are more women than men, so why should men be proposing to men”<sup>17</sup>.</p> <p>However, immediately after this expression of Tsvangirai’s support for Mugabe’s homophobia, his press office issued a “clarification” asserting that ‘Human Rights are indivisible and so gay rights are human rights’ and that the final content of the constitution would be determined by Zimbabweans. Tsvangirai confirmed to the BBC Newsnight team that he would like to see Zimbabwe’s constitution protect freedom of sexual orientation<sup>18</sup>. He did not want to be seen as contradicting the international human rights to which the MDC’s own struggle and alliances laid claim, but ZANU-PF’s persistent attempts to associate both homosexuality and the MDC with degenerate western values and re-colonization, worked to make MDC support for gay rights far too costly with voters for it to be publicly sustainable.</p>	<p>Accepted. This section was updated in the Nov 2013 OGN. Specifically:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Para 3.11.4 now records that the new constitution omitted anti-discrimination clauses for gay men and lesbians; and that it also continues to outlaw homosexuality and ban same-sex marriage.</li> <li>• The same paragraph also refers to more recent changes in Tsvangirai’s position on the issue.</li> </ul>

<sup>15</sup> Alex Magaisa’s remarks are extremely useful here in detailing all the debates and dynamics and shifting positions on this issue in his interview with Violet Gonda in New Zimbabwe 23/7/2012 “All you need to know about the draft Constitution” <http://www.newzimbabwe.com/opinion-8575-New%20constitution%20the%20key%20changes/opinion.aspx> accessed 5 Jan 2014.

<sup>16</sup> S.78 Marriage Rights, Constitution of Zimbabwe 2013

<http://www.sokwanele.com/zimbabweconstitution/sections/2589?page=0%2C0%2C0%2C0%2C0%2C0%2C0%2C0%2C0%2C7> accessed 9 Jan 2014.

<sup>17</sup> The Herald, Friday 26 March 2010 <http://www.herald.co.zw/inside.aspx?sectid=16975&cat=1> (accessed April 26, 2010)

<sup>18</sup> Newnight, 24 October 2011, <http://www.pinknews.co.uk/2011/10/24/zimbabwe-prime-ministers-says-gay-rights-are-human-rights/> (accessed 11 January 2012).

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<p><b>Para 3.8.8</b> – This same paragraph appears in the COI (paras 20.45 &amp; 20.66) as well, in my review of which I offered the following comment that I believe applies similarly to the OGN:</p> <p>“..the suggestion that Bulawayo is more gay-friendly needs to be qualified considerably. It does not seem possible to source any further support for the contention that Bulawayo is therefore free of the significant homophobia that clearly exists in the rest of the country, even if it does appear to be relatively more tolerant. My own research has failed to reveal any dedicated openly gay club in the centre of Bulawayo (although ordinary (heterosexual) night clubs that admit gay people do exist), but it does appear that the Sexual Rights Centre in Bulawayo attracts far less hostility than GALZ (though this could well be because the name of the SRC does not make explicit allusion to the challenging words “gay and lesbian” as GALZ does).</p> <p>However, the relativity of this “tolerance” is best illustrated by the very recent report (5/1/14) of 5 senior ZANU-PF Youth League members in trouble (suspension/expulsion is threatened) for attending a “gay party” in Bulawayo just before Christmas 2013. Police arrested 5 members of GALZ during the party (two of whom “suffered serious injuries during the arrest”) for wearing T-shirts displaying a rainbow flag and the words “same love”<sup>19</sup>.</p> <p>The suggestion that Bulawayo offers a distinctly different opportunity for open gay living in contrast to the rest of Zimbabwe, needs to be significantly qualified; it is important to recognize that notions of what represents “tolerance” in Zimbabwe are not likely to be the same as in the UK. This paragraph needs qualification”.</p>	<p>Accepted. The thrust of the current guidance contained in the OGN – and the supporting caselaw of <a href="#">LZ (homosexuals) Zimbabwe CG [2011] UKUT 487 (IAC) (26 January 2012)</a> - is that there is relatively more tolerance in Bulawayo (and certain other places in Zimbabwe) as opposed to it being completely free of intolerance.</p> <p>However, it is accepted that the relativity of the tolerance can be made clearer and this will be addressed in the next product.</p>

<sup>19</sup> New Zimbabwe (5/1/14) “Zanu PF officials at Byo gay shindig” <http://www.newzimbabwe.com/news-13756-Zanu+PF+officials+at+Bulawayo+gay+shindig/news.aspx>

