



## ***Defending free expression and your right to know***

### **Human rights violations report for the month ending June 2013**

#### **Monitoring the pre-election human rights environment**

As political temperatures rise ahead of harmonised elections scheduled for July 31<sup>st</sup>, the Media Monitoring Project Zimbabwe (MMPZ) is providing regular updates on the media's coverage of the human rights environment in the country.

This is our third report.

The reports are aimed at assessing the role Zimbabwe's mainstream domestic media are playing in reporting human rights violations during this period and whether or not preparations for the elections by the authorities are conducive to the holding of a free and fair election.

Access to information – especially about the election preparations, voter education and politically motivated human rights abuses – forms an essential part of assessing whether or not the environment is conducive to the staging of a peaceful, credible election. The media, especially radio, television and the daily and weekly press serve as the watchdogs of the nation and provide essential contemporary news about the progress, transparency and accountability of election preparations and any violations that are likely to compromise the credibility of this fundamental exercise in democracy.

#### **What are human rights?**

Human rights are complex and difficult to define. This is because they are interdependent and indivisible.

However, they are generally classified as the rights guaranteed to all people irrespective of race, creed, colour, gender or national origin. The free encyclopaedia, *Wikipedia*, presents human rights as ***“inalienable fundamental rights to which a person is inherently entitled simply because she or he is a human being”***.

Human rights are thus conceived as universal and the same for everyone. These include basic rights and freedoms to which all human beings are entitled, which are often given as the right to life and liberty, freedom of thought and expression, and equality before the law.

The Universal Declaration of Human Rights (UDHR), adopted by the United Nations General Assembly on December 10 1948 in Paris, champions the

doctrine of human rights in the world. It was a direct consequence of the atrocities of the Second World War and represented **“the first global expression of rights to which all human beings are inherently entitled”**, according to *Wikipedia*.

The UDHR comprises 30 rights to which all people are entitled. These have largely been split and categorized into civil and political rights; and economic, social and cultural rights.

Civil and political rights are enshrined in articles 3 to 21 of the UDHR and in the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (ICCPR). Economic, social and cultural rights are protected in articles 22 to 28 of the UDHR and in the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (ICESCR).

The UDHR framework on human rights has since become the cornerstone of public policy in the world as reflected in global and regional institutions, in the policies of states and the activities of NGOs.

This is also reflected in Zimbabwe’s new constitution (Chapter four), which is wholly dedicated to the declaration on human rights. The section encompasses and dwells at length on civil and political rights, as well as economic, social and cultural rights.

This report is therefore guided by international, regional and local practice on human rights issues in its tabulation of rights violations carried in the media.

## **Findings**

During June, the media monitored by MMPZ reported 40 incidents of rights violations, most of which stemmed from violations of political rights.

This represented a 25% increase from last month’s 32 incidents.

Of the 40 incidents, 31 (78%) appeared in the Press. Four (10%) were contained in the electronic media. The remaining five appeared in both the print and electronic media.

Nineteen (48%) of the 40 incidents were on intra and inter-party violence, which were mostly fuelled by the holding of primary elections by Zimbabwe’s two main parties.

Thirteen were on complaints over irregularities in the mobile voter registration and inspection exercise and bias by the national broadcaster, ZBC.

Eight (20%) were on alleged abuses by state security agents, who were reported as intimidating Zimbabweans, especially those in rural areas, to vote for President Mugabe and his party.

The rest (three) were violations of civil liberties.

Fig 1 illustrates this.

**Fig 1: List of Pre-election Rights Abuses**

<b>Violation</b>	<b>Headline</b>	<b>Details of the incident</b>	<b>Source</b>	<b>Perpetrator</b>	<b>Victim</b>
Political Violence	<i>Nyarota's rural kitchen set on fire</i>	A kitchen belonging to MDC-T aspiring candidate for Makoni South, Geoffrey Nyarota, is set on fire in an alleged case of political violence	<i>The Standard</i> (2/6)	Unnamed assailants	Geoff Nyarota (Aspiring MDC-T MP)
Political Violence	<i>MDC-T youth leader arrested</i>	Police arrest MDC-T Manicaland Provincial Youth Secretary Lloyd Mahute in connection with intra-party violence that broke out in Chipinge	<i>NewsDay</i> (4/6)	ZRP	Lloyd Mahute (MDC-T Manicaland provincial youth secretary)
Political Violence	<i>MDC-T Violence flares up</i>	MDC-T activist Ernest Banda reportedly has his Highfield home petrol-bombed in a suspected case of intra-party violence	<i>The Herald &amp; ZTV</i> (17/6, 8pm)	MDC-T	Ernest Banda (MDC-T)
Political Violence	<i>Chaos mars MDC-T primaries</i>	Members of a rival MDC-T faction confiscate and tear up ballot papers at Musunami business centre during the party's Chegutu East Primary elections	<i>NewsDay</i> (18/6)	MDC-T	MDC-T

