



**ZIMBABWE
PEACE
PROJECT**



MONTHLY MONITORING REPORT

**DECEMBER 2018
HUMAN RIGHTS VIOLATIONS**

A season of uncertainties

Introduction

Human Rights violations continued on a downward trend in the month of December with 136 violations recorded, down from the 164 recorded in November.

Zanu PF was responsible for most of the violations followed by the Zimbabwe Republic Police officers and Municipal police officers. Of note were 74 violations on intimidation and harassment, 24 of discrimination on food and other aid, 11 on assault, and 10 on theft/looting among others. Mashonaland Central recorded the highest number of violations which stand at 35 followed by Mashonaland East with 26 and Harare at 25. The least number of violations were recorded in Bulawayo, Matebeland South, Matebeleland North and Masvingo Provinces which had 1, 2, 1, 1 incidents respectively.

December Environmental Scan

Economic hardships continue to be worsened by the widening premiums in the parallel market of the United States dollar against the local currency resulting in challenges in the monetary sector. Price distortions and a loss of confidence in the local trade platforms of the Real Time Gross Settlement (RTGS), bond notes and mobile money have continued to pressurise manufacturers, suppliers, retailers and service providers to demand payment in the United States dollar. Despite the position of the government that the United States dollar is at par with the bond note, the reality of the pricing of goods and services is pegged daily at the parallel market rates frustrating both the consumers and suppliers who daily price on an unabated upward trend in order to realistically restock or access services and goods. This has resulted in the continued shortages of basic commodities such as fuel, and erratic supply of bread and cooking oil. Some retail outlets have gone the extra mile to control and limit quantities of basic commodities per customer. Private academic institutions are not spared as they demand fees payment in United States Dollars partially or in full stretching already burdened parents who desire to provide academic investments for their children and loved ones. Some government schools did not provide academic results for seventh graders with outstanding fees crippling their opportunities to advance to secondary education despite the

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.

guarantee in the constitution of free basic primary education. There is already precedence set by the judiciary in respect of the right to education for primary school going children.

The Commission of Inquiry into the August 1 shootings report presented its findings and provided key recommendations for the government and other political players to implement in order to prevent future incidents. The table below shares some of the critical findings and recommendations contained in the final report of the Commission.

Crucial Findings	Key Recommendations
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The demonstrations were incited, pre-planned and well organised by the MDC Alliance • The circumstances prevailing on the day justified the deployment of the Military to assist the Police in containing the riots • Six (6) people died and thirty-five (35) were injured as a result of actions by the Military and Police 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Payment to be set up by Government of compensation for losses and damages caused • Promotion of political tolerance, and responsible and accountable leadership and citizenry • Enforcement of law and order in order to ensure that the events of 1 August 2018 are not repeated • Nation building and reconciliation including an initiative for multi-party dialogue and cooperation

This is not the first time Commissions have provided solutions and recommendations for Zimbabwe but there continues to be a trend of missed opportunities to address many unresolved issues. A case in example is the Chihambakwe Commission which looked into the Matebeleland massacres of 1987 whose report was never availed to the public and whose recommendations remain hidden. It is our firm belief that the Chihambakwe commission report contained recommendations that could have assisted the state to prevent the August 1 shootings. The failure to demonstrate commitment by the administration to institute a timeline for taking up the recommendations clearly demonstrates a disinterest and a total disregard of the value of the work of the commission which has left victims and witnesses exposed to further retributions in the future.

