

REPORT ON POLITICALLY MOTIVATED HUMAN RIGHTS & FOOD RELATED VIOLATIONS

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ACRONYMS	DENOTATION
CADEC	Catholic Development Commission
CIO	Central Intelligence Organization
FAO	Food Agriculture Organization
FACT	Family Aids Community Trust
FBO	Faith Based Organizations
GMB	Grain Marketing Board
GNU	Government of National Unit
GOAL	An international humanitarian organization
GPA	Global Political Agreement
GSF	Government Subsidized Food
H.Q	Headquarters
ICRC	International Committee of the Red Cross
NGO	Non Governmental Organizations
MDC	Movement for Democratic Change (Mutambara)
MDC – T	Movement for Democratic Change – Tsvangirai
MDP	Malicious Damage to Property
MP	Member of Parliament
PM	Prime Minister
PVO	Private Voluntary Organization
RBZ	Reserve Bank of Zimbabwe
SDA/SDC	School Development Association/School Development Committee
UNICEF	United Nations Children’s Fund
USAID	United States Aid
WFP	World Food Programme
ZANU PF	Zimbabwe African National Union Patriotic Front

Glossary of Terms

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/LOOTING	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

OVERVIEW

A nation in which citizens first and foremost view themselves as members of one big family, each with a Godly endowed right to life, association, expression, assembly and redress is indeed the dream of all peace-loving citizens across the world. This report contributes to this universally cherished concern by identifying, analyzing and alerting society of malpractices that pose to either covertly or overtly undermine the consummation of these basic

freedoms in both the rural and urban settings of Zimbabwe. The Report is presented in two sections, the first part focusing on politically motivated human rights violations in general while the second part zeroes in on those that affect food distribution.

While the inclusive government dispensation has certainly not been a stranger to setbacks, the fact that it has maintained forte for the past three months should be cause for continued national hope. Equally encouraging are its efforts at opening debate on the stormy “waters” of the constitution making and national healing processes, societal prayers being that those who have been mandated with this onerous task will have both the “ear” and the “will” to input critical issues that are raised as the processes roll out to all parts of the country. A replay of the 1999 constitution-making process is the least the nation expects. Equally true is that long-lasting national reconciliation can hardly be achieved through forced amnesia!

Also heartening is the news that following heart-rending reports of dire food shortages in the country’s prisons in which nearly 1000 prisoners reportedly died of malnutrition, the International Committee of the Red Cross [ICRC] is currently supplying food and medicines to Bulawayo’s two prisons of Khami and Grey and Harare’s Chikurubi prison with the program expected to roll out to other prisons across the country. Reports of the ministry of Justice failing to transport prisoners on remand for trials grossly infringe upon the constitutional rights of prisoners.

Reports that some chiefs are beginning to take tough stances against former perpetrators of violence in their areas by encouraging all villagers who had their property looted in the run up to the June 27, 2008 Elections to report such matters to courts are indeed refreshing. These initiatives, though in infancy, have reportedly some former victims of violence getting back their livestock and property in peaceful circumstances. Since most of these violations occurred in rural communities, who other than traditional leaders is better placed to ensure that community harmony is restored?

Equally worth noting are modest changes that have occurred in the health sector. While drugs are still short, public access to health services has noticeably improved. The sick now have some hope when they are taken to public hospitals.

Despite these efforts, the post inclusive political environment remains disturbingly polarized along party lines, scenarios that have seen unscrupulous individuals exploiting party politics to commit human rights violations. Scenarios in which some inclusive government ministers appear to be only answerable to the President but publicly defying orders from the Prime Minister prejudice the integrity of the inclusive government. Equally disturbing are reports that soldiers of all ranks have been ordered to salute only the President and to an extent Defence Minister leaving out the Prime Minister.

The issue of the posts of the Central Bank Governor and Attorney General remain contested and assuming highly emotional partisan overtones with even declarations by one of the principals to the inclusive Government that the case of the Reserve Bank of Zimbabwe (RBZ) Governor is a “closed matter” while services chiefs have also joined the political fray saying that calls for the removal of the Reserve Bank Governor would provoke a reaction from the army. Since then, incidents in which members of the public have been either harassed or assaulted for expressing opinions on these issues of public interest have been reported countrywide-with disturbing recurrence.

Organizations operating as Trusts in areas of human rights, democracy and governance are set to see an increase in state interference in their operations if the proposed legislation compelling them all to register as private voluntary organizations [PVOs] sees the light of the day.

Also worrying are reports of continued arrests and detention of human rights activists, politicians, journalists and human rights lawyers carrying out their mandates. Notable cases being the re-arrest, detention of Jestina Mukoko , Brodreck Takawira and 16 others on the 5th May 2009 following their indictment to the High Court by the Harare Magistrate court. They however, were released on the same bail conditions the following day, the 6th of May 2009.

Other cases, being arrest and charge on 11 May, 2009 of two journalists of the privately owned Zimbabwe Independent's weekly newspaper for publishing an article which was viewed by the state as "wholly or materially false" and also the arrest and detention of prominent human rights lawyer, Alec Muchadehama on 14 May 2009, by officers from the police's law and order section accusing him of obstructing the course of justice.

Student rights to education continue to be disregarded with the premier institution of higher education, the University of Zimbabwe remaining closed for the past six months, developments that have seen career prospects of many students scuttled.

Inter-party initiatives in most rural areas are facing resistance from political party hardliners with some utterances by the leadership reportedly leaving grassroots members confused about the sincerity of the inclusive government drive. Community activities remain sharply polarized along party lines while in urban high density areas most market stalls are citadels of power contestations between MDC and ZANU PF supporters- despite the fact that most urban areas are under MDC local councillors.

With election talk afloat and even reports of resurgence of the visibility of military details and youths militia in rural areas, fear of a replay of the 27 June, 2008 atrocities is reportedly stalking most rural communities. Incidents in which some youths have been caught snooping and even recording names of all MDC supporters in their areas as well as any ZANU PF supporters suspected to have defected to the MDC also cast ominous future scenarios- come elections. Also alarming to the villagers are reports that some ZANU party youth militias who are known to have been part of the terror campaign in the rural areas, have been grafted onto the government pay roll and are receiving the US\$100 allowances paid to all those employed by government.

While invasions on the remaining farms owned by white farmers continue unabated and reportedly with even more vigour after the unannounced visits in April 2009 by a ministerial team led by deputy-Prime Minister, Professor Arthur Mutambara a "struggle within the struggle" has unfolded with some invaders reportedly targeting farms that are owned by blacks known or suspected to be supporters of the MDC. The strategy, as reported is that people in possession of certificates of occupation that look authentic with all correct details of the farms in their names, would approach their targets and claim ownership to the farm. These clandestine evictions have to be urgently stopped as they constitute a stab in the back of a land reform process which the three principals to the Global Political Agreement endorsed is irreversible.

With these disruptions at most farms, children have become silent victims, driven out of schools, rendered homeless and destitute once their parents are evicted from farms-their source of livelihood.

Reports of incidents in which victims of political violence are said to have taken up matters into their own hands in an attempt to recover their property and livestock are disturbingly on the increase. Also disconcerting to most yester-victims of violence is that while police are quick to arrest those who claim their property they are reportedly still hesitant to take action against known perpetrators of violence. In Mapadzire village of Nyanga in Manicaland, two former base commanders reportedly lost 6 and 4 cattle each through water poisoning allegedly by people who had earlier tried in vain to get back their livestock from the said former perpetrators. In another related incident, two war veterans who had caused terror in the run up to the 27 June, 2008 elections and had since relocated to another area were reportedly upon their return to their former village on 9 May, 2009 attacked and chased away by villagers. Urgent measures are thus needed to avert incidents of this nature.

Against this background, by end of May, 1983 cases of incidents that smack of politically motivated human rights violations had been recorded, the figure showing a disturbing surge from the April record of 1490. Of the May

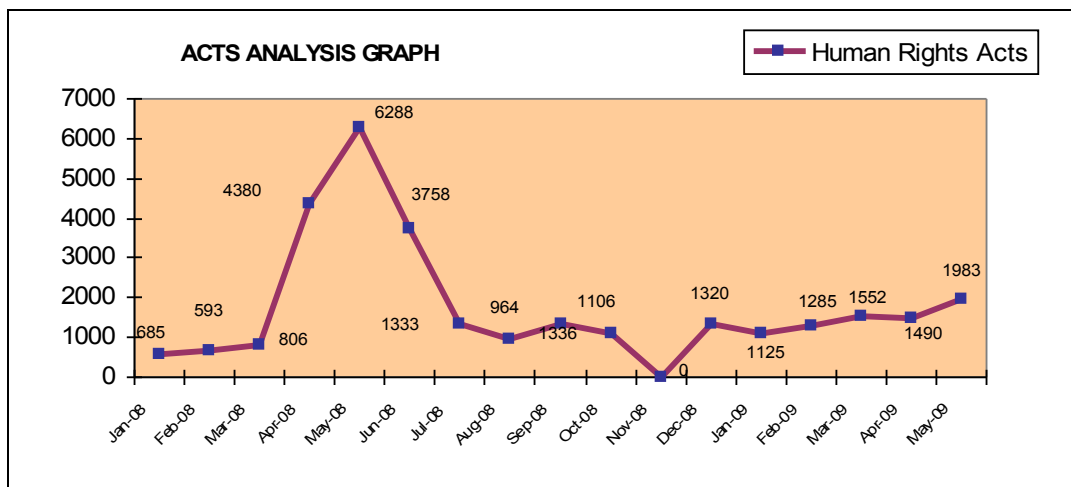
record, 976 were harassments, 398 were assaults and 353 were discriminations, however with no recorded cases of murder.

