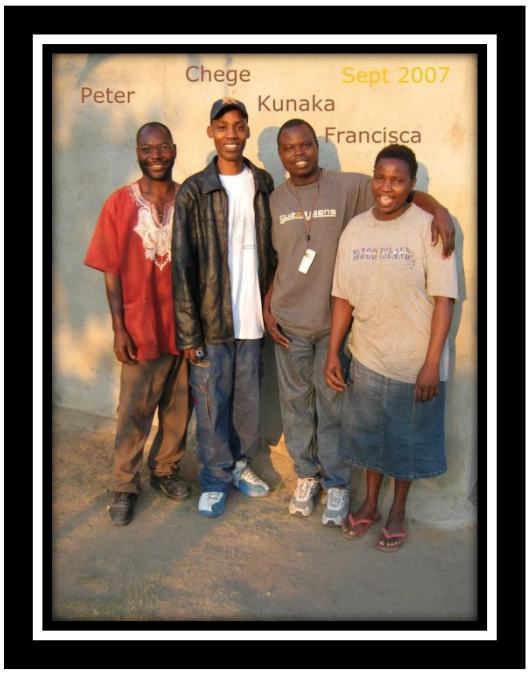
John Chege Mwaniki, Kwaze-Kwasa [East Africa] representative writes (July 23, 2008) from Nairobi, Kenya:

To my brother Peter
It was nice meeting you last September
Though, it was for a short period



Little did I realize that I would never see you again?
I will always cherish the time that we were together
You sounded so cool and humble
Very polite and charismatic
Neither justification nor reason
The cruel hand of death have struck again
Another son lay dead
At a very prime age when you were needed most
Full of strength and determination
May your departure not be in vain but
A wake up call
Justice, peace and unity shall prevail

Farewell thee
Brother, son, dad, husband, cousin, nephew,
A GREAT FRIEND
A GREAT AFRICAN HERO
Rest in peace

AN OPEN LETTER TO OUR ZIMBABWEAN COLLEAGUES, FRIENDS, AND ASSOCIATES

To whom it may concern,

Kwaze-Kwasa [USA] Inc. shares with our Kwaze-Kwasa (Zimbabwe) family and all Zimbabweans our deepest concern with the current violence and instability of your beloved country. We extend our heartfelt sympathies to all those who mourn and are suffering under the current political and economical turmoil.

Sadly, two persons who worked on occasion for our humble operations are dead. Both murdered by actions perpetrated by Zanu-PF surrogates according to credible eyewitness accounts.

We do not know the details of Serge's murder. Peter Haruangoni, laid to rest today at his Domboshavas home, leaves a wife and three children. Peter (pictured polishing Shona stone carvings in September 2007) and a young woman relative of our Zimbabwean operations manager were forcibly abducted June 13, 2008 from our Epworth Mission base located on the southeastern outskirts of Harare, by local Zanu-PF thugs.

Accused of supplying information to the MDC youth at Harvest House, Harare, Peter was last seen being brutally beaten with steel pipes. Listed as missing until about a week ago when his badly decomposed body was identified at Pareritya Hospital Mortuary.

Eyewitnesses report that he was tried, tortured, and executed by Zanu-PF local structure members. His body dumped on the adjacent farm. Even if the accusation had merit, the so-called justice was senseless. We support and encourage our people to bring those who murdered him to justice in a civil and peaceful manner as afforded under the laws of Zimbabwe. Unlike, the actions and retribution by Zanu-PF who can only politely be described as a barbaric bunch of ruthless, murderous thugs.

We are proud to have known and worked with Peter and Serge. We shall continue with our mission in honor of your sacrifice. RIP!

Shortly after the abduction, the female was released after a beating. She returned to find our local office and the home of our Southern African representative destroyed. The simple five-roomed home with no utilities in Epworth Mission (an area of extreme poverty) was looted and demolished by the same thugs effectively putting our in-country operational support out of business. Operating laptop, printer, camera, communications, and all electronics using solar panels, this base was integral to helping the long chain of contractors who do not own or have access to modern technology to succeed. Our people are recording and reporting events to local law enforcement authorities, SADC representatives, and others.

The intimidation and violence by Zanu-PF local structure has caused many more in our extended African family (operation) to be beaten, tortured, raped, and displaced. For their own safety, most have fled their homes becoming refugees in the rural areas or at the Ruwa UN camp, some are still missing and a full accounting of all the mayhem is not known. Those with travel documents are in temporary self-imposed exile in South Africa. This is no solution, just temporary relief as they face grave problems on their return, possibly exacerbated if the sojourn south is seen as them engaging in subversive activities against Mugabe’s regime and the violence continues.

Most independent critics blame Mugabe's violent seizure of white-owned farms and other policies for the steady economic decline since 2000 and the current mayhem. Living in a country of vast wealth and potential that has at best stagnated or declined or remains untapped and unused for the benefit of all its peoples (and neighbors) due to the inability and actions of the current regime to correct the situation would make most persons seek desperate measures.

As many as 50% of the population are estimated to have unwillingly left Zimbabwe legally or illegally for better economic prospects and safety and now in the Diaspora. Without their help, those who remain have little opportunities to survive as Zimbabweans are suffering chronic shortages of meat, maize (corn), fuel, and other basic goods because of the collapse of the once prosperous economy.

We proudly salute and recognize the work of our people and other Zimbabweans who remain at home. Peacefully working to ensure their communities survive the current turmoil and forgoing resorting to violent regime change even with constant provocation from others who take delight in violence and intimidation and perpetrate brutal crimes against humanity to retain the status quo.

