



**ZIMBABWE
PEACE
PROJECT**

MONTHLY MONITORING REPORT

September 2018 HUMAN RIGHTS VIOLATIONS

The state of the Right to Peace in Zimbabwe as the Declaration of Human Rights turns 70

Introduction

ZPP recorded a total of 124 cases containing 226 human rights violations showing a downward trajectory from the 266 violations recorded in August. In comparison to the previous month, there has been a spike in the cases of discrimination with the highest being reported from Midlands, followed by Masvingo, Manicaland and Mashonaland East. 121 violations are linked to harassment with the majority of the cases of intimidation concentrated in the provinces of Masvingo, Manicaland, Midlands and Mashonaland East. Individuals linked to the ruling Zanu PF party were responsible for perpetrating most of the violations. Zimbabwe Peace Project commemorated International Day of Peace on 21 September under the theme 'The Right to Peace-The Universal Declaration of Human Rights at 70' in Chiredzi in an event attended by Chief Chilonga, 22 Headmen as well as several ward councillors. The event was also supported

by the National Peace and Reconciliation Commission through the attendance of Commissioner Dr Golden Chekenyere who praised ZPP for being a fore runner in issues of peace and working well with the commission to build peace. The highlight of the day was the handing over of the goat project spearheaded by ZPP trained Peace Ambassadors to the community. By empowering communities ZPP aimed to build sustainable peace in the Chilonga community.

Observations

The cholera and typhoid epidemics became a perfect litmus test of whether citizens in Zimbabwe were enjoying the right to peace. The sanitation and clean water delivery is an issue that had been spoken about for a long time and the epidemics were the explosion of the ticking time bomb.

The post-election period continues to be characterised by political reprisals, displacements, internal political party contradictions, deteriorating state of socio-economic rights as well as partisan food aid distribution. These are some of the unfortunate tactics of Zanu-PF as it continues to reaffirm its dominance on the general population. Rampant discrimination has been reported at the newly introduced Women's Development Bank where only card carrying Zanu-PF women receive preferential treatment in accessing loans. School children were also denied the right to basic education after being sent away for non-payment of school fees in some schools.

MDC Alliance activists, particularly those who acted as polling agents continued to report cases of victimisation that include intimidation, assault and arson against their properties. These reports have either been dismissed by state media or law enforcement agents have not investigated the matters to finality. Without investigating the source of the fires, the cursory glance by state media and other state institutions of those reporting these incidences is inconsistent with the spirit of the 'new dispensation' as well as constitutionalism in an effort to ensure sustainable peace. This has resulted in many cases of displacements being reported.

ABOUT ZPP

The organisation was founded in 2000 by church-based and human rights organisations. The current members of ZPP are Evangelical Fellowship of Zimbabwe (EFZ), Zimbabwe Council of Churches (ZCC), Catholic Commission for Justice and Peace in Zimbabwe (CCJPZ), Counselling Services Unit (CSU), Zimbabwe Human Rights Association (ZimRights), Civic Education Network Trust (CIVNET), Zimbabwe Lawyers for Human Rights (ZLHR) and Women's Coalition of Zimbabwe (WCoZ).

ZPP was established with the objective of monitoring, documenting and building peace and promoting the peaceful resolution of disputes and conflicts. The Zimbabwe Peace Project seeks to foster dialogue and political tolerance through non-partisan peace monitoring activities, mainly through monitors who document the violations of rights in the provinces. The monitors, who at full complement stand at 420, constitute the core pool of volunteers, supported by four Regional Coordinators. The Regional Coordinators relate with the national office headed by the National Director and programme officers in various units.

The reprisals have not been limited to arson attacks only but they have also manifested through intimidation and harassment. Suspected opposition supporters have been dressed down during village meetings and unspecified action threatened against them. Within the ruling party, there is also a witch hunt against those suspected of having sabotaged President Emmerson Mnangagwa by engaging in 'bhora musango' (kick the ball in the woods). The ruling party is trying to calibrate itself under the leadership of President Mnangagwa but arrests against perceived G40 sympathisers and corruption investigations against them further escalated discontent against those that believe are being targeted.