Since January 2008, a cumulative total of 30,012 cases of politically motivated human rights violations have been recorded, of which 15668 were harassments while 6286 were assault cases [Refer to the table below for detail].

Table 1: Cumulative Human Rights Violations

ACTS	2008	CUMULATIVE HUMAN RIGHTS VIOLATIONS												
		2009												
		Jan	Feb	Mar	April	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sept	Oct	Nov	Dec	TOTAL
Murder	207	0	0	0	0	0								207
Rape	56	4	12	8	7	8								95
Kidnapping/abduction	496	21	20	17	13	15								582
Assault	4581	270	378	367	292	398								6286
Theft/looting	578	80	44	78	76	92								948
Malicious Damage to Property (MDP)	979	40	29	28	37	34								1147
Torture	436	17	13	33	27	13								539
Unlawful Detention	487	37	41	35	34	36								670
Harassment/Intimidation	11954	553	658	787	740	976								15668
Displacement	2450	75	51	65	78	56								2775
Discrimination	306	28	39	134	186	355								1048
Attempted Rape	23	0	0	0	0	0								23
Attempted Murder	14	0	0	10	0	0								24
TOTAL	22567	1125	1285	1562	1490	1983								30012

Graph 1: Acts Analysis Graph



PART A

CASE INCIDENTS OF HUMAN RIGHTS VIOLATIONS BY PROVINCE

Manicaland

The province maintained its lead hot zone tag experiencing 551 cases of human rights violations, a figure that is double its April 2009, record of 269 and also having high density tolls of harassments, assaults, discrimination, looting and unlawful detentions. Incidents spread show that rights to basic freedoms are heavily stressed. Among the commonly cited restive areas are Makoni North, Nyanga, Mutare South, Musikavanhu, Chipinge and Buhera South. Political intolerance which had seemingly been on the retreat is reportedly resurfacing.

Acceptance of the inclusive government remains on the low side in the area, with high incidents in which those viewed as being positive about it were either harassed or assaulted. In the Chipwanya village of Makoni, a kraal head who had shown readiness to work with the local MDC structures in line with the Global Political Agreement (GPA) inter-party initiatives was on 3 May, 2009 reportedly stripped of his traditional roles and powers by the ZANU PF party chairperson [a war veteran] and directed forth with to stop holding any meetings in the village. In Gowakowa village of the same constituency, a Methodist church pastor [and also known MDC supporter] was on 10 May, 2009 reportedly evicted from the village by alleged ZANU PF supporters accusing him of preaching politics. On the day in question a group of around ten ZANU PF party supporters approached the pastor at his church house singing Chimurenga songs before ordering him to leave the area without delay, a directive he quickly complied with in fear of further retribution.

Some former victims of violence, probably out of desperation, are reportedly taking own efforts to solve issues of redress. In ward 26 of Mapadzire village in Nyanga, two former base commanders [reportedly notorious violence perpetrators] were said to have lost 6 and 4 cattle each through water poisoning in a case that smacks of revenge violence. Two former victims have since been linked to this act and are reportedly on the run. In another related matter, two war veterans who had caused terror in the run up to the 27 June, 2008 elections and had since relocated to another area were on 9 May, 2009 reportedly attacked by villagers when they returned to their former village. In the Maparura village of Mutare North, a group of suspected MDC supporters on 3 May forcibly

collected back 10 hens and 3 goats from their perpetrator's homestead. In the Matema and Bonde villages of Nyanga a chief in the area is reported to have adopted a tough stance against former perpetrators of violence encouraging those of his villagers who lost their livestock for slaughter at militia bases to repossess them through peaceful means. Two of his villagers have reportedly since gotten back their livestock from base commanders peacefully.

Some traditional leaders in the province are still openly opposed to MDC activism in their areas. In the Chigudu village of Mutare North, the headman reportedly disrupted an MDC party meeting which was being held at a home in his village, threatening the participants with eviction if they continue with meetings of that nature. In Chiendambuya of the same constituency, an evangelist of the Family of God (FOG) church was assaulted by a ZANU PF party youth. On the day in question, the pastor met a group of people who began to ask him political questions which he failed to answer, upon which the group began to beat the evangelist until he was rescued by passers-by.

Midlands

The province experienced a sharp surge in incidents of politically motivated human rights violations, the record shooting from the April level of 177 to 405 by end of May, the bulk of violations being harassments, discriminations and assaults committed in areas such as Mberengwa West, most parts of Gokwe, Kwekwe, Zhombe, Shurugwi, Zvishavane Runde, and Gweru Urban. However most of the reported cases are individual rather than group based and several cases committed by individuals bent on using politics to pursue private agendas.

Cases reported in most parts of the province involved people being harassed, assaulted, or discriminated against simply because of political affiliation, appearing in own party regalia, refusing or failing to attend party meetings, singing songs linked to the MDC party, distributing party fliers, refusing to chant slogans, or expressing a view on outstanding issues.

Youth militia activity is still visible [especially in most parts of Gokwe and Mberengwa West] with even reports that some are on government payroll and also claiming to have been tasked to write the names of suspected/known MDC members or ZANU PF members who have since defected to the MDC party so that they will be dealt with come elections. Such reports coupled with reports of growing presence of "man in uniform" in most rural areas have reportedly seen fear returning to most villages.

Attitudes to the inclusive government remain blurred, villagers generally confused, doubtful and even evasive while war veterans and party youths are openly dismissive about it and ridiculing the idea as akin to partnering with "sell-outs"- a term they still use in reference to MDC members. While there is simmering tension over property and livestock looted during the run up to the June 2008 Elections, these matters are rarely discussed in the open, with fear of retribution still hanging in the air.

At village, cell, ward and district levels, little has changed as political and developmental activities generally remain polarized along party lines. The idea of inter-party partnerships remains a very dim prospect. At a Field Day meeting held at Jeka Business Centre in Mberengwa West on 30 May, 2009, hate slogans such as "*Pamberi ne ZANU PF. Pasi ne MDC*" meaning "*Forward with Zanu PF. Down with MDC*) were profusely chanted by the Chief of the area with even reports that some villagers who refused to respond were later harassed for disrespect. At a School Development Association (SDA) meeting held at Chitombo Secondary school in Gokwe-Kabuyuni on 15 May, 2009 efforts to restructure the school committee to reflect inter-party participation ended up in clashes and destruction of school property, as the old committee members who were made up of ZANU PF members were reportedly not prepared to work with MDC members. Clashes only ended when police were called in to monitor meeting proceedings which resulted in the formation of a committee made up of different parties.

Mashonaland West

The province remained potentially restive with a record of 186 cases of politically motivated human rights violations, showing an increase from their April 2009 level of 135. The bulk of these violations were harassments, most of which were committed at farms, mines, meetings and shopping centres mostly in areas such as Zvimba, Makonde, Kadoma and Chinhoyi.

The nature and circumstances under which these incidents were committed strongly suggest that political tolerance, especially among ordinary party supporters, is still very low, scenarios that continue to clandestinely place rights to association, expression, assembly, and redress under siege. In Makonde, a patron at Badza bottle store was on 2 May, 2009 reportedly slapped twice by a fellow patron [who later turned out to be the ZANU PF party district secretary] allegedly because he had said *“Zvingafambasei kana Mugabe achipo. Hapana anemari yekurasa ku Zimbabwe”* apparently making a contribution to the challenges the inclusive government is currently facing in sourcing foreign aid needed to jump start the economy. This incident is said to have happened right in front of a police officer who simply watched helplessly. In Muzvezve, MDC activists who had held a meeting at Brompton mine on 16 May reportedly trying to introduce new MDC party structures in the area were harassed by ZANU PF supporters accusing them of trespassing into a ZANU PF stronghold while in Chakari there was a reported case of an MDC activist who was harassed and assaulted by ZANU PF supporters after he had organized an MDC meeting on 10 May at Golden Valley-an area declared an “MDC no go area”. Despite this, calls for equal representation in local politics are reportedly on the increase in most areas, with MDC members reportedly expressing disquiet at the continued dominance by ZANU PF members in ward development committees in the area.

Farming areas remain restive amid growing acts of lawlessness at farms such as Red Acres in Raffingora and Sutton A1 farm in Zvimba North. At the Red Acres Farm there were reports of farm house ownership disputes, with youths trying to evict an Arex officer and his family from the house claiming that they (the youths) have the right to occupy it since it was their father who had evicted the farm owner. Also reported at the farm was an incident in which some farmers and farm workers who were suspected to be MDC supporters were issued with eviction orders by war veterans. At Sutton A1 Farm, a farm worker was reportedly given a 48 hour notice to leave his employment by his employer [a war veteran and ZANU PF activist] allegedly because he had attended the MDC party 10th Anniversary Celebrations which were held in Chinhoyi.

