



THE ZIMBABWE PEACE PROJECT
POST MARCH 29TH 2008 ELECTIONS VIOLENCE
REPORT No. 1



***“Beaten, wounded, bleeding
and even lost life for
exercising my right to vote”***

Date: May 2008

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Executive Summary

The levels of political violence and human rights violations have gone up in the post election period with a total of 4359 cases of human rights violations being documented by Zimbabwe Peace Project (ZPP). The patterns of violence have also shifted with the violence being more physical with an increase in cases of assault, murder, malicious damage to property, and kidnapping. Cases of harassment and intimidation are still high. Manicaland tops the list of politically motivated violence in the form of displacement. Other areas with high levels of violence include Mashonaland East, Mashonaland West, Mashonaland Central Masvingo and Midlands. The areas where the violence is rampant conform to earlier ZPP predications of hotspots in the pre-election period as outlined in the two Violations Early Warning System (ViEWs) reports published before the polls.

ACTS ANALYSIS BY PROVINCE

ACTS	Bulawayo	Mat. South	Mat. North	Midlands	Masvingo	Harare	Mash. East	Mash. West	Mash. Central	Manicaland	TOTAL
Murder	0	0	0	2	1	0	3	2	0	2	10
Rape	0	0	0	2	0	0	0	1	0	1	4
Kidnapping/Abduction	0	1	0	9	49	5	14	4	6	61	149
Assault	5	10	3	81	108	141	118	55	30	216	767
Theft/looting	0	0	0	5	16	8	35	6	0	10	80
Malicious Damage to Property (MDP)	0	0	0	6	11	5	54	7	11	251	345
Torture	1	0	0	4	11	33	41	0	3	64	157
Unlawful Detention	1	1	4	5	22	14	17	2	2	57	125
Harassment/Intimidation	47	22	10	125	417	114	188	32	90	439	1484
Displacement	0	1	2	10	27	7	63	99	187	823	1219
Discrimination	0	0	0	2	0	1	2	3	11	0	19
TOTAL	54	35	19	251	662	328	535	211	340	1924	4359

In Harare most of the cases recorded are of assault, harassment and intimidation. In the period under review, ZPP noted a total of 81 cases of assault and 56 of harassment and intimidation. There have also been cases of raids of NGO offices and arrest of NGO leaders.

In Mashonaland East, harassment, intimidation and assaults are common leading to massive displacement of people as the victims run to neighboring towns like Harare to seek sanctuary. A total of 823 cases were recorded in Manicaland province in April alone. Cases of malicious destruction of property of opposition supporters have also been on the rise in the province.

Mashonaland Central has also seen an increase in cases of harassment and intimidation, mainly of suspected opposition supporters. As a result of the violence in the province in April, ZPP recorded a total of 187 cases of displacement in the province. A case of murder was also recorded.

Mashonaland West is hot with a total of 211 cases of politically motivated human rights violations. In total, ZPP recorded 2 murders, 99 displacements, 59 assaults in the post electoral period. Some ZANU PF stalwarts (*names supplied*) are reported to be the key funders of the violence and human rights violations in the province.

The Midlands province remains one of the hot spots of violence with 248 cases of violence being documented in the post election period. The most common cases of violence were harassment and intimidation (125 cases), followed by assault (81 cases) and displacements (10 cases). Two cases of murder were also recorded in April. ZPP has noticed that the recurring perpetrators were mostly from ZANU PF (*names of perpetrators supplied*) and these are from areas like Mberengwa, Silobela, Gokwe Nembudziya, Gokwe, Shurugwi, Mberengwa, Gokwe Chireya, Gweru urban and Gokwe Nenyunga. ZPP has also noted that one of the perpetrators has been perpetrating violations since 2001 and one perpetrator from the MDC from Gweru Urban.

Masvingo had the second highest recorded cases (622) of violations in the post election period. The most prevalent violations were harassment and intimidation (417 cases), Assault (108 cases) and kidnappings (49 cases). One case of murder was also recorded

in April. It was in Masvingo that initial claims of the presence of white farmers wanting to take over their former farms was made resulting in the invasion of farms and harassment of the remaining white farmers.

Manicaland recorded the highest number of incidents with a total of 1924 incidents of violence in the month of April. Of these cases, 823 involved displacement and over 400 cases of harassment and intimidation, 251 cases of assault. Two cases of murder were also recorded in the province. The case of Manicaland being a hotspot was also predicted in the ViEWs reports disseminated by ZPP in the run up to the elections.

Matebeleland has generally been calm however some cases of violence were recorded in Lwendulu village, Nkayi and Hwange. Members of the Zimbabwe National Army (ZNA) are allegedly driving around villages with a list of observers, and opposition supporters who are then assaulted, harassed and intimidated.

Matebeleland South is generally calm with a few hot spots of violence. ZPP recorded 35 incidences of violence, one case of torture and one of unlawful detention.

Bulawayo is generally calm with no cases of displacement recorded. However, some bases have been set up at municipal offices and schools and are designed for harassment and intimidation. In total, ZPP recorded 47 cases of harassment, intimidation and 5 Assaults.

In most of the reported cases of violence and human rights abuse throughout the country the perpetrators are alleged to be ZANU PF members, youths, some uniformed forces and government officials. There are some cases in Harare where MDC members have been involved in perpetrating violence.

Women, men and children are all victims of the violence directly. There has been reported an arson and murder case, where a child was killed as the house they were in was burnt down. There are also numerous cases where women and children are being taken as ransom and forcibly detained in set up bases until their fathers or husbands who fled violence return to their villages. Women are also being assaulted, tortured and sexually harassed.

In most cases the police are not playing their role of enforcing the law as they get political pressures or become part of the perpetrators themselves.

The indications on the ground and the increasing cases of violence point to a worsening situation.

The reason why the recorded incidents in Manicaland have been way ahead of all other provinces is that in those areas not many of the ZPP monitors have been displaced as they flee violence unlike in areas like Mashonaland East, Mashonaland West, and Mashonaland Central. Most of our monitors have been targeted in one way or another as most participated as domestic observers. ZPP can safely say that it has not been able to document all the cases of violence but it will continue to have presence on the ground and give updates.

Introduction

This report is a product of the ZPP, and is compiled from the primary data gathered by a permanent network of ZPP peace monitors who reside and document cases of violence and human rights abuse from the 210 constituencies of Zimbabwe.

This report covers the reported incidences of human rights violations and violence accumulating in the constituencies in the aftermath of the March 29th harmonised elections in Zimbabwe.

The report will focus on the increases in post election violence which is leaving a trail of destruction, harassment, intimidation, death, maim and displacement in Zimbabwe's constituencies.

It is hoped that this report will raise the necessary awareness on the occurrence of these unfortunate incidences of violence during this period and help Zimbabweans to seek ways to put a stop on this perennial ill of violence that has characterized Zimbabwe's elections in the past.

Background

Zimbabwe went through its harmonised election on the 29th of March 2008. It was the first time, Zimbabwe held four elections in one day; and these included the local government elections, senatorial, parliamentary and presidential elections. The results of the elections were displayed at local polling stations. The results of the elections for local government elections were known on the polling day as communities collated their own results but officially the Zimbabwe Electoral Commission started releasing them in batches from March 31, 2008. The results of the parliamentary elections were announced over four days while the presidential results were released five weeks after polling day.

The results of the hotly contested presidential poll which were announced on 2 May 2008 revealed that there was no absolute winner. The results had Mr Morgan Tsvangirai (MDC) with 47.9 % of the vote, President Robert Mugabe (ZANU PF) with 43.2% Dr Simba Makoni (Independent) 8.3% and Mr Langton Towungana (Independent) with 0.6% of the vote.

In terms of the Zimbabwean Electoral Law, in cases where none of the candidate's gets 50% + one vote the law provides for a run off. ZEC has announced that the runoff will be on June 27 2008.

Since polling day and the ensuing period that saw the delays in the release of the presidential plebiscite results, ZPP reports from the constituencies reveal that the constituencies have been gripped by a cocktail of violations, which we predict will continue in the run up to the runoff polling day and beyond. ZPP has received reports of acts of public intimidation whereby those who were supporting the opposition have been asked to surrender their party regalia, and renounce their party and join the ruling party during meetings organized by "war veterans". These acts are being conducted under 'Operation makavhotera papi? (which means *where did you put your vote?*). Suspected "War veterans" have forced youths in some villages to attend ruling party meetings and provide support during their public harassment and intimidation of those known to be supporting opposition leaders. These meetings are meant to instill more fear into the opposition supporters who are forced to witness beatings and other harassment of their leaders and campaign agents. During this process, those who have stood firm of their support for the opposition have been subjected to torture and other degrading treatment. It is likely that people will continue to be forced to renounce their participation in opposition politics.

In some cases, those supporting the opposition have been displaced from their homes and are being asked to leave the area and told that they are traitors of the ruling party. Thus, there have been many reports of displacement of people from former ZANU PF strongholds like Mashonaland East, West and Mashonaland Central.

