



## ZIMBABWE

# OPERATION MURAMBATSVINA (RESTORE ORDER) – HOMES DESTROYED, LIVELIHOODS SHATTERED

In 2005, an estimated 700,000 people lost their homes, their livelihoods or both, as a result of the Zimbabwean government's campaign of mass forced evictions and demolitions of homes and informal business premises.

The evictions and demolitions were carried out without adequate notice, court orders, or appropriate relocation measures, in violation of Zimbabwe's obligations under international human rights law. During the evictions police and soldiers used excessive force: property was destroyed and people were beaten.

In June 2005 the government launched Operation Garikai/Hlalani Kuhle (Better Life), and claimed it would provide housing to those who lost homes during Operation Murambatsvina. However, very few of the victims of Operation Murambatsvina benefited from Operation Garikai/Hlalani Kuhle, which also failed to comply with international standards on adequate housing. Many were allocated small bare plots of land on which they had to build homes with no assistance, and at least 20 per cent of any houses built were earmarked for civil servants, police and soldiers.

To this day, many of those evicted in 2005 continue to live in deplorable conditions. The lives of many families have become even more difficult, particularly as a result of violence around the 2008 elections and the deterioration of the economy which resulted in mass unemployment.

