



Zimbabwe Peace Project
4 Athol Close, Northwood,
Mt Pleasant
HARARE

+263 -4- 301790,
2930180/182

zpp@africaonline.co.zw

directorzpp@africaonline.co.zw

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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

While the signing of the 15 September power-sharing Agreement between ZANU PF and the MDC had renewed national hopes for lasting peace and socio-economic stability in Zimbabwe, these hopes are at high risk of remaining a mirage as the historic deal faces a still birth. In sharp contrast to the fanfare, pomp and international glare that graced the Agreement, the deal reportedly courted more enemies than supporters with some constituencies reportedly dismissing the idea of an all-inclusive Government as a non starter. In fact, the power-sharing process has fallen captive to underground pro-status- quo lobbyists. Deep -seated mistrust, political greed, self-preservation politics, and unilateralism have also crept into the power-sharing process leaving all efforts towards forming an all-inclusive Cabinet in reverse jive mode. De-jevu, despondency, desertion, pessimism, fear, hopelessness, cynicism and even anger have set in threatening to take the nation back to the pre-election era of unproductive retributive inclinations. While politics of self-preservation take precedence over national interests, the economy continues on its precipitous descent leaving in its trail irreparable damage on innocent bystanders such the children, students, elderly, peace-loving Zimbabweans among others]. Inflation has surged to 230 million while the fate of students taking Grade Seven, O and A level and even university examinations remain unknown as schools and universities remain closed for lack of requisite infrastructural facilities. In urban areas, a health disaster looms as authorities fail to import water purification chemicals to ensure access to safe drinking water and sanitation while all the ten provinces are almost food-disaster zones with some villagers reportedly surviving on wild fruits and boiled vegetables. GSF (Government Subsidized Food) outlets, the main source of food in all the ten provinces are reportedly under-supplied and in some cases going for months without maize supplies. The food crisis situation is reportedly worsened by looting of cheap Grain Marketing Board (GMB) maize by some unscrupulous highly placed individuals who in turn sell such cheaply accessed maize in foreign currency thus making a killing at the expense of starving villagers. With most provinces having been drought-hit for the past two consecutive years and villagers hardly harvesting anything from the fields, a strong Government-NGO partnership is urgently needed to avert the looming food disaster. The logjam on an all-inclusive Cabinet needs urgent redress as solution to all the issues raised in this paper directly hinges on the implementation of the 15 September power-sharing Agreement.

OVERVIEW

The Background

Fifteen September 2008 is poised to leave an indelible imprint in Zimbabwe's protracted search for lasting national peace and socioeconomic stability. The day was witness to the signing of a historic power-sharing Agreement between ZANU PF and the MDC factions which should form the basis for an all-inclusive Government. Among other things, the deal saw the appointment of the leadership of the MDC faction as Prime Minister and Deputy Prime Minister-designates with signatories making public commitments to walk the Agreement by forming an all-inclusive Cabinet. The fanfare, pomp, and conciliatory language and global glare that graced the occasion carried the promise of the dawn of a new era characterized by political tolerance, social healing and nation building.

Despite this promising start, the historic deal is yet to take off as all efforts at implementing the deal ended in deadlocks with the political leadership reportedly disagreeing on the sharing of ministries, especially the strategic ministries of defence, home affairs, information, finance and justice.

The political deal appears under siege with forces opposed to an all-inclusive Government reportedly re-grouping and re-strategizing to ensure that the deal hardly sees the light of the day. Provincial reports suggest that the deal was grudgingly received by its key stakeholders with some high profile hardliners reportedly ridiculing it as a sell-out Agreement. Its take off was further weakened by the fact that signatures were put on paper before the signatories agreed on how ministries will be shared. A cloud of mistrust also lingers among the signatories to the deal, scenarios that have relegated all power sharing enforcement efforts to a circus of deadlocks and reverse jiving with negotiations going one step forward only to go five steps backwards. The political-will to sustain the power-sharing momentum is visibly low with unilateralism and winner-take-all inclinations taking centre stage. Unilateral allocation of ministries with all key ministries reportedly under ZANU PF may be interpreted as flying in the spirit of power-sharing. In fact, as the historic month came to a close, visible progress was yet to be realized.

Observed Scenarios

Despite the signing of the 15 September power-sharing Agreement, the idea of an all-inclusive Government is yet to be fully accepted within ZANU PF structures with some war veterans reportedly moving around telling people not to believe ZTV and radio explanations about the all-inclusive Government. In fact, in most provinces, meetings by MDC councillors and MPs are reportedly denied by chiefs and village heads or youths.

Political intolerance remains on the low side with anti-MDC slogans still gracing most ZANU PF rallies, print and electronic media. Since the signing of the deal there has been an upsurge in incidents of intra party violence with members of the same political party reportedly clashing over differences on the 15 September Agreement. MDC members are still viewed as sell-outs with incidents of people being harassed and assaulted for being members of the MDC, for attending MDC T meetings, wearing opposition regalia, commenting on the economy and inter-party Talks, for celebrating the signing of the 15 September Agreement or the appointment of the MDC President as Prime Minister -designate, among other things.

