

Third Annual Reports: Web Updates

GTF312 The Zimbabwe Human Rights NGO Forum

The main accomplishments during the reporting period:

- the Forum successfully engaged the army in the hosting of the Africa Human Rights Day commemoration.
- Consortium Partners (CPs) engaged strategic stakeholders such as policy makers, which yielded practice and policy changes.
- Some traditional leaders have refused to facilitate human rights violations.
- All CP organizations have held strategic planning meetings to rationalize their approach to programme management.

The importance of this is as follows:

- The army acknowledged the role of civil society by partnering with the Forum. The public was given confidence that human rights activism and the mandate of the Forum is neither illegal nor anti-government. Serving members of the armed forces may be convinced not to have a negative attitude towards human rights activists.
- The graphic picture of a torture victim provides evidence of the practice of torture in police cells.

Those who benefited from interventions:

- human rights victims
- law enforcement agents
- law makers

Benefits were made:

- through the demystification of human rights activism – that it is not an activity against the state
- sensitisation and enlightenment about human rights
- legal representation of victims

The human-interest aspect:

- the identity of the torture victim has not been exposed
- police clearance was obtained before the public was invited to commemorations for public safety

Accomplishments expected during next year:

- more public participation in human rights activities
- an increase in litigation cases
- Buy-in by policy-makers and policy shift.

For further information about this programme, including annual reports and mid-term review, please visit <http://www.hrforumzim.org/category/reports/special-reports/>