



**ZIMBABWE  
PEACE  
PROJECT**

November 2015

Human Rights Violations

MONTHLY MONITORING REPORT

**Fear as a tool of  
political manipulation**

# Contents Page

<b>THEMATIC OVERVIEW</b>	<b>3</b>
<b>PROVINCIAL VIOLATIONS MAP</b>	<b>4</b>
<b>DISTRICT VIOLATIONS MAP</b>	<b>5</b>
<b>EXECUTIVE SUMMARY</b>	<b>6</b>
<b>DATA GATHERING METHODOLOGY</b>	<b>8</b>
<b>THE DASHBOARD – INCIDENTS STATISTICS AT A GLANCE</b>	<b>9</b>
<b>PROVINCIAL SUMMARIES</b>	<b>13</b>
BULAWAYO	13
HARARE	13
MANICALAND	15
MASHONALAND CENTRAL	16
MASHONALAND EAST	18
MASHONALAND WEST	20
MASVINGO	21
MATABELELAND NORTH	21
MATABELELAND SOUTH	22
MIDLANDS	22
<b>FOOD AND OTHER VIOLATIONS</b>	<b>25</b>
<b>SUMMARY OF FOOD VIOLATIONS BY PROVINCE</b>	<b>30</b>
<b>SPECIAL FEATURE - EXCERPT ON FEAR</b>	<b>31</b>
<b>THE INTERVIEW - TRANSFORM ZIMBABWE PARTY</b>	<b>35</b>
<b>ANNEX: DEFINITIONS OF VIOLATIONS</b>	<b>36</b>
<b>ZIMBABWE PEACE PROJECT BACKGROUND &amp; INFORMATION</b>	<b>39</b>

## **THEMATIC OVERVIEW**

### **Theme: Fear as a tool of manipulation**

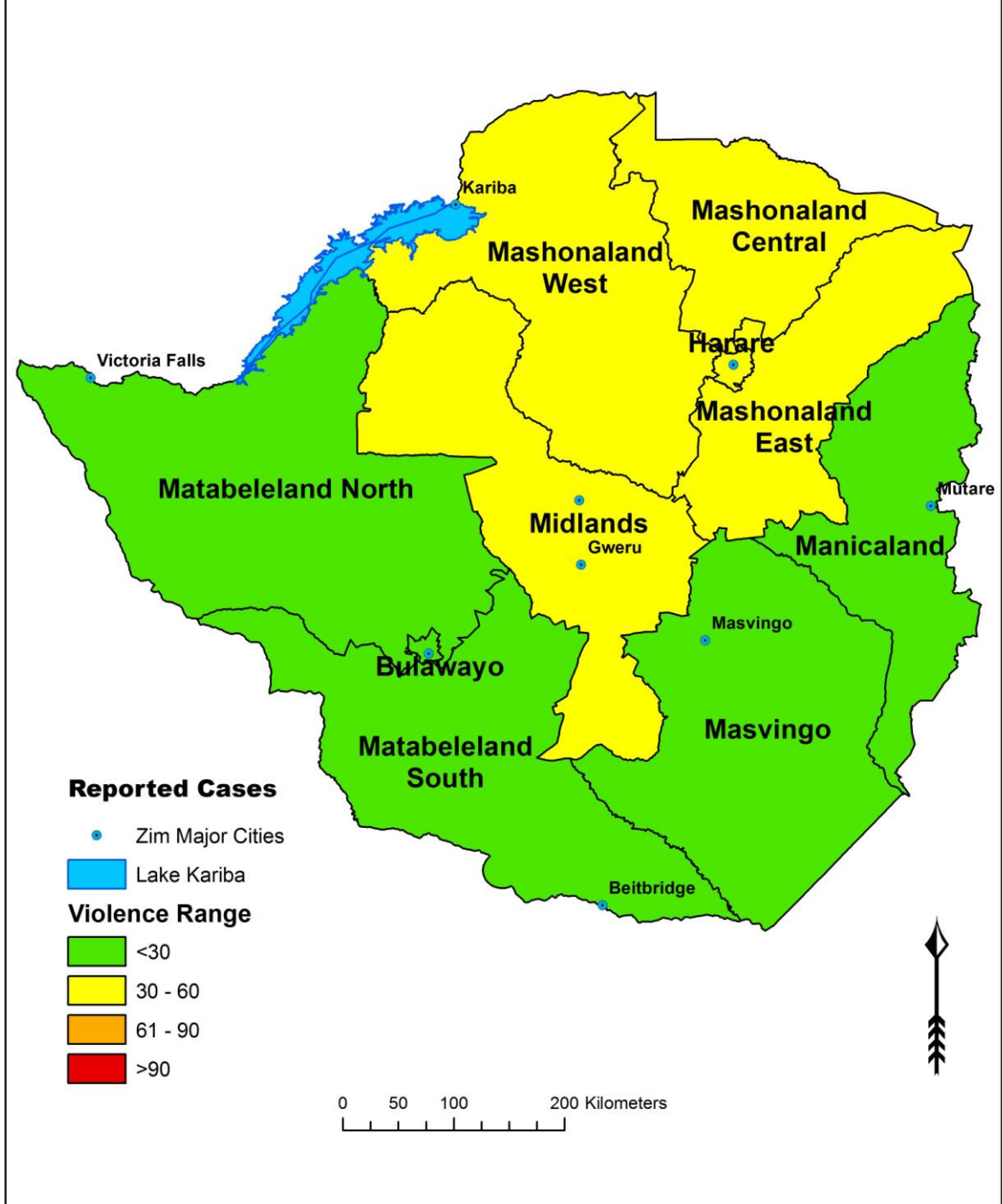
Fear has been instilled in the people by the ruling Zanu-PF and its agents particularly from the turn of the millennium. Ordinary people fear that there will be repercussions to support another party. They fear harassments and intimidation; they fear that physical violence may be meted out on them. They also fear that they may have the homes burnt, destroyed or that they could be evicted from their homes or their pieces of land. Fear of hunger after one is discriminated against on party lines is all too real for many particularly those in the outlying areas.

Indeed, the dimensions of fear are many.

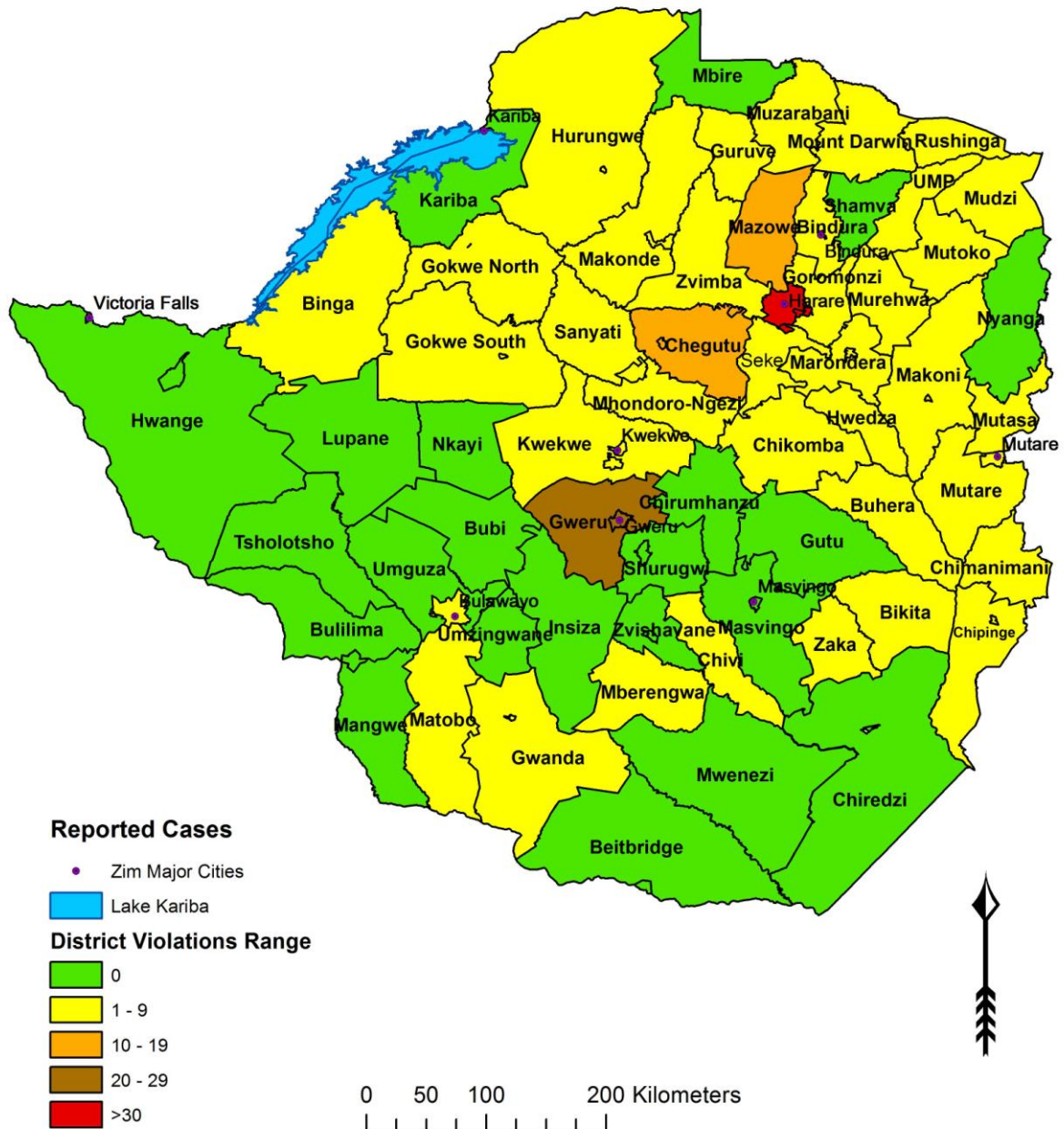
The fear is not only across parties. Of late this fear has also started festering within Zanu-PF as intra-party conflict wreaks havoc on factional lines.

