

JUNE 2020

REACTION AND CRIME

NEWS

CRIME SCENE DO NOT

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Dear Valued client

There has been a sturdy increase in the crime rate over the past few months. This is driven by the high cost of living against a backdrop of a high unemployment rate due to the national lockdown which has left many people regarded as “non-essential workers” jobless. The thirst for foreign currency namely the United States Dollar is the motivation behind these criminal acts which including armed robberies, residential and commercial break-ins, and smash-and-grab vehicle attacks among others. In all cases, Guard-Alert urges continued vigilance whether at home or at the business premises.

Stay safe.



REACTION NEWS

HARARE

On **30/05/2020 at 9.42pm** our control room received a panic alarm signal from a domestic client in Zimre Park. Intruders scaled the perimeter wall, went to the carport, opened the vehicle boot and stole a jack and a spanner. Upon hearing footsteps outside, the client pressed the panic button and the intruders absconded on activation of the alarm. The incident was reported to Ruwa Police Station.

On **07/06/2020 at 01.31am** our control received a burglary alarm signal from a domestic client in Mt Pleasant. The Reaction Team attended and upon arrival, the client informed them that he was watching TV when the alarm activated and when he checked outside, he discovered that an alarm motion sensor had been stolen from the swimming pool and the intruder had jumped out of the premises. The incident was reported to Marlborough Police Station.

Our control room received a call from a domestic client in Glen Norah on **07/06/2020 at 01.51am** to the effect that intruders were breaking windows. Upon arrival, the Reaction Team met the client who advised that intruders had broken two window panes in an attempt to gain entry into the house but the burglar bars were intact rendering their efforts fruitless. They then left without stealing anything. The incident was reported to Glen Norah Police Station and they attended.

On **07/06/2020 at 01.30am** our control room received an alarm signal from a commercial client in Machipisa, Highfield. The Reaction Team attended and upon arrival, saw two (2) suspects who bolted out of the client's shop. They gave chase but the suspects scaled a beer garden perimeter wall and vanished. Checks carried out at the shop revealed that intruders left behind two 5kg gas cylinders and various electrical items in a 50kg sack that they had stolen from the shop. Machipisa Police were informed and attended. The owner confirmed that nothing was missing.

On **26/06/2020 at 01.10am** our control room received a panic alarm signal from a commercial client in Msasa. Earlier on, the Reaction Team had reacted to an alarm signal next door to this property. The dog handler on duty had observed the intruders cutting the razor wire used as a top defense and pressed the panic alarm. As the Reaction Crew was still in close proximity, they reacted swiftly and the intruders absconded before entering the premises. Nothing was stolen.



On **28/06/2020 at 05.05am** our control room received a panic alarm signal from a commercial client in Msasa. Upon arrival, the Reaction Team was informed by the watchman that he had observed what appeared to be a person scaling the front entrance gate and he pressed the panic button. Checks carried out revealed that three (3) car batteries had been stolen.

MARONDERA

On **05/06/2020 at 00.31am** a burglary alarm signal was received at our control room from a residential property in Winston Park area and the reaction team attended. Upon arrival, they were advised by the house owner that intruders had run away when the siren sounded. The Reaction Team checked the complex and discovered that the fence was cut and they recovered 1 x 50kg bag of maize which had been dumped by intruders as they were fleeing. The client was advised and he suspected that 2 x 50kg bags of maize had already been stolen. The client said that they heard some footsteps around 11pm before raising alarm giving the intruders ample time to move the 2 bags. The area where the maize was kept was not secured i.e. no external sensors. The client also mentioned that the previous week, 35 liters of diesel was siphoned from a vehicle parked at the front of his house. He suspects that it is the same intruder who came back to steal the bags of maize. The matter was reported to Marondera Central Police Station.

On **23/06/2020 at around 11.22pm**, our control room received a burglary signal from a residential client in Winston Park area. The reaction team was dispatched and upon arrival, they were advised that the intruders had fled on activation of the alarm. The Reaction Team conducted a physical check of the premise and found all in order. The following morning the client discovered that the mesh fence for the perimeter barrier was cut and rolled off for about 12 meters. The client did not report the matter to the Police.

BULAWAYO

On the **11th of June 2020 at 10.48pm**, a burglary signal was received from Church in Suburbs. The intruders fled the scene when they observed the Reaction vehicle approaching. Nothing was stolen.

