

Fidelis Mudimu

Fidelis Mudimu is a registered nurse, psychiatric nurse and midwife. It seems that these days his midwifery skills are used in a very different direction: to provide medical and psychological rehabilitation for victims of organised violence and torture (OVT). He is the programme manager of the Amani Trust, a local Zimbabwean human rights organisation.

Fidelis runs the clinical programme of the Amani Trust, and he is also responsible for local, regional and international liaison for the organisation. He does short-term counselling for survivors of torture, in the process assessing them for long-term medical and psychological rehabilitation under various specialists throughout the country. Sometimes he personally has to evacuate people to places of safety when they are in extreme danger. Fidelis has also helped to establish a network of 'peace monitors' throughout Zimbabwe, whose role is to monitor violence, and first- and second-generation human rights abuses, such as access to food and health care. The Amani Trust has been under constant threat by the Government and has negative publicity on almost a daily basis in the state controlled press. Sometimes the office of the Trust had to operate off grounds; it has been raided and searched. New legislation is threatening to ban all democracy and governance activities, yet Fidelis and the Amani Trust continue to do their work.

Fidelis has represented the Amani Trust and the Zimbabwe Human Rights Forum, a coalition of twelve of the main human rights non-governmental organisations in Zimbabwe, at various international meetings, such as the Dublin Platform for Human Rights Defenders, the United Nations Commission on Human Rights, and the Netherlands Institute for Southern Africa, and various others. At these meetings he has articulated the current Zimbabwean human rights situation and the existence of organised violence and torture.