Political Violence	<i>Governor escapes assassination attempt</i>	Mashonaland Central governor Martin Dinha escapes an alleged assassination attempt after a member of ZANU PF's vetting committee repeatedly rammed his car off the road	<i>Daily News</i> (19/6)	Kozanai Chijokwe (Member of ZANU PF's vetting committee)	Martin Dinha (Mashonaland Central Governor)
Political Violence	<i>ZANU PF cadre's huts burnt in suspected arson attack</i>	Two huts belonging to ZANU PF chairperson for Rutope District, Anatolia Muondoka in Musana communal lands are burnt down by suspected MDC-T activists	<i>The Herald &amp; ZTV</i> (20/6, 8pm)	Suspected MDC-T activists	Anatolia Muondoka (ZANU PF)
Political Violence	<i>Violence erupts at MDC-T primaries</i>	Police in Manicaland arrest aspiring MDC-T MP Patrick Sangandira for allegedly attacking a rival contestant Grace Kwinjeh during the party's primary elections in Makoni Central. Sangandira was arrested together with the party's chairperson for Ward 10, Moses Ndowa.	Zi FM (25/6)	1. Patrick Sangandira (MDC-T aspiring MP for Makoni Central) 2. Moses Ndowa (MDC-T chairman for Ward 10)	Grace Kwinjeh (MDC-T aspiring candidate for Makoni Central)
Political violence	<i>MP arrested over death threat</i>	Police in Mutare arrest Makoni South MP Pishayi Muchauraya on allegations of issuing death threats against Amos Kutuya, an election campaign manager for Geoff Nyarota, another aspiring MDC-T MP for the area.	<i>NewsDay &amp; Daily News</i> (8/6)	Pishai Muchauraya (MDC-T MP)	Amos Kutuya (MDC-T)

Political Arrests	<i>MDC-T man attacks ZANU PF official</i>	Police arrest an MDC-T supporter, Khulelani Sithole, for allegedly assaulting a ZANU PF member, Jabulani Ncube in Ntabazinduna	<i>The Herald</i> (24/6)	Khulelani Sithole (MDC-T)	Jabulani Mangonda Ncube (ZANU PF)
Freedom of Association	<i>Cop summoned for driving MDC MP's car</i>	A police officer in Chiredzi has been hauled before an internal disciplinary hearing for allegedly driving a car belonging to Chiredzi Central MDC MP, Moses Mare, into the police camp	<i>Daily News</i> (4/6)	Police Act	Constable Brighton Mangoto (ZRP)
Freedom of association	<i>Army expels 5 year old 'MDC T' child</i>	Enos Choga, a five-year-old pre-school boy, was reportedly expelled from a crèche at One Commando Barracks in Harare because of his father's alleged support for the MDC-T	<i>NewsDay, SW Radio Africa</i> (11/6)	Zimbabwe National Army & One Commando crèche	Enos Choga (Child)
Freedom of Association	<i>Police embark on all-out campaigning for ZANU PF</i>	Police commanders order all officers in charge of police stations to ensure their subordinates and next of kin, particularly those residing in the camps, are registered to vote for ZANU PF	<i>Zimbabwe Independent</i> (28/6)	Police commanders	Police officers and their next of kin
Freedom of assembly	Police arrest three people, including two ZimRights workers	Police in Mutare arrest three people, including two ZimRights employees, in an early morning raid in which a car filled with promotional material	Studio 7 (4/6)	Police	Stephen Maengamhuru & Cecilia Marovaha (ZimRights workers) Victor Dhiwayo

Freedom of assembly	Police arrest three people, including two ZimRights workers	Police in Mutare arrest three people, including two ZimRights employees, in an early morning raid in which a car filled with promotional material meant for a workshop in Honde Valley was also confiscated.	Studio 7 (4/6)	Police	Stephen Maengamhuru & Cecilia Marovaha (ZimRights workers)  Victor Dhliwayo (ZimRights member)
Freedom of Assembly	<i>Police ban PTUZ demo against Coltart</i>	Police bar Progressive Teachers' Union of Zimbabwe (PTUZ) from staging a demonstration against Education Minister David Coltart.	<i>Daily News &amp; SW Radio Africa (20 &amp; 21/6)</i>	Public Order and Security Act (POSA)	PTUZ
Freedom of expression	<i>Detained for driving vehicle with voter awareness message</i>	Youth activist arrested in Bulawayo for driving a vehicle emblazoned with messages promoting voter awareness, ahead of elections	SW Radio Africa (19/6)	ZRP	Liberty Bhebhe
Restrictions on media activities and reporting	<i>Makandiwa's bodyguards seize NewsDay</i>	Emmanuel Makandiwa's bodyguards confiscate <i>NewsDay</i> photojournalist Hillary Maradzika's camera and deletes pictures he had taken of the official opening of the church's international convention conference	<i>NewsDay (1/6)</i>	Makandiwa's bodyguards	Hillary Maradzika ( <i>NewsDay</i> photojournalist)
Interference with media access	<i>Parliamentarians gag media</i>	A Parliamentary portfolio committee on Industry and Commerce denies journalists entry into a	<i>Daily News (2/6)</i>	Parliamentary portfolio committee on Industry and Commerce	Journalists

