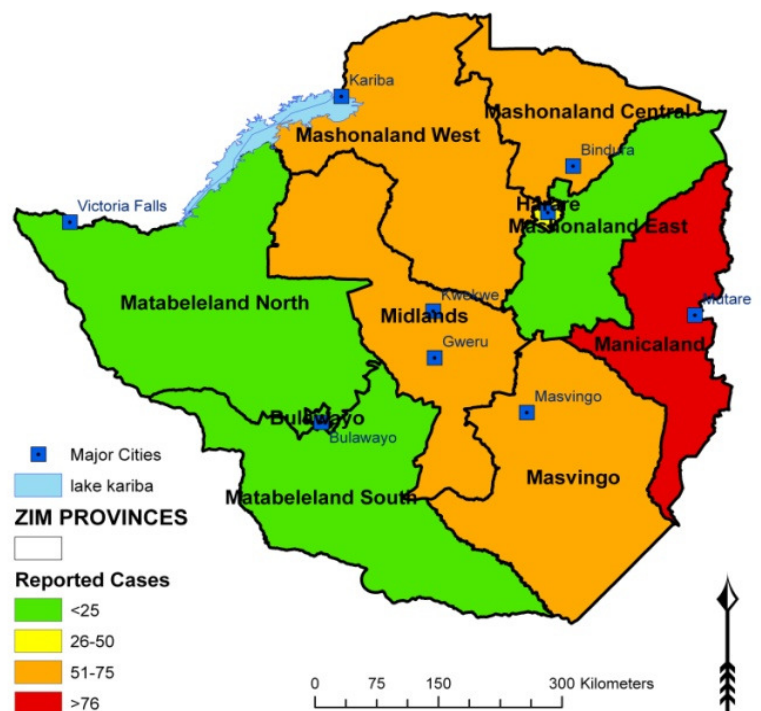


2012

ZPP Monthly Monitor [February]

ZPP February 2012 Provincial Violations Map



HUMAN RIGHTS VIOLATIONS MONITORING

SUMMARY

PRESIDENT Robert Mugabe made an official announcement during his birthday speech broadcast on national television that elections will have to be held this year with or without a new constitution in full support of one of the Zanu PF conference resolutions. The announcement also came hard on the heels of the news of the ban on 29 NGOs by Masvingo Provincial Governor Titus Maluleke on allegations that the organisations had failed to sign Memoranda of Understanding (MOUs) with his office.

Indications on the ground are that political tensions are now on the rise with the operating space for NGOs continues to be shrunk. The Zanu PF position to force elections outside the necessary reforms has seen more people's rights being violated during the month under review. In preparation for the elections, politicians from all the political parties have begun jostling for positions within their respective political parties.

The political tensions have since claimed one life in Manicaland Province where a Zanu PF supporter died as a result of injuries sustained during a fight in January in Chimanimani. The victim was heavily assaulted by fellow Zanu PF supporters and had to spend seven days in hospital before he died on February 26. Three Zanu PF officials are reportedly fighting to secure the party's ticket for the Chimanimani East seat currently held by Samuel Undenge.

Politically motivated human rights violations are now on the rise with 413 incidents having been recorded up from the 365 witnessed during the month of January. The increase can be directly linked to the rising political tensions as a result of the move to push for elections this year.