Whichever way the fear manifests, it is going a long way in manipulating the people.

# November 2015 Provincial Violations Map



# November 2015 District Violations Map



## **Executive Summary**

THE month of November was rife with reports of politically-biased irregularities in the distribution of food relief and agricultural inputs. Recurring incidents across the country, but mainly in the three Mashonaland provinces as well as Manicaland, showed that the general populace which looks to the government for food relief and input assistance encounters a tremendous amount of dilemmas in accessing the distributions with hunger being a very real and ever-present threat. This results in the ordinary man on the street succumbing to fear – fear of being discriminated against; fear of harassment; and above all fear of hunger.

And dilemmas abound for the people as they struggle with this fear and options available or not available to them.

Battered by an unrelenting economic meltdown which has seen poverty levels in the country rise to unprecedented levels, those desperate for the food and input distributions face dilemmas which include having to make a choice of whether or not one joins the ruling Zanu-PF just so they can access the assistance as members of the opposition are repeatedly not listed for the donations. In cases, this past month, where people attended First Lady Grace Mugabe rallies where she brought substantial tonnage of food stuffs and inputs, among other “give-aways” and hoped to get a share of these goodies many of them found that they had to contend with jostling and shoving in long queues as well as facing heavy-handed police control, which often gave way to police brutality as the police attempted to maintain order during the stampedes for the handouts. Reports of police beating up people to maintain order as well as setting off their dogs on the masses have been noted in this report and elsewhere.

The dilemma presented here being if you want the donations badly enough you would have to put up with the stampedes, police heavy handedness as well as the rambling hours since in a majority of the instances donations by the First Lady would be distributed well into the night or even the following day or days.

A fairly new phenomenon, which has seen unassuming and poverty-stricken villagers being charged money in order to access food relief or input assistance is also something that many of them have to face if they want the handouts. Reports in an increasing number of areas across the country show that people are charged US\$1 or US\$1.50 by either party officials, councillors, and of late agricultural extension workers have joined the fray, as transport or registration fees in order for them to access the food and/or inputs. This is tantamount to manipulating the desperate masses since the food and inputs are often meant as free handouts from the Social Welfare Department, some non-governmental organisations and of late from the First Lady at her rallies. Such unscrupulous charging of supposedly free items to vulnerable masses is gross abuse and those considered politically incorrect for supporting parties other than the ruling Zanu-PF suffer the most.

Another worrying trend which has reared an ugly head in the distribution of food and inputs is the denial of such assistance to the elderly, people living with disabilities as well as

widows as noted in this report in areas such as Murehwa where some elderly people were denied this assistance because their children are members of the opposition. In Marondera West and Sanyati, among other areas elderly people and people living with disabilities were denied input assistance for one reason of political incorrectness or other. A widow in Mutoko East was denied food relief on the grounds that her late husband used to be a member of the Movement for Democratic Change (MDC-T). That these are vulnerable populations is being ignored at the altar of political bias and political intolerance.

Such an insensitive squeeze on vulnerable people in order to coerce them into toeing the Zanu-PF line of supporting no other party but the ruling one, has seen many languish in hunger with the express dilemma being that if you want to access government or First Lady assistance you must first buy a ruling party membership card. Going at US\$3 each, membership to the ruling party is exorbitant to most rural folk, a majority of whom live on less than a dollar a day. Yet, Zanu-PF is unrelenting on the pushing of its membership cards on the masses across the country, particularly in the Manicaland Province where this reports notes that there has been an increased drive in membership mobilisations.

Intra-party conflict continues on in Zanu-PF with Manicaland being the most affected in November. Factional divisions are reported as one side supporting the First Lady and the other Vice President Emmerson Mnangagwa.

Fear of hunger is obviously used as a weapon of manipulation by the ruling party resulting in most people faced with hungry children and other dependants being forced to make decisions using their stomachs.

This month's report also carries as a special feature an excerpt from a study which was commissioned by Zimbabwe Peace Project (ZPP) on Fear which sheds light on the types of fear prevailing in Zimbabwe, the impact as well as the instigators of it. This report also carries an interview with David Rodhi Takaruza, Chief of Protocol for Transform Zimbabwe party which was formed in 2013. In the interview Takaruza makes the point that Zanu-PF through various entities, particularly the police, instils and promotes fear in the populace.

By and large this report shines the spotlight on a myriad of violations, such as physical assault, discrimination, harassment, malicious damage to property, among others, as they continue to be used to deny citizens rights such as Freedom of Assembly and Association; Freedom to Demonstrate and Freedom of Expression, Equality and non-discrimination as part of the declaration of rights as espoused in the Constitution of Zimbabwe.

The struggle for civil, political and socio-economic rights for the generality of Zimbabweans continues on.

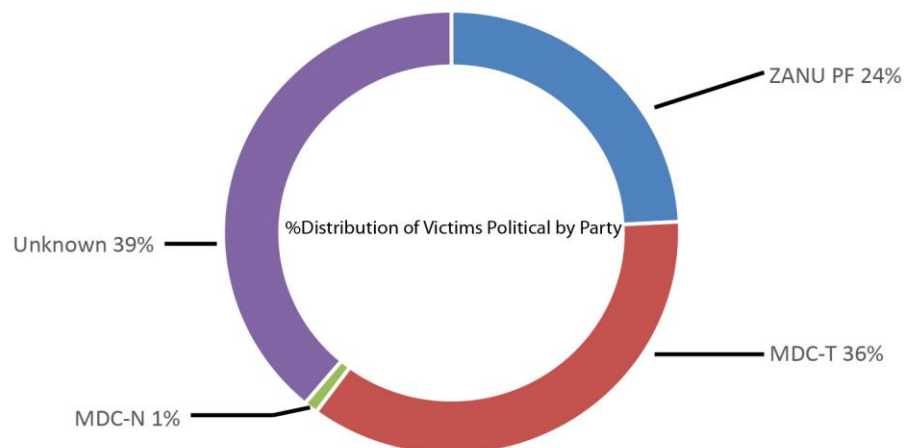
## **Data Gathering Methodology**

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.



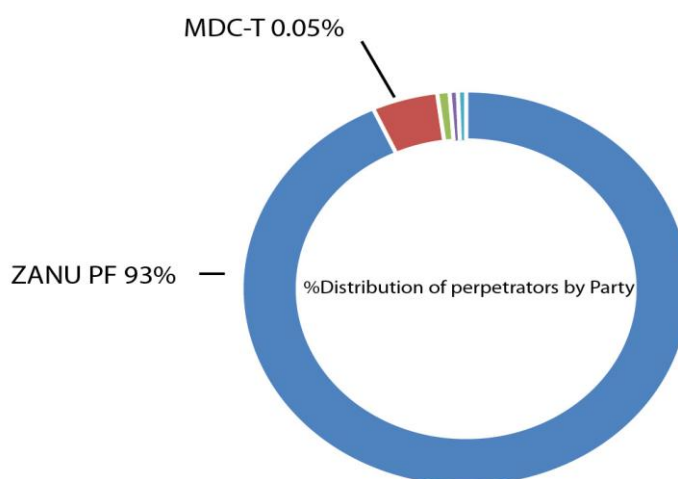
## THE DASHBOARD – INCIDENTS’ STATISTICS AT A GLANCE

### Analysis of Violence Victims by Party



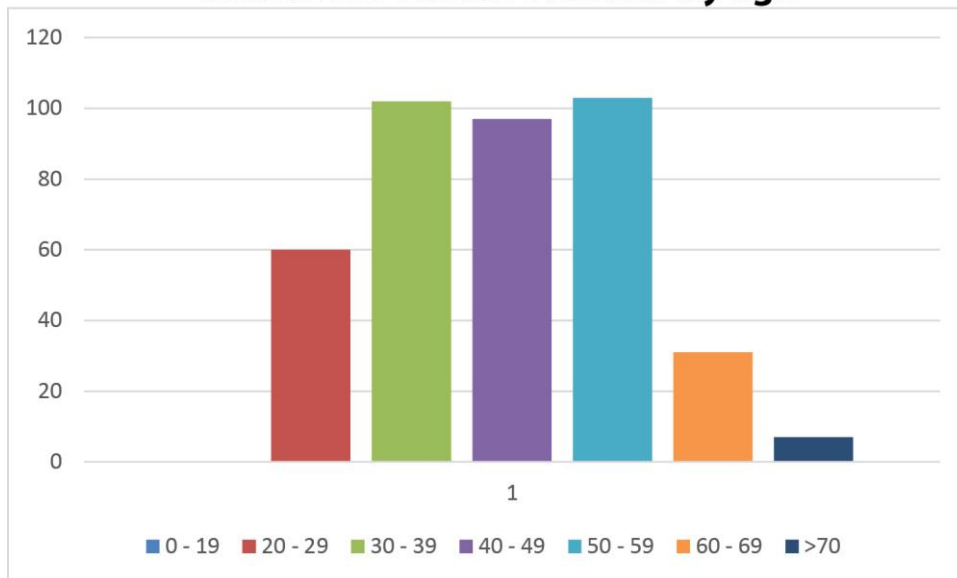
As the figure above shows, political affiliation of most of the victims of political violence, at 39 %, for November could not be determined. Victims of violence from MDC-T were also quite high at 36 %. November figure for MDC-T victims was lower than that of October which stood at 40 %. Zanu-PF victims, mostly as a result of intra-party conflict, made up 24.2 % of total incidences. These figures show a slight increase for Zanu-PF from October.