Restrictions on media activities and reporting	<i>PM aides harass Chronicle reporter</i>	A reporter from the <i>Chronicle</i> is allegedly detained and questioned by MDC-T security personnel who confiscated his notebook and deleted recordings from his mobile phone during PM Tsvangirai's meeting with civic organizations in Bulawayo	<i>The Herald</i> (7/6)	MDC-T security personnel	Mashundu Netsianda ( <i>Chronicle</i> reporter)
Restrictions on media activities and reporting	<i>MDC-T youths assault ZimInd reporter</i>	MDC-T youths assault <i>Zimbabwe Independent</i> journalist Herbert Moyo and bar him from covering a demonstration at Harvest House, Harare	<i>NewsDay</i> (8/6)	MDC-T youths	Herbert Moyo – <i>Zimbabwe Independent</i> journalist
Discrimination against political parties in access to state media	<i>Makoni demands state media access</i>	Mavambo/ Kusile/ Dawn (MKD) leader Simba Makoni complains that ZANU PF was enjoying unfair advantage in ZBC broadcasts, which has also ignored laws designed to ensure fair & equitable coverage of all political contestants and parties	<i>Daily News</i> (12/6)	ZANU PF	MKD and other political parties
Intimidation of journalists	<i>Journo attacked, left for dead</i>	Freelance journalist Paul Pindani is reported as battling for his life at a local hospital after three masked men abducted him from his house and severely assaulted him	<i>NewsDay &amp; SW Radio Africa</i> (17/6)	Unknown assailants	Paul Pindani (Freelance Journalist)

Media products illegally seized	<i>ZANU PF youths confiscate NewsDay copies</i>	A group of suspected ZANU PF youths stormed an Alpha Media Holdings newsstand in Mbare and allegedly confiscated 40 copies of the paper	<i>NewsDay (19/6)</i>	ZANU PF youths	<i>NewsDay, vendors</i>
Intimidation of journalists	<i>ZANU PF mob detain Daily News scribe</i>	A ZANU PF mob demonstrating at the party headquarters hold hostage <i>Daily News</i> reporter Wendy Muperi for over an hour, forcing her to chant party slogans	<i>Daily News (22/6)</i>	ZANU PF supporters	Wendy Muperi ( <i>Daily News</i> reporter)
Intimidation and harassment of voters	<i>Soldiers besiege Mutoko</i>	Soldiers, together with ZANU PF supporters, allegedly besiege Mutoko North and South constituencies, threatening to deny food aid to starving villagers if they do not support President Mugabe's party in the upcoming elections	<i>Zimbabwe Independent (31/5)</i>	ZANU PF supporters & soldiers	Mutoko villagers
Intimidation and harassment of voters	<i>Soldiers disrupt MDC-T primaries</i>	Soldiers reportedly disrupted MDC-T primaries in Kariba and beat up party members, seriously injuring Daniel Joseph.	<i>The Standard (16/6)</i>	Soldiers	MDC-T supporters
Intimidation and harassment of voters	<i>Fund ZANU PF or lose land – white farmers told</i>	Manicaland Governor Christopher Mushowe reportedly told white commercial farmers at the Golden Peacock Hotel to help	<i>NewsDay (20/6)</i>	Christopher Mushowe (Manicaland Governor)	White farmers

