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SUMMARY ON POLITICALLY-MOTIVATED HUMAN RIGHTS AND FOOD- RELATED VIOLATIONS

April 2010

19/05/2010

OVERVIEW

Political intolerance reared its ugly face to the country's political scene in the month of April where the country's main political parties were commemorating Independence Day together for the second time since the establishment of the inclusive government. Despite calls from the political leaders to shun violence, the month of April realised a 5% increase in cases of human rights violations as compared to the previous month.

There were 959 cases of human rights violations that were recorded in April compared to the 908 for the month of March. A close look at the incidents of the violations tend to show that cases of harassments, intimidation and assault have been constant in the Midlands, Manicaland, Masvingo, Mashonaland East and Mashonaland Central provinces.

Zimbabwe Peace Project (ZPP) has observed that most of the violations that were recorded in April were concentrated on the days leading to the April 18, Independence Day celebrations of which the victims were harassed on the basis of failing to contribute money for the celebrations and putting on political party or civil society regalia .

Matabeleland North and South Provinces also realised an increase in the number of violations that were recorded in April compared to the previous month. The majority of the cases were to do with harassments encountered by political party activists with regards to the constitution making process as well as the unwritten sin of wearing political party regalia.

The news that the Constitutional outreach teams will soon be dispatched to communities also contributed to the increase in human rights violations with political parties jostling to outwit each other in determining the outcome of the country's supreme law.

CHURCH RELATED VIOLATIONS

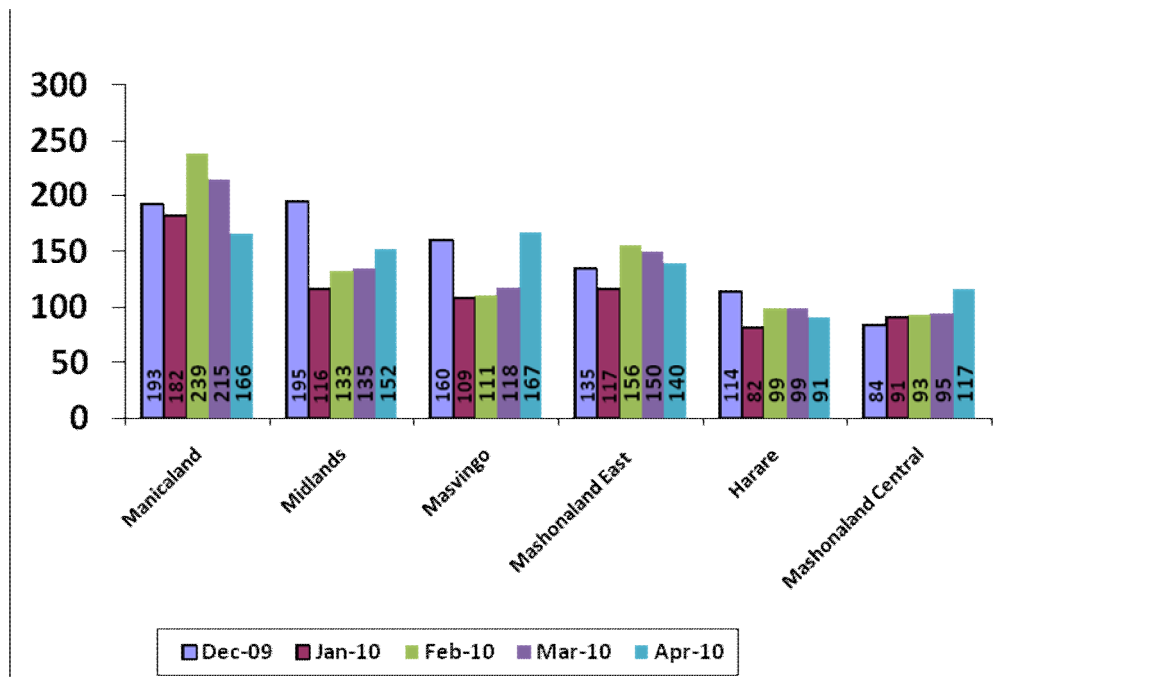
Of note is the increased number of church related violations in the Mashonaland Central Province, where worshipers are being thrown out of the church assemblies on the grounds that they do not support a particular political party. This has been reported in Mazowe, Mt Darwin and Muzarabani constituencies where villagers are being forced to denounce their certain political parties in order to be allowed into the church assemblies.