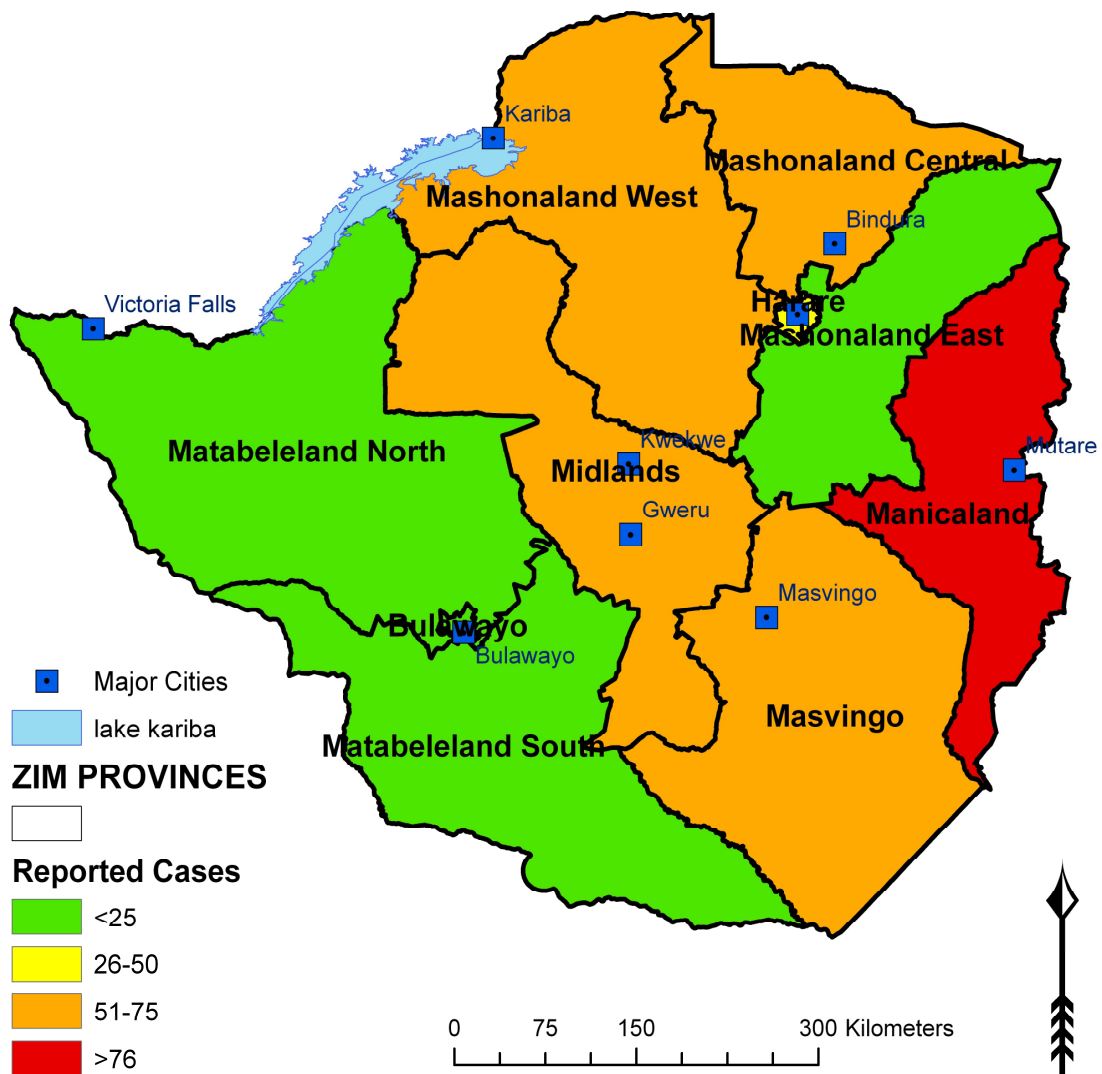
An analysis of the violations trends during the month of February over the past five years reveals that the month has always had fewer incidents compared to the other months. The highest number of violations during the month of February was witnessed in 2009 with 1 285 cases. This was during the period when people were confused on how the inclusive government was going to work and an upsurge in revenge cases was the result.

Politically motivated human rights violations in February 2010 eased a bit to 979 cases only to increase in February 2011 to 1 209 as Zanu PF moved to get over 2 million signatures in the anti-sanctions petition campaign.

Cases of politically motivated violence remain high and the atmosphere has remained volatile in the Midlands, Manicaland and Masvingo provinces with a significant rise in Mashonaland West Province.

Traditional and community leaders have been recorded as the major perpetrators of human rights violations in most rural constituencies. The reports of forced meetings have been reported from the majority of the country's provinces and mainly from the northern parts of the country.

ZPP February 2012 Provincial Violations Map



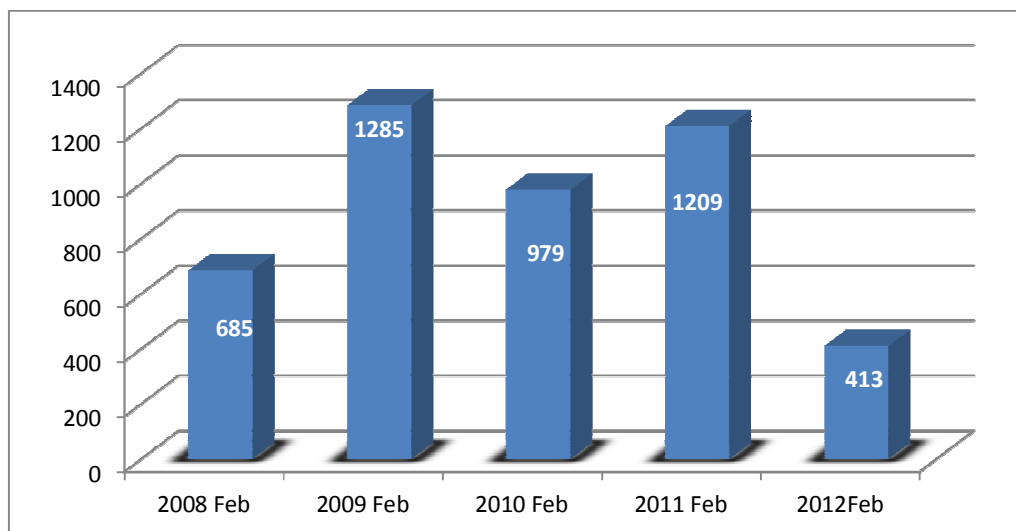


Figure 1: Trends of PMV for February 2008 -12

INCIDENCES OF POLITICALLY MOTIVATED VIOLATIONS

Manicaland Province witnessed a serious incident of politically motivated murder and one of torture during the month under review with the highest number of violations throughout the country. There were 89 incidents down from the 94 witnessed during the month of January.

