



**ZIMBABWE
PEACE
PROJECT**

March 2016

Human Rights Violations

MONTHLY MONITORING REPORT

Changing Faces of the Victim

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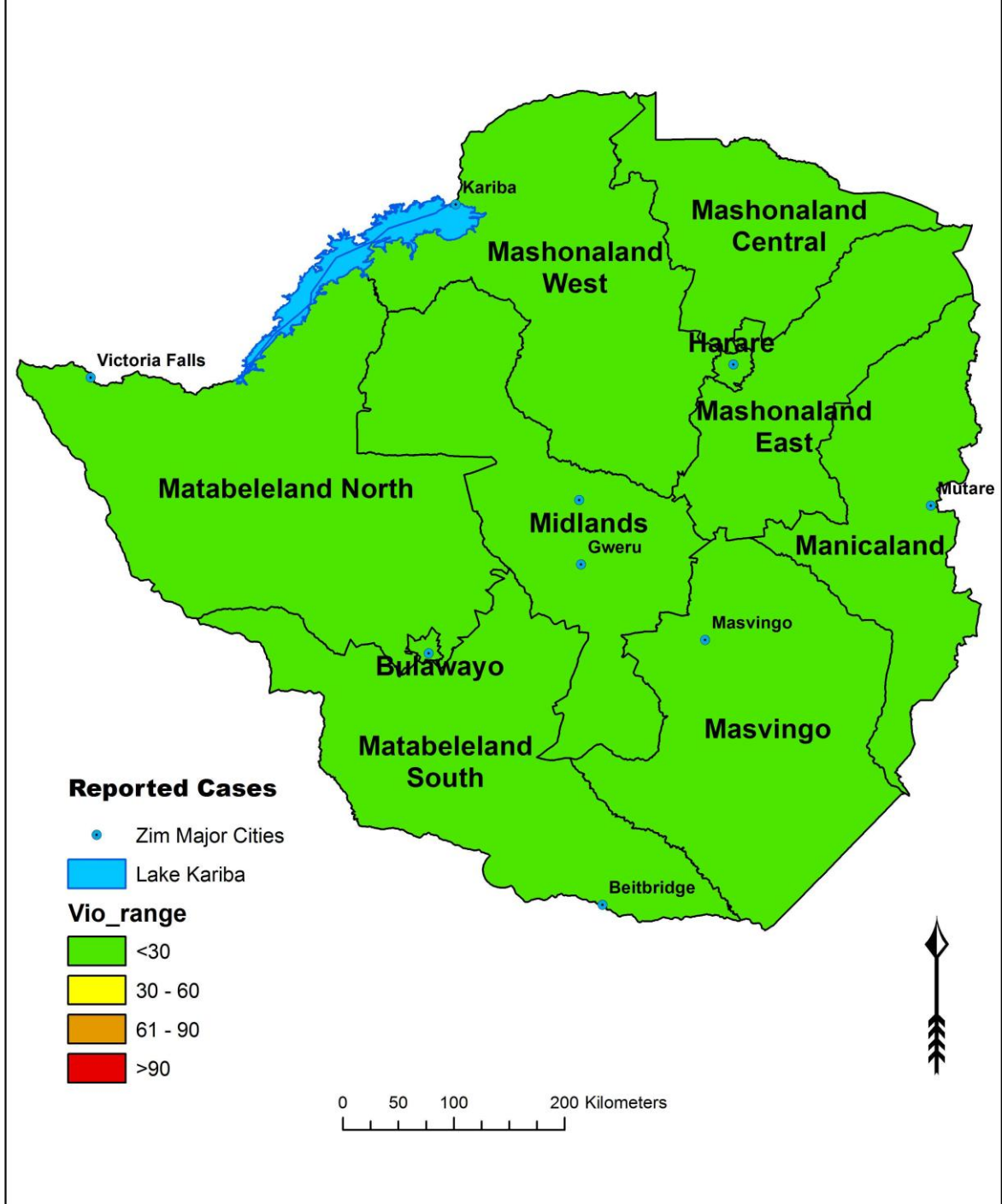
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THEMATIC OVERVIEW

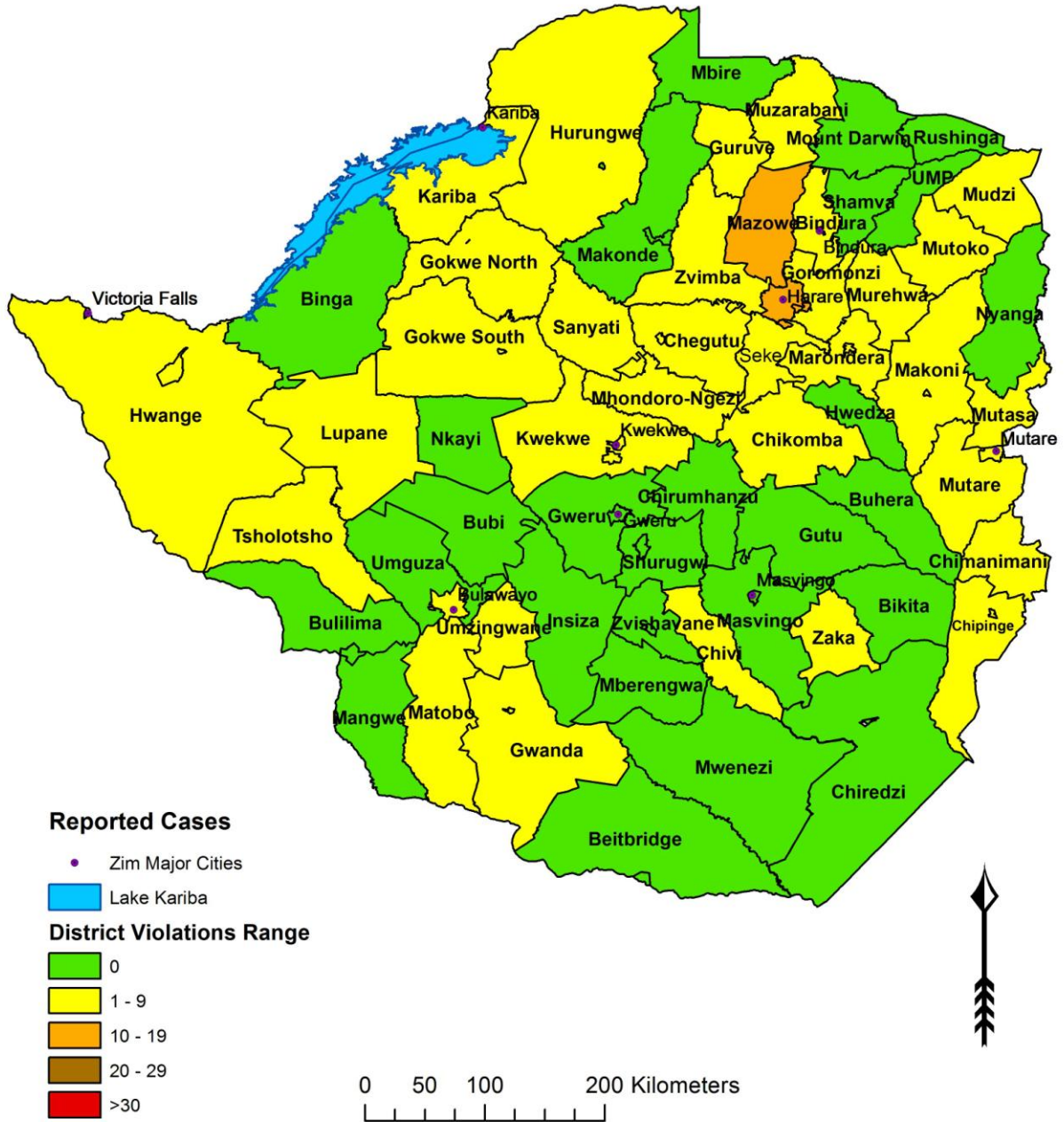
Theme: Changing Face of Victims

As the dynamics in the body politic continue to exhibit unprecedented factionalism; multi-layering of disputes; as well as new players, the face of the victim has been changing. Victims' profiles have in recent months included war veterans, Zanu-PF members, who for the most part would have been violated by their own; members of the new Zimbabwe People First (ZimPF). Factionalism in the Progressive Democratic Party has also produced victims who have suffered violations at the hands of their own colleagues.

March 2016 Provincial Violations Map



March 2016 District Violations Map



Executive Summary

MARCH reports, as has been the case in recent months, show a changing victim profile. While in the past victims were almost homogenously members of the Movement for Democratic Change (MDC-T) and a sprinkling of Zanu-PF, in recent months this has altered showing significant numbers of victims from the ruling party itself; victims from non-traditional sections of the body politic, war veterans (less in March than in February, but there all the same); victims from traditional leaders; and also victims from the new Zimbabwe People First (ZimPF) party. The numbers of victims from the ZimPF party are on the rise since the party made its entry late last year. By the time the party launched in February, it had already started registering numbers of victims.

Zimbabwe Peace Project (ZPP) reports for March show a total of 123 violations which had 318 victims altogether. Of these victims 35 people (11.6%) were from ZimPF, which is a significant increase from 18 victims in February (4 % of the total 441). While the number of victims for March in general was less than from February, for ZimPF, the number of victims doubled.

There is continuously (over the months) a large number of victims whose political affiliation is unknown (55.3%). This seems to signify that for a good number of people their political persuasion is not something they are open about.

On the other hand the profile of perpetrators continues to show that members of the security sector are involved in political violation. March showed of 235 perpetrators, 80.4% were from Zanu-PF, which always leads month after month. The police made up 6% of perpetrators, the army 4.3%; while suspected members of the Central Intelligence Organisation made up 0.4%. MDC-T had 6.8 of the perpetrators, while MDC party which is led by Welshman Ncube had 0.4 perpetrators. It is interesting to note that PDP posted its own numbers of perpetrators at 1.3%. These were mainly a result of intra-party conflict which has also reared its ugly head in the relatively young PDP.

