

December 2015

Human Rights Violations
MONTHLY MONITORING REPORT

Supporting the Opposition in Zimbabwe A Costly Ordeal

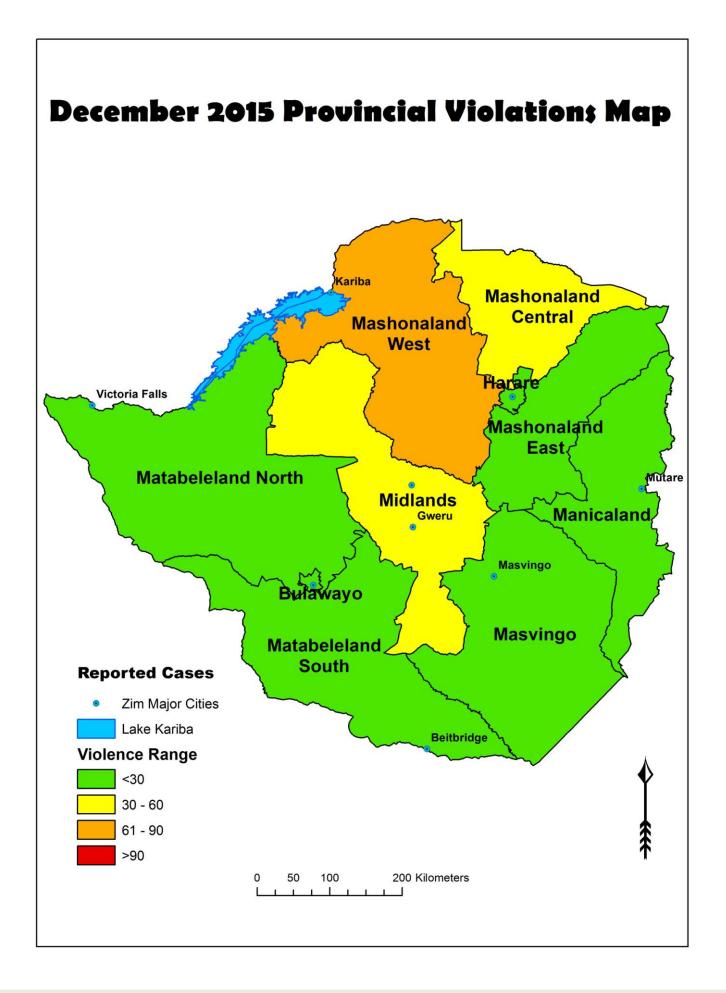
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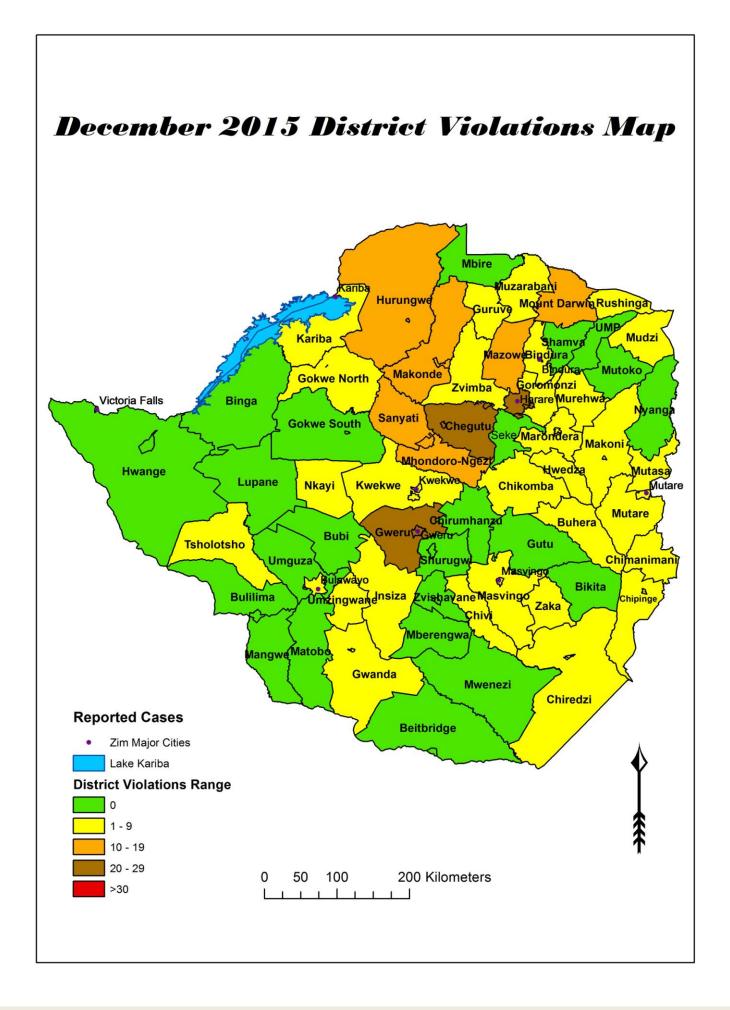
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## THEMATIC OVERVIEW

## Theme: Supporting the Opposition in Zimbabwe – A Costly Ordeal

Nothing underscores more boldly citizens' denial of the Freedom of Assembly and Association, as espoused in Chapter 4, Section 58 of the Constitution, than the punishing of those associated with the opposition through partisan distributions of food and agricultural inputs which excludes as well as a system of parcelling out pieces of land which discriminates against them. Such punitive actions, which are meted on these citizens, is a stark denial of their right to belong to any party of their choice, freedom of choice on their political affiliation as well as the freedom to associate with whomsoever one wishes. In this country, these rights are not only grossly trampled upon, but they are torn up in a thousand little pieces and thrown to the winds.





# **Executive Summary**

THE price to pay for those who venture into, or are merely suspected of dabbling in or related to those in opposition politics continues to be severe. In a drought-stricken country, with perennial hunger which is expected to be even worse this season than before, most of those linked to opposition parties find they have to pay through their stomachs.

With the majority of people in the rural areas, which is inhabited by over 60 percent of the country's population, facing increased hunger this season; partisan food distribution which excludes those with political affiliations alternative to Zanu-PF has become a cruel tool of punishing those not amenable to the ruling party. Yet politicising food aid and agricultural inputs assistance has become a common phenomena. And the more hunger there is in the country due to drought that has hit the Southern Africa region and other macro-economic deficiencies specific to Zimbabwe, the more vulnerable those associated with opposition politics become.