A 52-year-old man reportedly died on February 26 from injuries sustained during an attack by fellow Zanu PF members at Nyangu Township in Chimanimani. The attack was a result of infighting within the party as three members of Zanu PF are fighting for a ticket to represent the party in the forthcoming elections.

Victim and colleagues went for a beer drink at a local outlet in the evening wearing their new party regalia donated by one of the prospective candidate Jane Mahoso-Knight. While at the pub they were attacked by Zanu PF youths led by one Brighton Muchuwa who was driving an Isuzu truck allegedly belonging to Joshua Sacco. The six victims sustained serious injuries and were all taken to Biriri Hospital. The now deceased victim could not talk for four days due to head injuries. Although he was discharged from the hospital after about seven days, he never fully recovered. He was buried at Machongwe Village in Nyahode Valley. He left behind a wife and seven children. One of the perpetrators, Muchuwa, was briefly arrested by police but was later released.

A number of people had their rights violated during President Robert Mugabe's birthday celebrations which were held at Sakubva Stadium on February 25. Commuter bus operators were forced by Zanu PF youths to ferry people to the stadium free of charge between 0700 am to around 1100hrs on the day of the celebrations. The youths were reportedly supported by the Chipangano terror gang from Mbare whose fellow colleagues had earlier on Friday 23 been arrested in Rusape for public violence on their way to Mutare.

Two residents were allegedly arrested for insulting and undermining the authority of President Mugabe during the week of the birthday celebrations. One of the victims was arrested in Sakubva after he had enquired from a colleague who had attended the celebrations as to who had blown the President's birthday balloons since he believed that the President

was not able to do so himself due to old age. The colleague reportedly went out and returned with a policeman who immediately arrested him.

The **Midlands Province** witnessed a relative decline in incidents of politically motivated human rights violations from 84 cases in January to 74 during the month under review. Serious incidents such as murder, rape and attempted murder have not been witnessed in the past two months with the majority of violations being of harassment and intimidation.

On February 8, an MDC-T activist was assaulted by a Zanu PF supporter after he was seen reading a copy of The Herald at Datsun Mapfumo Store in Zhombe. The perpetrator asked the victim why he was reading a Zanu PF paper and before the victim could respond he was slapped in the face and the paper snatched away from him.

An MDC-T activist was allegedly assaulted by war veterans at Matabo Secondary School, in Mberengwa West after he was overhead listening to the Voice of America's Studio 7. After the assault the victim was threatened with eviction the next time he is caught listening to "pirate" radio stations.

Mashonaland West Province witnessed a significant rise in incidents of politically motivated human rights violations during the month under review. There were 65 recorded cases up from the 27 witnessed during the month of January. There were many cases of political harassment and intimidation.

Villagers from Hurungwe West Constituency were allegedly forced to attend a Zanu PF rally where they were threatened by top government officials among them Air Marshall Perence Shiri, Cdes Dzikamai Mavhaire, Ignatius Chombo, Nelson Samkange, John Mafa and Faber Chidarikire. The meeting was reportedly organised by Themba Mliswa who is aspiring to be an MP in the area. The residents were labeled unfaithful for having put MDC-T in control during 2008 elections and they were threatened with disciplinary action during the campaign. More than a thousand people were brought from all over Hurungwe for the rally and business people were forced to close their shops to attend the rally.

A group of soldiers went on a rampage beating and harassing residents at M.D Shopping Centre after one of them had been involved in a fight with a resident of the area. The following day he brought a truckload of soldiers for revenge. The soldiers went on to destroy a pool table owned by a man with disabilities who used the pool table as his source of income.

A matter of serious concern occurred in Hurungwe East whereby the local MP Sarah Mahoka and the District registrar Mrs Mada have arranged to have mobile registration offices for people to have identity documents. District registry workers feel this is not official as it has not been announced from the national office.

Politically motivated human rights violations were on the increase in **Mashonaland Central Province** with the majority of the violations having been perpetrated by political party activists and supporters. The province recorded 65 cases up from 45 incidents witnessed during the month of January.

Traditional leaders and in particular village heads have been accused of forcing all villagers above the age of 18 to register with them in most of the constituencies around the province. The exercise is reported to have started in December 2011 in Muzarabani and has since spread to other districts.