On **21/06/2020 at 02.47am** a burglary signal was received from a commercial client in the City Centre. The Reaction Crew was dispatched and upon arrival, discovered that all was in order. The intruders fled on activation of the alarm.



GWERU

On **14/06/2020 and at 00.07am**, our control room received a burglary alarm signal from a residential property in Southdowns. Our reaction team was dispatched to investigate and reported that all was in order. The intruders fled on activation of the alarm.

On **16/06/2020 and at 07.42am**, a burglary alarm signal was received from a commercial property in the CBD. Our reaction team was sent to investigate and on arrival they reported that everything was in order. The sound of the siren scared away the intruders.

On **21/06/2020 and at 11.23am**, our control room received a burglary alarm signal from a residential property in Southdowns. Our reaction team attended and on arrival they reported that all was in order. The intruders fled on activation of the alarm.

On **27/06/2020 and at 0255 hours**, our Control Room received a burglary alarm signal from a residential property in Athlone. Our reaction team was sent to investigate and reported that everything was well secured. The sound of the siren scared the intruders away.

MUTARE

On **02 June 2020** our Reaction Team received a burglary signal at about 11.20pm from a residential client in Greenside. The Reaction Crew and upon arrival, the client advised them that she had seen an intruder on her veranda and pressed the panic button. Checks carried out revealed that nothing was amiss. The intruder fled on activation of the alarm.

On **23 June 2020** our Reaction Team received a call from the control Room advising them about a burglary message from a residential client in Murambi and attended. On arrival, they were advised by the house owner that, she pressed the panic button when she heard footsteps and chairs being knocked down outside. Checks carried out revealed that nothing was amiss. The intruder fled on activation of the alarm.



MARONDERA

On **06/06/2020 at 00.45am** thieves broke into a tuck shop at the back of a supermarket in Marondera CBD and they stole some cosmetic items. The tuck shop did not have a guard or an alarm system.

On **14/06/2020 at 11.30pm** one of the security guard who was manning another shop in Marondera town noticed thieves who were stealing copper cables from ZESA poles along Harare- Mutare Road. The guard alerted the Police officers on duty who were within that area, but they delayed to take action till the thieves fled away with one of the cables.



CRIME NEWS

NATIONWIDE

Criminals are targeting businesses and homes known to store large sums of cash. It is important to note that 8 out of 10 robberies are committed with the help of information from employees. And, it is for that reason that you should take your workers for fingerprint vetting at your area police station. Also make sure that you take extra caution when hiring casual workers. Be careful who you let onto your property i.e. repairs and maintenance workers. Use reputable companies or those with traceable references. Consider using a reputable company such as Armsec, Guard-Alert's armed division which specializes in both the transportation and storage of your cash, bullion and other valuables should you choose not to keep them at the bank.

HARARE

On **2 June 2020 at 4.30pm** one of our security guards arrested an employee for theft of company property. Matter was dealt with internally.

On **4 June 2020 at 4.49pm** a report was received to the effect that a client's vehicle which was parked in a shopping mall's parking lot was broken into and several items including USD 3000.00 were stolen. Matter was reported to Police.



On **5 June 2020 at 11.04am** guards arrested a Merchandiser for theft of company property. Matter was dealt with internally.

On **18 June 2020 at 12.25pm** our guards arrested a cleaner for theft of company property which he wanted to smuggle out of the shop concealed in the rubbish. The accused was handed over to Police.

On **19 June 2020 at 6.55pm** our guards together with the Warehouse Manager arrested a security guard from another security company for theft of 28 x50kg empty grain bags from the warehouse where accused was guarding. Accused was handed over to Police

BULAWAYO

Parking in Bulawayo city centre has turned into a nightmare for motorists who risk having their cars broken into or being held at gunpoint. A robbery syndicate is targeting unattended cars parked in front of shops and business premises.

One of the victims to fall prey to the gangs is a lady from Emganwinini had to be admitted into a local hospital after being stabbed as she clung onto the bonnet of the gateway car used by suspects who had robbed of her valuables namely a laptop, a cell phone and jacket outside a food outlet in the city centre.

The getaway vehicle stopped after about 60 metres when it was blocked by another motorist. The criminals then jumped of the car, one of them wielding a knife but this did not stop the public from giving a chase and apprehending them. The criminals were then handed over to the police.

