



2008 EARLY WARNING REPORT ON POLITICALLY- MOTIVATED HUMAN RIGHTS AND FOOD- RELATED VIOLATIONS IN ZIMBABWE

October 2008

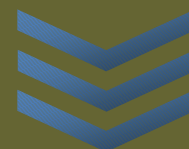


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ACRONYMS	DENOTATION
BACOSI	Basic Commodities Supply Side Intervention
CIO	Central Intelligence Organisation
FBO	Faith Based Organisations
GMB	Grain Marketing Board
GSF	Government Subsidized Food
NGO	Non Governmental Organisations
MDC	Movement for Democratic Change
MDC – T	Movement for Democratic Change - Tsvangirai
MDP	Malicious Damage to Property
WFP	World Food Programme
ZANU PF	Zimbabwe African National Union Patriotic Front
ZTV	Zimbabwe Television

DEFINITIONS OF TERMS (HUMAN RIGHTS VIOLATIONS)

TERM	DEFINITION
MURDER	Unlawful and intentional killing of another person.
RAPE	Intentional, unlawful sexual intercourse with a woman without her consent.
SEXUAL HARASSMENT	Unlawfully subjecting one to pressure, insult or threat with intent to cause him/her to suffer anxiety, discomfort and /or the feeling of insecurity as a result of sexual differences.
ASSAULT	Unlawfully and intentionally (i) applying force to the person of another or (ii) inspiring a belief in that other person that force is immediately to be applied to them.
KIDNAPPING/ABDUCTION	Unlawful and intentional deprivation of a person of liberty of movement and/or his/her custodians of control.
MALICIOUS DAMAGE TO PROPERTY	Consists of both arson and what used to be termed Malicious Injury to Property (MIP) which is; unlawful setting an immovable structure on fire with intent to injure another and malicious and intentional damaging of property of another.
THEFT	Unlawful taking of another's property
TORTURE	Any act by which severe pain or suffering, whether physical or mental is intentionally inflicted on a person for such purposes as obtaining from them information or a confession.
HARASSMENT/INTIMIDATION	• Unlawfully subjecting one to pressure, insult or threat with intent to cause him/her to suffer anxiety, discomfort and /or the feeling of insecurity • Duress
UNLAWFUL DETENTION	Unlawful and intentional deprivation of one's liberty of movement by a person or persons in positions of authority.
DISPLACEMENT	• Act of unlawfully, intentionally and forcibly evicting or causing someone to vacate or leave his/her usual place of residence or settlement as a result of political differences. • Forced evictions

SYNOPSIS

October provincial scan suggest a general decline in overt politically-motivated human rights violations across the ten provinces. However continued contestations over the nature of an all-inclusive Government are fast eroding the social base on which peace and security should be built. Some pre-election practices which had gone into hibernation since the signing of the 15 September 2008 Agreement are gradually resurfacing. Incidents in which yester-victims have become the perpetrators were reported with a disturbing prevalence. So is the frequency of inter and intra-party clashes over different views on the state of the economy and ongoing peace talks. There also appears to be a growing visibility of war veterans and army colonels especially in various human rights violations.

Hate slogans continue to grace local and provincial party meetings while wearing of opposition regalia is yet to be accepted as a political right in most rural communities. Elected MDC MPs and councillors are still to be politically accepted as official government structures as villagers are reportedly barred from participating in development programs initiated by MDC councillors and MPs. In fact in most rural communities the traditional leadership has imposed a de facto ban on MDC report-back rallies and meetings.

The continued political impasse is reportedly having devastating ripple effects on interventions directed at bailing out starving villagers as those strategically positioned in the food distribution chain are taking advantage of continued uncertainty to make business capital or even clandestinely interfere with NGO food outreach programs. In apparent breach of standing rules, MDC sworn-in councillors are yet to be integrated in local food allocation structures with war veterans and ZANU PF leadership arguing that Unity Talks are still going on. Party affiliation and possession of an active ZANU PF card is reportedly the de facto requirement for accessing food sourced from both GSF and food aid NGOs, although NGOs are making desperate efforts to shrug off this abuse. Political control of food aid operations is ensured through a highly centralized and networked underground system in which all information and food registrations are compiled, vetted, and approved by local political structures in close liaison with village heads, chiefs, councillors, war veterans and DAs.

With these goings-on at the food distribution fronts, some starving villagers and vulnerable groups [children, the elderly, TB patients, HIV/AIDs] have reportedly gone for months without food supplies as food is diverted and sold in foreign currency, as food-crisis hit but perceived politically-incorrect areas/districts are falsely declared uncritical food areas, or as NGOs are denied entry into areas that are deemed politically incorrect. The fact that 68% of food is still accessed through GSF underlines for all-user friendly politically neutral distribution processes. With most GSF outlets reportedly dry most times and 18 % of food currently sourced from NGOs, there is urgent need for a more robust and proactive NGO roll out program if the national food disaster is to be averted.

OVERVIEW

This Report surveys politically-motivated human rights and food-related violations almost two months after the signing of the much celebrated but still-born-threatened power-sharing deal. It is also presented against the background of a ZPP September Early Warning Report in which the nation was alerted of an impending food disaster if the political impasse continues. The October Report also comes at a time when a cholera outbreak which in September was looming in Harare, is reportedly spreading to other provinces, a frightening development indeed given that the education sector is currently in

a comatose with most hospitals closed as medical practitioners are reportedly on a go-slow industrial action. In the education sector, public examinations commenced under untenable conditions with school teachers on an indefinite strike while most state universities remain closed due to lack of infrastructure and food supplies.