About 60 families were evicted from Manzou Farm to pave way for the expansion of First Lady Grace Mugabe's orphanage in Mazowe. The affected families were moved to Msasa Farm in Concession and the displacement failed to recognise that the farmers had planted crops which were at a ripening stage. The victims are likely to face starvation as they do not have food.

A group of Zanu PF supporters allegedly invaded Heyshott farm in Mazowe South Constituency with the intention of taking over the farm. The farm is the only remaining white owned farm in Mazowe District. The victim is holding onto the property as the Zanu PF supporters do not have any supporting documents for the takeover.

Masvingo Province witnessed the banning of 29 NGOs in the province by Governor Titus Maluleke on February 14, 2012. The Governor had since October last year demanded that all NGOs in the province work with his office and sign memoranda of understanding (MOUs). Although the move has been dismissed as a nullity at law since the Governor is not the regulating authority for NGOs, concerns are very high that the move can be reciprocated in other provinces. ZPP is one of the 29 NGOs banned in the province.

The province witnessed 55 incidents of politically motivated human rights violations, the majority of which being cases of harassment and intimidation. Zanu PF officials threatened serious violence on the people at a meeting that was held Gwindingwi school ground in Bikita if ever they continue to support the MDC-T. The threats were issued on February 12.

The MDC-T chairperson for Masvingo South was allegedly shot on the upper right arm by unknown assailants near Renco Mine. The incident happened as the victim had just dropped from a truck along Chiredzi Road from Matandamaviri and he spent five days at Chiredzi Hospital. It was however, not clear whether the attack was politically motivated.

War veterans who had invaded Mteri Lodges owned by Hippo Valley Estates were eventually evicted by the police on February 2. However, the war veterans had eaten all the food, drank all the beer and stolen linen and utensils worth US\$2 900.

The political situation in **Harare Province** has remained tense with violations continuing to be recorded and concentrated in Mbare and Epworth. There was an increase in incidents of politically motivated human rights violations from 18 in January to 31 cases during the month under review.

The Zanu PF Chipangano militia group allegedly stopped the construction of a service station and food outlet in Mbare accusing the businessman behind the venture of belonging to the MDC-T. Chipangano is arguing that only Zanu PF supporters should be allowed to invest in Mbare. This is despite a High Court order ordering the victim to go ahead with the construction.

President Mugabe's announcement that elections should be held this year has also triggered conflict with the major political parties of Zanu PF and MDC-T as aspiring candidates jostle for power.

There are also reports of physical threats of violence and intimidation targeting Caledonia residents by rogue Zanu PF war veterans who continually harass and assault people perceived to support other parties other than Zanu PF. Six uniformed soldiers allegedly assaulted four Msasa residents at Msasa trading Bar on February 26. The victims were assaulted after they were heard joking about President Mugabe's advanced age.

The political situation in **Mashonaland East Province** has remained relatively calm as compared to last month where the province was among the top three regions with the highest number of politically motivated human rights violations. The province witnessed a notable decline in incidents from 31 to 22 and this could be attributed to the low levels of political party activities.

During the month under review, victims have had their rights violated at Zanu PF political party meetings and gatherings where suspected members of other parties were assaulted and made to surrender party cards and party regalia. One MDC-T supporter was forced to renounce his political party affiliation as well as surrender his political party card and regalia at a Zanu PF meeting held at Suswe Business Centre in Mudzi West by the Zanu PF District Coordinating Committee (DCC) chairperson David Chibanda. The victim was then forced to write a letter to the Zanu PF headquarters informing them about the latest position.

The province also witnessed incidents of displacements where victims are evicted from their homes on political grounds. An MDC-T activist was forced to flee his homestead in Mutesva Village in Mudzi North Constituency by Zanu PF supporters. The victim has since sought refuge in Mozambique near the Zimbabwean Border after his goods and property was dumped at the Nyakadecha Road by the perpetrators.

The political environment in **Matabeleland North Province** remained calm during the month of February with only four incidents having been recorded from the 13 constituencies. However, there is notable growing tension in the province due to the drought that has seen an increase in food aid distribution activities.

An MDC-T councillor from, Gwampa Village Lupane West Constituency was allegedly assaulted and unlawfully detained by a CID officer at Lupane Police Station. The victim had failed to produce a vehicle registration book for a car he was driving. The police officer assaulted the victim with fists before arresting him. The victim was only released after the intervention of lawyers.

About 72 mine workers were reportedly fired from Turk Mine, in Bubi Constituency after an industrial action over low pay. The manager of the mine however sought advice from Mines Minister Obert Mpofu who advised that all the workers had to be fired as they are suspected members of the MDC-T. Known Zanu PF supporters from the area have since been employed at the mine to replace the fired 72 mine workers.

Matabeleland South Province remained very calm during the month under review with very few incidents of politically motivated human rights violations having been recorded. There were four cases in February up from the three witnessed during the month of January.