As the reports for March show, intra-party conflict continues to be quite rampant across the board.

An issue that recurred this year as before is that of civil servants, particularly teachers being forced to contribute their hard earned monies for Independence Day celebrations. For a workforce that earns very little which of late has often come erratically, it is rather unfair for teachers to be made to fund the celebrations especially when it is not by choice.

Politicised food aid distributions continued in cases across the country. In those instances Zanu-PF membership continued to be the “passport” to get food aid. On page 29 we carry our recommendations for food aid distribution including guidelines and minimum standards.

However, while in a number of areas, membership of Zanu-PF seems to dominate with the ruling party generally repressive of others, it is interesting to note how March reports show pockets of resistance from various quarters. For instance in Mashonaland East, some chiefs protested against the repressive instructions and orders. This was also seen in at least two other instances where resistance to Zanu-PF supremacy seems to be repeating itself in various corners.

All in all disregard for people's Freedom of Assembly and Freedom of Expression as enshrined in the Constitution continued to be the order of the day for March as in previous months.

As Independence Day approached ZPP noted with concern a number of human rights violations which had occurred in the 36 years since the country transitioned to majority rule. Even though most of the rights against which violations were noted are enshrined in the Constitution, violations continue unabated.

The struggle for Constitutionalism is real and continues to be elusive.

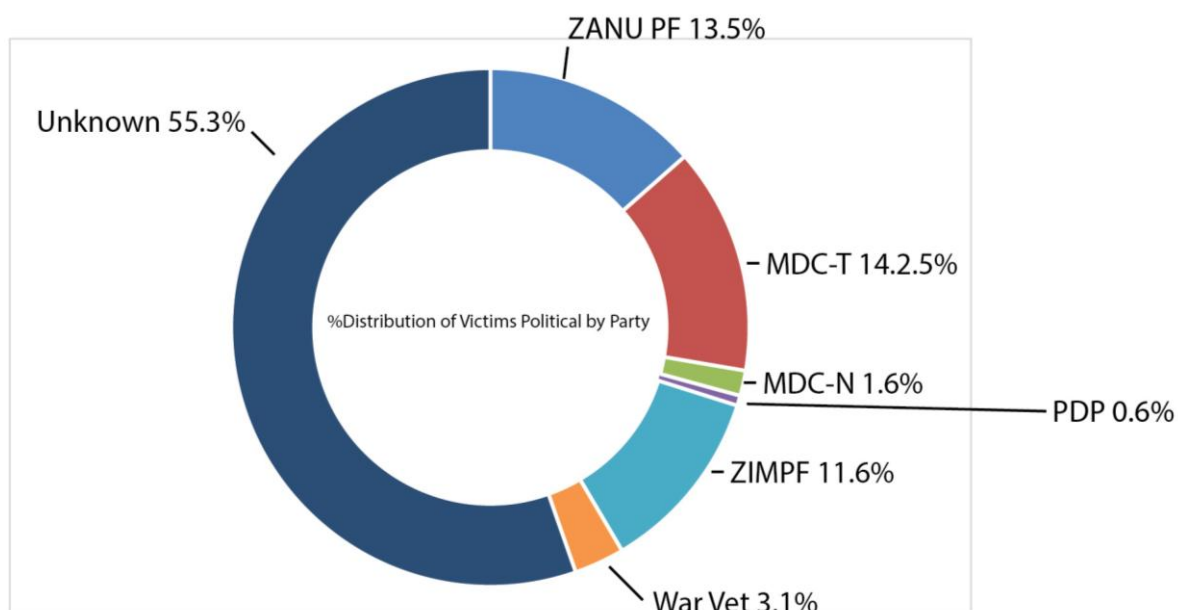
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Data Gathering Methodology

Information contained herein is based on reports from ZPP long-term community based human rights monitors, who observe and record cases of human rights violations in the constituencies they reside. ZPP deploys a total of 420 community-based primary peace monitors (two per each of the 210 electoral constituencies of Zimbabwe). The monitors compile reports that are handed over to ZPP coordinators who man the different ZPP regional offices in the ten administrative provinces of Zimbabwe. Upon receipt and verifications of the reports from the monitors, the Regional Coordinators compile provincial monthly monitoring reports, which are then consolidated at the national office into the ZPP monthly monitoring reports published in retrospect.

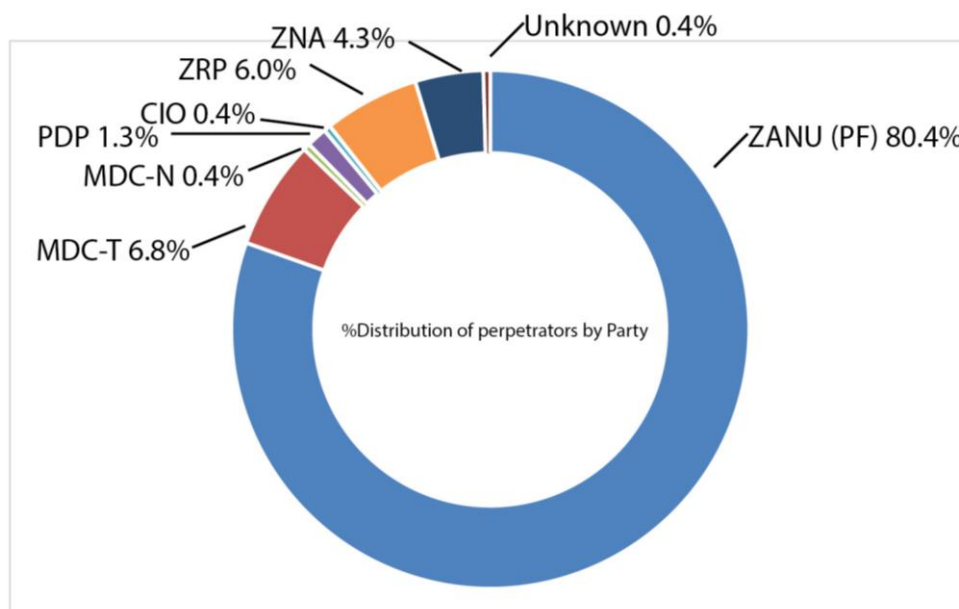
THE DASHBOARD – INCIDENTS’ STATISTICS AT A GLANCE

Analysis of Violence Victims by Party



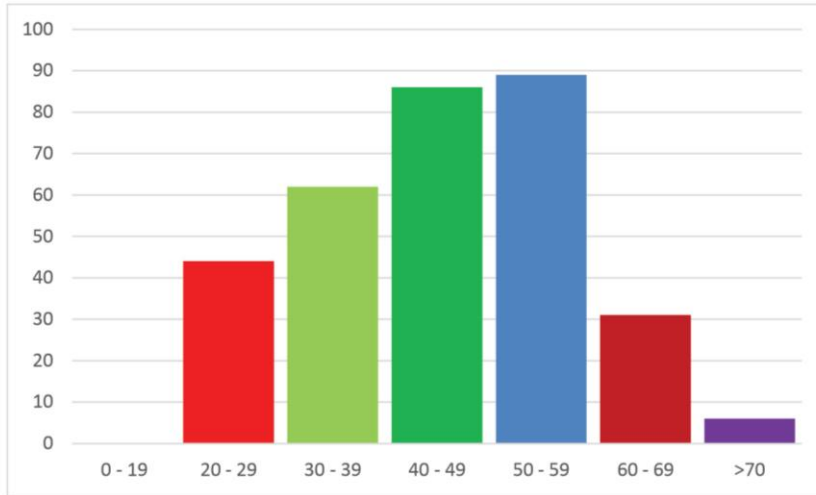
As the figure above shows, the political affiliation for a majority of political violence victims for March at 55.3% was unknown. MDC-T had 14.2 percent of the victims, while ZimPF made up 11.6 percent of total victims.

Analysis of Violence Perpetrators by Political Party



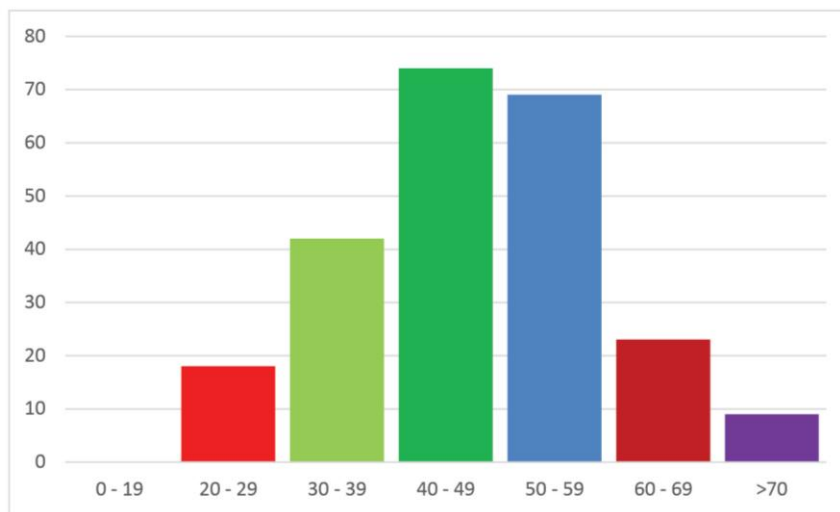
As the figure above shows, most of the perpetrators of political violence for March, as is the case with all other months, were from Zanu-PF at 80.4% of the incidences. This number increased significantly from February figure of 61.5. Next was MDC-T with 6.8%, then ZRP with 6% of the perpetrators, while Zimbabwe National Army also had incidences they perpetrated at 4.3%.