Again in the same province, two MDC activists were excommunicated from the Johane Masowe Apostolic Church on the basis that they openly supported the party of their choice.

Similarly in Chitungwiza, it has been recorded that about fifteen anti-riot police officers denied parishioners who are allegedly anti-Bishop Nolbert Kunonga access to use the Anglican premises at ST All Saints congregation in Unit K.

In Manicaland, senior Zanu PF politicians hijacked a Passover ceremony for the Johane Marange Apostolic sect and ordered the leaders to denounce MDC-T leader Morgan Tsvangirai as well as excommunicated all MDC-T supporters.

ovinces in the last five months



INCIDENCES OF POLITICALLY MOTIVATED VIOLATIONS

More and more Zimbabweans are beginning to take the law into their own hands after realising that the national healing process is taking too long to materialise. A number of cases where victims of the 2008 political violence are now seeking revenge have been recorded in many provinces. Some of the cases have regrettably resulted in death.

In Masvingo, a Zanu PF supporter from Mwenezi East who allegedly terrorised villagers in the period leading to the 2008 presidential run-off was on April 4, stabbed to death by one of his victims. The victim-cum-perpetrator has since skipped the country and is believed to be living in South Africa. Again in Zaka East, a father-in-law fatally assaulted a daughter-in-law after accusing her of belonging to the MDC. The man has also skipped the country and is believed to be in South Africa.

The heavy military presence at Chiadzwa diamond mining fields had nasty consequences for a Mutasa North family on April 17, when a soldier shot and killed one of their sons in cold blood at Muchena Township. The motive of the killing was not immediately clear.

Reports of intimidations and harassments (651) in the form of forced meetings and threats of unspecified actions were recorded in most of the provinces in relation to the constitution making process. This showed a 6% increase from March (598).

d out a family from the Independence celebrations at
e members of the MDC-T. This was despite the fact
that traditional leaders are supposed to be non-partisan.

Another chief from Chimanimani summoned MDC supporters to his homestead and fined them US\$10 each as punishment for belonging to a political party of their choice.

Cases of people being forced to contribute to the Independence day celebration were recorded in most of the country's provinces where those who could not pay were either assaulted or intimidated with unspecified action.

The table below shows the spread of violations by province for the month of April 2010.

