

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

October 2010

18/11/2010

HUMAN RIGHTS VIOLATIONS MONITORING

SUMMARY

Political intolerance manifested itself in a variety of forms during the month under review resulting in a slight increase in politically motivated human rights violations throughout the country. The conclusion of the highly contested constitutional outreach meetings during the first week of the month of October in most of the provinces failed to see a reduction in violations.

Cases of assault, intimidation and harassment dominated during the month of October where the victims had their rights violated on the basis of the contributions that were made during the constitutional outreach meetings. The government has failed to protect the people's rights, to freely express themselves before and after making their contributions.

Freedom of speech continues to be covertly suppressed through various means that include verbal threats, intimidation, and assaults.

The violence and intimidation that has been reported throughout the country, following the conclusion of the outreach exercise, has clearly showed that the process has failed to meet the universally and internationally recognised benchmarks for a people driven process.

A disturbing phenomenon has emerged from most of the province, particularly in Manicaland where victims are assaulted and harassed for contributions they have made during the constitutional outreach meetings. The majority of the victims have been those who openly advocated for a limited presidential term for the president to be included in the constitution and the issue of title deeds to be used compared to the 99 year leases.

Military presence in communities has been a source of constant fear for villagers, who anticipate a repeat of the 2008 electoral violence at the hands of the Zanu PF militias and serving members of the army. The military's show of power has been strong in Mashonaland East, where soldiers at Joko Army Barracks are taking their training drills to the villages, instead of the secluded military base near Mutoko.

Traditional leaders from Manicaland province were subjected to what was termed an "indoctrination workshop" by the army at 3 Brigade, where they were told to support Zanu PF or face being removed from their leadership positions. During the workshop the army commander of 3 Brigade openly declared his support for Zanu PF.

The talk of possible elections next year has also heightened tensions among villagers with political party officials already in campaign mode across the country. The provinces of Mashonaland West, Mashonaland Central and Mashonaland East, as well as the provinces of Manicaland and Masvingo which were perceived as Zanu PF strongholds are specifically being targeted for rigorous campaigning.

War veterans' leader Jabulani Sibanda with other members from his association coerced traditional leaders from Masvingo Province to tell their subjects to support only Zanu PF. The group of war veterans were allegedly terrorising villagers in the areas of Zaka and Bikita.

For the other most volatile provinces of Mashonaland West and Mashonaland Central the levels of violations remained almost constant with sporadic incidents of physical violence in the form of assaults being recorded.

Torture bases have also been established in Mashonaland Central in the areas of Muzarabani and Bindura North constituencies leaving villagers terrified.

The Zimbabwe Peace Project (ZPP) has noted that the current political environment does not guarantee a free and fair election in the near future since all the institutions of violence are still intact.

It remains very worrying that all local governance structures in rural Zimbabwe have been politicised that they clearly and effectively serve the interests of Zanu PF.

The majority of the perpetrators of human rights violations during the month of October have been war veterans, ZANU PF youth militias, police officers serving members of the Zimbabwe National Army (ZNA) and to a lesser extent MDC-T supporters.

INCIDENCES OF POLITICALLY MOTIVATED VIOLATIONS

Politically motivated human rights violations, linked to the concluded constitutional outreach meetings, have continued to be recorded across the country realising a slight increase in violations during the month under review.

Midlands Province witnessed a marked increase in the number of violations recorded during the month of October, experiencing continued political violence in the form of harassment, intimidation, assaults and discrimination. During the month under review the province recorded the highest number of politically motivated violations, compared to the month of September where Mashonaland East experienced the most violations

Violence prone areas in the Midlands during the month under review were Zhombe, Gokwe Nembudziya, Mberengwa, Gokwe Mapfungautsi, Silobela, Chiwundura and Zvishavane where most assaults were perpetrated citing reasons of political differences between mostly ZANU PF, MDC-T and MDC-M political party supporters.