Mashonaland Central

While the province witnessed a slight drop in its human rights violations toll, records slumping from 143 in April to 101 by end of May, areas such as Mbire, Rushinga, Mazowe, Guruve and Mt Darwin remain volatile and inter-party initiatives generally viewed as alien. Incidents of harassment and assault remain thinly spread across the province with most of the reported “offences” being failure to attend ZANU PF meetings, listening to Studio 7, wearing own party regalia, commenting on the outstanding issues dogging the inclusive government, allowing MDC colleagues to hold meetings at their houses, among others. At Kildrun Farm in Mazowe, a man who was on 7 May, 2009 spotted wearing an MDC T shirt while working in his field was reportedly approached by suspected members of ZANU PF who harassed him before forcing him to remove it. In circumstances that smack of political punishment, a well known MDC activist was on 2 May, 2009 reportedly raped in the Bare village of Mazowe by an unknown group of youths who were reported to have stopped the woman, ordered her to chant ZANU PF slogans and assaulted her. When she refused to chant the slogans, she was raped in front of her ten year old son. The culprits have however since been arrested and reportedly sentenced to five years in prison.

Youth militias continue to terrorize people on political grounds in most parts of the province. In one incident in the Jaji village of Mazowe, a vendor who was suspected to be an MDC supporter was on 6 May ordered to quickly pack her wares and disappear after the youth militia threatened to pay her a night visit. In another incident reported in the Sikero village of Bindura District of Mashonaland East, a group of about 300 unknown youth carrying logs, iron bars and knobkerries were reported to have stormed a village at night where they beat up the whole village [the young and the elderly] destroying houses and car windows, in an act which villagers associated with revenge violence. While no one was identified except some ZANU PF T shirts and bandanas left behind, it was reported that earlier, about 50 ZANU PF youths had been repelled by MDC supporters when they attempted to attack 15 MDC youths who had gone to the Governor's Office.

Despite the formation of the inclusive government, inter-party politics is not tolerated in most rural parts of the province with several traditional leaders[working in cahoots with war veterans] reportedly still threatening to flush out from their areas people suspected to have links with the MDC. At a meeting which was held in the Hakata village of Rushinga on 8 May 2009, war veterans were reportedly informing villagers that there is "no unity Government". At Mukoko farm in Mazowe, a man was on 13 May 2009, harassed for allowing MDC members to hold a meeting in the farming area while in the Jongwe village of Mt Darwin, a man married to a wife who was suspected to be MDC [because she had attended ZIMRIGHTS and MDC party meetings] was reportedly under immense pressure from the village head to divorce his wife. The village head reportedly said he does not want MDC supporters in his area.

In some cases, members of the public had their rights to association, expression and assembly clandestinely gagged through either snooping or posting informers at meetings. In the Muronzi village of Guruve a ZANU PF district secretary and also youth officer was caught in the act of recording the names of people who were attending an inter-party youth stakeholder meeting held at Nyanhunzi School on 7 May 2009. Upon interrogations, the perpetrator claimed that he was working under orders from the district coordinating committee chairperson.

Mashonaland East

The province recorded 232 cases of human rights violations, with incidents of discriminations, harassments, assaults and looting still pronounced across the province with Marondera, Hwedza, Goromonzi, Murewa, Mutoko and UMP [Uzumba] among the hot spot zones.

Tolerance to MDC politics and human rights activism is still on the low side. Those who attend NGO and MDC meetings reportedly are at high risk of having their names recorded for possible retribution come election time. In Cherima location in Marondera Central, a man was on 15 May, 2009 assaulted by suspected ZANU PF party youths after he had been spotted wearing a Zimbabwe Congress of Trade Unions (ZCTU) T-shirt. At Sicola Farm in Wedza North, an MDC party chairperson and activist was reportedly abducted and tortured by suspected ZANU PF youths after he had attended an MDC meeting addressed by the Prime Minister (PM) and president of the party at Marondera Mbuyanehandu Hall on 17 May, 2009. The victim is alleged to have been taken to the house of the local ZANU PF chairperson where firewood was used to burn his hands and foot, only to be released the following day.

In what to some are efforts aimed at discrediting the MDC Council currently running the town of Marondera, some youths in the high density suburbs were reportedly involved in acts of vandalism, destroying sewer pipes and dropping big stones in the main holes to block the smooth flowing of waste. The issue was brought to the attention of the Town Clerk who has reportedly issued a cautionary statement.

Incidents of factional violence were also reported with one case in Marondera Central where a group of MDC members comprised of those who lost in the primary elections as aspirant MPs and councillors were reportedly harassing other MDC members aligned to Ian Kay the MP for the area.

Cases in which efforts towards seeking redress were suppressed were also reported with an incident at Rapid Farm in Marondera constituency where a man was on 24 May, 2009 summoned to the village headman's court for trial allegedly because he had demanded repayment for goats forcibly taken during the run up to the 27 June 2008 Elections. The perpetrator reportedly harassed the victim during the trial before the victim was told to take up the matter with the perpetrator's boss- a war veteran who was the base commander. The victim is fearfully awaiting response from the perpetrator's boss.

Masvingo

Masvingo remained prone to incidents of human rights violations with 219 cases having been reported indicating a slight increase to the April level of 181. Areas such as Bikita, Masvingo Urban, West and South and Chiredzi were among the commonly cited areas. While most of the reported acts of violence were in the form of harassments, assaults and discriminations, most incidents reflect a general lack of tolerance among members of the public and a penchant to take advantage of politics to achieve private agendas. A cursory review of the sampled cases helps to appreciate both the subtle ways through which rights to association, assembly, expression and remedy are ring fenced.

Some chiefs were also part of the perpetrator network with one case in Masvingo West where a prominent chief in the area who is also the president of the national council of chiefs was reported to have summoned a teacher at Mudavanhu Secondary School to answer to charges of trying to "sideline the chief in political decisions". The incident reportedly happened after the teacher had received donations in the form of 13 computers for the school from a well-wisher, a church priest. The move, as alleged, may have infuriated the chief who would have wanted to present the donation at a political gathering.

In ward 11 of Machingambi village in Zaka District, a man was on 9 May, 2009 reportedly dragged by ZANU PF supporters to the kraal head's court where he was questioned for 4 hours and then sternly cautioned for playing "MDC songs" at his home.

Inter-party initiatives continue to face subtle forms of resistance despite exhortations by some senior politicians in the province. At an inter-party rally held on 10 May, 2009 in the Musvovi village of Masvingo South at which MP Walter Mzembi had exhorted people to forget about the past and help build the nation together as one party one nation, MDC supporters who had gathered to listen to the speech were reportedly chased away and denied access to food.

At ward level, most Development Committees are reportedly dominated by ZANU PF members although reports point to increasing calls for inter-party participation in these grassroots structures.

Hate slogans were also used at several meetings held in the province. At a ZANU PF party rally held at Dalwiche Farm on 16 May, 2009 hate speech and slogans were used, MDC party were supporters being castigated and even threatened with eviction if they continued participating in MDC politics. At another ZANU PF rally held on 3 May, 2009 at Makuto Business Centre, terms such as "puppets of the whites, dogs and cats" were used to characterize the MDC and its supporters. In the same district, a man was reportedly beaten by ZANU PF supporters accused of disturbing proceedings at a ZANU PF meeting that was held on 11 May, 2009 at Nemauku Primary School. On the day in question, the victim was reportedly passing by when he heard a ZANU PF man addressing the meeting

misinforming people by saying that “there was going to be an election and that this time people will vote in the presence of their headmen” to which the victim had corrected by explaining to the people that the election would be held after a people-driven constitution and would also be free and fair, an explanation that did not go down well with the perpetrator.

While calls for redress to violations incurred during the run up to the 27 June 2008 Elections, are on the increase, victims are reportedly making little headway amid reports of continued assault of those seeking repayment for property and livestock. In Mvo Mvo Zavirima, victims demanding their property back were on 16 May, 2009 reportedly threatened with violence, perpetrators arguing that they should confront base commanders who were their leaders while in Mvo Mvo Chisvinga, a war veteran’s homestead was stoned on 5 May, 2009 after he had rejected the victim’s claims for compensation for livestock looted in the run up to the June 2008 Elections.

Harare

The province recorded 223 cases of violence showing a slight increase from the April record of 177, with harassments and assaults constituting the bulk. Incidents of violations remain spread in high density areas with areas such as Kambuzuma, Kuwadzana, Chitungwiza, Zengeza West and Harare East among the commonly cited incident-prone areas. Incident spread suggest that several rights to association, expression and assembly are still subtly curtailed.

Cases in which people easily lose emotions over petty political issues continue to be reported with a disturbing frequency. In Domboramwari, an ordinary discussion on the controversy surrounding the Reserve Bank of Zimbabwe turned nasty when a man who had been snooping on this discussion suddenly lost his temper and viciously attacked [kicking and slapping] the man who had intimated that Gideon Gono the Central Bank Governor be removed from the RBZ. In Kambuzuma, a man was on 29 May, 2009 assaulted at Wellcome Bar when he jokingly likened Barcelona to the MDC party and Manchester to ZANU PF, a comparison that must have been interpreted by the perpetrator as an insult to his political party. At a house in Tynwald South, an MDC activist was reportedly physically assaulted by a man [who is a teacher in the army and based at Dzivarasekwa Presidential Guard Camp] allegedly because he had accused ZANU PF of playing delaying tactics by not implementing what was agreed in the Global Political Agreement.

Market stalls in most high density areas remain citadels of power contestations between ZANU PF and the MDC with ZANU PF generally calling the shots. At Kuwadzana 4 shopping centre, vendors suspected to be affiliated to the ZANU PF party were on 25 May, 2009 reportedly taunting other vendors that the markets are under their control. Incidents in which vendors were reportedly evicted from market stalls in circumstances that smack of political discrimination continue to be reported in other high density areas like Dzivarasekwa, Mbare, Warren Park, and Machipisa-Highfields.