		fund ZANU PF's election campaign or risk losing their land			
Intimidation and harassment of voters	<i>Army deploys ahead of polls</i>	The military is alleged to be intensifying campaigns for ZANU PF by deploying soldiers to villages around the Masvingo and Manicaland provinces, a tactic reportedly meant to intimidate villagers into voting for President Mugabe	<i>Zimbabwe Independent (28/6)</i>	The army	Villagers in Masvingo and Manicaland
Discrimination or restrictions in access to voter registration	<i>Mawere drags Mudede to Court</i>	South Africa-based businessman Mutumwa Mawere takes the Registrar General to court after his request for a Zimbabwean Identification Card is refused	<i>Daily News (5/6)</i>	Registrar General	Mutumwa Mawere
Discrimination or restrictions in access to voter registration	<i>Hero's son denied passport</i>	Alleged refusal by RG's office to renew Chipo Parirenyatwa's passport on the basis that he should first renounce his mother's foreign identity.	<i>Daily News (9/6)</i>	RG	Chipo Parirenyatwa
Discrimination or restrictions in access to voter registration	<i>Aliens will remain aliens</i>	Reports of Registrar-General Tobaiwa Mudede reiterating that he would continue to call people of foreign origin "aliens" "because that is what they are".	<i>NewsDay (12/6)</i>	Tobaiwa Mudede (RG)	Zimbabweans with foreign ancestry
Discrimination or restrictions in access to voter registration	<i>Mudede refers 'aliens' to KGV barracks</i>	Scores of 'aliens' seeking clearance from the RG's office to enable them to register as voters are reportedly turned	<i>Daily News (12/6)</i>	RG's Office	Zimbabweans with foreign ancestry

Discrimination or restrictions in access to voter registration	<i>Mudede refers 'aliens' to KGV barracks</i>	Scores of 'aliens' seeking clearance from the RG's office to enable them to register as voters are reportedly turned away by his office, referring them to the Zimbabwe National Army and Police for clearance.	<i>Daily News (12/6)</i>	RG's Office	Zimbabweans with foreign ancestry
Discrimination or restrictions in access to voter registration	<i>Fresh chaos rocks 30 day voter registration</i>	Accusations by aspiring voters that the RG's office was employing delaying tactics to frustrate the electorate from registering.	<i>Zimbabwe Independent (14/6)</i>	RG's Office	Aspiring voters
Discrimination or restrictions in access to voter registration	<i>Aliens disenfranchised in voter registration</i>	MPs from the Portfolio Committee on Defence and Home Affairs who were on a nationwide tour of the voter registration exercise reportedly witness 'aliens' being turned away due to their 'unclear' citizenship.	<i>Daily News (22/6)</i>	RG's Office	Zimbabweans with foreign ancestry
Discrimination or restrictions in access to voter registration	<i>Mudede refuses to give MPs voter registration figures</i>	Registrar-General reportedly refuses to divulge figures of newly registered voters in the voter registration exercise to legislators from the Parliamentary Portfolio Committee on Defence and Home Affairs	<i>Daily News (26/6)</i>	Mudede (Registrar General)	MPs from the Parliamentary Portfolio Committee on Defence and Home Affairs
Discrimination or restrictions in access to voter registration	<i>'Zvoma blocks tabling of voter registration</i>	Clerk of Parliament, Austin Zvoma reportedly blocks the tabling of documents	<i>Daily News (27/6)</i>	Austin Zvoma (Clerk of Parliament)	Electoral Process

Violation of human and civil liberties	<i>Gay rights group 'attacked' by unknown assailants</i>	Zimbabwe's main gay, lesbian and transgender rights group (GALZ) is attacked by a group of unknown, armed men, who forced their way onto the premises and ransacked its offices	SW Radio Africa (6/6)	Unknown assailants	GALZ staff
Violation of electoral rights	<i>'July poll will violate my rights'</i>	News of Nixon Nyikadzino, a Crisis in Zimbabwe Coalition (CZC) programmes coordinator, filing an application in the Constitutional Court arguing that the holding of elections by July 31 would violate his constitutional rights as a voter	<i>Daily News</i> (12/6)	Zimbabwe Electoral Commission (ZEC) and the Registrar General	Nixon Nyikadzino (CZC officer)
Violation of electoral rights	<i>Poll saga takes new twist</i>	Maria Phiri files an application challenging the Constitutional Court ruling to have polls held before July 31. She argued that proclamation of the nomination date and polling date should allow for a 30-day intensive voter registration period	<i>NewsDay</i> (11/6)	ZEC and the Registrar General	Maria Phiri
Violation of right to privacy	<i>Sniffing at Beatrice</i>	Claims that Criminal Investigation Officers (CIO), masquerading as journalists, paid a visit to Beatrice Mtetwa's ex husband in an attempt to	<i>Daily News</i> (20/6)	CIO	Beatrice Mtetwa

Violation of right to privacy	<i>Sniffing at Beatrice</i>	Claims that Criminal Investigation Officers (CIO), masquerading as journalists, paid a visit to Beatrice Mtetwa's ex husband in an attempt to convince him to dish out any dirt he might have on her	<i>Daily News (20/6)</i>	CIO	Beatrice Mtetwa
Vote buying	MP in \$10	Chivi North MP	NewsDay	Harare (Chivi)	Villagers

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