

To:

From:

Subject: Zimbabwe: Urban Cleansing Continues:Id=0607274

Sent: 02 June 2005 10:32:23 GMT

#### Detail

3. Harare egram 5350/05 reported operation "restore order" in Harare. Police action has continued unabated, with the focus increasingly on systematic destruction of the various low-income shantytowns around Harare. Many thousands have been left homeless

Rents for remaining accommodation have sky-rocketed and there is an increasing exodus to the rural areas. There are anecdotal stories of police telling people to "go back to where you came from".

4. There are also reports of increasing action in and around Mutare (Zimbabwe's third city) and similar action commenced in Bulawayo as of yesterday.

5. The action has received saturation coverage in the state owned press and media giving details of numbers arrested, goods allegedly recovered, and building destroyed. Over the weekend Mugabe spoke publicly in support of the action, claiming it was necessary to cleanse Harare of criminal elements.

6. There are reports, including in the state-controlled press, of isolated incidents of resistance and attacks on police. As yet there has been no widespread reaction. Rumours and text messages are circulating, suggesting various forms of protest - "stayaways" and marches - next week. But this appears uncoordinated, and there is scepticism that anything significant will happen.