Other instances show cases of intra-party violence especially within the MDC-M party, with members making counter accusations of being sell-outs and defecting to the MDC-99 led by Job Sikhala. One such case was reported in Mkoba Constituency on 5 October 2010, where a member of the MDC was assaulted by his fellow party members who accused him of defecting to MDC-99.

From Silobela, a Zanu PF supporter was assaulted by an MDC-T activist, after he had attended a field day celebration held in Mlotshwa village at the perpetrator's house. The

perpetrator accused the victim of gate-crashing the function and started beating him up before chasing him away.

An MDC-T official was heavily assaulted by Zanu PF supporters at Phiri Village in Chiwundura constituency, after the victim had refused to hand over his party's campaign materials including t-shirts and posters. The perpetrators wanted to burn the materials at a Zanu PF meeting that was to be held in the village.

Manicaland Province witnessed a post-constitutional outreach backlash, where victims were either assaulted or harassed for the contributions they made, during the outreach process. The majority of the victims recorded during the month of October were those who contributed alternative views, contrary to those sanctioned by Zanu PF.

Zanu PF supporters from Nyanga and at Sakarombe Village assaulted three family members from the same village, for allegedly advocating for title deeds to be included in the constitution with regards to the land question during a COPAC outreach meeting towards the end of September. The perpetrators went ahead and torched the family kitchen hut destroying valuable property.

At Dewedzo Secondary School in Makoni West, an electrician was denied an electrical fixing contract by the School's Development Association (SDA) which claimed that the victim had contributed anti-Zanu PF statements at constitutional outreach meeting. The victim's crime was that he had openly supported the issue of title deeds.

Serving senior members of the army continued to cause discomfort in Manicaland and during the month under review, Brigadier-General and Commander of 3 Brigade Douglas Nyikayaramba coerced traditional leaders from the province to a "Bira" at the barracks. Nyikayaramba openly told the chiefs to support Zanu PF and if President Robert Mugabe loses in next year's elections they will have "a case to answer".

Disturbances at the controversial Chiadzwa diamond fields continued during the month of October after police officers set dogs at unarmed civilians who were suspected of illegally mining diamonds. More than ten people have fallen victim to the police dogs during the month under review. The penchant by police officers to unleash dogs on defenceless and unarmed civilians remains a serious cause for concern.

Mashonaland East province remained one of the most volatile regions in the country despite having witnessed a slight decline in the number of violations recorded in October compared to the September figures. There are 147 cases of politically motivated human rights violations in October compared to the 164 cases recorded in September.

Cases of assault and intimidation have remained very high in the restive province of Mashonaland East with the majority of violations linked to the campaigning that has already begun around the constitutional referendum and the proposed elections to be held sometime next year. The most volatile districts during the month have been Goromonzi, Marondera, Hwedza, Mudzi and Murehwa.

A Zanu Pf supporter who is widely believed to be linked to the Central Intelligence Organisation (CIO) openly threatened an MDC-T supporter with death at Mutawatawa Growth Point. This was after the MDC-T activist exposed the Zanu PF supporter in front of revellers at a drinking spot at the Growth Point.

Zanu PF MPs from Mudzi have been moving around the constituencies intimidating and threatening villagers who are believed to belong to the MDC-T and other political parties. The MP for Mudzi South Eric Navaya has been reported to have used a gun to intimidate villagers while Mudzi North MP Aquilinah Katsande was reported to be moving around with war veterans and members of her party's youth militias threatening villagers with eviction if they do not show their allegiance to Zanu PF.

Villagers staying close to Mutoko Centre are now living in perpetual fear after soldiers from the nearby Joko Barracks have now resorted to have their training sessions in the villages instead of secluded military environments.

The after effects of the constitutional outreach meetings were also felt in various constituencies of Mashonaland East Province, as scores of people had their rights violated for allegedly contributing against the politically agreed party positions. The majority of the violations that were witnessed in the province were of people whose contributions were either deemed negative or spoke without approval from the senior politicians.

