



# REPORT ON POLITICALLY- MOTIVATED HUMAN RIGHTS AND FOOD- RELATED VIOLATIONS

*April 2009*



Zimbabwe Peace Project  
17425 Flanagan Crescent

Hillside

HARARE

+263 -4- 747719, 2930180/182

[zpp@africaonline.co.zw](mailto:zpp@africaonline.co.zw)

[directorzpp@africaonline.co.zw](mailto:directorzpp@africaonline.co.zw)

## TABLE OF CONTENTS

Acronyms.....	3
Glossary of Terms.....	4
Executive Summary.....	5
Cumulative Human Rights & Food Related Violations.....	7
Provincial Case Incidents of Human Rights Violations.....	8
Statistical & Graphic Illustration of Report Findings.....	11
Food Related Human Rights Violations.....	15
Analysis of Food Related Trends.....	19
Emerging Issues and the Way Forward .....	21
About ZPP.....	22

ACRONYMS	DENOTATION
ARV	Anti-Retroviral
BACOSI	Basic Commodities Supply Side Intervention
CIO	Central Intelligence Organisation
FBO	Faith Based Organisations
GMB	Grain Marketing Board
GNU	Government of National Unity
GSF	Government Subsidized Food
NGO	Non Governmental Organisations
MDC	Movement for Democratic Change
MDC - T	Movement for Democratic Change - Tsvangirai
MDP	Malicious Damage to Property
UNICEF	United Nations Children's Fund
WFP	World Food Programme
ZANU PF	Zimbabwe African National Union Patriotic Front
ZTV	Zimbabwe Television

### Glossary of Terms

TERM	DEFINITION
<b>MURDER</b>	Unlawful and intentional killing of another person.
<b>RAPE</b>	Intentional, unlawful sexual intercourse with a woman without her consent.
<b>SEXUAL HARASSMENT</b>	Unlawfully subjecting one to pressure, insult or threat with intent to cause him/her to suffer anxiety, discomfort and /or the feeling of insecurity as a result of sexual differences.
<b>ASSAULT</b>	Unlawfully and intentionally (i) applying force to the person of another or (ii) inspiring a belief in that other person that force is immediately to be applied to them.
<b>KIDNAPPING/ABDUCTION</b>	Unlawful and intentional deprivation of a person of liberty of movement and/or his/her custodians of control.
<b>MALICIOUS DAMAGE TO PROPERTY</b>	Consists of both arson and what used to be termed Malicious Injury to Property (MIP) which is; unlawful setting an immovable structure on fire with intent to injure another and malicious and intentional damaging of property of another.
<b>THEFT</b>	Unlawful taking of another's property
<b>TORTURE</b>	Any act by which severe pain or suffering, whether physical or mental is intentionally inflicted on a person for such purposes as obtaining from them information or a confession.
<b>HARASSMENT/INTIMIDATION</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Unlawfully subjecting one to pressure, insult or threat with intent to cause him/her to suffer anxiety, discomfort and /or the feeling of insecurity</li> <li>• Duress</li> </ul>
<b>UNLAWFUL DETENTION</b>	Unlawful and intentional deprivation of one's liberty of movement by a person or persons in positions of authority.
<b>DISPLACEMENT</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Act of unlawfully, intentionally and forcibly evicting or causing someone to vacate or leave his/her usual place of residence or settlement as a result of political differences.</li> <li>• Forced evictions</li> </ul>

## EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The report documents and analyses human rights dynamics and trends in the post inclusive government era particularly questioning the extent to which the inter-party framework has changed the human rights violations profile in the country. While the report is informed by scenarios at both the macro and micro levels of society, fixation is with human rights violations as they unfold in both rural and urban communities. The approach adopted is therefore decidedly bottom up.

Analysis of human rights violations has to be conceptualized within extant macro frameworks. On a positive note, it is encouraging to note that since April there have been some efforts [though belated] towards the implementation of the Global Political Agreement, notable among these being the setting in motion of the constitution making process, deliberations on provisions calling for the replacement of the country's commissions [Media and Information Commission, the Anti Corruption Commission and the Zimbabwe Electoral Commission], rolling out of the national Healing and Reconciliation process, and calls to transform this year's independence celebrations into an all-party national event with explicit bans on own party regalia, party slogans and hate language. While the specifics of these initiatives are yet to be laid bare, ZPP believes they constitute efforts in the right direction.

However, the paper notes with concern that most of the issues which were highlighted in our February and March reports still maintain their "outstanding issue" tag scenarios that have seen terms like "GNU in crisis" appearing in several media publications with questions on the survival prospects of the inclusive government.

This pessimism was not without foundation as farming invasions continued unabated and by mid April had forced the Prime Minister to appoint a ministerial team headed by deputy Prime Minister to probe the matter. The Information Communications and Technology Minister reportedly almost resigned over the seizure of the telecommunications portfolio from his ministry while parliamentarians from the MDC T were reportedly rebelling against the party's decree that they should not accept vehicles distributed by the Reserve Bank Governor. A series of "crises" meetings held throughout April to deal with what Minister of Finance calls "toxic" outstanding issues relating to appointments to the central bank governor, Attorney General, permanent secretaries, provincial governors, ambassadors, swearing in of Roy Bennet as deputy minister of Agriculture amid allegations that President Mugabe was refusing to swear him in, and continued detention of MDC activists, among other had reportedly ended in a deadlock.

This feet-dragging and apparent lack of common vision at macro level is reportedly taking its negative toll on micro politics. Two months after the formation of the inclusive government, community activities in all the ten provinces remain operating along strictly structured party lines, some ZANU PF leadership, senior army officers, and war veterans reportedly openly dismissing the inclusive government and giving instructions to their grassroots political structures not to work with MDC structures. At a meeting held at a field day held at Hanawa Business Centre in the Zvishavane Runde constituency of the Midlands on 5 April, the local MP is reported to have claimed that the field day was mainly a ZANU PF event and then went on to castigate MDC branding its leader [who is now PM] as a "sell-out" and a "puppet who called for sanctions", lacing his speech with "Pasi na Tsvangirai" slogans, slogans which, as reported were also echoed by a Colonel who was guest of honour on that day.

In most communities, the issue of forthcoming elections has been converted into a political weapon to intimidate and instil fear into rural villagers by reminding them of what may be in store for them come elections if they dare continue attending meetings held by MDC councillors and MPs or even participate in projects that are financed by political suspect donors. These developments coupled with increased appearance of army details in ongoing ZANU PF party restructuring in the rural areas coupled with increased reports of people snooping on ordinary discussions in rural communities, the fear of retribution is reportedly fast regaining ground.

This anti-inter-party thinking was even manifest at this year's independence celebrations across the country. While there was an explicit ban on party regalia, party slogans and hate speech, experiences from the ten provinces were a far cry from this as deep seated divisions and tensions dogged celebrations with ZANU PF members accused of monopolizing the national events and relegating other political stake-holders to mere spectators. Proceedings and independence speeches were generally lop-sided while party supporters were in some areas so divided that they ended up holding the event and even cooking food separately. In a number of areas, party slogans were reportedly chanted while some party structures appeared in own party regalia. At the National Heroes Acre in Harare, although the leadership of the MDC factions attended the event, ZANU PF monopolized the event from the beginning to end with reference to other political as mere footnotes.