Partisan food aid distribution was exposed when defeated Zanu PF councillor in Chakohwa continued to access grain from the Grain Marketing Board (GMB) and distributes it in a partisan manner. Another defeated Zanu PF councillor in Mhondoro prevented the distribution of farming inputs and food aid in a bid to spite the people who had not voted for him. The partisan access to state resources is also rampant in the newly opened Women's Bank where there have been reports that some women who wanted to apply for funds were asked to first join Zanu PF and provide proof of membership.

Infighting has been reported in the opposition MDC Alliance over mayoral positions in the urban areas that the party resoundingly won. There have been reports of imposition of candidates as mayors in several urban councils. In Chitungwiza, the disagreements led to party members threatening violence against each other. Same scenarios have also been reported in Zanu PF circles.

School children have been sent back home and missed study time for non-payment of school fees while in Harare, lives were lost in the cholera pandemic and thousand others hospitalised, signifying worsening socio-economic conditions.

Commission of Inquiry

The Commission of Inquiry appointed to investigate the military August 1 killings was sworn in and has begun its work. It is not clear whether the operations of the commission are public and whether the general public has access to the deliberations of the Commission. There is also uncertainty to what extent the identities of the victims and those whistle blowing will be protected. The Commission has not clarified whether sources of information will be protected, particularly those who may want to whistle blow from the inside. There has not been an information campaign on state media to inform the public about the operations of this Commission and where they must take any submissions that they may have. The lone advert in The Herald of September 22, 2018 does not publicise the Commission enough. Some victims say they are not free to testify without guarantees of their safety after the Commission publicizes their findings. This is relevant in the context of reprisals against opposition activists that have been dismissed by state media and in some cases law enforcement agents. ZPP is also concerned that it seems from the Terms of Reference for the Commission the August 1 killings of 7 civilians on the streets of Harare is an isolated case. Hardly, authorities should note that while the run up to the elections was relatively peaceful there were still cases of concern and issues of retribution against the opposition and those working against the grain continue well after the elections.

Selected cases of traditional leaders involved in partisan politics and reprisals

Case	Implications on rights
In Mash East, Mutoko East, Ward 15 councillor Chimhore and several headmen held a meeting and wrote down names of those who acted as	Councillors whose role is that of community development have been caught in the web of partisan politics by teaming up with traditional

MDC Alliance as polling agents. Some of the Headmen reported to be present were?	leaders to intimidate villagers perceived and known to belong to opposition.
Mashonaland West ward 3 Councillor Sperile Murombedzi distributed farming inputs in a partisan manner.	Using food as a political tool
Nyandoro Kufandirori denied MDC Alliance supporters access to presidential inputs. The victims were accused of voting and supporting MDC Alliance. Mr Nyandoro Kufandirori is a well known war veteran.	Using food/ government resources as a political tool of control slaps international humanitarian standards in the face.
On 17 September in ward 20 of Muzarabani South at Chawurura village under Chief Chiweshe, unknown assailants reportedly destroyed Stephen Sadu's tobacco garden and burnt all tobacco seed punishing the victim for contesting as a Councillor on an MDC Alliance ticket during the harmonized elections.	Reprisals. Creating no go zones for persons with divergent views.
Chief Boy Nyamande of Goronga is forcing people who live in Goronga to contribute one dollar for a ceremony to celebrate his new car.	Abuse of authority to unjustly deprive victims of property rights.