In December 2015 alone, Zimbabwe Peace Project (ZPP) recorded a total of 62 instances of food violations where individuals linked to opposition politics and to a minor extent those Zanu-PF members who were not seen at party meetings were denied food aid. A persistent trend shows such cases being mostly common in the three Mashonaland provinces. With 15 out of the 62 cases, Mashonaland Central had 24% of the cases (almost a quarter). Mashonaland West's 14 cases made up 23%; and Mashonaland East had 16% with 10 cases.

Food and input distributions have opened up ways of exploitation by those in privileged positions who have taken to charging anywhere from US\$1 to US\$3.50 as transportation fees for either food aid of agricultural inputs donations. Yet, these goods are understood to be for free and in the past no fees have been necessary. This new manipulation has seen those linked to the oppositions in some instances being charged more than Zanu-PF members, which is another literal price they must pay for being associated with the opposition.

If citizens linked to the opposition are not paying with their stomachs or for their stomachs for not toeing the Zanu-PF party line, those linked to the opposition do so when it comes to land allocations. Most land allocation in urban Zimbabwe is being undertaken by Zanu-PF cooperatives, a mechanism which systematically excludes those linked to the opposition. So not only are opposition members deprived of food, but they are also even deprived of homes. In certain serious instances some of them are evicted from their homes or land they would have been allocated.

Nothing shines the spotlight brighter on the violation of the Freedom of Assembly and Association than these prices that have to be paid by those citizens linked to the opposition. Though the Constitution espouses this right in Chapter Four Section 58, with impunity the ruling party using its vanguards in the form of the youths, traditional leaders ensure unrelentingly that those associated with opposition parties pay and pay dearly. Even when they are elderly, orphaned or vulnerable in other ways as seen month in month out in reports from across the country, they are still made to pay.

With such a hefty price to pay, it becomes clear that opposition politics in this country are not for the faint hearted. Reports in the country since the beginning of the new millennium are littered with many who have paid with their lives for diverse political leanings. Yet, an incident in this report shows that as precarious as it might be to resist the pressure to bow to Zanu-PF pressure some still dare. An elderly woman in Murehwa North Ward 5, even at the risk of going without food aid, refused to chant the Zanu-PF slogans she was instructed to do before receiving her allocation. Of course her share was given to others more compliant members of the community. Yet, such steel will exists even amongst the most vulnerable of society.

Political intolerance continues to see other violations of harassment and intimidation and even physical assaults and verbal insults as this report shows. A total of 233 violations were captured by ZPP in the month of December alone with a majority of them perpetrated by Zanu-PF and with most cases occurring in Mashonaland West 68 cases(29%) followed by Mashonaland Central with 37 cases (16%). Midlands also rated quite highly with the third highest number of cases at 33 (14%).

The month of December also saw the scourge of relentless demolitions persisting. Some 250 homes were razed to the ground by the Harare City Council in December in Budiriro and Aspindale areas leaving hundreds of citizens homeless and stranded. Clearly central and local government is failing in its bid to enable citizens to get secure housing. Yet no compensation is forthcoming from any quarter and many more remain vulnerable across the country in a nation where lawlessness has reigned supreme in the parcelling out of the pieces of land.

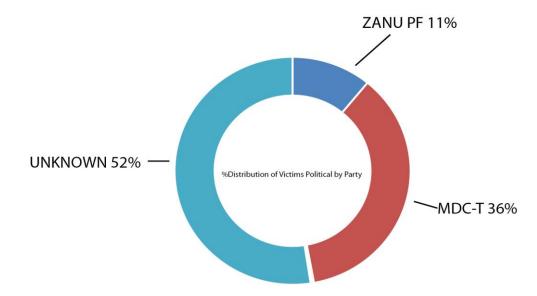
With all these violations, a few million dollar questions beg answers: where is the protection of citizens supposed to come from? If that protection does not reside in the Constitution, where then?

# 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.

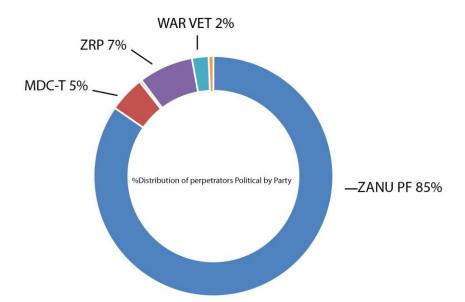
## THE DASHBOARD - INCIDENTS' STATISTICS AT A GLANCE

## **Analysis of Violence Victims by Party**



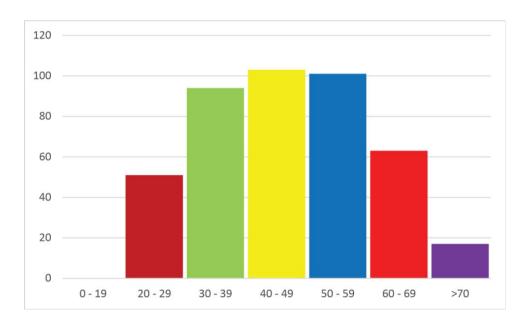
As the figure above shows, political affiliation of most of the victims of political violence, at 52 %, for December could not be determined. Victims of violence from MDC-T were also quite high at 36 %. November figure for MDC-T victims was slightly lower than that of October which stood at 39 %. Zanu-PF victims, mostly as a result of intra-party conflict, made up 11 % of total incidences. These figures show a sharp decline for Zanu-PF from November which had 24.2%.

#### **Analysis of Violence Perpetrators by Party**



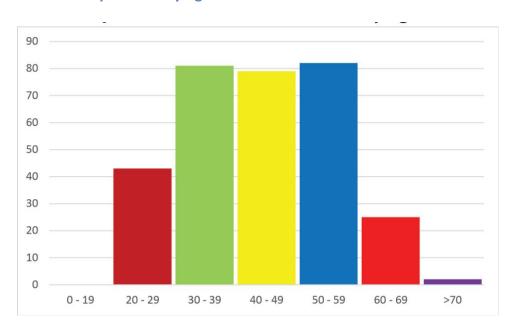
An overwhelming majority of perpetrators of violence for December were from Zanu-PF at 85% compared to November Zanu-PF figure of 93%; while MDC-T came a far second with 5%. Such a trend shows without a doubt that Zanu-PF is the dominating culprit when it comes to violence.