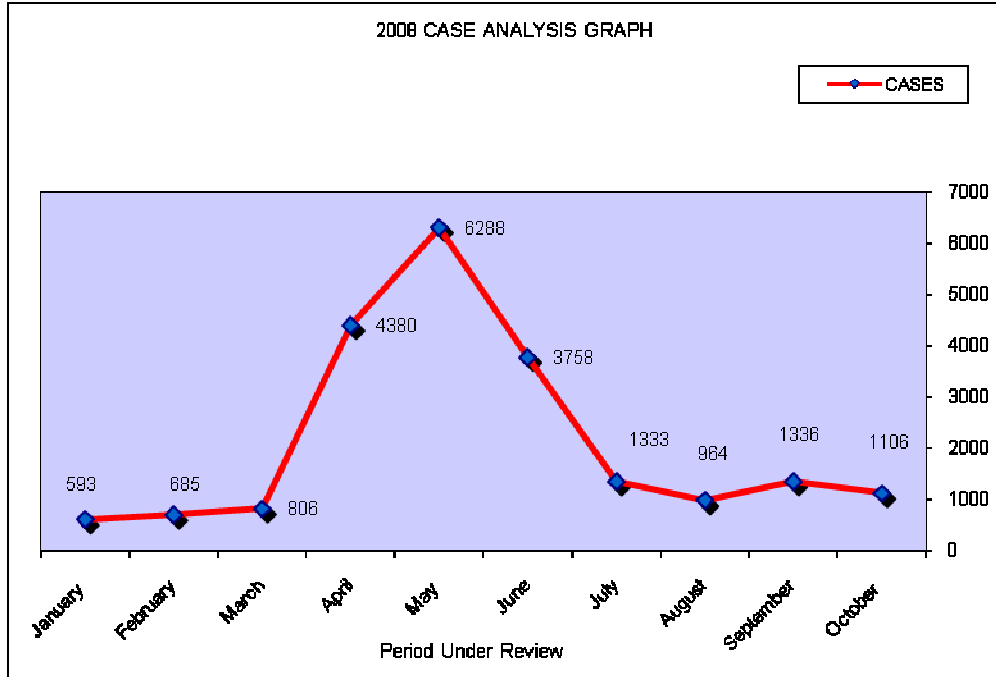
Meanwhile as ZPP monthly peace-monitoring records show, there has been a cumulative increase in Zimbabwe's human rights violations since January 2008 although monthly average recordings have been decreasing since June 2008. By October, a cumulative total of 21 258 cases had been recorded, suggesting an increase by 2126 from their September 2008 level of 19 992. Of this cumulative total, 205 are murder cases, 50 cases of rape, 472 kidnapping cases, 4291 cases of assault, 11364 cases of harassments, 937 case of MDPs, and 2333 cases of displacements, a profile that indeed underlines that the search for a more peaceful and secure environment in Zimbabwe may remain elusive if extant peace monitoring efforts are not strengthened . Below is a summary of these cumulative trends:

Cumulative Human Rights and Food-Related Politically-Motivated Violations

ACTS	January	February	March	April	May	June	July	August	September	October	TOTAL
Murder	0	0	7	27	47	78	15	21	7	3	205
Rape	1	1	4	4	1	4	12	5	9	6	47
Kidnapping/abduction	3	7	5	149	85	133	44	17	20	9	472
Assault	163	178	219	771	704	804	470	285	348	348	4290
Theft/looting	14	6	8	80	64	99	61	48	39	35	454
Malicious Damage to Property (MDP)	20	12	38	345	214	141	66	36	35	31	938
Torture	6	2	6	157	60	102	38	21	19	8	419
Unlawful Detention	18	8	6	125	114	103	15	21	34	17	461
Harassment/Intimidation	343	449	475	1484	4288	2127	460	423	746	564	11359
Displacement	15	12	23	1219	670	134	114	56	47	43	2333
Discrimination	10	10	15	19	32	25	28	27	29	39	234
Attempted Rape	-	-	-	-	5	6	7	2	1	2	23
Attempted Murder	-	-	-	-	4	2	3	2	2	1	14
TOTAL	593	685	806	4380	6288	3758	1333	964	1336	1106	21249*

*Please note that the cumulative figure of 21249 is not inclusive of food related violations.

Graphic Illustration

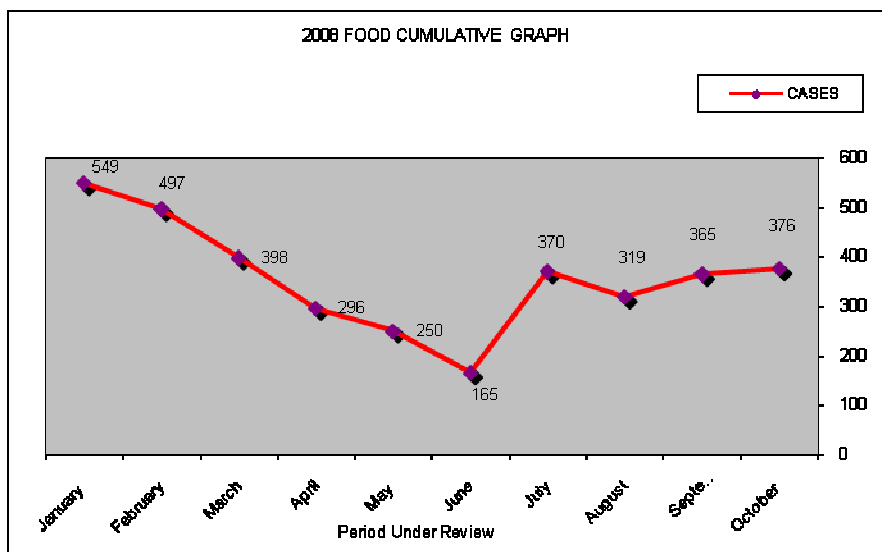


The food sector has not also been spared as ZPP food-related violations records show. Food-related human rights violations have also been cumulatively increasing since January 2008 although monthly averages have **been a** mixed pattern of increases and decreases. The scenarios are as shown below on tables and graphs:

October Table of Cumulative Food-Related Acts

MONTH	FOOD RELATED ACTS - 2008			
	HARASSMENT	VIOLENCE	DISCRIMINATION	TOTAL
January	215	1	333	549
February	213	4	280	497
March	159	3	236	398
April	107	1	188	296
May	184	0	66	250
June	60	9	96	165
July	135	3	229	370
August	85	3	231	319
September	115	5	245	365
October	91	10	275	376
TOTAL	1364	42	2179	3574

Graphically, scenarios are as follows:



PROVINCIAL HUMAN RIGHTS VIOLATIONS

In **Mashonaland Central**, while open politically-motivated violence has visibly subsided, fear of retribution is still in the air. Tolerance to views on the on-going all-inclusive government talks, especially among the war veterans, is still low. Wearing of MDC regalia is still treated as a political crime. MDC sworn-in MPs and councillors are yet to be politically accepted while their report back meetings are reportedly barred by the traditional leadership and war veterans.