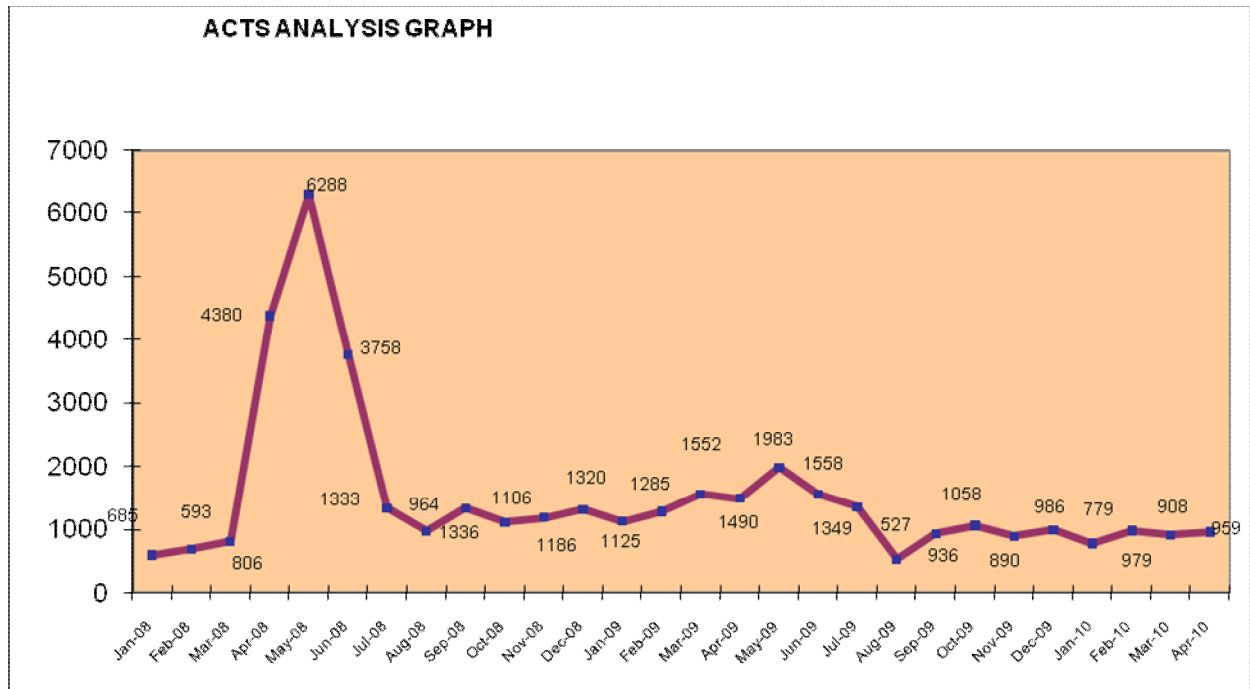
Table 1: Analysis of Politically motivated Violations by Province

ACTS	Midlands	Bulawayo	Mat. South	Mat. North	Masvingo	Manicaland	Harare	Mash. East	Mash West	Mash Central	TOTAL
Murder	0	0	0	0	3	0	0	0	0	0	3
Rape	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Kidnapping/ Abduction	0	0	0	0	0	2	3	1	0	1	7
Assault	36	3	4	7	15	24	18	27	9	13	156
Theft/Looting	1	0	0	1	4	6	6	4	1	4	27
MDP	2	0	0	0	1	2	1	2	1	0	9
Torture	1	0	0	0	0	1	0	1	0	0	3
Unlawful Detention	0	0	0	1	0	3	2	1	0	1	8
Harassment/ Intimidation	100	3	11	18	131	106	47	89	53	93	651
Displacement	3	0	0	2	2	3	12	7	1	0	30
Discrimination	9	0	0	1	14	19	2	8	7	5	65
Total	152	6	15	30	170	166	91	140	72	117	959

A cumulative violations toll as of April 2010 stands at 42107 since 2008. See table below for details

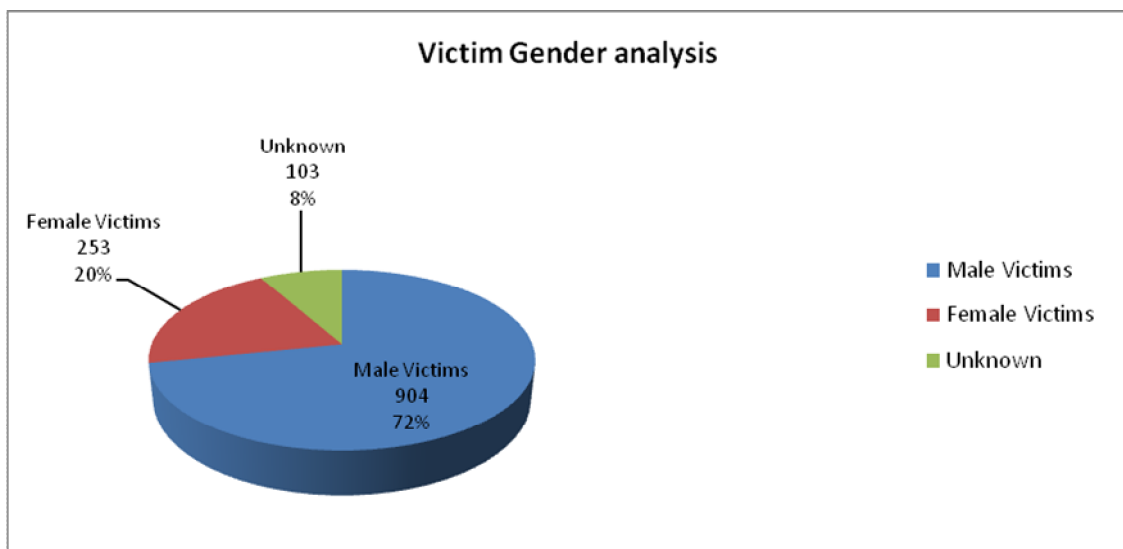
Table 2: 2009 Cumulative Tables of Violations