## **Analysis of Violence Victims by Age**



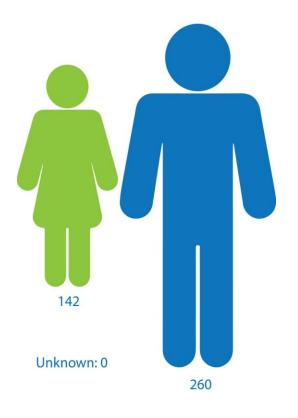
Majority of violence fell in the age groups between 30 to 59 years of age; while youths between 20 and 29 also had a considerable number of victims. The over 69 years old age group had the least number of victims. Such a trend shows that violence is more rampant amongst those less than 60 years of age.

#### **Analysis of Violence Perpetrators by Age**



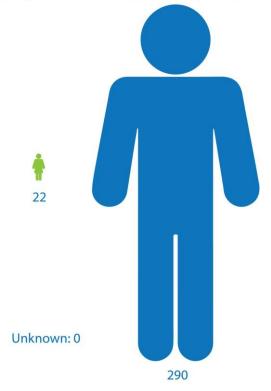
The highest number of perpetrators was found in the 30 - 59 years age group. Very few were above 69 years of age. This trend has been consistent always and demonstrates the fact that youths are used as 'hired guns' in political conflicts.

## Analysis of Violence Victims by Gender



Like previous months, December showed the number of male victims of violence being more than that of women. Male victims were 260, while female victims were 142. Last month had more men victims at 252, while women were at 142. However, it is key to note that not all cases of violence are reported or in broad daylight. Others occur out of sight.

## Analysis of Violence Perpetrators by Gender



The number of male perpetrators of violence for December was 219 which was slightly lower than in November which had 317. December male perpetrators figure is more than ten times that of women which stands at 22. This shows that men were more likely to perpetrate violence than women. In comparison November had 21 females, a trend that shows a very slight increase in women perpetrators of violence.

# **Distribution of Violations by Party across Provinces**

PROVINCE	MDC-T	ZANU-PF	TOTAL VIOLATIONS
Bulawayo	0	1	1
Harare	1	0	1
Manicaland	0	0	0
Mashonaland Central	0	5	5
Mashonaland East	0	3	4
Mashonaland West	2	6	8
Masvingo	0	1	1
Matabeleland North	0	0	0
Matabeleland South	0	1	1
Midlands	0	0	0

Mashonaland West and Mashonaland Central had the largest number of violations at six and five incidences respectively, with most of them perpetrated by Zanu-PF. These statistics reflect the proliferation of factional politics in the provinces. Next was Mashonaland East with three violations followed by Bulawayo, Masvingo and Matabeleland South with one each.

## Distribution of violence by type across provinces

ACTS	Midlands	Вуо	Mat. South	Mat. North	Masvingo	Manicaland	Harare	Mash. East	Mash. West	Mash. Central	TOTA
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	2	0	0	0	1	1	0	1	9	0	14
Theft/looting	0	0	1	0	0	0	1	2	3	1	8
Discrimination	6	0	0	9	2	6	2	10	25	16	76
MDP	0	0	2	0	0	0	9	0	0	0	11
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	25	3	4	1	5	14	10	6	27	19	114
Displacement	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	3	4	1	10
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	33	3	7	10	8	21	24	22	68	37	233

October showed the most common type of violence being intimidation and harassment at 114 out of 233, which was a decrease from 102 out of 208 incidences in November. Next was discrimination at 76 which increased dramatically from 47 in November and then followed by assault at 14, which was a considerable reduction from 21 previous month. There were eight cases of theft and looting compared to 13 in November.

## **Provincial Summaries**

## Bulawayo

Political activities were mostly in Nkulumane, where a by-election was held in the constituency on 19 December 2015 following the death of former Member of Parliament (MP) Thamsanqa Mahlangu of the Movement for Democratic Change (MDC-T). The by-election which was boycotted by the major opposition parties, was won by Zanu-PF against Progressive Democrats of Zimbabwe and Renewal Democrats of Zimbabwe. Only about 3000 people voted out of 32000 registered voters.

Intra-party conflict within Zanu-PF markedly increased as party members jostled for places to represent the party at the Victoria Falls Conference which was held first week of December. Tensions were reported within the MDC-T over differences on whether to join forces with People First.

## **Highlights**:

• On 13 December 2015, in Luveve, at the war veterans offices situated at 8742 Old Luveve, John Langa (not real name) was verbally insulted by fellow war veterans who accused him of having campaigned for opposition party, ZAPU, during the June by-elections. He was then barred from participating or vying for office in the organization's structures or in Zanu-PF.

#### Harare

There were no major political incidents reported in the Harare metropolitan province for the month of December. The highlights of the month were demolitions in Budiriro and Aspindale by the Harare City Council on grounds that the houses were built on illegal land.

During the period under review there were door-to-door campaigns by the People First party. It is purported that the youths were mobilising people to join their party and were holding meetings at night for fear of victimisation by Zanu-PF youths.

#### **Highlights:**

• On 9 and 10 December 2015, the Harare City Council razed down 250 houses in Budiriro and Aspindale. Beneath are some of the houses which were destroyed in Budiriro 3 near High Glen Shopping Centre.



- On 16 December 2015, in Glen View South Transform Zimbabwe called for a strategic planning meeting for 2016. The meeting was chaired by Davison Chimuperu, district chairperson of the party. It is alleged that Zanu-PF youths threatened people who wanted to attend the meeting with unspecified action.
- Zanu-PF youths had a meeting on 16 December 2015 at around 5 p.m. in Glen View South. The youths then subsequently moved around writing names of youths in the area warning them that if they joined any other party they were going to deal with them.
- Members of the People's First party were reportedly moving around in the Glen View area setting up structures in people's homes at night. It is believed that they are meeting at night for fear of victimisation from Zanu-PF youths.

## **Manical and Province**

There were generalised political squabbles in Zanu-PF as political factions fought to outmanoeuvre each other in an effort to control the province as well as have a say in the succession battles. On the other hand, there was generalised discrimination in food aid as the aid failed to get to the intended beneficiaries due to political interference. (Highlights in this province were food related, refer to food violations section.)