Victims of Political Violence by age



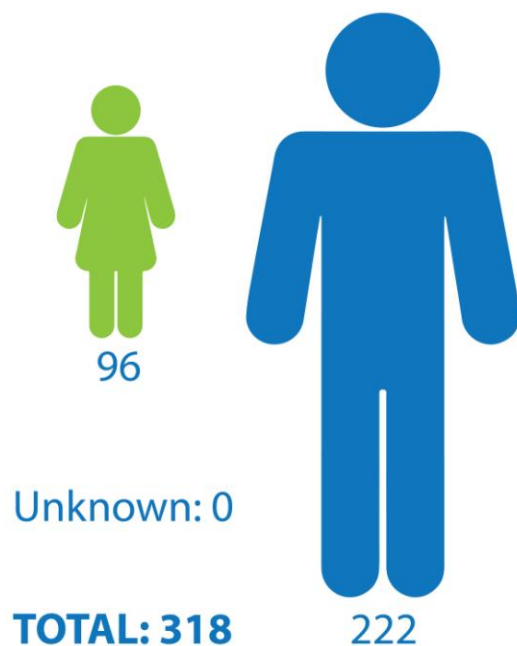
Victims of violence for March were mainly in the 50-59 years age group; while the 40-49 years age group came second followed by the 30 -39. Like the other months, over 70 years age group had the least number of victims for March.

Perpetrators of Political Violence by age



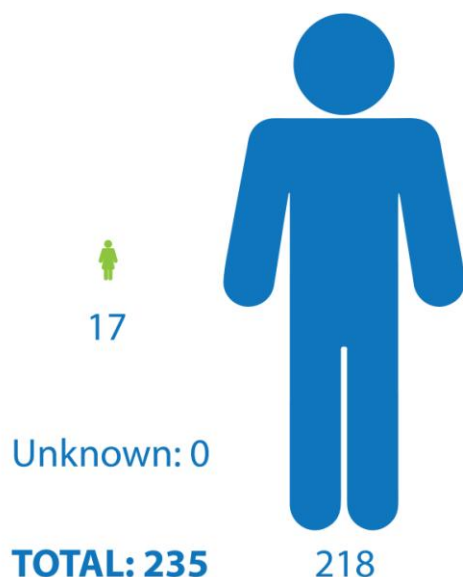
The highest number of perpetrators was found in the 40 – 49 years age group, followed by the 50-59 years age group. The 30-39 years age was next followed by those from 60 – 69 years of age. In comparison the majority of perpetrators for February were mostly in the 50 – 59 years old age group.

Analysis of Violence Victims by Gender



Like previous months, March showed the number of male victims of violence being more than that of women. Male victims were 222 down from last month figure of 313; while female victims were 96 a considerable decrease from last month figure of 128.

Analysis of Violence Perpetrators by Gender



The number of male perpetrators of violence for March at 218 is less than that of 264 last month. Women stood at a fraction of that at 17 for March; this figure was slightly less than the figure for women perpetrators in February which stood at 22. This shows that men were more likely to perpetrate violence than women; and that there was decrease in women perpetrating violence.

Recorded Intra-Party Violations

Province	MDC-T	ZANU PF	MDC-N	ZimPF	PDP	TOTAL
Bulawayo	0	1	1	0	0	2
Harare	2	1	0	0	0	3
Manicaland	0	0	0	0	0	0
Mash Central	0	0	0	0	0	0
Mash East	0	1	0	0	0	1
Mash West	2	0	0	0	1	3
Masvingo	0	0	0	0	0	0
Mat North	0	1	0	0	0	1
Mat South	0	1	0	0	0	1
Midlands	1	0	0	0	0	1
Overall Total	5	5	1	0	1	12

MDC-T and Zanu PF recorded the highest number of intra-party violations with 5 recorded for March.

In figure below March showed the most common type of violence being intimidation and harassment at 67 out of 123, which are more than half the violations at 54 %.

Distribution of violence by type across provinces

ACTS	Midlands	Byo	Mat. South	Mat. North	Masvingo	Manicaland	Harare	Mash. East	Mash. West	Mash. Central	TOTAL
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	0	0	1	0	0	1	5	2	5	1	15
Theft/looting	0	0	0	0	0	2	0	1	3	4	10
Discrimination	1	1	2	2	2	5	2	1	3	3	22
MDP	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	0	0	1	3
Torture	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Unlawful Detention	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Intimidation /harassment	5	3	2	2	2	10	9	15	9	10	67
Displacement	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	0	3
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	1	0	0	0	0	1	1	0	0	3
Total	6	6	5	4	4	18	19	20	22	19	123

Provincial Summaries

Bulawayo

People Democratic Party (PDP) led by Tendai Biti and Zimbabwe People First (ZimPF) led by former Vice President Joice Mujuru were the more visible political players on the ground campaigning and recruiting members. No cases of actual physical violations were reported but inter-and intra-party conflicts continued to be noted.

Two new political parties, Liberal Democrats led by Vusumuzi Sibanda and Zimbabwe Independents Democrats (Zim ID) led by Eglone Moyo came on board the political arena. The two are said to be still headquartered in South Africa currently.

A case of displacement was recorded at Mazwi Village on the outskirts of Bulawayo when eighteen villagers were notified of impending eviction.

Many new faces were noticed during civic society activities raising speculation that this was an increase in numbers of State Security agents, in particular members of the Central Intelligence.

Highlights:

- On 12 March 2016, the MDC led by Welshman Ncube was involved in intra-party conflict when aspiring chairperson candidate for Ward 3 in Woodville, Gift Sibanda, threatened to beat up two women for opposing his bid. He was restrained by other party members.
- On 13 March 2016, Nketa residents held a meeting at Nketa Hall where they accused Ward 24 MDC-T councillor, Gideon Mangena, of employing council part time workers on partisan lines among other accusations of abuse of office. The residents, led by Zanu-PF members said even the recruitment for workers for the upcoming Egodini Mall was in favour of MDC-T members.
- On 15 March 2016, ZimPF coordinator in Lobengula, Mandla Ngwenya, and another activist who defected from Zanu-PF, Themba Zondo (not their real names) of 71457 Lobengula West complained that they were threatened by Zanu-PF youths and were being trailed by unknown people.
- Eighteen villagers from Mazwi Village on the outskirts of Bulawayo were in 2013 issued with eviction notices by the City Council. From then on no action was taken and the area Ward 17 councillor, Ephraim Ncube even assured them they were now allowed to stay. However, when they went to the housing office to pay rates they were told they were not on council records. On 24 March 2016, they were ordered to leave or face demolitions. They believe they are being victimised on political grounds.
- On 26 March 2016, Zanu-PF intra-party intolerance of diversity resulted in members aligned to Vice President Emmerson Mnangagwa being barred from holding a meeting. Ziyaphapha district chairperson, Charles Nyama and fellow Lacoste faction supporters went to party offices in Makokoba intending to hold their meeting. They

found the place occupied by Nicodemus Ndebele leading G40 faction singing and chanting slogans supporting First Lady Grace Mugabe. There were about two hundred in attendance and violence was averted when provincial member Makheyi Dube stopped the meeting and people dispersed.

Harare

There were very few incidents of political violence recorded in the province for the month under review. The province had a number of meetings that were held by different political parties as they prepare for the 2018 elections. Zanu-PF, MDC-T, ZimPF and the PDP held meetings in various parts of the province. However, some of the meetings were poorly attended due to massive police presence, which was meant to intimidate those who wanted to attend. This was the case in Warren Park where the water canon truck was patrolling the streets of the suburb. It is also reported that in Zengeza East, Zanu-PF youths have started to put up terror bases.

Highlights:

- On 5 March 2016 Richard Chamutsa, an MDC-T councillor for Ward 5 and Levison Dube chairperson Ward 5 reportedly had an altercation. There are factions between sitting Member of Parliament (MP) Dickson Tarusenga and Adam Puzo, who is believed to be preparing to stand as MP in next elections. At around 6pm at Chigovanyika Shopping Centre in St Mary's Chamutsa was humiliated by Dube who accused the councillor of not being organised. The councillor is said to have later assaulted Dube. Chamutsa belongs to the Tarusenga faction while Dube supports Puzo. Chamutsa could not be reached for comment, however, Dube confirmed the two had a heated verbal exchange.
- On 5 March 2016, Moreson Duwaduwa an MDC-T youth member who is aligned to the Puzo faction was assaulted by Elizabeth Sibanda who is the St Mary's Ward 5 chairperson for the MDC-T. It is reported that MP Tarusenga gave an order to deal with Puzo supporters promising to protect them. Tarusenga could not be reached for comment this time around, however he has previously admitted to ZPP that there is conflict between him and Puzo although he says he would not encourage violence amongst members.
- On 19 of March 2016, ZimPF held its zone 3 rally at Warren Park council grounds. There was heavy police presence with armed police manning road intersections and there was a water canon vehicle moving around the suburb. The heavy presence of the police is said to have intimidated people not to attend the rally which was addressed by Bright Matonga. Matonga confirmed to ZPP their supporters' intimidation.
- On 19 March 2016, at Pamapositori (outside Glen View District office) approximately 300 people attended a ZimPF rally. A while after the rally had started two commuter buses full of Zanu-PF youths who were believed to have been bussed from Mbare arrived. They were armed with catapults, stones and sticks and attacked the people at the rally. A number of people sustained injuries. It is reported that ZimPF supporters did not fight back as the riot police was present. Three youths from Zanu-PF were

arrested. Hours later ZimPF continued with their rally since they had informed the police about the meeting.