In some cases, community clean-up exercises have been quickly turned into get-together gatherings to vent-out vitriol against the MDC. At a meeting which was held at Zororo Community Centre in Highfields West on 15 May, 2009 after ZANU PF supporters had conducted a clean-up exercise, hate language and slogans were used. The MDC party was denounced as a party of sell-outs while local MDC councillors were accused of conniving with workers at Zororo Community Centre to turn the Centre into an MDC party base. The meeting was concluded with stern threats to deploy ZANU PF youths at the centre.

In Chitungwiza South, some residents who approached their perpetrators [in possession of court orders they were given after civil court rulings at Chitungwiza Court] demanding payments for property they looted, ended up detained for the whole night in holding cells.

Matabeleland North

Although the province remains in the least human rights violations zone with 43 recorded cases [a slight increase from the April, 2009 level of 38], some of incidents reported in the province still pose serious threat to basic human rights. As reported in other provinces, the number of youth militias who have been allegedly grafted onto the government pay roll continues to increase, scenarios that some view as heralding a replay of the campaign tactics of June 2008 Elections. Equally alarming were reports that a Binga notorious militia and leader of the terror attacks on villagers was reportedly rewarded with a new motor bike by his party, ZANU PF. Inter-party participation between ZANU PF and the two MDCs at both the parliamentary and local levels is reportedly making little headway, both sides reportedly vowing not to make any effort. Incidents of inter-party fights between the two MDC factions were also reported.

Also disturbing were reports of new twists in farm invasions, fingers pointing to politically motivated covert efforts aimed at evicting known and suspected MDC farm owners and workers, allegedly by people in possession of fake certificates. In Umguza, a suspected MDC supporter who owns a piece of land on Ramaposa farm was on 20 May, 2009 confronted by a man [suspected to be from the president's office] in possession of offer letters for his exact piece of land. Incidents of this nature have been reported in other farms in the province. In the same area, another suspected member of the CIO was reported to be moving from one place to another, allegedly evicting suspected farm owners who were suspected to be non-sympathizers of ZANU PF. The observed trend is that these people would approach their targets with certificates of occupation that look authentic with correct details of the farms in the names, scenarios, which as claimed in most reports, complicates the situation even if the right owners were to take the matter to court.

Community national healing initiatives are thwarted by some unscrupulous party supporters. In Binga North, members of the Apostolic Faith Church who on 15 May held a night prayer meeting at Siansudu preaching about forgiveness and reconciliation between ZANU PF and MDC members in the area, were-reportedly visited by suspected ZANU PF members in the morning who harassed and threatened them with a church ban, if they continue preaching messages sympathetic to the MDC party.

Incidents of in-house fighting between and within the two MDC formations were also reported in Umguza and Bubi constituencies where supporters of the two main parties were reportedly divided along political lines and sabotaging each other's development initiatives. In ward 3 village 2 of Mbembeswana in Bubi, an MDC-T chairperson in the area is reportedly coercing MDC M supporters to join his party which he claims to be the dominant party in the area. In another related incident, in ward 7 of Dzihutsha village of Bubi, an MDC supporter was reportedly ordered not to hold party meetings by an MDC-T chairperson claiming that the MDC party was no longer functioning as its president is under threats of abandonment by his party members.

Matabeleland South

The province emerged with the least violations record in the Matabeleland region with a toll of 29 cases showing a decline from the April, 2009 level of 33. However incidents of harassment [17 out of 29] remain cause for concern and mostly pronounced in areas such as Gwanda North, Mangwe, Matobo, Umzingwane and Matsheamhlope. A Bulawayo Agenda Workshop in Umzingwane was on 2 May, 2009 prematurely adjourned after the MDC MP accused the organizer of conducting the workshop in her area without informing her. The MP, as reported, also questioned why the organizer had combined her MDC party leaders with ZANU PF party leaders. In the Khozi village of Gwanda North, two ZANU PF members who also belong to a group of traditional dancers were reportedly harassed and threatened by fellow party members after they had been invited to perform at an MDC party

celebration which was held at Mtshazo village on 17 May. The victims were summoned to a disciplinary committee of the ZANU PF party where as reported, were insulted and humiliated until they left the meeting in protest.

Bulawayo

While the province lies in the least violations zone category, Bulawayo emerged with the highest human rights violations toll in the Matabeleland region with 66 recorded cases, a figure that was double its April record of 34. This trend is cause for concern with some incidents suggesting a possible surge in its violations toll in the future. The political climate remains prone to abuse by unscrupulous individuals bent on exploiting politics to achieve selfish agendas.

Reports of harassment and assault continue to be received. In Richmond, a Castle Arms resident who did not heed the call to welcome President Mugabe on his visit to the Bulawayo Trade Fair was reportedly threatened with eviction from the government-owned flats. In the same constituency another resident of Castle Arms was on 4 May, 2009 reportedly issued with “eviction orders” after he had failed to produce a current ZANU PF membership card demanded by ex-combatants who were on a door to door campaign. The perpetrators wanted to know how the victim had acquired property at Castle Arms when he was not a ZANU PF supporter. At a parents meeting held at Mahatshula Primary School on 2 May, 2009 in Bulawayo East at which Education minister David Coltart was guest of honour and expected to speak on the issue of school fees, the meeting had to be halted prematurely after parents voiced complaints accusing the minister of being biased against blacks.

At the Bulawayo Labour Office in Bulawayo Central, a job seeker was on 5 May, 2009 reportedly asked to produce a ZANU PF membership card and a Youth Training Service card before he could secure a menial job and upon failure to produce these requisites, was reportedly told to get registered at David Hall, ZANU PF HQ. In the same constituency motorists plying the City Centre and Sunningdale were on 9 May reportedly protesting against a Bulawayo Municipality Security Officer who is alleged to be threatening motorists who fail to comply with his demands for bribes with impounding their vehicles. In the same constituency, a Memorial Service of Susan Tsvangirai nearly turned violent when MDC T youths identified a well-known notorious war veteran in the congregation. They sought to immediately beat him up before being restrained by their leadership. The victim had to be whisked away to safety. In the same constituency, chaos broke out at a youths gathering at Mhlahlandlela to restructure the Zimbabwe National Youth Council Executive in accordance with the GNU initiative when a ZANU PF member officiating the proceedings announced that the “top people” in Government had directed that the five strategic top seats were not to be subject for nomination. Youths [mostly MDC] who were opposed to this proposition were reportedly beaten up by the Youth Militia and police, with a number taken into custody.

Below are detailed statistics of acts of violence in the ten provinces of Zimbabwe.

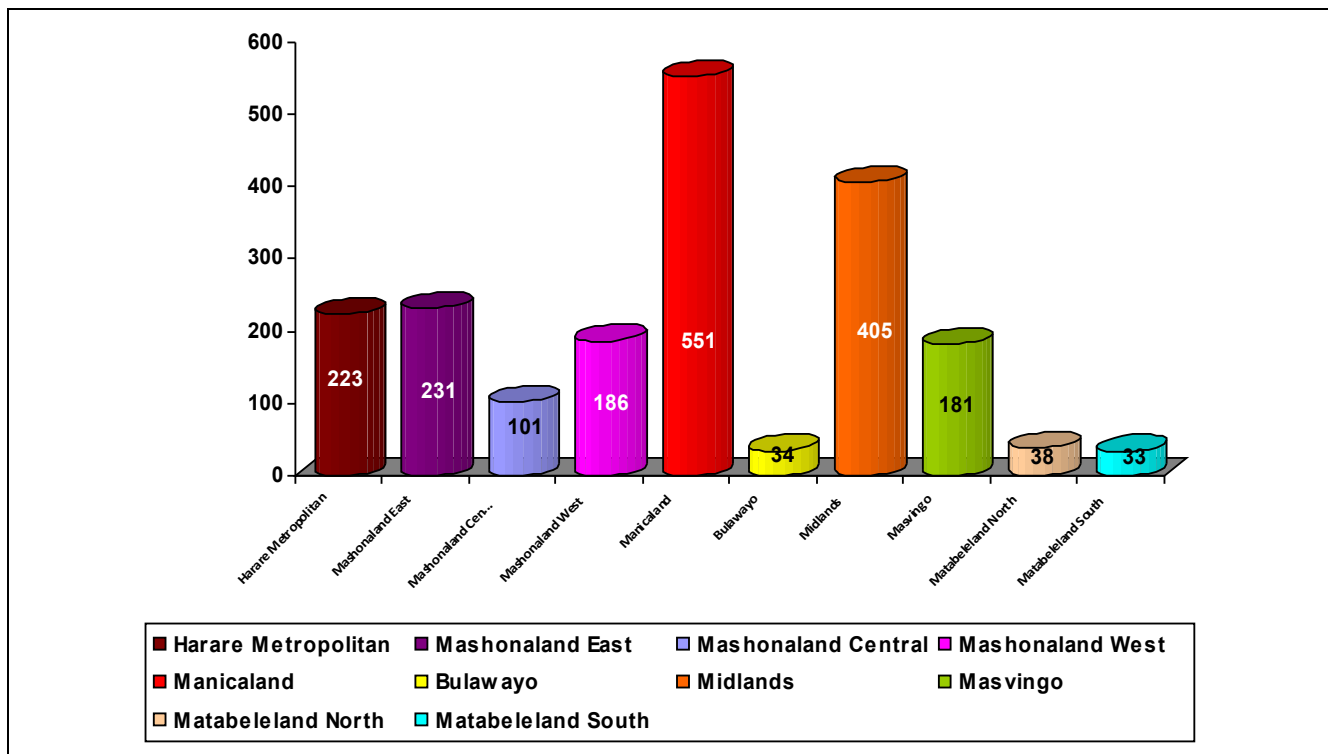
ANALYSIS OF HUMAN RIGHTS VIOLATIONS BY PROVINCES