## Mashonaland Central

During the period under review, the province reported a number of violations. Dominating the violations were cases of land disputes, harassment and intimidations and discrimination over the distribution of agricultural inputs. Discrimination cases have gone up due to inadequate food supplies in the country and most of these processes are hijacked by Zanu-PF leadership. Cases of intra-party violence seem to have gone down as inter-party violations have gone up. Most of the reported were between Zanu-PF and MDC-T supporters or perceived MDC-T or People's First party supporters.

## **Highlights:**

- On 2 December 2015, from about 9 am it is reported that Councillor Michelle Kasere who is also the chairperson for Zanu-PF in Ward 33 in Glendale and Shingi Nyengera the district secretary called for a meeting. The main agenda of the meeting was to discuss the issue of land allocation. It is said that they visited every land owner in the area and when they went to Thomas Nzanga and Steven Bundo (not their real names) they informed them that they were repossessing their land and reallocating it to Zanu-PF supporters. The victims were informed that the land belonged to Zanu-PF.
- On 2 December 2015, Zanu-PF district chairperson for Mvurwi, Simbarashe Nyamayaro, is reported to have sent Tafadzwa Muzambi, a Zanu-PF youth, to go to Mvurwi bus terminus to record names and national identity numbers of all the touts. It is reported that Muzambi was to inform the touts that those not in the Zanu-PF structures were not going to work from the bus terminus.
- On 7 December 2015, John Sozi (not real name) was intimidated by Samuel Kaseke Bonde, who is the vice chairperson of Gushungo Branch of the party at Garikai Shopping Centre in Bindura North. Sozi was accused of recruiting people for People First party. Bonde declared that people like Sozi must not benefit because he is a 'gamatox' ('Gamatox' is a derogatory name given to those suspected of supporting the former Vice President Joice Mujuru.) He also added he must be evicted from the land he was already given. Although

Sozi had not been evicted yet at the time of going to print, he is living in fear, scared that anything could happen to him.

- On 14 December 2015, Sonny Mbudziya (not real name) of the MDC-T was at One One bar in Mt Darwin South when Simbarashe Bondo and other five Zanu-PF supporters arrived from Victoria Falls where they had gone to attend the Zanu-PF annual congress. Bondo is alleged to have started poking Mbudziya, accusing him of being a sell-out who must be dealt with. It is reported that Mbudziya managed to leave the bar when they were about to attack him.
- On the 21 of December 2015, Simbarashe Kadyamatevere, a Zanu-PF district party chairperson, addressed a meeting at Mafundirwa Village. He emphasised that all MDC members who were not attending Zanu-PF meetings should surrender their party belongings to the district party offices in Mt Darwin. He also advised those without national identity cards to submit their names to the party, so that the party would help them obtain the national identity cards.
- On 31 December 2015 at 2300 hours, at Musarara Village in Chiweshe, Mwale Chakanetsa and Richard Chimombe of Zanu-PF allegedly harassed MDC-T supporter, Robert Zondo (not real name). Zondo was accused of singing songs that insulted Zanu-PF by claiming that the party had failed to rule the country. The two Zanu-PF youths reported the victim to Nomore Marange, district chairperson of Zanu-PF in Chiweshe, who threatened to evict Mark from the village.

## Mashonaland East

Mashonaland East has, of late, been a hotbed of political violence and factionalism within Zanu-PF. During the month of December inter-party political violence was also noted in the province with the worst case being of a woman who was assaulted together with her baby. She was assaulted because of her allegiance to the opposition MDC-T. The factionalism within Zanu-PF has also intensified with growing cases of intimidation of suspected People First members being reported. A worrying observation from Mashonaland East involves threats of violence against opposition members in 2018.

## **Highlights:**

• On 16 December 2015, two Zanu-PF activists identified as Knight Gareta aged 50 and Cecilia Phiri aged 40 allegedly assaulted a 29- year old MDC-T activist accusing her of being an election agent in 2013. The two perpetrators said that they wanted to fix her for belonging to the opposition. The victim was carrying

a nine-month old baby who fell as a result of the assault and became unconscious. The victim's neighbours managed to resuscitate the baby and she was taken to hospital. The case was reported to the police and the perpetrators were arrested and were expected to appear in court on 19 January 2016.

- On 19 December 2015, an Agritex extension officer was harassed and intimidated by Isaac Neshamba, who is the local Zanu-PF chairperson. The Agritex officer was harassed for establishing a maize demonstration site at a perceived MDC T supporter's field. The perpetrator publicly threatened the victim warning that he would "deal with him". The Agritex worker is fearing for his life, it is reported.
- On 20 December 2015, in Mudzi North a Zanu-PF member went to Kotwa Resource Centre for a meeting together with another Zanu-PF activist. The two were chased away by Peter Homwe and David Maguma who told them not to use the Zanu-PF hall as they were suspected to be aligned to the People First party.
- On 30 December 2015, Knowledge Zangira a Zanu-PF activist from Mudzi North met an MDC T activist who is a tailor and asked him to sew him clothes. The tailor explained to Knowledge that he could not sew the clothes as he wanted to go to church. Knowledge threatened the tailor with death in 2018 on allegations that he was an MDC-T supporter.

## Mashonaland West

Two cases of intra party violence were recorded within the MDC-T in Norton and Chegutu East. Within Zanu-PF, conflict escalated with some members facing accusations of belonging to the People First. This report carries various cases of violence experienced at Zanu-PF restructuring exercises for instance at Sengwe in Hurungwe. Another trend observed in December was the continued dabbling in partisan politics by traditional leadership. A chief in the province was accused of having appointed only headmen with known Zanu-PF allegiances.