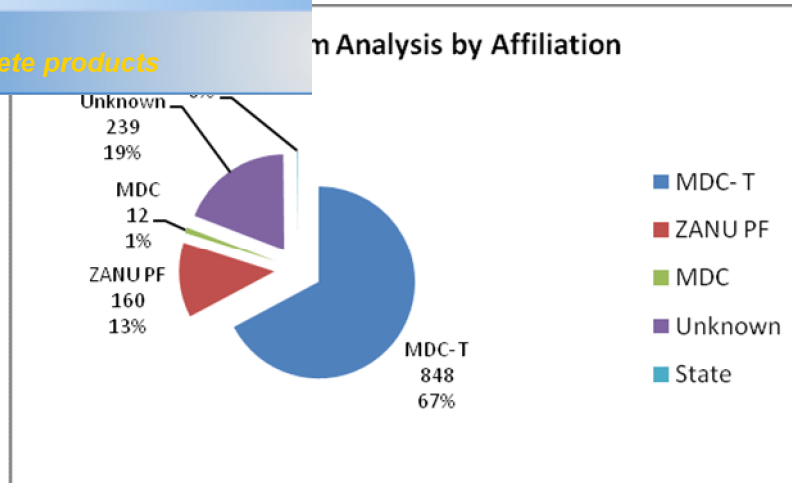
ACTS	2008	2009	2010												Total
			Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	July	Aug	Sept	Oct	Nov	Dec	
Murder	207	8	0	0	1	3									219
Rape	61	69	1	0	5	0									136
Kidnapping/Abduction	511	147	2	5	5	7									677
Assault	4886	3296	165	196	161	156									8860
Theft/Looting	611	598	26	30	25	27									1317
MDP	1009	294	14	10	16	9									1352
Torture	452	157	3	3	2	3									620
Unlawful Detention	514	284	6	5	15	8									832
Harassment/Intimidation	12593	7865	490	628	589	651									22816
Displacement	2508	680	45	26	28	30									3317
Discrimination	366	1314	27	76	61	65									1909
Attempted Rape	23	3	0	0	0	0									26
Attempted Murder	16	10	0	0	0	0									26
Total	23755	14725	779	979	908	959									42107



VICTIM ANALYSIS BY GENDER AND ASSOCIATION

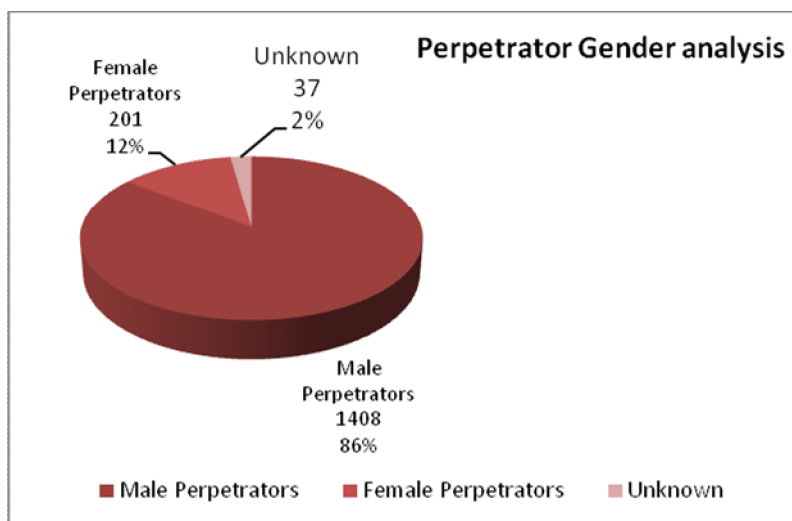
The month of April 2010 recorded a victim toll of 1260 which reflects a percentage drop from the March toll 1289. Of the total 1260 victims recorded 904 (72%) are males while 253 (20%) are female and 103 (8.2%) are recorded as unknown. Trends in the political affiliation category reflected that MDC-T had 848 (67%) victims, ZANU PF recorded 160 (12.7%), MDC-M 12 (0.9%), Unknowns 239 (19%) and the state had 1 victim.