While physical violence has visibly subsided, verbal and psychological violence remains cause for concern with most political language evidently discriminatory, intimidating and abusive. Those who returned to their villages after the signing of the 15 September political deal are reportedly going through gruelling interrogations, assaulted, and in some cases made to pay acceptance fines and in the event of failure threatened with eviction.

While this feet-dragging and preoccupation with power continues unabated, all is not well a-ground as the 220 million inflation rate has virtually reduced the bulk of Zimbabweans to perpetual window-shoppers ever racing behind soaring prices. For the first time since independence, public examinations [Grade Seven, O and A-levels] have been postponed following a full-term of no learning in schools while State Universities remain indefinitely closed reportedly because the requisite infrastructures are not in place.

The continued political impasse is also having its toll on the food situation in the country with all provinces reportedly food-disaster zones. According to a recently released World Food Programme report, 2 million Zimbabweans facing starvation while by January 2009 the number is projected to have increased to 5 million. GSF sources are reportedly bulking under pressure with some GMB outlets going for months without maize supplies, scenarios that have seen some villagers surviving on wild fruits and boiled vegetables. While the ban on food relief agencies has been lifted, there have been delays in NGO food distribution as a number of these relief agencies are reportedly still facing some operational constraints. Food politics, looting and diversion of GMB maize meant for the starving villagers as well as selling of scarce maize in foreign currency has reportedly worsened the food crisis in Zimbabwe.

In some provinces, it is reportedly pay-back-time for those that fomented violence in the run up to the 27 June elections with reports that brutalised and harassed Mudzi villagers are now demanding justice for the alleged misdeeds of ZANU PF militias by employing unorthodox means-the use of voodoo, a development that has reportedly had a devastating psychological impact on the ringleaders of the command bases.

Cumulative Human Rights Violations by September 2008

By September, a cumulative total of 20,143 incidents of violence had been recorded indicating an increase from their August cumulative level of 18 715. Below are cumulative violation scenarios since January 2008:

ACTS	January	February	March	April*	May	June†	July	August‡	September	TOTAL
Murder	0	0	7	27	47	78	15	21	7	202
Rape	1	1	4	4	1	4	12	5	9	41
Kidnapping/abduction	3	7	5	149	85	133	44	17	20	463
Assault	163	178	219	771	704	804	470	285	348	3942
Theft/looting	14	6	8	80	64	99	61	48	39	419
Malicious Damage to Property (MDP)	20	12	38	345	214	141	66	36	35	907

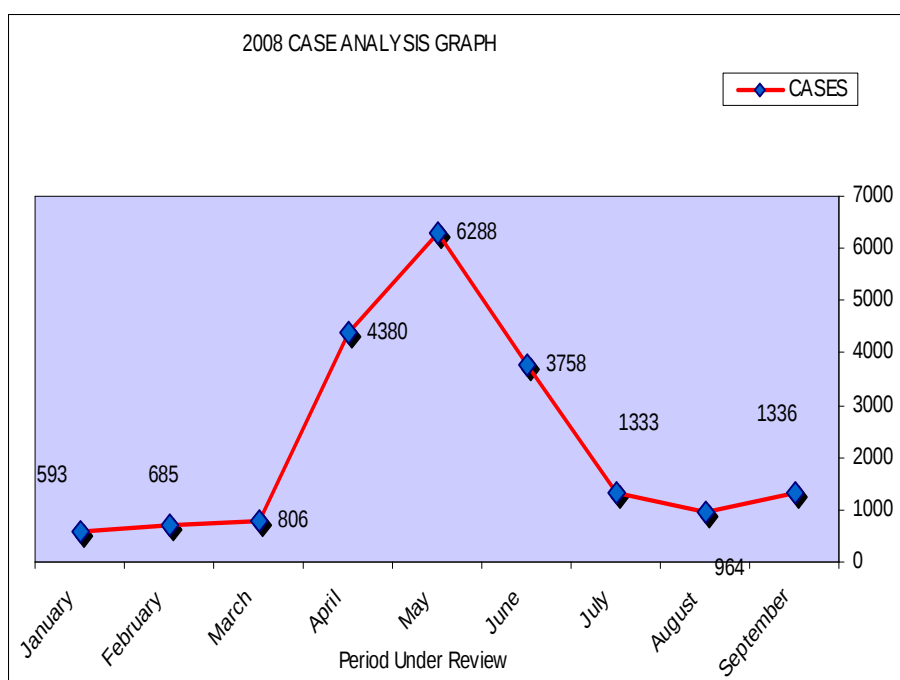
* April figure has been updated from the previous reported figure of 4375 to 4380 owing to reports received after report production.

† June figure has also been adjusted to 4758 from previous 4735 for same reasons as above

‡ August figure updated from 920 to 964 for same reasons as above

Torture	6	2	6	157	60	102	38	21	19	411
Unlawful Detention	18	8	6	125	114	103	15	21	34	444
Harassment/Intimidation	34 3	449	475	1484	4288	2127	460	423	746	10795
Displacement	15	12	23	1219	670	134	114	56	47	2290
Discrimination	10	10	15	19	32	25	28	27	29	195
Attempted Rape	-	-	-	-	5	6	7	2	1	21
Attempted Murder	-	-	-	-	4	2	3	2	2	13
TOTAL	59 3	685	806	4380	6288	3758	1333	964	1336	2014 3^s

Graphic Illustration



PROVINCIAL EXPERIENCES

While political violence has declined in all the ten provinces, cases of murder, rape kidnapping, assaults, harassment, looting, torture, MDP, displacement and discrimination are still reported with assault, harassment, displacement, and looting still disturbingly high. There is a business as usual, indifferent attitude to the 15 September Agreement in all the ten provinces with war veterans

^sPlease note that the cumulative figure of 20143 is not inclusive of food related violations.

reportedly openly downplaying the possibility of an all-inclusive Government with the MDC factions whom they still refer to as sell-outs.

