

7. Civil Society and MDC have formed a Broad Alliance to with a programme of peaceful resistance and demonstrations. A stay away has been called for 9 and 10 June to coincide with the opening of Parliament. ~~MDC have told us that~~ MPs will not boycott Parliament generally but that they will not be present at the opening as their contribution to the stay away.

GOZ has warned that any demonstrations or resistance will be met with substantial force. Civil Society have also spoken of a campaign in the high density suburbs aimed at restricting the movement of the security forces through unofficial road blocks. We have heard that known state agents (police and civil servants etc) living in these areas have been given 24 hours to leave, or risk "repercussions".

8. There have also been reports that further farm invasions, some using violence, have taken place in Chipinge, Masvingo and Manicaland. The Commander of 3 Brigade, General Tazira has personally taken over a farm in Mutare forcing off the owner. Recently Deputy Minister for Information appropriated another farm. The invasions indicate an increasing level of violence and lack of support from the local authorities. CFU have said that even their high level contacts have been unwilling or unable to assist in any way.

1) COMMENT

). Many who were trading were doing so with licenses issued by the urban authorities in designated market areas. Many of those who have been made homeless were placed there originally by the Government and many of them are employed in the civil service, offices and other businesses across the cities.

10. Planned resistance from the community looks unlikely to be on a sufficient scale to stop the operation. Any demonstrations are likely to be met with crushing force. However, increasingly the homes of the security forces, the police and the army, have also been demolished and their families made homeless. This could result in a reduction in demolitions and evictions as a result of pressure from their leaders fearing rebellion from the lower ranks, but there has been no sign of such pressure so far.

11. The UNDP/IOM response to the humanitarian crisis has been prompt and well co-ordinated. DfID is already providing support through IOM and their partners on the ground. But of particular concern in the longer term, is the spread of HIV/AIDS due to disruption of prevention and care activities. The WFP have provided 300 tonnes of maize from their stocks to deal with the immediate situation but this will need to be replenished.