#### **Highlights:**

• On 4 December 2015, a fight nearly erupted at the district restructuring exercise at Sengwe in Hurungwe West. A dispute arose when some senior district members lost their positions as chairpersons and secretaries of Sengwe District to alleged supporters of former MP for the constituency, Temba Mliswa. They accused the newly-elected members of wanting to destroy the party from within. Mliswa confirmed to ZPP that party members associated to

- him were still very popular amongst the people and that indeed they were being accused of various things and in some instances discriminated against.
- On 5 December 2015, in Chegutu West at the Welfare Centre, a Zanu-PF meeting was called after the primary election by the winning candidate one, Chirikure. At the meeting Zanu-PF youths, Trust Kadzombe and Clever Kunonga allegedly became violent claiming that the voting process had not been done procedurally. The meeting had to be abandoned due to the violence.
- In Ward 4 Chegutu East where a by-election is to be held for the late councillor Shepherd Jack an MDC-T supporter was assaulted by his fellow party members.
- It is alleged that after the MDC-T had announced it was not going to participate in the by-election one Sarah Mariga of MDC-T decided to contest as an independent. Boas Gweshe also of the MDC-T is purported to have gone to the victim's house and threatened her with unspecified action if she went on to contest as an independent.
- On 14 December 2015, Ward 4 Kadoma Central, Isaac Huni of Zanu-PF had been given a residential stand by his party but the stand was then later allegedly taken back by the ward chairperson George Munetsi on allegations that he was aligned to People First party.
- On 18 December 2015, at the inauguration of the substantive Headman Zvakaramba at Matsvitsi Village Ward 3 in Zvimba South, the guest of honour, Chief Zvimba Chikambi was asked to give a vote of thanks. Chief Zvimba began to attack smaller parties like the People First. He said he was aware of its activities in the area and the ruling party was not going to fold its arms and watch.
- On 21 December 2015, Memory Mangoti allegedly verbally assaulted Susan Ngorima (not real name). Both women were MDC-T supporters for a long time until Susan decided that she wanted to stand as an independent candidate. Memory was angered by the decision and accused the victim of being a prostitute.
- On 22 December 2015, in Ward 29, Mhondoro-Chegutu, Desmond Mbaimbai allegedly insulted a councillor, Prisca Nondo (not real name) that she had grown skinny following the expulsion of former MP Webster Shamu. The victim reported the case to the police resulting in Mbaimbai's arrest. He was later released after paying a fine.

- On 23 December 2015, it is alleged that chief Ngezi went to Muchenami Village with some of his friends and started assaulting villagers accusing them of being MDC supporters.
- It is reported that a teacher at Tambawadya Primary School in Ward 10 Karoi, Duncan Nkomo is constantly threatening a fellow teacher Stewart Nhindi (not real name) that they were going to be dealt with him in 2018. He is said to have told the victim on several occasions that those who do not support Zanu-PF will be beaten in 2018.

## Masvingo Province

Masvingo can best be described as a 'pioneer' province in everything it does. It was the first province through Edson Zvobgo and Dzikamai Mavhaire to challenge the status quo demanding that the sitting President pass on the state and party leadership baton to another person. The province was the first to see political disgruntlements in Zanu-PF party structures through the likes of Calisto Gwanetsa the then provincial chair. It was also the first to record the biggest numbers of opposition MDC-T party MPs defecting to the Renewal Team. Today, the province happens to be the first to set up visible People First party structures.

**Highlights:** (See section on food violations)

## Matabeleland North

Most political parties did not have activities on the ground. Zanu-PF was very active in the first half of the month as they prepared for and held their annual conference in Victoria Falls.

MDC-T had a few low profile meetings of its own. Several reports were received of pupils dropping out of school as they could not afford fees and had no food.

## **Highlights:**

 Tsholotsho North-Local Member of Parliament Professor Jonathan Moyo donated food to be distributed to all people in the constituency fairly. On 24 December in Ward 5, Sipepa area under Chief Matupula at Sizanobuhle Village Zanu-PF district official James Mutasa refused to give the food to non party members claiming it was meant for Zanu-PF members only.

- Nkayi district council embarked on sewer trench rehabilitation and digging programme where they engaged local people as labour. Councillors provided lists of villagers from all wards. On 28 December 2015, during a meeting at the local hall, Zanu-PF losing parliamentary candidate Stars Mathe, Central Committee member Moses Mkwananzi and another identified as Dube disrupted a meeting and insulted council chairperson Sicelo Mpofu, kraal heads and district administrator (DA) Mandlamakhulu Moyo. They accused the DA of working with and including MDC-T people in the programme and said they cannot be mixed up with the opposition.
- Hwange Colliery employees had not been paid up to end of December yet tens of suspected Zanu-PF youths were employed in the same month as colliery police. The workers fear victimization by the youths who are seen as already being used as campaign tools.

## Matabeleland South

Not much political activities took place in the province during December. Only Zanu-PF was mostly visible on the ground particularly during food relief distribution programmes. Intra-party tensions were noted in both Zanu-PF and MDC-T. In the former, conflict was increased as party members continued accusing each other of belonging to either expelled former Vice President Mujuru or current Vice President Mnangagwa camps. On the other hand they all expressed loyalty to the First Lady. MDC-T camp was rocked by divisions over the news of impending coalition with People First.

#### **Highlights:**

• On 19 December 2015, in Gwanda North at Demand Village Ward 3 a gardening project called Makolokoto had a fence removed by Zanu-PF official Zebron Nkala. The fence had been donated by well-wishers. Nkala accused the gardening project of being led by an alleged MDC-T official. He then gave the fence to Zamashawe Project chaired by a Zanu-PF member.

## Midlands Province

Intra party violence characterised the politics of the province with each faction using every trick in the book to win political relevance.

## **Highlights:**

- On 6 December 2015, at Maodza Business Centre Chiundura, a Zanu-PF activist Christopher Mataruse verbally harassed MDC-T member, Dick Taonezvi (not real name) when the two met at the centre. It is said, the victim had at one time approached Zanu-PF members pleading with them to join MDC-T since their party was no longer stable due to in fighting. On the day in question, the actor demanded to know why the victim was trying to convert Zanu-PF members to his own party. Before the victim could answer, he was threatened with assault and eviction if he continued to act as he did.
- On 20 December 2015, in a case of intra-party violence in MDC-T party, Patience Chiwara of Tsungai Centre Gokwe Nembudziya allegedly verbally assaulted a fellow woman from the same party after she lost in elections to elect a new party district executive committee. Both ladies were eyeing the chairperson's post which the actor lost to the victim. In a fit of rage, the actor went to the victim intending to physically assault her but was restrained by other party members. However, she abused the victim verbally calling her a donkey and saying she was junior in politics. It must be noted that the two belong to different political camps in the province one allegedly led by Amos Chibaya and the other supposedly by Cecil Zvidzai. The victim is a suspected Zvidzai supporter.