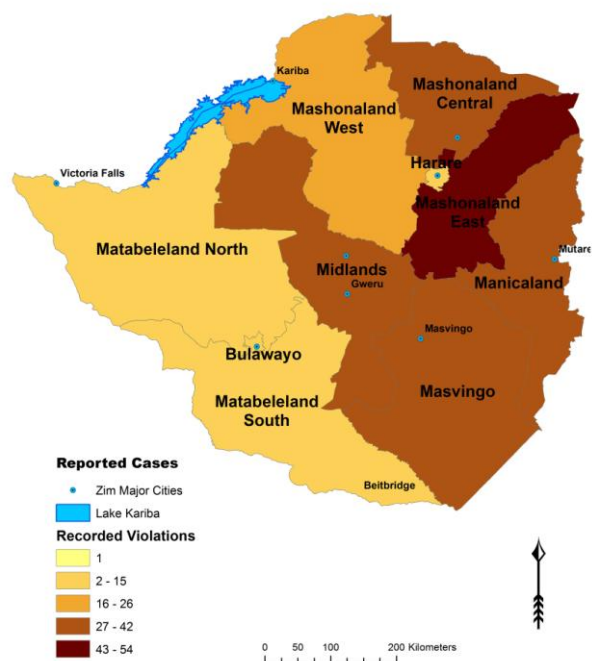
Breakdown of the Violations and Cases for August 2018

Country-wide Mapping of Violence by Type by Province

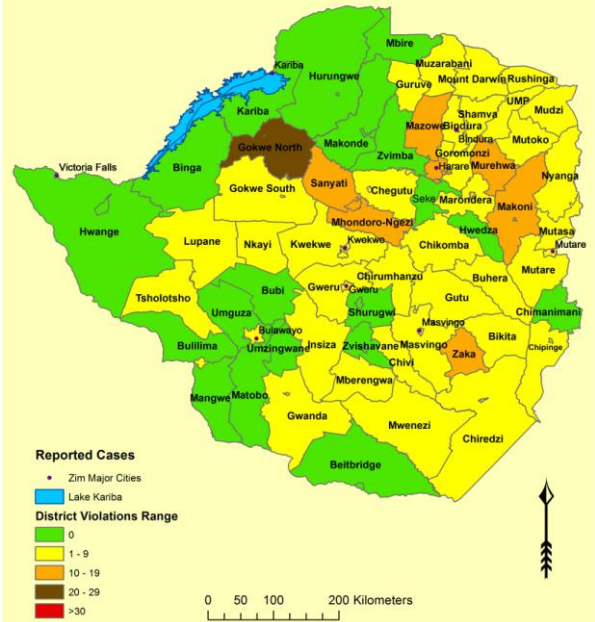
	Midlands	Byo	Mat. South	Mat. North	Masvingo	Manicaland	Harare	Mash. East	Mash. West	Mash. Central	TOTAL
Recorded Cases	19	3	2	4	19	18	11	17	8	23	124
<i>ACTS</i>											
Murder	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Rape/Sexual Harassment	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Kidnapping/abduction	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	1
Assault	1	2	0	1	1	1	3	1	1	0	11
Theft/looting	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	1	2
Discrimination	16	0	1	0	13	14	3	6	9	8	70
MDP	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	12	0	4	17
Torture	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	1
Unlawful Detention	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	0	0	2
Intimidation /harassment	20	3	2	5	19	20	6	20	9	17	121
Displacement	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Attempted Murder	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Attempted Rape	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
Banned Political Party Mtg	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Disrupted Political Mtg	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
{Total Recorded Violations}	37	5	4	6	33	35	14	43	19	30	226

September Dashboard of Statistics

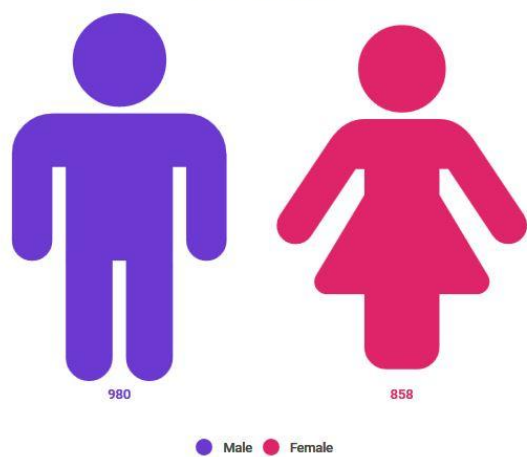
September 2018 Provincial Violations Map