- On 31 March 2016, Zanu-PF supporters called people for a development meeting for small to medium scale enterprises, which was supposed to be officially opened by Harare Resident Minister, Miriam Chikukwa, at the Resource Centre in Ward 2, Epworth. People gathered to attend the meeting, which was not even known by the local authority. People were **forced** to denounce MDC-T and ZimPF. Zanu-PF supporters later argued among themselves over the planning of the meeting. The meeting had to be abandoned.
- On 31 March 2016, a monthly meeting was held in Parkridge under Kuwadzana constituency with the residents. Committee chairperson, Tauya Mauya, started the meeting with Zanu-PF slogans and told the people that those who were not Zanu-PF should surrender their stands. Susan Munjeyi (not real name) an MDC-T activist was identified as one of the people to lose her stand. She was seen attending a meeting with her MDC-T colleagues. At the time of going to print she had not had her stand taken but the threat still remains.
- On 31 March 2016, it was reported that Zanu-PF youths were putting up an office in Ward 13 in Chitungwiza that was just like the ones that were used as terror bases in 2008. It is also said that the same structure is there in Ward 16 Unit J in Chitungwiza. Though it is openly used for carpentry, the suspicion is that under cover the structure would have another covert use.

Manicaland

There has been harassment and forced participation in government and party-initiated activities in the province

There are reports of gross human rights abuses in the Chiadzwa diamond mining area in Marange as the state tries to deal with illegal panners who had thronged the fields after the expulsion of the diamond mining companies. From the state's point of view it is said the expulsion is motivated by the idea to amalgamate the various entities into one so as to deal with leakages. On the political front, it is believed the whole idea is to deny ZimPF and cut off its funding source as some of that party's gurus own mining rights in the area through some of the diamond mining companies.

At the same time, there have been reprimands targeted at those that have allowed opposition parties to access the communities in their campaign and mobilisation drive.

Highlights:

- On 22 March 2016, in Mutare West Ward 10 at Zeda Primary, every teacher at the school was ordered by Zanu-PF to pay US\$1-00 each towards the Independence celebrations. The instructions were relayed through the school head who passed the message on to the teachers. The instruction has affected other schools in the ward including Nzvenga, Mafararikwa, Gwindingwi and Masharu. The instruction has come despite the economic hardships facing the generality of the population.

- On 22 March 2016, at Lydia Chimonyo High School, Chimanimani West, teachers were forced to pay US\$1 each towards the Independence Day celebrations by Zanu-PF local leadership. It is alleged that those who refused to pay were told to put that in writing. The majority of teachers complied due to fear.
- On 22 March 2016, Jane Nzanga (not real name), an MDC-T member of Dangamvura, was physically assaulted by Beaven Kakomwe, a Zanu-PF member. The actor and fellow party members were at a meeting when the victim passed through the venue of the meeting. The actor suspected that the victim was on a spying mission and went to her and began to assault her using clenched fists. The victim sustained a swollen face and broken wrist.

Mashonaland Central

ZimPF members were being assaulted and discriminated against in the province. In Mazowe Central, a man was assaulted for selling ZimPF membership cards while in Bindura North Zanu-PF youths allegedly barricaded roads after they heard that ZimPF leader, Joice Mujuru, was expected to address a rally in that area. Additionally, a march was organized to evict former Ambassador Agrippa Mutambara from his farm for being aligned with the ZimPF. Mutambara, a war veteran, publicly quit Zanu-PF and joined ZimPF.

Teachers were forced to contribute towards the Independence Day celebrations. Food aid was still being distributed on partisan grounds with a Zanu-PF chairperson in Bindura South threatening people not to disclose the distribution criteria to Social Welfare officials.

Highlights:

- On 15 March 2016, Moses Jack, a ZimPF chairperson was giving everyone who bought membership cards US\$10 each. He was allegedly assaulted by Zanu-PF chairperson Michael Katiza and two youths Susan Gomo and James Chikuni and all the membership cards were burnt. The incident happened at Gweshe Town Centre in ward 17 in Mazowe Central at around 5pm.
- Lewis Murodza (45) Zanu-PF district secretary with five youths from Ward 11 were allegedly moving around writing names of all people who had registered to vote. They were requesting voter registration slips from the people. This exercise started on 18 to 25 March 2016.
- On 21 March 2016, at around 0900 hours, it is alleged Petros Muswaka, a Zanu-PF district chairperson and about eight other Zanu-PF party members were going round local schools forcing teachers to contribute a dollar for Independence Day celebrations. Teachers from Kundayi High School and Richmond Munyoro of Amandas Primary School were some of the affected teachers. They threatened the teachers that if they did not pay the required amount they would be blacklisted with Public Service Commission in the near future. The incident happened in Mazowe West, Ward 15.

- On 21 March 2016, Zanu-PF youths started toy toying (marching) around 5am along Progress Road, Ward 12 in Bindura North allegedly targeting top of the range vehicles following a rumour that Mujuru was going to address a meeting at Chiwaridzo Primary School in Ward 12. Their intention was to disrupt the meeting and beat up those who were going to attend the meeting. When they saw a top of the range car they were shouting, “*Garira neko, garira nekoko,*” (“Watch for this one, watch for this one.”) searching the cars to establish if they were from Mujuru 's party, but all was in vain because she did not turn up. The Zanu-PF youths included Rodrick Jacha aged 33, Giveus Mubaiwa aged 35, Tafara Bonde aged 23 all residents of Garikai. It is alleged that these youths were later given beer, drinks, bread and cigarettes by their leaders as a thank you for the exercise.
- On 30 March 2016, Zanu-PF youths allegedly went to Mutambara's farm with the aim of harassing him for being a member of ZimPF. About 40 youths were ferried from Kitsiyatota in a T35 truck. They sang Chimurenga songs demanding that Mutambara leaves the farm. The youths are said to have been promised pieces of land. At around 11am the police dispersed the group who left the farm after being told that riot police were on their way. It is said the provincial chairperson for Mashonaland Central, Dickson Mafios, had gave the order to the youths to go and evict Mutambara from the farm in Ward 1 for crossing the floor to ZimPF. Contacted by ZPP, Mafios denied the incident took place.

Mashonaland East

As 2018 elections draw closer, political parties are setting up structures in different parts of the country. However, in some areas as in Marondera East, village heads are being forced to schedule meetings in their areas and force their subjects to attend all the meetings. In Murehwa North some of the village heads refused restructuring forms that were being distributed and were set to appear before a disciplinary committee. In Mudzi West, a Zanu-PF member threatened villagers that if they attended an MDC-T rally they were going to be dealt with. Attendance of Zanu-PF meetings continues to be a requirement for people to access food aid.

Highlights:

- At a Zanu-PF meeting held at Masikana shops in Ward 19 in Marondera East on 3 March 2016, village heads in Gonye, Zinatsa and Chakaingesu were harassed and intimidated. They were forced to schedule political meetings in their area by the Zanu-PF district chairperson Oliver Chikanga (32) of Chikanga Village. They were forced to ensure that every kraal head brought all their subjects to the meeting. Village heads present were Johnny Kwiti, Felix Sherekete and Temba Gonye who agreed due to fear.
- On 4 March 2016, in Ward 16, Chinake Village in Murehwa North at around 10am there was a meeting at Chemapango Township for all Ward 16 village heads. The village heads were given forms to organize cell structures in the area. Village head

Tukisai Chodewa refused to get the forms saying he did not want to be involved in politics. Ward 16 Zanu-PF chairperson, Milton Mupangure, said Chodewa must be arrested as he had violated the “policy” of the party. He said the “policy” of Zanu-PF was that all village heads in the country work with the ruling party. Kraal head Chinake also refused the forms and the two Chodewa and Chinake were told that they were to attend a “disciplinary” hearing for refusing the forms. The date for the hearing had not been set at the time of going to print.

- On 10 March 2016, at a field day event held at Machiki Irrigation Scheme in Ward 21 Svosve in Marondera East, the recently installed Chief Svosve (Kumuziva Sakirai aged 30) allegedly, openly told the gathered crowd that he was a Zanu-PF member. In his statement he insinuated that all chiefs should support the Zanu-PF party as the only well directed political party unlike other parties that lacked direction. The chief urged all of his subordinates to support the party and dump all other parties.
- On 15 March 2016, in Ward 8, Matitsi in Seke there was a MDC-T meeting. MDC-T president, Morgan Tsvangirai, was expected to attend the meeting. Zanu-PF youths allegedly organized to disrupt the meeting by harassing MDC-T supporters. It is alleged that MDC-T youths mobilized a counter-attack and reportedly assaulted Zanu-PF youths and chased them away. The police had to be called from Dema to contain the situation. The meeting continued after the MDC-T leaders arrived. Vehicles belonging to Zanu-PF youths were damaged in the chaos. When ZPP called, Zimbabwe Republic Police Mashonaland East Province, Assistant Inspector Tendai Mwanza denied there was ever such an incident. On the other hand the MDC-T spokesperson, Obert Gutu, told ZPP that while he could not independently verify this specific incident, incidents of such a nature were very common.
- On 18 March 2016, in Mudzi West at Nyagupe Village, Ward 8 Blessing Zindoga, the Zanu-PF ward security person called for a meeting. He intimidated all villagers telling them that their names were going to be written down if they attended a planned MDC-T meeting. He warned that he was going to do what he did in 2008. He claimed that he would not be arrested as the Zanu-PF party was above the law. The villagers feared for their lives.
- Residents in Svosve communal area in Ward 19 of Marondera East constituency were reportedly complaining about the Zanu-PF campaign meetings which are scheduled to happen on a weekly basis. The meetings are dubbed structural membership reviews by the party district committee. It is alleged that there are party registers compiled to check membership attendance during every meeting. Most people attend the meetings due to fear.
- On 19 March 2016, Gift Midzi, a Zanu-PF activist allegedly stood guard waiting for people who would go and attend an MDC-T meeting at Rudhaka Stadium in Marondera Central. Midzi reportedly threatened people that if they attended the meeting he was going to kill them. Not many people attended the meeting due to victimization.