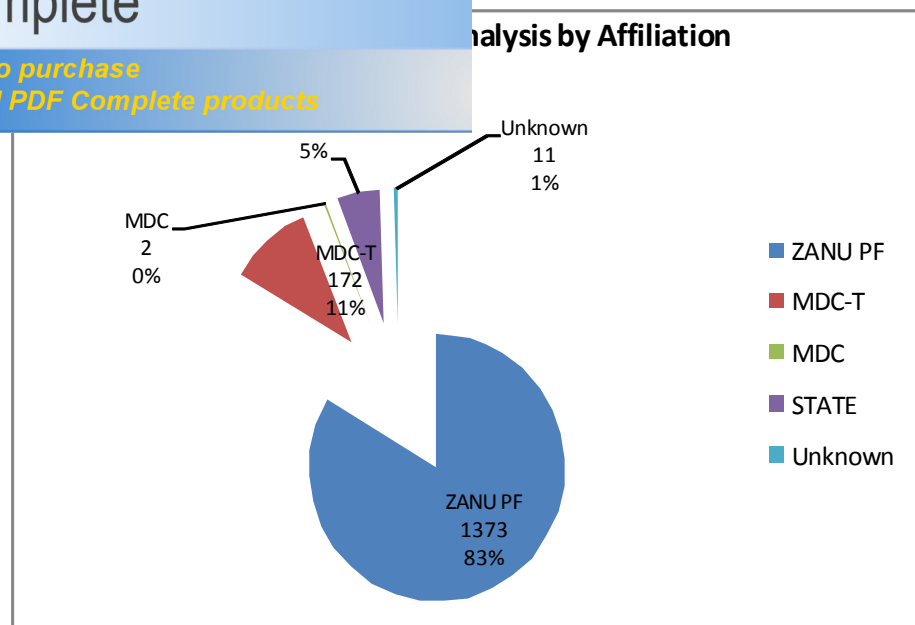




Male and Female Perpetrator Charts

The month witnessed a slight increase in the toll for perpetrators recording 1646 for April compared to 1422 which was recorded for March 2010. Of the 1646, males constituted 1408 (85.5%) while 201 (12.2%) were females and 31 (1.9%) were unknown. A political party analysis revealed that 1373 (83.4%) were ZANU PF, 172 (10.5%) MDC-T, 88 (5.3%) State, 11 (0.7%) unknown and 2 (0.1%) MDC-M.





**STATE
HINDRANCES
TO CIVIL
SOCIETY WORK**

Since the inception of the inclusive government in February last year, the operating environment for civic society organisations had improved for the better except for the past two months. It has been noted that police officers and State security agents have been threatening civic society activists during the course of their work.

In Manicaland, two police officers and a CIO agent on April 12, tried to disrupt a Zimrights photographic exhibition on the pretext that it had not been properly cleared by the police. In a clear contemptuous manner the security details tried in vain to undermine the authority of the Co-Minister of Home Affairs Giles Mutsekwa who was the guest of honour.

The police details also threatened to arrest everyone who was at the venue including the minister and Zimrights director Okay Machisa. The event, however, went ahead as planned after the intervention of lawyers.

