



Monitoring News

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Violence in Hurungwe West ahead of by-elections

The Zimbabwe Peace Project (ZPP) is concerned by the intensifying violence in Hurungwe West where a by election is due on June 10, 2015. The violence in the province is within Zanu PF following the expulsion of former Member of Parliament Temba Mliswa from the august house and his intention to contest the election on an independent ticket. The ZPP calls on the Zimbabwe Electoral Commission to investigate the incidents of violence to ensure that the elections in the constituency are conducted in a free and fair way and in accordance with the law. The Zimbabwe Human Rights Commission is also called upon to investigate the alleged violations of human rights and freedoms in Hurungwe West so as to protect and enforce the fundamental rights of the electorate.

For several weeks now Temba Mliswa's suspected supporters have suffered at the hands of Zanu PF, a party he belonged to before he was accused of aligning himself to the faction led by former Vice President Joice Mujuru.

The violence in Hurungwe West is instilling fear in the electorate and does nothing to provide for a free and fair election. There have been accusations and counter accusations of violence and threats in the constituency and in the last few days farm workers at Spring farm in Karoi which belongs to former MP Mliswa sustained serious injuries when they were assaulted by Zanu PF youths who invaded the farm. The injured workers had to be hospitalized.

The conflict in Hurungwe West is also reported to have targeted traditional leaders. Headman Alick Mangisi who is reported to have been assaulted by suspected Zanu PF youths in April at Nyamhunga School, is said to have been stripped of his title and has been replaced by his brother Clever Munava Mangisi. At a ceremony held at Mangisi Village Ward 17 on Monday May 4 2015 Chief Nyamhunga said, '*Tamubvisanokudakwekutiimbiziyabudamunedzimwesakayabatwanembwa*' (We have removed him from the position because he is like a Zebra that has strayed and has been caught by marauding dogs). Headman Alick Mangisi who did not attend the ceremony is accused of supporting Mliswa.

The action of stripping Headman Alick Mangisi by Chief Nyamhunga is in contravention of the Traditional Leaders Act which in Article 8 (10) d) states that a Headman should be suspended by the Minister for not more than six months if an investigation in terms of (7) into alleged misconduct on the part of the Headman has been or is about to be instituted. Article 45:2 of the Act is clear that no Chief, Headman or village head shall canvass or serve as an election agent or manager for any candidate. Section 281 of the constitution reaffirms the fact that traditional leaders must not be members of political parties neither should they participate in partisan politics, nor should they further the interests of any political party.

ZPP is a non governmental organization whose mandate is to monitor the breaches of peace by monitoring and documenting politically motivated human rights violations.

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**A Zimbabwe where there is Peace, Justice,
Dignity and Development for all.**

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Mission: *To work for sustainable peace through monitoring, documentation, advocacy and community peace building interventions with our members and partners*