### Analysis of Violence Perpetrators by Party



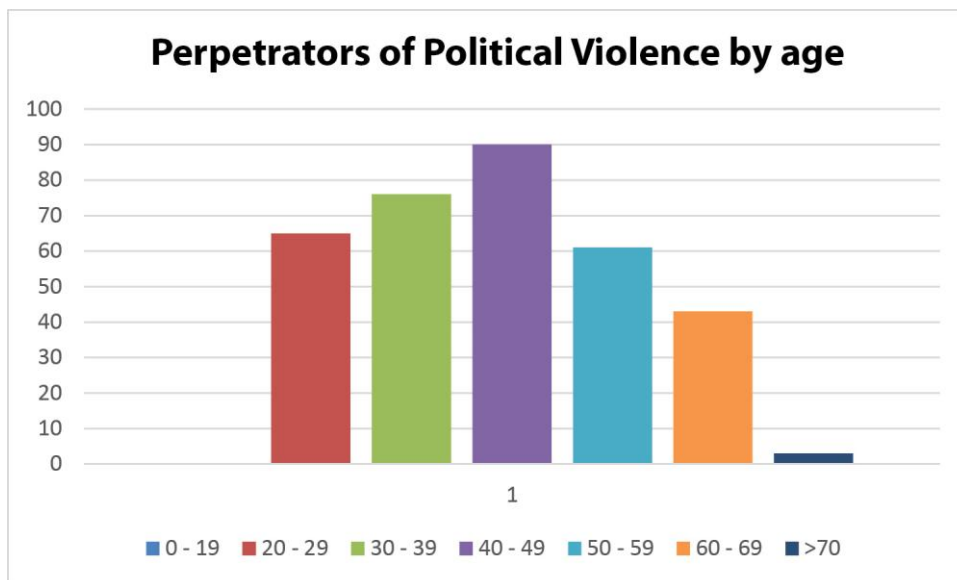
An overwhelming majority of perpetrators of violence for November were from Zanu-PF at 93 % compared to October Zanu-PF figure of 79.3 percent; while MDC-T came a far second with 0.05 percent. Such a trend shows without a doubt that Zanu-PF is the dominating culprit when it comes to violence.

## Victims of Political Violence by age



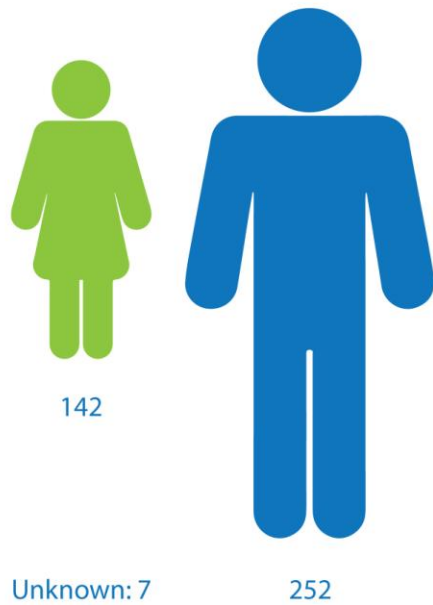
Most of the victims of violence fell in the age groups between 30 to 59 years of age; while youths between 20 and 29 also had a considerable number of victims. The over 69 years old age group had the least number of victims. Such a trend shows that violence is more rampant amongst those under 60 years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

## Analysis of Violence Perpetrators by Age



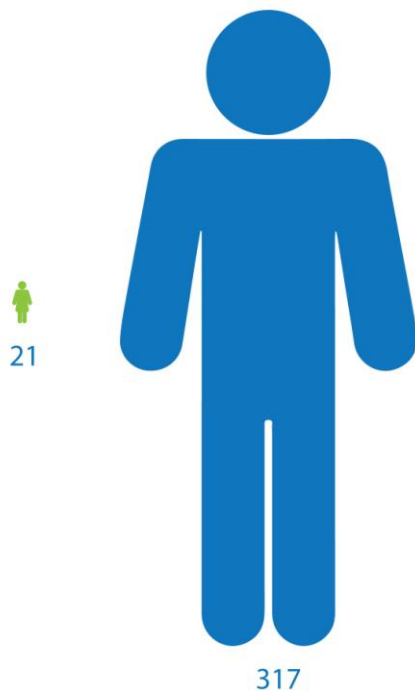
The highest number of perpetrators was found in the 40 – 49 years age group, followed by the 30-39 years age group. The 20-29 years age was next followed by those from 50 – 69 years of age. Very few were above 69 years of age. This trend has been consistent always.

### Analysis of Violence Victims by Gender



Like previous months, November showed the number of male victims of violence being more than that of women. Male victims were 252, while female victims were 142. Last month had more men victims at 290, while women were at 118. However, it is key to note that not all cases of violence are reported or in broad daylight. Others occur out of sight. Generally though, there were more victims of violence in November compared to October.

### Analysis of Violence Perpetrators by Gender



The number of male perpetrators of violence for November was 317 was slightly higher than in October which had 309. November male perpetrators figure is more than ten times that of women which stands at 21. This shows that men were more likely to perpetrate violence than women. In comparison October had 18 females, a trend that shows a slight increase in women perpetrators of violence.

## Distribution of Violations by Party across Provinces

PROVINCE	MDC-T	ZANU-PF	TOTAL VIOLATIONS
Bulawayo	0	3	3
Harare	0	8	8
Manicaland	0	6	6
Mashonaland Central	0	10	10
Mashonaland East	1	3	4
Mashonaland West	1	6	7
Masvingo	0	0	0
Matabeleland North	0	0	0
Matabeleland South	0	0	0
Midlands	3	3	6

Mashonaland Central had the largest number of violations at 10, with all of them perpetrated by Zanu-PF. Next was Harare with eight then Mashonaland West with seven and Manicaland six. Matabeleland provinces had no recorded violations for November.

### Distribution of violence by type across provinces

ACTS	Midlands	Byo	Mat. South	Mat. North	Masvingo	Manicaland	Harare	Mash. East	Mash. West	Mash. Central	TOTAL
Rape/Sexual Harassment	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Kidnapping/abduction	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	1
Assault	6	0	0	0	0	5	4	2	3	1	21
Theft/looting	0	0	0	1	0	3	0	7	1	1	13
Discrimination	2	0	0	0	6	8	1	8	9	13	47
MDP	1	0	0	0	0	2	5	2	1	1	12
Torture	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	1
Unlawful Detention	1	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	2
Intimidation /harassment	28	5	2	1	1	5	20	12	15	13	102
Displacement	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	1	0	1	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	1	0	0	1
Disrupted Political Mtg	0	1	0	0	0	0	2	0	1	0	4
<b>Total</b>	<b>38</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>25</b>	<b>34</b>	<b>33</b>	<b>30</b>	<b>30</b>	<b>208</b>

November showed the most common type of violence being intimidation and harassment at 102 out of 208, which was a decrease from 149 out of 248 incidences in October. Next was discrimination at 47 and then followed by assault at 21 and then 13 cases of theft and looting followed by 12 instances of malicious damage to property.

## Provincial Summaries

### Bulawayo

There were not much inter-party violations recorded in Bulawayo for the month of November. However, intra party conflict within both Zanu -PF and the Movement for Democratic Change (MDC-T) continued unabated. Several Zanu-PF meetings were abandoned due to internal disagreements in Lobengula and Luveve.

#### Highlights:

- On 13 November 2015, at Luveve Open Park in Ward 15, Nehanda District, during a Zanu-PF re-structuring exercise, aspiring chairperson, Kidwel Mujuru, who defected from the MDC-T in 2013, allegedly hired a group of drunken youths to disrupt the meeting. He was supposed to contest against the sitting chairperson, one, Sithole, who told him he was supposed to wait for some time as he recently joined the party. The elections were then abandoned after the rowdy youths hurled insults and threatened to beat up people.