Serious cases of arson and murder have also been reported in the acts of violence reported and in some cases like in Mashonaland East where some of the victims are

women and children. On April 17, 2008, in Manyika Village, Zvataida District, Uzumba in Mashonaland East, a child died when a house the child was sleeping was set on fire by suspected ZANU PF supporters.

Senior ZANU PF officials and some government officials have been reported to be allegedly fanning, funding and in some cases directly being involved as perpetrators of the post elections violence. In Mashonaland East and the Midlands, senior officials (*names supplied*) are allegedly setting up bases which were designed to torture those who were suspected of being opposition members. In Mashonaland West, a senior ZANU PF party official (*name supplied*) also instructed some police officers not to arrest perpetrators of violence in a murder case.

The police who are supposed to protect citizens have been turning a blind eye to most of these acts of political violence and in some cases have supported the ruling party by arresting supporters who will be seeking refuge elsewhere. A case in point revealed by the ZPP monitoring system was when MDC supporters from Mudzi were arrested and were being accused of perpetrating violence against the ruling party supporters when in fact they were running away from violence in their home villages.

ZPP bemoans the human rights situation in Zimbabwe during this run up period to the elections as more and more women and children are not only falling indirect and tertiary victims of the violence but direct victims of these heinous acts of human rights abuses.

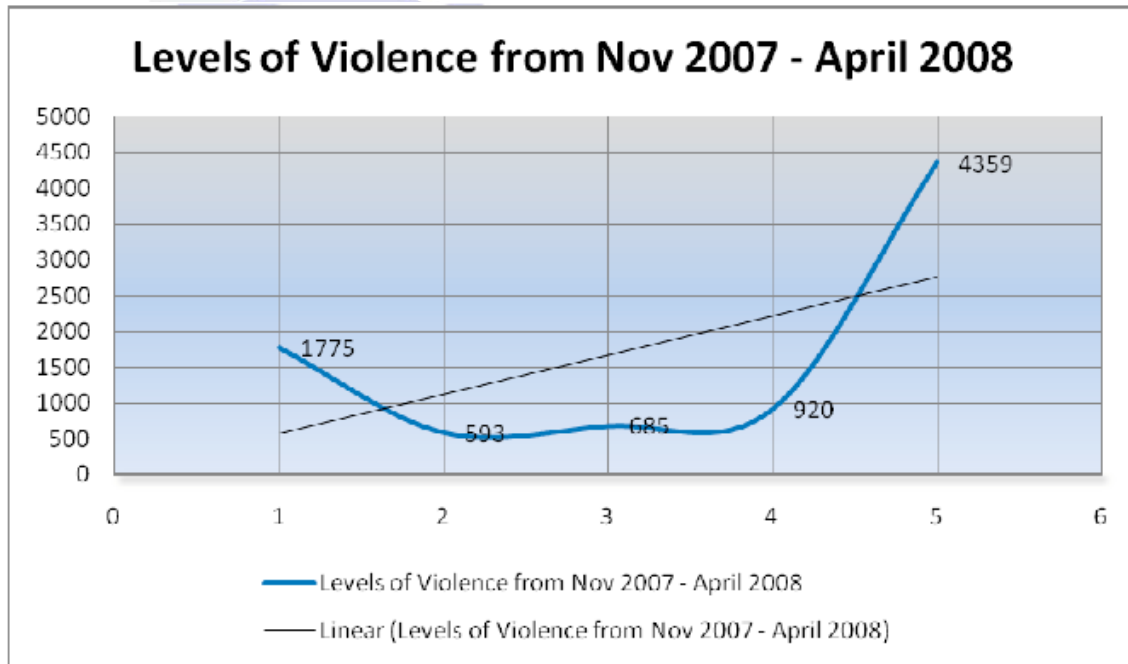
The increase in the post elections retributive violence is also making more and more people lose faith in participating in political and electoral processes as people seemed to have been betrayed by the semblance of tolerance which characterised the run up to the elections leading to more people coming out in the open with their political affiliations.

There have also been many cases of victimization of people who participated in the election processes as observers for NGOs and election officials who participated under ZEC; this will also weaken people's confidence in electoral processes in the future and more so in the impending runoff of the presidential poll.

This report will seek to raise awareness of the unfortunate occurrence of the various

cases of violence and human rights abuses in the aftermath of the March 29th elections.

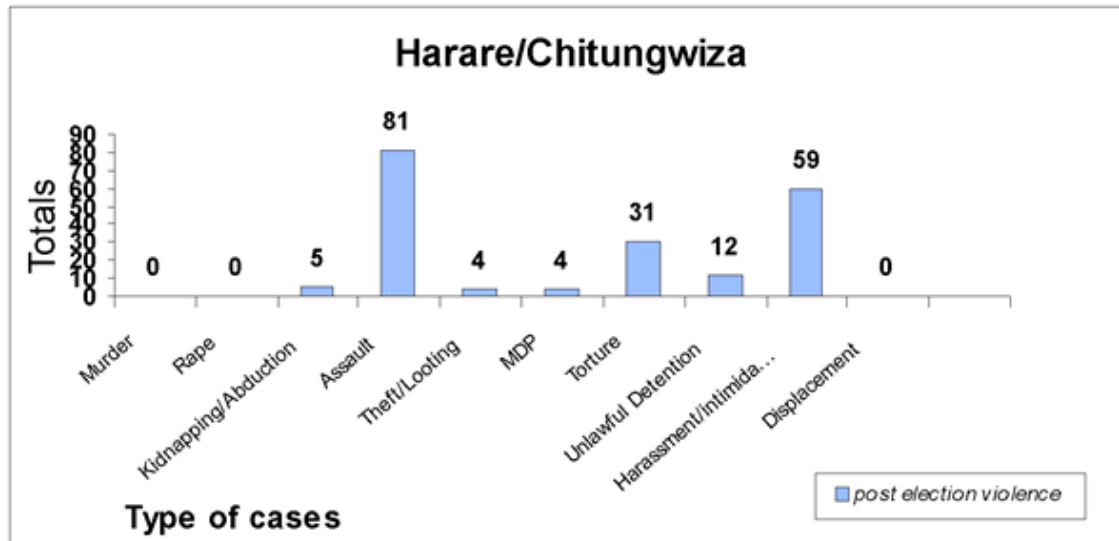
The March 2008 Elections



The pre election period was characterized by relative calmness with an average of 795 cases being recorded each month. Violence increased dramatically after the 29th of March 2008. Violence increased by 470% in April with a total of 4359 cases being recorded by the ZPP monitoring network. A total of 6557 cases of politically motivated violence were recorded in the first four months of the year. This is a sharp increase compared to the fact that in 2007, ZPP recorded 8233 cases for the whole year. The environment is likely to remain politically charged as preparation for the runoff process take place. Further violence will also increase in the post runoff period if the situation of the immediate post 29 March 2008 period is anything to go by. In some of the April reports, villagers, traditional leaders and opposition supporters have been threatened with retribution if the incumbent president loses in the election. The main areas of targeted violence were Midlands, Manicaland, Mashonaland West and East, Masvingo and Mashonaland Central. ZPP is also informed that violence is slowly moving into the Matabeleland region.

Post-Election Violence and Human Rights Abuses by Provinces

Harare/ Chitungwiza



The province has seen an increase in cases of politically motivated human rights violations. The province has seen a high number of cases of candidates who were celebrating their victory being victimized. Stories abound of people like Flora Namuchiha of Harare province and other MDC candidates who had to leave their homes for celebrating MDC victory and participating in opposition politics. The displaying of results outside the polling stations resulted in almost immediate unofficial curfews at most beer halls in high density suburbs of Harare.

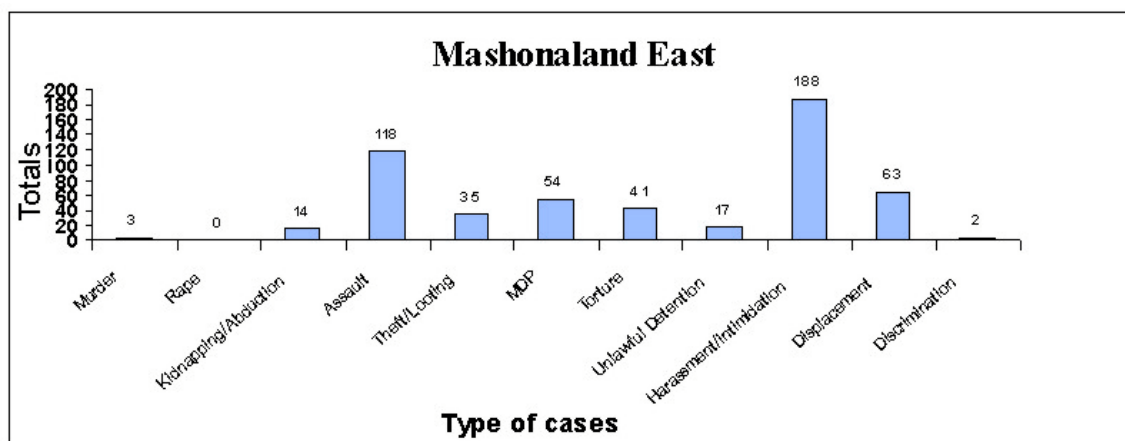
NGOs working on human rights issues have been victimized, chief among them the Zimbabwe Election Support Network (ZESN), which experienced multiple arrests and police raids for projecting the results of the harmonized elections. The police allegedly claimed that ZESN had subversive materials and had no legal mandate to inform the public of its findings. ZESN was labelled an organization that was pursuing a Western agenda. The ZESN Director, Rindai Chipfunde Vava was detained in the post election period with a police raid on her house and the office being conducted on the 25th of April 2008. The ZESN Chairperson, Noel Kututwa together with Rindai Chipfunde Vava presented themselves to the police after the raids on the 29th of April 2008. Fambai

Ngarande of the National Association of Non governmental Organizations was also arrested in the post elections period. Action Aid employees also had a brush with the state sponsored violence at Mayo resettlement area.