Mashonaland Central also witnessed cases of people who had their rights violated as a result of intra-party political violence while others were intimidated, harassed or assaulted for allegedly belonging to the MDC-T.

The province also witnessed the setting up of militia bases by Zanu PF in order to intimidate the villagers ahead of the coming referendum and the proposed elections next year. One such base has been detected at Chiwashira Village in Muzarabani. It has also been noted that youth militias from Bindura North and Muzarabani North constituencies have been conducting night patrols harassing and intimidating villagers.

A female MDC-T activist was assaulted at Dotito Business Centre by Zanu PF supporters after she had tried to participate in a social games tournament that was sponsored by Vice President Joyce Mujuru. The victim was later told that the games were meant for Zanu PF supporters only.

In a case of intra party political violence, a Zanu PF supporter was heavily assaulted by his colleagues in Muzarabani South for positively commenting on Prime Minister Morgan Tsvangirai's efforts towards the stabilisation of the country.

Masvingo Province witnessed a lot of violations which were perpetrated by war veterans and traditional leaders while the most affected areas remained Zaka and Bikita districts accounting for the majority of violations. However, most of the violations recorded during the month of October were linked to the just ended constitutional outreach meetings.

War veterans' leader Jabulani Sibanda moved to Masvingo during the month of October and was reportedly moving around the constituencies harassing and intimidating villagers forcing them to support Zanu PF.

Sibanda was allegedly moving around with the support of other war veterans and traditional leaders particularly Chief Nhema of Zaka and Chief Marozva of Bikita. It was however noted that Sibanda was faced with tough resistance from MDC-T politicians and supporters who successfully advocated that he leave the province which he eventually did towards the end of the month.

From Gutu district, Chief Serima alleged that he was assaulted by Deputy Minister of Youth Tongai Matutu leading to the latter being arrested together with other MDC-T supporters. The matter is now being heard at the courts in the province.

Mashonaland West Province witnessed a slight decrease in the number of politically motivated violations and this has been attributed to the finalisation of the constitutional outreach meetings during the first week of the month under review.

The notion that elections are likely to be held next year has heightened tensions throughout the province. Zanu PF supporters have already started harassing and intimidating members of other political parties. The most affected areas have been Kadoma, Hurungwe and Zvimba districts while the numbers of violations are spread across the province.

It has also been reported that the number of evictions are on the rise particularly in the newly resettled areas, with the majority of victims being known supporters of the MDC-T.

From the Matabeleland provinces, incidents of politically motivated violations remained very low while cases of harassment and intimidation remained prevalent in this region.

Matabeleland North recorded cases of harassments mostly around the issue of partisan distribution of food and other forms of aid with victims being denied access to aid for either belonging to ZANU PF, MDC–T or ZAPU. Volatile areas were Lupane West, Hwange West, and Binga South.

Matabeleland South reported on cases of constant police raids in public drinking places and the imposition of unofficial curfews in Gwanda.

In **Bulawayo** cases of harassment and intimidation were reported in Bulawayo East and Luveve constituencies including intra-party fights within the MDC-M, forced denunciation of one's political affiliation and one assault case in Nkulumane of an MDC-T supporter by ZANU PF.