Zimbabwe has a long history with more intervals of peace and stability than violence. Recent history included the violent armed struggle for liberation from the predominantly white minority Smith regime. This liberation was tainted by the subsequent brutal suppression of most political opposition. Weary of past violence most Zimbabweans want to live in peace and prosperity, resolving the country’s problems through the democratic process. Overall, the intervals between elections since independence were

generally peaceful for those we work with although a few located in Zanu-PF strongholds were always subject to stressful events and intimidation.

To the Mugabe government, military, and police we ask you that you do your best to ensure peace and stability immediately, after all you suffer from the same economic woes as the rest of the country. Do that and we will return with vigor so that our mission continues and grows meeting the needs of many you are not able to help. We were affording your impoverished people the opportunity to provide for themselves with dignity, and not rely on handouts or assistance. Retain violence and intimidation and we will limit operations to securing what we have and the safety of our people for when the inevitable change comes.

The current crimes against humanity, however, are completely unacceptable. President Mugabe's regime and party (Zanu-PF) no longer in the majority after losing the March 2008 elections to the opposition MDC (and coalition) led by Morgan Tsvangirai, blame each other for the violence. Our first hand experience places the blame squarely at Mugabe's door.

We respectfully urge:

- President Mugabe and MDC leader Morgan Tsvangirai to call off all violence by surrogates with immediate effect and honor their commitment to initiate dialogue with a view to promoting peace, stability, democracy, and reconciliation of the Zimbabwean people.
- UN and leaders of all other nations, especially the G-8, EU, and Zimbabwe's neighbors, to give your full moral and material support and commitment to bring reconciliation, peace and stability to Zimbabwe as a matter of urgency before an already very sad state of affairs deteriorates further and becomes another shameful yet avoidable tragic entry in the book of humankind's worst historical events.
- President Mugabe, humbly ask yourself "what would Nelson do?" Take inspiration from Africa and the world's greatest living politician, Nelson Mandela, who led his people to liberation from the apartheid regime. Seek his wise counsel.

Sincerely,

Robert M Bruin
President and COO
Kwaze-Kwasa [USA] Inc
July 19, 2008

Footnote: Some personal observations on Kwaze-Kwasa in Zimbabwe:

Having been to university with Rhodesians and visited Zimbabwe many times since the mid-1970s, I came to know and respect many of you from widely differing political, religious, economic, and cultural persuasions. I have observed your country go from white minority rule to freedom to the worst economy on the planet. As a son of the soil, you impress me as some of the most resilient, proud, friendly, engaging, peaceful, and hospitable people in Africa. Always cheerful with a ready smile and greeting to strangers and an upbeat attitude to life despite many being born to impoverished circumstances not of your choosing. It is hard to comprehend the same activists and persons I met in the 70s and 80s concerned with human rights who lived in the refugee camps in Dukwe, Botswana are now the very same perpetrators of gross human rights crimes.

The remains of our destroyed and looted base (taken in September 2009) are shown in the pictures. What is not shown, are the horrors of the June 13, 2008 crimes and the ongoing human misery and unspeakable crimes that Zanu-PF surrogates have exercised on the common people of Zimbabwe?

Our Zimbabwe operations started in 2005, in co-operation with a local young, community-minded family man who had trained to be a teacher who could not support his family on the state wage he earned. He subscribed to our philosophy and invited us to support him in Zimbabwe. His personal impoverished circumstances were no obstacle to this honest, hard working, very talented, and knowledgeable man with a flair for being an entrepreneur (a trait we would subsequently find is common to many Zimbabweans). His dedication and enthusiasm with our support soon developed into a viable and sustainable, locally managed, and operated social enterprise for the community's benefit with unlimited potential.

By end 2007, we were fulfilling our mission of establishing an informal network in impoverished communities providing the unemployed with fair trade supply contracts and micro financing. Operating all contracts entirely on trust, with micro loans and payments in cash, virtually no defaults have occurred and those that did could be justified. We believe that this to be as a direct result of the trust between all parties, a steady declining national economy, our regular income generation opportunities became the sole source of income for many. They were able to survive the economic woes in a country where unemployment in the formal sector officially exceeds 75%. With more than 400 different art and craft products, supplied by many, many talented and skilled independent contractors throughout Zimbabwe the business plan looked solid affording all concerned a reliable albeit meager income stream.

In reality, many areas have unemployment greater than 90% and common to find 100%, even the employed are not shielded from the economic woes, with most incomes insufficient to feed a family of four. The trickle down economic impact of the income generated by the informal sector within the impoverished communities is wide and very successful despite having the world's worst hyperinflation that Central bank Governor Gideon Gono reported as surpassing 2.2 million per cent on July 16, 2008 (and now at the end of 2008 reported by economists in Quadrillions). Some economists disagree with the official line and say it is now much higher. Kwaze-Kwasa Zimbabwe had completed the bureaucratic process and was ready to receive grants to distribute to local NGO community AIDS orphan programs returning the profits generated from online sales of the products. We have all but come to a standstill in Zimbabwe not because of the economic meltdown but due to the current violent political unrest, placing the survival of all who relied on us in greater jeopardy as we can no longer conduct our affairs in peace and safety.

President Mugabe your government "sell by" date has long expired. Seek immunity and gracefully enter into retirement and enjoy your last years, something you have denied to many. Allow the re-building of your "beloved" Zimbabwe to begin in earnest new clean hands for the benefit of all who inhabit this tiny blessed country before you destroy it as your surrogates did to us.

Last updated: 12/23/2008