The continued harassment and arrests of NGO staff will have morale and security implications on the staff and how they will discharge their duties. The state has demonstrated that it will not tolerate any organization standing against human rights violations. This will also affect the Civil Society Organisations (CSO's) preparations for the run-off.

In the post election period, ZPP noted that they were also instances of intra party violence within the opposition MDC and ZANU PF. They were a continuation of fissures in the pre-election period. During the celebrations of the MDC-T a group of youths allegedly took a coffin to Job Sikhala's home on the 30th of March 2008 celebrating the victory of Marvelous Khumalo, resulting in a scuffle between the MDC Mutambara and MDC Tsvangirai youths. The incident resulted in the hospitalization of 5 youths and one was seriously injured.

Mashonaland East



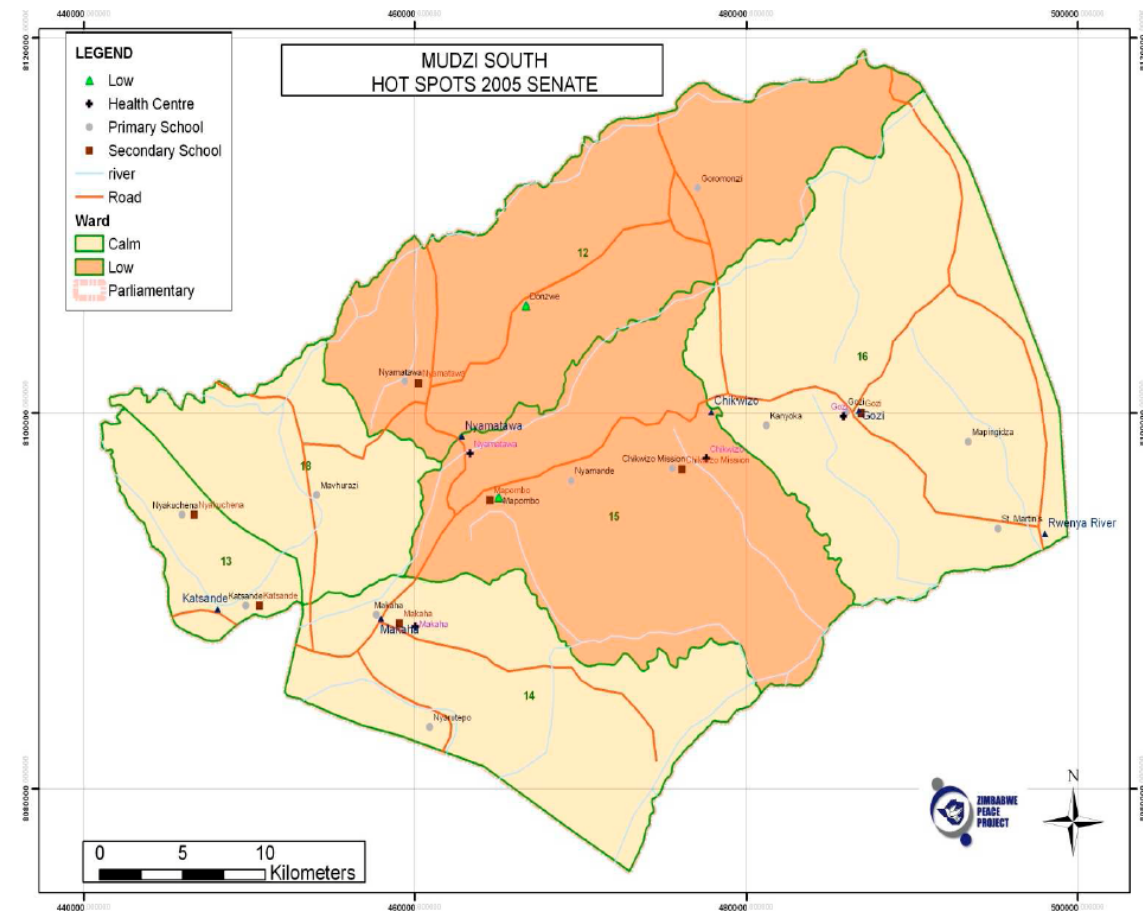
In the post election period, Mashonaland East has proved to be one of the most volatile areas. Immediately after the elections, ZPP received reports that houses of MDC election agents, known MDC supporters, and those who were seen attending rallies or wearing opposition T-shirts have reportedly been targets of harassments, intimidation

assault and arson. The recent elections showed that MDC had gained some inroads into the previous ZANU PF strongholds of Mashonaland. Most of the MDC activists have not returned home since polling day and the number of internally displaced persons is high.



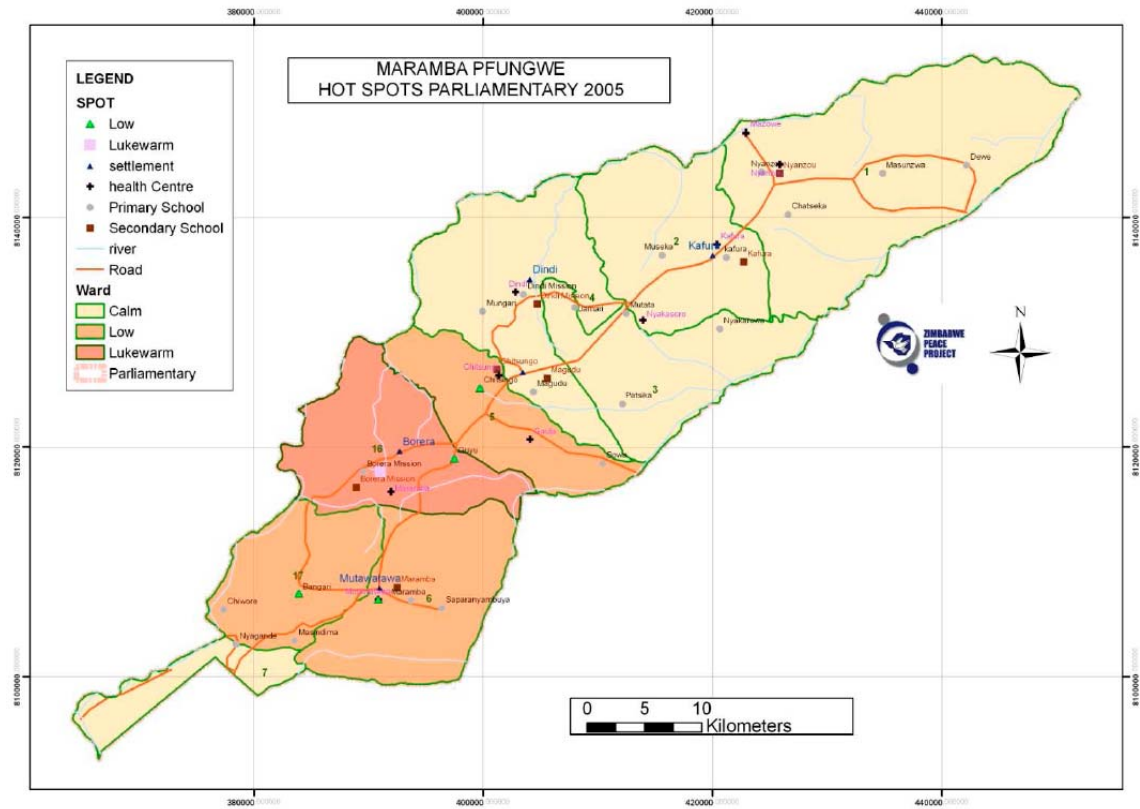
Wilson Gonye was assaulted by ZANU PF supporters for contesting as a Member of Parliament under the UPP ticket in Mudzi West.