Threats of revenge violence remain pronounced in many parts of the province. In Matema village of Nyanga District, a war veteran who was reportedly notorious during the 27 June elections was reportedly forced to flee from his village after several night visits from suspected MDC activists and the accompanied destruction of his property and belongings. In the same area, a

case of revenge arson was also reported in the Gambe village of Nyanga District where a war veteran from ward 24 had his fields of about five hectares set on fire in circumstances that smacked of revenge violence. In the Nyamanda village of Makoni North, an ex-Junta was reportedly pulled out of Inhambitambi bottle store and frog marched to Nyanyadzi River [1km away] where he was reportedly soaked in water in what his perpetrators christened as "MDC baptism". The victim is reported to have since fled from the area.

Demands for redress to livestock and property forcibly taken during the run up to the 27 June elections continue to feature in most reports although state policy on the matter remain elusive while assistance from the local leadership on this emotive issue of remedy was reportedly, not forthcoming either—developments that continue to fuel tension within communities especially amid reports that perpetrators in most areas hardly show any trace of remorse over the atrocities they committed. While it is refreshing to note that the inclusive government's organ on national healing and reconciliation is in the process of rolling out to communities, debates are reportedly raging on about the best route to take with views reportedly against the idea of simply forgiving and forgetting, proposing processes that are accompanied with restorative justice in which perpetrators publicly lay bare to the nation the nature of their atrocities and leave it to the public to forgive them. Implied here is that victims must not be forced to forgive, as forgetting does not imply forgiving. Also closely related to this is the need to urgently address remedy/compensation issues with police and traditional leaders enforcing compensation processes.

Farm invasions continue unabated across the country with most incidents pointing to involvement of powerful government officials, top police and army chiefs and influential intelligence operatives professing that they never benefited from the land reform which started in 2000. In Gutu Central of Masvingo, youths reportedly invaded Timmy Farm on the 2<sup>nd</sup> of April and evicted the victim's workers accusing the owner [Timmy Neil] to be an absentee landowner. The invaders, who have since taken over the farm, are reportedly using the victim's property. In Masvingo Urban, Chief Charumbira and a DA were reportedly fighting each other for the control of Mitchel Farm, the two reportedly seen regularly at the farm-developments that left the owner in fear and uncertain about his future farming activities.

In Zvimba North of Mashonaland West, Minister Ignatius Chombo was reported to have on 19 April ordered white farmer Mark Rousseu to vacate his Hapaz farm house, possessions, and farm workers. In Makonde, farm workers at Piringani Farm were on 8 April forced to harvest and leave the farm house pronto. In Makonde West, a group of war veterans on 2 April reportedly invaded Flanagan Jiri Farm [also known as Jiri Farm] and ordered the farmer to vacate the farm before demarcating the land amongst themselves. Police from Chinhoyi Chemagamba rural who went to the farm were reportedly told to go back after invaders had shown them offer letters which they claimed had been given to them a long time back. While police promised to conduct further investigations on offer letters, farming activities, especially the harvesting of soya beans, have since been disrupted.

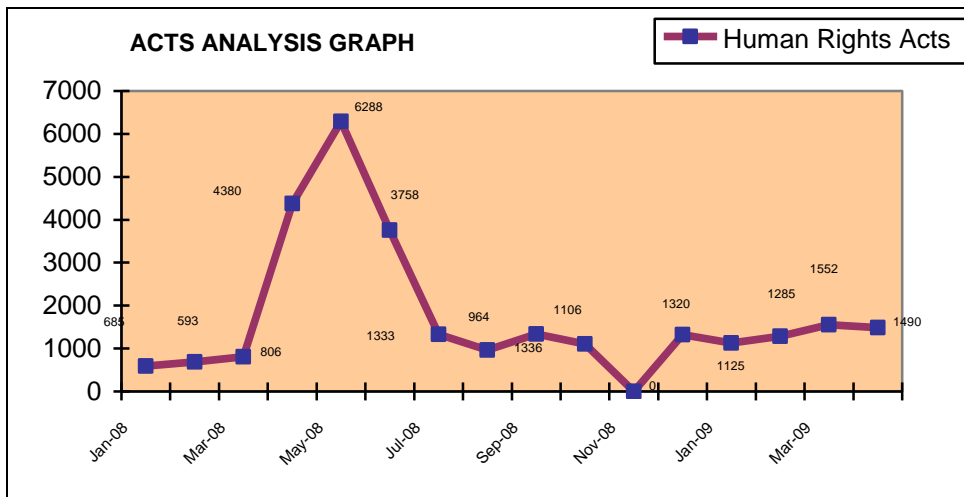
Human rights violations continue to increase cumulatively although April witnessed a slight drop to 1490 from the March toll of 1552. While in January 2008 there were only 585 cases of violations recorded by April 2009 the record had cumulatively increased to 28 029.

**Cumulative Human Rights and Food-Related Politically-Motivated Violations**

ACTS	2008	2009												TOTAL	
		January	February	March	April	May	June	July	August	September	October	November	December		
Murder	207	0	0	0	0										207
Rape	56	4	12	8	7										87
Kidnapping/abduction	496	21	20	17	13										567
Assault	4581	270	378	367	292										5888
Theft/looting	578	80	44	78	76										856
Malicious Damage to Property (MDP)	979	40	29	28	37										1113
Torture	436	17	13	33	27										526
Unlawful Detention	487	37	41	35	34										634
Harassment/Intimidation	11954	553	658	787	740										14692
Displacement	2450	75	51	65	78										2719
Discrimination	306	28	39	134	186										693
Attempted Rape	23	0	0	0	0										23
Attempted Murder	14	0	0	0	0										24
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>22567</b>	<b>1125</b>	<b>1285</b>	<b>1552</b>	<b>1490</b>										<b>28029</b>

**GRAPHIC DEPICTION OF HUMAN RIGHTS VIOLATIONS**

**Acts Analysis Graph**



## SECTION A PROVINCIAL INCIDENTS OF HUMAN RIGHTS VIOLATIONS

### Mashonaland West

The province witnessed a slight drop in acts of violence, records falling from 166 in March to 135 by end of April, and as in other provinces, harassments and assaults constituting the bulk of the province's incidents portfolio. Areas commonly cited as prone to violence included Hurungwe, Makonde, Zvimba, Mhondoro, and Ngezi. In one incident, a man from Mutorashanga ward 15 of Zvimba North was on 16 April assaulted allegedly because he had spoken glowingly about the inclusive government and the Prime Minister saying "*Vakoma MT PM vakaita. Tavakutomwa doro ne US\$1*" [literally thanks to the interventions of our brother, Prime Minister, we can buy beer at an affordable price of US\$1]. In other instances, assaults were linked to incidents in which party members taunted each other for instance by saying that one party was swallowed by another when they agreed to form the inclusive government.

In areas such as Makonde District, civil servants [mostly teachers] were reportedly forced to attend Independence Celebrations at KENZAMBA primary and secondary schools with threats of unspecified action if they do not attend. The same threats were reportedly issued at the clinic, Arex Office, and the Environmental Health office. Independence speeches were generally one-sided and laced with politically toxic messages.