On April 26, Zimrights took the same exhibition to Masvingo where the police confiscated all the pictures and arrested some of the three employees from the organisation on the pretext that the event was not cleared. Zimrights is yet to recover the pictures which showcase the 2007-2008 political violence.

In Matabeleland North, a paralegal officer with the Legal Resources Foundation (LRF) Hilda Dube was barred from conducting a workshop on Human Rights and violations by the police officer commanding Jotsholo Police Post. Dube only discovered that her letter for clearance was not forwarded to the senior officers at the police post. She was told to go back to her base in Lupane or risk being locked up.

Another civic society activist from the same Matabeleland North Province, Sihle Mloyi of Nkayi Agenda was arrested for holding meetings with government heads of departments without notifying the police. Mloyi has since appeared in court and was remanded out of custody to June 1, 2010 facing charges of insulting the President (Robert Mugabe) during the meeting with government heads in the area.

ZPP last month followed up on the death of Moses Chokuda from Gokwe who was murdered on 22 March 2008 by Zanu PF youths including a son of a senior Zanu PF and government official. The matter was reported to the police but no arrests have been made so far.

The family of the deceased have refused to bury their son since then maintaining that the perpetrators should openly apologise and pay compensation.

ZPP has also established that the body is still being kept at a mortuary at Gokwe Centre and the family has declined to go and view the body. Police officers dealing with the matter have been trying to have the matter settled by the courts but all in vain.

FOOD & OTHER FORMS OF AIDS MONITORING

Cases of politicization of food aid and discrimination on political party basis still remain high despite the month of April marking the beginning of the harvest season. There have been numerous reports from the country's 10 provinces where food distribution has been heavily politicised and recipients being asked to produce party cards and denounce a certain political party before they can access food.

In the month under review, there were 238 cases of food violations that were recorded of which 96 cases were of people who were denied food aid on the grounds that they either failed to denounce their political party or could not chant political party slogans.

Although the April figure is slightly lower than the March figure of 251, at least four provinces were affected with Midlands, Masvingo, Manicaland and Mashonaland Central recording the highest number of people who were denied food relief, and government subsidised farm inputs.

There are also reports of church organisations being terrorised and barred from distributing food on the grounds that they were propping up political party agendas. In Mashonaland Central, the Faith International Ministries was ordered to stop the food distribution by Zanu PF supporters who accused the church leaders of belonging to the MDC.

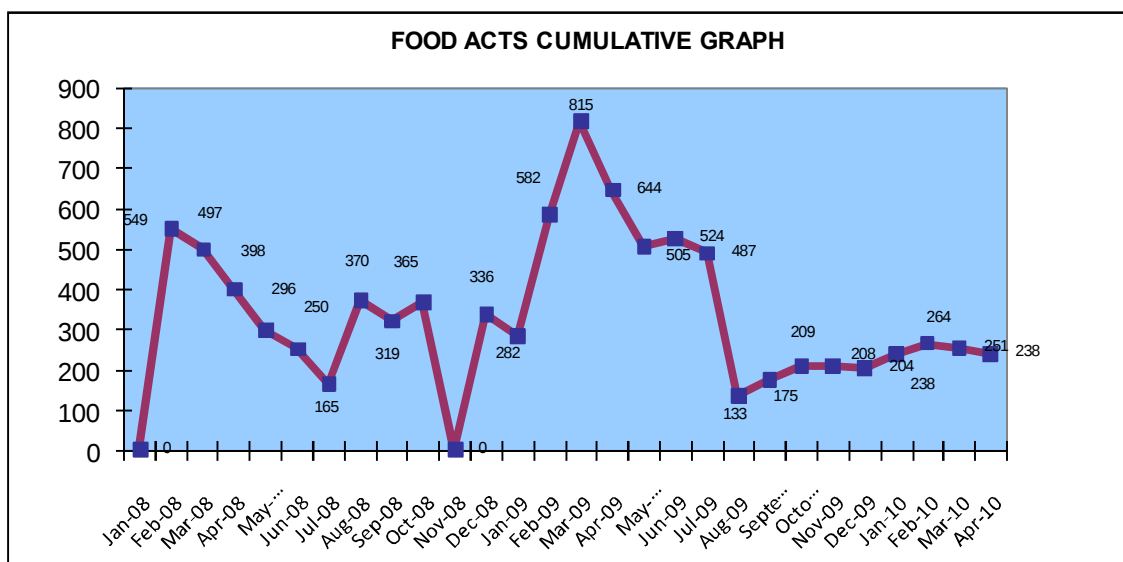
The cumulative toll violations on the distribution of food and other forms of aid since January 2008, has risen to 10609. Acts of discriminations and harassments continue to dominate the violations charts.

