

May 2020

REACTION AND CRIME

NEWS



10 Nuffield Road, Workington
Harare, Zimbabwe
(0242) 754 291 - 6
www.guardalert.co.zw





Dear Valued client

Welcome to the reaction and crime news May edition. There has been an increase in crime due to the closure of companies and the informal sector as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic and spiralling inflation. Break-in incidences are increasing and customers are advised to fit an alarm on all buildings which store valuable items. We encourage you to take extra security measures to ensure that your homes and businesses are safe at all times.

Protect your business; home and family with our 24/7 alarm monitoring and armed response service. Contact us today to feel safe again



REACTION NEWS

HARARE

On **06/05/2020 at 03.04am**, our control room received a panic alarm signal from a commercial property in Glen Norah. On arrival our Reaction Team discovered that the front door screen was open and the glass inside door had been smashed and forced open. They also saw some grocery items and several bottles of motor vehicle oil scattered outside for a distance of about 60 metres from the shop. The owner was contacted and attended together with the police and she reported that several grocery items and motor vehicle oil had been stolen. Matter was handed over to the police.

Our control room received a burglary alarm signal from a commercial property in Avondale on **07/05/2020 at 11.46pm**. The Reaction Team attended and upon arrival, discovered that intruders had broken into an apartment behind our client's building and found nothing to steal after which they went to our client's property and forced open the door. The criminals fled on activation of the alarm. Nothing was stolen.

On **15/05/2020 at 02.15am** our control room received a burglary alarm signal from a commercial property in Glen View 3. On arrival, our Reaction Team observed a Honda Fit vehicle leaving the premises coming towards their direction and they made a u-turn and chased behind it for about 4km and almost pushed it out of the road. They observed that there were four men inside and as they feared that they could be armed they abandoned the chase. The owner was contacted and attended together with the Police and she advised that intruders stole a laptop and two (2) adaptors, pampers and cotton wool.

On **15/05/2020 at 02.16am** Control received a panic alarm signal from a commercial property in Hatfield. On arrival our reaction team learnt that our guard on duty had pressed the alarm after he saw intruders park a vehicle and charged towards him and he escaped whilst pressing the alarm.

The intruders preceded to break-into the next door premises and when they heard the alarm they absconded. The manager was contacted and attended together with the Police.

On **28/05/2020 at 03.30am** Control received a burglary alarm signal from a residential property in Mount Pleasant. On arrival our reaction team met the owner who took them around the premises and showed them a burglar bar that had been cut from a bed room window that had been left unsecured. The intruders were reported to have absconded without stealing anything.



BULAWAYO

On the **1st May 2020 at about 3.10pm** a panic signal was received from one of the leading supermarket at Bradfield. The Reaction Crew was dispatched and, on arrival, discovered that a shoplifter had been arrested for 1 x 500mls Pepsi, 1 x 750mls Skippers Cane spirit and a cake slice all valued at ZWL\$129.97. The suspect was taken to ZRP Central.

On the **10th May 2020 at 01.18am** a burglary signal was received from a residential client. The Reaction Crew was dispatched and upon arrival observed some unknown intruders who ran away when they noticed the Reaction vehicle approaching the premise. Nothing was stolen.

On the **13th May 2020 at 12.20pm** a burglary signal was received from one of the schools within the Central Business District of Bulawayo. The Reaction Crew attended. Upon arrival, they discovered that thieves had broken into the school offices. Good stolen included a TV where a TV and a laptop. Incident was reported to the police.

GWERU

On **06/05/2020 and at 07.44am**, 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 intruders fled on activation of the alarm.

On **12/05/2020 and at 9pm**, our control room received a burglary alarm signal from a residential property in Mkoba. Our reaction team attended and on arrival they reported that all was in order. The sound of the siren scared away the intruders.

On **17/05/2020 and at 03.40am**, 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 sound of the siren scared the intruders away.

On **25/05/2020 and at 09.33am**, our Control Room received a burglary alarm signal from a residential property in Dalesford. Our reaction team was sent to investigate and reported that everything was in order. The criminals fled on activation of the alarm.



MUTARE

On **16 May 2020** our Reaction Team received a burglary signal at about **10.45pm** from a client in Greenside and attended. Upon arrival, they met with the client who informed them that she had pressed the panic button after hearing the sound of footsteps moving around the yard. The Reaction Team conducted a site check and found all in order. The intruders fled on activation of the alarm. Nothing was stolen.