Two strands of fear are noticeable in all the ten provinces-the traditional fear of further retribution and the new fear of guilty where those associated with the perpetration of violence are afraid of possible investigations and arrests.

In all the ten provinces freedom of expression is still curtailed with people reportedly assaulted for publicly expressing their opinions on the causes of the economic meltdown, celebrating the signing of the 15 September deal or the appointment of MDC President as Prime Minister designate, among other things.

In **Mashonaland Central**, while political violence is no longer blazing, cases of harassment/intimidation remain cause for concern. Politically-induced fear still hovers over the province. It is business as usual with regard to the 15 September Agreement with those celebrating the signing of the Agreement or the appointment of the MDC President as PM-designate reportedly assaulted. The will to explain the notion of an all-inclusive Government and even the urgency of stopping violence appears on the low side. As reported in other provinces there is a looming food crises worsened by widespread use of food as a political weapon. In some parts of the province such as Shamva South, Shamva North, Guruve South, and, Mazowe, food- for- work- programs are reportedly a preserve of the ZANU PF members.

In **Mashonaland West**, most of the politically-motivated vices reported in the August report are still manifest despite the signing of the 15 September Agreement. As was observed in other provinces, the 15 September Agreement is viewed with little enthusiasm with some people reportedly harassed for celebrating the signing of the political deal while in some cases intra-party clashes were reported over differences on the 15 September Agreement. On 21 September 2008 Kambanemoyo villagers in Kadoma were reportedly assaulted and forced to pay \$20 each for celebrating the signing of the political deal. As was generally the experience in other provinces, there is widespread use of food as a political weapon, a development that has worsened the food crisis in the province.

In the three **Matebeleland provinces** of Bulawayo, Matebeleland South and North, while human rights violations have been on a steady decline, food-disaster looms in this largely drought-hit region with villagers in Matebeleland South and North reportedly surviving on boiled vegetables or even going for days without a meal. Most parts of the region have been drought-hit for the past two years with nothing having been harvested from the fields. NGO food relief interventions are yet to cope with the dire food situation in the province as they are reportedly re-stocking in preparation for their outreach relief interventions. As in other provinces, the traditional GSF outlets are virtually dry and hence failing to provide maize to starving villagers. Also disquieting are reports of widespread looting of cheap GMB maize allegedly by some high placed individuals in the province.

In **Mashonaland East**, politically motivated human rights violations are generally on the decline although incidents of assaults and harassment remain high especially in areas such as Marondera, Mahusekwa, Goromonzi, Mtoko, Uzumba and Mrewa. As reported in other provinces, an attitude of indifference to the 15 September Agreement is also noticeable. The food crisis is also acute with reports of widespread inclinations to use food as a political weapon. A food disaster is also looming in the province.

Manicaland retains its past red zone record with a disturbingly high incident record of harassment, assault, however with no murder and rape cases. Although on the low side incidents of displacement, discrimination, MDP, abductions, looting and unlawful detentions are still reported in areas such as Mutare West, Makoni, Mutasa North, and Nyanga South. Traces of political intolerance are still manifest with cases of people fighting over “who has more power Mugabe or Tsvangirai”, or being assaulted for celebrating the signing of the 15 September Deal, wearing MDC regalia while local leaders are reportedly denying MDC members registration for state provided maize and agricultural inputs. Cases of looting and theft are also reportedly widespread with incidents in which food destined for the most vulnerable groups [elderly and disabled] are allegedly diverted for personal use by some unscrupulous war veterans and outgoing councillors. As experienced in most provinces, cases of revenge violence are also reported.

In **Masvingo**, while reports of human rights violations have slightly decreased from their August levels, traces of political intolerance are still manifest with areas such as Gutu North, Masvingo Central, Zaka East and West, Gutu Central, and Bikita East among the most commonly cited troublesome areas. In the Masvingo areas of Gutu North, kraal heads are reportedly refusing to cooperate with local MDC structures in community development projects. Elected MPs are reportedly refused permission to hold rallies by chiefs, apparently in fear of being labelled MDC while cases where people are harassed for listening to Studio 7 or listening to explanations on the possibility of an all-inclusive Government are also reported. Outgoing councillors and MPs are reportedly still running the show. In areas such as Masvingo central, parallel special committees have been set up to undermine the activities of committees set up by elected, mostly MDC councillors and MPS. As one of the most severely drought-hit provinces of Zimbabwe, Masvingo is an undeclared food-disaster zone meriting urgent and robust food relief intervention.