In **Manicaland**, provincial records also point to visible declines in politically-motivated human rights violations although in areas such as Chipinge West, Chipinge East, Makoni North, Makoni Central, Buhera North, Buhera Central, Nyanga, and Mutasa South, people are reportedly still being assaulted for commenting on the political impasse and the general state of the economy among other incidents. Sworn-in MDC MPs and councillors are yet to be politically accepted at community level with most of their report-back meetings denied by local leadership while "Down with MDC slogans" are still chanted at most ZANU PF meetings.

There is also a disturbing visibility of war veterans and army colonels in incidents of violence. On 15 October 2008, an army colonel reportedly disrupted a SIDA dam construction project in Nyanga allegedly accusing donors of working for the opposition. Some areas are experiencing restrictions on their freedom of movement, headman allegedly under orders by war veterans to report any unknown visitors in their areas.

Also disquieting are increases in cases of revenge violence. In Buhera North, a war veteran and former base commander in the run up to the 27 June elections was on 7 October 2008 assaulted by suspected MDC members allegedly in revenge for atrocities he committed during the run up to the 27 June elections. In the same area, a son to a former base commander was severely assaulted on 15 October 2008 in circumstances that smack of political revenge while on 12 October 2008 a ZANU PF member was reportedly abducted by suspected MDC members in Makoni Central. Incidents of people demanding back livestock, goats and chicken looted during the run-off campaign were also received, in some cases victims reportedly given deadlines.

While in **Mashonaland East**, incidents of open human rights violations have visibly subsided, reports from Marondera North, Murewa West, Mtoko East, and Chikomba West still refer to cases where some villagers are being harassed and assaulted for reading the *Zimbabwean*, wearing MDC regalia, failing to produce party cards or even commenting on delays in the implementation of the 15 September Agreement. In one bizarre incident, four Chikomba West well-known MDC activists were on 19 October 2008 reportedly

assaulted, yoked on a cart and forced to pull the cart for a kilometre subjected to whipping.

In **Midlands**, while open violence is generally on the decline, sporadic acts of assaults and harassment were reported in areas such as Zvishavane, Mberengwa East, Gokwe, Vungu, Mkoba, and Silobela with most violations revolving around differences in interpreting delays in forming an all-inclusive Government, wearing opposition regalia, and commenting on the state of the economy. In Zvishavane Runde a man was on 3 October threatened with dire consequences by war veterans allegedly for "being too optimistic about the Agreement". In the same area, a man was severely assaulted and lost a tooth when he allegedly linked fees hiking with government inefficiency at a local SDA meeting while in Gokwe South a woman was on 3 October 2008 ordered to vacate office at a Government Complex by the chairman of War Veterans Association allegedly for being an MDC supporter. In Mberengwa East, a Zvomukonde man was on 7 October threatened with eviction by the headman allegedly because he had a bicycle that had " an MDC inscription" while in Mkoba, a man was on 6 October 2008 severely assaulted with planks and iron bars allegedly because he was wearing an MDC T shirt. At most political meetings, people are reportedly told not to co-operate with the MDC councillors and MPs in community projects.

In **Harare**, political tolerance remains a major challenge with a disturbing high involvement of security personnel and war veterans in acts of violence. Commonly cited incident areas include Harare South, Harare East, Mabvuku-Tafara, Glen View, Seke, Hatfield, Zengeza East, Sunningdale, and Chitungwiza. On 15 October 2008, a group of young men from St Marys in Chitungwiza [an MDC T stronghold] were reportedly taken hostage by war veterans, allegedly for "trespassing into their territory" while in Zengeza East, a man was on 3 October 2008 evicted from his lodging place allegedly accused of supporting ZANU PF. The victim had often been seen donning ZANU PF T shirt. In Harare South, a man was on 10 October 2008 attacked and left for dead near Hopley Farm by people reportedly chanting ZANU PF slogans. The incident incidentally happened 3 days after the victim was involved in altercation with war veterans.

In **Mashonaland West**, political tolerance remains cause for concern especially in areas such as Hurungwe West, Zvimba East, Chegutu West, Kariba, Mhangura, Norton, Makonde, and Hurungwe West. Incidents of people being harassed for attending MDC rallies and listening to Studio 7 are still reported with a chief in Zvimba East reportedly declaring "Pasi ne MDC " at a Banket meeting on 18 October 2008. In Makonde area, some war veterans were reportedly involved in the looting of farm inputs and stocks in white-owned Alaska farms and threatening farmers with evictions from the area.

In **Masvingo**, while human rights violations are on the decrease, traces of political intolerance are still evident in areas such as Mwenezi East, Zaka East, Zaka Central, Masvingo North, Chiredzi North, Masingo Urban, Masvingo West, and Gutu Central. In

Zaka East, village heads, the political leadership and war veterans are reportedly barring their members from participating in MDC initiated developments. Those from urban areas are still viewed with suspicion allegedly accused of supplying false information about ZANU PF to newspapers. Slogans against the MDC party and its members are still repeated at party meetings. Wearing of MDC T shirts is still treated as a political offence. Traditional leaders are heavily involved in retributive violence with one chief in Bikita West reportedly involved in the assault of an MDC activist and publicly declaring "no MDC rallies in their areas". In the same area local leaders are reportedly instructed by war veterans to take down names of those supporting the opposition. In Masvingo North resettled farmers of Khan Farm were on 9 October 2008 reportedly evicted, their homes torched, allegedly because they voted for the opposition. Returnees still face retribution while in Masvingo West chiefs are reportedly reducing the size of plots of known MDC members.

In the **Matebeleland North**, while political violence has generally declined, tolerance to political diversity especially among war veterans, traditional leadership and security details is still on the low side. MDC report-back rallies are generally denied by local traditional leaders. The tendency to chant party slogans at development meetings is still visible.