Key highlights of the month

- Interparty violence was reported in Nyanga where a traditional leader from Zanu PF and an MDC Alliance supporter were caught up in a public assault resulting in the hospitalisation of the Zanu PF activist.
- A man with a physical disability had his home demolished by Zanu PF youths after a land allocation dispute the case was reported to DomboraMwari police under RRB number 380220.
- Intra-party violence incident was recorded in Muzvezve at Battlefields between two war veteran camps one led by Chris Mutsvangwa and another by Victor Matemadanda.
- Disruptive behaviour was reported in Mazowe west, ward 15 where Zanu PF youths disrupted the funeral proceedings of an MDC Alliance activist Martha Mbiri through unruly behaviour and the singing of revolutionary songs.
- Some members of the Association of Rural Teachers Union of Zimbabwe (ARTUZ) were arrested by police during a peaceful march where they were calling for salary payments in the United States dollar currency.
- Junior medical doctors across the country downed tools protesting working conditions and remuneration; compromising citizen's right to health and life.

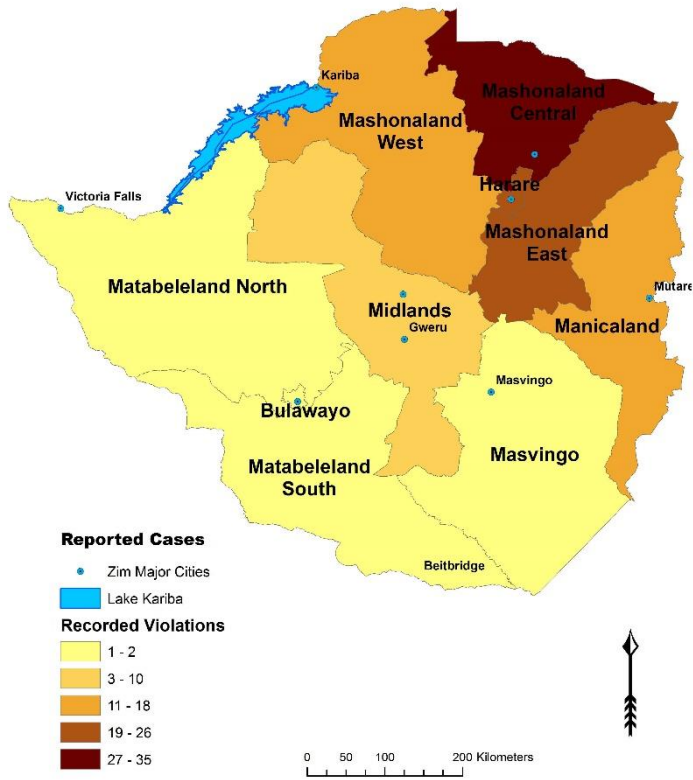
Distribution of Violence by Province

	Midlands	Byo	Mat. South	Mat. North	Masvingo	Manicaland	Harare	Mash. East	Mash. West	Mash. Central	TOTAL
Recorded Cases	7	1	2	1	1	11	14	11	8	20	76
ACTS											
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	0	0	0	0
Assault	1	0	0	0	0	3	3	1	2	1	11
Theft/looting	1	0	0	0	0	3	1	0	1	4	10
Discrimination	1	0	0	0	0	4	2	4	3	10	24
MDP	0	0	0	0	0	0	4	0	1	0	5
Torture	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Unlawful Detention	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	4	0	0	4
Intimidation /harassment	7	1	2	1	1	8	13	15	8	18	74
Displacement	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	2	2	2	8
Attempted Murder	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Attempted Rape	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
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	10	1	2	1	1	18	25	26	17	35	136