### Harare

November was one of the most violent months in Harare in 2015. Violent clashes between Zanu-PF and MDC-T supporters took place in Harare South which left a number of MDC-T supporters injured. In a bizarre incident, a Zanu-PF supporter Proud Mupandwa axed dead two of his party colleagues in Manyame Park in Chitungwiza before it is alleged he took his own life in police custody before he even appeared in court. First Lady Grace Mugabe held a rally at Shawasha Grounds in Mbare on 19 November 2015. People were forced to attend the rally in Mbare as well as another one in Chitungwiza.

Zanu-PF had elections in most wards to choose cell committee members and district chairpersons. These were elected in preparation for the party conference in Victoria Falls early December. Some of the elections were reported to have been chaotic as contestants accused each other of irregularities. Areas which recorded chaotic elections include Highfield, Epworth, Kambuzuma and St Marys. Zanu-PF colleagues fought amongst themselves.

There were reports that people in Glen View South were forced to attend Zanu- PF meetings which were held three times a week during the period under review. Residents were also forced to take cell positions imposed on them in Glen View South against their will.

In other developments, on 1 November 2015, Zanu-PF supporters stopped an MDC-T rally, following this the situation became very violent.

## Highlights:

- On 1 November 2015, violence erupted in Harare South. MDC-T had a rally in the area which Zanu-PF vowed to stop as they said the area was a no go area for MDC-T. The rally was disrupted by Zanu-PF youths. In running battles that ensued following free-for-all violence, four houses belonging to MDC-T supporters were destroyed including the house of Harare South Youth chairperson, Svosve.
- On 8 November 2015, there were Zanu-PF district elections in Kuwadzana West. There was chaos as drunken Zanu-PF youths insulted people in Kuwadzana 5.
- Residents of Epworth were forced to go for Zanu-PF District elections to elect district members. In Takawira Ward there were two contestants, former chair Amidu Ali and Victor Kagamba. Most elderly people were against Kagamba whom they accused of being a perpetrator of violence. Residents were also disgruntled by the fact that they felt Kagamba was being imposed from the province. All the same, they were forced to go and vote and take their tenants with them. During the election on 10 November 2015, Kagamba allegedly accused a Zanu-PF activist Rudo Ngende (not real name) of encouraging people to vote against him. He threatened to burn her house.
- On 14 November 2015, Zanu-PF youth chairperson, Proud Mupambwa, struck with an axe in Manyame Park in St Marys constituency, two of his party colleagues. It is alleged that there were factional divisions in the area that could have led to the murder of the two. Reported facts are that there were elections on 12 November 2015 which were won by mostly a faction belonging to, one, Charaura. The faction which lost is supposedly led by Tendekai Mashwada who is said to have defected to Zanu-PF from MDC-T in 2005. Mashwada and his colleague, Mukabeta, had contested for chairperson positions which they lost to the other faction. It is alleged that Mupambwa was in Mashwada's faction and that Mupambwa committed the murders to discipline members of the rivalry faction. Two days after the grizzly double murder, Mupambwa is alleged to have committed suicide in police cells on 17 November 2015.
- On 15 November 2015, two Zanu-PF youths allegedly beat up an MDC-T supporter at Kamunhu Shopping Centre in Tafara for having a market stall at that location. The perpetrators, one, Pearson and another known as Tichaona Kanhukamwe, said they did not want anyone from the opposition party to have market stalls at Kamunhu Shopping Centre.
- There was a Zanu-PF meeting at Lusaka Community Centre on 19 November 2015. Lorraine Mutasa wanted to stand in as Highfield branch chairperson. Alice Chigodora disrupted the proceedings and queried the legality of holding such elections. She allegedly harassed Lorraine and threatened her with assault.

- On 19 November 2015, First Lady Grace Mugabe had a rally at Shawasha Grounds in Mbare. Vending markets at Siyaso, Mupedzanhamo and Mbare Musika were compulsorily closed from 9.30am till after 3 pm when the rally ended. People who live in nearby hostels were told to close their doors and attend the rally. Shops in the area were also forced to close. There was tight security and people were searched by the police as they got into the ground. The roads near the venue were closed.
- There were election campaigns for Zanu-PF chairpersons every Saturday starting from 4 November till 28 November 2015 when district elections were held in Kambuzuma. The elections were chaotic as Chaibva of Joshua Mqabuko side was not allowed to contest. After proving that she was part of Ward 14 Kambuzuma, she was allowed to contest but some voters shunned her. She gave up the contest but her supporters and people from Ward 14 had heated exchange of words and they almost fought. Samuel Chinyowa won as the chairperson.

### Manicaland

A massive Zanu-PF membership drive is underway in Manicaland as part of the party's strategies for the 2018 general elections. The party is selling electronic membership cards at a cost of US\$3-00 each. These cards form the basis of access to free and subsidised government aid. Party officials are urging people to use every trick in the book to source for the required money to buy the cards. They are alleged to have said that failure to buy the party affiliation cards will expose those in opposition politics. The threats are taking place despite the existence of domestic laws that allow citizens to associate freely with political parties of their choice. Leading the threats are constituencies such as Chipinge East and Chimanimani West.

Intra-party violence pitting those sympathetic to Vice President Emmerson Mnangagwa against supporters of First Lady Grace Mugabe has characterised the politics of Manicaland with each faction passing a vote of no confidence against the other. This has been more evident in the Women's League where two political gurus in the likes of Happiness Nyakuedzwa and Monica Mutsvangwa seem to be losing the battle. The two have been fighting in Mnangagwa's corner. Nyakuedzwa was recently suspended for failing to "toe the line" .

### Highlights:

- On 23 November 2015, at a Zanu-PF district meeting in Florida Club in Chikanga Mutare, Rudo Zondo (not real name) was allegedly physically assaulted by Ruvheneko Mariacha also of Zanu-PF due to factional differences. During the meeting, Zondo expressed sentiments that were sympathetic to the now former Women's League boss in Manicaland Happiness Nyakuedzwa, who is believed to be in the Mnangagwa camp. The statement angered the perpetrator who responded

by moving to where the victim was seated and punched her several times in the face. The victim did not fight back.

- On 24 November 2015, Zanu-PF supporter, Eunah Choto (not real name) of Chikanga 2 Mutare was allegedly physically assaulted by Netsai Bumba and Sungano Mariri also of Zanu-PF because of her perceived links with the People First party project. The incident happened at Mutare Hall soon after the party's provincial executive meeting chaired by Sandi Moyo, the deputy secretary in the Women's League. Moyo had come to resolve political differences in the league. After the meeting, the perpetrators confronted Choto and accused her of working secretly for People First. Before she could answer she was slapped in the face. The perpetrator claimed that people like Choto were creating problems in the party.
- In another case of political intolerance, on 24 November 2015, a village head in Grange Resettlement Ward 21 Mutasa South, was allegedly physically assaulted by, one, Danger Chikwariro. Both individuals belong to Zanu-PF but different factions. Chikwariro is believed to be rooting for the First Lady while Masukume is in the Mnangangwa camp. It is alleged that Chikwariro punched the victim using a clenched fist after the victim had said Mnangagwa would make a better leader than the First Lady.
- In an effort to boost funding for the party's Victoria Falls conference on 30 November 2015, Zanu-PF member, Chipatso, of Headlands allegedly forced people in Ward 32 to contribute US 50cents each towards the successful hosting of the conference. Even well known members of the MDC-T were forced to pay. They were threatened with eviction from their homes if they did not pay, and the victims complied out of fear and for the purpose of securing their stay in the area.
- In Chipinge Central, villagers were allegedly forced to buy Zanu-PF membership cards by Chikwanda, a war veteran. The membership cards cost US\$3-00, a fee that is exorbitant to the rural folk. The villagers were told that the electronic cards would be used to access government assistance. Chikwanda supposedly told them that in future, anyone without the card should not bother to seek government aid as absence of the card is clear indication that one is an opposition party member. It is significant to note that Chipinge Central and Chipinge East have embarked on a massive membership recruitment drive. some 5 km before Mt Selinda Mission.

### Mashonaland Central

Mashonaland Central province continues to be ripped apart by politics. In the month of November and as always, people who were viewed as enemies of the ruling Zanu-PF party were harassed, intimidated and discriminated against. This has become characteristic of this province. Non-governmental organizations are viewed as pro – MDC-T hence anyone associating with them is viewed negatively. A certain woman was



harassed for putting on a Zimrights T-shirt (Zimrights is a non-governmental organisation which works to promote and defend the rights of the people). Across the board, in cases observed in the province, MDC-T supporters were mostly recorded as the victims.

The general environment in Mashonaland Province is tense as people cannot freely express their will. Freedom of Assembly and Freedom to associate with parties, people or organisations of their choice is denied the people as intolerance reigns supreme in the province.

