

Trends of human rights violations (January-June 2012)



In January 2012, Heal Zimbabwe Trust embarked on an exercise to collect, analyse and verify cases of politically related human rights violations that derail peace building and national healing initiatives in selected districts in the country. On a weekly basis through its community structures, the organization compiled all incidences of human rights violations in a bid to inform stakeholders within and outside the concerned communities on violations that occurred. The trends that came out clearly from the weekly reports point to a resurgence of incidents of human rights violations spreading across the country and mainly concentrated in the Mashonaland East and Central, Manicaland, Masvingo and Midlands provinces. The most common forms of politically motivated human rights violations in the period January 2012 to June 2012 were intimidation and assault. The parties involved in most cases were MDC T and Zanu PF members. The 2008 political violence that left close to 250 people dead and thousands displaced was, in the period under review, used as a tool for continued intimidation and harassment. A number of communities reported that those who are responsible for the intimidation taking place continue to tell the targeted victims that a repeat of what happened in 2008 or worse victimization can happen to anyone perceived to be “hard headed and not prepared to repent”.

In the period January to June, one politically motivated murder of Cephas Magura, an MDC member was recorded in Mudzi in Mashonaland East province. In a commendable show of force, state law enforcement agents arrested six suspected ZANU Pf supporters implicated in the murder. Politicisation of food distribution and other Government support programmes in drought prone areas has been recorded every month especially in Zaka and Buhera. Political power struggles are then used to influence who gets the handouts and in some cases Non Governmental Organizations who would have donated these handouts are not aware of the underlying politicking that happens in beneficiary selection and

assume all is well. Traitional leaders particularly village headmen and village heads have played significant roles in manipulation of food aid and other forms of support.

Areas Covered- Mashonaland Central- Chaona, Mt Darwin, Mazoe, Chiweshe, Muzarabani, **Manicaland-**Mutasa, Makoni, Buhera, Nyanga, **Mashonaland East-**Mutoko, Hwedza, Murehwa, Mudzi, **Matebeleland-** Bulawayo, **Midlands-** Gokwe, Kwekwe, **Masvingo-** Mwenezi, Zaka, Gutu

A total of 19 districts from six provinces were covered between the period- January- June 2012

Province and district	Number of violations	Nature of human rights violations	Reported cases to the police	Name and positions of perpetrators	Names of food aid violators
Manicaland- Mutasa	3	Assault, intimidation, torture	2	Margret Ticharima (ZANU Pf member), Soldiers	
Makoni	2	Arson , intimidation	2	ZANU Pf supporters, Joshua Kadungure, Gilbert Kadungure, Dennis Kadungure	
Buhera Central	3	Unfair distribution of food aid, assault ,intimidation	3	Honoured Ndawana, war veterans, Joshua Chipedzi (war veteran), ZANU Pf youths	Former ZANU PF councillor, Mr Tavengwa, ZANU Pf councillors
Nyanga	4	Intimidation, assault, unfair distribution of food aid, disruption of rallies	1	ZANU Pf supporters ,war veteran Morgan Makaza, ZANU Pf youths	Morgan Makaza, Mupata, unnamed former member of the army
Buhera South	2	Disruption of rallies, unfair distribution of		ZANU Pf youth	Joseph Chinotimba (ZANU PF District

		food aid			Coordinating Committee Chairman)
Mashonaland East-Mutoko	3	Intimidation, disruption of rallies ,unfair distribution of food aid	1	Assistant Commissioner E Pfumvuti, police	ZANU PF councillors
Hwedza	3	Intimidation, unfair distribution of food aid, disruption of rallies		Chamva (ZANU PF), war veterans	ZANU PF councillors
Murehwa	1	Intimidation and harassment		Sergeant Nyabadza (head of PISI and also a ZANU PF aspiring MP candidate)	
Mudzi	2	Murder, assault	2	ZANU Pf activists, ZANU Pf Mp Newton Kachepe, intimidation	
Matebeleland-Bulawayo	2	Intimidation, unlawful detention	1	Police	
Masvingo – Gutu West	1	Intimidation		ZANU Pf youth	Village heads (aligned to ZANU Pf)
Gutu Central	3	Disruption of rallies, intimidation, unfair distribution of food aid		Chief Mupata, ZANU Pf youth	Chief Mupata
Gutu North	1	Disruption of rallies		Police	
Zaka West	2	Disruption of rallies, intimidation		ZANU Pf activists , Faustino Murambatsvina, Joseph Chimunda, Ester Bonzo	
Zaka Central	2	Unfair distribution of food aid, intimidation	1	ZANU Pf activists Ganyata, Daniel Mativenga, Cephass Ganyata, Police from PISI	ZANU PF activists