- In Chikomba Central an announcement was made on 20 March 2016 by a B. Baser representing Chikomba district education officer that every teacher was supposed to contribute US\$2 towards Independence Day celebrations. The announcement was made on the district Whats App platform.
- On 16 March 2016, Steven Ndoroki (not real name) aged 32, was sticking posters of the MDC-T rally in Ward 20, Mutoko South which was to be addressed by the MDC-T party president. Akim Jembere a Zanu-PF member allegedly ordered Ndoroki to remove the posters but he refused. On 21 March 2016 after the MDC-T rally Jembere in the company of suspected Central Intelligence Officers reportedly ordered Ndoroki into their car. He was forced to renounce his party and he complied due to fear.
- On 30 March 2016, at Nhekairo Shops in Marondera Central, Lucky Hova (not real name), was reportedly trampled on by foot by lecturer Marimira of Zanu-PF for having defected to ZimPF. The victim's leg broke and had to be taken to hospital.
- In Hwedza South on 31 March 2016, Zanu-PF had called for a village heads meeting accusing them of failing to mobilise funds for Independence Day celebrations. The meeting was held at Zaire Township. One of the village heads is reported to have said, "You have used us for dirty work for quite a long time. Our people hence see it unnecessary to get money from their already emptied pockets. The MP failed to fulfil what he promised us. *Kana nyika isina mari isu tisu tingaiwanewo kupi* (If the country itself is broke, where are ordinary people supposed to get money from)?"

Mashonaland West

The province recorded a number of intimidation and harassment cases for the month of March mainly perpetrated by Zanu-PF supporters. Most of the cases reported involved members of ZimPF falling victim to Zanu-PF supporters as they tried to disrupt meetings. Teachers were also ordered to contribute towards the Independence Day celebrations by members of Zanu-PF in the area. A man in Kariba was brutally assaulted by suspected members of the army in a case of suspected mistaken identity. The man is said to have lost his sight and sustained a broken arm from the assault. Food is still being distributed on party lines with a woman in Magunje being denied aid intended for vulnerable groups for the simple crime that her son was a member of the National Constitutional Assembly (NCA).

Highlights:

- On 8 March 2016, a farm worker Lloyd Nungu (not real name) at Bright Matonga's farm in Chegutu West was threatened with eviction by the Zanu-PF leadership in the district for working with his boss to recruit members for ZimPF in their area. Nyandoro the Zanu-PF chairperson in Chegutu West allegedly warned him that he would be evicted from the farm if he continued supporting ZimPF. Although Matonga was not aware of the particular incident, he confirmed to ZPP that many people associated with him were being targeted by Zanu-PF members.
- On 19 March 2016, John Tsindi (not real name), a member of the PDP, was reportedly threatened with assault by members of his party including Brian Banda for

allegedly misusing funds and also having links with the MDC-T. This happened at Umvovho Shopping Centre in Chegutu West. Banda wanted to beat up Tsindi but was overpowered by Tsindi's friends.

- On 20 March 2016, Henry Zungu (not real name), aged 40, allegedly drowned while fishing from Lake Chivero, Norton. When his body was found, his aunt who stays in Knowe in Norton refused to have the funeral at her house claiming that it would jeopardise her husband's standing as he worked in government and her nephew was a member of the MDC-T. The funeral was held at Katanga Shopping Centre by MDC-T supporters who organized everything for the burial. He was then buried on 24 March 2016. It is therefore evident from this case that the deceased had his rights to human dignity, freedom of assembly and association and freedom of conscience violated for belonging to the MDC-T. It is unheard of for the funeral wake of a deceased to be held at a shopping centre.
- On 20 March 2016, at Kawondera Primary School in Ward 2 of Zvimba West constituency a marathon of meetings was held to try and repair the broken roof which was failing to withstand the heavy rains. Village heads, councillors, war veterans and other Zanu-PF community leaders in and around Murombedzi were called to a meeting. The meeting was diverted to discussing means and ways of trying to stop the entry of opposition parties in the Zvimba district. They ended up agreeing on revisiting the grain allocation criteria to giving a 50kg bag to each household rather than sharing it between two households. It is suspected this was meant as an incentive for the villagers not to turn their backs on Zanu-PF.
- On 25 March 2016, Nelly Zonde (not real name) of MDC-T, who lives in Chegutu West, was accused of causing confusion within the party after she was seen talking to people from ZimPF. Obert Phiri of the same party, who lives in Gondo Street in Kadoma slapped the victim and threatened her with disappearance if she did not leave the party.
- On 28 March 2016, Zanu-PF Politburo member, Ignatius Chombo, is said to have allegedly declared that there would be no other candidate to contest the Hurungwe West constituency and that only incumbent MP, Keith Guzha, was going to stand for Zanu-PF in the 2018 elections. Chombo said "*Hakuna maprimery election achaitwa kuno tichangomhanya nebhiza riripo vaGuzah. VekwaTemba vakada kudzoka vanozokwikwidza zvigaro muna 2019 nokuti ndizvo zvakabva kumusoro.*" This was said at a Hurungwe West victory celebration at Kasipiriki Business Centre. Efforts to reach Chombo were unsuccessful.
- On 30 March 2016, members of the Zimbabwe National Army from the Wafawafa Training Centre in Chirara, Kariba intimidated people in public places such as beerhalls and streets. On the said date they assaulted people in Nyamhunga 2 in Gadzi Road. One of the people who fell victim to the assaults was Henry Musore (not real name). Musore is a young man who already had an existing eye disorder. He had cataract in one eye and so relied on a single eye to see. He resides in Nyamhunga 2 and was brutally assaulted by soldiers who were moving in a white army truck. It is

believed to be an issue of mistaken identity. Three army personnel who spoke isiNdebele asked Musore if he was a driver of a commuter omnibus (kombi) who had on some previous occasion taken the possessions of some fellow soldiers who had failed to pay for the ride they were given by the kombi. Musore, who has the same name as the kombi driver the soldiers were looking for, said he was not a kombi driver but an engineer. But still the soldiers forcibly dragged Musore to some water tanks behind Nyamhunga beerhall where they punched him with fists and a weapon they reportedly alternated in using believed to be an iron bar. More soldiers came to join their colleagues in the assault such that there ended up being 11 soldiers kicking and beating Musore. They left him for dead. His face is said to have been scarred by the military boots that stepped on his face resulting in him losing sight even in the eye that had previously been working well. He also sustained injuries on his back, arms and fingers. Musore sought medical services for the injuries through the assistance of Counselling Services Unit. Police were notified but nothing has been done to bring the culprits to account. ZPP spoke to Mashonaland West police spokesperson, Assistant Inspector Ian Kohwera who said he would get back to the organisation, but did not. Subsequent calls to follow up further with Kohwera went unanswered.



Musore soon after the assault.



Musore soon after medical treatment.



In picture on the left, Musore after the swelling had gone down. His face can be seen lean in regular times.

ZPP team investigations were able to verify the incident. The team saw the victim first hand.

- On 30 March 2016, in Ward 6, Kutama, Joe Marimo and other Zanu-PF activists were reportedly going round Kutama and Chikambi schools demanding cash from teachers. A list of those who would have paid was drawn up. Those whose names did not appear on the list were labelled sell-outs. Villagers in the area were also forced to donate money resulting in some villagers selling their chickens to pay.

Masvingo

The recently held MDC-T Meet the People Tour in Masvingo has stoked political fires, where accusations and counter-accusations are being thrown against each other in inter-party politics. In Chiredzi West, a war veteran by the name Vengai Mashaku claimed that he had been assaulted by an MDC-T member. He has since reported the matter to the police and the case will be heard on 30 April 2016 at the magistrate court in Chiredzi.

Highlights:

- In a case of political intolerance, on 3 March 2016 at Vanyoro Village, Ward 23 in Zaka West, ZimPF held a meeting which was well attended. Those who attended came from Rudhanda Village Ward 27, Vanyoro Ward 23 and Cheruka Ward 24. Soon after the meeting, youth officer for Ward 23, Oliver Rugovera, was approached by suspected state agents and tasked to write down the names of all the people that had attended the ZimPF meeting. The agents said that they wanted the names so that they could deal with the sell-outs. The youth officer felt that the task he was assigned was tough and some of the people who had participated at the meeting were friends and relatives – so he has since disappeared and people suspect he has gone down South.
- A Grade Four pupil at Maringire Primary School Chivi Central ward 22, name withheld was sexually abused by Ruwai Gonzo an uncle and Zanu-PF chairperson. It is said James Mazivise of the Child Protection Committee suspected the abuse and reported the matter to the police. The minor was taken to Ngundu Hospital and the abuse was medically confirmed. However, the actor, fearful of arrest has since disappeared from the area.

Matabeleland North

Political parties increased their presence in the province as they jostled for supporters in the countdown to the general elections due in 2018.

ZimPF brought much movement in the political field as they targeted mostly disgruntled Zanu-PF members, who joined them in big numbers.

They also managed to get some from MDC-T and the MDC led by Welshman Ncube.

The increase in political activities led to an upsurge in incidents of discrimination in food distribution as politicians abused their positions to woo supporters.

Zanu-PF members, in particular, were roundly accused of using food as a political tool. Those perceived to be opposition or to belong to rival factions were denied the right to

register for or get drought relief food from the government welfare department.

Most villagers were surviving on one light meal a day as famine and poverty continued to bite. Although some organizations like Plan, World vision and the Social Welfare Department supplied food relief to districts this was still inadequate and people were always forced to forego some meals a day in order to stretch it for a few more days.