Incidents where inter-party initiatives at community level have been thwarted by the provincial leadership were also reported. In Zvimba North, villagers from Mutorashanga wards 15 were on 16 April reportedly instructed by the provincial leadership not to work with MDC members. An MDC councillor who had been invited by ZANU PF local officials [in line with the inter-party inclusive spirit] was, as reported, chased away by CIO officials accompanying the provincial leadership while in Hurungwe West, a team [Ocean Pirates] which had qualified to play for the independence trophy final was reportedly refused to play at Chemhanza Stadium, Magunje T/ship allegedly because it was from a ward which was suspected to be an MDC stronghold. In Mutorashanga, ZANU PF provincial committee members [who included Minister Ignatius Chombo] on 13 April reportedly disrupted the activities of the Youth-Friendly Centre [a centre that had been established to promote inter-party relations among the youth] claiming that the premise was owned by ZANU PF.

### Masvingo

While the province witnessed a drop in human rights violations from their March level of 241 to 219 by end of April, incidents of harassment, discrimination, assault, and looting still maintained a disturbing prevalence especially in areas such as Bikita, Zaka, Gutu, Masvingo North and Central and Chivi Central. Most of the incidents recorded occurred in farming areas, villages, shopping centres in high-density areas, water-collection points, SDAs, among others with most of the violations committed by individuals although cases of inter/intra-party violations were also reported. Reports link these incidents to perceived resistance to the inclusive government among war veterans and collaborators.

This resistance was visibly manifest at most independence celebration points. In Gutu East war veterans, youths and the party executive were reportedly reluctant to incorporate the idea of inter-party independence celebrations, reportedly openly refusing to attend inter-party meetings for independence celebrations chaired by MDC chairpersons. While as nationally announced political parties were restrained from chanting political slogans and displaying political regalia, slogans were reportedly used at most independence celebrations.

Despite calls for inter-party participation at micro level, activities in most communities remain structured along party lines, those initiating inter-party programs threatened. In Mwenezi East, some villagers who attended an MDC rally held at Chitanga Primary School were reportedly interrogated and then threatened with expulsion by their headman. In Zaka East, a field day held at Fuve Business Centre on 20 April was reportedly marred by inter-party tensions, party supporters shouting at each other with ZANU PF members reportedly saying MDC members should not have been invited.

This polarization was also visible at a ward development meeting held on 17 April at Chinyabako centre in Zaka East where an MDC activist who had attended this meeting was reportedly assaulted and openly told that such meetings were not for MDC supporters. In Chivi North, a meeting addressed in Bwanya village by an MDC leader- Benard Chiondegwa was reportedly disrupted by an MP for Chivi North, the perpetrator issuing threats of violence in the process.



#### Mashonaland East

There was a visible increase in human rights violations, records increasing from their March level of 141 to 232 by end of April with high records in incidents of harassments, assaults, looting, and discriminations. Most incidents were linked to areas such as Mudzi West, Mutoko East, Wedza, Marondera East and West, Mahusekwa, and Murewa where inter-party meetings and even independence celebrations were said to have turned into inter-party showdowns, members disturbingly defensive of their party enclaves.

In farming communities headmen were reportedly using threats of eviction to curtail rights to political association, assembly, expression and remedy. At farms such as Feelse in Wedza North, Rapid in Marondera East, Kabika and Chip in Wedza, people were reportedly threatened with eviction in circumstances that smack of political persecution. It is instructive to note that headmen in most emerging farming communities are mostly war veterans or senior ZANU PF party activists.

Independence celebrations in most parts of the province were dogged by deep seated divisions and tensions, ZANU PF members accused of going it alone, sidelining other political stakeholders.

Issues of access to remedy remained burning issues, posing a potent threat to social stability in most communities with reported incidents in which former base commanders were chased away from their areas, MDC members accusing them of being responsible for the disappearance of their party members. Reports of village heads and chiefs targeting for eviction those who demand back their livestock and property, were also received-victims accused of influencing people to revenge.

#### Mashonaland Central

The human rights violations record increased from 109 in March to 143 in April, the bulk of which were harassments. Areas such as Muzarabani, Shamva, Mazowe, Mt Darwin, Bindura, and Guruve remained zones of clandestine violence with war veterans, youth, state security structures and traditional chiefs as chief perpetrators.

Space for inter-party political participation is still restricted, the idea of inclusive government generally not taken seriously in many areas that include Rushinga, Mt Darwin, and Muzarabani.

With news of forthcoming elections, fear of retribution has reportedly gripped the province; people generally exercising extreme caution before they speak out their minds on national issues in the public. In some communities, ZANU PF youths were reportedly acting as CIOs, snooping on ordinary conversations and in some instances reportedly harassing new councillors [who are in the main MDC councillors].

Former perpetrators remain unrepentant, bragging about their "exploits" and even threatening their victims with further retribution. The police in the province are generally viewed as protective of former tormentors who as claimed in most reports, are mostly ZANU PF members. Reports further allege that perpetrators continue to be released soon after arrest, scenarios that are reportedly irritating former victims of violence.

#### Manicaland

While the province experienced a drop in acts of violence from 385 in March to 269 in April, Manicaland lead its violence zone status with the bulk of incidents being harassments and assaults. Areas such as Nyanga, Makoni, and Nyazura remained incident-prone with incidents in which a church pastor was attacked by three unknown perpetrators allegedly for preaching politics in the church while in another incident war veterans were reported to have forced a teacher in Nyanga South to teach during the holiday.

As observed in other provinces, community activities remain disturbingly structured along political lines with even thanksgiving beer ceremonies being held in several villages of Nyanga District reportedly dogged with inter-party conflicts.

Efforts at promoting inter-party participation in communities are reportedly thwarted by the local political and traditional leadership, villagers reportedly under strict orders not to attend ward committee meetings organized by MDC councillors while those who dare attend risked evictions from their areas. Elected MDC local structures are still to be recognized by ZANU PF members as official local authority structures.

These deep-seated divisions interfered with the initiative to transform independence celebrations into a-political national events. In Makoni Central, the local MDC MP was reportedly denied space to speak at Independence

Celebrations which were held at Vengere Stadium, the chance was reportedly given to the DA. At Crofton Farm independence celebrations in Headlands, ZANU PF youths reportedly refused to remove their party regalia while in ward 4 of Makoni Central, only ZANU PF supporters were reportedly contacted for independence celebrations.

As observed in other provinces, Manicaland also remained home to continued farm invasions and disruptions of farming activities by powerful government officials. In one such incident in Makoni District, the owner of Tekeshe Farm was told to vacate his farm with immediate effect allegedly by a prominent Minister, claiming that the farm was long back designated state land.

#### Midlands

The province witnessed a slight drop in acts of violence, records reportedly dropping from their March level of 183 to 177 by end of April with intimidations and assaults constituting the bulk of violations.

While there is general peace in some parts of the province, inter-party partnerships at grassroots remain elusive dreams with remarks such as "never share beer with MDC sell-outs" generally hinting at the incipient challenges that are currently dogging social relations in communities of this province. In one incident, a man was assaulted in the Glenwood area of Kwekwe for playing the song by Inganezoma [a SA based group] in which the singer exhorted President Mugabe to surrender and give the MDC leader a chance.

In the Shumagange area of Mberengwa West, a group of ZANU PF supporters reportedly destroyed furniture belonging to a suspected MDC supporter allegedly because he had attended the burial of the wife of the Prime Minister, Susan Tsvangirai. In the same area, a man from Mbavari village who had attended the said funeral had his three huts torched at night in circumstances that smacked of politically motivated arson. The victim has since fled from his area. Those seen in T shirts of the late wife of the Prime Minister were also, as reported, targeted for assault. In the Buchwa area of Mberengwa, a man from Zvomukonde secondary school who was discovered to have attended the burial of Susan Tsvangirai was reportedly visited at night by suspected ZANU PF activists and nearly beaten to death, in an event that points to low political tolerance in some communities.