### **Highlights:**

- On 5 November 2015 at Mukuyu Business Centre in Ward 19 Guruve North, Steward Kunatsa, a Zanu-PF chairperson, and his deputy, Learnmore Muzava, allegedly harassed Bernard Munda (not real name) of Kazunga Village for not attending a Zanu-PF meeting.
- Netty Kanyayi (not real name) of Doro Village in Mt Darwin was allegedly harassed by Richard Mutoti who is a war veteran for putting on a Zimrights T-shirt. She was on her way to the community borehole when she was quizzed as to why she was putting on the T-shirt where it is not allowed. It was indicated that water would be rationed for her as she did not deserve to enjoy the benefits brought by Zanu-PF.
- On 6 November 2015, a driver who normally transports grain for Grain Marketing Board (GMB) in Mt Darwin had his services allegedly stopped by Taurai Zuze. It is alleged that Zuze indicated that the Zanu-PF chairperson for the area had instructed that the driver's services were no longer needed at the depot and should vacate the area as he had refused to ferry people to the First Lady's rally at Chimhanda in Rushinga in October 2015. This incident took place at the GMB depot as the driver was waiting for a loading permit.
- On 9 November 2015, Mubaiwa Village head, Kingstone Kavhai in Guruve South, allegedly announced that a Mupinyuri School Development Committee officer who supposedly supports former Vice President Joice Mujuru, be demoted.
- On 13 November 2015, at Kaverere Business Centre Ward 11 in Guruve South, a war collaborator was allegedly harassed by the War Collaborators' secretary after inquiring about the money contributed towards the vetting of collaborators. One, Chimbanda Chimwidora, who was irked by the enquiry, indicated that the victim must be demoted as a party official because she could influence factionalism.

- On 16 November 2015, a Zanu-PF chairperson, Shadreck Muswaka, and two youth leaders ordered a vendor from his stall at Dandamera in Concession because he is supposedly aligned to Vice President Mnangagwa's faction.
- A Zanu-PF youth activist and prophet known as Tsungai Makombe allegedly destroyed the toilets of another prophet in Mvurwi at Forrester J's farm. Makombe was attending a funeral of a relative next to the other prophet's shrine. He destroyed the toilets because the victim did not attend the funeral. The two are known as religious and political Zanu-PF rivals. The two prophets are alleged to be behind chaos of Ward 27 district restructuring exercise as they backed different candidates. Makombe was not arrested for destroying the toilets as the victim did not report for fear of further victimization. Makombe is feared as he is reported to have beaten up people in Nzvimbo in 2014 when the soccer team he supports was defeated.
- It is alleged that Makombe (mentioned above) also allegedly beat up and injured John Muzondo (not real name) during Ward 27 Zanu-PF district elections. Makombe beat Muzondo up because he is related to the candidate who won the chairperson position. Makombe is reported to have been supporting the opposing candidate who lost.

### Mashonaland East

Some notable conflict was whipped up following the First Lady's rally at Murehwa Centre on 21 November 2015. Cases of harassment, malicious damage to property and looting were documented after the visit wherein complaints and disgruntlement over the distribution of her donations to the people were lodged. Disorderly and opaque handling of the truckloads of donations posed a challenge with allegations emerging that a sizable quantity of the "goodies" did not get to the masses as intended.

The month also had a lot of food violation cases noted in the province. The government food and input distribution to the vulnerable is not reaching the targeted beneficiaries as it is looted by party and government officials.

The operating environment was not conducive for ordinary people to freely express their rights as there were cases where some people were forced to do certain actions and associate or assemble against their wishes.



First Lady Grace Mugabe rally in Murehwa on 21 November, 2015.

Photo Credit: Newsday

### Highlights:

- Bernard Nyamande (not real name) was forced to transport Zanu-PF youths from Maramba to Murehwa centre for the First Lady’s rally in Murehwa. He was threatened that his shop would be closed if he did not comply.
- On 7 November 2015, the MDC-T party was not allowed to have a meeting to sell party cards at Soruwa Village in Murehwa North. Alleged perpetrators were Innocent Huteyebani, Zanu-PF youth officer, Kudakwashe Materera and Moffat Rute who had been supposedly sent by councillor Rudo Matiza.
- It has been reported that, around 12 -15 November 2015, there were attempts to evict commercial farmer Andrew Lock off his Gwaai Farm. Villagers in the community are however opposed to the take over and indicated they want the farmer in the area. Lock is said to be the only white farmer remaining in the area and is helping the community in a number of ways. According to Lock, as quoted in the Commercial Farmers Union periodic report, efforts by the supposed “new owner” to come and set up his irrigation equipment at the farm have been met by resistance from local youths who have scattered his pipes and removed his sprinklers. The youths have also threatened to overturn his vehicle if he returns. Meanwhile Lock’s lawyer is exploring ways of reversing the offer letter to the “new owner”.
- On 13 November 2015, a Zanu-PF official addressed students at Parirehwa School in Goromonzi West. He indicated that those who are 15 years-old and above who would vote in 2018 can participate in dancing competitions and pageants. A toll free number was given to those interested. It has been reported that the number

requires many details from the caller. The students suspect that they are probably being registered to vote.

## Mashonaland West

Chaotic Zanu-PF elections were reported in the month of November in Mashonaland West. Some were ongoing cases from the previous month, in October, that had not been resolved. Elections were cancelled in October at Benhura area in Mhondoro Ngezi and still failed to take place on 3 November due to misunderstandings between members. Such intra-party conflict was observed at elections held in Mhondoro Ngezi, Hurungwe West and Zvimba South. Party members turned against one against another and accused each other of cheating while some election candidates were rejected.

MDC-T leader, Morgan Tsvangirai, held rallies in Chegutu East and Chinhoyi which Zanu-PF members tried to interfere with in one way or the other. The rally in Chegutu East went on smoothly but the local councillor Michael Marecha, believed to be from the ruling party, allegedly tried to prevent the announcement of the rally in Dombwe schools by a party representative. In Chinhoyi, Zanu-PF youths allegedly came after Tsvangirai had already left the venue and harassed people.

### Highlights:

- At the rally held by MDC president, Tsvangirai, on 6 November 2015 at Alaska grounds in Chinhoyi, supporters openly sang party songs and enjoyed the entertainment by Nyau dancers. However, Zanu-PF youths descended on the venue after Tsvangirai had left. They denounced the MDC-T party and went after Ward 14 residents who had attended the meeting. The youths tore MDC-T posters and attacked the people with stones. The situation almost turned chaotic as the attacked retaliated and the Zanu-PF youths fled and jumped into a truck that drove away.
- On 9 November 2015 at Sengwe, senior members of Zanu-PF in Hurungwe West who failed to stand in as district candidates had harsh words for interim candidates. They accused those who qualified to be sell outs. Joseph Sande the former youth chairperson allegedly prevented the people's favourite, Georgina Hoka, from taking the position of women's league chair. The reason she was not allowed to take the post is that her late husband was a member of MDC-T. Sande was defeated by a newcomer as people supposedly did not want him as he is notorious for being cruel during the elections. He is said to have taken part in the assault of village heads towards the June 10 elections in 2008. Generally the women in the area whose husbands are opposition members were denied to participate in community activities even though their husbands were forced to surrender their party regalia.

- On 7 November 2015, at Dombwe Business Centre in Ward 17 in Chegutu East, a member of the MDC-T, was dragged out of the party rally Tsvangirai was addressing and assaulted by another supporter known as “General” Chidhakwa. He was accused of being drunk and disrespecting the party leader as he was making noise as Tsvangirai was addressing the rally.
- It is alleged that farms are being re-demarcated in Hurungwe East for Zanu-PF youths loyal to constituency legislator, Sarah Mahoka. Those whose farms are targeted are party members who have been labelled supporters of former Vice President Mujuru. Mahoka addressed a meeting in Chikangwe Hall in Karoi and indicated that farms are being given to ten youths per farm. It is alleged the youths are being used to perpetrate violence against people who are against the ascendancy of the First Lady in the party and against opposition party members. The youths have already started being used for ground work for 2018 elections, it is alleged. The demarcated farms are in Ward 3 and in Kasimure area. However, asked about the matter by ZPP, Mahoka denied any knowledge of it.
- On 22 November 2015, at Wamika Club, village head, Sabina Munzwandi, allegedly ‘manhandled’ a woman who had voted for Aubrey Hativagone as Zanu-PF chairperson in Mhondoro Mubaira. She wanted the lady to vote for headman Taka Mushandu. The lady who wanted to fight back questioned why she could not vote for the candidate. People had to intervene to avert a fist fight.

## Masvingo

Hippo Valley and Triangle Estates have been the economic life blood of the province employing thousands of workers and contributing directly to the fiscus through taxes. Since end of November, estates workers have been on industrial action which some believe is politically-motivated. The strike has the effect of causing massive sugar shortages as a whole two weeks production has been lost costing both the company and the government thousands of dollars in lost revenue.

Some prominent politicians are suspected to be behind the industrial action.

### Highlights:

- On 27 November 2015, general workers at Hippo Valley Estate in Chiredzi embarked on industrial action demanding salary increase from the current US\$170 to US\$600 per month. There are some prominent persons who are allegedly supporting the strike and urging the workers not to return to work until their pay demands are met.

## Matabeleland North

The major political activity in the province in the month of November was the intensive resource mobilisation for the Zanu-PF conference which was slated for early December in Victoria Falls.