Bulawayo police shoot firewood poacher

Police in Bulawayo shot and injured a suspected cattle rustler after he ignored orders from the law enforcement agents to stop, the injured suspect was rushed to a local hospital in the city where he is recovering. The Police spokesman said Pumula suburbs have become a hot spot for stock theft. On a separate occasion, City of Bulawayo rangers were involved in a shoot-out with firewood poachers and possibly stock theft suspects in the area which is becoming notorious for these criminal acts.



GWERU

On **17 June 2020** and at around **4pm**, a security guard who was monitoring CCTV in a shop spotted a woman stealing 2 x 750ml viceroy valued at \$1129.98 and concealed them in her leather jacket.

MUTARE

On the **21st of June 2020**, there were violent house robberies at Mutare Boys High School and Old Bordervale by a group approximately six (6) men armed with machetes. One (1) of the attacked persons was a heavily pregnant woman who was attacked in her home.

On **Wednesday 24 June 2020**, a 70year old Buhera man was handed three life sentences for fatally shooting his domestic employee's three family members. Public prosecutor Jonathan Chingwinyiso said on September 15, 2018, Takuda Oxford Mangwiro had an altercation with Farai Mandingo who was his employee at his homestead in Buhera whom he accused of stealing half a tonne of maize, groundnuts, eggs, rapoko and chickens. Mandingo stayed with his wife Portia Mudhara (32) and daughters Sharon and Lisa aged one and four years, respectively

Chingwinyiso told the court that Mandingo denied the allegations, resulting in the accused terminating his contract of employment forthwith and ordering him and his family to vacate his premises. As Mandingo reportedly had no money to ferry his family and property to Marange, he decided to spend the night at his ex-employer's homestead.

The following day, Mandingo saw Mangwiro in the yard and greeted him. The accused who was armed with a 303 rifle instead fired at Mandingo who was eight metres away, but missed. Mandingo fell to his knees and Mangwiro fired another shot, but again missed. Mandingo bolted into a nearby bush and went to report the matter at Murambinda Police Station. While Mandingo was on his way to make the report, the accused then shot his ex employee's wife and two (2) children who were in their bedroom and hid the three bodies in a rubbish pit and fled.

Mandingo returned in the company of police officers and was informed of the shooting by a neighbour who heard the gunshots. Information emerged that the convict was hiding in a mountain near the village. He was lured from his hideout by a phone call and was arrested. He led the police to the decomposing bodies.



CRIME STATISTICS

TARGETED ITEMS

- Cash
- Car Batteries
- Food stuffs
- Cell phones
- Vehicle wheels

HARARE REGION

Suburb	Armed Robbery	Assault	Break-In	Fraud	Hijacking	Intruder	Theft	Theft from vehicle	Total
Harare									
Aspindale			1						1
Avondale			1				1		2
Chitungwiza							1		1
City Centre			1			1	1		5
Glen Norah	1					1	4		1
Highfield			1			2			2
Msasa						1			3
Mt Pleasant							1		2
Southerton							1		2
Workington							2		1
Zimre Park						1	2	1	2
Marondera									
Winston Park			2			2	2	1	7



MATEBELELAND REGION

Suburb	Armed Robbery	Assault	Break-In	Fraud	Hijacking	Intruder	Theft	Theft from vehicle	Total
Bulawayo									
Belmont			2						2
Burnside			2						2
City Centre			4			1		2	7
Donnington			4				3		7
Luveve			1						1
Matshobane			1						1
Newton West			2	4				2	4
Northend			2				1		3
Suburbs			1				1		2
Woodlands			1						1
Victoria Falls			1						1
Hwange			1						1
Gwanda			1						1

SOUTHERN REGION

Gweru									
City Centre							1		1
Southdowns						3			3



EASTERN REGION

Suburb	Armed Robbery	Assault	Break-In	Fraud	Hijacking	Intruder	Theft	Theft from vehicle	Total
Mutare									
Greenside						1			1
Murambi						1			1

Crime Hotspots

Harare Region – Harare CBD, Msasa, Winston Park (Marondera)

Matabeleland Region - Bulawayo CBD, Donningron, Newton West, Northend

Southern Region – Gweru CBD

Eastern Region – Greenside, Murambi