As in Masvingo, the **Midlands** province experienced a slight decrease in its human rights violations record although as is generally the case in all provinces, assaults and harassments remain disturbingly high especially in areas such as Mkoba, Kwekwe Central, Gokwe South and North, Gokwe Sesane, Shrugwi North and South. Political tolerance levels are still low with people reportedly assaulted for belonging to the MDC, wearing opposition regalia, commenting on the economy while elected MDC councillors and MPS are generally derogatively referred to as “Morgan People” and in the main refused to hold meetings or discharge their responsibilities in their wards while those who returned home after the signing of the 15 September Agreement are still not welcome with reports of gruelling interrogations and forced payment of acceptance fee in foreign currency, among other things.

Harare province's human rights violation record remains a cause of concern, having surpassed its August levels, with commonly committed cases being acts of harassment and assault. As in other provinces there is pronounced silence on the 15 September Agreement within the Harare ZANU PF leadership with some people reportedly being assaulted for celebrating the signing of the Agreement. ■ In particular as the agreement was being signed at the Harare International Conference Centre, there were skirmishes in the grounds of the Rainbow Towers Hotel as ZANU PF youths who were at the ZANU PF Headquarters reportedly threw stones at MDC youths and supporters dressed in MDC regalia. Amid the commotion a Zanu PF supporter fell down and his colleagues mistook him for one belonging to the opposition and stabbed him with a knife. All this happened in full view of the police who apparently fired a warning shot in the air to disperse the crowd.

Traces of intolerance to political diversity are still manifest with an incident of a Budiro 2 Kombi driver who was on 6 September allegedly harassed by a suspected CIO for playing Thomas Mapfumo's latest album "*Zvaimaiti Munozvigona Nhasi Tiripi*" while on 9 August 2008 a Chitungwiza man was reportedly harassed for commenting that ZANU PF has "failed the economy". In the same area, a man was on 18 September 2008 stripped when spotted wearing an MDC T shirt. As in other provinces, the food situation has reached dire levels with two meals a day a luxury for most urban dwellers. A bucket of maize at 100 Rand is way beyond the reach of most urban dwellers. NGO food relief interventions should also concentrate on urban dwellers where even those employed are failing to make ends meet as most of their salaries have been severely eroded by the soaring inflation.

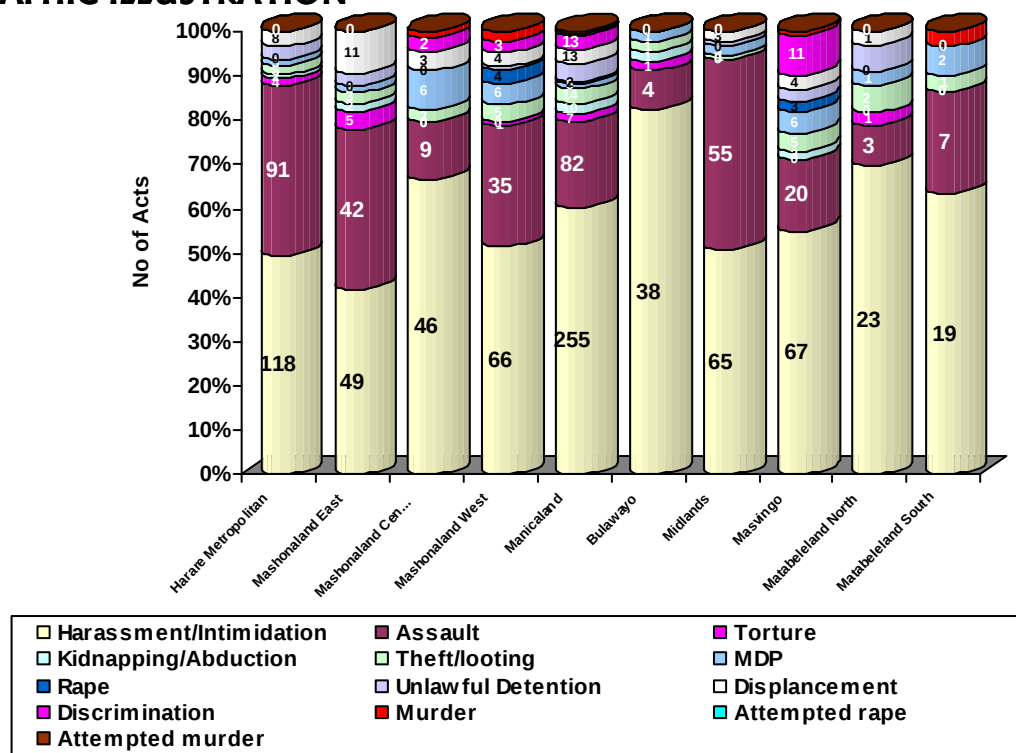
STATISTICAL AND GRAPHIC ILLUSTRATION OF REPORT FINDINGS

September Acts Spread by Provinces

ACTS	Midlands	Bulawayo	Mat. South	Mat. North	Masvingo	Manicaland	Harare	Mash. East	Mash West	Mash Central	TOTAL
Murder	0	0	1	0	1	1	0	0	3	1	7
Rape	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	4	0	5
Kidnapping/Abduction	0	1	0	1	2	2	2	2	0	0	20
Assault	55	4	7	3	20	82	91	42	35	9	348
Theft/Looting	1	1	1	2	5	14	5	3	5	2	39