There are reports of suspicion within the Zanu PF after some war veterans were banned from attending future meetings after they were suspected of “spying” for ZAPU. One such incident was recorded on February 2, when a war veteran was verbally attacked by fellow colleagues at a meeting in Insiza North. The victim was accused of double dealing as he was associated with the Dumiso Dabengwa led ZAPU.

Bulawayo Province’s political environment remained calm with only 3 incidents having been recorded up from the 1 witnessed during the month of January. However, the political environment has remained tense with the police relying on draconian laws such as the Public Order and Security Act (POSA) to curtail people’s right to freedom of association and movement.

A demonstration by Women of Zimbabwe Arise (WOZA) was violently disrupted by the police as they assaulted and arrested the activists for holding a demonstration in the city centre.

Four suspected Zanu PF youths wearing army uniform allegedly assaulted two MDC-T activists at Luveve 5 Shopping Centre. The victims were accused of having earlier attacked the perpetrators' workmate. The four are suspected to have come from Ntabazinduna Training Depot.

Table 1: Analysis of Politically motivated Violations by Province

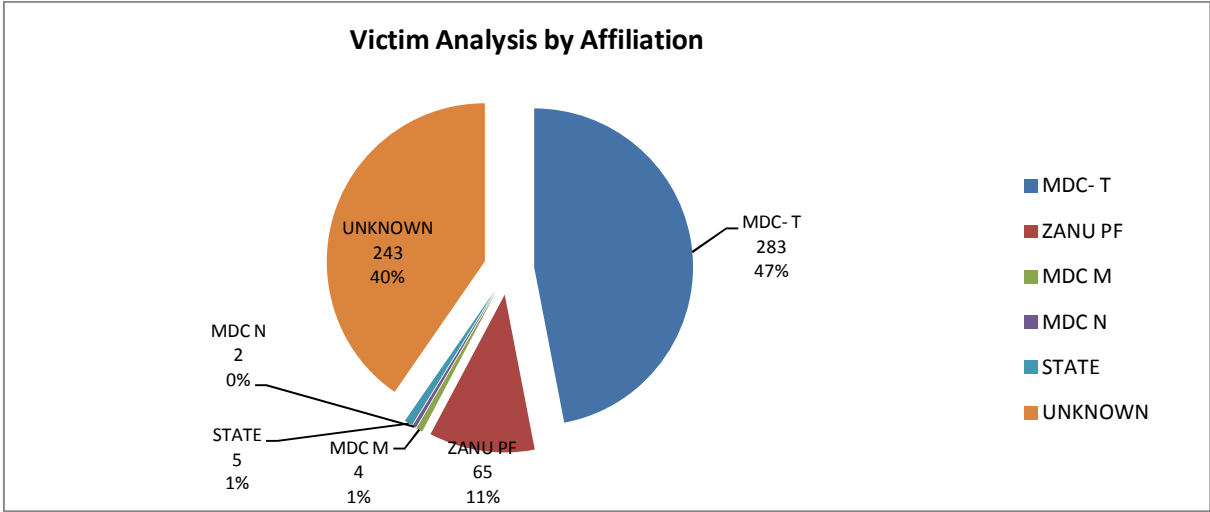
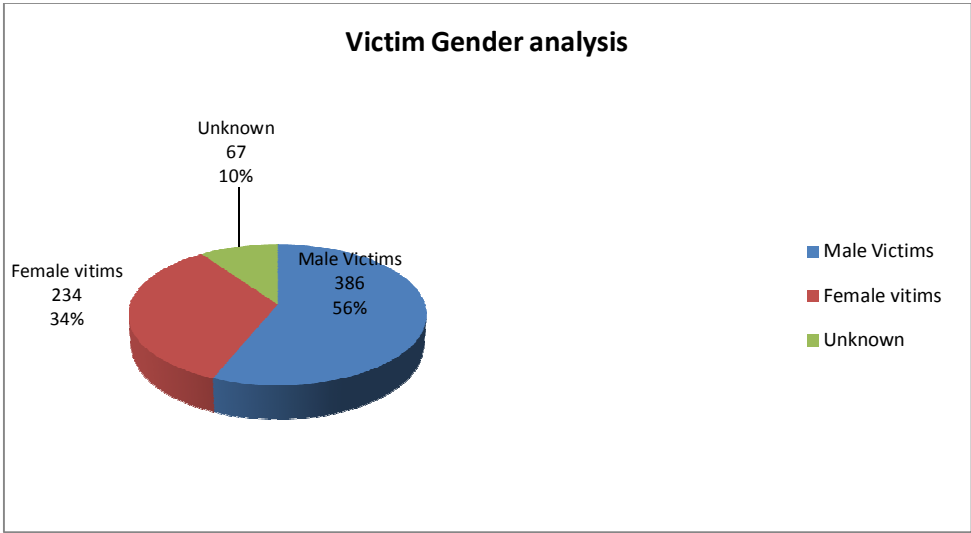
ACTS	Midlands	Bulawayo	Mat. South	Mat. North	Masvingo	Manicaland	Harare	Mash. East	Mash West	Mash Central	TOTAL
Murder	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	1
Rape	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Kidnapping/ Abduction	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	1
Assault	15	1	0	0	2	12	3	1	6	4	44
Theft/Looting	2	0	0	3	3	3	2	0	2	0	15
Discrimination	6	0	0	0	8	14	0	5	7	16	56
MDP	0	0	0	0	1	1	0	0	0	0	2
Torture	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Unlawful Detention	0	0	0	0	0	3	0	0	0	1	4
Harassment/ Intimidation	51	2	3	1	39	53	26	15	51	43	284
Displacement	0	0	1	0	2	1	0	1	0	1	6
Total	74	3	4	4	55	89	31	22	66	65	413

