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THE MEMORY OF VIOLENCE AND THE VIOLENCE OF MEMORY: A CASE STUDY OF GUKURAHUNDI IN ZIMBABWE

A Masters Report submitted to the Faculty of Humanities

University of Witwatersrand

In partial fulfillment of the requirements for the degree of Master of Arts

In Development Sociology

By

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Abstract

This Masters Report is based on a qualitative study conducted in Johannesburg to explore the ways in which the memory of gukurahundi has been made and remade in repressive conditions. This moment in Zimbabwe's past was previously silenced by the government, therefore its existence in other generations that were not directly affected is the focus of the study. Semi-structured interviews were conducted with participants. Their narratives were then analyzed through narrative methods. This revealed that engaging in the memory of gukurahundi is used as a tool to undermine the legitimacy of the government. The past is used to interpret experiences of oppression in the present. The reproduction of this mode of resistance gives access to multiple generations to learn about what happened during gukurahundi. This knowledge is then used as a reference to explain ways in which people in Matebeleland feel oppressed in the present.

Declaration

I declare that this Master's Report is my own work. It is submitted for the degree of Master of Arts in Development Sociology. It has not been submitted before for any other degree or examination in any other university.

_____

Nomaqhawe Molife

_____ Day of _____ 2019

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List of Abbreviations

NPRC	The National Peace and Reconciliation Commission
ZANLA	Zimbabwe African National Liberation Army
ZANU	Zimbabwe African Nationalist Union
ZAPU	Zimbabwe African Peoples Union
ZIPRA	Zimbabwe People's Revolutionary Army
ZNA	Zimbabwe National Army