Mwenezi	1	Intimidation and harassment		ZANU Pf activists	
Zaka East	1	Intimidation		ZANU Pf supporters and traditional leaders	
Mashonaland Central- Muzarabani	3	Intimidation, confiscation of property, unfair distribution of food aid	2	ZANU PF members, Senator Junior Manyeruke, Chief Kasekete	Mr G.Bumhira (ZANU PF village head), Mr Pfoto(councillor) ,Mr Faiton (ZANU Pf district chairman),Mr Isaac Mupeyami (village head), ZANU PF MP Luke Mushowe
Mazowe	1	Intimidation		ZANU PF youths	
Chaona	1	Intimidation and harassment		ZANU PF members	
Mt Darwin	1	Intimidation		ZANU PF members	
Mashonaland West- Hurungwe	1	Intra- party violence	1	MDC Supporters, MDC MP, Severino Tall Chambati, Hurungwe West	
Midlands- Gokwe	1	Intimidation and harassment, unfair distribution of food aid		ZANU PF members, Chief Farai	Chief Farai
Kwekwe	3	Assault, unlawful	1	Police, Owen Ncube (ZANU Pf provincial secretary), ZANU Pf	

		detention, intimidation		youths	
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Nature of Human rights violations

Violence in Zimbabwe has been in the form of: intimidation, harassment, unlawful detention, assault, arson, murder, property confiscation, and unfair distribution of resources. The above table has shown a concentrated violence in the Mashonaland central province where ZANU PF is dominant. From the table, one can note that ZANU PF supporters, traditional leaders, war veterans and state apparatus have been heavily involved in instigating political violence.

It is now more than three years since the signing of the Global Political Agreement but little has been done in bringing to trial human rights violators. Less than 10% of all crimes committed have been brought before the courts to bring justice to thousands of people victimised. With the current call for the possibility of holding a constitutional referendum late this year and national elections in 2013 it is disturbing that victims of political violence find themselves in a peculiar situation of being subjected to yet another round of elections with no guarantee of protection of the electorate. There is need for the politicians to guarantee protection of the electorate in a niche to make sure there is no repetition of the 2008 atrocities. It is Heal Zimbabwe's assertion that for survivors of political violence and their communities to freely participate in the coming elections, there is need to ensure that the perpetrators of political violence are prosecuted. Reports of human rights violations continue to trickle three years after the formation of the Organ on National Healing and JOMIC which were created to work on creating a peaceful environment.

From the table below, it can be deduced that 75% of human rights violators are men who are directly involved in committing the actual offence.

Below are some of the people who have been directly involved in human rights violations:

Names of Perpetrators	Position Held	District and Province	Injustices committed
Ticharima Margret	Soldier	Mutasa-Manicaland	Assault, intimidation and torture

Joshua Kadungure, Gilbert Kadungure, Dennis Kadungure	ZANU-PF supporters	Makoni-Manicaland	Arson and intimidation on MDC-T supporters
Honored Ndawana, Joshua Chipedzi	War veterans	Buhera Central-Manicaland	Assaulting MDC-T supporters, intimidating them and distributing food aid on partisanship basis.
Mr Tavengwa and unnamed former ZANU PF councillors in the area	Former ZANU PF Councillors	Buhera Central- Manicaland	Distributing food aid on partisanship basis.
Morgan Makaza	War veteran	Nyanga-Manicaland	Distributing food aid on partisanship basis. Intimidating and assaulting MDC-T supporters
Mr Mupata, unidentified ZANU-PF supporters and Youths	ZANU PF supporters	Nyanga-Manicaland	Distributing food aid on partisanship basis.
Joseph Chinotimba	Former ZANU-PF District Coordinating Committee Chairman and also a war veteran	Buhera South-Manicaland	Denying MDC-T supporters access to food aid and disrupting MDC-T rallies and meetings
E. Pfumvuti, ZANU PF councillors and police	Member of the police force, councillors	Mutoko- Mashonaland East	Intimidating MDC-T supporters and disrupting their rallies and denying MDC-T supporters food aid

Chamva (ZANU-PF),unnamed War veterans and ZANU-PF councillors	War veterans, councillors	Hwedza-Mashonaland East	Intimidation, unfair distributing of food aid, disruption of MDC-T rallies.
Sergeant Nyabadza	Aspiring ZANU-PF candidate and head of PISI	Murehwa-Mashonaland East	Intimidating MDC-T supporters
ZANU-PF supporters, Newton Kachepa	ZANU PF activists and member of parliament	Mudzi-Mashonaland East	Murder of Cephas Mugura MDC-T supporter, and assaulting MDC-T supporters
Members of the police		Bulawayo-Matbeleland	Intimidation and unlawful detention of MDC-T supporters
Village heads	ZANU-PF supporters	Gutu West-Masvingo	Distributing food aid on partisan basis
Chief Mupata	Chief	Gutu Central-Masvingo	Disrupting MDC-T rallies, intimidating anti-ZANU-PF supporters, unfair distribution of food aid
Members of the police force		Gutu North-Masvingo	Disrupting MDC-T rallies