VICTIM ANALYSIS BY GENDER AND ASSOCIATION

The victim's toll distribution for the month under review shows that more males had their rights violated than their female counterparts. There were 386 male victims up from 371 recorded during the month of January. The male victims represented 56% of the victims tally.

The month saw 234 females having their rights violated constituting 34% of the victims tally. As has been with the past trends, the bulk of the victims have been MDC-T supporters who had their rights violated more than their counterparts from the other political parties in the inclusive government that is Zanu PF and the MDC-N. A total of 274 MDC-T supporters had their rights violated representing 47% of the victims while 65 Zanu PF supporters had their rights violated accounting for 11% of the victims tally.

The analysis also shows that 40% of the victims were of an unknown political affiliation but were caught up in the cross fire of political violence between the two main political parties of Zanu PF and the MDC-T. There were 243 whose affiliation was unknown.



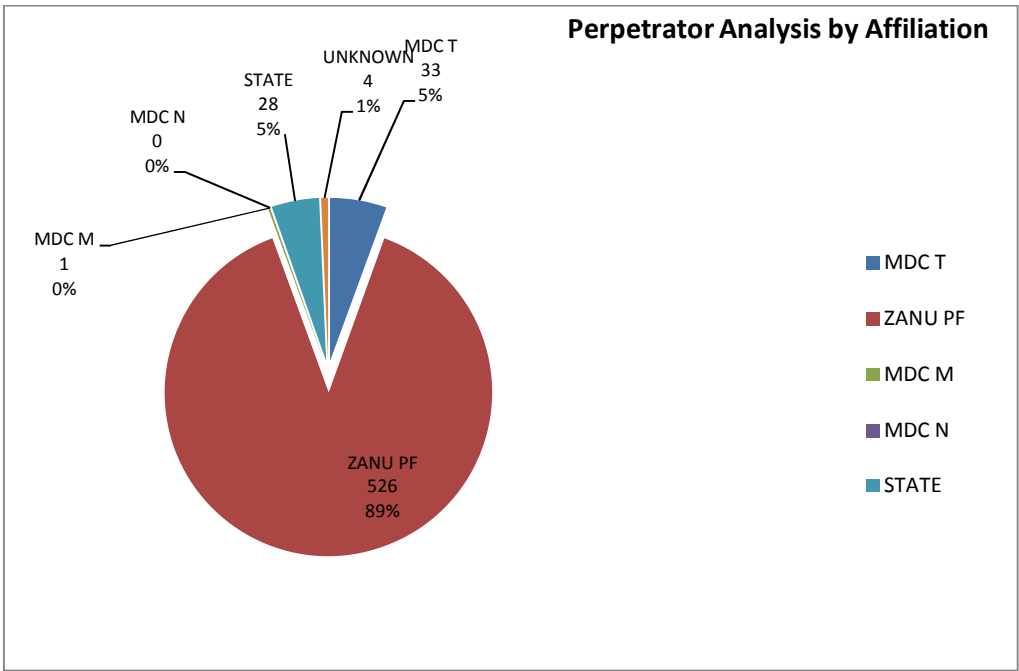
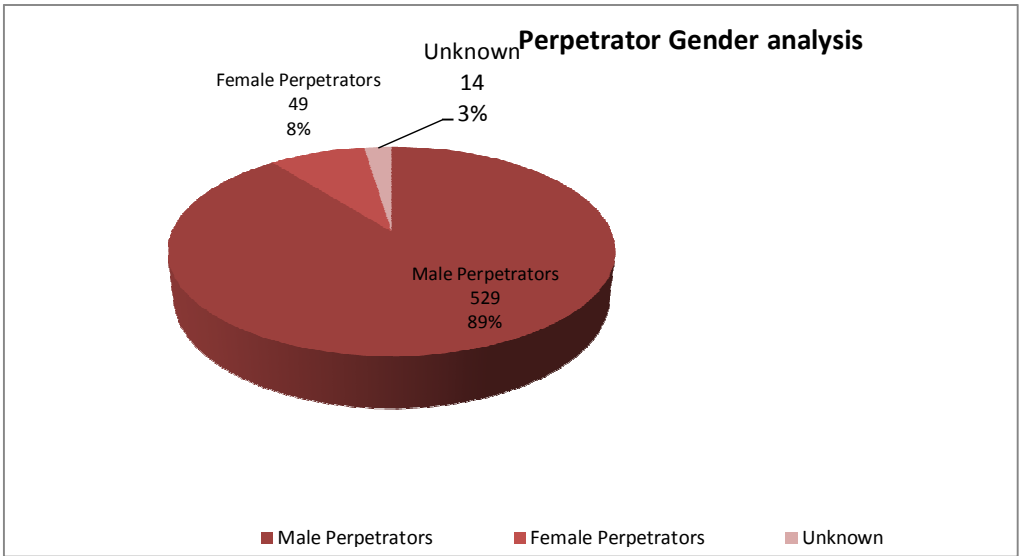
Male and Female Perpetrator Analysis and Charts