On **23 May 2020** our Reaction Team received a burglary signal at about **7.02pm** from a residential property in Murambi. Upon arrival, they met with the client who informed them that she had observed an unknown intruder who she suspected to be drunk, attempting to open the door. The sound of the siren scared the intruder causing him to flee.



CRIME NEWS

HARARE

On **4 May 2020** our guard arrested a cleaner for theft of company property at a commercial property. Matter is being dealt with internally.

On **06/05/2020 at about 03.25am**, 6 intruders armed with crowbars raided a service station in Glen Norah B. They smashed the glass door and stole various goods worth ZWL69100. The criminals were using a Mazda 626 vehicle with no registration plates as their getaway car. The guard who was on duty pressed the panic button and the Reaction Team attended a few minutes later. In this case the client had left the screen door unlocked making it easy for the criminals to break the glass and steal oils. Matter is under CID investigations.

On **6 May 2020 at 2.25pm** guards arrested a shoplifter for theft of cough syrup valued ZWL 152.95. Accused was taken to Police.

On **7 May 2020 at 2.40pm** a report was received from one of our commercial clients to the effect that a car belonging to one of the patients that had visited the clinic had its rear wind screen broken. Nothing was reported missing. Subsequent investigations revealed the incident occurred outside the client's car park.

On **13 May 2020** guards arrested a shoplifter for theft of Viceroy Brandy valued ZWL 374.49. Accused was taken to Police.

On **14 May 2020**, our roving supervisor observed that the perimeter fence had been holed at the company where he is stationed. Subsequent investigations revealed that nothing had been stolen from the premises. Management was advised and the fence repaired.

On **15 May 2020 at 12.39am** our guard observed some criminals who were about to jump into the premise where he is stationed and blew his whistle causing the criminals to flee the scene without stealing anything.



On **15 May 2020 at 12.48am** robbers broke into the lubricants cage at a service station in Westgate and stole lubricants valued at RTGS 79 000.00. The robbers, wearing masks, who were driving a white getaway vehicle with no number plates, parked their vehicle close to the lubricants cages at the forecourt. On seeing the car parking, our guard thought they were genuine customers and went to attend to them. When the guard approached the car, one of the criminals disembarked and attempted to grab him causing the guard to jump outside the perimeter wall for his safety. The guard immediately advised the client and our Control Room. Scene was attended by our reaction team, Operations manager and the Police.

On **19 May 2020 at 12.40pm** one of our security guards was approached by an employee at the contract where he is stationed. The employee wanted to steal a tyre from the company and offered the guard USD10 in exchange for allowing to him to take the tyre. The guard turned down the bribe and watched as the suspect put the tyre into his vehicle. The guard then alerted management resulting in the accused being arrested and taken to Police.

On **21 May 2020 at 1.40pm** a report was received from a commercial client to the effect that an employee of this shop was arrested by our CCTV guard for theft of two dongles valued USD800.00. Accused person was taken to Police.

On **25 May 2020** a report was received from a commercial client to the effect that the canteen at these premises had been broken into but nothing was reported missing. Matter was reported to Police.

BULAWAYO

Daring armed robbers raided Zimbabwe Revenue Authority (ZIMRA) container depot in Bulawayo and went away with a consignment of 148 boxes of Broncleer, a cough mixture which was banned over abuse as a euphoric drug. The total value of the contraband which includes four cases of gin, is about US\$20 000.



The suspects had been monitoring the truck between Esigodini and Bulawayo while it was being escorted to ZIMRA container depot with the intention of hijacking it. The stolen goods believed to have been smuggled from South Africa were confiscated by ZIMRA and the criminals struck at the depot on the same day at around 19.30 hours. The suspects were armed with an FN rifle and they threatened to shoot the security guards before tying their hands using a rope.

With the four (4) guards tied up, the suspects then offloaded 148 boxes of Broncleer and four boxes Gordon's Gin from the impounded truck and drove off at high speed. The truck was intercepted at a roadblock in Esigodini where the driver tried to bribe the police. The police however, was adamant and demanded to search the truck leading to the recovery of the illicit drugs. The criminals were apprehended and ZIMRA was alerted.