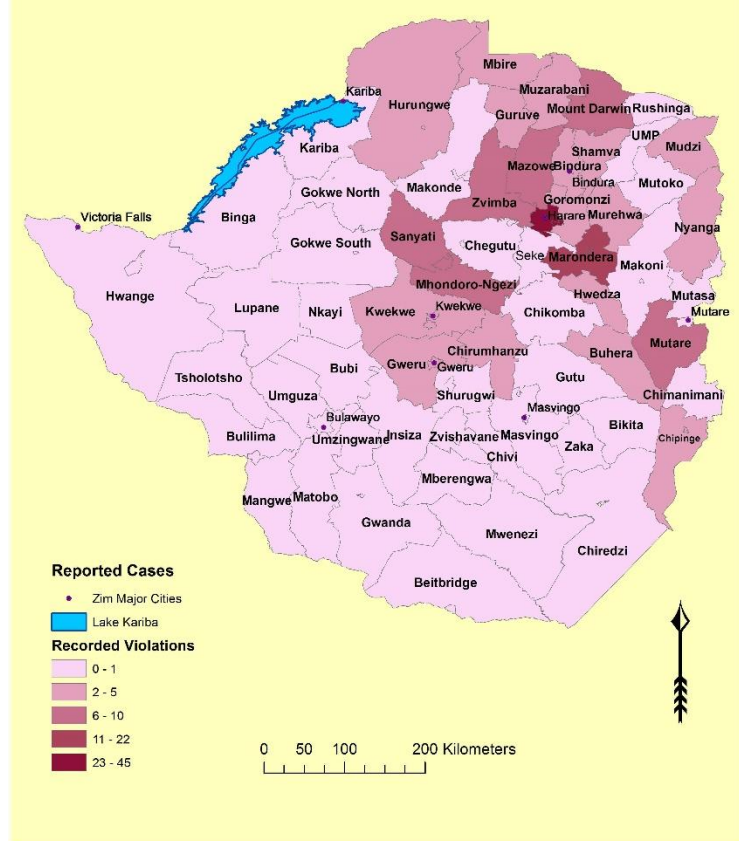


December Dashboard of Statistics

December 2018 Provincial Violations Map



December 2018 District Violations Map



Victims by Gender



Perpetrator by Gender