## FOOD AND OTHER VIOLATIONS

#### Harare

- On 19 December 2015 at the Epworth Local Board, a group of Zanu-PF youths allegedly hijacked the process of food distribution meant for the elderly, orphans and other vulnerable members of the community and took the rice for themselves leaving the intended beneficiaries without.
- On 24 December 2015, residents of Kuwadzana were gathered where groceries donated by MP Nelson Chamisa were being distributed to members of the community. The goodies were a hamper that included salt, sugar, and cooking oil among other things. During the distribution a member from another MDC faction who is allegedly aspiring to contest the MP seat in 2018 election, disrupted the proceedings and the distribution of the goodies had to be stopped for a while. Things only came back to normal after the intervention by the MDC-T Harare province. Chamisa confirmed the incident to ZPP.

## Manicaland

- On 15 December 2015, an MDC-T member of Makuvise Village Ward 5 in Buhera West was allegedly denied access to social welfare aid by Jane Ziki and Albert Chikukwa who are both Zanu-PF members. The aid was in the form of a 50kg bag of maize and had been availed to the community through GMB. The aid was aimed at assisting the marginalised groups including widows. Although the victim is a widow, the actors claimed that she could not benefit because she was once seen at an MDC-T meeting.
- On 17 December 2015, there was discrimination on access to food aid in Buhera Central as people failed to get the aid because of political party affiliation. Benson Dende (75) and Eric Nondo (80) (not real names) of ward 18 Buhera were denied access to social welfare aid because their children are MDC-T members. The aid was from social welfare and was meant for the marginalised groups including the elderly.
- On 20 December 2015, MDC-T member, John Zera (not real name) of Ward 14 Chimanimani West was allegedly denied access to food aid in the form of a 50kg bag of maize by George Chibarinya a Zanu-PF activist. Chibarinya claimed that the aid was meant for Zanu-PF members only.

 On 12 December 2015, MDC-T member, Sarah Muvezwa of Mupati village Makoni West, was allegedly denied access to social welfare aid because of her political affiliation.

## Mashonaland Central

- On 3 December 2015, Simba Nhuta (not real name) aged 40 of Kasukuwere Village in Mt Darwin South had his name removed from the list of beneficiaries who were set to receive agricultural inputs from the government. It is reported that his name was cancelled from the list by Zanu-PF local youth leadership saying that he did not deserve to benefit as he does not attend party meetings. Nhuta is a Zanu-PF member.
- On 5 December 2015, at Muzembi Village, Ward 1 in Mt Darwin North, at least four members of MDC-T were purportedly denied to benefit from the maize seed and fertiliser distribution by Naison Muzemba, a Zanu-PF district chairperson. They were accused of not supporting Zanu-PF and as such were told they should not benefit from inputs that come from Zanu PF.
- On 7 December 2015, in Mazowe South, a Zanu-PF meeting was held at Umuzi Farm at 10 am. The main agenda of the meeting was the distribution of seed and fertiliser meant for the elderly, widows and orphans. The meeting was called by the Social Welfare through Zanu PF. Sam Chinyama (Zanu-PF Chairperson at Umuzi) had the list of names of people who were to benefit from the distribution. Names of MDC-T supporters were not included on the list. The victims were told that the inputs were meant for Zanu-PF supporters only.
- On 11 December 2015, at around 9am all the women in the Glendale area were called to register their names for agricultural and development loans. Irene Muchirikuenda the Zanu-PF district secretary for Mazowe women's league registered the names of Zanu-PF supporters only. Those said to be MDC-T supporters were not registered. The affected women were from wards 17 and 32.
- In Guruve North, Ward 19, a councillor's secretary is said to be overcharging transport for ferrying fertiliser from the GMB. It is reported that on 16 December 2015 he was accused of charging transport telling people to pay US\$2.50 per person instead of US\$1that is normally charged. Majority of people paid as they had no choice.
- On 16 December 2915, members of the MDC-T in Rushinga were allegedly denied access to cotton seed and fertiliser for belonging to the opposition. It is

- said that if any headman distributes fertiliser for MDC-T supporters they will get into trouble with Zanu-PF authorities.
- On 17 December 2015, at around 11am, the district chairperson of Zanu-PF together with councillor of ward 15 called for a meeting at Dandamera Shopping Centre. In this meeting the councillor addressed the community and announced that the presidential farming aid was only to be issued to people sympathetic to the First Lady Grace Mugabe and all who did not support were not to go near the distribution point or they risked being beaten up.

## **Mashonaland East**

- On 2 December 2015, a female Zanu-PF supporter from Maruta Village, Mushayi ward was allegedly discriminated against by one Richard Maruta at a fertiliser distribution process at the GMB depot in Hwedza North. Each person was receiving a 50kg bag of Compound D fertiliser. The victim's name was called out but Richard protested that she was not supposed to get the fertiliser as she allegedly did not attend Zanu-PF meetings.
- In Chikomba Central, Ward 18 Wazvaremhaka, Ward 20 Gokomere and Ward 16 Nharira there was food distribution on 4 and 5 December 2015. It is reported that people received inputs. A man from Ward 18 was recommended to be removed from the list of beneficiaries for working with the People First party.
- On 11 December 2015, in ward 10, Nyamayaro Village in Murehwa North a meeting was held to share fertiliser and a man living with a disability was allegedly denied fertiliser by headman Tendai Nyamayaro and Fungai Machanzi councillor for Ward 10 because he was believed to be aligned to People's Democratic Party. The fertiliser was meant for people living with disabilities and the victim qualified under that criteria but did not benefit. Other beneficiaries at the meeting received the fertiliser after chanting Zanu-PF slogans.
- On 12 December 2015, an opposition activist from Ward 16 in Zvomuya Village in Murehwa North was denied farming inputs because of his political affiliation. The victim was supposed to receive some fertilizer since it was his turn according to the order of names they submitted before the distribution. He was surprised when his name was deliberately skipped. The perpetrators were the local Zanu-PF branch, chairperson and committee.
- On 12 December 2015, in Ward 5, Murehwa North Headman Zaranyika was distributing food at his homestead. The food had been received from the

Department of Social Welfare and was meant for the elderly. People were ordered to chant the Zanu-PF slogan first before receiving the food. An elderly woman refused to chant the Zanu-PF slogan and was denied aid. She was labelled an MDC-T supporter. Her allocation was given to someone else.