A Bulawayo man has been arrested on charges of breaking into a police officer's vehicle and stealing property worth ZWL71 850. He was asked to plead guilty to theft from a motor vehicle charges when he appeared before Bulawayo Magistrate and remanded to May 20 2020.

The complainant parked his Toyota Hilux vehicle at a pharmacy along Robert Mugabe way and left the vehicle secured by closing windows and locking all doors. While the complainant was inside the pharmacy, the accused used unknown object to open the vehicle and stole a brown leather bag containing a 13 inch silver Apple Macbook and a black pouch bag containing a Canon camera which was placed behind the driver's seat and went away unnoticed. It was later established that the suspect sold one of the stolen items to a brother who was arrested for possession of stolen goods which lead to the arrest of the suspect. We at Guard-Alert urge you to refrain from leaving any valuables exposed in your car.

GWERU

On **10 May 2020**, thieves broke into a shop in Mkoba 11. They forced entry through the front door by breaking the padlocks using a bolt cutter. Items stolen from the shop included 2 x 2litres cooking oil valued at \$350, 2 x 2kg rice valued at \$200, airtime valued at \$150, BP testing machine valued at \$600 and a cell phone. Total value of stolen goods \$1300.00. The client had left the alarm not armed citing that there was no electricity. A report was made to the police the following morning and the accused are still at large.



On **8 May 2020 and at around 11pm** a security guard manning a commercial property located in heavy industrial site vandalized a vehicle which was parked inside the premises and stole the following items:- one bicycle pump, one pair earphones and two pioneer car radio speakers which were mounted in the vehicle. On **14 May 2020**, the security guard appeared before Gweru Magistrate Court where he was found guilty and fined \$3000.00 payable before 1 June 2020 or 3 months imprisonment.

On **19 May 2020 and at around 2pm**, a security guard manning a supermarket in the CBD connived with a shoplifter and unlawfully removed groceries worth \$1564.12 from the shop. The two were arrested and appeared before Gweru Magistrate court on 23 May 2020 where the shoplifter was found guilty and sentenced to 700 hours of community service while the guard was acquitted.

MARONDERA

On **12/05/20 at about 11.30am** a phone call was received from a college in Marondera to the effect that theft of 336 maize cobs had been stolen from one of the fields. According to our findings, the incident occurred on 11/05/2020 during the day time at around 14.30pm. Matter was reported to the Police.

On **18/05/2020** our dog handler who was manning that same farm reported that at about 02.30 am he noticed a certain vehicle which was parked along Harare- Mutare Road and he alerted the other two farm guards. After few minutes they heard a sound of someone cutting maize cobs from the next farm named Goshen Farm. They managed to apprehend the accused named Langhton Maranga aged 42 with ID No 47-149912-D-47 who reside at Goshen Farm staff village. The accused was arrested and handed over to Marondera Rural Police Station. Maize 40 maize cobs were.

CHINHOYI

On the **11th of May 2020 at around 08.55am**, we received a phone call from a commercial client to the effect that the shop had been broken into. Our Reaction Team accompanied by the Police attended. Upon arrival, it was discovered that the intruders had gained entry through the front door. They broke the padlocks using a bolt cutter. Items stolen from the shop included 2 x 2litres cooking oil, 2 x 2kg rice, airtime valued at \$150, a BP testing machine and a cell phone. According to the complainant's statement, the alarm was not armed because there was no electricity and as a result there was no signal. Please note that Guard-Alert Electronics does solar installations for your security systems ensuring that you are safe even when there is a power cut.



On **25/05/2020**, the CCTV guard observed that a man had stolen 1 x Amarula 750ml bottle and bananas valued at ZWL781.90. The accused was handed over to the Police

MUTARE

05 May 2020 a 22 year old man from Sakubva broke into a tuckshop and stole an assortment of food items which included eggs, chicken heads and feet. He appeared before the magistrate and stated that he had committed the offence as he wanted to stock up for the lockdown. The Magistrate was not moved by the man's plea and sentenced him to twelve (12) months in jail. Two (2) months were set aside on condition of good behaviour, while another four months were suspended on condition that the accused returns the stolen items.

