From state-centric to people-centric CR initiatives in SADC
Introduction

• Global rebellion against status quo – those excluded from power
• Occupy movement
• Anti-austerity protests in Europe
• Arab Spring
• Marikana, De Doorns
• Consciousness of developments across world
• Technology helps this not only in terms of information but also a form of organizational base
• State predatory- African state (elite) sovereignty purchased at the human security of ordinary citizens
SADC

- African inter-governmental structures like SADC and the AU reflect this state bias – state defends elites from the consequences of their rapacious actions against citizens – e.g. Bozize in CAR now
- SADC worse than AU with its absolutist notion of sovereignty – AU qualifies sovereignty
- SADC talks about human rights, but they have dismantled one of their own structures – the SADC Tribunal when it upholds the rule of law against a predatory state as we saw in the case of Zimbabwe
- Much has been written about SA’s policy of Quiet Diplomacy or that of Zimbabwe re the unfolding tragedy there – much less on Track 2 CR initiatives – this is what I will focus on in this paper
Citizen diplomacy

- CD represents one strand of multi-track diplomacy
- CD refers to the involvement of local people from different sectors of society in the process of PD – can occur at every stage of the conflict
- CD powerful because it is citizens who bear the brunt of a conflict – long term – citizens have a vested interest in sustainable peace
- Because of their small size, independence and flexibility, NGOs are in a position to react quickly to dangers and opportunities when larger organizations may have to follow bureaucratic procedures (e.g. Oslo)
- There are limitations - e.g. Needing political and material support from other players – hence “multi-track”
National Constitutional assembly - NCA

- NCA founded in 1997 by youth, women, church, business, human rights groups in the face of ZANU-PF’s growing violent repression and who sole purpose was to realize a new, democratic and people-driven constitution
- NCA critiqued existing Lancaster House Constitution and the machinations of the ruling party
- Had various seminars, debates and publications to educate Zimbabweans on issues of constitutionalism
- Pushed for a constitutionalism from below – involving grassroots organizations
- Constituted severe challenge to state
ZLHR

• ZLHR conducted on-site monitoring and documented human rights abuses and instances of violence
• On basis of this released press statements to publicize abuses
• Lobbied regional and international bodies to bring an end to abuse
• Engaged judicial mechanisms for the peaceful settlement of disputes by representing human rights defenders in court
• Provided free legal services to thousands of families
• 2005 ZLHR granted observer status with tin the ACHPR, affiliate status within the International Commission of Jurists and was confirmed as secretariat of the SADC Assoc. Human Rights Committee
SACD in response to ZIM crisis

• SA civil society took a keen interest in the Zimbabwean crisis and more importantly to monitor its own government’s commitment to a peaceful and democratic Zimbabwe in line with SA’s own FP goals
• 14 April 2008 – Chinese vessel docks in Durban, awaiting permission to unload weapons shipment to the ZDF
• SATAWU, later COSATU and Church groups prevent the weapons transfer
• Inside SA cabinet – Mbeki vs Manuel
• SA Litigation Centre takes legal action – saying weapons used to perpetuate illegitimate ZANU-PF rule – court agrees – Chinese vessel moves to Mozambique, Namibia and Angola but civil society also prevents off-loading of weapons – Chinese vessel return to China with arms intact
Ecumenical diplomacy - ed

- Churches, trusted, politicians not
- Churches operate in local village to international level
- Churches = moral compass of society
- Zimbabwean Council of Churches (ZCC), Zimbabwean Catholic Bishops Conference (ZCBC) linked to SACBC and the Zimbabwean Evangelical Fellowship (ZEF)
- Lessening polarization between protagonists, getting them to talk – helped to develop shared vision – called on leaders to reflect on their faith and civic duties – embarked on fact-finding missions, highlighting transgressions to human dignity in a clinical (non-emotive way) – move away from zero-sum politics, emphasis on inclusiveness (Malawi and Mozambique)
Conclusion

• Scholars and students need to play greater attention Track 2 initiatives in the SADC region – note developments in Swaziland (COSATU and SFTU)
• Greater attention to how Track 1 and Track 2 initiatives can work in a mutually reinforcing way towards human security as opposed to elite security (Rupesinghe)
• Track 1 initiatives failing in SADC and Africa generally privileging state sovereignty (elite security) over human security over citizens – Gaddafi, CAR, Mali
• While this continues little common ground between Track 1 and Track 2 so Multi-Track Diplomacy is a non-starter
• Under circumstances need to look at how international community can bolster Track 2 initiatives (Solidarity, Poland, Syrian opposition now)
Thank you