- On 16 December 2015, it was reported that in Ward 10 in Marondera West villagers were told to contribute US\$1.50 per person for transport that was going to deliver maize seed and fertiliser. It is alleged that the local Zanu-PF leaders shared the money among themselves after the distribution.
- On 18 December 2015, at Donzwe shop in Ward 12 Mudzi South, a delivery of fertiliser was made. The fertiliser was meant for cotton farmers in the ward but it is alleged that the farmers did not get the fertiliser. It is reported that members of the local Zanu-PF leadership shared the fertiliser among themselves claiming that the fertiliser was from the Zanu-PF government.
- On 19 December 2015, in Hwedza South, wards 13 and 14 the distribution of fertiliser was carried out by partisan village heads who distributed the fertiliser only to strong Zanu-PF supporters. The Agritex officials who were present at the distribution sites did not manage the distribution process but were only instructed to sign the distribution documents.

## Mashonaland West

- On 1 December 2015 former MP for Hurungwe West, Temba Mliswa was prohibited from distributing maize seed to his supporters at Karereshi in Ward 16 by members of the police from the Law and Order section. He was informed that a charge was going to be levelled against him under POSA if he continued with the distribution. It is alleged that the former MP had been cleared by the police, but they followed him to the scene of the distribution and stopped the process. At Karambazungu he continued with his distribution of 2kg of maize seed without altercations. Over 500 supporters thronged the venue. Mliswa confirmed to ZPP that he indeed was being prohibited from distributing food and inputs in his former constituency. Police details ensure that he does not distribute any aid within the constituency, Mliswa said.
- It is reported that Zanu-PF coordinators were said to have told people at Wezheri Business Centre in Ward 11 to pay US\$3.50 per bag as transport fares for carrying fertiliser. It is reported that the people complained that they could not afford the required monies.
- At Kuwadzana Hall in Ward 23 Zvimba District, bags of 50kg maize were distributed to the elderly, orphans and widows when Zanu-PF youths took the

maize claiming that it was from their president (President Robert Mugabe). Alice Pundu aged 25 whose father aged 75 suffered a stroke was one of the people who failed to benefit from the aid. The youths were led by Garikai Mandebvu the district chairperson. The incident took place on 2 December 2015.

- On 13 December 2015, two separate distribution processes were organised in Hurungwe North to distribute seed and fertiliser from the Social Welfare Department. The first one was for the elderly, widows and orphans and it was reported that the process was conducted in a fair manner. The second one was for the rest of the community and the process was facilitated by the development committee and Arex officials. It is reported that the Zanu-PF district leadership complained for not being involved in the distribution process. It is said that a meeting had to be called with MP Rueben Marumahoko to resolve the issue where, one, Pawari of Arex stated that he had not received instructions from his superiors to consult with the Zanu-PF leadership during the distribution of agricultural inputs.
- On 14 December 2015, Musakura Village, Ward 10 village heads were said to have sent names to the district administrator for people who were to benefit from the distribution of agricultural inputs. It is said that Councillor Nixon Mandere of Zanu-PF took the list and started ticking names of Zanu-PF supporters only. At least seven people suspected to be MDC-T supporters were taken off the list.
- On 15 December 2015, Zanu-PF councillor Gladys Kanema allegedly denied Alec Sungaro and Brian Zhumu (not real names) fertiliser even though the two had paid the requested US\$3 each for transportation of the inputs. The two were accused of supporting MDC-T and the transport money they had contributed was later refunded. The incident happened at Chinhengo Primary School in Ward 18, Chegutu East.
- On 16 December 2015, in Hurungwe Central Councillor Badwell Chasara facilitated the distribution of fertiliser and he is said to have allegedly prioritised Zanu-PF supporters. He is said to have told people to pay US\$3.50 per bag for transport telling them that the fertiliser was coming from Lion's Den.
- On 17 December 2015, a Zanu-PF councillor Ida Mbiriza in Mhondoro-Ngezi Neuso Ward 2, reportedly denied at least three people access to fertiliser accusing them of belonging to the MDC.
- On 21 December 2015, in ward 9 at Kawondera Police Station, Councillor John Chinake who was distributing fertiliser ordered people to chant Zanu-PF

slogans first. The fertiliser is said to have come from the GMB but he is said to have told people that it was from Zanu-PF as a token of appreciation for their support. Village heads were told to exclude MDC-T supporters from the distribution.

• On 22 December 2015, at Benhura Primary School in Mhondoro-Ngezi names were written of people who were going to benefit from the distribution of fertiliser. Dorothy Gunje (not real name) was denied the fertiliser on claims that her husband was an MDC-T supporter.

## Masvingo

- On 17 December 15, in Ward 16 at Nyamakwe Business Centre, Councillor Pwanyai Munashe allegedly denied access to Social Welfare aid an elderly woman of Gwenyanya Village Chivi Central. The government had availed the aid of 50kg bags of maize to vulnerable groups which include orphans, widows, child headed families, the elderly and those living with HIV. The councillor refused to give the aid to the elderly victim claiming that her children were active members of the opposition.
- On 31 December 2015, Piki Pirato (Zanu-PF) of Marova Village Vidco 2 Zaka North told village heads who included headman Chazimo and Mukozokoto to select people who were to benefit from the social welfare aid. The actor allegedly told the headman to make sure that no MDC member accessed the aid which was in the form of 50kg bag of maize. On the day in question, the actors had called for a meeting at Padare Business Centre where he informed the village heads of the impending assistance. In his address, he threatened the village heads with unspecified action if they did not comply with the given order.

## Matabeleland South

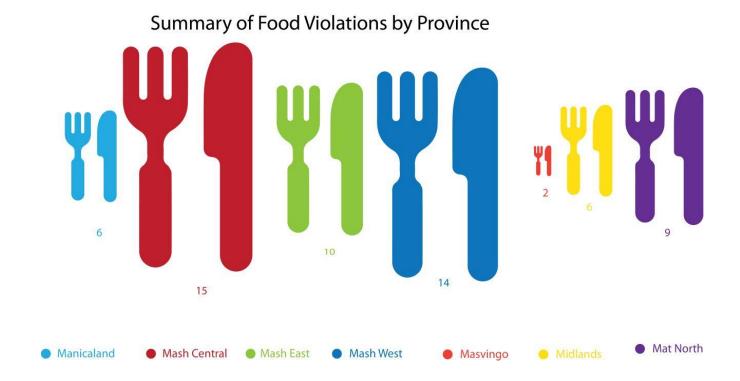
- On 24 December 2015, in Insiza South at Filabusi Grain Marketing Board depot, 65- year-old Zanu-PF activist, Mthandazo Mlauzi, allegedly verbally insulted and threatened with unspecified action an MDC-T councillor, 35year-old Dumisani Mathuthu. He accused the councillor of omitting his family from the food list because he hated Zanu-PF.
- On 12 December 2015, at Emsizini Village in Umzingwane, there was intra party conflict within Zanu-PF when Senzeni Moyo, Bhekimpilo Moyo and

Philani Ndlovu fought over food hampers they had got from First Lady Mugabe's rally in Kezi. Philani then allegedly tore the bags and scattered the maize on the ground before leaving.

