



## CRIMEWATCH BULLETIN JUNE 2025

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*Keeping You Safe, One Alert at a Time!*

## JUNE IN REVIEW: CRIME PRESSURE INTENSIFIES

As Zimbabwe's economic strain deepens and winter nights grow longer, criminals are becoming more aggressive and strategic. June 2025 saw a worrying escalation in both violent and sophisticated crimes from multi-million-dollar heists to inside jobs and opportunistic thefts at both business and residential properties.

The common thread? Gaps in security coverage, complacency, and inside information leaks.

*This month's bulletin is not just a recap it's a call to action.*



## HEADLINE CRIMES THAT SHOCKED ZIMBABWE IN JUNE



### 1. \$700,000 BANK HEIST – THE FASTEST 8 MINUTES IN HARARE

In one of the most daring robberies of the year, a group of heavily armed criminals stormed a commercial bank in Harare in broad daylight.

Brandishing automatic weapons, the gang executed the entire operation with military precision, overwhelming on-site guards and staff within minutes.

In just 8 minutes, they cleared the bank vault of over US\$700,000 in cash and a large quantity of gold. Witnesses described the attackers as highly organized, communicating via handheld radios and using three getaway vehicles parked strategically around the bank.

By the time the police arrived, the criminals were long gone.

#### Key Lesson:

No business is immune, not even banks. This incident highlights the urgent need for layered security including panic alarms, remote monitoring, and armed rapid response backup.

### 2. INSIDER HEIST – INDUSTRIAL SITE BURGLED IN BULAWAYO

An industrial site in Bulawayo fell victim to a calculated inside job, resulting in losses exceeding US\$56,000 in high-value copper cables and industrial equipment.

The criminals gained access to restricted storage areas without forced entry an immediate red flag that pointed to insider involvement.

Investigations revealed that former contract workers and casual labourers had provided detailed information about shift changes, patrol gaps, and stock movement patterns.

The stolen materials were loaded onto a getaway vehicle in the early hours before sunrise and vanished without triggering any alarms.

#### Key Lesson:

Your greatest threat may already have a staff ID badge. Employee vetting, exit screening, and integrity testing are critical.



### 3. GWERU CIT AMBUSH – DAYLIGHT ROBBERY SHOCKS BUSINESS COMMUNITY

A cash-in-transit crew was ambushed in broad daylight in Gweru while making a scheduled cash collection at a busy commercial site.

Armed with AK-47 rifles, the attackers forced the crew to surrender at gunpoint, grabbing the cash boxes before fleeing in two unmarked vehicles.

This incident sent ripples through the business community, especially among retailers and fuel stations that rely on CIT services for cash movements.

#### **Key Lesson:**

Businesses handling high volumes of cash must ensure they partner with secure CIT providers and should consider offsite CCTV monitoring of collection points as an additional layer of defence.

### 4. MOUNT PLEASANT HOME INVASION – WHEN YOUR OWN HOME ISN'T SAFE

In the early morning hours of June 23rd, a family in Mount Pleasant was attacked inside their home by four masked intruders.

The gang overpowered the domestic worker, disabled the property's basic alarm system, and ransacked bedrooms while the family was held under threat.

The attackers made off with jewelry, mobile devices, and foreign currency, disappearing into the night before law enforcement could respond.

#### **Key Lesson:**

Residential areas are no longer low-risk zones. Homeowners should invest in perimeter alarms, motion sensors, and 24/7 offsite camera monitoring linked to rapid response.

### 5. \$600,000 ARMED HEIST – INSIDER TIPS LEAD TO MASSIVE LOSS IN CENTRAL HARARE

In mid-June, central Harare witnessed a high-profile armed robbery that left the business community in shock. A gang of criminals, armed and posing as clients, stormed a private office, assaulted the businessman inside, and forced him to open a safe. The attackers fled with over US\$500,000 in cash and other valuables, bringing the total stolen amount to US\$600,000.

Investigations quickly pointed to an insider breach. A driver for the business was arrested on June 27, confessing to his role in the crime and admitting that he leaked sensitive cash movement details to the gang. In return, he received US\$10,000 as payment for the tip-off.