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<p><b>Para 3.9 - <u>General Humanitarian situation</u></b></p> <p>The dire situation described in this section remains critical. Following the death of over 4000 people in 2008 in a Cholera outbreak in Harare, urgent warnings of the imminence of another outbreak resurfaced in November 2013; it was also estimated that more than 3000 cases of Typhoid had been reported in Harare during the year leading up to that date.<sup>20</sup></p>	<p>Noted. This section was further updated in the November 2013 OGN to reflect reports on the humanitarian situation up to that point in time.</p>
<p><b>Para 3.10 – <u>Prison Conditions</u></b></p> <p>While this section offers a comprehensive overview of prison conditions the majority of which appears up to date, the Zimbabwe Prisons and Correctional Services (ZPCS) recently admitted that by 3<sup>rd</sup> December at least 100 prisoners had died from nutrition-related illnesses during 2013 in Zimbabwean prison facilities<sup>21</sup>. This is because of severe food shortages owing to a massive shortfall in funding - \$1.2 million dollars is needed for food each month, but the ZPCS only receives \$300 000 each month. Deputy Commissioner for Prisons Aggrey Machingauta told a parliamentary committee that prison farms are not receiving enough seed and fertilizer for the government to feed inmates, so prisoners are only receiving one meal a day, fueling fears of a return to the disastrous period in 2008 when about 8 prisoners died each day<sup>22</sup>. She also stated that the prison population currently stands at 18 460 inmates, which considerably exceeds the 14 000 recorded in para 3.10.3 of the OGN, as well as the maximum capacity of 17 000.<sup>23</sup></p> <p><b>Cont'd ...</b></p>	<p>See next page ...</p>

<sup>20</sup> Human Rights Watch (27 Nov 2013) "Dispatches: Averting Another Cholera Outbreak in Zimbabwe" <http://www.hrw.org/news/2013/11/27/dispatches-averting-another-cholera-outbreak-zimbabwe> accessed 9 Jan 2014.

<sup>21</sup> SW Radio (3 Dec 2013) "100 die from hunger in Zimbabwe's prisons" <http://www.swradioafrica.com/2013/12/03/100-die-from-hunger-in-zimbabwes-prisons/> accessed 6 Jan 2014.

<sup>22</sup> Reuters (3 Dec 2013) "Zimbabwe inmates starving in cash-strapped jails" <http://uk.reuters.com/article/2013/12/03/uk-zimbabwe-prisons-idUKBRE9B20BF20131203> both accessed 6 Jan 2014.

<sup>23</sup> ZLHR (2 Dec 2013) "Zimbabwe prisons turn into death traps as 100 inmates die in detention" <http://www.kubatana.net/html/archive/hr/131202zlh.asp?sector=HR> accessed 8 Jan 2014.

<p>Furthermore, the suggestion in para. 3.10.11 of the OGN that “Prisons, with support from NGOs, provided sanitary supplies for women”, is contradicted in a research report “Risking Lives” published in December 2013, by the Research and Advocacy Unit and the Zimbabwe Women Lawyers Association<sup>24</sup>:</p> <p>“The conditions in detention facilities remain a cause of concern as cells both at police stations and in remand prison are small, poorly lit and dirty with poor ablution facilities,” reads the report.</p> <p>“The toilets in the cells were dirty, most of them had no running water and could only be flushed from outside and the police and the prison officials did not provide toilet paper nor did they provide sanitary wear to the majority of women human rights defenders.” According to the report, while in police custody, women were not given a change of clothes and had to wear the clothes they were arrested in for the duration of their stay<sup>25</sup>.</p>	<p>Accepted. This section was also updated in the Nov 2013 OGN. Including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Para 3.14.6 quotes a source as estimating that 40 prisoners die monthly as a result of malnutrition and disease, particularly HIV/AIDS</li> <li>• Para 3.14.3 also provides an updated figure for the prison population (although the source of this information predates that identified by the reviewer).</li> <li>• The information contained in para 3.10.11 of the Feb 2013 OGN is omitted from the November version.</li> </ul>
<p><b>REVIEWER’S CLOSING REMARKS:</b></p> <p>While there are naturally some areas of the Country Information in the OGN that are in need of updating or amendment, the selection of material presented seems impressive and strikingly apposite as a concise articulation of the key issues specifically relevant to its scope and purpose.</p> <p>The structure is very clear and well-designed for easy access and effective engagement by users.</p> <p>I trust that this review will contribute to constructing an effective platform for the fair and just adjudication of claims from Zimbabwe.</p>	<p>We welcome the generally positive review of the February 2013 Zimbabwe OGN and the constructive recommendations made by the reviewer.</p> <p>Those issues which have not already been reflected in the updated November 2013 version of the OGN will be taken forward as above and incorporated as appropriate in the next product.</p>

<sup>24</sup> RAU & ZWLA (12 Dec 2013) “Risking Lives” [http://researchandadvocacyunit.org/index.php?option=com\\_docman&view=document&alias=339-risking-lives-1&category\\_slug=womens-programme-1&Itemid=115](http://researchandadvocacyunit.org/index.php?option=com_docman&view=document&alias=339-risking-lives-1&category_slug=womens-programme-1&Itemid=115) accessed 7 Jan 2014.

<sup>25</sup> NewsDay (12 Dec 2013) “Female prisoners live in hell” <https://www.newsday.co.zw/2013/12/12/female-prisoners-live-hell/> accessed 9 Jan 2014.