The tendency to treat independence celebrations as a ZANU PF event was manifest at most of the independence celebrations held in the province. On Independence Day celebrations at Mberengwa Primary School, the majority of ZANU PF supporters were in own party regalia while songs denouncing the MDC party were sung throughout the day; suspected MDC supporters denied access to food and even told that the gathering was for ZANU PF members only. This was despite that the people had been forced to contribute R30 towards the event.

#### Harare

Metropolitan Harare witnessed a slight drop in human rights violations, records dropping from their March level of 217 to 177 by end of April although acts harassment and assaults remained disturbingly visible. High density areas [such as Highfields, Mufakose, Budiriro, Mabvuku, Tafara, Chitungwiza and Harare East] remained violence-prone with most incidents linked to police heavy-handedness, political intolerance, snooping of ordinary discussions, people taunting each other along political lines, for instance one tauntingly saying "Vanhu ve ZANU/MDC hamunzwe". Incidents of violence were also linked to incidents in which petty differences on socioeconomic issues quickly assumed political overtures.

Reports also referred to incidents in which inter-party community initiatives were either covertly or overtly thwarted by some hardliners. In Western Triangle, Highfields, a sports training session by youths belonging to COPING YOUTH CLUB was on 4 April disrupted by suspected members of the ZANU PF women's league, who as reported, marched into the field of play, grabbed the ball and told the youths that they were being coached by MDC party supporters. In the same area, an MDC ward report back meeting which was held at Zororo Grounds was reportedly disrupted by suspected members of ZANU PF. In one incident, a pastor of a Methodist Church in Mufakose was reportedly labelled an MDC activist by suspected war veterans after he had allegedly given floor to an MDC councillor of ward 36.

#### Bulawayo

Although there was a general decline in inter-party forms of political violence in constituencies such as Bulawayo East, Makokoba, Pumula and Bulawayo Central, incidents of harassment and assault still exist mostly in the high density suburbs of the province. Low density areas remain calm. On the whole, the operational environment remained a big challenge especially to those working in the areas of good governance and human rights. Though in the least incident zone, Bulawayo experienced an increase in acts of violence from their March level of 33 to 66 by April.

#### Matabeleland North

Though another least violence-prone zone, the province witnessed a slight surge in its human rights violations record from 36 in March to 43 by end of April. Human rights violations reported mainly revolved around independence celebrations, supporters of the MDC and ZANU PF refusing to join together as a family. In Ntabazinduna, MDC and ZANU supporters were reported to have celebrated separately along party lines despite calls for unity by Chief Kayisa Ndiweni. ZANU PF supporters reportedly celebrated at Ntabazinduna Police Station although all people were supposed to be at Ntabazinduna Community Hall. Independence speeches were only read by ZANU PF officials who in some areas such as [Bubi ward 4 village 6], village gatherings were reportedly told that unity government will not do much without President Mugabe, members of other parties exhorted to join ZANU PF.

Spates of political intolerance were also reported in Mhlahlandlela, Lupane where the ZANU PF leadership is said to have on 10 April unlawfully dissolved Lupane Residents Association [whose term of office extends to 2010] and replaced it with their own Residents Association. In Ntabazinduna, an all parties meeting at Ntabazinduna Chief Assembly held on 9 April was reportedly politically charged as people sought answers on the way forward especially in the wake of access to redress. Tolerance to those intending to revive ZAPU is reportedly very low-especially within the ZANU PF stable who see the move as a stab in their back.

#### Matabeleland South

While human violations records dropped from 41 in March to 29 in April, the province remained home to sporadic incidents of violence with most incidents located in areas such as Umzingwane, Matobo, Mangwe, Ngwanda North, Bulima, and Matopo areas. Victims generally claimed harassment or assaults for refusing to attend party meetings called by kraal-heads, organizing own party meetings, failure to attend or contribute to independence celebrations, among others.

Below are detailed statistics of acts of violence in the ten provinces of Zimbabwe.

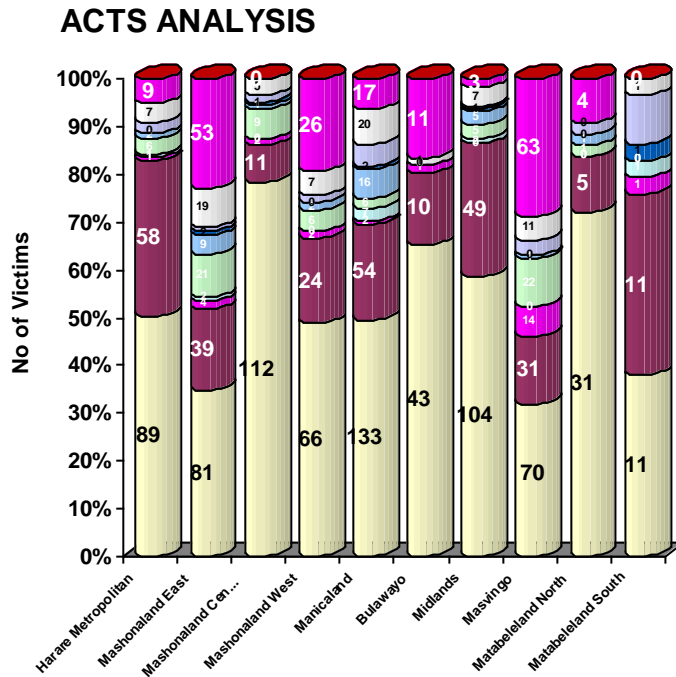
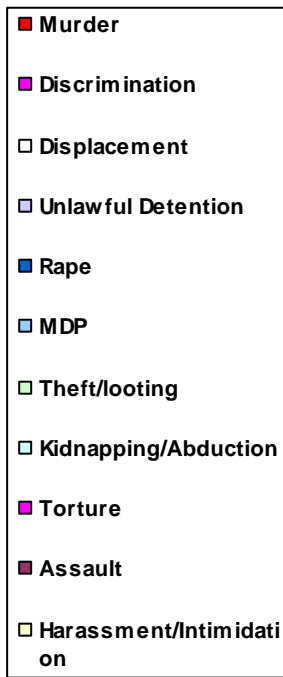
#### ANALYSIS OF STATISTICAL PROFILES OF HUMAN RIGHTS VIOLATIONS BY PROVINCES

#### ACTS OF ANALYSIS TABLE

ACTS	Bulawayo	Mat. South	Mat. North	Midlands	Masvingo	Harare	Mash. East	Mash. West	Mash. Central	Manicaland	TOTAL
Murder	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Rape/Sexual Harassment	0	1	0	1	0	0	2	0	1	2	7
Kidnapping/abduction	0	1	0	2	0	1	2	0	0	7	13
Assault	10	11	5	49	31	58	39	24	11	54	292
Theft/looting	0	0	1	5	22	6	21	6	9	6	76
MDP	0	0	1	5	1	2	9	2	1	16	37
Torture	1	1	0	0	14	1	4	2	2	2	27
Unlawful Detention	0	3	1	1	7	4	2	2	2	12	34
Intimidation /harassment	43	11	31	104	70	89	81	66	112	133	740
Displacement	1	1	0	7	11	7	19	7	5	20	78
Discrimination	11	0	4	3	63	9	53	26	0	17	186
<b>Total</b>	<b>66</b>	<b>29</b>	<b>43</b>	<b>177</b>	<b>219</b>	<b>177</b>	<b>232</b>	<b>135</b>	<b>143</b>	<b>269</b>	<b>1490</b>