Faustino Murambatsvina, Joseph Chimunda and Ester Bonzo	ZANU-PF activists	Zaka West-Masvingo	Disrupting MDC-T rallies and intimidating them
Ganyata, Daniel Mativenga, Cephas Ganyata and members of the police from the police internal security intelligence (PISI)	ZANU-PF activists	Zaka Central- Masvingo	Unfair distribution of food aid, intimidating and assaulting anti-ZANU-PF supporters
ZANU PF members and Junior Manyeruke	ZANU-PF Senator	Muzarabani-Mashonaland Central	Intimidating MDC-T supporters, confiscated Urayai Nguruve's cart, unfair distribution of food aid on partisan basis
Chief Kasekete	Chief	Muzarabani- Mashonaland Central	Intimidation of Anti- ZANU Pf supporters and unfair distribution of food aid
Mr G.Bumhira (ZANU PF village head), Mr Pfoto(councillor), Mr Faiton (ZANU PF district chairman), Mr Isaac Mupeyami (village head),	Traditional leaders, ZANU PF members and councillors	Muzarabani- Mashonaland Central	Intimidating and harassing MDC-T supporters

Mr Luke Mushowe	ZANU-PF Member of Parliament	Muzarabani- Mashonaland Central	Intimidation and denying MDC-T supporters access to food aid
Chief Negomo and unnamed ZANU-PF Youths	Traditional Chief and ZANU Pf youth	Mazowe- Mashonaland Central	Intimidating MDC-T supporters
ZANU-PF supporters		Chaona-Mashonaland Central	Intimidating and harassing MDC-T supporters
ZANU-PF members		Mt Darwin- Mashonaland Central	Intimidating and assaulting MDC-T supporters
ZANU PF members, Chief Farai	ZANU PF members and Chiefs	Gokwe-Midlands	Intimidating and harassment of MDC-T supporters
Owen Ncube “Mudah Mugabe”	ZANU PF provincial secretary	Kwekwe- Midlands	Assaulting, intimidation, unlawful detention of MDC-T supporters.

From the Director's Desk

As discernable from the report, local rural communities remain tense and extremely polarised on political party affiliation basis. The Inclusive Government has managed to bring peace, regrettably negative peace for that matter. The need to move from negative peace to sustainable peace in the local communities and the country at large is dependant on dealing with the structural violence which has given root to the human rights violations reported above. To achieve the aforementioned, there is need for restoration of citizen's confidence in national institutions, particularly those whose mandate is to guarantee the security of citizens. This confidence can only be meaningfully restored if there is deliberate transformation to ensure their non partisan and professional discharge of duties. In this report, traditional leaders, high ranking police officers and councillors are frequently fingered as perpetrators of violence and intimidation yet there are supposed to be custodians and gatekeepers of citizen security. We contend that security is the primary responsibility of the state and that this responsibility manifests itself through a professional police, a disciplined army which subjects itself to civilian authority and an incorruptible judiciary. A dearth of the above creates a culture of impunity. In dealing with the culture of impunity, it is the responsibility of the state to ensure that all citizens are subject to the rule of the law. The alleged perpetrators in this report have become habitual offenders insulated and protected from prosecution even though their past violations are well recorded and documented. All the cases reported are criminal cases and the natural order of arrests and prosecution should thus be religiously followed. All past human rights offenders therefore need to be prosecuted in order to restore communities' confidence. Citizens need to be organised in their local communities across political, religious or any other affiliation to build the relevant social capital which restores the true Zimbabwe sense of community. As the constitutional referendum and national elections loom in the political horizon, it will be tragic if communities continue to passively wait for politically motivated violence the way we wait for natural disasters.

While appreciating and acknowledging the important role played by SADC and African Union in the formation of the Inclusive Government and their constant insistence on the implimentation of the agreement, we are concretely convinced that the ultimate responsibility resides in the citizens of Zimbabwe. We acknowledge that through the determination of the people and their insistence on democratisation, SADC and AU could not ignore the blatant violations and torture of civil society and opposition political party activists epitomised on 11 March 2007 during the Save Zimbabwe Campaign. Local communities have over the past decade developed mechanisms of coping with violations and abuse, and it therefore is the responsibilty of civil society organisations to prioritise building on these mechanisms while persuing other advocacy initiatives which seek broader reforms.