The perpetrators analysis by gender show that males were the chief culprits representing 89% of the violators of human rights compared to their female counterparts who constituted 8%.

During the month of February, 529 males were recorded as perpetrators, while only 49 were females. Zanu PF accounted for the highest percentage of perpetrators during the month under review accounting for 89% of people directly responsible for leading politically motivated human rights violations.

There were 526 perpetrators from Zanu PF while 33 were MDC-T activists with 28 cases having been reportedly perpetrated by state security agents accounting for only 5%. The perpetrator statistical spread still suggests that Zanu PF supporters have remained the major

perpetrators across the board although the levels of violence within the MDC-T are also recorded.



FOOD & OTHER FORMS OF AID RELATED VIOLATIONS

Food and other forms of aid violations were on the increase insignificantly during the month of February as compared to the previous month. The increase was mainly attributed to the distribution of government subsidized food throughout the country through the Grain Marketing Board.

Although the cases of food and other forms of aid related violations have not shot up significantly, villagers have been recorded as the major victims of discrimination in the distribution of food aid from the government. There were 77 incidents recorded during the month of February as compared to the 73 cases witnessed in January.

The Midlands Province remained with the highest number of food and other forms of aid violations followed by Mashonaland Central where only Zanu PF supporters received maize seed and fertilisers from the GMB.

The GMB continued with the distribution of farming inputs as well as government subsidized food handouts in the Midlands province resulting in a number of people having been discriminated based on political party affiliation.

The majority of violations were recorded from Kwekwe, Mberengwa and Gokwe districts.

There is an ongoing distribution of maize by Zanu PF in Manicaland Province and it was however not clear as to the source of the maize but this maize is being distributed on partisan political lines through Zanu PF channels.

A Zanu PF supporter allegedly refused to share a 50kg bag of maize with a suspected member of the MDC-T at Haisvosvi Village on 3 February in Makoni Central. The perpetrator claimed that the maize belonged to Zanu PF members only since it was coming from the GMB.

At Chipfatsura village in Mutare North, headman Chipfatsura is said to have denied Gertrude Mhlanga to access a 50kg bag of maize accusing her not attending meetings that he has convened in the area.

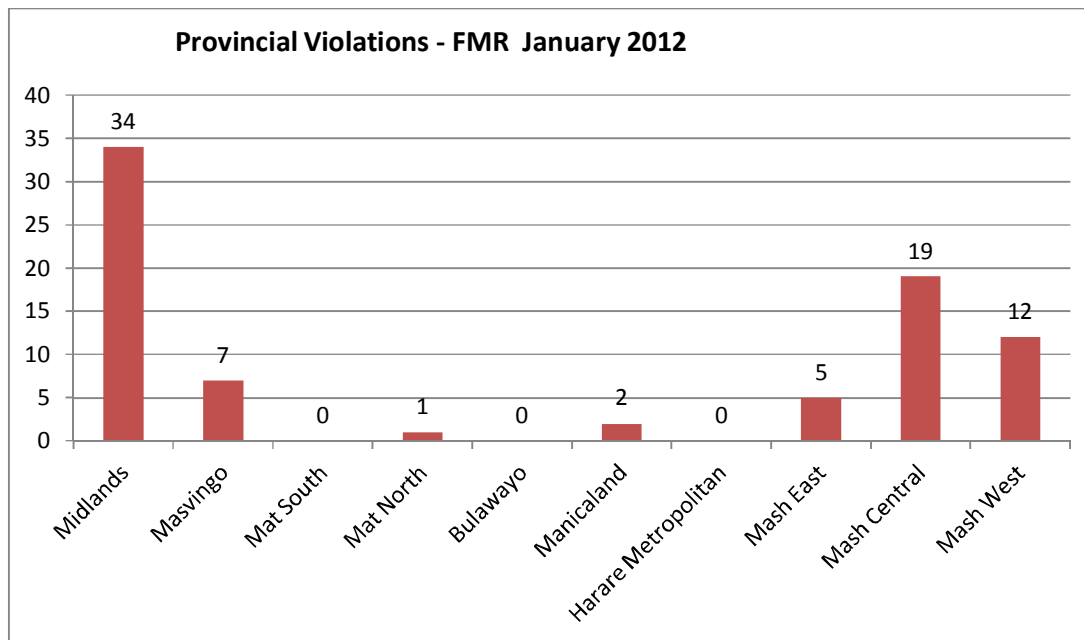
From Mashonaland West, a voluntary worker at Batsirai support group that does services on HIV and AIDS was denied fertilizer in Hurungwe West by a ZANU PF official on allegations that the group is associated with the West. The group is supported by UNICEF.