GRAPHIC DEPICTION OF ACTS

Graphically, scenarios were as shown below:



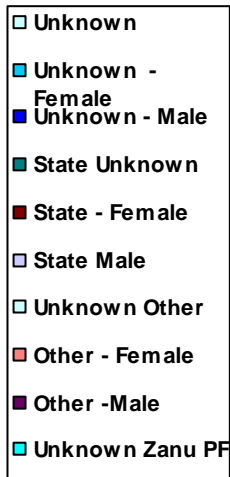
Observations

- A gross acts toll of 1490 cases was recorded in March showing a slight drop from their March level of 1556.
- As in the past high violations toll were recorded in the form of harassments [740], assault [292], discrimination [186]. While records of looting, displacement, unlawful detentions, torture and MDPs were in the low zone, they still cast a disturbing visibility.
- High human rights violations zones remained Manicaland [269], Mashonaland East [232], Masvingo [219], Harare [177], and Midlands [177].
- Least human rights violations tolls were recorded in Bulawayo [66], Matabeleland South [29] and Matabeleland North [43].
- April recorded no murder cases.

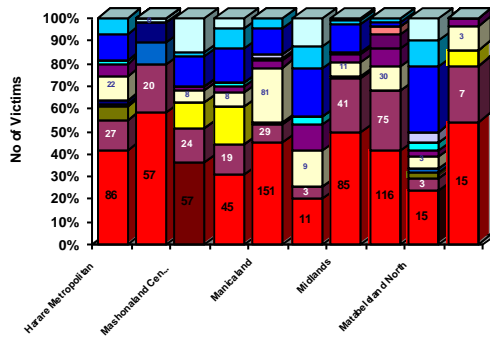
Concluding Remark[s]

While April witnessed a slight drop in acts of violence, provincial violence spread depicts a stubborn retreat scenario. The inter-party spirit message should be messaged with more vigour.

## GENDER-VICTIMS ANALYSIS GRAPH



GENDER ANALYSIS FOR VICTIMS



April 2009

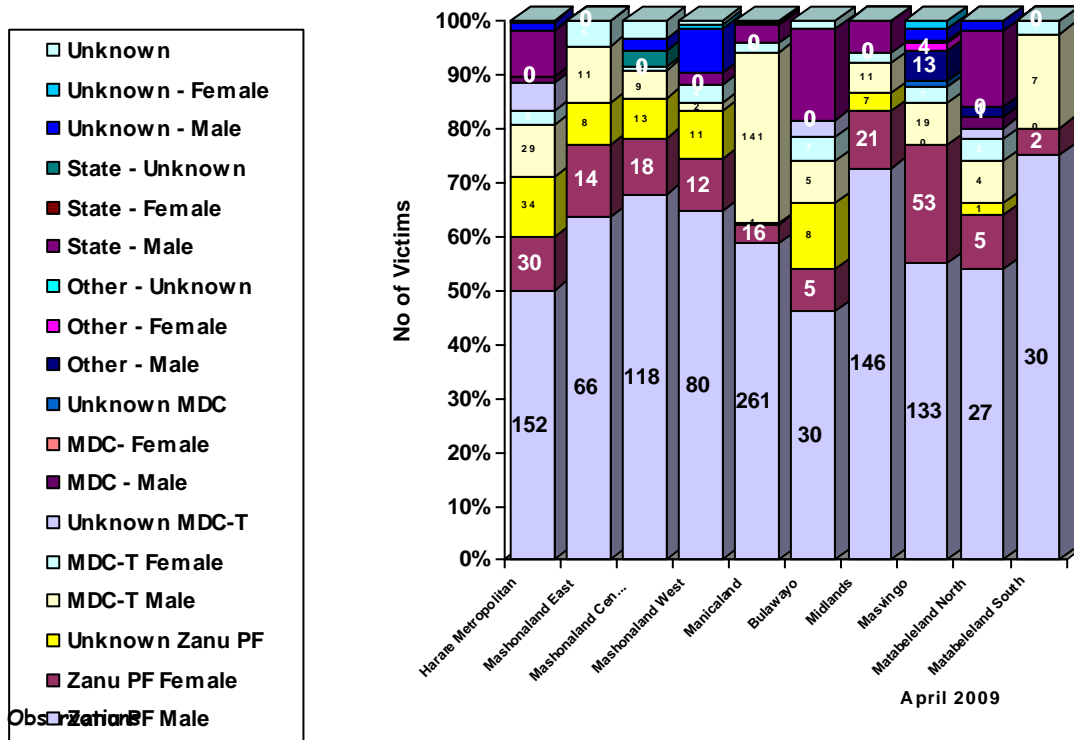
### Observations

- Victim toll increased from 1423 in March to 1539 in April with high victim densities in Manicaland, Masvingo, Harare and Midlands. There were low victim tolls in all the Matabeleland provinces.
- Of the total victim toll of 1539, 1017 were male while 400 were female showing an increase in male victim toll from its February level of 941 while the female victim toll remained stagnant.
- Consistent with past trends, the male category remained the main victims of violence in both ZANU PF and the two main MDC factions, although the MDC T male victim toll constitutes the bulk. MDC victim toll in both the male and female categories was visibly very low [25].
- The victim toll of the Unknowns [male and female] remains disturbingly high, a pointer to increases in indiscriminate violence.
- The MDC T female victim toll [248] remains disquietingly high, even higher than the ZANU PF male and female victim tolls combined [242].

### Concluding Remark[s]

April witnessed an increase in victim toll with higher records in the male stable across the board. However the MDC T victim toll [both in the male and female categories] remains disturbingly high, the MDC T female victim toll even higher than the ZANU PF male and female toll combined. The need for an all inclusive national healing program is yesterday.

### GENDER ANALYSIS FOR PERPETRATORS



- There was an increase in the perpetrator toll from 1557 in March to 1749 in April. Of this gross perpetrator toll, [1400] were males while [228] were females.
- As has been observed in the past, the ZANU PF stable maintained its high perpetrator tag with a total record of 1302 perpetrators, a figure that is almost 6 times higher than the MDC T perpetrator toll of 299.
- MDC-M perpetrator figures in both the male and female stable remain on the insignificant side.
- The ZANU PF perpetrator toll remains higher on both sexes with the ZANU PF female perpetrator toll [176] even three[3] times higher than all the MDC T , MDC, State and Unknown female perpetrator tolls combined [ 52].
- State perpetrator toll was at 80 showing a disturbing visibility in state involvement in acts of violence with the male category constituting the bulk of its perpetrators.
- By province, perpetrator tolls were disturbingly high in Manicaland [447], Harare [304], Masvingo [242], Midlands [201] and Mashonaland Central [174].
- As in the past, there low perpetrator tolls in all the three provinces of Matabeleland.

**Concluding Remark[s]**

Perpetrator tolls continue to increase with ZANU PF contributing an obscene toll across it's the male and female stables. Also disturbing is that perpetrator spread remains pronounced in seven[7] of the ten provinces. The need to embark on a robust multi-party zero political tolerance campaign remains critical.