While in **Matebeleland South** the human rights violations record has also generally dropped, in areas such as Mangwe, Bulilima-Mangwe, Umzingwane Gwanda North, and Matobo North, people are still being harassed for wearing MDC T shirts, for attending MDC meetings and commenting on the ongoing political impasse. Ward 17 Dema people were on 9 October 2008 reportedly threatened with dire consequences for refusing the formation of ZANU PF branches in their wards while in Gwanda North, MDC leaders were on 5 October 2008 reportedly assaulted by war veterans allegedly for organizing Waboyi villagers to vote for the MDC.

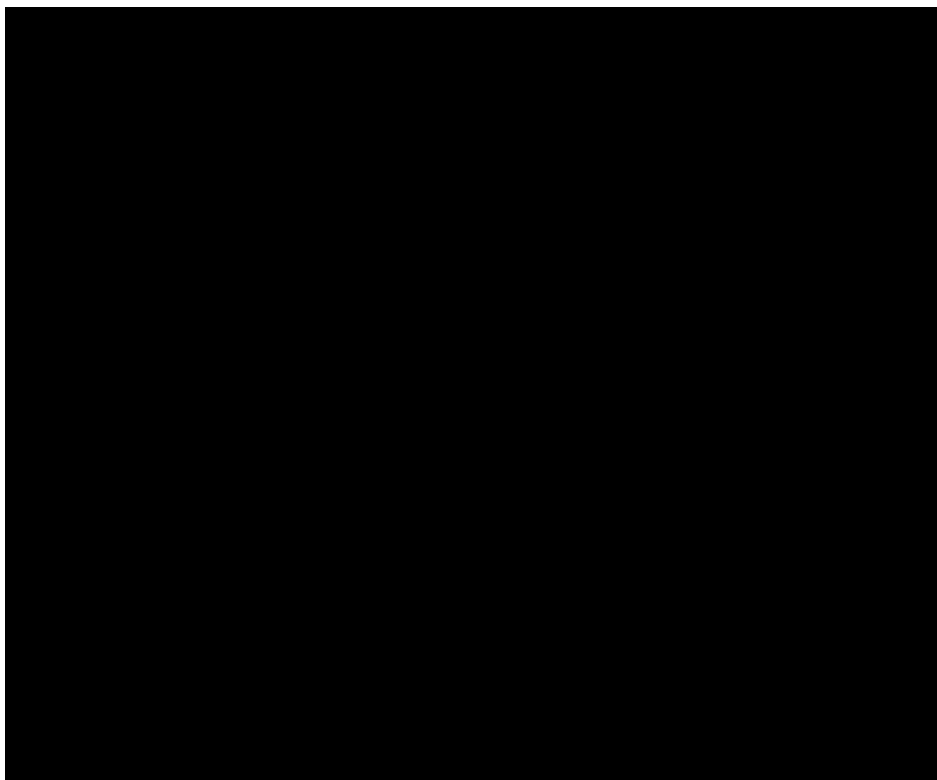
As experienced in the other provinces of Matebeleland, **Bulawayo** remained relatively calm although isolated cases of violence were reported in areas such as Lobengula, Bulawayo, Luveve, Makokoba, and Mpopoma. On 25 October 2008 Bulawayo Central residents awoke to see police and army details in full combat gear manning every corner of the city, a development that created a tense situation in the city centre. It turned out that this was in response to the formation of a new ZAPU formation.

STATISTICAL PROFILE OF HUMAN RIGHTS VIOLATIONS

October Provincial Acts Spread

ACTS	Midlands	Bulawayo	Mat. South	Mat. North	Masvingo	Manicaland	Harare	Mash. East	Mash West	Mash Central	TOTAL
Murder	0	0	0	0	1	1	0	0	0	1	3
Rape	0	0	2	0	0	1	0	0	1	2	6
Kidnapping/Abduction	0	0	0	0	3	2	3	0	1	0	9
Assault	63	1	8	5	59	25	78	57	40	12	348
Theft/Looting	4	0	0	1	5	4	14	0	1	6	35
MDP	4	0	0	0	5	1	8	7	3	3	31
Torture	1	0	0	0	0	1	5	0	1	0	8
Unlawful Detention	2	0	1	0	0	3	7	1	2	1	17
Harassment/Intimidation	88	25	20	15	76	45	96	86	60	53	564
Displacement	3	0	0	1	4	5	8	11	7	4	43
Discrimination	1	1	0	1	8	4	10	11	1	2	39
Attempted Rape	0	0	0	0	1	0	1	0	0	0	2
Attempted Murder	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	1
TOTAL	166	27	31	23	162	92	231	173	117	84	1106

Graphically, scenarios were as shown below:



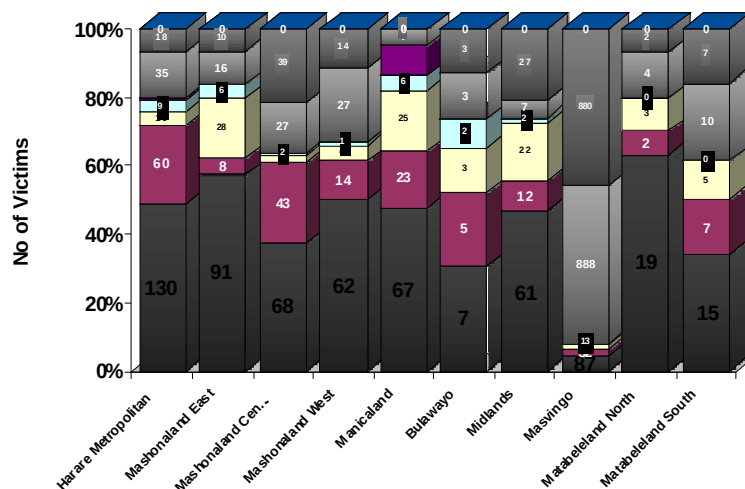
Salient Observations

- Open human rights violations are generally on the decline with records dropping from their September level of 1257 to 1106 by October, however with 3 loses of lives, 6 cases of murder and 9 kidnappings.
- Assaults and harassments remain the most prevalent form of human rights abuse in all the ten provinces contributing 912 cases out of the gross total of 1106 violations.
- Violence incidence density remains concentrated in Harare, Mashonaland West, Midlands, Masvingo and Mashonaland East with Mashonaland West.
- In stark departure from their past trends, Manicaland and Mashonaland Central experienced surprising sharp declines in acts of violence.
- Matebeleland region remains a low violence zone, all the three provincial records showing an increase from their August violence records.