Table 1: Analysis of Politically motivated Violations by Province

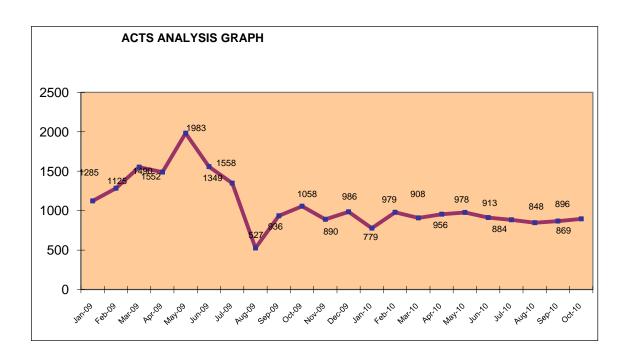
ACTS			Mat.	Mat.				Mash.	Mash	Mash	
	Midlands	Bulawayo	South	North	Masvingo	Manicaland	Harare	East	West	Central	TOTAL
Murder	0	0	0	0	0	0	-	0	0	0	0
Rape	0	0	0	0	1	0	-	1	0	0	2
Kidnapping/	0	0	0	0	0	0	-	0	0	0	0
Abduction											
Assault	47	0	2	1	15	24	-	31	13	11	144
Theft/Looting	2	0	1	0	4	1	-	3	0	6	17
Discrimination	40	0	0	1	15	26	-	22	10	29	143
MDP	0	0	1	0	2	1	-	2	0	0	6
Torture	2	0	0	1	0	0	-	0	0	1	4
Unlawful Detention	2	0	0	0	1	2	-	0	0	0	5
Harassment/ Intimidation	104	6	8	5	90	112	-	82	63	88	558
Displacement	2	0	0	0	4	1	-	6	0	4	17
Total	199	6	12	8	132	167	-	147	86	139	896

A cumulative violations toll as of October 2010 stands at 47,882 since 2008. See table below for details

Table 2: 2009 Cumulative Tables of Violations

ACTS	2008 2009 2010												
			Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	July	Aug	Sept	Oct	Nov
Murder	207	8	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
Rape	61	69	1	0	5	0	1	6	4	3	1	2	
Kidnapping/Abduction	511	147	2	5	5	7	4	1	13	0	3	0	
Assault	4886	3296	165	196	161	156	186	169	154	155	136	144	
Theft/Looting	611	598	26	30	25	27	27	27	17	42	15	17	
Discrimination	366	1314	27	76	61	65	73	62	98	86	104	143	
MDP	1009	294	14	10	16	9	11	25	10	6	12	6	
Torture	452	157	3	3	2	3	4	7	3	2	3	4	
Unlawful Detention	514	284	6	5	15	8	6	7	7	8	2	5	
Harassment/Intimidation	12593	7865	490	628	589	651	641	587	558	531	561	558	
Displacement	2508	680	45	26	28	30	25	22	20	15	24	17	
Attempted Rape	23	3	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
Attempted Murder	16	10	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
Total	23755	14725	779	979	908	956	978	913	884	848	869	896	

Graphically trends are shown below.



VICTIM ANALYSIS BY GENDER AND ASSOCIATION

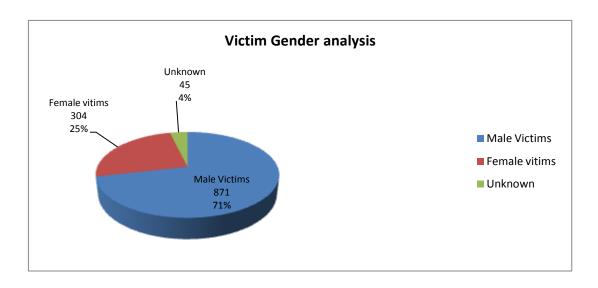
The month of October maintained the trend that saw more politically active males having their rights violated as compared to their female counterparts. There were 871 male victims recorded during the month accounting for 71% of the victims while 304 females were found on the receiving end accounting for 25% of the victims.

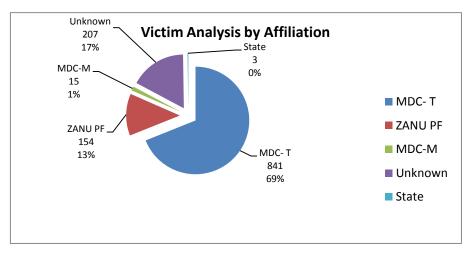
A clear analysis of the victims by affiliation has shown that MDC-T supporters had their rights violated more than their counterparts from the other two political parties in the inclusive government that is Zanu PF and the MDC-M.