## SECTION B

### REPORT ON FOOD DISTRIBUTION AND HUMAN RIGHTS VIOLATIONS

Food-related human rights violations still maintain a visibly stubborn presence. By end of April, a food violations toll of 644 had been documented, 390 [61%] of which were discriminations, 35 [5%] violence and 219 [34%] harassments with heavy toll densities in Midlands [138], Manicaland [123], Mashonaland West [98] and Mashonaland Central [78] and least toll prevalence in Bulawayo [8], Matabeleland North [8] and Matabeleland South [17].

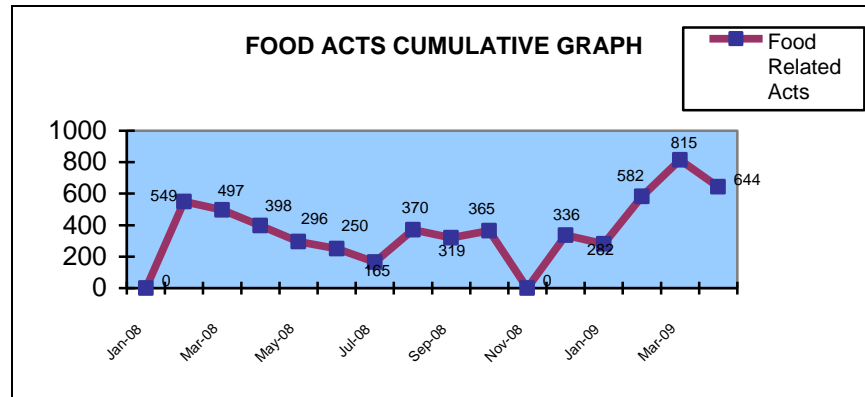
In Masvingo, efforts by MDC members to source assistance for those whose homes were destroyed were reportedly resisted with both initiators and potential donors issued with threats. In Mutambwa ward 16, Gutu East, an MDC MP who had found his own donor to help people who suffered and lost their properties had goods looted at night by unknown men who were however suspected to be ZANU PF members

Since January 2008, a cumulative toll of 6241 cases of food-related human rights violations had been recorded, 644 of which were recorded in April. Of this cumulative toll, 3797 were cases of discrimination, 134 cumulative cases of violence and 2058 cumulative cases of harassment [Refer to the table below].

Cumulative Food-Related Acts

2008 TOTAL	2009	Food-Related Violations			
		HARASSMENT	VIOLENCE	DISCRIMINATION	TOTAL
	Jan - Dec 2008	1365	39	2514	3918
549	January	46	6	230	282
497	February	68	16	498	582
398	March	360	38	417	815
296	April	219	35	390	644
250	May				
165	June				
370	July				
319	August				
365	September				
376	October				
0	November				
336	December				
3921	TOTAL	2058	134	4049	6241

**GRAPHIC SPREAD OF FOOD -RELATED HUMAN RIGHTS VIOLATIONS**  
**Food Acts Cumulative Graph**



**PROVINCIAL FOOD-RELATED HUMAN RIGHTS VIOLATIONS**

**Mashonaland East**

Reports point to visible improvements in household food reserves in most parts of the province complements of ongoing harvests. However, the overall food situation remains stressed with some areas facing bleak crop harvests. Villagers in the Mupatsi/Pokoteke areas of Chikomba East were reportedly pleading with NGOs in their area to continue their food relief interventions. Distribution of food, inputs, and medical supplies remains along party lines with ZANU PF structures either covertly or overtly in control of the processes. Reports still point to incidents of de-registrations, people being called names, and people being removed from distribution queues reportedly because of party affiliation, failure to produce party cards or people falsely accused of benefitting from more than one food aid source. In some cases false information was reportedly supplied to potential donors in order to divert their interventions from areas that were suspected to be MDC strongholds. By end of April, the province had recorded 66 cases, 11 of which were harassments, 28 violence [mainly in the form of MDPs, sexual violence and physical attack] and 27 discriminations mainly in the form of access denials to GSF.

**Mashonaland Central**

Reports point to noticeable changes in household food security with most people reportedly relying on own sources of food [from harvests]. However on the whole, the food situation remains challenged and in fact a candidate for continued donor intervention. Due to interplay of factors such as political disturbances, internal displacements, draught power and inputs shortages, too much rainfall among others, some areas are reportedly facing bleak harvest prospects. Distribution of food, inputs, medical supplies, and farm machinery remains opaque and partisan with both the ZANU PF and MDC members struggling to take control of food aid agencies in their localities. 78 cases of food-related human rights violations were reported, 5 of which were harassments while 73 were discriminations on food relief.

Cases of looting of food and agricultural inputs were also reported. The *Financial Gazette* of April 2-8 2009 refers to one notable case in which a Taskforce investigating the abuse of agricultural inputs distributed to farmers under the National Food Security Program received reports of 30 tonnes of unpacked fertilizer that was dumped into Mazoe Dam apparently in an attempt to conceal evidence of looting the commodity by yet to be identified individual. This, as reported, came hard on the heels of an audit by the RBZ into the use of agricultural inputs and equipment distributed to farmers under the Farm Mechanization Program. Investigations into allegations of the abuse of agricultural inputs distributed under the government's National Food Security Program saw nearly 10 MPs appearing in court with some of the hearings being conducted in camera.



## Harare

Local and regional/international food relief and humanitarian NGOs were still visible in areas of food relief, cholera prevention pills, provision of ARVs, water, and blankets, especially in high density areas. Their continued involvement is welcome as the bulk of urban people [both the employed and unemployed] remain financially stressed. However issues of politicisation of vetting, registration and distribution processes remain the main challenges, in some cases information deliberately withheld from those viewed as politically suspect. A total 62 cases of food-related human rights violations were received, 37 of which were harassments and 25 discriminations.

Reported cases of revenge food discriminations mainly involved MDC members who were reportedly denying suspected and known ZANU PF members access to food sourced by their leaders. Some ZANU PF members were accused of politicising access to USAID-donated boreholes in Glen Nora requiring production of party card in order to access water. Reports of some local churches alleged to be distributing food along political lines continue to be received with a disturbing frequency disadvantaging diserving HIV/AIDS patients denied access to food relief from the Mashambanzou Scheme. In Kambuzuma some people claimed being turned away from a food program on 25 April after they had failed to produce membership cards to ZANU PF officials who as reported, were manning the program.

## Manicaland

The province experienced a food-related human rights abuse toll of 123 cases in which 64 were harassments, 2 violence and 57 discriminations. Distribution points are mainly still controlled by ZANU PF and in some cases with war veterans in charge of distribution points-despite the fact that in some areas there will be elected MDC councilors. At Rujeko clinic in Chikanga, Dangamvura, a suspected member of MDC was on 17 April reportedly assaulted at a distribution point after he had taunted a suspected ZANU PF supporter why he was receiving aid donated by whites-in a mocking apparent reference to ZANU PF 's anti West stance. In the same area, an HIV/AIDS patient was reportedly denied medication at Dangamvura clinic after producing a letter written by an MDC councilor for exemption of payment. Distribution of SADC sorghum and grain fertilizer was mainly done by uniformed army personnel amid allegations of prioritization of ZANU PF card holders. In Mutare South villagers who had gathered at Manzununu primary school to get fertilizer under the SADC initiated program were reportedly dispersed by war veterans, openly being told that the program was not meant to benefit MDC supporters.