As such, only Zanu-PF was visible on the ground as they were busy preparing for their annual conference in Victoria Falls. Civic society organizations were more active in commemorating the 16 days of activism against gender based violence.

Poverty and hunger affected communities of Binga, Tsholotsho Lupane and Hwange the worst. Several cases of children, especially girls dropping out of school due to poverty and early marriages were noted. Environmental rights were grossly violated by poachers who used cyanide to poison water and kill elephants. As a result elephants, birds and other animals died.

### **Highlights:**

- On 4 November 2015, Philip Nyoni, a member of the Social Welfare Department team distributing food at Madimoni Centre in Lusulu was accused of being an MDC-T member and had his phone taken from him for several hours by Zanu-PF district chairperson for Sinamagonde District, Allan Tshuma. He was also verbally insulted.

## Matabeleland South

Few political activities were noted in the province in November as people went about mainly looking for food. The severe heat wave also restricted people's movements. Political parties held low level meetings. Intra-party conflict within Zanu-PF was noted in some areas as members were scrambling for limited opportunity to go to Victoria Falls for their conference set for December. The rally held by the First Lady and Vice President Phelekezela Mphoko in the province fuelled more controversy as members fought for recognition.

### **Highlights:**

- On 17 November 2015, Japhet Moyo, a Zanu-PF committee member, and kraal head, Azeron Nkala, removed chairperson of the local Red Cross garden committee and a pastor with the Zion Church from his post as the committee chairperson accusing him of not being a member of Zanu- PF. This disadvantaged villagers as they want a non partisan person for the Red Cross programme.

## Midlands

Denial of access to free government inputs was the major human rights abuse recorded in November in the province. The denial affected mostly people in the opposition parties and the discrimination contravened the Universal Declaration of Human Rights mainly the civil and political rights as well as the Constitution of Zimbabwe Chapter 4 Section 67 which allows citizens to join and participate freely in political parties of their choice. The denial of seed to potential farmers will lead to a decreased farming acreage in the 2015/16 farming season thereby affecting people's livelihood and putting a strain on state coffers as most of these vulnerable groups will look up to the government for assistance.

### Highlights:

- On 30 November 2015, Senzeni Nyawiri (not real name) an MDC-T supporter of Machona Village Mberengwa North was verbally harassed and threatened with physical harm after she attended her party's rally at Pamushama Business Centre. The alleged perpetrator, Mpendulo Ndlovu, reportedly approached the victim soon after the meeting and questioned her why she had attended an MDC rally. When the victim tried to explain that she was a member of that political party, the actor said that the area was now a liberated zone with opposition politics banned.
- On 28 November 2015, in a case of MDP (malicious damage to property) Melania Shuro (not real name) of MDC-T from Matiyi Village Ward 11 Mberengwa North had the roof of her house allegedly destroyed by Phimal Masukume of Zanu-PF after she attended an MDC-T rally at Mataga Centre. The incident has left the victim and her three children with no roof during this rainy season. It is said that the perpetrator went to Shuro's house while she had gone to the rally and unthatched her kitchen hut removing all the grass and roofing timber. When the victim asked why he had done so, Masukume replied and said, "That's how MDC-T members should be treated."
- On 5 November 2015, a teacher at Kasuwe Primary Ward 12 Gokwe Sesame, was verbally harassed and branded an MDC supporter by Gift Mudhina, a Zanu-PF youth leader, after he refused to attend Zanu-PF victory celebrations. On the day, people including teachers were force marched to the venue of the celebrations Kasuwe Primary by the actor. The victim refused to attend the celebrations citing lack of interest as the major reason. The refusal infuriated the perpetrator who responded by calling the victim a 'traitor'.
- On 26 November 2015 in Gokwe Chireya, there was an MDC-T meeting at Mutora Business Centre where intra-party violence came to the fore. The meeting had been called by the provincial leadership, in an effort to deal

with party internal disagreements. At the meeting, Chengetai Dzikamunhenga allegedly stood up and demanded the resignation of Kizito Chimhembe from the chairperson position because of his close ties with Zanu-PF. Chimhembe responded by saying that he was being crucified because some colleagues suspected he was advancing the Nelson Chamisa agenda of wresting power from Tsvangirai. He further said that he lawfully elected and would not throw in the towel before completion his term. Chamisa, legislator for Kuwadzana is said to be leading a faction against Tsvangirai. The two have, however, since denied there are factions in the party.



## FOOD AND OTHER VIOLATIONS

### Manicaland

- On 22 November 2015, a visually-impaired man and two elderly people of Ward 20, Nyerere Village in Musikavanhu Chipinge were denied access to free government inputs on grounds that their children were opposition party members. Each person was supposed to get two bags of fertilizer and a 10kg pack of seed maize, but the three were denied, despite their obvious vulnerability due to disability and old age.

### Mashonaland Central

- On 5 November 2015, Letty Nhaurwa (not real name) was forced to pay US\$1 as registration fee to get farming inputs which had been donated by First Lady Grace Mugabe. Zvondai Muparaganda, a Zanu-PF youth officer, forced Nhaurwa to pay the money as she is suspected of being an MDC-T supporter.
- On 6 November 2015, the village head of Mucheri Village in Guruve North Ward 19 selected his relatives and friends to share maize from Social Welfare. One of the victims who was denied was a 75 year old man. Normally the maize from Social Welfare Department is for the aged, the sick and orphans in the communities.
- On 10 November 2015, MDC-T youths and supporters threatened to get crash government input distribution. Zanu-PF is accused of using discriminatory tactics in registering names of beneficiaries. The programme was to benefit all Mvurwi residents who have land in peri-urban areas. More than 200 people are using council land for farming. The Mvurwi councillor did not consider the MDC-T grievances. The Zanu-PF youths compiling lists were ordered by leaders to leave out people who are not in Zanu-PF party structures. This angered MDC-T youths who questioned this unfairness. Those who were left out included four widows and other MDC-T elderly people.
- On 21 November 2015, there was fertilizer distribution at Muonwe Township in Bindura North. Village heads, David Mushove, Leonard Madamombe, and Zanu-PF ward chairperson, Abraham Mhembere, said fertilizer was for the strong supporters of Zanu-PF. John Nhira, Margaret Nhanga, Lloyd Mamombe (not their real names), among a few other people, were denied the fertilizer because of not attending Zanu-PF meetings. These people are old and Mamombe cannot walk.
- On 23 November 2015, Ward 11 councillor in Rushinga was almost beaten up by headman Samuel Madzinga after he had changed the list of beneficiaries of inputs. The headman had selected the people in his village to receive the inputs but the councillor changed the list. He indicated inputs are for those who attended the

rally by the First Lady. The headman was irked by this. The two men almost fought and some people had to intervene.

- Councillors from wards 9, 10 and 15 in Muzarabani South discriminated against MDC-T members on input distribution. They registered only Zanu-PF members. This happened between 7 and 17 November 2015.
- A man known as Magwendere allegedly brought some war veterans and forced a farmer known as Zungunde (not real name) into a car. He managed to sneak away. The victim was targeted because he took over Magwendere's deceased brother's plot. Magwendere accuses the victim of having his farm halved for his deceased brother.

### Mashonaland East

- The Zanu-PF campaign team at Sengwe Business Centre in Chikomba East denied Maggie Shunga of Jena Village and Zebediah Dingo of Ndanga Village (not real names) fertilizer because they belong to MDC-T party. The perpetrators, Jane Chikomba, Adonis Mandizha and Mildred Chigogo, indicated that inputs would not be given to MDC-T members. It is alleged that the perpetrators took the fertilizer for themselves.
- On 4 November 2015, Clever Kaitano and acting village head of Rangani Village Never Pandigomba of Mudzi North allegedly refused to have the Social Welfare Department and at least one non-governmental organisation to distribute food in the area. They indicated that the people had adequate food even though people are starving.
- On 5 November 2015, a Ward 16 village head in Mutoko East omitted the name of a widow during food distribution. Her late husband was an opposition leader in the area. The person in front of her Manyika Maenda alerted her that she had seen her name on the list. The case was reported to the councillor Karimazondo who took the list and saw her name which had been omitted and called her to receive her share.
- On 22 November 2015, there was input distribution in all Seke rural wards. The agricultural extension officers demanded payment of US\$5 for transport which was rejected by the people. The fee was reduced to US\$1. Fertilizer distribution was delayed to 7pm at Gombe Shopping Centre in Seke and the officers indicated it would not be distributed as it was late. The people refused to leave and the police were called. The officers indicated that the people were causing tension. The people explained how they had been forced to wait for two days and had seen 18 bags being put aside. The people asked the police to monitor distribution.
- On 22 November 2015, there was a distribution planning meeting at Mukarakate Business Centre in Murehwa South for Social Welfare. Some old people were left

out of the list as they were accused of being MDC-T supporters. The village heads took over the distribution from the agricultural officer.