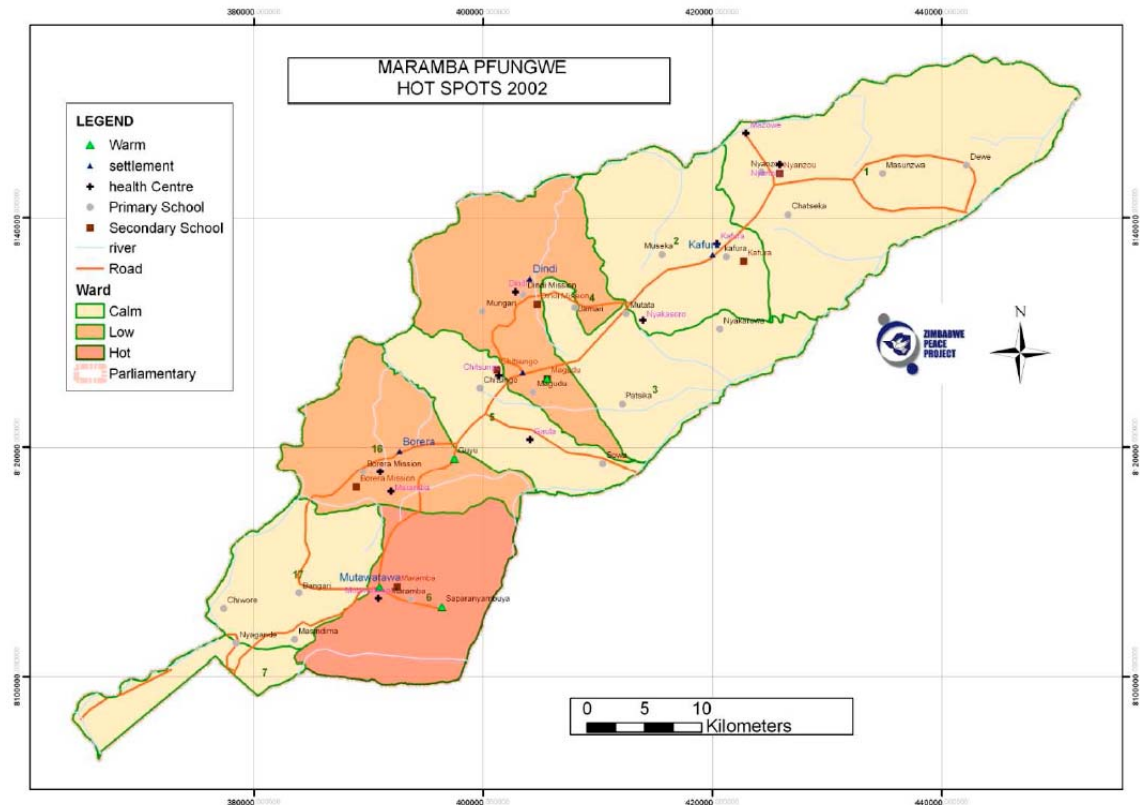
The main perpetrators of violence in this area have been war veterans who have reportedly set up bases at different schools in the area. The perpetrators who have an unregistered motor vehicle have declared Mashonaland East a no go area for outsiders and some of the people who voted for the MDC are now living in the mountains for fear of further reprisals. Torture bases have been set up at a number of schools, including Chitungazuva primary school. In Mudzi, bases have been set up at Fuchira, Dendera, Vhombozi, Nyamande, Chifamba and Suswe.



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¹ Zoom the maps to view the hot spots





Some of the places had already been mapped by ZPP as volatile in Mashonaland East

In Mutoko, some bases have been set up at Katekwe, Lot, All souls, Nyamuzuwe, Chimurenga schools, Corner store and Janhi Township. In Uzumba, bases have been set up at Chidodo, Mugabe, Kambika, Rudoviro, Zengenene and Nyahondo School. In Maramba Pfungwe bases have been set up at Mutata, Guyu and other places. The bases have been used to harass and intimidate opposition supporters, election agents and election observers. In some cases youths have been used to call villagers to meetings to ‘answer allegations of supporting the opposition’. The youths are also asked to attend meetings and are sometimes beaten for not demonstrating “proper” activism.



This house was allegedly set on fire by ZANU PF supporters in Mashonaland East

The displaced persons' property is reportedly going to waste as the majority of the persons have left their families unattended. The war veterans have also resorted to an orgy of malicious damage to property whereby 9 cattle belonging to one MDC candidate was slaughtered and left to rot on April 4, because the perpetrators believe all things belonging to the MDC must be destroyed. It is estimated that MDC and UPP supporters in the Uzumba area had lost 50 cattle and a significant number of goats by April 25.

One female candidate from UPP who contested in the parliamentary election and her election agents were reportedly taken to a base at Chitangazuva primary school on April 12, where they were tortured, asked to sing liberation songs and asked to sleep on the floor without any blankets. They were asked to renounce their participation in opposition politics. Some of the people are being asked to publicly renounce their participation in opposition politics and join the ruling party. They detained at the base for four days.

In one case a group (*whose leader is known*) is alleged to have beaten up Brighton Mambira and his wife during the night. The two ran away leaving a four year old child called Brighton Mambwa in the hut sleeping in Uzumba at Manyika Village on 17 April 2008. The militia burnt the hut and the child died in the inferno. It is alleged that a

teacher named Marere was taken at night and assaulted till he died at Chimurenga in Mutoko on April 15, 2008.

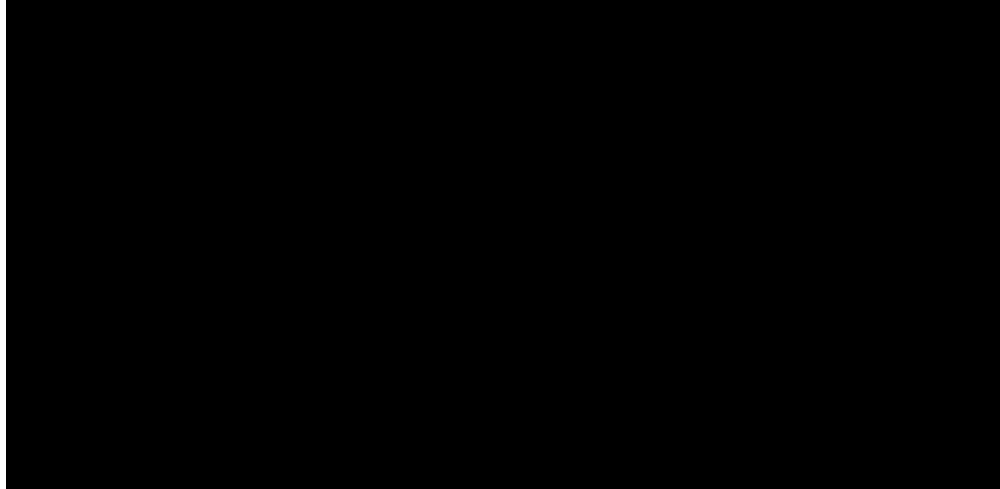
On the 11th of April 2008, about twenty people were beaten at Corner store base. At another case, in Mutoko south Constituency on the 14th April about ten war veterans using a new B 1800 truck and two Toyota trucks were moving around beating up people who they suspected to have voted for Tsvangirai.

ZPP also received reports that on the 10th April, a police officer, war veterans visited Mutoko police station where they ordered the member in charge to call all police officers at the station for a meeting. The officers were allegedly threatened with death if they arrest any of the perpetrators.

The Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs) are in a desperate situation. Most of these people are farmers who have left their homes, fields, livestock and property unattended and this has created untold psychological trauma for individuals. In some cases the victims have abandoned children while trying to save their lives but this has resulted in these children being taken and held at torture bases. The children and sometimes wives of opposition activists have been taken as ransom whereby they will only be released when their fathers and husbands return. The children have sometimes been asked to track their parents and bring them back to the villages to explain themselves.

Traditional leaders were also victims of violence in some cases whereby the war veterans wanted the leaders to name the people who voted for the MDC. Zimbabwe Election Support Network (ZESN) accredited observers have also been targets of violence. Some of the observers are now destitute as they have fled from their homes. The war veterans allege that the Zimbabwe Election Support Network is aligned to the opposition.

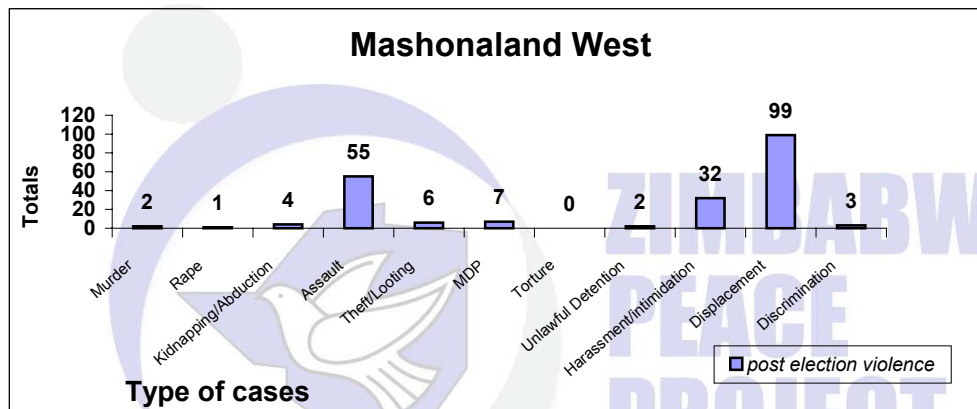
Mashonaland Central



ZPP recorded a total 340 cases of politically motivated human rights violations in Mashonaland Central. The most common human rights violations were displacements which amounted to 187 and 90 cases of harassment and intimidation. Bases were set up at Chibara village, Shamva clinic, Chahwada and where people are being harassed and intimidated and assaulted for supporting the opposition.