On **Tuesday 5 May 2020** it was reported that daring thieves in Mutare urban are stealing vegetables from gardens for sale to vendors in a nasty development that is posing a big threat to the health of residents. The theft of vegetables in gardens in most urban areas has been spurred by limited movement of farmers from outlying areas such as Odzi, Chigodora and Burma Valley to their usual city selling points owing to the Covid-19 lockdown. Residents in different suburbs of Mutare, mainly high density suburbs of Zimta Park, Sakubva, Hobhouse, Chikanga and Danganvura are now having sleepless nights safeguarding their gardens as well as bearing the risk of consuming vegetables with harmful pesticides.

PENHALONGA

On the **9th of May 2020** three (3) machete-wielding robbers raided a residential property in Penhalonga and robbed a couple of cash and household property worth USD6 000, before taking turns to rape the woman. The trio severely assaulted the man with a machete all over his body, before tying him with a rope. After raping the helpless man's wife (names withheld to protect the identity of the rape victim), the gang vanished into the darkness. The three are still at large and the police are appealing to members of the public with information on the three suspects to contact their nearest police station. Manicaland provincial police spokesperson, Inspector Tavhiringwa Kakohwa confirmed the incident.



On the **24th of May 2020** a security guard employed by the Judicial Services Commission was slapped with a 36-months jail sentence for stealing building material worth \$18 000 from the court. Gift Dirikwi (56), who was stationed at the Mutare Magistrates' Court, was convicted on his own guilty plea by Mutare magistrate, Ms Purity Gumbo for stealing the building materials. Dirikwi contravened Section 113 (1) of the Criminal Law (Codification and Reform) Act, Chapter 9:23. After sentencing Dirikwi to 36 months imprisonment, Ms Gumbo suspended six months for the next five years on condition of good behaviour. Dirikwi will therefore serve an effective 30 months in jail. Prosecutor, Mr John Munyurwa said sometime in April, Dirikwi took advantage of his night duty deployment at Mutare Magistrates' Court and stole seven FLM doors and a 20-litre bucket of PVC white paint from the administration block. He then sold the stolen items. Thinking that he had gotten away with the theft, on the night of May 12, Dirikwi went to the administration block again and stole two BP iron sheets. He was, however, intercepted by police officers who were on patrol, thereby leading to his arrest. All the stolen items were recovered after investigations were conducted. The total value of the stolen property was \$18 302.



CRIME STATISTICS

TARGETED ITEMS

- Cash (both foreign and local currency)
- Solar batteries
- Food Stuffs

HARARE REGION

Suburb	Armed Robbery	Assault	Break-In	Fraud	Hijacking	Intruder	Theft	Theft from vehicle	Total
Harare									
Aspindale			1				1		1
Avondale			1	1			1		2
Chitungwiza							1		1
City Centre			1				4		5
Glen Norah	1		2			2	2		7
Glenview 3			1			1	1		3
Hatfield				1		1			1
Highglen						1			1
Msasa							1		1
Mt Hampden							1		1
Mt Pleasant							1		1
Southerton							1		2
Westgate							1		1
Workington									1
Marondera							2		2



MATEBELELAND REGION

Suburb	Armed Robbery	Assault	Break-In	Fraud	Hijacking	Intruder	Theft	Theft from vehicle	Total
BULAWAYO									
Belmont			3						3
Burnside			2						2
City Centre			6					2	8
Donnington			4				3		7
Luveve			3					3	6
Matshobane			1						1
Newton West			2					2	4
Northend			3				1		4
Suburbs			1						1
Woodlands			1						1
Victoria Falls			2						2
Hwange			1						1
Plumtree			1						1
Gwanda			1						1
Beitbridge			2						2

SOUTHERN REGION

Gweru									
City Centre			1	1					3
Delsford						1			1
Heavy Industrial Site									1
Mkoba 11	1								1
Southdowns						1			1

EASTERN REGION

Mutare									
Greenside						1			1
Murambi						1			1
Sakubva			1			1			2



MATEBELELAND REGION

Suburb	Armed Robbery	Assault	Break-In	Fraud	Hijacking	Intruder	Theft	Theft from vehicle	Total
Chinhoyi									
City Centre			1			1	2		4

Crime Hotspots

Harare Region – Harare CBD, Glen Norah

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

Southern Region – Gweru CBD

Eastern Region – Chinhoyi CBD