MDP	3	1	2	1	6	5	3	2	6	6	35
Torture	0	1	0	1	0	7	4	5	1	0	19
Unlawful Detention	1	0	0	2	3	17	7	3	1	0	34
Harassment/Intimidation	65	38	19	23	67	255	118	49	66	46	746
Displacement	3	0	0	1	4	13	8	11	4	3	47
Discrimination	0	0	0	0	11	13	0	0	3	2	29
Attempted Rape	0	0	0	0	3	1	0	0	0	0	1
Attempted Murder	0	0	0	0	0	2	0	0	0	0	2
TOTAL	128	46	30	33	122	422	241	117	128	69	1336

GRAPHIC ILLUSTRATION ACTS ANALYSIS



Salient Observations

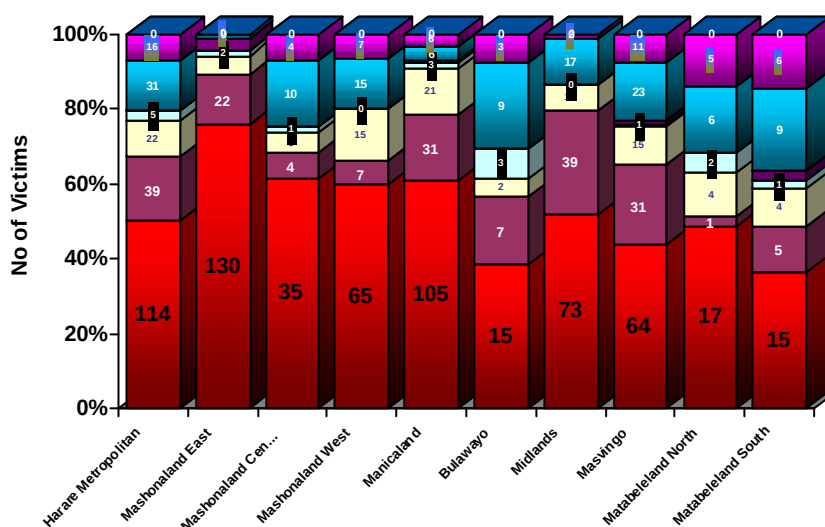
- Violence toll increased by 39% from its August level of 964 to 1336 by September with incidents of murder, rape, kidnapping, assault, looting, harassment, displacements, and MDPs maintaining a disturbing visibility after the signing of the 15 September power-sharing Agreement.
- September violence incidents reflect a shift to more extreme forms of violence with loss of 7 lives, 5 cases of rape and 20 cases of abductions, a trend that is at odds with the spirit of unity and reconciliation enshrined in the power-sharing deal.

- Violence incidence density remains concentrated in Manicaland, Harare, Mashonaland West, Midlands, Masvingo and Mashonaland East with Mashonaland Central showing a surprising retreat from traditional track records.
- As in the past, harassment and assaults remain the most common political offences with most incidents occurring in Manicaland and Harare.
- While the Matebeleland region remains a low violence zone, all the three provincial records show an increase from their August violence records.

Concluding Remarks

Harassments and assaults remain the most frequently committed politically motivated human rights violations, trends that raise serious questions about the commitment to the values that underlie the historic power-sharing Agreement of September 15 2008.

September Gender-Victims Analysis



September 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

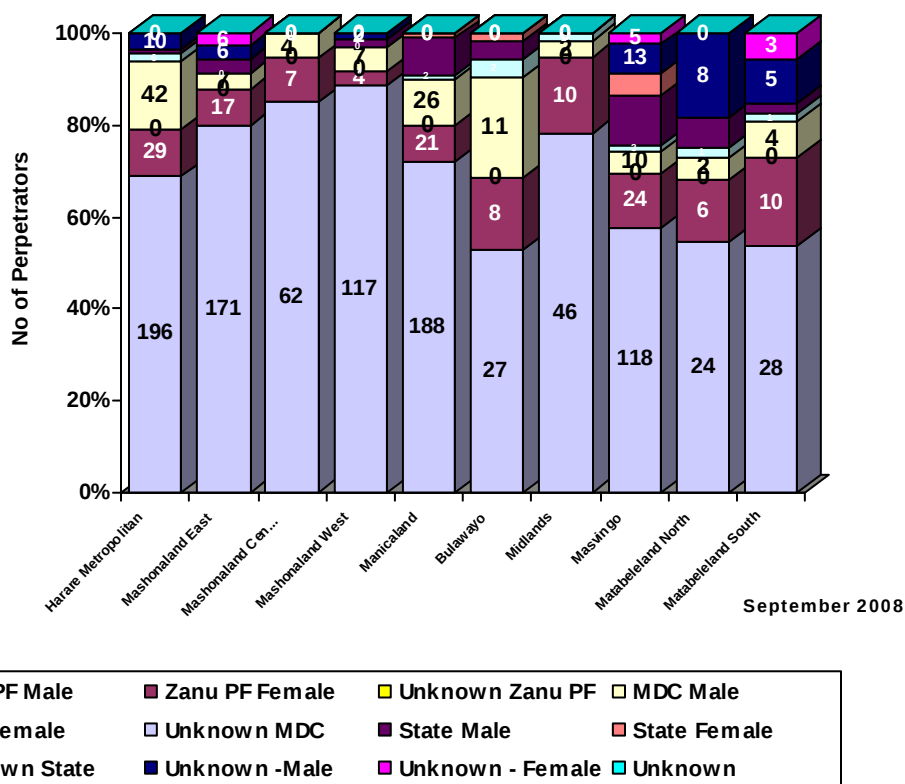
- Although there was a slight drop in gross victim records from their August level of 1053 to 1029 by September, the MDC victim toll remained visibly high constituting 73% of the gross victim toll.