Police have since recovered US\$4,400 in cash and a Toyota Hiace vehicle linked to the crime.

**Key Lesson:**

This heist reinforces one harsh reality: internal threats remain one of the biggest risks to businesses of all sizes.

Now more than ever, businesses must conduct employee vetting, enforce integrity testing, and limit sensitive information to only trusted personnel

## **BLACKSHARK SUCCESS STORIES: WHEN TRAINING AND VIGILANCE PAY OFF**

While criminals continue to test boundaries, Blackshark Protection Assistants and Inspectors stood firm this June recovering stolen property, foiling smuggling attempts, and protecting client assets.

**Gold Smuggling Foiled at Mining Site**

During a routine shift, one of our Inspectors observed a suspicious exchange in a mining complex processing area. A casual worker received a small, concealed handover believed to be gold amalgam.

While the suspect initially cleared the first exit search, our officer's investigative instinct led to a secondary check, uncovering 1.1 grams of gold amalgam hidden inside a phone charger.

**Action Taken:**

- Immediate arrest
- Permanent site ban issued
- Recovered gold secured for official handover

**Damage Detection – Protecting Client Property**

During routine patrols at a major fast-food retail site, two Blackshark officers noticed a section of pavement badly damaged most likely by a heavy vehicle.

A detailed site check and immediate reporting ensured repairs were actioned quickly, preventing further site risk and liability.

**Lesson:**

Prevention isn't always about stopping theft—it's also about identifying hazards early.

**Dispatch Integrity Saves Vaccine Stock**

At a major agricultural supplier's dispatch point, a Protection Assistant became suspicious of a sealed vaccine consignment box.

Despite pressure to let it go, the PA escalated the issue. Upon opening, the team discovered two unaccounted-for bottles of vaccine valued at USD 160, preventing a costly stock discrepancy.

**Lesson:**

Attention to detail and refusal to cut corners can save clients thousands in stock loss.

**Retail Theft Thwarted – Skirt Recovered at Loading Bay**

While checking outgoing waste at a retail site, a Protection Assistant recovered a brand-new winter skirt hidden inside a refuse bag at the loading bay.

Quick reporting and evidence preservation ensured that the item was secured for investigation before it could disappear.

**Lesson:**

Even small items matter. Loss prevention starts with site vigilance and thorough waste checks.





## INTEGRITY TESTING PROMOTION 50% OFF THIS WINTER

Worried about insider threats? This is your chance to act. Throughout July, Blackshark is offering 50% off on Integrity Testing services. Now is the perfect time to screen your workforce, check for policy compliance, and eliminate internal risk factors. This is a limited-time offer. Contact us today to book.

### ***JUNE SECURITY RECOMMENDATIONS***

#### **For Businesses:**

- Review access control systems
- Conduct mid-year security audits
- Take advantage of our Integrity Testing Promotion

#### **For Homeowners:**

- Install panic-linked alarms
- Test your perimeter protection systems
- Limit storage of valuables onsite

#### **For Communities:**

- Report all suspicious activity
- Form local WhatsApp security groups
- Stay connected to neighborhood watch networks

# Blackshark

A Trading Division of Renolia Investments (Pvt) Ltd

## **BLACKSHARK SECURITY SOLUTIONS: YOUR FIRST LINE OF DEFENSE**

### **We offer:**

- 24/7 Offsite CCTV Monitoring
- Panic-Linked Rapid Response Teams
- Access Control and Smart Surveillance
- Guard Monitoring Systems
- Employee Vetting and Integrity Testing

***Don't wait for a crime to happen. Be proactive.***

As we focus on physical safety, don't forget your financial security.

With more people using cards and mobile banking, bank fraud and account hacks are rising.

### **Zimswitch reminds you:**

- Never share your PIN
- Report lost or stolen cards immediately
- Be alert for card skimmers and suspicious ATMs

### **Go digital. Stay safer.**

Use ZIPIT, POS, and Zimswitch Online for fast, secure, and traceable payments.

***Less cash on you = Less risk of crime.***

***Blackshark is here to protect you.  
Contact us today for expert security solutions.***



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