The coming of the late heavy rains in Binga, whilst a welcome development, filled the Zambezi River with muddied water making it very difficult for villagers to catch fish. This affected them greatly because fishing is a major source of livelihood.

Heightened campaigns and supporters recruitment drives by parties like ZimPF, PDP, MDC formations and ZAPU were observed. No major incidents of disturbances by state agents were reported. A number of new faces were seen in the province which made people believe there was deployment of agents from the Central Intelligence Organisation.

Highlights:

- Lazarus Dunga (not real name) a member of PDP based in Ward 10 at Mwemba Village complained to other villagers that Zanu-PF youths were threatening him with unspecified action for his campaigns of recruiting new members to PDP.
- A non-governmental organization, Amalima, facilitated a developmental programme where people would engage in food-for-work to sustain villagers of Ward 4 and Ward 5. In Tsholotsho Villagers in Ward 4 who are said to belong to the G40 faction of Zanu-PF allegedly declared they would not allow Ward 5 to partake in the programme as they do not belong to their faction.
- Police and state intelligence services in Lupane were reportedly on high alert for all suspected opposition party activities in the area.
- On 12 March 2016, Denford Mangwaira (not real name), a known civic society activist, was visiting at Ken Maur Shops, St Luke's when he was approached by two policemen as he sat in a twin cab truck. The two asked him to whom the car belonged and what his business was at St Luke's. When he refused to tell them they said they suspected he had come to attend Mujuru's rally as they had information she was coming. They said they heard she was working with civic society and warned him not to play with fire.

Matabeleland South

Many incidents of discrimination in food distribution and registration of needy villagers were recorded in March (*see details in food section below*). Political parties, most notably Zanu-PF had its members implicated in the majority of these violations.

ZimPF were noted going on full membership drive and seemingly getting many new members who were defecting from Zanu-PF. Quite a few were also coming in from MDC-T and MDC led by Welshman Ncube.

Highlights:

- On 22 March 2016, in Matobo North in a case of intra-party fights within Zanu-PF, Nathan Zondo (not real name) was expelled from Zanu-PF for allegedly supporting Vice President Emmerson Mnangagwa
- On 13 March 2016, in Gwanda South, a villager, Ntando Ntsiki (not real name) was assaulted with a fist by a member of the Zimbabwe National Army identified as Mkhokheli Ncube when he said President Mugabe should retire as he is too old now. Ncube declared this was an insult on the President and he punched Ntsiki on the face. After the assault, which happened at Ntalale Business Centre, Ntsiki fled the scene in fear of further assault.

(Reported incidences in the provinces were mostly food related. See food violations section below.)

Midlands

Gweru City Council has in recent times been a major culprit and victim in the intra- and inter-party politics of Midlands with the MDC-T being the major casualty. The whole fiasco began with the suspension of the MDC-T councillors followed by government refusal to reinstate them after a ruling in their favour by the High Court and then the re-arrest of the mayor, Hamutendi Kombayi, on allegations of advancing his political party interests using council resources. At the same time, Zanu-PF has sunk deeper into intra-party differences where distinct factions have emerged - the Lacoste, G40 and ZimPF.

Highlights:

- In a case of intra-party violence, on 9 March 2016 in Ward 23 in Gokwe Chireya, Simon Musundiwa (not real name), an MDC-T supporter and a worker at Tsungai Clinic, was verbally assaulted by Stephen Dhewa of the same party after the victim refused to campaign and endorse him as a parliamentary candidate for the party in the 2018 elections. It is said Dhewa was infuriated when the victim plainly said he instead supported an opposing candidate. The victim, Musundiwa, happens to be the chairperson for MDC-T in the area and has executive powers to endorse or reject party proposals at district level.
- In a case of political intolerance, on 3 March 2016 at Dambudzo Primary School, in Kwekwe Central, the school conducted elections for a new school development committee executive. Brian Murefu (Zanu-PF) chased away all known MDC-T members who wanted to contest the elections. The actor said that the school was built by a Zanu-PF government and thus cannot be run by sell-outs. Stanford Maundikwa (not real name) of MDC-T is one of those who were chased away. It is suspected the school takes its name from Vice President Emmerson Dambudzo Mnangagwa.
- On 24 March 2016, Timothy Pamire (Zanu-PF) of Pamire Village, Ward 15 in Gokwe Nembudziya forced people to attend a Zanu-PF meeting at Nyamhara Primary School. The incident affected opposition party members mainly MDC-T including Steven Sandati and Joel Muzanhenamo (not real names). The victims complied due to fear of

victimization. However, it is significant to note that everyone has a constitutional right to freely assemble and belong to a political party of one's choice.

- On 8 March 2016, Moffat Chironza and Taurai Ngezha (not real names), both of Ward 29 in Gokwe North, were followed by unknown people, suspected to be state agents, on their way from Gokwe Centre. The suspected agents told the victims that they should move out of the constituency if they wanted to protect their lives. The victims happen to be staunch supporters of the MDC T who were influential in mobilizing and recruiting party supporters on behalf of MDC T in 2008.

FOOD AND OTHER VIOLATIONS

Bulawayo

- Food deficits remained critical and were worsened due to continued high unemployment levels and poverty. Though food was available in shops fewer people could afford the cost. The welfare department started registering the elderly and disadvantaged for food relief in urban areas but no one had yet benefitted.

Manicaland

- On 8 March 2016, in a case of discrimination due to political affiliation, Simon Zoroki (not real name), an MDC-T member of Kagweda Village, Ward 14 Mutasa Central, was denied access to Social Welfare Department food assistance by Never Mukumba (Zanu-PF) of Nyaria Village on the basis that the victim is a staunch MDC-T supporter. It is said that on the day in question, Social Welfare Department had availed maize to the community to mitigate the effects of drought. The actor was given the responsibility to distribute the maize which consisted of a 50kg bag of maize per family. The perpetrator told the victim to go away as the maize was from the Zanu-PF government and not meant for sell outs.
- In Makoni West, Mupati Village, Ward 8, Julia Nyati (not real name) was denied access to food aid by headman, Israel Chinyadzi. The headman accused the victim of not attending Zanu-PF meetings. The aid was in the form of a 50kg bag of maize that had been availed by the government through the Social Welfare Department.
- In another case of discrimination and denial of access to food aid, on 28 March 2016 at Checheche Business Centre in Chipinge South, several elderly people were denied access to food assistance on the grounds that their children are MDC-T and ZimPF party members. The affected included Stanley Gomo (75), Panganayi Muzondiwa (80) years and Shadreck Sora (70) (not real names). The aid consisted of a 50kg bag of maize from Social Welfare meant for vulnerable groups including orphans, widows and the aged.

Mashonaland Central

- On 18 March 2016, in Bindura South, Ward 12 at Muone Township, there was a meeting to distribute maize by the Social Welfare Department. Before the arrival of Social Welfare Department, Abraham Mhembere, Zanu-PF chairperson for the ward threatened people with unspecified action if they said anything against Zanu-PF. He

ordered them to just answer with yes to all the questions which were to be asked by the Social Welfare team.

- Lovemore Mandizodza and Isaac Ndira (not real names) of Takawira Ward in Mazowe North were prevented from benefitting from food aid on the suspicion that they were MDC-T supporters. Mandizodza approached the councillor Elisha Mukahiya to complain about his discrimination and the councillor sent people to spy on him to check if he belonged to any other political party. It was confirmed that Mandizodza was not a member of the MDC-T. At the time of going to print it was not clear whether the two were now accessing food aid.
- On 20 March 2016, Thompson Mawara (48), a maguta soldier of Ward 10 Centenary Growth Point was responsible for the distribution of beans and cooking oil from an NGO for orphans whose parents had died from HIV/AIDS. The food was offloaded at David Nelson Clinic in Centenary. Mawara announced that the food was going to be distributed on 22 March 2016. On the distribution day, two people, Never Guta and Alec Makandiwa (not real names), were asked to produce Zanu-PF membership cards. But nobody else besides them had been asked for the cards. They were also accused of not attending Zanu-PF meetings. They were told that the food was not from any NGO but Zanu-PF. They were ordered to go back home and get their Zanu-PF membership cards. The two men went aside and informed Hozo, a war veteran, who advised them to approach Mawara and ask for forgiveness. Guta refused to ask for forgiveness claiming that the accusations were false and they were told to wait until the distribution was done. After the distribution Mawara was called by Hozo to explain the matter. Mawara claimed the two were influencing people in Ward 10 not to attend Zanu-PF meetings so they were fixing them for that. He promised to discipline them at a later date.
- On 28 March 2016, Ward 5 Guruve South, Social Welfare Department gave maize to vulnerable groups. Elias Gangarahwe who is the Zanu-PF ward secretary had told beneficiaries to pay US\$2.50 for sacks and transport. So when Social Welfare Department went to the area the people were told that everything was for free so he was ordered to pay back the money.

Mashonaland East

- On 9 March 2016, in Chikomba Central at Zvichemo Township, councillor Givemore Chisvo of Zanu-PF was leading the distribution of maize from GMB at Sadza growth point. People were discriminated against on party lines yet the maize was meant for everyone. Clever Zungunde (not real name), a former MDC-T councillor candidate in 2013 was denied an allocation of maize aid because of his political affiliation.
- In Goromonzi North, the Zanu-PF district chairperson, Daniel Khulani, allegedly took two bags of fertilizer belonging to a mentally disturbed person, Elvis Sundai (not real name). The fertilizer was distributed by the department of Social Welfare. The care worker who signed for the fertilizer was afraid to ask the district chairperson the whereabouts of the fertilizer or even to inform the Social Welfare Department. Village head, Isaiah Ketero, was also afraid to ask Khulani since he is said to have

been assaulted in 2008. The fertilizer was distributed in February and to date Sundai has not been given his fertilizer. He went to the village head on 15 March 2016 to ask about his fertilizer but no satisfactory response was given.