- Of the 1029 victims of violence, the majority are from Harare Metropolitan, Manicaland, Mashonaland East and Masvingo with least victim records in the Matebeleland provinces.
- 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.
- As in August, the Unknown victim toll remains disturbingly high, constituting 25 % of the gross victim toll. That the Unknown victim toll remains high points to the still widespread nature of victimization.

Concluding Remarks

Victim toll remains heavily skewed against MDC members across both sexes.

Gender-Perpetrator Analysis



Observations

- Gross perpetrator toll has slightly dropped from its August level of 1385 to 1244 by September, although as in August, the decline is mainly due to a sharp drop in the number of MDC perpetrators.
- As in August, ZANU PF emerges as the main perpetrator across both sexes.
- Of the gross perpetrator toll of 1244 recorded in August, 992 of these [80%] were ZANU PF perpetrators with 124 [10%] being MDC perpetrators.
- As in August, perpetrator concentration remains dense in Harare Metropolitan, Manicaland, Mashonaland East, and Masvingo Midlands, a trend that is generally consistent with their traditional hotspot history.
- While perpetrator toll remains on the low side in the Matebeleland provinces, perpetrator records were higher than those of August across all the three provinces.
- While males remain the main perpetrators in both the ZANU PF and the MDC, the ZANU PF female perpetrator figure [132] is 106% higher than the gross MDC perpetrator figure of 124.

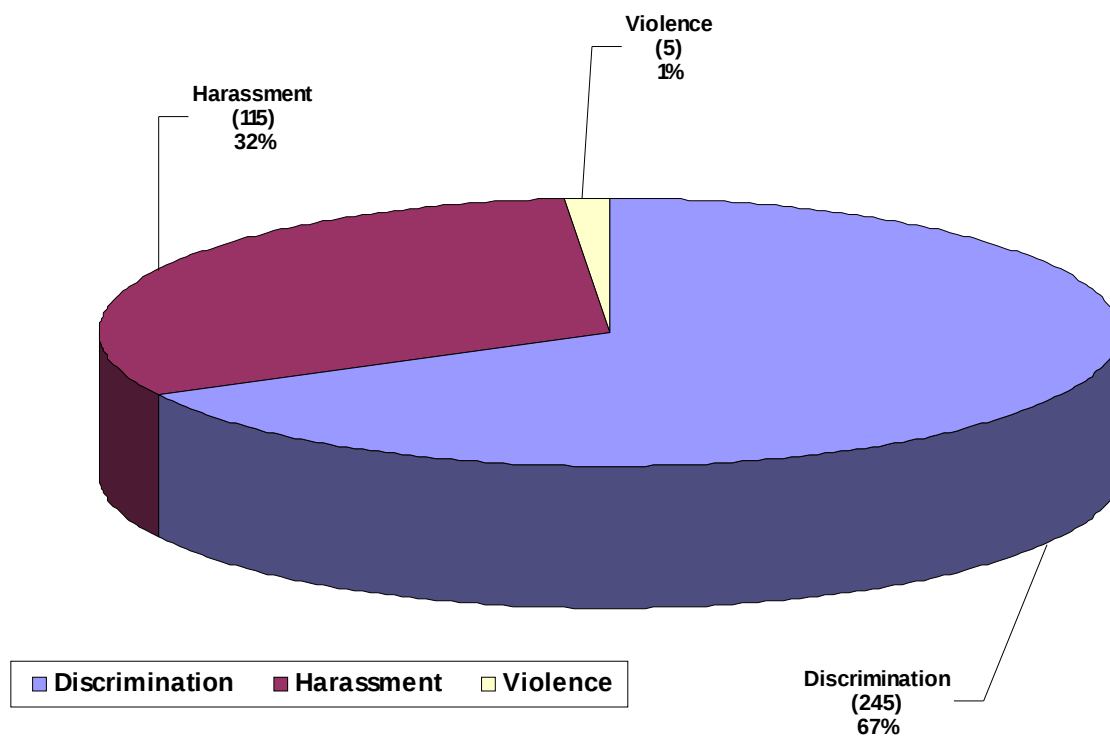
Concluding Remarks

Zanu PF male and female members remain the main perpetrators of violence..