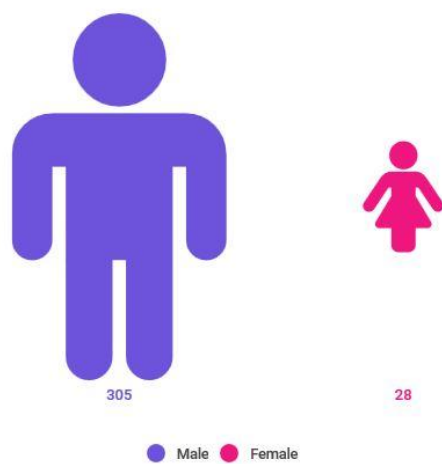
September 2018 District Violations Map



Victims by Gender



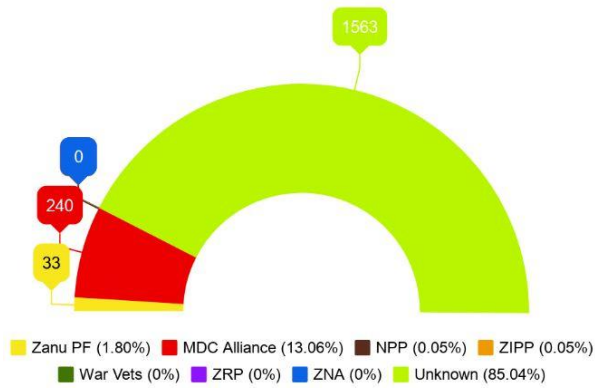
Perpetrator by Gender



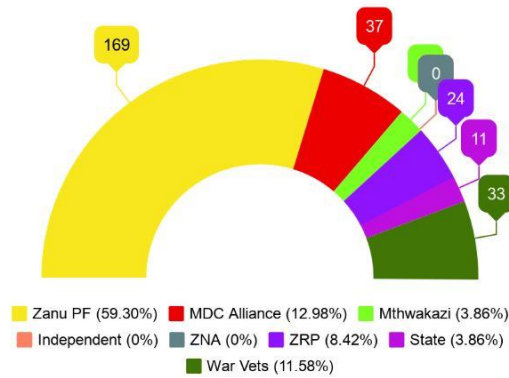


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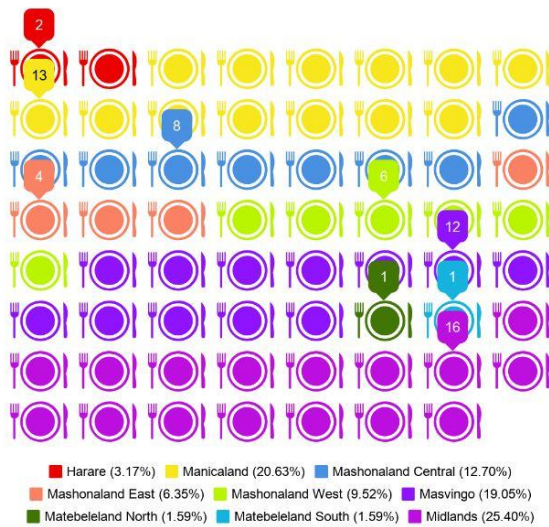
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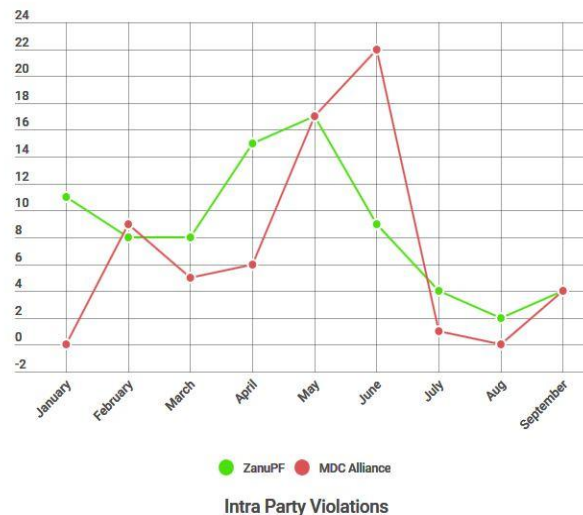
Victims by Affiliation