There were also reports of political interferences with NGO operations, the political structures reportedly trying to benefit from programs at the expense of target groups, who in most cases were very vulnerable groups. In Nyanga South, Care Zimbabwe officers ended up suspending a program which was meant to benefit the elderly in wards 17, 21 and 23 when head-men and political leaders in the area wanted to have a stake in the selection of beneficiaries. Scrutiny of the list submitted by the local leadership unearthed 15 names of same family members and ghost names of people who did not exist in the mentioned wards. In the same area war veterans reportedly barred Christian Care from carrying supplementary feeding and vulnerable children after it had rejected their interferences. Local NGO Concern which had through networking with a local villager agreed to assist starving villagers in the area was reportedly barred, war veterans allegedly informing donors that people in his ward had enough food which was distributed by government sponsored program through the GMB. This decision, as was explained, was taken because the chairperson was angry that the party had lost support to the MDC party.

## Midlands

Although some parts of the province were reportedly experiencing reduced food stress, some areas remain vulnerable and require continued food aid supplementary interventions. Also as observed in other provinces, the inter-party spirit is also yet to take root with elected MDC councilors still denied participation in processes involving mobilization, registration and distribution of food/inputs and ARVs. Reports still point to prevalence of use of food as a political tool to enlist loyalty in both rural and urban areas. Food discriminations are covertly conducted through a network of traditional and political leadership leaders working in league with government officers and care facilitators. Incidents of de-listings on political grounds, looting of fertilizer and barring or turning away of donors viewed as pro-MDC continue to be reported in areas such as Kwekwe, Zhombe, Mberengwa and Gokwe. In Mbizo, Kwekwe, incidents

reported revolved around denials of access to cheap sourced meal mealie from Blackman Millers allegedly on political grounds. By end of April, the province had recorded a portfolio of 138 cases of human rights violations, 90 of which were discriminations [mainly involving denials to food relief and GSF], 3 violence [mainly physical attack] and 45 harassments [mainly forced attendance of political meetings, ordering people to produce cards and chant slogans].

#### Mashonaland West

NGO involvement was still visible with NGOs such UNICEF giving out cholera tablets, GOAL giving out food to those in serious need of food aid such as orphans, New Growth catering for the underprivileged people and the disabled while ICRC was giving out to political victims such as returnees and destitute. However distribution of both GSF and food relief aid is still highly centralized and tightly controlled by pro- ZANU PF structures within and outside government. Issues of people being asked to produce party membership cards during registrations and also at distribution points were still reported in most parts of the province. Cases of people being arrested for diverting donated food [beans, soya beans, sorghum and bulgar] were also reported in areas that include Hurungwe West. By end of April a food related human rights violations toll of 98 had been documented, 81 of which were discriminations [mainly involving denials to food relief, 2 cases of violence [physical attack] and 15 cases of harassments mainly of a miscellaneous nature.

#### Masvingo

While NGO food relief interventions [such Dutch care, Christian Care, Hope Tariro Trust] were still visible, distribution of food relief and GSF remain blighted with allegations of discriminations, harassments, and looting. In some cases use of stringent selection criteria by NGOs were reportedly unnecessarily denying access to disserving people.

Food-related discriminations, violence and harassments still afflict distribution of both GSF and food relief and related inputs. In Masvingo Central, MDC members were reportedly denied access to both the Jatirofa training workshops and distribution of plant seeds, reports alleging that they were only given to ZANU PF members. In Chivi Central, the distribution of Moringa seeds was also allegedly done along party lines. Moringa tree is used for medicinal purposes to cure all diseases. Access to Water Project Workshops in the same area was reportedly also along party lines.

In Denge, Chivi North, a farmer was reportedly told to stop farming at Denge irrigation scheme allegedly because he had been heard talking positively about the MDC. In Mutirikwi, Chivi South, some headmen reportedly refused victims [ill-health] registration for food assistance sourced from Red Cross, headmen reportedly claiming that food was donated by ZANU PF members. In those cases where MDC members were in control the selection of food aid beneficiaries, cases of revenge denials were reported. By end of April, the province had recorded a total of 51 cases of food-related human rights violations, 23 of which were discriminations [mainly involving denials to food relief] and 28 harassments [mainly involving people being ordered to denounce one's party, chant party slogans and take off party regalia].

#### Matabeleland South

The food security situation remains critical with most villagers reportedly facing prospects of low crop harvests. While food-related violations toll is on the low, cases of food discriminations, violence and harassments continue to be documented revolving mainly revolving around access to GSF and food relief. Issues of party cards, party regalia and political affiliation status continue to surface. Cases of looting are still reported, in some cases involving food relief for school children or food belonging to PLWA. Although the province is in the least violations zone, by end of April, a violations toll of 12 had been documented, 8 of which were discriminations and 4 harassments.

#### Bulawayo

Though visibly on the low side, incidents of intimidations, de-registrations and even denials of food and medical supplies to HIV/AIDS, and TB patients were mainly in high density areas. Task forces charged with selecting and

distributing food and blankets to the elderly, disabled and other disadvantaged groups were also accused of being discriminatory on political grounds. However, the province's violations toll remained low with only 8 cases of violations having been reported by end of April, 3 being discriminations [involving education assistance] and 5 harassments [mainly in the miscellaneous category].

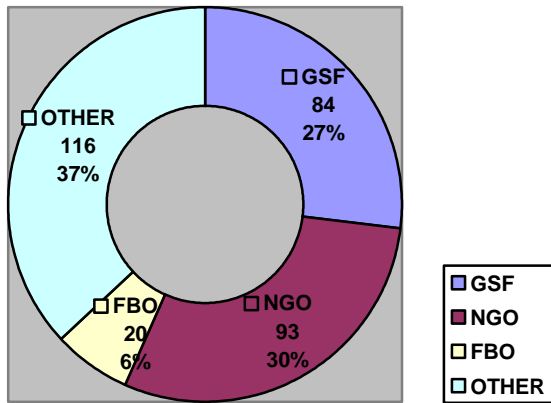
#### Matabeleland North

The province's food-related human rights violations remained in the least violations zone category with 8 cases having been reported, 3 discriminations and 5 harassments [mainly in the form of people being ordered to denounce one's party] with most of the reported incidents located to Tstholotsho and Binga.

#### SPREAD OF FOOD-RELATED HUMAN RIGHTS ABUSES BY PROVINCES

HARASSMENT	Harare	Manicaland	Mash East	Mash West	Mash Central	Bulawayo	Mat North	Mat South	Masvingo	Midlands	TOTAL
Forced to attend political meetings	3	2	2	0	4	0	0	0	11	7	29
Ordered to produce party card	1	1	3	1	0	0	0	1	0	5	12
Ordered to take off party regalia	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	2	5	4	12
Forced to chant party slogans	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	5	4	11
Ordered to denounce one's party	21	44	0	0	1	0	5	1	7	0	79
Summoned to meeting	2	0	5	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	7
Other	8	17	1	13	0	5	0	0	0	25	69
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>37</b>	<b>64</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>28</b>	<b>45</b>	<b>219</b>
<b>VIOLENCE</b>											
Abduction/unlawful detention	0	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2
Sexual violence	0	0	9	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	9
Malicious Damage to Property (MDP)	0	0	10	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	10
Physical Attack	0	2	7	2	0	0	0	0	0	3	14
Grievous bodily harm	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>28</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>35</b>
<b>DISCRIMINATION</b>											
Denied access to BSF	1	3	12	7	0	0	0	1	0	18	42
Denied seeds & fertiliser	0	11	7	5	0	0	0	0	1	5	29
Denied tillage support	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	7	7
Denied Agricultural Credit	0	0	2	0	0	0	0	1	3	0	6
Denied Food Loan	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2
Denied Food Relief	22	37	4	68	73	0	3	4	15	56	282
Denied Irrigation	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	2	3	0	6
Denied Education Assistance	0	1	1	0	0	3	0	0	0	4	9
Denied Medical Assistance	0	5	0	1	0	0	0	0	1	0	7
Other	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>25</b>	<b>57</b>	<b>27</b>	<b>81</b>	<b>73</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>23</b>	<b>90</b>	<b>390</b>
<b>0 VERRALL TOTAL</b>	<b>62</b>	<b>123</b>	<b>66</b>	<b>98</b>	<b>78</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>51</b>	<b>138</b>	<b>644</b>