There were 871 MDC-T supporters who had their rights violated representing 69% of the victims compared to Zanu PF's 154 supporters accounting for 12% of the victims showing a slight increase compared to the September figures.

A sizeable number of the victims recorded during the month were of unknown political affiliations since of the violations were related to the ongoing constitutional outreach process.

The analysis shows that 207 victims were of an unknown political affiliation representing 17%. There were only 15 victims from the MDC-M accounting for 1% of the people whose rights were violated during the month of October.

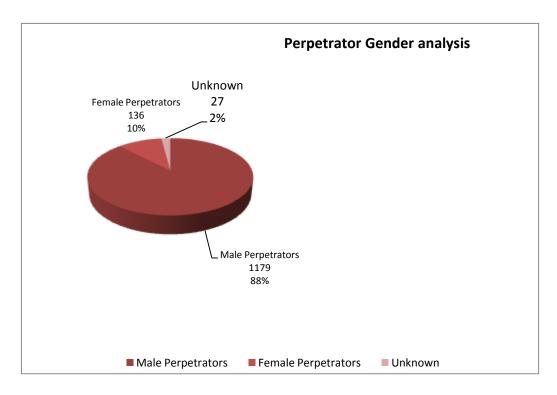


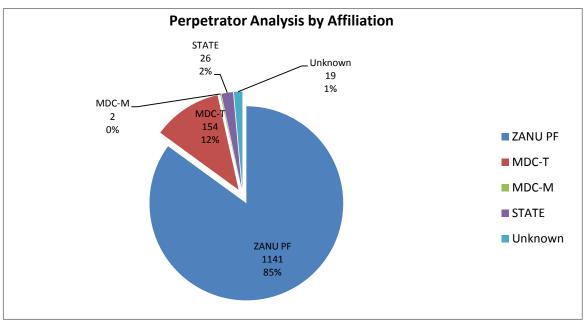


Male and Female Perpetrator Analysis and Charts

The perpetrators analysis by gender show that males were the chief culprits representing 88% of the violators of human rights compared to their female counterparts who constitute only 10%. During the month of October, 1 179 males were recorded as perpetrators, while only 136 were females believed to have caused human rights violations throughout the country.

Zanu PF had the highest percentage of perpetrators during the month of October accounting for 85% of people directly responsible for leading politically motivated human rights violations. There were 1 141 perpetrators from Zanu PF while 154 were from the MDC-T with state security agents accounting for 2% a percentage point up from the month of September..





HINDRANCES TO CIVIL SOCIETY WORK

The month of October was very quiet in terms of harassments and intimidations of human rights defenders by the state security agents in the line of their duty.

During the month, human rights defender and executive director of the Centre for Research and Development (CRD) Farai Maguwu was removed from further remand on Thursday October 21, 2010 paving the way for the diamonds activist to do his work freely.

Maguwu appeared before Harare Magistrate Muchuchuti on October 21, 2010 where his team of lawyers successfully applied for a refusal of further remand arguing that the state had failed to prove its case against the human rights defender. Initially the lawyers were demanding a trial date but the prosecution team advised them that the charges had been dropped.

The court later informed Maguwu that in view of the withdrawal of the charges he was free and he was eventually removed from remand.

But because the charges were dropped before plea, the authorities may choose to proceed by way of summons and bring up the same charges. So this means that Maguwu celebrated his release with the full knowledge that the same issue that motivated his arrest and lengthy detention and persecution can return to hound him again in future.

The state security agents and government officials from the inclusive government still view members from civil society organisations, not as partners or important stakeholders, but as enemies. With this view indications are very clear that harassment and intimidation of civil society activists are going to increase in the near future as the country prepares to get into another highly contested electoral campaign period.

It is however important to note that the watchdog role played by the civil society is very critical in shaping how the people chose who govern them and how they should be governed.