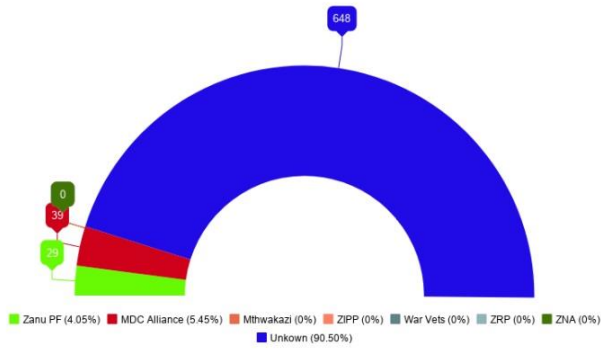




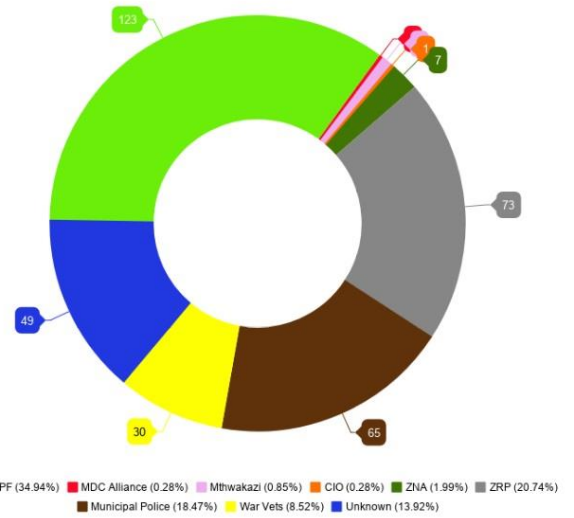
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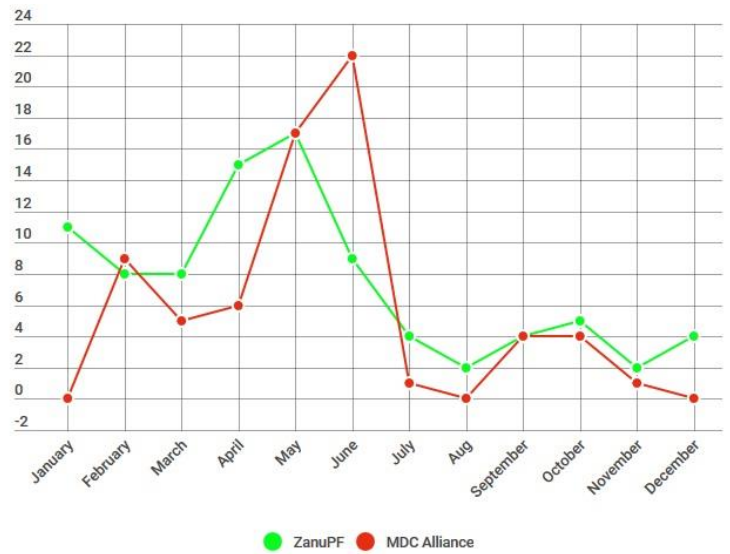
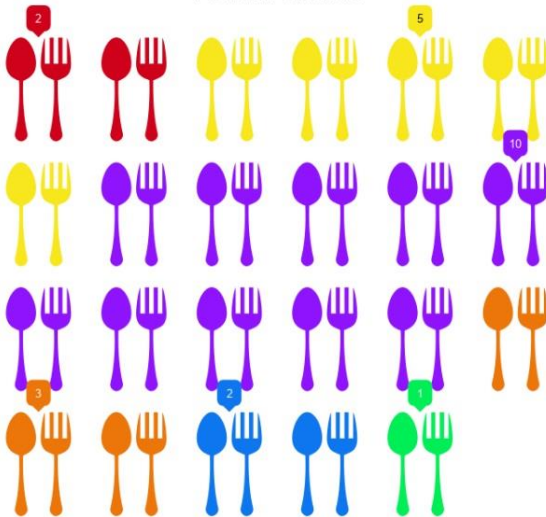