**FOOD SOURCES CHART**



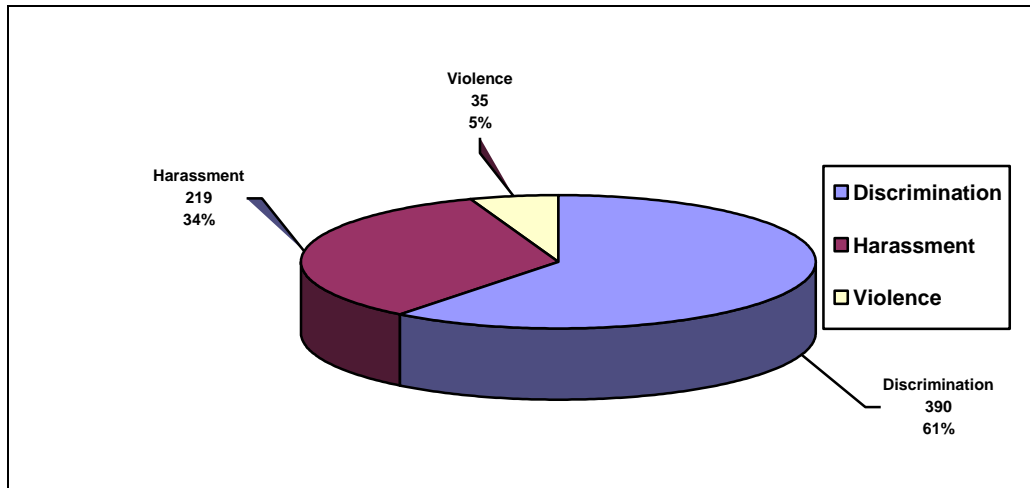
**Observations on Sources of Food**

- Although the main food sources are *GSF*, *NGOs*, *FBOs* and *OTHERS*, 73 % of the food is sourced from non state sources showing a possible increase in humanitarian assistance in areas of cholera prevention, food relief, water provision, agricultural inputs, and medicine/ARVs among others. State source levels have visibly dropped from 40% in March to 27% in April, an expected development given that the inclusive government is yet to find its feet.

**Concluding Remark [s]**

Statistics point to a visible expansion in humanitarian assistance in the month of April and a corresponding visible drop in state sources of food .

**PREVALENCE OF VIOLATIONS CHART**



**Observations on Prevalence of Food-Related Human Rights Abuses**

## Discriminations

- Discrimination constituted 61% [390] of the gross prevalence score of 644, making it the most common food-related human right violation.
- High discrimination records were recorded in Midlands, Manicaland, Mashonaland West, Mashonaland Central and Mashonaland East with extremely low records in the three provinces of Matabeleland.
- The bulk of these discriminations were in the form of denials of food relief, denials of access to seeds and fertilizer, denial of access to GSF among others.

## Harassments

- As in March, harassment remained the second most prevalent form of violation, constituting 34 % [219] of the gross prevalence toll of 644.
- Harassments were most prevalent in Manicaland, Midlands and Harare with least incidents in Matabeleland South, Matabeleland North, Bulawayo and Mashonaland Central.
- Statistics show that the bulk of harassment were in the form of people being forced to denounce one's party, "others", and forced attendance of political meetings .

## Violence

- Violence emerged the least committed form of violations, constituting 5% [35] of the gross violations toll of 644.
- Violence mostly took the form of physical attack, MDPs and sexual violence, most of which were committed Mashonaland East with two [2] violence incidents in Manicaland and Mashonaland West and none violence incidents in the rest of the provinces.

## Concluding Remarks

**Discriminations and harassments remain the most commonly committed violations in the food sector. There is urgent need to encourage inter-party participation in food distribution systems.**

## EMERGING ISSUES AND THE WAY FORWARD

The farm disturbances and the wanton arrests of farmers are not only a threat to food security but to the goodwill that the international community had started to extend to the inclusive government. The ongoing farm occupations should be condemned because they are violent. Besides promoting lawlessness, farm invasions have been harassed, left homeless, jobless and politically insecure. There is need to restore the rule of law in the farming community. The Ministry of Home Affairs must play its part to ensure that people are not deprived of their right to liberty.

Members of the inclusive government must speak and act as a team. Scenarios where the Prime Minister says one thing only to be opposed by a minister [from the ZANU PF stable] is hardly in the spirit of the inclusive government.

While the Organ on National Healing and Reconciliation has started to be rolled out, there is need for multi-sector debates on the feasible route to take. A mere blanket amnesty with no truth revealed will not lead to sustainable peace. If Zimbabwe is to have national healing and reconciliation the truth must come out and the only viable channel for this, is through the Truth and Reconciliation Commission [TRC] based on a multi-stakeholder driven approach with an independent panel to ensure impartiality and public trust. The specifics of this process must be robustly debated.

Given widespread reports of the vicious torture of those detained, it is imperative that the inclusive government take urgent measures to ratify the UN Convention on Torture. The Treaty calls for zero tolerance against torture and use of torture to extract confessions. The fact that parliament is said to have passed a motion years ago recommending that Government should sign the UN Convention against torture should be taken as window of opportunity.

The fact that discrimination and harassment constituted 95% of the 644 documented cases of food-related human rights violations presents a strong case for renewed calls for transparent and a-political approaches to the distribution of GSF and food relief. With the non state sector [NGOs, FBOs and Others] now accounting for 73% sources of food in Zimbabwe the need to ensure that more space and autonomy is accorded to these actors becomes more pressing.

## 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 organisations include, Zimbabwe Council of Churches (ZCC), Evangelical Fellowship of Zimbabwe (EFZ), Zimbabwe Election Support Network (ZESN), Counselling Services Unit (CSU), Zimbabwe Liberators' Platform, Zimbabwe Civic Education Trust, ZimRights, Civic Education Network Trust (CIVNET).

### VISION

To see Zimbabwe transform into a society that cherishes the pursuit and realisation of justice, freedom, peace, human dignity and development.

### MISSION

ZPP is a community based Trust that promotes peace through documenting human rights violations and disseminating them to stakeholders and policy makers.

### GOAL

To reduce violence and human rights violations through community-based and national monitoring, documentation of cases of human rights abuses, and making partnerships and alliances that tap the expertise and assets of local communities and local and regional organisations that will help the attainment of sustainable peace and democracy in Zimbabwe.

### CONTACT US

P O Box BE 427, Belvedere  
Tel: (04) 747719, 2930180,  
2930182, 2900555, 2900556  
Email: [zpp@zpp.org.zw](mailto:zpp@zpp.org.zw), [zpp@africaonline.co.zw](mailto:zpp@africaonline.co.zw)