Concluding Remarks

Manicaland province experienced a surprising sharp drop in acts of violence. There is need to unravel underlying reasons for this unusual trend.

GENDER-VICTIMS ANALYSIS GRAPH



October 2008

■ MDC - Male	■ MDC Female	■ Unknown MDC	■ Zanu PF Male
■ Zanu PF- Female	■ Unknown Zanu PF	■ State Male	■ State Female
■ Unknown State	■ Unknown - Male	■ Unknown - Female	■ Unknown

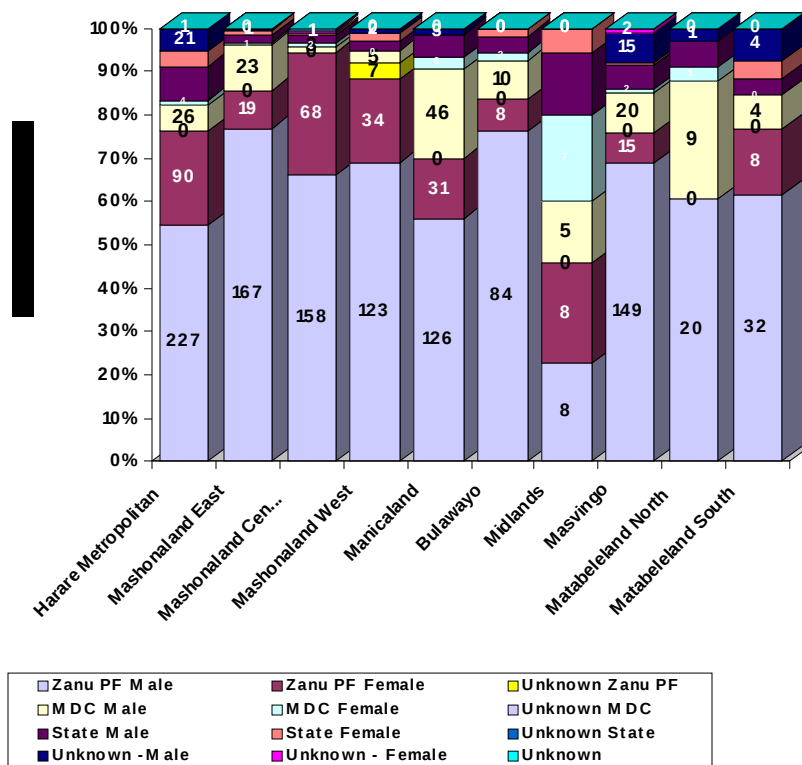
Observations

- There was a sharp increase in gross victim records from their September level of 1029 to 3026 by October with high victim records of the Unknown [2036] and MDC [813].
- Of the 3026 victims recorded, 1828 are from Masvingo with least victim records from the Matabeleland provinces.
- As in September, males remain the main victims of violence in both ZANU PF and MDC, however with the number of MDC female victims still maintaining a disturbing visibility, almost doubling the ZANU PF male victim toll.
- That the Unknown victim toll remains high points to the still widespread nature of victimization.

Concluding Remarks

While victim toll remains heavily skewed against MDC members across both sexes, it is instructive to note that the Unknown category had the highest victims.

GENDER-PERPETRATOR ANALYSIS GRAPH



Observations

- There was an increase in gross perpetrator toll from its September level of 1244 to 1719 by October, the bulk of which are the 1355 ZANU PF perpetrators.
- ZANU PF remains the main perpetrator across both sexes.
- Consistent with their hotspot track-record, perpetrator density remains concentrated in Harare Metropolitan, Manicaland, Mashonaland East, Mashonaland Central, Mashonaland West and Midlands, however leaving out Masvingo.
- Perpetrator toll [both male and female] remains on the low side in the Matebeleland provinces, a trend consistent with their past records.
- Males remain the main perpetrators in both the ZANU PF and the MDC.

Concluding Remarks

As in September, ZANU PF remains the main perpetrators of violence across both sexes.

PROVINCIAL FOOD-RELATED HUMAN RIGHTS VIOLATIONS

In **Manicaland**, with aid agencies such as GOAL, Red Cross, and Christian Care rolling out their food relief interventions in the province, clandestine efforts are reportedly being taken to extend political control over their food allocation operations. In some cases food supplies to areas that are deemed politically-incorrect are reportedly clandestinely stopped. In Nyanga, ward 4 villagers involved in a donor-initiated dam construction project were on 3 October 2008 reportedly facing starvation after food supplies they were to receive were stopped allegedly by army colonels operating in area while on 14 October 2008, a soldier in Buhera North reportedly accused Christian Care of being in support of MDC and ordering it to stop the allocation of food.

Former MPs and councillors are reportedly looting grain cheaply sourced from GMB depots and selling it to starving villagers in foreign currency. In Nyanga North, army colonels were on 15 October 2008 reportedly moving around setting food agendas in which only ZANU PF councillors were allowed to source maize from GMB depots while in some cases grain that is cheaply sourced from GMB depots was reportedly exchanged for cattle or sold in foreign currency.

In **Mashonaland Central**, food aid NGO involvement remains disturbingly low, major NGO players being Red Cross, SOS and Adult. The food situation is reportedly so dire that in areas such as Guruve, Mbire, Bindura South, and Muzarabani, villagers are reportedly

surviving on wild fruits while incidents of children collapsing in schools are also on the increase.

Food politics has reportedly worsened with most registrations for food from both state and aid agencies are in the main allegedly based on voter registrations, possession of a party card or attendance of local party meetings. Victims are reportedly denied support letters by village heads, councillors, chiefs, and in some cases by DAs. As was reported in Manicaland, involvement of war veterans, army colonels and traditional leadership remain cause for concern.

In areas that are suspected to have voted for the opposition, villagers are reportedly receiving Bacossi food hampers that have critical items missing. A full Bacossi hamper has 11 items. Reports of headmen who have been instructed by war veterans not to give food access to known MDC members have also been received while in some cases information relating to the specific days when food sourced from GMB and food aid agencies will be distributed is deliberately denied to villagers who are suspected to be members of the opposition.