ZPP has received reports of people living in fear after receiving threats that if the President loses in the runoff they will lose their property and an operation for fishing out traitors would kick off after the announcement of the Presidential results. In Guruve, war veterans and ZANU PF supporter (*names supplied*) holding different ranks conducted operation '*Makavhotera papi?*', where more than 20 farm workers were evicted from Brandon Farm on the 6th of April 2008. In another case, in Guruve, members of the Zimbabwe National Army were reportedly harassing those who observed elections. In Mashonaland Central cases of harassment have been reported on people listening to Studio 7. A number of activists have been threatened with eviction by 'soldiers'. However, there are reports these soldiers are in fact youths who attended Border Gezi youth training centers who are given army uniforms in order to carry out 'operations' on behalf of the ruling party. Members of the Zimbabwe Electoral Commission were also subjected to harassment and intimidation for allegedly supporting the opposition.

Mashonaland West



The province is hot with a total of 211 cases of politically motivated human rights violations. In total, ZPP recorded 2 murders, 99 displacements, 59 assaults in the post electoral period. It is alleged Tapiwa Mumbandarikwa of Dunga village was stabbed and assaulted by close to 200 war veterans and youths (some *name supplied*) on April 12 at around 6pm. The war veterans are alleged to have threatened the wife with death as well. Although, the case was reported to the police, the police are reportedly under instruction not to arrest ZANU PF youths who murdered Mumbandarikwa. The type of violence is also more physical compared to the psychological violence which was common in the pre election period. There seems to be no attempt on the part of politicians to bring perpetrators to book.

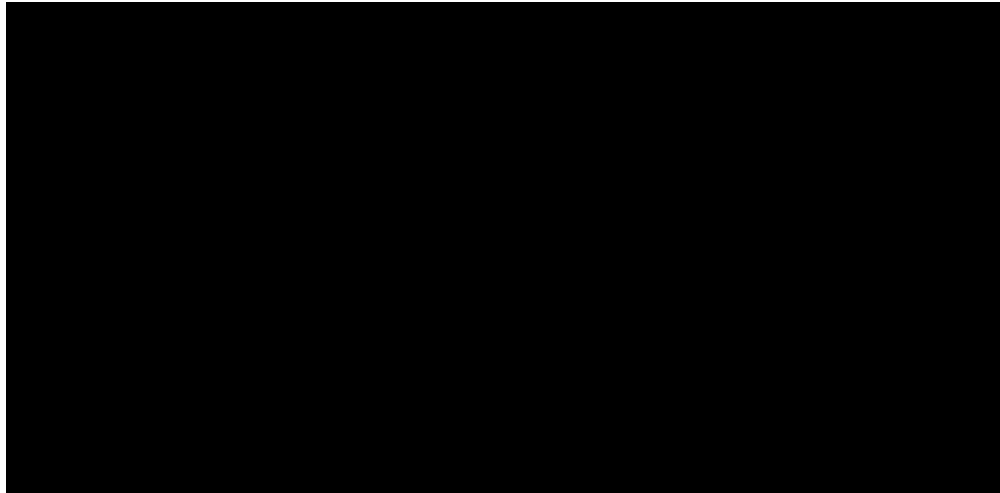
Some of the violence is being perpetrated to force people to quit from the opposition in the runoff. Most of the violations were being perpetrated by youths camouflaged in army uniforms. In Zvimba West, the perpetrators were threatening villagers with death if they did not win in the runoff. Communities were being threatened for harboring opposition party activists. The victims were made to publicly denounce the opposition and burn t-shirts. In one case, a kitchen was burnt with children inside. The children aged 8 and 12 were rescued by their father. In some polling stations where ZANU PF got low votes villagers were asked to account for the votes of opposition members; teachers, election agents were the main targets. Some of the teachers were in fear of returning to their schools in fear of violence against them.

The province also recorded cases of intra party violence with one case involving ZANU PF members (*names supplied*) on 14 April 2008. It is alleged that these ZANU PF members and some youths budged into a meeting organized by a senior ZANU PF member and told the people that the official had cheated on the primary election of ZANU PF by stealing the vote. The people who were attending the meeting were also beaten at random and harassed.

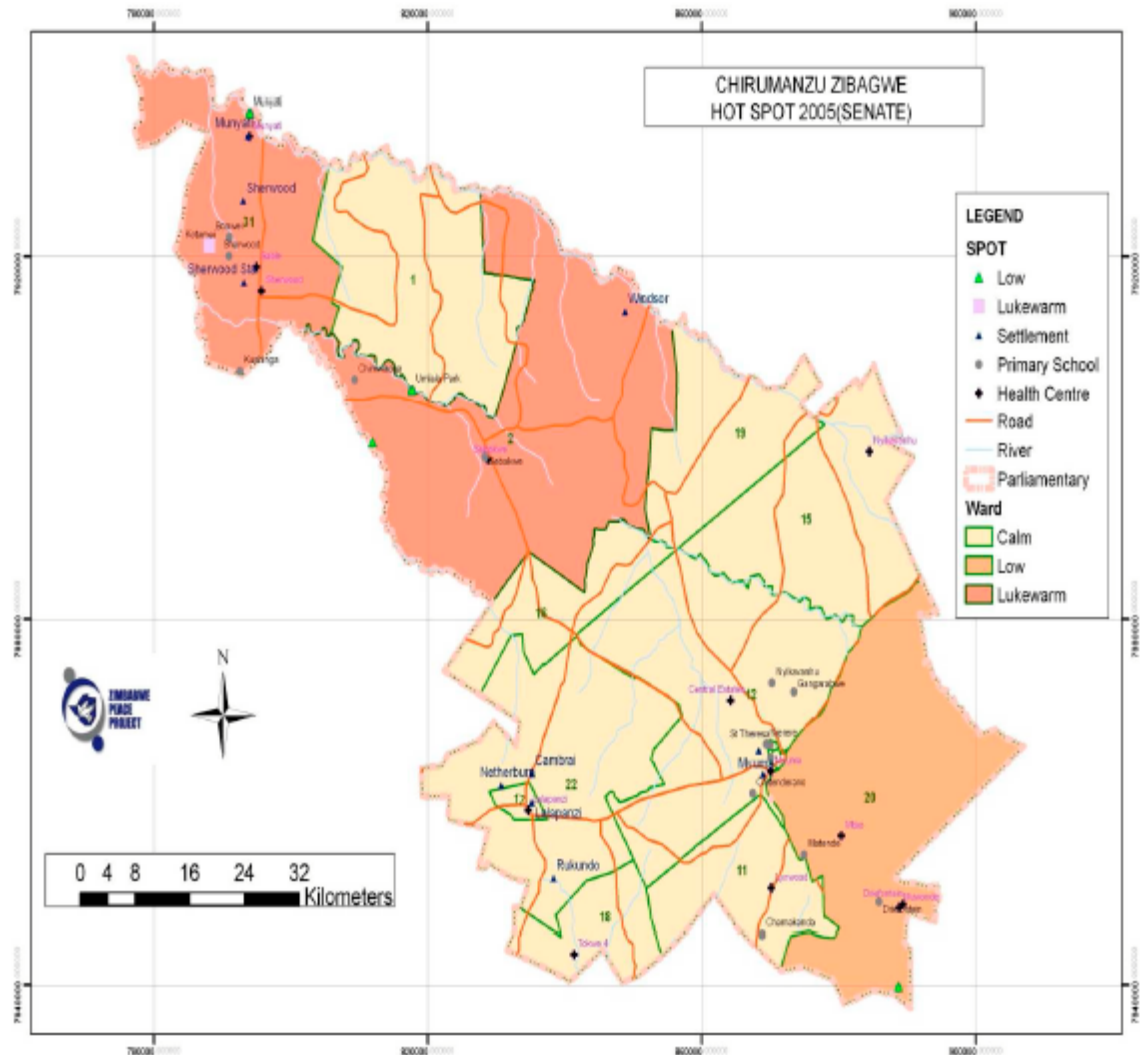
Some traditional leaders are using their powers to conduct a witch hunt of those who support the opposition in the communities. On April 19, Chief (*name supplied*), is alleged to have requested the community under him to list names of the opposition party leaders. He told villagers attending a meeting at Manyewe Business Centre that supporters of the MDC must be chased out and those from the opposition must leave the area and their homesteads should be given to sons of war veterans. The chief further stated that all those who support the opposition must go and get accommodation in urban areas.

In Mashonaland West, ZPP also reported some cases of land invasion at Pondoro farm in Lions Den on April 1. In the same week several farms were also victims of the violence. At Ken Plan Tree Farm, 8 war veterans and 16 soldiers are reported to have assaulted farm workers for supposedly celebrating MDC victory. At Temperley farm, soldiers and war veterans allegedly beat up a white farmer, Mr. Nel for telling his farm workers that the MDC had won the elections. He was visited by war veterans and soldiers (*names supplied*). Mrs Chari and Prisca Chikanya of Shamva District, Masanga village were harassed for being part of the election observers for ZESN on the 23rd of April 2008. Prisca's father was also threatened with loss of land because his daughter was a ZESN supervisor. Prisca was also told that her father Mr. Chikanya no longer had land. The names of perpetrators were supplied.