Table 2: Analysis of Trends in Violations

ACTS	Bulawayo	Matabeleland South	Matabeleland North	Midlands	Masvingo	Harare	Mashonaland East	Mashonaland West	Mashonaland Central	Manicaland	TOTAL
Murder	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0

Rape/Sexual Harassment	1	1	0	2	0	0	2	0	0	2	8
Kidnapping/abduction	0	1	0	3	0	3	1	3	1	3	15
Assault	3	8	3	82	41	74	36	32	6	113	398
Theft/looting	0	3	0	13	10	6	18	1	2	39	92
MDP	0	0	0	15	4	2	6	0	0	7	34
Torture	0	0	0	0	0	1	2	5	1	4	13
Unlawful Detention	0	1	2	3	2	2	2	1	2	21	36
Intimidation /harassment	29	17	28	149	78	114	93	85	87	296	976
Displacement	1	2	0	7	10	15	7	3	2	9	56
Discrimination	0	0	5	131	36	6	64	56	0	57	355
Total	34	33	38	405	181	223	231	186	101	551	1983

GRAPHIC ILLUSTRATION BY PROVINCES



Observations

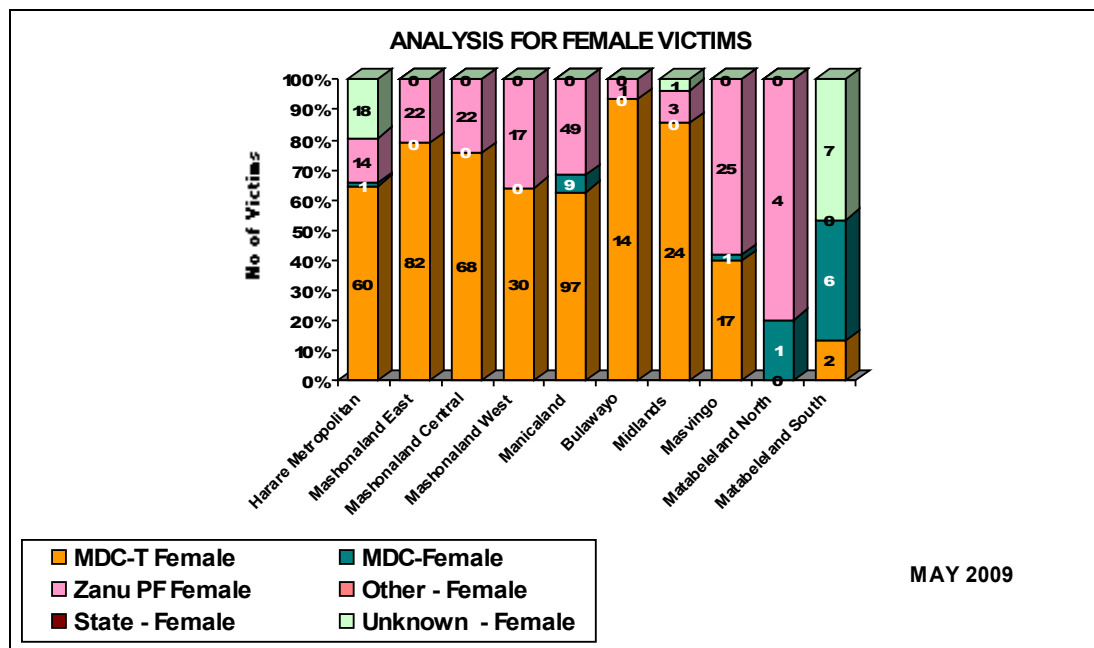
- A gross acts toll of 1983 cases was recorded in May showing a sharp surge from their April level of 1490.
- Manicaland emerged with the highest acts toll with Midlands, Mashonaland West and Masvingo as runners up.
- As in April, the Matabeleland provinces of Bulawayo, Matabeleland South and Matabeleland North remained in the least violence prone zone.

Concluding Remark[s]

May 2009, records point to a sharp surge in human rights violations with a high density toll in seven of the ten provinces, suggesting a possible resurgence in residual resistance. With continued delays in resolving outstanding issues, cases in which members of the public have been either harassed or assaulted for expressing views on those issues were reported across the ten provinces with a frightening frequency

ANALYSIS OF GENDER-VICTIM TRENDS

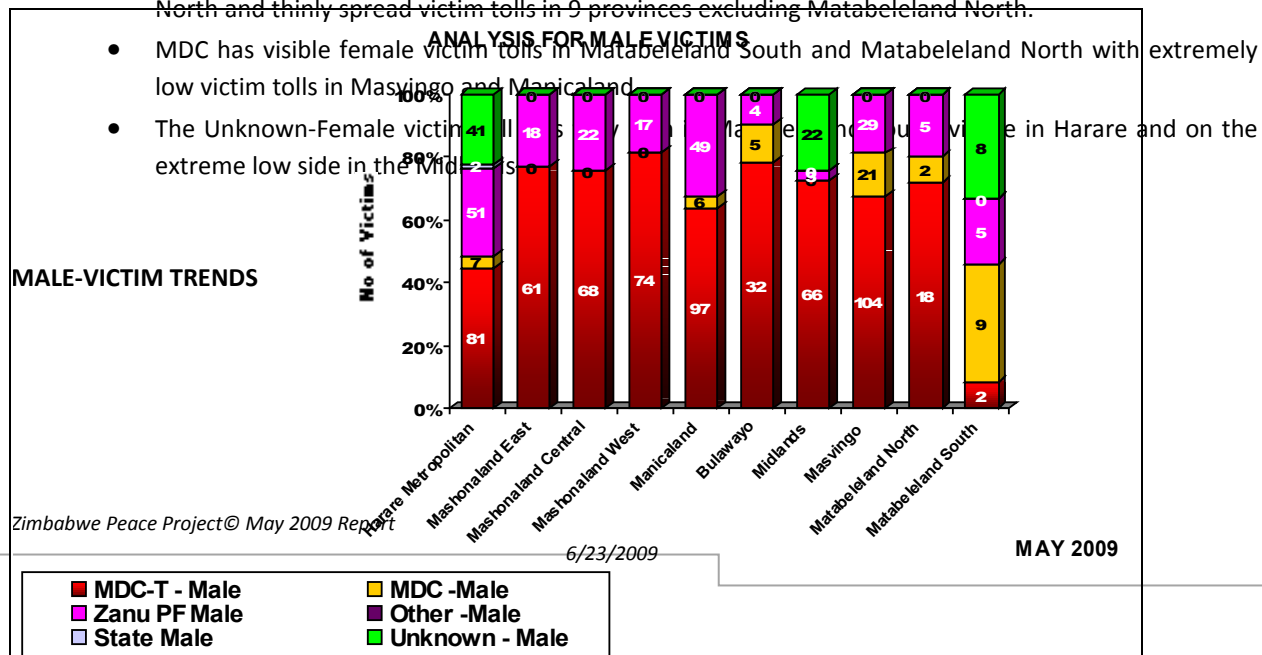
Female-Victim Spread by Provinces



Observations

- The MDC-T has the highest female victim toll with lead figures in 7 provinces and an overall victim toll spread in all the provinces excluding Matabeleland North.
- ZANU PF has the second highest female victim toll with lead tolls in Masvingo and Matabeleland North and thinly spread victim tolls in 9 provinces excluding Matabeleland North.
- MDC has visible female victim tolls in Matabeleland South and Matabeleland North with extremely low victim tolls in Masvingo and Manicaland.
- The Unknown-Female victim toll is high in Harare and on the extreme low side in the Midlands.