September Food Analysis

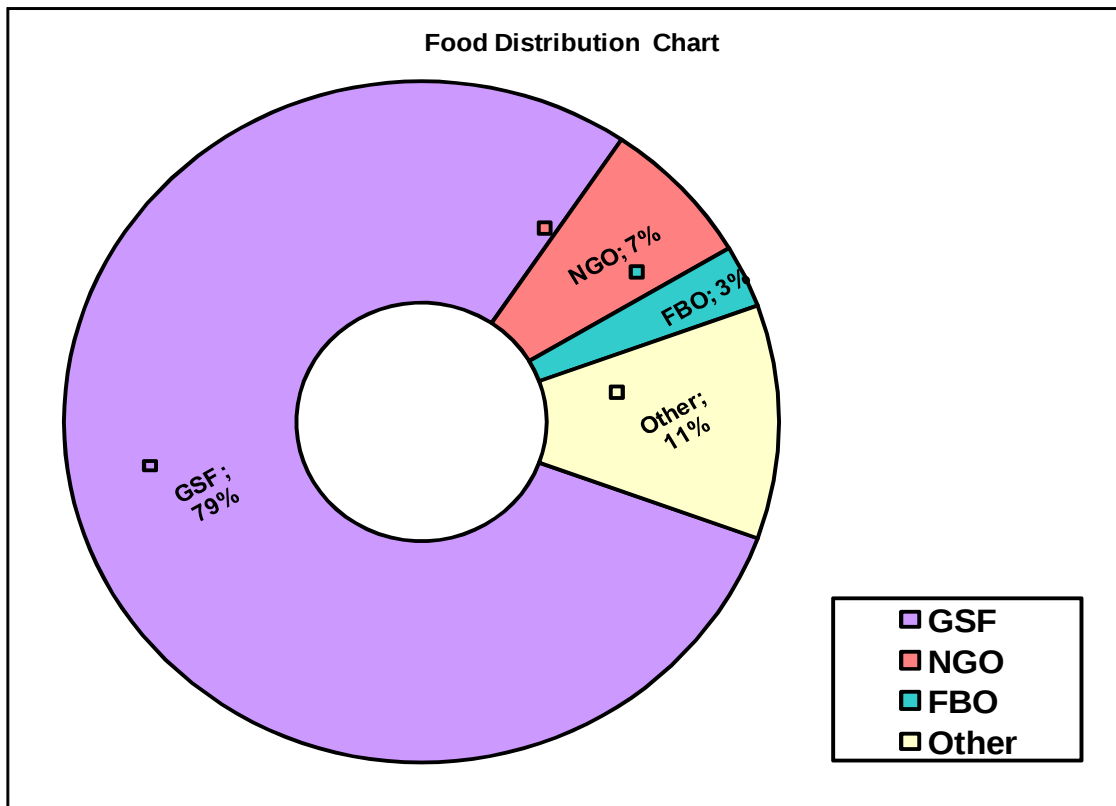
FOOD DISTRIBUTION ANALYSIS SEPTEMBER 2008											
HARASSMENT	Masvingo	Harare	Manicaland	Mashonaland East	Mashonaland West	Mashonaland Central	Bulawayo	Matabeleland North	Matabeleland South	Midlands	TOTAL
Forced to attend political meetings	0	0	1	0	1	1	0	0	0	5	8
Ordered to produce party card	1	0	2	0	3	1	2	0	0	1	10
Ordered to take off party regalia	0	0	0	0	0	2	0	0	0	1	3
Forced to chant party slogans	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Ordered to denounce one's party	0	3	0	23	7	4	0	0	0	3	37
Summoned to meeting	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0
Other	3	0	0	4	0	8	0	0	1	41	57
TOTAL	4	0	3	27	11	16	2	0	1	51	115
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	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	3	5
Grievous bodily harm	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
TOTAL	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	3	5
DISCRIMINATION											
Denied access to GSF	3	6	29	14	35	29	1	13	0	31	161
Denied seeds & fertiliser	0	0	3	1	0	0	0	1	0	1	6
Denied tillage support	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
Denied Agricultural Credit	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	1
Denied food loan	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	5	0	0	5
Denied food relief	0	6	0	0	2	3	0	0	0	0	11
Denied irrigation	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Denied Food Aid	0	3	6	14	7	1	0	0	0	0	31
Denied Education Assistance	0	0	2	0	2	2	0	0	0	0	6
Other	0	1	8	1	0	0	0	0	1	12	23
TOTAL	3	16	48	31	47	35	1	19	1	44	245
OVERALL TOTAL	8	16	51	58	58	51	3	19	3	98	365

Prevalence of Violations



FOOD DISTRIBUTION SOURCES

Source	Masvin go	Hara re	Manical and	Mashonal and East	Mashonaland West	Mashonal and Central	Bulawa yo	Matabelel and North	Matabele land South	Midlands	Total
GSF**	24	6	48	16	35	29	1	19	4	31	213
NGO††	0	0	6	1	6	0	0	0	0	6	19
FBO‡‡	0	1	2	0	0	2	0	0	0	3	8
Other	1	1	8	7	3	3	7	0	0	0	30
TOTAL	25	8	64	24	44	34	8	19	4	40	270



** Government Subsidised Food

†† Non-Governmental Organization

‡‡ Faith Based Organization

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Observations

- Government subsidized food sources remain the main source of food in Zimbabwe, a fact that calls for attention to issues of transparency and fairness in state food allocations systems.
- Across all the ten provinces food shortages emerged a recurring issue. While by August food shortage in Zimbabwe had already reached *crisis* proportions by September it had transformed into a *national disaster* with most provinces virtual red zones. According to the WFP, more than two million Zimbabweans already need food
- While GSF remains the main source of food in all provinces, accessing scarce subsidized maize meal and other related agricultural inputs is increasingly becoming difficult with most rural families reportedly surviving on wild fruits.
- The shortage of food is reportedly worsened by the perceived proclivity by politicians to use food as a political weapon. As the food shortage situation deteriorates, food politics is reportedly also taking a worse trend.