Midlands



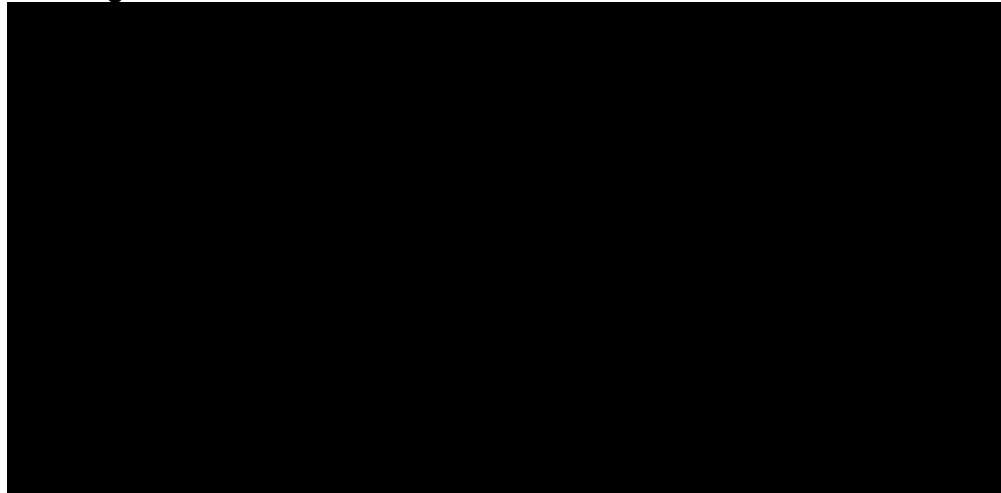
Midlands was identified as one of the areas where violence was likely to increase in the pre-election period. The Midlands province remains one of the hot spots of violence with 248 cases of violence being documented in the post election period. The most common cases of violence were harassment and intimidation (125 cases), followed by assault (81 cases) and displacements (10 cases). In one case, it is alleged that Ednah Lunga was murdered on 15 April 2008 at Chigunwe Shopping Centre in Silobela, after commenting on the recount process. It is reported that Ednah Lunga was unlawfully detained by ZANU PF youths (names supplied), at Chiguwane shopping center. Edna's hands were tied and youths started to drop hot plastics on her mouth and face. Hot plastics were also dropped on her legs and under her feet. It is reported that ZANU PF youths were ordered to carry her to her home but along the way, one Jealous Lunga, is reported to have been forced to bury Edna before dawn. The ZANU PF members prevented anyone from getting to Edna Lunga's home.



Driefontein Mission had already been mapped by ZPP as volatile in the Midlands Province.

In Midlands base camps have been set at Holy Cross mission, Driefontein mission, St Joseph Hama mission and Mayor farm. In Mberengwa, some suspected MDC supporters have been displaced and are now living in mountains.

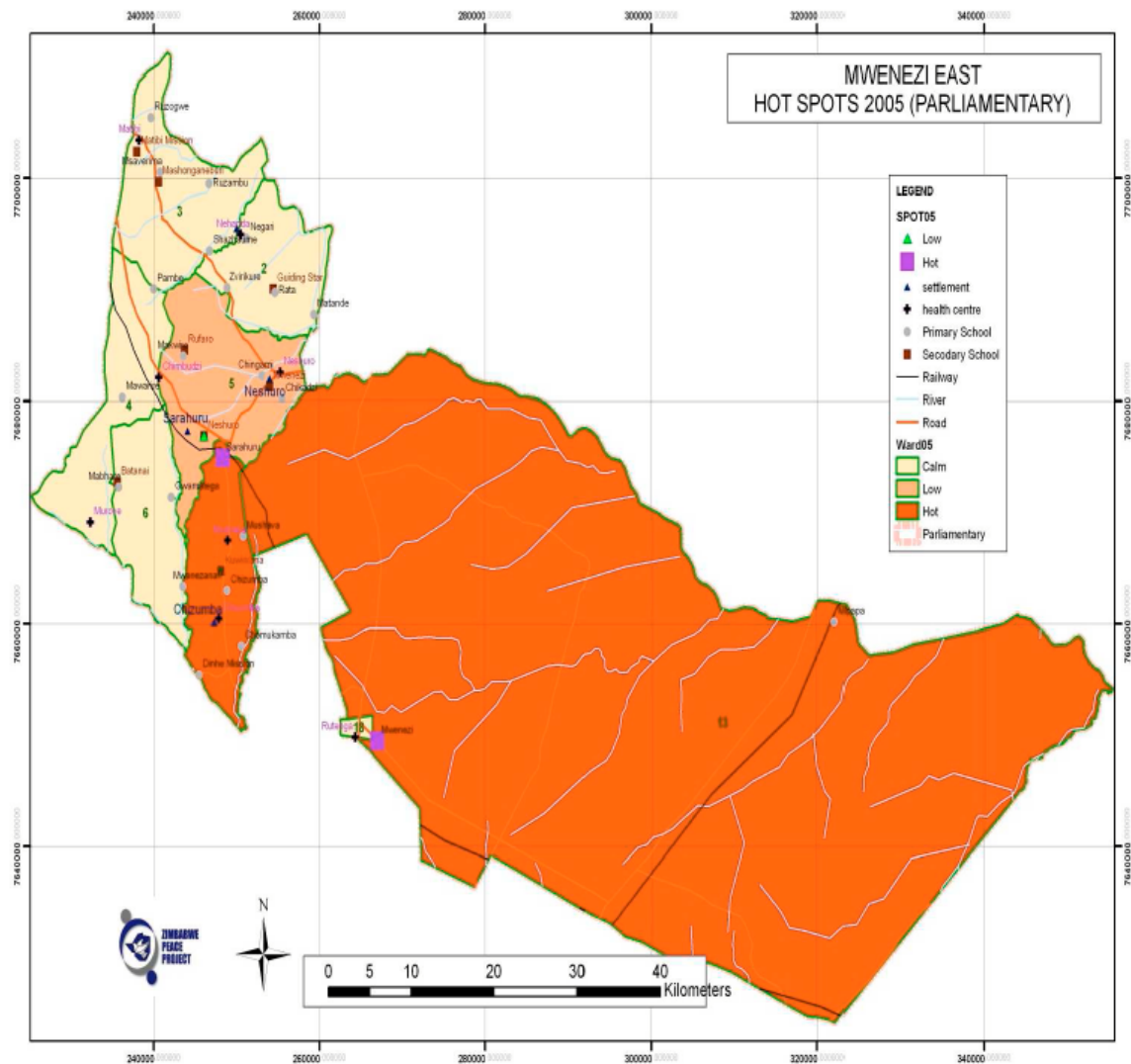
Masvingo



Masvingo had the second highest recorded cases (622) of violations in the post election period. The most prevalent violations were harassment and intimidation (417 cases), Assault (108 cases) and kidnappings/abduction (49 cases). Other violations recorded include unlawful detention.

The intensity of violence was also high with one murder case, grievous assaults and kidnappings were also recorded in Masvingo. In most of the cases, the main perpetrators of violence were members of the ruling party. Land invasions resurfaced in the province with one case recorded, where the war veterans arrived at Chidza farm, Masvingo Rural on the 6th of April 2008 and demanded the farm owners to slaughter a sheep for their consumption. The war veterans and youths then went on to allocate themselves pieces of land. The farmer was targeted after a report was made to the chief that the farm owner was celebrating MDC victory in the elections. The ZANU PF youths also allegedly beat up supporters of MDC on April 4, 2008 at Nezvikonde in Zaka and one of them died in the process. In Chiredzi South at Farm 40, it is understood that one MDC supporter, Leo Zembe was forced into a Mazda pick up by unknown youths campaigning for ZANU PF. The youth was forced to join them but he refused. The victim was forced to chant party slogans, remove his party T- Shirt and forced into their car. The youths took turns to beat him with sticks and booted feet. The victim was dropped

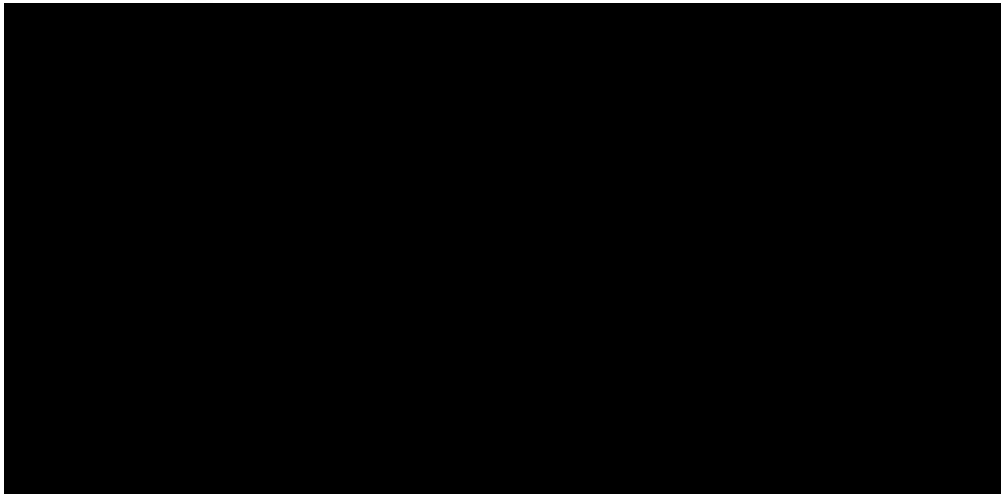
faraway from his home and he was asked to name other MDC supporters. The victim was treated at Chiredzi general hospital.