MALE-VICTIM TRENDS

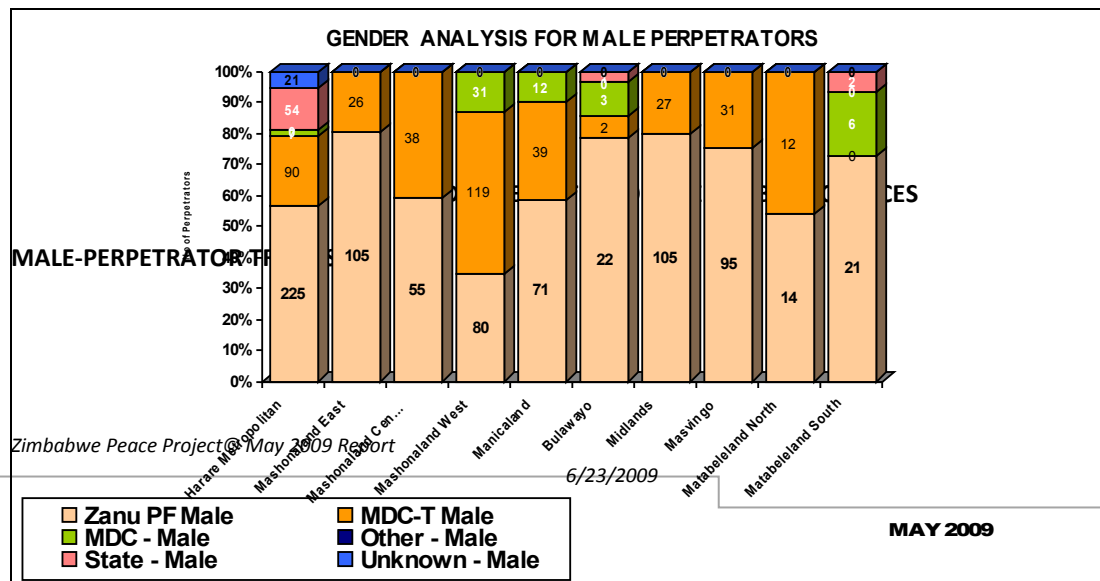


Observations

- The MDC-T has the highest number of male victims with high lead victim tolls in 9 of the ten provinces.
- Although ZANU PF suffered male victim tolls in all the ten provinces, its toll levels were low in all the affected areas.
- Unknown-Male Victim tolls were visibly on the high side in Matabeleland South, Midlands and Harare.
- The MDC scored high victim tolls in Matabeleland South and remained thinly spread in Matabeleland North, Masvingo, Bulawayo, Manicaland and Harare.

Concluding Remark[s]

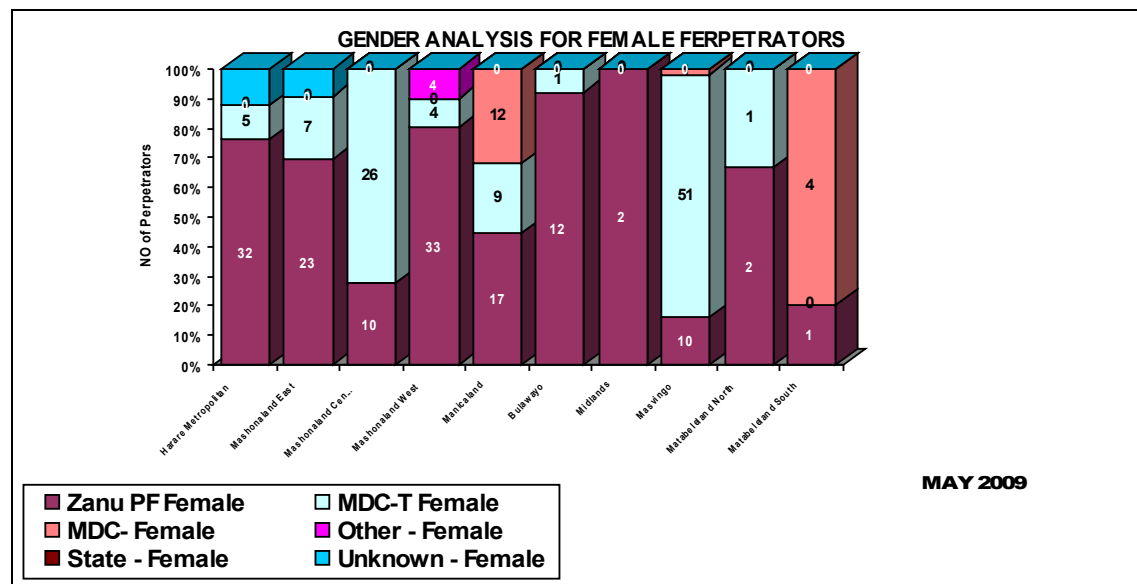
M DC T continues to suffer highest victim tolls in both its male and female categories with the MDC T female victim toll even higher than the ZANU PF male and female toll combined. Violence appears targeted at the MDC T party whose total victim toll stood at 775 compared to that of ZANU PF at 277 and MDC M at 41.



Observations

- ZANU PF has the highest number of male perpetrators with high perpetrator tolls in all the ten provinces.
- MDC T has the second highest number of male perpetrators with a toll visibility in all but one province [Matabeleland South].
- The MDC M had male perpetrator toll visibilities in Matabeleland South, Bulawayo, Manicaland and Mashonaland East.
- State male perpetrator toll was only most visible in Harare with very low visibility in Matabeleland South and Bulawayo.

FEMALE PERPETRATOR TRENDS



Observations

- ZANU PF has the highest number of female perpetrators with very high tolls in Harare, Mashonaland East, Mashonaland West, Midlands and Bulawayo although perpetrator toll is visible in all the ten provinces.
- Although MDC T female perpetrator tolls across were not as pronounced as those of ZANU PF, the party had highest tolls in Masvingo and Mashonaland Central with a toll spread covering in the remaining provinces excluding Matabeleland South.

- MDC M recorded the highest female perpetrator toll in Matabeleland South with another visible perpetrator toll in Manicaland.
- The Other-Female perpetrator toll was only recorded in Mashonaland West.

Concluding Remark[s]

ZANU PF had the highest number of perpetrators in both its male and female categories although MDC T tolls in both categories were also disturbingly visible. MDC M tolls though restricted to a few provinces should also be viewed with concern. All parties to the inclusive government have a pressing mandate to sell the zero-tolerance message to their structures at both the macro and micro levels of society.

PART B

FOOD-RELATED HUMAN RIGHTS VIOLATIONS

The non state sector remained the main source of food with a 60% contribution although GSF contribution also edged up from 27% in April to 40% in May. Also visible was the reliance on own sources of food. This somewhat balance should be sustained as the overall food security situation is still stressed. However lack of transparency and party politics continue to compromise food delivery effectiveness as food wastage/leakages due to diversions, food denials, and looting continue to still afflict most food distributions.

Maize delivery to GMB depots are poised to be low amid reports that those villagers are resisting a blanket order [from war veterans and some politicians in their areas] to sell their produce to the GMB. The villagers are arguing that the order should only apply to those who were the main beneficiaries of most government input and farm mechanization programs, fingers pointing to soldiers and ZANU PF members. Some villagers who were recipients to government programs are also reportedly defying the order, selling their produce to private buyers who are reportedly paying them in cash on the spot, arguing that they are yet to be paid for consignments they delivered last season.

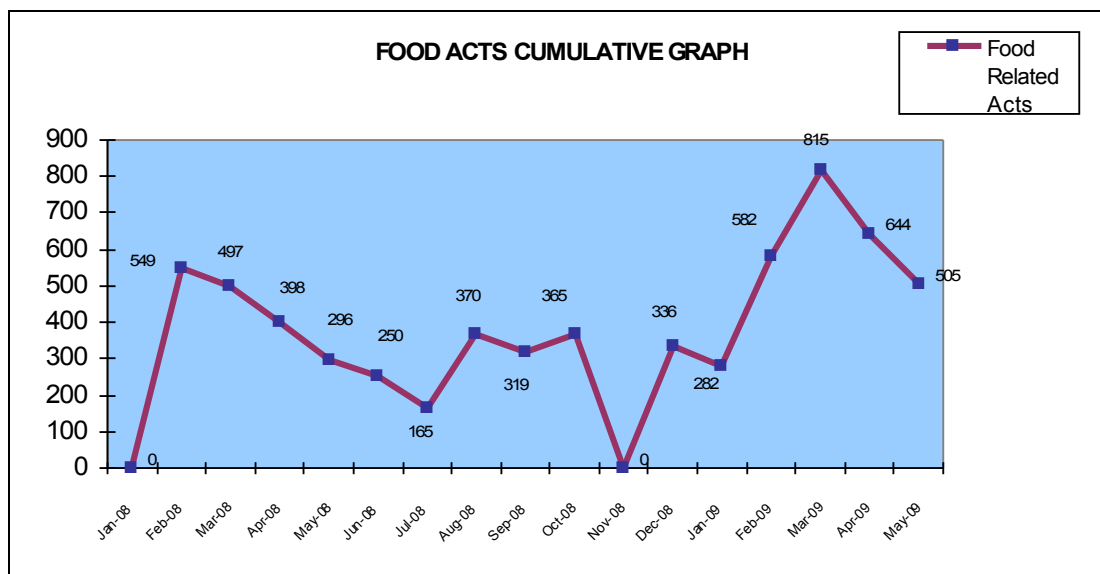
May recorded 505 cases of food-related human rights violations, showing a slump from 644 in April. Of the May record, 50% were harassments, 47% discriminations and 3% of these cases; violence. Since January 2009, a cumulative total of 6746 cases of violence have been recorded with declines in monthly records since March.

Of this cumulative toll, 4205 are cases of discrimination, 147 cumulative cases of violence and 2264 cumulative cases of harassment [Refer to the table below for detail].