In **Mashonaland East**, villagers in areas such as Chikomba East, Mutasa, Marondera Central, among others, are reportedly facing starvation with villagers in some areas reportedly surviving on wild fruits as food aid agencies are yet to cover them. Local leadership are reportedly interfering with Red Cross food allocations demanding party cards as basis for registration to both GMB and aid agency sources. As in Manicaland and Mashonaland Central, the involvement of war veterans, armed personnel, and traditional leadership remain cause for concern. Names of those suspected to be MDC supporters are reportedly clandestinely removed by village headmen from lists that are submitted to the DA offices as beneficiaries of the government input support program.

In **Harare**, reports point to incidents of food discriminations at various food allocation outlets. A project established at Highfield Social Services Creche by the Ministry of Gender, Employment Creation with a noble goal to alleviate hunger among school-going children regardless of parents' political party affiliation is reportedly operating on partisan lines, allegedly choosing children mostly from ZANU PF members. The project is reportedly manned by ZANU PF party supporters. In St Marys, a USAID food distribution project that was controlled by MDC councillors on 29 October was allegedly biased towards MDC members.

The **Midlands** province is facing worsening food crisis with most secondary schools closing before the end of term due to serious food shortages. While Christian Care, Care International, Afri-Care, and World Vision and other faith based organizations have made significant inroads in their food outreach programs, they are reportedly bulking under pressure as state sources are dry most times.

Bacossi hampers received by residents at Gresham primary school in Zvishavane Ngezi and Mahindi villagers in Mberengwa East on 16 and 2 October 2008 respectively, reportedly had several key items missing while in some areas Bacossi hampers were not delivered as promised.

As reported in other provinces, victims have their names removed from the food sheet or forced to produce ZANU PF cards to qualify for registration. In Mberengwa East, a headman on 12 October 2008 reportedly denied some Muchipisi villagers in the Buchwa area registration for food supplied by CARE. In Shurugwi North a local food facilitator on 23 October 2008 reportedly used a list of people who voted in the June elections while in Silobela, Redcliff, and Gokwe, former councillors are still controlling food allocations. In some cases maize meal cheaply sourced from GMB depots is reportedly sold in foreign currency allegedly by war veterans and army personnel while in Gokwe North, chiefs reportedly instructed Food Committee members to sell food only to those with ruling party cards.

In **Masvingo**, with worsening food crisis, cases of food discriminations have also assumed a disturbing trend. Cases in which the names of known or suspected MDC members disappear from food lists remain on the high side while in Chivi South those who refuse to chant slogans were reportedly ejected from food queues. The RBZ farm equipment supply scheme is in the main reportedly benefiting senior local party members while in some parts of Zaka West villagers reportedly went for months without getting maize from GMB and food aid agencies because war veterans were reportedly refusing to work with MDC councillors.

In several cases, maize allocations are reportedly diverted by DAs and chiefs for own benefit while some senior party members are reportedly getting maize in excess and selling the surplus at exorbitant foreign currency prices. In Masvingo Urban, the People's Shop wholly owned by war veterans of the Masvingo Chapter is reportedly selling mealie-meal only to ruling party card holders, a highly disturbing scenario as the shop gets preferential allocations from the GMB. Some millers who get maize supplies cheaply from the GMB are reportedly selling just a little and selling the rest in foreign currency. In Bikita West, maize supplies which were destined for ward 11 villagers were on 8 October 2008 reportedly hijacked while on 6 October 2008 some councillors in Masvingo rural were reportedly selling maize sourced for master farmers at 300 rands per bag.

In **Mashonaland West**, food discriminations are on the increase with village heads, councillors and war veterans reportedly interfering with the operations of food aid agencies. As experienced in other provinces, those associated with opposition politics always have their names clandestinely screened out from the lists forwarded to food aid agencies. In some cases those denied registration are told that the list was compiled

during the June Elections with one Zvimba East chief reportedly openly telling villagers that MDC supporters in his area were not going to benefit from agricultural input programs while Agritex officers were threatened with eviction if they approve any MDC supporters.

In **Matebeleland North**, the food situation is dire with most villagers reportedly starving while access to both state and non state food sources remains tightly centralized and controlled by local political structures. Well-known political activists are reportedly denied registration for sourced from food agencies. While food aid NGOs like Save the Child [UK] and World Vision are reportedly active in their outreach programs, they are reportedly overwhelmed with demands for food as most GMB depots are dry most times.

There was also a disturbing increase in food-related inter-party clashes. In Bubi ward 3, on 21 October 2008, inter-party clashes erupted over food sourced from World Vision, MDC supporters [in a move that smacks of political revenge] allegedly demanded that ZANU PF members should not benefit. Losing ZANU PF councillors are still controlling food allocations with reports that sworn-in MDC councillors are harassed and even denied to purchase maize from GMB, in several instances told to source maize from their president. In Bubi ward 7, starving villagers of Dolutoba were on 16 October 2008 told by village heads to get "food from the MDC leader" whom they voted for. In Nkayi, starving villagers were reportedly asked to contribute money and 1 gallon of maize towards the ruling party Congress to be held in Bindura in December 2008.

In **Matebeleland South**, food access remains a serious challenge although food aid agencies are making visible inroads to all parts of the province. As was reported in other provinces, most GMB food outlets are dry most times. The Bacossi hamper program reportedly benefitted only a few while in instances where hampers were supplied, most key items were missing.

In some instances villagers who complain of food shortages were accused of nursing hidden political agendas. In Gwanda North, war veterans stationed at Gwakwe village on 19 October 2008 accused villagers of embarrassing them by "pretending to the international community of dying of hunger". Communities that are viewed as pro MDC were in some cases denied access to food supplies. In Gwanda North a chief reportedly denied starving Waboyi villagers [suspected to be pro MDC] from buying maize from GMB while losing MPs and councillors are reportedly supplying false information about certain districts to food agencies, thus removing them from the list of areas that are deemed in urgent need of food interventions, scenarios that have seen villagers in these areas going for several months without food supplies from both food agencies and GSF. The impact of food aid agencies in the province is further compromised by some untoward activities of Food Agency Facilitators who are said to be diverting food from target beneficiaries, giving

food to relatives, party and church connections at the expense of AIDs and TB patients. In Dema ward 17, Red Cross Facilitators were on 6 October 2008 allegedly selling food sourced from food agencies for orphans in Rands.