FOOD & OTHER FORMS OF AID RELATED VIOLATIONS

The beginning of the rain season and the conclusion of the constitutional outreach process led to an increase in the number of food and other forms of aid related human rights violations. It has been noted that many organisations had strategically scaled down in activities around the distribution of food and other forms of aid, avoiding the backlash of being negatively accused of manipulating the constitution outreach process.

October figures show an increase in the number of food and other forms of aid recording 216 up from the September's total violations of 192.

The government and other international humanitarian aid organisations have started distributing seed and fertilizers for this year's agricultural season and a number of violations have been recorded in the forms of discrimination.

From Manicaland Province vouchers that were meant for needy farmers to go and get farming inputs such as seed and fertilizers from the Grain Marketing Board (GMB) were reportedly abused by Zanu PF officials at Nyarumvurwe in Nyanga. Again in the same province and in Buhera Central at Chingombe Village, Zanu PF supporters demanded that villagers produce party cards in order to access borehole water.

From Mashonaland West villagers from Chinamangawa Village in Mudzi District were denied maize seeds that were being donated by a faith based organisation. The villagers' crime was that they had refused to work closely with the local Zanu PF MP. Villagers have also fallen victim to the demands by Zanu PF supporters that they should produce political party cards if they are to get agricultural inputs from the GMB.

Mashonaland Central also witnessed incidents of discrimination where farmers were denied farming inputs on partisan grounds. Four villagers from Muzarabani North were denied seeds and fertilizers that were being distributed by the GMB because they are suspected of belonging to the MDC-T.

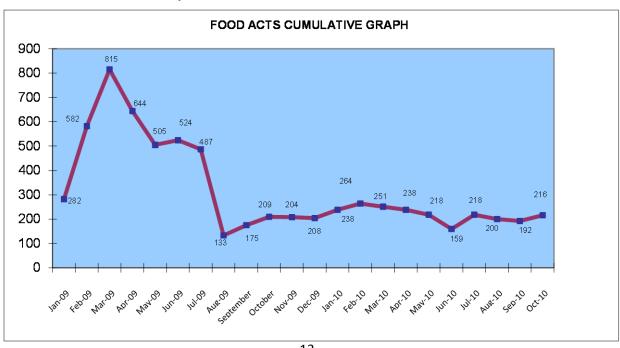
The Midlands Province also recorded a high number of politically motivated food and other forms of aid violations with the majority of cases being of people denied food relief for either failure to produce party cards or belonging to the MDC-T.

The rest of the other provinces recorded very few incidents of food-related and other forms of aid human rights violations compared to the early months of 2010.

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

		FOOD & OTHER FORMS OF AID RELATED ACT - 2009							
2008	2009	2010	HARASSM ENT	VIOLENC E	DISCRIMINATI ON	TOTAL			
		Closing Figures for 2009	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	98	4	116	218			
165	524	June	77	0	82	159			
370	487	July	105	1	112	218			
319	132	August	93	0	107	200			
365	175	September	90	0	102	192			
376	209	October	111	0	105	216			
930	208	November							
336	204	December							
4851	4767	TOTAL	4069	281	7552	11902			

Food Acts Cumulative Graph



EMERGING ISSUES & WAY FORWARD

The month of October saw the conclusion of the constitutional outreach meetings with the last leg of gatherings in Harare province, following prevalent violence during the first round of the consultations in September. It is however shocking that despite most of the provinces having finished their constitutional outreach meetings during the month of September; several people had their rights violated as a result of the contributions they had made. The majority of the victims related to the constitutional outreach meetings had their rights violated for failure to adhere to political party positions or freely aired their views without any attachment to a political party.

It is therefore critical for government to urgently ensure that the protection of citizens' rights to freely express themselves, without fear or favour both before and after expressing is guaranteed.

The involvement of the military in party politics as witnessed in most of the provinces has provided a serious dilemma in the dynamics of politics in this country. As has always been in the past open confessions by senior army commanders that they support a certain political party is of great concern.

A transparent and genuine process of national healing is of paramount importance as the country is already gripped with fear and trepidation over the possibility of elections being held next year and the presence of serving army personnel in rural communities.