Mwenezi ward 13 had already been mapped by ZPP as one of the volatile areas in Masvingo

In Masvingo- Mwenezi ward 13 Resettlement area agents of the MDC have been harassed and intimidated by a group of ZANU PF supporters inclusive of a teacher and 8 militia, 15 political activists are allegedly harassing supporters of the MDC who are now living in the bush.

Manicaland



Manicaland recorded the highest number of incidents with a total of 1924 incidents of violence in the month of April. Of these cases, 823 involved displacement and 439 cases of harassment and intimidation, 251 cases of assault and 216 cases of assault. In some places schools have been closed as bases have been set up to perpetrate human rights violations. In Nyanga South, these schools include Crossdell Secondary school, Nyarukowa, Tsatse, Mapako, Mutendebvure and Sunday Munemo primary schools. In Nyanga North, Nyautare primary was also closed. Other bases have also been set up at Manderere farm, Clear water near Mvurachena river, Clear water section 2, Mootlas farm, Scarrick Farm ward 7 (Muchakata) and Lalus farm.

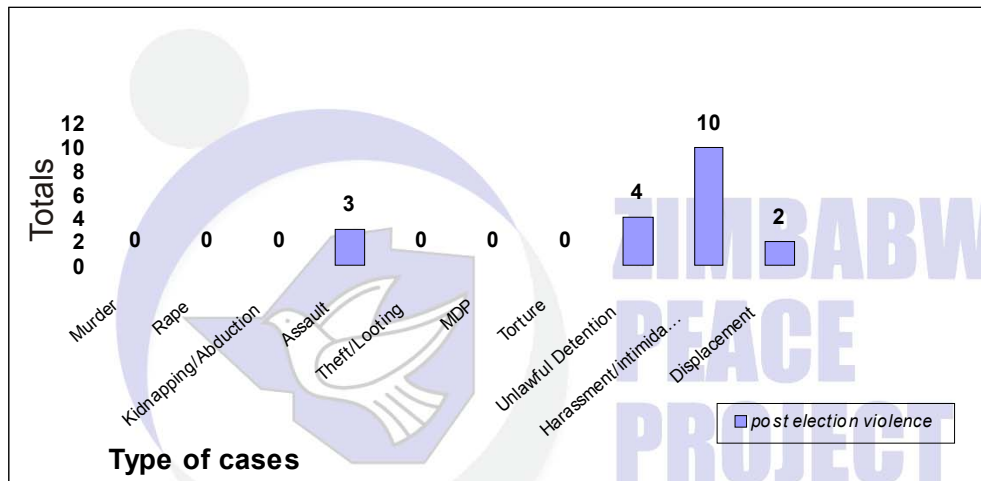


Simango from Chipinge East had his eye stabbed by war veterans for supporting the opposition, MDC party.

ZPP also noted that violence in Manicaland was more intense with 2 cases of murder being reported and an all time high number of displacements. ZPP also recorded incidents of intra party violence whereby a ZANU PF member (*name supplied*) was demanding back food handouts from supporters of ZANU PF since they did not vote for him. Villagers were allegedly beaten and assaulted in the post election period even in areas where ZANU PF won in order to find out where the few MDC votes came from. Villagers were being beaten at random and being asked to account for the MDC votes in some areas.

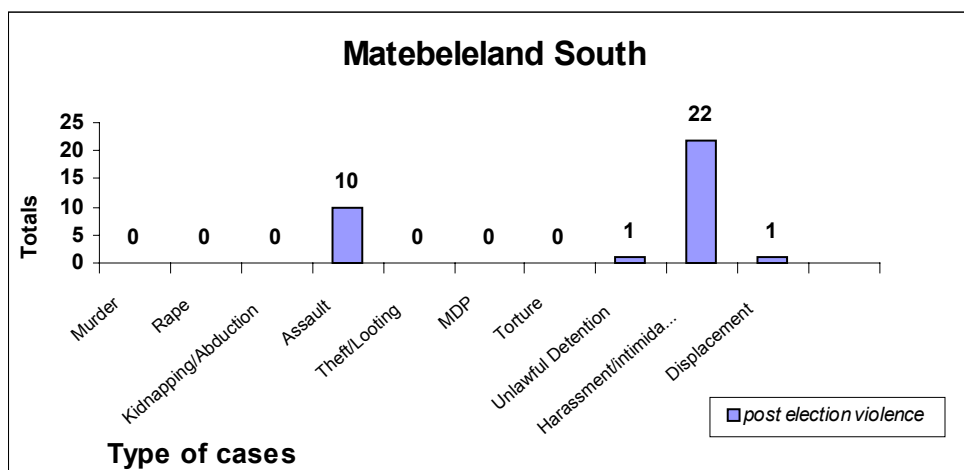
In Mayo, a case of retaliation was recorded in April when ZANU PF militias clothed in army regalia welding guns went to an MDC supporters' house during the night with the intention of abducting the MDC supporter. It is reported that upon forcing their way into the house, the MDC supporter blew a whistle he had been given to alert others of danger and the other MDC supporters responded by attacking the youths. The ZANU PF supporters were disarmed and one of them was severely beaten.

Matebeleleland North



The province has generally been calm, however some cases of violence were recorded in Lwendulu village, Nkayi and Hwange. The members of the Zimbabwe National Army (ZNA) are allegedly driving around villages with a list of observers, and opposition supporters who are the targets of assault, harassment and intimidation. Violence is said to have erupted in Nkayi where an army truck was reportedly going around the constituency with a list of names of people who voted for MDC with the intention of assaulting and harassing these people. Some of the people on the list have left the area and are now temporarily leaving with relatives.

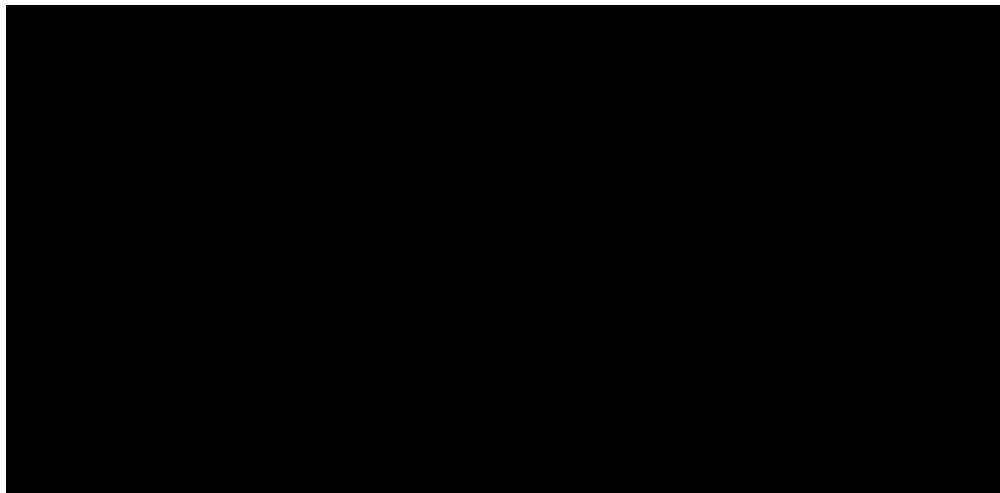
Matebeleleland South



In Matebeleland South, the environment is generally mild with a few hot spots of violence. ZPP recorded 35 incidences of violence, one case of torture and one of unlawful detention. There are reports that there are some ZANU PF youths and war veterans who have been going around recruiting youth to campaign for the ruling party. The youths are going around telling people that they made a mistake in the harmonized elections by voting for MDC and they should not make the same mistake in the runoff. The group set up a base at Sigodo Business Center. Reports reaching ZPP indicate that bases have been set up at West Nicholson factory, Sitezi business center, Mzimuni hall and Nkazhe primary school. In another occasion, in Nswazi, war veterans come and do patrols whilst in Madabe and other areas. In Plumtree, war veterans are allegedly patrolling the area frequently on bikes.

Bulawayo

In Bulawayo, some bases have been set up at Municipal offices and schools and are designed for harassment and intimidation. In total, ZPP recorded 47 cases of harassment and intimidation and 5 assaults. The province is relatively calm but has received an influx of persons from other provinces who are seeking refuge. Bulawayo is the only Province where ZPP has not recorded any displacements.



Comparative Analysis of incidents in the pre and post Elections Period

This section focuses on a comparative analysis of the pre and post election period. It also revisits the previous elections and compares them to the March 29th harmonized elections.