Table 3: Cumulative Food-Related Violations

2008 TOTAL	2009	FOOD RELATED ACTS : 2008-2009			
		HARASSMENT	VIOLENCE	DISCRIMINATION	TOTAL
	Jan - Dec 2008	1365	39	2514	3918
549	January	46	6	230	282
497	February	68	16	498	582
398	March	360	38	417	815
296	April	219	35	390	644
250	May	252	17	236	505
165	June				
370	July				
319	August				
365	September				
376	October				
0	November				
336	December				
3921	TOTAL	2264	147	4205	6746

GRAPHIC SPREAD OF FOOD-RELATED VIOLATIONS



PROVINCIAL CASE EXPERIENCES

Midlands

Food distribution processes across the province are still fraught with allegations of discriminations and harassment along political, religious and personal interests. By end of May, a violation toll of 117 incidents had been recorded, 46 of which were discriminations, 13 violence and 58 harassments. Access to both state and non state food sources remains tightly controlled by ZANU PF through a network of partisan actors who include village heads, councillors, chiefs, war veterans, army personnel and ward coordinators. Selection of care facilitators and food committees is also still monopolized by ZANU PF grassroots structures, scenarios that have seen unscrupulous individuals take advantage of politics and their positions to de-register politically suspect individuals, divert food provided by donors to own use. Also disquieting were increases in allegations of food discriminations on religious grounds at most church-based food distribution points. In one incident, three war veterans who are no longer members of ZANU PF were reported to have been denied access to food and inputs which were distributed at Chezva Community Hall in Gokwe South on 23 May 2009, perpetrators openly telling them that they did not have food for traitors. In another incident reported in the Sungwisa village of Gokwe North, villagers suspected to be MDC members were reportedly denied access to food which was donated to the village by the First Lady Grace Mugabe.

Mashonaland Central

Humanitarian relief aid was still pronounced with Red Cross Society, Christian Care, and Food & Agriculture Organization (FAO) among the mostly cited ones although actual access to NGO food aid remains covertly controlled by ZANU PF party structures. In fact the operational environment is so polarized along party lines that NGOs find themselves accused of being either pro MDC or ZANU PF. Reports from areas such as Mt Darwin, Shamva South and Bindura refer to several incidents in which some villagers were denied access to groundnuts and rapoko, cholera buckets, ARVs, educational assistance, clothes and blankets under circumstances they claimed to be highly politically suspect with some humanitarian aid workers accused of corruption by fielding ghost workers. However, it was relieving to hear that the Bindura Red Cross Distribution Centre management team was making concerted effort to ensure that food aid reaches target beneficiaries-through involvement of beneficiaries in food distribution committees.

In Mt Darwin, Mukunyadzi and Chinehasha villages were on 10 May 2009, harassed after they had conducted revenge celebrations under the theme *“good harvests without government inputs support”* reportedly wearing MDC party regalia while in the Muropa village, some villagers were on 18 May 2009, harassed accused of receiving aid from anti-government NGOs. In what can be described as a banal showcase of abuse of position, a Guruve South ZANU PF district secretary on 10 May 2009, reportedly forced some villagers in Chigwada village to weed his fields as a basis for consideration in FAO programs in the area.

Farming areas remained restive with farms such as Guvamombe in Shamva South, Saimona and Dublin in Bindura South reportedly caught up in incidents in which some new black farm owners [mostly war veterans and high ranking politicians] were reportedly abusing their farm workers by either paying obscene low wages or refusing them their wages or threatening those making payment demands with eviction. The affected workers are reportedly suffering in silence, in fear of possible retribution if they report these concerns to relevant authorities. By end of May 2009, 47 cases of food-related violations were reported, 14 of which were discriminations and 33 harassments.

Mashonaland West

The province was still home to visible NGO participation with CADEC, GOAL, Red Cross Zimbabwe, Catholic Church and Batsirai Group among them. In the Chihwiti village of Makonde, the Catholic Church was reportedly distributing water buckets in one of the cholera-affected areas where 12 people were reported to have lost their lives while CADEC was also supplementing these cholera prevention efforts by providing buckets for safe water in the Mhanyane School areas of the same constituency. In Zvimba, the Red Cross Society of Zimbabwe was reportedly supplying garden seeds [carrots, onions and tomatoes] to its beneficiaries although views were expressed that the church beneficiary net should also be extended to orphans. However, Save the Children UK, which all along had been providing maize, beans, cooking oil and bulgur to villagers in some parts of the province had reportedly stopped its operations, a development that is likely to put several villagers at risk of starvation due to poor harvests.

Issues of food denials and harassments in circumstances that smack of politics remain recurring issues in most reports while former ZANU PF councillors, who are illegally in control of food distribution processes, were generally accused of diverting donated food to own use. They are also accused of using their positions to fix elected MDC councillors by denying them authorizing letters for accessing GSF. By end of May, 56 cases of violations were reported, 48 of which were harassments and 2 discriminations.

In the Hurungwe farms of Makate, Pickstone, Amira and Sikona, resettled farmers and villagers were reportedly being forced by war veterans to deliver maize and soya beans to the GMB amid reports that farmers were selling their harvested crops to private buyers who are reportedly paying cash on the spot. Villagers are reportedly resisting this order with some farmers claiming that they are yet to be paid for the maize they delivered to the GMB last season.

Masvingo

Humanitarian activities by Red Cross, CADEC, FACT, Dutch Care and Christian Care were still visible although they continue to reel under political pressure as food agencies are accused of either being pro ZANU PF or MDC. In ward 6 of Masvingo Urban, ZANU PF supporters on 19 May reportedly turned violent arguing that FACT and Dutch Care programs were run by MDC sympathizers.

Reported incidents show that politically motivated food denials and harassments are still prevalent in the province with some traditional leaders among the main perpetrators. At Chisiya Business Centre in Masvingo Central, a village head was reported to have on 15 May 2009, denied a man access to CADEC donated agricultural seeds accusing the victim of “speaking the MDC language” while in Masvingo Central, some villagers around Dikitiki Co-operative were denied agricultural inputs [seedlings] in circumstances that are politically suspicious as their village is a known MDC stronghold. In ward 1 of Bikita, some villagers who were suspected to be MDC sympathizers were reportedly chased away from a village meeting at which the names of beneficiaries of cholera buckets, food and clothing were being listed. Cases in which suspected areas were denied access to food aid by falsely claiming to donors that the areas recorded good harvests-continue to be received from several districts.

As reported in most provinces, villagers in Bikita were reportedly being forced to sell their produce to the GMB with kraal heads in some wards reportedly under instruction to submit the names of people who were selling maize to GMB while those who were not selling to the GMB were threatened with denial of agricultural support in the future. Some villagers were defiant arguing that since the agricultural inputs mainly benefited soldiers and ZANU PF members, logic follows that they alone should be bound by this order. By end of May 2009, the province had recorded 26 cases of violations, 14 of which were discriminations while 12 were harassments.

Harare

Most high density areas were still receiving NGO humanitarian relief assistance through NGOs such as USAID, WFP, UNICEF, Anglican Church, Mashambanzou Trust, Roman Catholic Church and Christian Care although there were claims of political interference with distribution of NGO sourced food.

Reports referred to several cases in which people were denied food, medicine and clothes under politically questionable circumstances, among which was the Caledonia Farm incident in which some squatters suspected to be MDC supporters were reportedly denied access to USAID-donated tents by a lands committee that allegedly comprised ZANU PF members.

Church organizations have not also been spared of this scourge amid reports that food and other related products sourced from donors and distributed through local church channels have been dogged with food denials on religious grounds. At a Baptist church along Enterprise Road in Chisipite, Harare East, a well-known female MDC supporter was on 28 May 2009, reportedly humiliated in front of a crowd at a food queue when a high ranking official of the women's league in ZANU PF allegedly forced her to loudly denounce her party before receiving her share of food. By end of May Harare province had recorded 48 cases of violations, 29 of which were discriminations while 19 were harassments.

Mashonaland East

Distribution of both state and non state food sources remains under siege of political interferences with ZANU PF surreptitiously controlling the processes. Incidents of de-registrations in circumstances that are highly politically suspect, people being pushed out of food queues because of party affiliation, people being asked to produce party cards, people being falsely accused of benefitting from more than one food aid source, cases of food diversion by people in responsible positions and cases in which false information was deliberately supplied to potential donors in order to deny villages suspected to be MDC strongholds- remain recurring issues in all parts of the province. At Dorset Farm in Marondera East, people suspected to be MDC members were on 13 May reportedly barred from receiving food aid that was being distributed by government workers while at Grand Close Farm in the same area, a ward 1 ZANU PF councillor was said to have on 5 May 2009, imposed himself on the distribution of UNICEF-donated food, a development that allegedly saw most of the food being given out to ZANU PF supporters. By end of May 2009, the province had recorded a food-related human rights violation toll of 67, 33 of which were discriminations and 34 harassments.

Manicaland

Humanitarian relief efforts remained visible however with most of the earlier cited political constraints still in force. The political environment was still polarized along party lines, scenarios that have seen humanitarian relief efforts being labelled either pro or against one of the main political parties. At a food relief distribution point in the Batanai village of Chipinge on 27 May 2009, some villagers reportedly accused NGO workers of acting like an arm of the ZANU PF party by having ZANU PF supporters as the people working in all its programs.

In areas where MDC councillors were elected, former councillors were still running the show. Cases in which headmen have been directed [mostly by war veterans] to take over the responsibility of the distribution of food and inputs in place of elected MDC councillors have also been reported. In a move that was meant to sideline the participation of elected MDC councillors in food distribution processes in Makoni West, war veterans reportedly directed that all donated food and inputs in ward 18, 24 and 25 be distributed through headmen.