In **Bulawayo**, cases of politically-motivated food discriminations are still reported. Possession of a party card remains a key political consideration in food registrations. In Pelandaba/Mpopoma, people were on 20 October reportedly grouped into two queues, those with and those without cards, with ever-long queues for those without party cards. The tendency to sell maize meal in foreign currency has also worsened the plight of already starving villagers and residents.

ANALYSIS OF FOOD-RELATED TRENDS

October Food Report Analysis

FOOD DISTRIBUTION ANALYSIS OCTOBER 2008											
HARASSMENT	Masvingo	Harare	Manicaland	Mashonaland East	Mashonaland West	Mashonaland Central	Bulawayo	Matabeleland North	Matabeleland South	Midlands	TOTAL
Forced to attend political meetings	1	1	0	0	2	3	0	0	0	4	11
Ordered to produce party card	0	1	0	2	13	1	4	0	0	7	28
Ordered to take off party regalia	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	2
Forced to chant party slogans	2	1	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	2	6
Ordered to denounce one's party	9	3	2	9	0	0	0	0	0	4	27
Summoned to meeting	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Other	0	0	0	5	0	0	0	0	0	12	17
TOTAL	13	6	2	16	16	4	4	0	0	30	91
VIOLENCE											
Abduction/unlawful detention	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Sexual violence	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Malicious Damage to Property (MDP)	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Physical Attack	1	2	0	0	5	0	0	0	2	0	10
Grievous bodily harm	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
TOTAL	1	2	0	0	5	0	0	0	2	0	10
DISCRIMINATION											
Denied access to GSF	5	2	23	10	52	16	0	3	0	9	161
Denied seeds & fertiliser	1	0	3	12	0	1	0	1	0	0	6
Denied tillage support	2	1	1	2	2	1	0	0	0	0	1
Denied Agricultural Credit	0	1	1	0	1	0	0	2	0	0	1
Denied food loan	0	0	0	0	1	1	0	0	0	0	5
Denied food relief	19	2	0	0	21	0	0	0	1	8	11
Denied irrigation	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Denied Food Aid	13	6	7	11	0	0	1	0	4	9	31
Denied Education Assistance	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	6
Other									0		23
TOTAL	8	5	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	6	245
OVERALL TOTAL	62	25	37	51	98	23	5	6	7	62	376

Observations

Food-Related Harassment Trends

- A total of 91 *food-related harassments* were recorded with high records in Midlands, Mashonaland West, Mashonaland East and Masvingo and least records in Manicaland, Mashonaland Central, Bulawayo, Matebeleland North and Matebeleland South.
- The most frequent forms of harassments were of people being ordered to produce party cards, ordered to denounce one's party, and forced to attend political meetings-in order to qualify for food registrations.

Food-Related Violence Trends

- A total of 10 cases of food-related violence were recorded, all being physical attacks.
- There were no food-related cases of abductions, sexual violence, MDPs and grievous bodily harm.

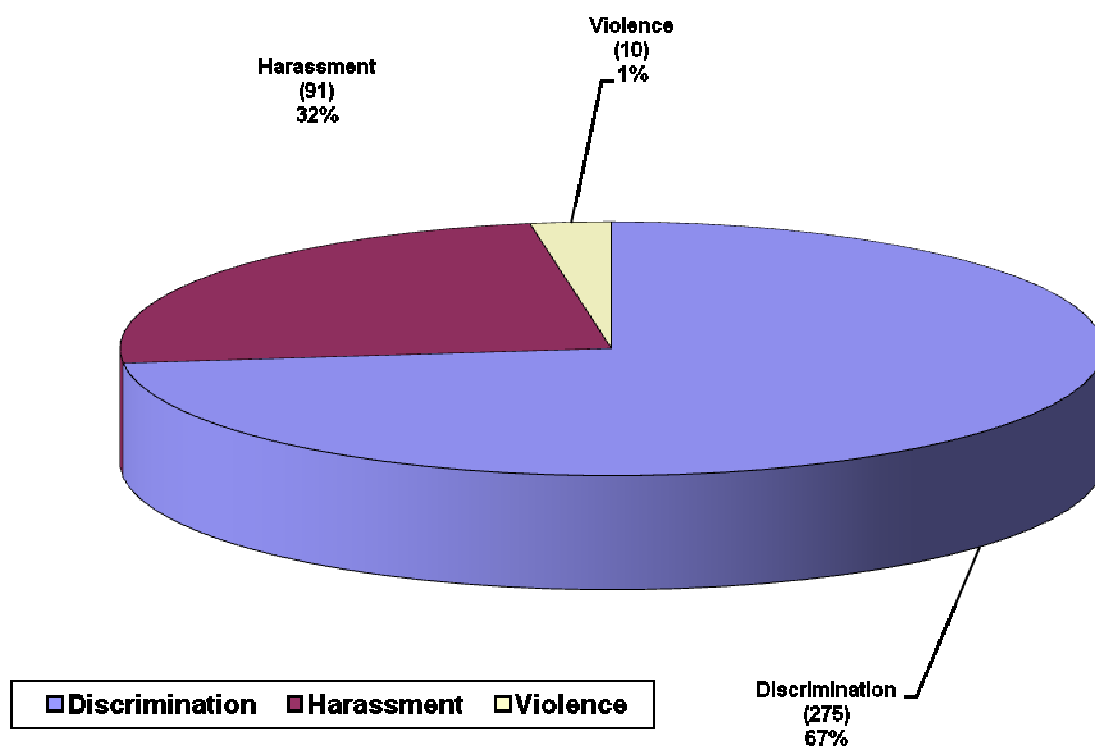
Food-related Discrimination Trends

- A total of 275 cases of food-related discriminations were recorded, the bulk of which were denied access to GSF, denied food relief, denied seeds and fertilizer.
- Food discriminations were pronounced almost across the provinces with the exception of Bulawayo, Matebeleland South and Matebeleland North.