Type of violence

The pattern and trend of violence has changed from the pre election period. ZPP has recorded an upsurge of violence in the post election period and more intense violence was unleashed after the announcement of results on 2 May 2008. Cases of arson, murder, displacements and torture have been recorded in all provinces. In the pre election period people were harassed and intimidated whereas in the post election period the violence was more physical with torture, assault and murder being common. Malicious Damage to Property is also rampant with some people reporting that they have lost at least 10 head of cattle. The war veterans are allegedly killing cattle and other livestock just to spite opposition supporters, claiming that their livestock is poison and does not deserve to graze on ZANU PF land.

Method of violence

The perpetrators have been systematic in the methods of violence used. The methods used include beating people with logs and axes, hard pipes, knobkerries, sjambok with a diamond wire, beating under the feet (Falanga) using logs, iron bars, beating on the buttocks, tying of hands using handcuffs, tying of hands using wires and ropes, rolling in gravel, pushing and shoving of the victim, stoning the victim, running a 100 meter race back and forth or being asked to dance after going through a thorough beating. In some cases victims were attacked with bicycle chains on their hands. In one case victims were asked to lie on concrete blocks that used to be structures of torture houses put in place by Ian Smith. In another case hot plastics were dropped on the legs, mouth and body of opposition supporters. In some cases perpetrators kill livestock such as cattle and goats. In one cruel case, the eyes of goats were poked out before they were killed. The perpetrators believe that anything associated with the MDC should be killed.

Public approaches

In most of the cases, the perpetrators of violence approach the home of the victim singing liberation songs and wielding sticks, poles, stones. The victims are force marched to the base where they are asked to give a public explanation of their

involvement in opposition politics. During this process the procession will beat the victim, and ask him/ her to dance whilst still in pain. A public address and decision will be made on how to deal with victims and sometimes public participation and volunteering to beat up the victim who is also labeled 'traitor' or 'sell out'. In some cases, people are ordered to cane victims with all their strength. The victim/s are then asked to chant ruling party slogans, denounce their party by burning any t-shirt or political party membership cards they may have and make public statements that they no longer support the opposition. The victims who refuse to do this are subjected to further harassment and intimidation. Most of the meetings were led by supposed war veterans while youths and other villagers are asked to attend. A meeting can have as many as 200 villagers or more and is ultimately a public activity. The perpetrators have used a hit list of opposition supporters.

Secretive 'Midnight calls'

In some instances, for example, in Makonde, a team of about seven war veterans using a vehicle which has no vehicle registration numbers pay a midnight visits to MDC supporters and call him/ her by name. The unsuspecting supporter will come out and upon opening the door will be assaulted. This type of violence has been experienced on several occasions in April. Under these circumstances the victim will not know who the perpetrators of violence are. In some cases a family will just wake up with their hut or house on fire.

Land invasions

War veterans, youths and other ZANU PF supporters were taken to farms in lorries and vans where they sing liberation songs. The war veterans surround the farm house and / or start attacking farm workers who are accused of supporting whites. The white farmers in some cases are asked to sing liberation songs and chant ZANU PF slogans. Some of the farmers have eventually left their farms. The following farms were invaded, Mitchell Farm in Masvingo Central, Boland Farm in Masvingo North and Dodderier farm, a farm in Beatrice and another Dairy farm along Beatrice Road, where the farmer was prevented from milking his cows for several days.

‘Redirection of resources’

In Masvingo, ZANU PF reportedly removed donated buses designated to Zaka which voted for MDC and redirected them to Chivi which voted for the ZANU PF. In Manicaland buses were removed from Chimanimani, Chipinge, Nyanga and some parts of Bocha. The redirection of resources is likely to increase as the preparations for the runoff have taken off on the part of the ruling party. Food farm inputs and other government subsidized resources might end up benefiting only the communities which voted ‘correctly’ in the harmonized elections. Food aid is also likely to be used for vote buying purposes.

Map of Violence in post election Zimbabwe.

Mashonaland East, Manicaland, Midlands, Masvingo then Mashonaland West and Central have remained the hot spots of violence as predicted by the Violations Early Warning System (ViEWs) report. Most of the violations have been taking place at bases which have been set up to deal with all those who are suspected of having voted for the MDC.

Perpetrators of violence

The main perpetrators of violence have continued to be those from the ruling party with more and more cases involving war veterans, ZANU PF youths, ZANU PF Councilors and traditional leaders. In a few of the cases, the violence has been perpetrated by MDC Mutambara faction against MDC T-and vice versa. ZPP also recorded cases where the perpetrators of violence were from the MDC T- faction against the ZANU PF. In most of these cases victims of political violence were forced to retaliate after reporting to the police who indicated that they had nothing to do.

Police

Members of the Zimbabwe Republic Police (ZRP) have allegedly turned a blind eye to most of the human rights violations. In Shamva, police turned away more than 160 villagers who were seeking refuge arguing that they could not continue keeping them at the police station and saying that the victims should go and retaliate since the police had no capacity to handle their cases.

Some ZANU PF stalwarts are allegedly instructing some police officers to turn a blind eye to political violence.

Victims of Violence

The majority of the victims of violence were from the MDC-T, supporters of independent candidates and in some cases from United People's Party. The victims were of all age groups. In some areas the victims of violence were as young as 3, 8, 12, and 16. The children were left dead or traumatized after the burning of their homes with one infant reported to have died. Other children sustained burns. Children have also been indirect victims of violence as some have not been attending school since their parents were displaced the burning down of homes has resulted in some having to stay with relatives and they are unable to attend school. In some cases children have been kidnapped and kept at bases as a way of punishing their parents who support the opposition who could have fled from the violence. In some cases children have been forced to travel to rural areas and bring back their parents to bases to ensure that punishment is meted on people who would have run away.

ZPP has also noted that a large portion of victims are from the opposition. The victims are mainly those who were election agents for the opposition during the elections, people who were seen wearing opposition party regalia and attending rallies, and meetings of the opposition. During the pre-election period, ZPP commended politicians for the improved tolerance among different parties as all parties were able to wear their T-shirts freely, distribute and publicize posters. However, in the post election period the same freedoms were reversed with those who were seen displaying their parties regalia being victimized. The tolerance, freedom of association and expression have had a negative impact on the other side since they have now been used to target victims of political violence.

Zimbabwe Election Support Network observers

These were targeted for associating with ZESN which has been labelled a NGO aligned to the opposition. Some of the observers have had their houses burnt. ZESN Secretariat has also been harassed and detained for questioning in the post election period for publicizing its projections of the results based on a sample. On 15 April 2008, the Director of ZESN was taken in at the airport for questioning, in connection with the

organization's role in the elections. ZESN was targeted because they were reportedly tarnishing the image of government by illegally releasing results of the elections. This is ironic because the results were also public since all polling stations displayed results.

Traditional Leaders

In some areas, some village heads have been harassed and were being accused of harbouring MDC supporters in their areas. War veterans in Mashonaland East have asked village heads to pinpoint MDC supporters in their villages so that they can be dealt with.

Children

Children are now in distress following the burning of their homes which represents an area of security for children. Some are no longer going to school as their parents were displaced and have lost the resources which they used to pay school fees. Some children have lost important documents including birth certificates, notebooks and text books in cases of arson. In some cases parents and guardians have been assaulted in the presence of their children and this creates distress in children and its degrading for the children. In some provinces schools have been closed as they are now operating as bases. In other areas, teachers have gone on 'leave' as they fear going back to school. Children in secondary schools are forced to attend midnight political meetings known as *Pungwes*, which also affects their learning and studying. In some cases parents have left their children alone and this had created **defacto** child headed families.

ZPP predictions

Given the foregoing findings from the various provinces ZPP predicts that:

- The impending presidential poll will be far from being free and fair as people who are not aligned to ZANU PF will find it tough to exercise their right to vote for candidates of their choice;
- The reported cases of displacement will inevitably play against the opposition vote in the elections as some of their supporters will not be able to vote in their home areas
- Some people who were inclined to vote for the opposition may be compelled to vote for the ruling party owing to harassment, intimidations and fear of further

reprisals after what they have already experienced, in the event that they vote for the opposition again.

- The level of violence will continue to increase as the date of the polling continues to be unknown and ZANU PF is more determined than ever before to reclaim control of most of the rural areas where they lost support in the March 29th polls.
- Fewer people will be willing to act as local elections observers for fear of victimization, and this will inevitably dent the credibility of the runoff elections

Recommendations

- ◆ There is need for Civil Society Organizations to step up advocacy at regional and international levels for the Zimbabwean government to respect the people's rights to freely associate.
- ◆ There is need for organizations in the services sector to pool resources in order to assist the large number of Internally Displaced Persons (IDP) who have lost their homes and their livelihoods
- ◆ ZPP recommend that regional and international observers come earlier in preparation for the run off in order to ensure that the electoral climate both before and after elections is free.
- ◆ ZPP recommends that the leaders of the two main political parties should urge their supporters to desist from political violence.
- ◆ Political leaders should desist from interfering with the police
- ◆ The electoral body should learn from the March 29 elections and avoid delays in releasing results as these create tension.
- ◆ The police should carry out its functions in a non partisan manner and desist from asking citizens to retaliate as this begets further violence.