Questions
1. Deleted.
2. Deleted.
3. Please provide information on the Human Rights Association of the MDC, including its structure and its activities.
4. Are there any reports of members of the Human Rights Association of the MDC being targeted for harm?

RESPONSE
1. Deleted.

2. Deleted.

3. Please provide information on the Human Rights Association of the MDC, including its structure and its activities.
4. Are there any reports of members of the Human Rights Association of the MDC being targeted for harm?

A search of the sources consulted found no mention of a Human Rights Association or similarly named association, group or committee within the Movement for Democratic Change.

The website of the MDC includes information on the organs within the party’s structure, but makes no reference to a Human Rights Association or other human rights committee or subgroup within the MDC (‘Our Party Structure’ (undated), MDC website

More generally, but of possible interest in this case, a Human Rights Watch report published in November 2008 notes information from the Law Society of Zimbabwe indicating that “police are frequently uncooperative and hostile to lawyers, and many have long since ceased to respect the country’s legal profession”:

**Attacks, Harassment and Abuse of Lawyers Taking up Political Cases**

According to the president of the Law Society of Zimbabwe, most lawyers were now unwilling to take on so-called political cases for fear of the personal hazards associated with confronting the government in representing MDC and civil society activists.

A small number of lawyers do buck this trend. But they have adopted a strategy of not visiting police stations alone, taking at least two colleagues who can alert other lawyers who can trace them following their arrest and detention. Lawyers report that such harassment is mainly at the hands of police in the Law and Order unit of the Criminal Investigations Division, which has frequently been accused of abusing the rights of detainees and their lawyers in political cases. Previously, the African Commission had criticized the same Law and Order Section for serious human rights abuses.

According to the Law Society of Zimbabwe, police are frequently uncooperative and hostile to lawyers, and many have long since ceased to respect the country’s legal profession. In May 2007 police arrested lawyers Andrew Makoni and Alec Muchadehama on spurious charges of “attempting to defeat course of justice through a falsehood during the course of a bail application.” The two often represent the MDC and others in political cases (Human Rights Watch 2008, “Our Hands Are Tied” – Erosion of the Rule of Law in Zimbabwe, November, pp. 35-36 – Attachment 15).

**List of Attachments**

**Government Information & Reports**
Immigration and Refugee Board of Canada http://www.irb-cisr.gc.ca/  
UK Home Office http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/  
US Department of State http://www.state.gov/  

**Non-Government Organisations**
Amnesty International http://www.amnesty.org/  
Freedom House http://www.freedomhouse.org/  
Human Rights Watch http://www.hrw.org/  
NGO Network Alliance Project http://www.kubatana.net/  

**International News & Politics**
AllAfrica Global Media http://allafrica.com/  
BBC News http://news.bbc.co.uk/  
IRIN News http://www.irinnews.org/  
The Zimbabwe Times http://www.thezimbabwetimes.com/
ZimOnline http://www.zimonline.co.za/

**Topic Specific**
Southern African Legal Information Institute website http://www.saflii.org/

**Search Engines**

**Databases:**
FACTIVA (news database)
BACIS (DIAC Country Information database)
REFINFO (IRBDC (Canada) Country Information database)
ISYS (RRT Research & Information database, including Amnesty International, Human Rights Watch, US Department of State Reports)
MRT-RRT Library Catalogue

**List of Attachments**

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