- On 26 November 2015, Petros Tsubvu (not real name) was removed from the list of beneficiaries of maize seed from the government by village head Collen Chapanduka of Chapanduka Village in Karamba Ward 14 in Maramba Pfungwe. He was denied the seed because he is an MDC-T supporter.
- On 28 November 2015, the maize, fertilizer and seed were distributed at night up to 10pm at Manyaira Business Centre in Marondera West. The people were made to pay US\$1.50 per item. The food was from the social welfare and meant to benefit the old people. The leaders listed their names to benefit include councillors and several village heads. Those who deserved could not benefit as some people were made to benefit instead of the targeted people.
- There were Zanu-PF intra-party clashes at Goromonzi turnoff in Ward 25 during the distribution of inputs donated by the First Lady to thank supporters who attended her rally in Murehwa. Those who were set to benefit were listed during the rally in Murehwa. There were clashes when those who did not attend the rally wanted to benefit from the inputs. They accused those who attended the rally of belonging to the wrong basket. The people who attended the rally were assaulted and sustained injuries. At least four people were assaulted. Alleged perpetrators included Enock Mutizwa, Samuel Pattison and Charles Ruzvidzo.
- It has been reported that some of the items that were brought to Murehwa by the First Lady at her rally were distributed in Mashonaland East districts. Most of the people who had used money to go to the rally hoping to get something did not get anything. In Mutoko East a 50 kg bag of rice was shared by 17 people. Most of the old people did not get the food items.
- Zanu-PF youths were assaulted and had dogs set on them when they protested on the “disappearance” of food items brought during the First Lady’s rally. The items were only distributed when political leaders had left. The people were told the rest would be taken to the police station to be distributed the following day. Most people slept outside waiting for fertilizer. The following day some people went to the police station and could not find the items there. Zanu-PF youths protested against the disappearance of the items. The police set dogs on the youths and assaulted them. In some areas of Goromonzi food items were only distributed to Zanu-PF members who attended the rally.

### Mashonaland West

- Bernard Zunde (not real name) was denied fertilizer by a ward 17 councillor in Chegutu East. The councillor allegedly indicated that he had a grudge against Zunde so he could not get his pack when it was his turn on the queue.

- On 13 November 2015, at Benhura Primary School in Ward 5, Mhondoro Ngezi, Zanda Tsime (not real name) an MDC-T member and a council candidate in 2013 was denied maize from government. He was told to go and get maize from his party and his kraal head. It was indicated that maize was for Zanu-PF supporters only.
- A Zanu-PF youth leader Kudakwashe Ndiya registered the Zanu PF supporters to get farming inputs at his house. The list was used to distribute maize and seed at GMB Sanyati depot. The list left out vulnerable people. The list should have been compiled by the agricultural extension officer and the headman who are in touch with the community and know the people in need. The food from Social Welfare was meant for vulnerable people.
- In Magunje, Ward 10 Zanu-PF chairperson only called Zanu-PF people he knew for the meeting to register for food. He indicated that he left out other people because they had attended Tsvangirai's rally and had eaten meat at the rally. Distribution took place at Chishumba Township on 20 November 2015, while the meeting for registering had taken place four days earlier on the 16<sup>th</sup> of November.
- On 18 November 2015 at Maumbe Township during a ward meeting, Nickson Mandere a councillor in Magunje instructed all village heads to register the names of Zanu-PF supporters first and those who are district members. Eric Ziki, an MDC-T activist, and Fadzai Miti (not real names), the wife of a former MDC-T councillor, were cancelled from the list.
- On 25 November 2015, in Chegutu East inputs were fairly distributed at Wicklow Secondary school on 25 November 2015. However, residents had to pay US\$1 for transport which was questioned by a resident called Ngorima. The councillor Titus Matenga said all the wards had agreed on the fee which was not a satisfactory answer. Ngorima had questioned how the inputs had arrived in the area and who had paid for the transportation but no satisfactory answer was given.
- On 27 November 2015, teachers were denied fertiliser in Ward 1, Zvimba West at Guzha Township. The fertiliser was distributed to all other residents.

### Masvingo

- On 17 November 2015, Robert Mazarira (not real name) a Zanu-PF member from Chimpira Village Ward 16, Chivi Central, was verbally assaulted and threatened by Gudoshava Malvern an HIV/AIDS activist, who allegedly also denied him access to government inputs claiming the victim is an MDC member and his medical reports pertaining to his health status have been doctored to enable him access free inputs. The inputs, in the form of two 50kg bags of fertilizer, 10kg maize seed and 50kg maize, had been availed by Social Welfare Department targeting the marginalised, vulnerable groups such as the physically challenged and those on ART (Anti-Retroviral Treatment).

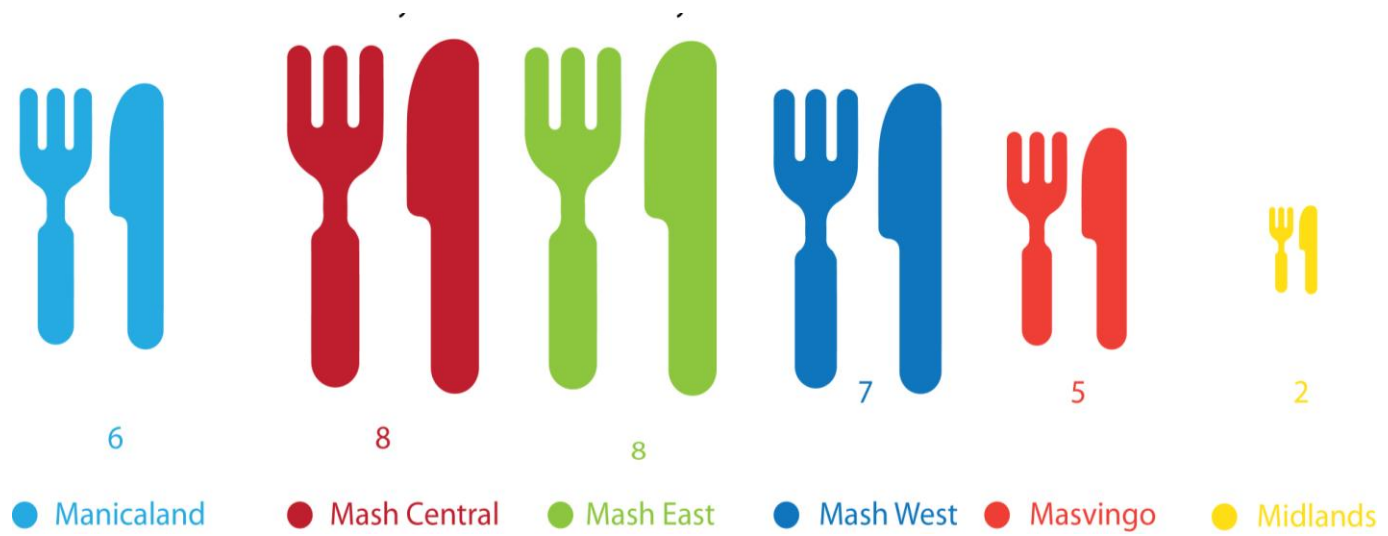
## Matabeleland North

- School children as young as Form 3 are living as adults, as husband and wife due to destruction of family values. Those who can catch fish in the Zambezi are considered well up and marry as many wives/ small girls as possible.
- The dwindling water in the Zambezi has seen schools and clinics going without water.

## Midlands

- On 15 November 2015, John Sasa (not real name), an MDC-T member of Vhenya Business Centre Ward 13 Gokwe Sesame, was denied access to maize seed donated by government through GMB. Thokozani Nkomo of Zanu-PF took the 10kg seed pack meant for the victim claiming that opposition party members cannot benefit from the Zanu-PF government. The victim went home empty handed and will find it difficult to farm this season worse still manage his family livelihood.
- On 29 November 2015, Sandra Zoba (not real name) and MDC-T member at Kwasira Village Ward 11 Mberengwa North, was denied access to maize seed by Joel Mpofu of Zanu-PF on grounds that the victim does not attend Zanu-PF meetings. The seed had been donated by government through GMB and was meant for the vulnerable and less privileged. On the day, perpetrator (Mpofu) who was distributing the seed said he was not mandated to serve opposition party members. He singled out Zoba and said that he was not giving her the seed because she does not attend Zanu-PF meetings.

## Summary of Food Violations by Province



Mashonaland provinces had the largest number of violations around food and inputs distribution. These were followed by Manicaland which also had significant number of cases.

## SPECIAL FEATURE

### Zimbabweans in chronic state of fear - Study

**The generality of Zimbabweans is plagued by fear. Though this fear is chiefly politically motivated, it manifests itself in different forms. Below is an excerpt from a research entitled “Fear and Voting for Peace”, which was commissioned by Zimbabwe Peace Project. The study, which sought to instil confidence in citizens on political processes, elections and peaceful co-existence, looked at “how fear drives citizens to act and respond to certain actions during elections and at other times”.**

#### **Understanding the Different Types of Fear**

Fear is an emotion and the processes of generation of fear either imagined or real fear is context and time dependent. The Oxford Dictionary of Politics further states that “fear can be generated from terror and consent can be won through fear, through beatings, disappearances, forceful abduction. Consequently, people can come to live in a chronic state of fear. Fear is not only a subjective experience but can be collectively experienced by communities”.