Allegations of food diversions and looting mostly by former councillors remained afloat. However, isolated incidents in which some MDC councillors have been implicated in food scandals were also received. In Mutare West, a ward 16 councillor in Matararikwa village was on 7 May alleged to have diverted for own use all the inputs he had collected from the GMB Beit-Bridge for the benefit of his ward while in Mutare North, an MDC ward 4 councillor in Chipatsura village was on 16 May accused of allocating inputs only to members of his party. In Buhera, members of the ZANU PF Women's League were on 10 May 2009, reported to have denied suspected MDC members access to the Oppah Muchinguri-initiated projects in the area, a discriminatory tag that has dogged all projects across the country. By end of May 2009, the province had recorded a portfolio of 130 food-related violations, 80 of which were discriminations, 46 harassments and 4 cases of violence involving physical attack.

Matabeleland North

Food-related human rights violations remained on the very low side with only 6 having been recorded by end of May, all being cases of discriminations related to GSF and food relief. Access to GSF is mainly through an array of structures controlled by ZANU PF. Humanitarian relief activities were still visible in several areas, Binga included.

Bulawayo

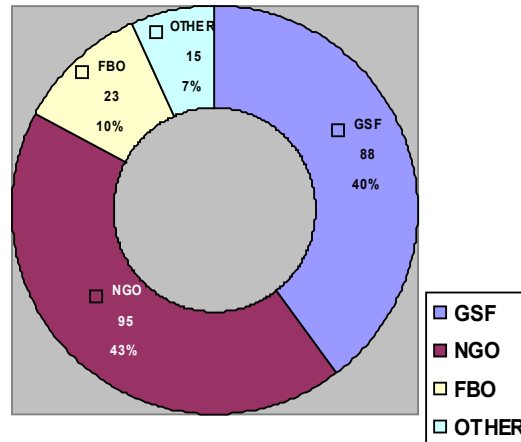
The province only recoded 4 cases of food-related human rights violations, all of which were discriminations on religious and personal grounds. In an incident that smacks of use of the church to settle political and personal scores, a church member who is also a ZANU PF councillor in Mabutweni was on 10 May reported to have lobbied the priest and relief personnel at St Pius church to remove non Catholics from the list of beneficiaries. Ironically most of those removed turned out to be suspected MDC supporters. The perpetrator took the responsibility to mobilize and form an advisory team that was responsible for the vetting of the list of beneficiaries. In Trenance, Bulawayo Central, the chairperson of ZANU PF at Kitshi Squatter Camp was reportedly wrecking havoc in the lives of food aid beneficiaries of Sikhulile Senzele Community Kitchen by allegedly issuing an order stopping the destitute from the Camp from continuing to get food from the soup kitchen which he views as an MDC party initiative. The facility has since been suspended leaving other destitutes at the camp with bleak food prospects.

Matabeleland South

The province remained in the least food-related violations zone with a paltry record of 4 cases, 2 of which were harassments while 2 were discriminations. The record points to continued declines in violations in both size and profile against the background of 12 that had been recorded in April 2009, of which 8 were discriminations while 4 were harassments.

ANALYSIS OF FOOD –RELATED HUMAN RIGHTS VIOLATIONS BY PROVINCES

Figure 1: Food & Other Aid Chart



Observations on Sources of Food

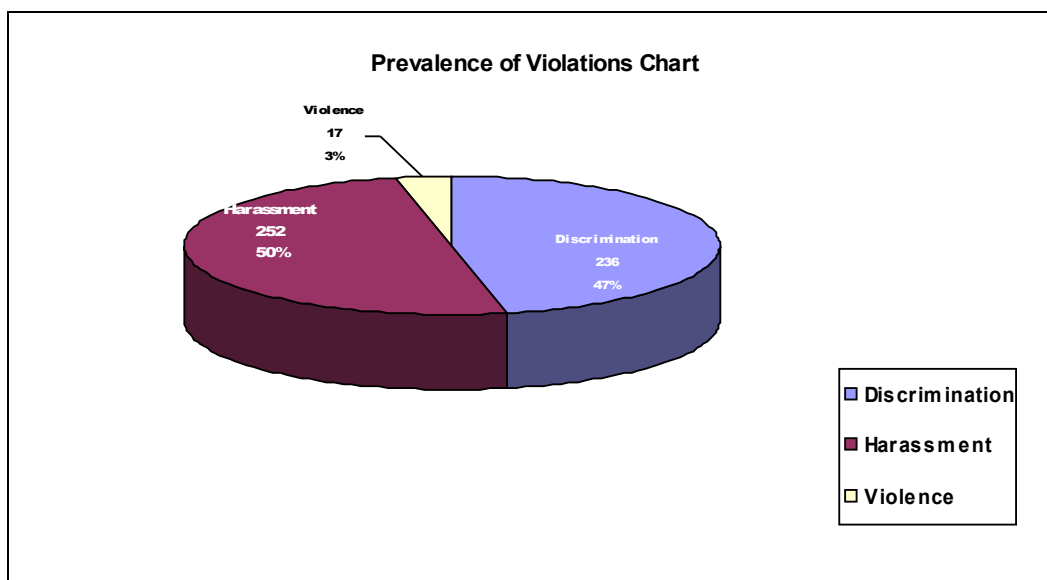
- The non state sector [NGOs, FBO and Other] were the main sources of food with a 60% contribution while the state sector [GSF] contributed 40%.
- As gleaned from statistics, state sector contribution edged up from 27% in April to 40% in May.

Concluding Remark [s]

While non state sources remained the main sources of food, there was also a visible improvement in GSF. Contribution from own sources of food edged up. However competitive incentives must be put in place to dissuade framers from selling their produce to private buyers, especially those producers who claim non assistance from government inputs and mechanization programs

Table 4:Prevalence Of Violations

HARASSMENT	Harare	Manicaland	Mash East	Mash West	Mash Central	Bulawayo	Mat North	Mat South	Masvingo	Midlands	TOTAL
Forced to attend political meetings	2	3	0	5	11	0	0	1	3	14	39
Ordered to produce party card	4	5	12	3	5	0	0	1	0	0	30
Ordered to take off party regalia	0	1	0	5	7	0	0	0	1	0	14
Forced to chant party slogans	1	0	0	5	0	0	0	0	1	10	17
Ordered to denounce one's party	1	23	22	10	0	0	0	0	7	14	77
Summoned to meeting	0	0	0	20	10	0	0	0	0	20	50
Other	11	14	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	25
TOTAL	19	46	34	48	33	0	0	2	12	58	252
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	8	8
Malicious Damage to Property (MDP)	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	1
Physical Attack	0	4	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	4	4
Grievous bodily harm	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
TOTAL	0	4	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	13	17
DISCRIMINATION											
Denied access to GSF	3	10	26	6	2	0	5	1	0	0	53
Denied seeds & fertilizer	0	3	2	2	2	0	0	0	2	0	11
Denied tillage support	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
Denied Agricultural Credit	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	3	0	4
Denied Food Loan	0	1	5	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	6
Denied Food Relief	18	40	0	0	10	3	1	1	6	5	84
Denied Irrigation	0	11	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	11
Denied Education Assistance	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	2	41	44
Denied Medical Assistance	2	13	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	16
Other	5	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	6
TOTAL	29	80	33	8	14	4	6	2	14	46	236
O VERRALL TOTAL	48	130	67	56	47	4	6	4	26	117	505



Observations on Prevalence of Food-Related Human Rights Abuses

Discriminations

- Discrimination constituted 47% of the gross prevalence score of 505, making it the second commonly committed food-related violation, although it shows a decline from the April discrimination record of 60%.
- The bulk of these discriminations were in the form of denials of food relief, GSF, and educational assistance.

Harassments

- Harassment constituted 50% of the gross toll, making it the highest commonly committed food-related violation. The May percentage shows a surge from the April percentage of 34%.
- Harassments were most prevalent in Midlands. Mashonaland West and Mashonaland Central with least prevalence incidents in all the three provinces of Matabeleland.

Violence

- Violence was the least committed offence, constituting 3% of the gross violations toll.
- Violence mostly took the form of physical attack, most of which were committed in Manicaland and Midlands.

Concluding Remark(s)

Discriminations and harassments remain the most commonly committed violations in the food sector, the bulk of which were committed in circumstances that smack of political interference

EMERGING ISSUES AND THE WAY FORWARD

With continued delays in solving outstanding issues, incidents in which members of the public have been either harassed or assaulted for expressing opinions on these public interest matters have reportedly increased across the country. We continue to urge the three principals to prioritise the inclusive government agenda rather than sectional party interests.

Scenarios in which some inclusive government ministers appear to be only answerable to the President and publicly defying orders from the Prime Minister prejudices the integrity of the inclusive government. Inclusive government members need to show common purpose if the idea of inclusive government is to be sold to their grassroots structures.

Increased incidents in which members are reportedly taking the law into their own hands to recover property and livestock looted in the run up to the elections signal the need for urgent measures to address redress issues. Urgent measures must be taken with traditional leaders accorded more space to deal with these issues without political interference.

Lack of transparency and party politics continue to cause food wastage/leakages through food diversions, denials and looting. Humanitarian agencies must be accorded enough space to execute their supplementary efforts.

Reports that most villagers are selling their produce to private buyers rather than GMB does not augur well for national food security. Competitive incentive regimes must be put in place to attract farmers [those who received inputs and those who did not] to sell to the GMB. Use of blanket orders is not sustainable.

Reports that some unscrupulous individuals are reportedly taking advantage of politics to target farms owned by black farmers who are suspected to be sympathetic to the MDC are hardly in the national interest. These clandestine evictions have to be urgently stopped as they constitute a stab in the back of a land reform process which the three principals to the Global Political Agreement endorsed as irreversible.

BACKGROUND & FORMATION



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 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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