It has also been noted that the police officers in Zimbabwe are still reluctant to investigate politically motivated human rights violations particularly in the rural areas.

The culture of impunity as espoused by war veterans' leader Jabulani Sibanda in Zaka and Bikita clearly shows that the inclusive government has failed to create an enabling environment for citizens to openly participate in issues of governance.

To this end, ZPP is very worried by the slow pace that has been taken by the inclusive government partners to address the issues around the security sector reforms. Zimbabwe will experience the same, if not worse, human rights violations that were recorded in 2008 if the country is to go for elections in 2011.

It has become evidently clear that the same institutions of violence have remained intact despite calls by the political leaders to shun political violence. This has been the case with the re-establishment of torture bases in Mashonaland Central Province.

Strong calls for elections to be held next year have heightened tensions in Zimbabwe and violence is most likely going to escalate before the day of polling.

ZPP calls on all the parties to the inclusive government to strongly consider the lives and welfare of the people before calling for an early election that will only serve the interests of the politicians and not the electorate.

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 peace e.g. violence.

Today, ZPP's member organizations include, Catholic Commission for Justice & Peace in Zimbabwe (CCJPZ) Zimbabwe Election Support Network (ZESN), Counselling Services Unit (CSU), Zimbabwe Civic Education Trust (ZIMCET), Zimbabwe Human Rights Association (ZIMRIGHTS), Civic Education Network Trust (CIVNET].

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

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Table 4: PROVINCIAL VIOLATIONS OUTLOOK – October 2010

PROVINCE	TYPE OF VIOLATIONS/ACTIVITY(IES)	VOLATILE ZONES			
	COMMON ACTS (VIOLATIONS)	CAUSES			
MANICALAND	 Harassment/Intimidations, unspecified Threats, hate language, Assaults Discrimination – distribution of food & other forms of aid Malicious Damage to property Police dog bites on Chiadzwa civilians 	 Political intolerance Wearing political party regalia, T/shirts from civil society organisations Preparation campaigns for referendum and projected 2011 elections 			
MASHONALAND EAST	 Harassment/intimidation - death, violence & unspecified Threats, hate language Discrimination 	Political intolerance Wearing political party regalia, T/shirts from civil society organisations	Mudzi south, Hwedza North & South, Murehwa North & South and Mutoko		
MIDLANDS	 Harassment /Intimidation – death, violence & unspecified Threats, hate language, Assaults Discrimination 	 Political intolerance Wearing political party regalia, T/shirts from civil society organisations Partisan distribution of food & other forms of aid 	Gokwe Nembudziya, Gokwe Mapfungautsi, Silobela, Chiwundura, Zvishavane and Mberengwa		
MASVINGO	 Harassment/Intimidation – (death, violence & unspecified Threats, hate language,) Assault Discrimination 	Political intolerance	Zaka, Bikita and Gutu Districts		
MASHONALAND CENTRAL	 Harassment/intimidation – (death, violence & unspecified Threats, hate language, Assaults 	 Political intolerance Wearing political party regalia, T/shirts from civil society organisations Campaign for Kariba Draft 	Guruve South, Muzarabani North		
MASHONALAND WEST	 Harassment & intimidation – (death, violence & unspecified Threats, hate language,) Assaults 	 Political intolerance Campaigns for referendum and 2011 harmonised elections 	Zvimba East & West, Mhangura, Hurungwe and Makonde		

BULAWAYO	•	Harassment & intimidation. Bulawayo is relatively calm	•	Political intolerance	Bulawayo East, Luveve, Nkulumane
MATEBELELAND NORTH	•	Harassment & Intimidation (death threats, violence & unspecified Threats, hate language,) Discrimination	•	Political intolerance Partisan distribution of food & other forms of aid	Hwange West, Lupane West, Binga South T
MATEBELELAND SOUTH	•	Harassment & intimidation Curfew	•	Political intolerance	Gwanda