Table 3: CUMULATIVE TABLE FOR FOOD& OTHER FORMS OF AID RELATED VIOLATIONS

2008	2009	FOOD & OTHER FORMS OF AID RELATED ACT - 2009				TOTAL
		2010	HARASSMENT	VIOLENCE	DISCRIMINATION	

			3101	269	6248	9618
549	282	January	88	2	148	238
497	582	February	100	3	161	264
398	815	March	91	2	158	251
296	644	April	115	0	123	238
250	505	May				
165	524	June				
370	487	July				
319	132	August				
365	175	September				
376	209	October				
930	208	November				
336	204	December				
4851	4767	TOTAL	3395	276	6838	10609

Food Acts Cumulative Graph



EMERGING ISSUES & WAY FORWARD

It was noted that in Mashonaland Central Province, the police brought before the courts Zanu PF youths who allegedly committed acts of political violence in 2008. This is quite encouraging considering that there are several reported cases of political violence which are yearning for prosecution. In some cases victims are beginning to lose patience and are now contemplating revenge.

ZPP believes that if more and more perpetrators of violence are brought to book and made accountable for their actions that would be when Zimbabwe can begin a genuine process of national healing and reconciliation. This would be true to the fact that justice paves way for peace.

...e beginning to lose patience and wishing to revenge
gan of National Healing a big wake up call. The organ
now has to put mechanisms that ensure that the victims feel that they are being attended
to before the situation get out of hand.

A lot of victims out there are constantly asking themselves: for how long should we wait for justice to prevail? Because of the revenge mood that is slowly taking its toll a lot of people are losing their lives.

The Organ on National Healing has to consider the welfare of the victims in the light of fears of the perpetrators.

The month of April witnessed a number of church related violations in the Mashonaland Central, Manicaland and Harare provinces. This is a very worrying scenario given that church organisations are known to be champions of peace and the protection of the human life.

The delays by Constitutional Parliamentary Committee (COPAC) to roll out its outreach campaigns are causing too much anxiety within communities resulting in unnecessary harassment and assault cases having to be reported on almost a daily basis. This is despite pronouncements by Constitutional Affairs Minister Eric Matinenga that the funding for the process has been secured and the outreach programme would start soon.

As political party activists continue to jostle for an upper hand in swaying the people to accept their positions more and more ordinary Zimbabweans are being subjected to widespread intimidations and harassments. The major reasons for violations have been on the contestation between the proponents of the Kariba draft versus a People Driven Process.

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 Election Support Network (ZESN), Counselling Services Unit (CSU), Zimbabwe Liberators' Platform (ZLP), Zimbabwe Civic Education Trust (ZIMCET), ZimRights, Civic Education Network Trust (CIVNET).