 On 21 December 2015, at Mawabeni Centre in Umzingwane, Zanu-PF ward chairperson, Ngazimbi Ncube, tried to disrupt distribution of Social Welfare maize saying it was supposed to benefit Zanu-PF members only. Police were then called and chased him away.

#### Midlands

- On 5 December 2015, several MDC-T members were reportedly denied access
  to fertilizer, cotton and maize seed at Chireya Business Centre Gokwe by an
  army major who has allegedly been operating in the area since 2013. The major
  in collaboration with local Zanu-PF leadership claimed that the aid was coming
  from the Zanu-PF government and that only those that support the party should
  benefit.
- On 5 December 2015, at Katamba Business Centre Gokwe Chireya, an MDC-T activist was allegedly denied access to maize seed by Hwinyai Gungu of Zanu-PF. On the day in question, the community gathered at the business centre to receive a 10kg pack of maize seed each. When it was the victim's turn to receive his allocation, Hwinyai stood up and walked to the councillor-Simon Mucheza. After some discussion, the actor shouted saying the seed was not meant for sell-outs and told the victim to get assistance from his own party.



Number of incidences in December at 62 were 72% more than the 36 reported for November. Mashonaland Central and Mashonaland West provinces had the largest number of violations around food distribution at 15 and 14 incidences respectively. These were followed by Mashonaland East with 10 cases and Matabeleland with nine. It has been a persistent trend that such violations are mostly in the three Mashonaland provinces.

## SPECIAL FEATURE

#### FOOD POLITICS THREATEN VULNERABLE MEMBERS OF SOCIETY

The issue of partisan distribution of food in Zimbabwe is currently a burning issue causing a high magnitude of concern. While shortages of the staple maize in the Southern African country have been perennial since the turn of the millennium when the agrarian reform took a fast track momentum which forced 4 000 commercial white farmers off the land to pave way for over 400 000 landless black people. While this gave land to the landless, it also essentially gave way to a considerable reduction in agricultural produce as some re-distributed land lay fallow; or in some instances the new "owners' plain failed to produce to capacity due to financial and technical knowhow deficits, among other challenges, this season around the lack is set to be worse for ordinary citizens in the country side.

Every year the country has produced less than adequate stocks of maize, that is nothing new, but this cropping reason comes against a backdrop of a severe drought – the most severe since 1992, experts have said.

According to the World Economic Forum's Global Risks Perception Survey for this year, the food crisis currently facing the nation would escalate to starvation soon, with people in the rural areas set to be the worst hit.

The grim predictions come as Zimbabwe was recently ranked number 18 in the top 20 countries most prone to hunger in the years 2015-16, after scoring 30,8 on a hunger index out of 50 by the International Food Policy Research Institute (IFPRI).

The organisation said the southern African country, which has been receiving unreliable rainfall in the past two years — and once a regional breadbasket — was going to see "starvation-ranking hunger" in 2016 due to the direct effect of the El Niño.

El Niño is a climate cycle in the Pacific Ocean with a global impact on weather patterns. The cycle begins when warm water in the western tropical Pacific Ocean shifts eastward along the equator toward the coast of South America. The El Niño affects different regions differently, with some areas recoding higher than normal precipitation while others experience increased evaporation. During an El Niño, the Pacific's warmest surface waters sit offshore of north-western South America. Normally, warm water pools near Indonesia and the Philippines. Although the southern part of Africa generally receives below-normal rainfall during El Niño years, this cannot be accepted as a rule. El Niños occur every three to five years but may come as frequently as every two years or as rarely as every seven years. Each event usually lasts nine to 12 months. They often begin to form in March/April, reach peak strength between December and January, and then decay by May of the following year.

Be that as it may, Zimbabwe like its neighbours in the sub-Saharan Africa region is set to experience the worst drought in more than 20 years.

Against that backdrop, it is estimated that about 1, 8 million people need food aid this year while relief agencies say they require US\$60 million to complement government's target of US\$300 million to import grain.

The year 2015 saw a reduced harvest, whose forecast has been revised to 950 000 metric tonnes of maize, almost half of the 1, 8 million metric tonnes needed to avert famine.

While this creates considerably higher than usual margins of need for vulnerable members of society particularly the elderly, orphans, those living with disabilities or HIV; as well as those living on far less than US\$1 a day; among many others, what exacerbates the situation are the unfortunate and indeed cruel dynamics existing in the socio-political fabric of the Zimbabwean society at large.

On the political front, members of the ruling party, who for the most part control the levers of power in the once-rich-but-now-poor nation of approximately 13 million people, have taken their political tolerance a notch higher over the years. This has seen the politicisation of food aid where those who are not members of the ruling party or those who may be members but have missed some meetings or cannot chant party slogans are excluded from lists of those to benefit from food aid.

It therefore goes without saying that the more hunger there is, and given such political dynamics, the worse vulnerable victims of such political "persecution" get.

From September to December, ZPP has recorded 135 incidences of food violations, where those associated with the opposition have been denied food aid. So far the trend has shown a worryingly sharp increase in the incidences with December recording 62, which is 72% more than the 36 instances reported for November.

Out of the US\$300 million needed for the country to secure grain for its citizens, so far US\$200 million has been secured in lines of credit.

Although this covers considerable ground, there is still a deficit of US\$100 million. And of that which has been secured or will be secured, the reality of partisans distribution remains a threat for those among the citizenry who need food aid this year.

The fact that the powers that be have not moved in any visible way to curb this 'support or starve' phenomena is quite disconcerting and concerning.

## 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 INDECENT SEXUAL ASSAULT	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.			
	A form of assault whereby water is forced into the victim's breathing passages so as to simulate drowning.			
<ul><li>B) SUBMERSION/SUFFOCATION (WATER BOARDING)</li><li>C) BEATING</li></ul>	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

THRFAT

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

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"

**D)** FORCED DISPLACEMENT

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

#### FOR COMMENTS AND FURTHER DETAILS CONTACT

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