FOOD RELATED CUMULATIVE ACTS 2008

Interestingly to note is the table below showing the total food related violations for 2008.

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

TOTAL	1273	32	1904	3209
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Concluding Remarks

The deadlock on forming an all inclusive Cabinet is worsening the food situation in Zimbabwe with all the ten provinces undeclared food-zone disaster zones. The food crisis situation is worsened by politically-motivated food discriminations, looting of food ear-marked for the most vulnerable groups and the selling of cheaply accessed GMB maize in foreign currency reportedly by some unscrupulous highly placed politicians. Food distribution by relief agencies needs to be urgently stepped up as any further delays may have catastrophic consequences given that around 2 million Zimbabweans are currently facing starvation.

MAJOR OBSERVATIONS AND THE WAY FORWARD

While the implementation of the 15 September Agreement indeed holds the key to peace and socioeconomic stability in Zimbabwe, the Agreement is at high risk of a still birth as a strong anti-inclusive lobby is lurking in the dark using any available opportunity to discredit and to dismiss any possibility of an all-inclusive Government. ZPP continues to pray for the forces of progress to hold sway in the ongoing negotiations on the sharing of ministries. With 2 million Zimbabweans reportedly facing starvations, a continued deadlock is an unnecessary expense which Zimbabwe least affords to shoulder. Continued feet-dragging on enforcing an all-inclusive Cabinet is set to descend the nation into an unproductive revengeful mode.

In understanding the unfolding reactions to the 15 September power-sharing Agreement it is instructive to note that the Agreement means different things to different people. It is a bundle of *threats* and *opportunities* depending on one's political circumstances. Within the Agreement is a new political order in which some stand to lose while others stand to gain.

Thus while for the ordinary Zimbabwean the deal may have symbolized the dawn of a new peaceful era, for others it carried threats of loss of yester-order privileges while for those linked to the perpetration of violence, the Agreement induces a panic mode as perpetrators weigh the possibility of investigations and incarcerations. For the victims of election violence, the Agreement may have been seen as symbolizing pay-back time for the perpetrators of violence. Since politics is a game of perceptions, these different perceptions if not prudently managed, may pose serious threats to the power-sharing process.

The food situation is at its worst in all the ten provinces with most parts almost food disaster zones as food relief agencies which have recently been removed from the 4 June 2008 ban are yet to reach most starvation-hit parts of the provinces. Provincial reports also

show that the much celebrated but short-lived Bacossi program was more visible on paper than on the ground as its outreach hardly covered most provinces. The food crisis in the province is reportedly worsened by tight vetting structures, political abuse of food allocations, looting of GMB maize by some unscrupulous highly politically-connected individuals as well as the selling of cheaply accessed GMB maize in foreign currency to starving villagers.

With over 2 million Zimbabweans already starving, a more robust Government-NGO partnership is urgently needed to rescue rural families who are reportedly surviving on wild fruits and boiled vegetables. Transparency in food allocation should also be strictly enforced to ensure that all villagers irrespective of their political affiliations gain access to food. Restrictions that are currently constraining the operation of food relief agencies should be removed as a matter of urgency.



ZPP SCOOPS AWARD!

On August 28, 2008, ZPP scooped its first ever award dubbed Governance & Democracy Award presented by Crisis in Zimbabwe Coalition. The award was in recognition of ZPP's outstanding accomplishments in the fight for democracy and good governance in Zimbabwe. The award was presented to Ms Jestina Mukoko the National Director by the Crisis in Zimbabwe Coalition Vice Chairperson Tabitha Khumalo.

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.

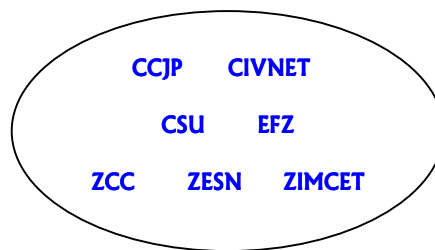
GOAL

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.

GENERAL INFORMATION

The member organisations which formed the Zimbabwe Peace Project are: The Zimbabwe Peace Project has offices in all provinces of the country. If you wish to know more about the organisation you are free to approach our officers at any of the following addresses:



Head Office

4 Athol Close, Northwood, Mt Pleasant
HARARE
P O Box BE 427, Belvedere
Tel: (04) 301790, 2930180,
2930182, 2900555, 2900556
Cell: 011 414 333-4/ 011423182

Office 407 CABS Centre
Cell: 011 423 185

Harare/Mashonaland East

Head Office
Tel: (04) 301790, 2930180,
2930182, 011 401 340

Bulawayo

39 Edge House, Fife St.
Cell: 011 423 189

Mutare

27 Fifth St.
Cell: 011 423 183

Masvingo

2 Robin House,
974 Mazorodze Ave

Gweru

Hwange

1179, Baobab Hill Ext.

Cell: 011 423 184

Gwanda

Gwanda Pharmacy Bldg.

Gwanda

Cell: 011 423 186

Chinhoyi

Chidavayenzi Building

46 Midway Street

Cell: 011 423 192