Perpetrator by Affiliation

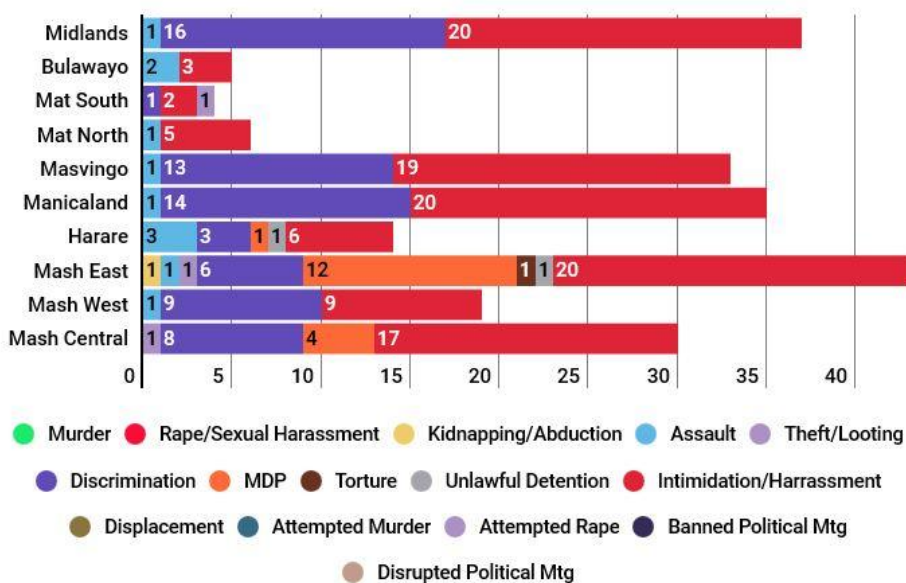


Food and Other Aid Violations



Intra Party Violations

Dashboard of Violations by Province





Interpretative analysis

Reprisals against opposition supporters particularly in rural areas was expected considering that in the pre-election period, several reports of threats of post-election violence were recorded from different parts of the country. Villagers were told that if they made wrong electoral choices there would be war or they would not receive aid from the government. The intimidation and harassment that characterised the pre-election period has continued with traditional leaders also being implicated. Traditional leaders feel emboldened after Chief Fortune Charumbira in defiance of a court order refused to retract his remarks of supporting the ruling Zanu PF party. Failure by the government to censor the leader of traditional leaders has contributed to this situation. Reports of traditional chiefs threatening people on behalf of the ruling party have been most pronounced in Mashonaland East and Mashonaland Central.

The continued distribution of food aid and farming inputs on a partisan basis shows that the perpetrators seek to exploit the poverty of citizens to gain a political advantage – poverty as a strategic tool to manipulate the poor. Partisan distribution of food aid and farming inputs has also remained contested because of how it is perceived as a political tool of domination by those with the powers to administer the resources. In most cases, the ruling party activists are simply making good of their pre-election threats that they would withhold food aid to those who do not vote for ruling party candidates. The cases have also been recorded where the threats were more common in provinces such as Midlands, Mashonaland East and Manicaland.