- On 29 March 2016, councillor Taurai Clifford Nhamburo of the MDC-T of Ward 4, Murape in Goromonzi West held a social welfare meeting with all residents. The agenda was food handouts distribution methods to be used and the need for residents to desist from selling stands in wetlands and other inhabitable areas. He told the village heads to make sure that villagers chose a committee to represent people at meetings rather than everyone attending meetings. He said all vulnerable people were going to get free food while able bodied would work for food. He said registration of beneficiaries would commence through village heads and their committees were to be forwarded to the councillor. However, since the councillor is the district chairperson he had to attend the funeral of the MDC-T ex-official. Soon after the meeting he rushed to Harare. Member of Parliament Beater Nyamupinga was supposed to be part of the meeting however she arrived at the venue at 12. 30 when the councillor had already left but some people were still there. Nyamupinga was allegedly not happy that the councillor dismissed people before she arrived and accused him of doing that because he was MDC-T and she was Zanu-PF. She claimed that she was the councillor's boss and he was supposed to take orders from her. She rubbished everything the councillor had said and reversed all that the councillor had agreed with the villagers and said registration of beneficiaries was going to be done at the hall in her presence. She told people to attend the registration process the following Monday and said because of the councillor's behaviour he ceased to be a councillor taking decisions on his own from that day onwards. She allegedly further a Mrs Dhero of Zanu-PF, as representative in all meetings convened by the elected councillor. She is the one said to be in charge of the food programme. Nyamupinga denied to ZPP that she had “appointed” another councillor but acknowledged the presence of Dhero in the running of affairs saying Dhero was a representative of hers whom she asked to sit, in meetings convened by the MDC-T councillor. “I can’ t trust him and he can’ t trust me. We are political animals, we put the interests of our parties first. In any case, what should the MDC-T councillor have to do with food distribution? How can he talk about any food as if he has a president in office?” The MP has no constitutional authority to disregard the role of an elected councillor.

Mashonaland West

- On 4 March 2016, at Mashuma Business Centre in Hurungwe West a headman was accused of assaulting a villager over a dispute on distribution of maize. The victim, Timothy Mazuvarodoka (not real name) was slapped by the headman after the headman had skipped his name from the list. The dispute arose when the victim tried to tell the headman that it was his turn to receive maize but in response the perpetrator said "*tinongokunyorai pasi asi hamuwane muchawanao hameno* (we just write your name but not a guarantee that you will benefit)". This statement did not augur well with the victim who informed councillor for Ward 17 Matthew Runi that his headman had put his two wives and son on the receiving list leaving out other beneficiaries

from different households. The dispute was settled by the councillor who ensured Mazuvarodoka and others benefitted.

- On 14 March 2016, villagers in Ward 6, Chikambi Village in Zvimba South were informed that there was going to be maize distribution but the distribution never took place. They waited the whole day but nothing materialized. No explanation was given to them.
- On 23 March 2016, there was maize distribution from Social Welfare Department meant for disabled and vulnerable groups. Village head Seremwe of Seremwe village in Magunje removed Sekai Dawanyi (not real name) from the list because her son who stays in Chinhoyi is a political activist and is a member of the National Constitutional Assembly. She was replaced by a Zanu-PF youth.

Masvingo

- On 22 March 2016, an NGO availed food assistance in the form of a 50kg bag of maize and US\$6-00 per family member. Councillor Munashe Pwanyai of Ward 16, Chivi Central was tasked to identify beneficiaries. The actor refused to give the food aid to at least two people from Gwenyaya village claiming that they are MDC-T members.

Matabeleland North

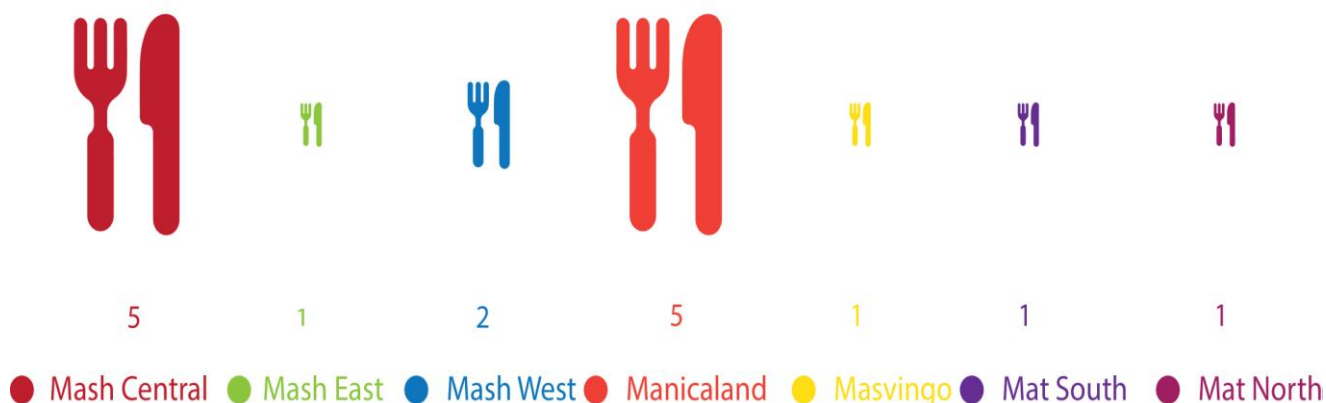
- On 24 March 2016, Clement Mkandla a Zanu-PF activist barred Siphon Ngwenya (not real name), aged 69, from registering for Social Welfare food relief at Sipepa Rest Camp saying he is not a member of Zanu-PF as he was not in their books.
- Sithole (not real name), of Numbamayi line, Sihlangene Village near Sipepa Primary School was denied right to food.
- Maize meal in the area is being sold at US\$15 per 50 kg bag. Many villagers cannot afford this. About 300 households who had been depending on food handouts are being affected by hunger.

Matabeleland South

- On 11 March 2016, in Umzingwane, Zanu-PF ward committee member, Benjamin Singwazi Ndlovu, from Mabutweni Village in Ward 5 held a village meeting where he ordered all people to form village committees under Zanu-PF if they were to be registered for the Social Welfare food relief. Those not willing would not be registered and excluded from all development projects. A woman, Netty Zinga (not real name) from Terelyn Village refused to heed the directive and reported the matter to the councillor but no remedial action was taken as all leadership had been intimidated by the Zanu-PF party activists.
- On 7 March 2016, Gilbert Ndlovu a member of MDC led by Welshman Ncube and several others were denied right to register for welfare relief food by Zanu-PF

members at Silikwe Village Centre. Kraal head Job Nkomo and Ward chair Thembelihle Ncube claimed only Zanu-PF members would benefit from the scheme.

Summary of Food Violations by Province



Manicaland and Mashonaland Central had the largest number of food distribution violations at five each. Mashonaland West had 2. The rest of the provinces in the graphic above had one violation each. The trend has usually been that Mashonaland provinces lead in violations of this type, but this month, like last month, Manicaland is in the lead.

FOOD AID DISTRIBUTION GUIDELINES

The number of people in Zimbabwe facing hunger as a result of the El-Nino-induced drought which has hit the Southern African region has been revised upwards to four million. Livestock has not been spared from the effects of the drought with scores of them dying across the country.

Government in collaboration with donors, UN agencies and other partners has, since the Declaration of the 2015-2016 agricultural season a State of Disaster in January, been mobilising food for the food insecure. However, concerns have abounded over the past months of partisan distribution of food aid. The following is recommended for food aid distribution:

The modalities of food assistance must respect the fundamental humanitarian principles of Humanity, impartiality, neutrality and independence. Decisions on the allocation of humanitarian food assistance should be strictly needs based. Funding should be allocated

in an objective manner, according to these principles, to improve the food consumption of those in greatest need, without bias or prejudice.

Basic principles

ZPP and partners recommend that food distribution in Zimbabwe must be based on a platform of ethical principles that derive from international humanitarian law:

- The right to life with dignity and the duty not to withhold or frustrate the provision of life saving assistance;
- The obligation of states and other parties to agree to the provision of humanitarian and impartial assistance when the civilian population lacks essential supplies;
- Relief not to bring unintended advantage to one or more parties nor to further any partisan position;
- The management and distribution of food and other relief to be based purely on criteria of need and not on partisan grounds, and without adverse distinction of any kind;
- Respect for community values of solidarity, dignity and peace and of community culture.

Minimum Standards for Food Distribution

Key Considerations: That distribution of food aid be Responsive, Transparent, Equitable and Appropriate, in addition to following specific suggested minimum standards -

- Recipients of food aid are identified and targeted based on need by means of an assessment carried out through consultation with stakeholders including the beneficiaries
- Registration of households receiving aid should be formalised, transparent and all inclusive paying particular attention to vulnerability. Women who head families or are single; as well as children from child-headed families should be allowed to register in their own right.
- Selection of distribution agents should be based on their impartiality, capacity and accountability. May include local elders, local NGOs or other institutions .e.g. Agritex, and churches who may then form locally elected relief committees at ward or village level

- Efficient and equitable distribution methods in consultation with stakeholders including the various recipient groups
- Recipients are well informed in advance of quantity and quality of food rations.
- Points of distribution be close and accessible to recipients of the food aid (as much as is possible).
- Information dissemination related to issues of should be widespread and above board. Recipients should be informed of: quantity and type of rations; distribution plan including day, time, location and frequency as well as any deviation to the plan that may be necessary.
- Supervision and guarding of distributions
- Politics not to be a factor in the food aid distribution. At no point should political affiliation be asked for or used as criterion.
- That there be no chanting of slogans, no requests for party membership cards at food registration or distribution gatherings
- Performance and effectiveness of food aid programmes should be monitored and evaluated



18 April, 2016

STATEMENT ON THE OCCASION OF ZIMBABWE'S INDEPENDENCE DAY

ZIMBABWE PEACE PROJECT (ZPP) joins the rest of country in commemorating the nation's 36th anniversary of its independence. ZPP recognises and acknowledges that the independence of this country did not come easy. It took a protracted liberation struggle in which many gallant sons and daughters of the country lost their lives. Indeed such sacrifice is outstanding and ought to be commended by all. Without these men and women, living or dead, Zimbabwe would not have attained majority rule in 1980.