VISION

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TYPE OF VIOLATIONS/ACTIVITY(IES)			TROUBLE ZONES
	COMMON ACTS (VIOLATIONS)	CAUSES	
MANICALAND	- Harassment/Intimidations (death, violence & unspecified Threats, hate language, forced meetings on constitution, denial of right to participate in constitution making process) - Abduction - Assaults - Discrimination – distribution of food & other forms of aid - Establishment of “Torture” Camps	- Recent discoveries of diamonds in areas such as Wengezi, Chakowa and Charleswood - Political intolerance - Differing views on constitution: People Driven process Vs. Kariba Draft, NCA Draft - Wearing political party regalia, T/shirts from civil organisations - Preparation of COPAC consultative process, campaigns for referendum and 2011 harmonised elections	(Wengezi & Chakohwa) – Chimanimani West, (Charleswood) Chimanimani East Musikavanhu, Buhera West, Nyanga South, Headlands, Buhera North, South, West and Central, Nyanga North, Headlands, Buhera North, South, and Central
MASHONALAND EAST	- Harassments/intimidation - death, violence & unspecified Threats, hate language forced meetings on constitution, denial of right to participate in constitution making process) - Assault confrontational and retaliatory beatings)	- Political intolerance - Differing views on constitution: People driven process Vs. Kariba Draft, NCA Draft - Wearing political party regalia, T/shirts from civil organisations	Mudzi, , Marondera, Mutoko, Hwedza and Murehwa Districts
MIDLANDS	- Harassment /Intimidation – death, violence & unspecified Threats, hate language, forced meetings on constitution, denial of right to participate in constitution making process) - Assaults (confrontational and retaliatory beatings) - Discrimination - Recruitment of “torture gangs” youth militia	- Political intolerance - Differing views on constitution: People drive process Vs. Kariba Draft - Wearing political party regalia, T/shirts from civil organisations - Partisan distribution of food & other forms of aid - Preparation of COPAC consultative process, campaigns for referendum and 2011 harmonised elections	Gokwe Nembudziya, and , Zhombe, Kwekwe and S, Mberengwa, Gokwe Chireya, Nembudziya

		- right to participate in constitution making process) - Assault	- Political intolerance - Scramble for stakes in the run-up to the Constitutional consultative outreach – Kariba Draft vs. People driven process - Participation in civil service strike (teachers)	Bikita, Chibi, Zaka North, Chiredzi, Gutu, Masvingo Rural & Urban
HARARE		- Harassment/intimidation – (death, violence & unspecified Threats, hate language, forced meetings on constitution, denial of right to participate in constitution making process) - Assaults - Discrimination	- Political intolerance - Differing views on constitution: People driven process vs. Kariba Draft, NCA Draft - Wearing political party regalia, T/shirts from civil organisations - Preparation of COPAC consultative process, campaigns for referendum and 2011 harmonised elections - Partisan distribution of food & other forms of aid	, Glen Norah, Glen View South, Highfield East, Glen Norah B
MASHONALAND CENTRAL		- Harassment/intimidation – (death, violence & unspecified Threats, hate language, forced meetings on constitution, denial of right to participate in constitution making process) - Assaults - Establishment of “torture bases”	- Political intolerance - Differing views on constitution: People driven process Vs. Kariba Draft, NCA Draft - Wearing political party regalia, T/shirts from civil organisations - Campaign for Kariba Draft	Mt Darwin East, South, and North, Shamva South, Bindura North & South, Mazowe Central, South, West & North, Muzarabani North
MASHONALAND WEST		- Harassment & intimidation – (death, violence & unspecified Threats, hate language, forced meetings on constitution, denial of right to participate in constitution making process) - Assaults	- Political intolerance - Differing views on constitution: People driven process Vs. Kariba Draft, NCA Draft - Preparation of COPAC consultative process, campaigns for referendum and 2011 harmonised elections	Chegutu West, Mhondoro , Mhondoro Ngezi Chinhoyi and Kadoma West Chegutu District
BULAWAYO		Harassment & intimidation although on minimal levels. Bulawayo is relatively calm	Political intolerance	Bulawayo East,
MATEBELELAND NORTH		Harassment & Intimidation (death, violence & unspecified Threats, hate language, forced meetings on constitution, denial of	- Political intolerance - Differing views on constitution People Drive process vs. Kariba	Binga North, Binga South, Bubi, Hwange Central, East and West , Lupane West

		stitution making	Draft, NCA Draft	
		Discrimination	Partisan distribution of food & other forms of aid	
MATEBELELAND SOUTH		- Harassment & intimidation - Assault	- Political intolerance - Differing views on constitution: People drive process Vs. Kariba Draft, NCA Draft	Gwanda South ,Matobo North, Umzingwane, Gwanda North, ,