Access to state funds has also been restricted to only those who can demonstrate affiliation to the ruling party at the Women's Bank. This is in violation of the right not to be unfairly discriminated against on the basis of political affiliation. Citizens have a right to food which is being violated through partisan distribution of food aid. In an extreme case of entitlement, a losing Zanu PF candidate caused food and inputs not to be distributed in a bid to frustrate the new MDC Alliance councillor. Political polarisation is standing in the way of citizens fully enjoying their right to access food aid and benefit from other state resources.

The fight for the control of the opposition MDC Alliance is one of the leading causes for the infighting and imposition of Mayors in urban councils. With one eye on the impending congress in the opposition MDC Alliance, different factions have been jostling to impose loyalists in influential positions. While Nelson Chamisa remains in charge, the leadership of the opposition remains disputed and the mooted congress on a day yet to be announced has fuelled the jostling. The amalgamation of some parties into one MDC Alliance party has angered some elements in the opposition party whose influence has been diluted.

Internal party contradictions are not limited to the opposition, but are also visible within the ruling party as a witch hunt to sideline those who are perceived to be G40 and worked against President Mnangagwa is underway. Economic clusters that were known to be controlled by G40 members such as vending and housing cooperatives have been targeted as the government moves to restore order but depriving many citizens the right to livelihoods in an economy that remains highly informal; demonstrative in the removal of vendors on the allegations of spreading the cholera bacteria and the appointment of the Commission of Inquiry on the sale of urban state land respectively. This has been a source of conflict as some of those involved in these economic activities have fought back. In Amalinda, Harare for example, violence broke out when police demolished the homes built by people who said they had been allocated land by a Zanu PF youth. Vendors in Harare also fought back and threw stones at police and some of the vendor stalls and flea markets such as Queen of Grace in the Central Business District (CBD) are known to be controlled by youths affiliated to G-40 and the former first lady.

The turning away of school children for non-payment school fees is indicative of a worsening socio-economic situation in the country. It is also a sign of impunity as school authorities continue to defiantly send pupils away in violation of the constitution that guarantees basic education for children as well as the general comments of the International Covenant on Social, Economic and Cultural rights with specific reference to the rights of the child. The





cholera epidemic in Harare is also indicative of unfulfilled socio-economic rights that the government is obligated to fulfil. This has resulted in the loss of 49 lives and more than 7 000 cases reported and requiring treatment. Government has only started to remove vendors from the streets saying this is necessary to combat cholera. However, the political economy of the country where 90% of the economic activities occur in the informal sector means that government is interfering with the livelihoods of thousands of citizens and in the process violating other rights. The typhoid outbreak in Gweru also resulted in the right to health being compromised. Efforts to remove vendors from the streets who stand accused of helping spread the disease ended in violence as the vendors pelted police with stones.

Conclusion

Ambition in the opposition party and retribution in the ruling party are the main drivers of intra-party conflict which has turned violent in some cases. Reprisals against opposition party activists are responsible for most cases of displacement while in urban areas, the eviction of vendors as well as arbitrary evictions from housing cooperatives have resulted in displacements as well as the violation of the right to adequate housing and provided for under Sections 28, 71 and 74 of the Zimbabwean Constitution as well as the general comments of the International Covenant on Social, Economic and Cultural rights with specific reference to the General Comments 4 and 7, the right to shelter and the right from arbitrary eviction. Overall, the environment is calm with most of the violations centred around lingering pre-election and election period contestations.

Recommendation

- ✓ Increase visibility of the Commission of Inquiry by publicising it's terms of reference and mandate through state and private media including broadcast media in all the languages including sign language.
- ✓ The Commission of Inquiry whose tenure is 90 days should deliberately issue principles for the protection of victims and witnesses and also to guarantee their safety if they choose to make submissions.
- ✓ We urge the Zimbabwe Human Rights Commission to investigate and make punitive measures against those engaging in partisan food distribution based on its previous report and findings