Victims By Affiliation



Perpetrator by Affiliation

Food and Other Aid

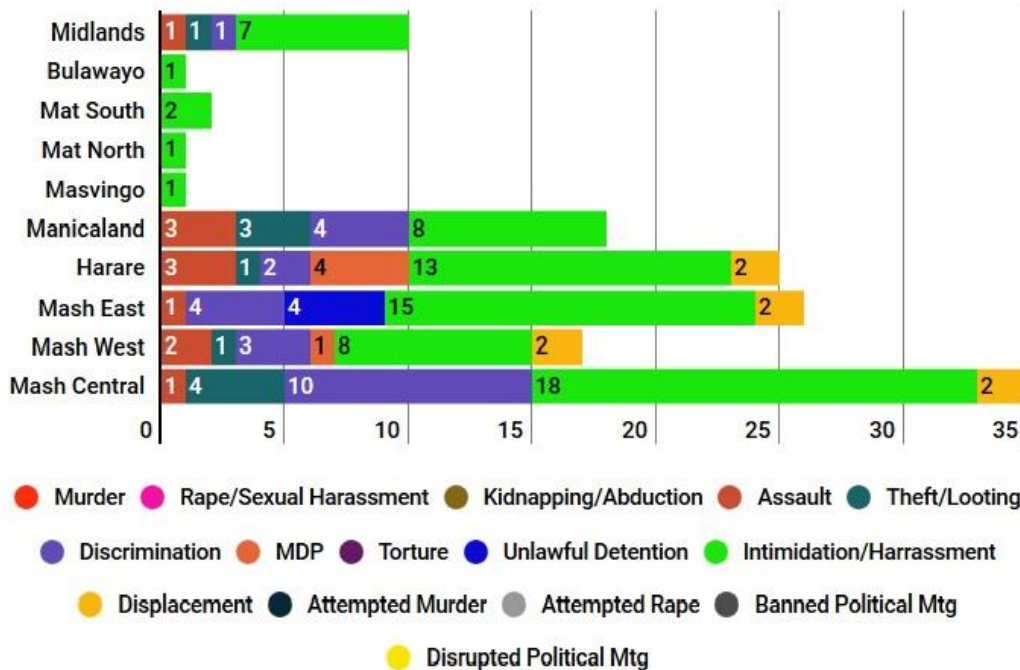


Intra Party Violations





Dashboard of Violations by Province



Analysis

The decline in violations reported in the month may be attributed to the end of year close out procedures where businesses shutdown and the market slowed down to wrap up processes. Violations attributed to the Zimbabwe Republic Police fell slightly from 25% in November to 21% in December. Municipal security officers were responsible for 19% of recorded violations. This is mainly due to the brutality with which the police services discharge their duties while removing vendors from central business districts of urban cities or when demolishing homes of people who may be illegally occupying land. For example on 7 December police were patrolling Harare Central Business District carrying out searches without search warrants. Those perceived to be vendors and street dealers were harassed. These high figures of violations perpetrated by the security forces were also corroborated by the findings of the commission of inquiry which found out that actions of police and military resulted in injury and death of civilians. This may have been avoided if Parliament implements and enforces the provisions of the constitution which stipulate the establishment of an independent complaints mechanism that guards against the excesses of security officers in the discharge of their duties according to section 210 of the Constitution. Failure by parliament and the executive to align laws with the constitution is also the reason why the police continue to rely on unconstitutional legislation to curtail political rights of citizens.

According to Section 210 an Act of parliament must provide an effective and independent mechanism for receiving and investigating complaints from members of the public about





misconduct on the part of members of the security services and for remedying harm caused by such misconduct.

The December incidents follow a pattern ZPP has been observing over the months of economic decline which continues to brew fertile conditions for social uproar and frustrations. Deep seated anger, and vicious cycles of reprisals continue to tarnish the hopes of Zimbabweans who following the events of November 2017 were full of promise of a positive shift in the governance and socio-economic front. The continued rise in the prices of basic commodities, shortage of essential goods, poor access to medical products and the subsequent pricing of commodities in the US dollar during the month have raised the levels of frustrations. Non progressive roundtable dialogues have not yielded fruitful results further deepening the crisis, one case in point being the slow response of the government to the doctor's 20 day plus industrial action. Government acknowledges that there are challenges in the country but continues to fail to implement corrective measures to effectively contain the years of suffering endured by the citizens. Matters are not helped by the progressive emasculating of institutions like the judicial branch that would curb executive excess. Non-state actors like the press, non-governmental organisations, cultural and religious institutions have laboured under the yoke of regime-sanctioned repression in its many forms, ranging from intimidation, smears, detentions, raids, closures, financial restrictions and in many cases, torture and extrajudicial killings. These excesses are conducted under the veneer of a legal framework designed to justify them notwithstanding the protections contained in the Bill of Rights of the Constitution of Zimbabwe. ZPP has previously predicted that industrial action in protest of worsening economic conditions would escalate and this would exacerbate violations of human rights. As economic hardships worsen, government is likely to resort to heavy handedness to keep citizens in check as there seems to be no practical solutions to current economic problems.

Recommendations

- ✓ Engagement meeting with ZRP and Municipal authorities to address increasing cases of police brutality and violations of rights during the discharge of their duties to maintain order.
- ✓ Engagement with Parliament to push for the enactment of Section 210 of the constitution which demands the establishment of the Independent Complaints Mechanism that ensures security forces discharge their duties in accordance with the constitution





- ✓ Awareness programmes to make the public aware of their socio-economic rights and the duty on government to ensure progressive realisation of these rights within the resources available

Conclusion

Parliament and the executive arm of government must ensure the immediate full implementation of the constitution to avoid violations of rights by the state which continues to hide behind old legislation.

If you are concerned about acts of violence in your community ZPP encourages you to get in touch on WhatsApp numbers: +263 774 883 406 and +263 774 883 417 and Toll free number 080 80199