At Karoi GMB depot Hurungwe East MP Sarah Mahoka allegedly hijacked a farming input distribution exercise and insisted that the distribution should be done at ward level. She later shared the fertilizer with other top ZANU PF officials.

Most of the victims were denied these commodities on grounds of their political affiliation and in some cases have to be forced to denounce their political parties, forced to attend perpetrators' meetings and ordered to produce party cards in order to access aid. This trend is likely going to increase because of the drought that has affected parts of Manicaland, Masvingo and the rest of Matabeleland provinces.

The cumulative toll violations on the distribution of food and other forms of aid since January 2008, has risen to 14 211. Acts of discriminations and harassments continue to dominate the violations chart.

Table 2: CUMULATIVE TABLE FOR FOOD& OTHER FORMS OF AID RELATED VIOLATIONS



EMERGING ISSUES & WAY FORWARD

President Mugabe's calls for an election with or without a new constitution is likely going to cause more politically motivated human rights violations in the country. The remarks by President Mugabe also come at a time when the Constitutional Parliamentary Select Committee (COPAC) is failing to agree on the draft constitution based on the outcomes of the constitutional outreach process.

The continued disagreements at COPAC will only help strengthen the Zanu PF call for elections with or without a new constitution.

The death of a Zanu PF supporter in Manicaland is a clear testimony of more heinous acts to come as the country prepares for the landmark elections to be held either this year or early 2013. The failure by the police to arrest the known perpetrators linked to the assaults is also cause for serious concern.

This only goes to show that the inclusive government has failed to institute democratic reforms that are much needed in order to ensure a free, fair and uncontested election. The fact that the alleged killer has a catalogue of murder and other serious offences in the past is a clear indication that there is selective application of law by the police. Muchuwa was linked with the murder of a reveller in 2008 while accusing the victim of showing off with 'MDC-T money' in Chimanimani.

Muchuwa, has been reported in many ZPP reports and is alleged to be a close sidekick of wanted CIO operative Joseph Mwale. Muchuwa in 2008 assaulted Charles Sigauke and his father at their home on Christmas Eve. Sigauke worked in South Africa and had come back to spend the holidays with his dad. He died the day after the beating, on Christmas day.

Muchuwa accused Sigauke of being an MDC member and was spending money given to him by the MDC.

The ZPP reiterates that the police should act in a non-partisan manner and ensure that all perpetrators of violence are brought to book while victims get redress.

The ZPP will continue to exert pressure on the principals to the GPA to fully implement provisions to the agreement putting the interests of people first before calling for an election.

ZPP has also noticed that the structures of violence (terror basis, the Zanu PF youth militias and war veterans) that were used during the 2008 election campaigns are still intact and continue to be used by the same perpetrators with no concrete reactions from the police and other security agents.

It is however very critical that the government works towards breaking this cycle of violence by getting people in the communities to work together to improve their living conditions, regardless of political affiliation and by working with the very people who have committed acts of violence.

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 organizations include, Zimbabwe Council of Churches (ZCC), Catholic Commission for Justice & Peace in Zimbabwe (CCJPZ), Evangelical fellowship of Zimbabwe (EFZ) Zimbabwe Election Support Network (ZESN), Counselling Services Unit (CSU), Zimbabwe Civic Education Trust (ZIMCET), Zimbabwe Lawyers for Human Rights (ZLHR), Zimbabwe Human Rights Association (ZIMRIGHTS), Civic Education Network Trust (CIVNET), Women's Trust and the Habakkuk Trust.

VISION

Sustainable Justice, Freedom, Peace and Development in Zimbabwe, for All.

MISSION

To work for sustainable Peace through Monitoring, Documentation, Research & Publications, and Community Peace Building Interventions ~ through & with our Members & Partners

This Report was produced and circulated by the Zimbabwe Peace Project, P O Box BE 427, Belvedere, Tel: (04) 747719, 2930180, 2930182 and email: zppinfo@gmail.com,

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