Citizens interviewed for this report looked at their experiences with elections and other times of violence and raised concerns about the impact of fear and how it influences some individuals to make decisions about choices they ordinarily do not identify with. One key informant remarked that “citizens had very limited choices, either vote for a party that will guarantee your safety, security and not a party that will lead you to being evicted, harassed or victimized, it was a no brainer.”

The absence of overt violence is not an indication that there is no potential for such violence that can be used at any time. Failure by the state to prosecute or arrest accused persons creates a sense of impunity and removes prospects of remedies for the victims’, further instilling fear in them. In cases of prosecutions, communities are still concerned that perpetrators may consider some form of revenge once they have completed their sentence. The types of fear remain different depending on location, social status and interests at play.

#### *Fear of being evicted*

Evictions have been used as a tool of punishment. Newly resettled farmers are concerned and or threatened that only one political party champions land reform and the advent of the opposition or any other party could entail land evictions. It is stressed that if the ruling party loses elections in a particular constituency or ward, farmers resettled in the area will be evicted.

In urban settings, especially at markets such as Mbare Musika and Mupedzanhamo, market stalls are allegedly distributed on partisan basis and as the elections and national

or state events such as the burial of national heroes among others, vendors are allegedly threatened with evictions in the event that the Movement for Democratic Change (MDC) wins an election. Senior officials from Zanu PF view an MDC victory as a reversal of the independence gains.

#### *Fear of reprisals, beatings, torture*

In some communities reprisals take many different forms including beatings, torture, harassment, selectivity in benefitting from handouts. The targeted individual is exploited on their points of weaknesses, or are re-victimized if they have been targeted before. The prospects of re-victimization create an un-conducive environment for survivors of past violence to freely participate in political processes. Cases of political violence at elections and other times have had recorded cases of individuals in communities being targeted and used as examples for others.

The indirect impact of seeing violence meted out on others causes some individuals to change their intentions or to act without freedom of choice. Examples include the victimization of business persons accused of being aligned with the opposition in Mbare. Such cases attract so much publicity that commoners in and around Mbare feel that if such could happen to a businessperson what of an ordinary market vendor.

#### *Fear of the Unknown and Known*

Some of the communities do not even have to wait for any violence or harassment to commence. Instances of individuals relocating to safe spaces such as urban areas have been reported as a pre-emptive measure. This has often resulted in such individuals failing to participate in elections or any local processes. The Zimbabwe Democracy Institute indicated “the 2013 elections were driven by fear as a psychological warfare as compared to a physical warfare of 2008; a harvest of fear. During the 2013 harmonised elections, citizens were systematically intimidated and threatened with violence by drawing on past memories of the June 2008 presidential run-off election.” A respondent in the ZDI report states the potential and ability of violence to be meted out,

*“We knew that if Zanu-PF promises violence they will do it and it is not that we think that Zanu-PF is capable of unleashing violence but we have lived to see what Zanu-PF can do in the 2008 presidential runoff. When Zanu-PF say they will deal with you surely they will come and deal with you”.*

#### **Direct and Indirect Impact of Past Violence**

The social and economic cost of violence has not been adequately documented in respect of repeated cycles and periods of violence in Zimbabwe. Conclusions of whether certain political parties would have won or lost in absence of intimidation and violence has also not been sufficiently debated. From interviews conducted, citizens in some areas continue to be affected by previous violence that even those who are literate fake illiteracy during the voting process and end up being “assisted” voters. Questions have arisen as to how people such as teachers plead illiteracy when their communities know that they are



teachers. When such individuals are “assisted” to vote, this casts suspicion on the integrity of the vote.

The direct impact of fear can be explained by the unusually high numbers of assisted voters in some constituencies. Unfortunately domestic, regional and international organizations do not invest in documenting the actual reasons for such high numbers of assisted voters. Some of the provinces that recorded high numbers of assisted voters in 2013 have also in the past correspondingly recorded high numbers of cases of violence, torture, displacements and intimidation.

### **Causes and Indicators of Fear in Communities**

In many of the rural communities, notable opinion leaders such as teachers, district officials, councillors and village heads are also equally affected by violence. Teachers, notably, have been victims of violence in previous years and some who worked for the election administration body were arrested and charged with electoral fraud in 2008. This instilled fear in teachers and civil servants. In some areas, conversations were dominated by a few individuals or those that were mandated to speak. This was evident during the Constitution reform exercise where a few individuals were coached to present key talking points that resonated with ideas of certain political parties. As an example the Law Society of Zimbabwe (LSZ) protested that “coaching” people stifled free participation thereby negating the principles of inclusivity and openness. Effectively, the participation in the Constitution-making process was not self-driven but coerced. The Constitution outreach and the referendum were arguably precursors of what was to come in the elections with political parties using the exercise to gauge the effectiveness of fear in influencing the voting patterns of the electorate.

### **Instigators of Fear**

The source of fear past and present is debated in Zimbabwe’s narrative. Victims and perpetrators all have different narratives of the sources, reasons, causes and facts. From the interviews, the main source or instigators of fear in rural communities are the traditional leaders and traditional structures. Traditional leaders have a statutory recognition passed in 2000 after years of being sidelined by the post independence government. During their existence in the absence of central government interference and increased political contestation, traditional structures appeared neutral and balanced. Chiefs, village heads and kraal heads were respected and not feared. Increasingly in some communities traditional leaders are feared while in a few communities they still remain the vanguards of traditional practices and community cohesion.

During the elections and campaign periods, individuals not resident in those communities are reportedly brought in by political parties. These external actors are also mentioned as sources of intimidation but operating with the approval of local leadership. Individuals employed by state institutions such as district officials, police officers, soldiers and perceived intelligence operatives are also cited as instigators of violence. The use or abuse of state institutions and individuals in carrying out acts of intimidation has eroded

trust in such institutions. Interviews conducted for this report strongly suggest that several institutions, which are mandated to safeguard the Constitution have in the past been in breach of the same. In some areas, police officers and stations are not open to entertaining matters that are deemed to be politically-sensitive such that some victims fail to report to the police because of fear of arrests and victimization. It is very possible that the same police officers are also afraid.

The abuse of the law contributes to fear in communities. Reports from local and international organizations also extensively capture the impact of serving and retired soldiers in instilling fear in communities. These institutions remain closed to civilian oversight processes until the introduction of the 2013 Constitution. The extent of public interface is further determined by the levels of tolerance and polarity that exists.

## THE INTERVIEW

**This month we speak to Transform Zimbabwe, a new party which was formed in 2013 with the mission of putting forward a prayer based agenda as a possible solution to the country's governance system. Below is an excerpt of the ZPP interview with Transform Zimbabwe's chief of protocol, David Rodhi Takaruza (TZ).**

**ZPP:** As a new party what is your take of the political landscape?

**TZ:** The political landscape is very distorted in favour of Zanu-PF.

**ZPP:** Any challenges that you are meeting?

**TZ:** Zanu-PF uses everything at their disposal to make sure that they shut us out. They use entities such as the Ministry of Home Affairs, the youth, Zimbabwe Electoral Commission and institutions such as the army to make sure that they shut our other political parties.

**ZPP:** How has all that impacted on you?

**TZ:** Zanu-PF is stopping at nothing to entrench its power and as Transform Zimbabwe we are experiencing a lot of challenges in the political realm. The spirit of intolerance by Zanu-PF is so strong that almost every gathering we have had since the inception of the party has been violently challenged by Zanu-PF. (Many of) our meetings have been disrupted by Zanu-PF if not disrupted there have been follow-ups of Transform Zimbabwe members after the meetings by Zanu-PF posing as state security agents.

Another challenge we face is the Public Security and Order Act (POSA) we have to apply for clearance for any of our meetings, but the police are very slow in clearing our meetings. Without reason they will just say we are sorry we cannot clear your meeting because Zanu-PF is having a meeting say in Kuwadzana and you are having yours in Waterfalls and you will not be cleared because Zanu-PF is having a meeting elsewhere. It becomes very difficult to operate in such an environment. The police want to be there, to spy for Zanu-PF, to see who has spoken, who has attended. Because of that the spirit of fear is being promoted by the police. ###

**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.
<b>A) RAPE</b>	Is whereby a male person has sexual intercourse or anal intercourse with female person without the consent of the latter
<b>B) AGGRAVATED         SEXUAL ASSAULT</b>	<b>INDECENT</b> 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.
<b>A) FALANGA (FOOT WHIPPING)</b>	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>B) SUBMERSION/SUFFOCATION         (WATER BOARDING)</b>	A form of assault whereby water is forced into the victim's breathing passages so as to simulate drowning.
<b>C) BEATING</b>	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.)
<b>D) OTHER ASSAULT</b>	

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)
<b>A) ABDUCTION</b> <b>B) UNLAWFUL ARREST</b>	<p>The taking away of a person using intimidation , open force of violence</p> <p>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</p> <p>Depriving a person of his or her freedom of bodily movement without lawful justification and/or authority.</p>
<b>C) UNLAWFUL DETENTION</b> <b>D) FORCED DISPLACEMENT</b>	<p>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"</p>
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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