We are grateful for majority rule. We are thankful for milestones the country achieved in the past 36 years in various areas. And we commend government for all gains realised since 1980.

However, we bemoan the reversal of the gains of liberation, which we have seen most significantly in the past 16 years. The deteriorated general state of affairs; the impoverishment of the masses; the snuffing out of democratic space; the repression of the people; a haphazard style of land distribution; unequal distribution of the nation's resources; as well as a biased empowerment model which is neither broad-based enough nor transparent are hardly what the gallant sons and daughters of the revolution went to war for!

We look around at the state of affairs in the country and in particular are disappointed with the following:

- Political violence that continues to rear its ugly head across the country leaving in its wake injured, maimed, killed, as well as harassed and intimidated individuals. Cases in point include electoral violence in the first decade and more prominent in 2000, 2002, 2005, 2008 and to a smaller extent in 2013. Not to forget the tragic state-sponsored Gukurahundi exercise which claimed the lives of an estimated 20 000 civilians. The list goes on and on.
- Rampant human rights violations across the spectrum – civil, political, social, economic and cultural rights. ZPP reports for 2015 show that at least 4957 people fell victim to human rights violations in 2528 recorded cases. These numbers are too large for a free country where the expectation is that the general populace would freely enjoy their rights.

- Closing of democratic space by repressive laws including Public Order and Security Act (POSA), Criminal Codification Act, Access to Information and Protection of Privacy Act (AIPPA), among a slew of others
- Abductions that occur every now and then, depriving victimised citizens of their liberties and at times their lives; as well as depriving families of their loved ones.
- The failure of government to provide employment (decent work) for citizens
- The holding of hostage of economic development and other processes by politics. Almost everything is politicised at the expense of the citizens. Resources are politicised, state institutions are politicised, state apparatus like Zimbabwe Broadcasting Corporation, security forces, among others, are politicised. Parastatals are politicised and militarised. A host of other entities and processes are hardly apolitical resulting in a very thin line, sometimes invisible, between state and party.
- Even food and input distributions are politicised, as are education assistance instruments, including the Basic Education Assistance Module (BEAM).
- The displacement of 73 462 vendors and confiscation of goods worth \$579 239 (Stats from Vendors Initiative for Social and Economic Transformation [Viset])
- House demolitions in a number of areas leaving thousands of people homeless and desperate. And most critical the Murambatsvina clean up exercise of 2005
- The failure of government to provide a social safety net for its citizens. Schools, hospitals, clinics and other services are far below minimum standards
- Failure of government to provide safe and adequate water, generate steady supply of electricity, build, repair and provide infrastructure such as roads and others
- Failure of government to plan strategically ahead and not find itself with starving masses when droughts or other mishaps occur. The four million who face starvation today on the back of the El Nino induced drought would not be starving if government had planned well ahead and shown more fiscal responsibility and sufficient care and concern for the citizens.
- Failure of the executive to foster a culture of Constitutionalism. The Constitution has been reduced to a paper tiger and hundreds of laws remain not harmonised with the Supreme Charter, three years after it came into being.

All the above are NOT what the liberation struggle was about. This is contrary to what the war stood for. The liberation struggle was so that the citizens of this country would have freedom with all the attendant civil liberties; that the masses would equitably enjoy and benefit from the resources of this country; that peace and harmony would prevail.

May all, the leaders and the led, ensure the purpose and the gains of independence are truly upheld. Anything else less than that negates the essence of the Chimurenga.

May Independence truly mean what it is supposed to mean for the citizens – self-determination with dignity, justice, development and peace for all. ###

ANNEXURE 1. DEFINITIONS OF HUMAN RIGHTS VIOLATIONS.

TERM	DEFINITION
MURDER	Unlawful and intentional killing of another person
SEXUAL ASSAULT:	It is knowingly causing another person to engage in an unwanted sexual act by force or threat.
A) RAPE	Is whereby a male person has sexual intercourse or anal intercourse with female person without the consent of the latter
B) AGGRAVATED SEXUAL ASSAULT	INDECENT Is whereby a person including a female commits a sexual act involving the penetration of any part of the victim's body, other than a male person having sexual intercourse or anal intercourse with a female person, without the consent of the victim, including active and passive oral sex and anal sex between two individuals of any gender.
ASSAULT	Is whereby a person commits an assault upon another person intending to cause that other person bodily harm.
A) FALANGA (FOOT WHIPPING)	Is a form of corporal punishment whereby the soles of the feet are beaten with an object such as a cane, or rod, a piece of wood, or a whip. The victim may be immobilized before the application of the beating by tying, securing the feet in leg irons, locking the legs into an elevated position or hanging upside down.
B) SUBMERSION/SUFFOCATION (WATER BOARDING)	A form of assault whereby water is forced into the victim's breathing passages so as to simulate drowning.
C) BEATING	Is any form of physical assault including hitting of a person with or without an object such as a stick, belt, whip, barbed wire, log or any other object including bare hands. It also includes the kicking or head-butting of a person; and includes stabbing, shooting and forced consumption (forcing a person or overeat or eat something poisonous or their own excreta.)
D) OTHER ASSAULT	

TORTURE	Any act by which severe pain or suffering, whether physical or mental, is intentionally inflicted on a person by or instigation of public official or other person acting in an official capacity for purposes of obtaining from the victim or a third person information or a confession , punishing him/her for an act s/he or a third person has committed or is suspected of having committed, or intimidating or coercing him/her or a third person, or for any reason based on discrimination of any kind
THREAT	It is whereby a person threaten to commit a crime, including but not limited to murder, rape, aggravated indecent assault, unlawful detention , theft, malicious damage to property thereby inspiring in the person on whom she/he communicates the threat of a reasonable fear or belief that he or she will commit the crime.
HARASSMENT/INTIMIDATION	Unlawfully subjecting one to pressure, insult of threat with intent to cause him/her to suffer anxiety discomfort and/or the feeling of insecurity.
MOVEMENT VIOLATIONS	
KIDNAPPING/UNLAWFUL DETENTION	Is whereby a person deprives another person of his freedom of bodily movement without lawful justification and/or authority (based on section 93 of the Criminal code Act)
A) ABDUCTION	The taking away of a person using intimidation , open force of violence
B) UNLAWFUL ARREST	Is the arrest of a person by another person (usually a police officer), whereby the latter's position generally authorizes him/her to arrest the other person, but not in this particular case. Essentially, it is a form of abuse of power on the part of the police officer Depriving a person of his or her freedom of bodily movement without lawful justification and/or authority.
C) UNLAWFUL DETENTION	
D) FORCED DISPLACEMENT	Internal displacement of persons or groups of persons "...who have been forced or obliged to flee or leave their homes or places or habitual residence, in particular as a result of or in order to avoid the effects or armed conflict, situations of generalized violence, violations of human rights or natural or human made disasters, and who have not crossed an internally recognized border"
PROPERTY RIGHTS	

THEFT	Is whereby a person takes property from another person “knowing” that the other person is entitled to own, possess or control this very property.
ROBBERY	Is whereby a person steals, borrows or uses the property of another person without authority, thereby intentionally using violence or the threat of immediate violence to induce the person who has lawful control over the property to relinquish his/her control over it.
STOCK THEFT	Is whereby a person takes livestock from another person knowing that the other person is entitled to own, and possess or control this very property.
MALICIOUS DAMAGE TO PROPERTY	Is whereby a person knowing that the other person is entitled to own, possess or control any property, damages or destroys that very property (Note: MDP to communal/household property should only be chosen for one family member: the victim or head of household in that order)
A) DESTRUCTION OF HOME	Is a form of malicious damage to property, it occurs when a home is burnt to the ground or otherwise made inhabitable in such a manner as the only option toward the making the home habitable is to completely rebuild it.
B) OTHER TYPES OF MDP	Please describe briefly the alleged conduct.

ZIMBABWE PEACE PROJECT BACKGROUND & INFORMATION

The Zimbabwe Peace Project (ZPP) was conceived shortly after 2000 by a group of Churches and NGOs working or interested in human rights and peace-building initiatives, and was to become a vehicle for civic interventions in a time of political crisis. In particular ZPP sought to monitor and document incidents of human rights violations and politically motivated breaches of the peace e.g. violence.

Today, ZPP's co-operating member organizations include, Zimbabwe Council of Churches (ZCC), Catholic Commission for Justice & Peace in Zimbabwe (CCJPZ), Evangelical fellowship of Zimbabwe (EFZ) Zimbabwe Election Support Network (ZESN), Counselling Services Unit (CSU), Zimbabwe Civic Education Trust (ZIMCET), Zimbabwe Lawyers for Human Rights (ZLHR), Zimbabwe Human Rights Association (ZIMRIGHTS), Civic Education Network Trust (CIVNET), Women's Coalition of Zimbabwe (WCoZ) and Habakkuk Trust.

VISION

A Zimbabwe where there is Peace, Justice, Dignity and Development for all.

MISSION

To work for sustainable peace through monitoring, documentation, advocacy and community peace building interventions with our members and partners

Advancing Sustainable Peace in Zimbabwe

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