Concluding Remarks

An overall total of 376 cases of food-related violations were recorded in October 2008, whose prevalence was as follows: 1 % [violence], 32 % [harassments] and 67% [discriminations]. See the prevalence chart below:

Prevalence of Violations



Food Distribution Sources

Source	Masvingo	Harare	Manicaland	Mashonaland East	Mashonaland West	Mashonaland Central	Bulawayo	Matabeleland North	Matabeleland South	Midlands	Total
GSF [†]	46	6	25	30	53	16	0	4	4	32	216
NGO [‡]	11	1	14	8	6	0	1	2	4	10	57
FBO [§]	2	1	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	4
Other	3	5	5	5	18	0	0	0	0	6	42
TOTAL	62	13	44	44	77	16	1	6	8	48	319

[†] Government Subsidised Food

[‡] Non-Governmental Organization

[§] Faith Based Organization

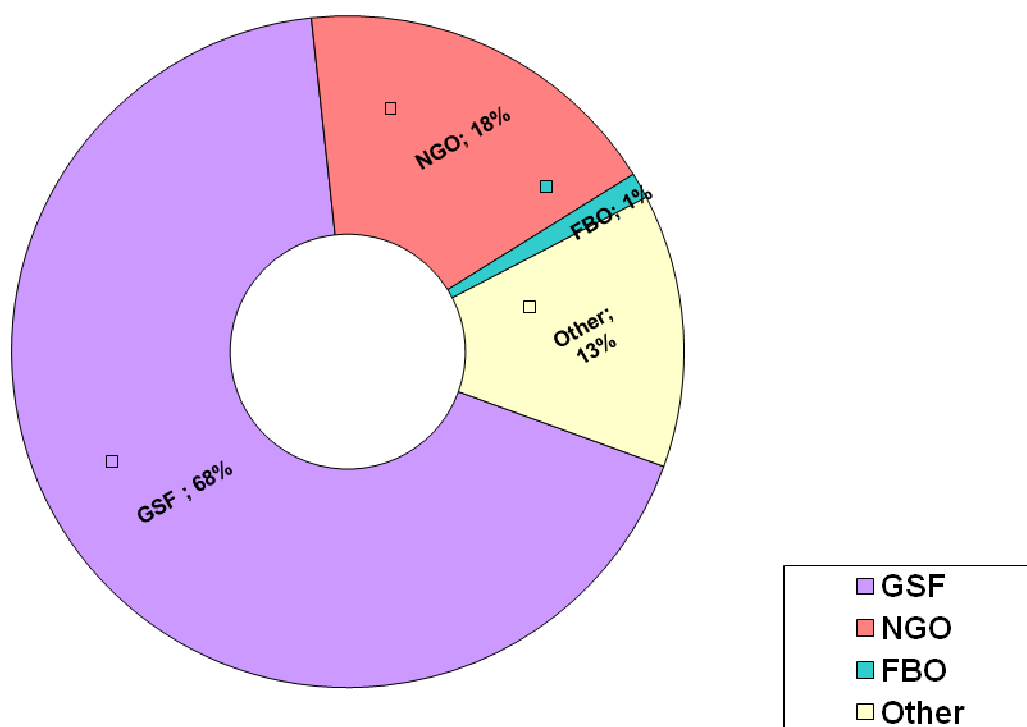
Observations

- GSF is the main food distribution source, comprising 216 [68%] cases out of the gross total of 319.
- GSF is the main source of food in Masvingo, Manicaland, Mashonaland East, Mashonaland West, and Midlands.
- GSF is least used in Harare, Bulawayo, Matebeleland North and Matebeleland South
- NGOs are the second main food distribution source [57/18%] with its prevalence most pronounced in Manicaland, Masvingo and Midlands. NGO participation in Harare, Mashonaland Central, Bulawayo and Matebeleland North is almost non-existent.
- Other food distribution sources remain the third main source of food, in fact comprising 47 [13%] cases out of the gross 319.
- Reliance on FBO as food distribution sources is very low in all provinces.

Concluding Remarks

Food aid NGOs are yet to reach all food-crisis areas. Since GSFs are the main distribution sources, effort should be taken to ensure that food allocations are done transparently and impartially if the looming food disaster is to be averted. NGOs should urgently extend their operations chronic drought-prone areas of Bulawayo and Matebeleland North. Below is a food distribution chart.

Food Distribution Chart



CONCLUDING REMARKS AND THE WAY FORWARD

The continued political impasse continues to corrode the social base on which sustained peace and security in Zimbabwe can be inculcated and nurtured. It has also had devastating ripple effects on the food situation in the country as human rights violations have shifted to the food sector.

A robust education campaign is needed at community level to ensure that the role of elected councillors and MPs be respected.

NGOs should be accorded enough space to freely and impartially undertake their food outreach interventions. Reported interferences with their operations are set to worsen the plight of starving villagers.

The frameworks that are operative at food distribution fronts are too highly politicized to prevent conversion of food sourced from both state and food aid agencies to own use. Reports of well-placed individuals selling cheaply accessed GMB maize in foreign currency to starving villagers should be treated with the urgency they deserve.

BACKGROUND & FORMATION



ZIMBABWE PEACE PROJECT

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 member organisations include, the Catholic Commission for Justice and Peace (CCJP), Zimbabwe Council of Churches (ZCC), Evangelical Fellowship of Zimbabwe (EFZ), Zimbabwe Election Support Network (ZESN), Counselling Services Unit (CSU), Zimbabwe Liberators' Platform, Zimbabwe Civic Education Trust, ZimRights, Civic Education Network Trust.(CIVNET

VISION

To see Zimbabwe transform into a society that cherishes the pursuit and realisation of justice, freedom, peace, human dignity and development.

MISSION

ZPP is a community based Trust that promotes peace through documenting human rights violations and disseminating them to stakeholders and policy makers.

GOAL

To reduce violence and human rights violations through community-based and national monitoring, documentation of cases of human rights abuses, and making partnerships and alliances that tap the expertise and assets of local communities and local and regional organisations that will help the attainment of sustainable peace and democracy in Zimbabwe.

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