



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

November 2009

12/23/2009

## SUMMARY

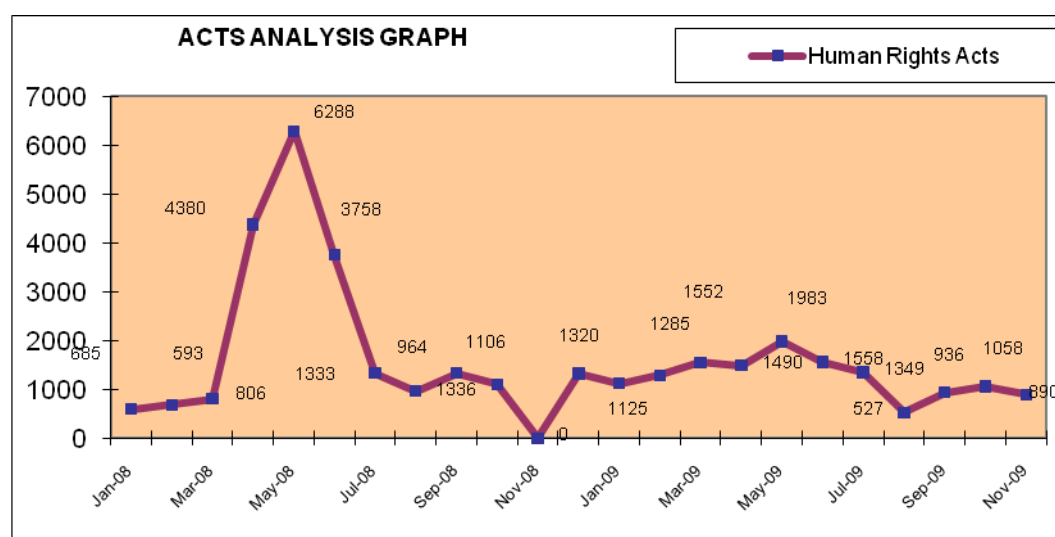
The period under review witnessed a reduction in incidences of politically motivated human rights abuses. A total of 890 cases were recorded in November 2009, as compared to 1058 recorded in October. Harassments and assaults categories recorded the highest of the acts accounting for 718, with 531 cases being harassments while 187 were assaults. The most volatile areas were Manicaland [149], Masvingo [157], Midlands [131] and Mashonaland East [130] in terms of these political violations.

Since January 2009, a cumulative violations toll of 13 739 cases has been recorded. The acts spread has been profoundly inclining towards the harassment, assault, discrimination and displacement categories. See table below for details

**Table 1: 2009 Cumulative Tables of Violations**

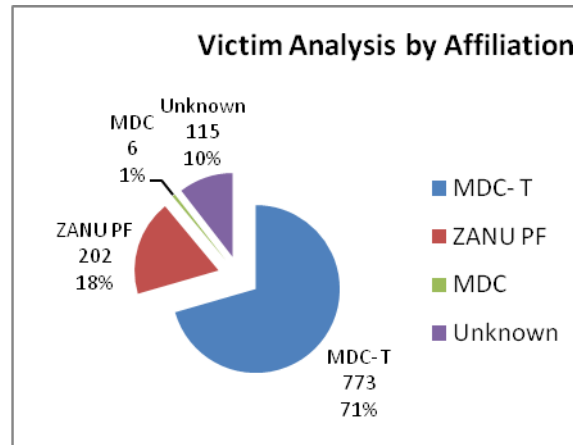
ACTS	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	July	Aug	Sept	Oct	Nov	Dec	Total
Murder	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	5	3	0		<b>8</b>
Rape	4	12	8	7	8	7	5	6	3	5	2		<b>67</b>
Kidnapping/Abduction	21	20	17	13	15	11	13	9	8	5	10		<b>142</b>
Assault	270	378	367	292	398	308	310	129	205	226	187		<b>3070</b>
Theft/Looting	80	44	78	76	92	64	39	13	24	45	17		<b>572</b>
MDP	40	29	28	37	34	32	25	8	13	22	15		<b>283</b>
Torture	17	13	33	27	13	10	19	6	8	6	3		<b>155</b>
Unlawful Detention	37	41	35	34	36	32	18	1	17	10	14		<b>275</b>
Harassment/Intimidation	553	658	787	740	976	829	765	286	538	627	531		<b>7290</b>
Displacement	75	51	65	78	56	88	87	23	35	51	44		<b>653</b>
Discrimination	28	39	134	186	355	171	52	46	79	54	67		<b>1211</b>
Attempted Rape	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	1	1	0		<b>3</b>
Attempted Murder	0	0	0	0	0	5	2	0	0	3	0		<b>10</b>
<b>Total</b>	<b>1125</b>	<b>1285</b>	<b>1552</b>	<b>1490</b>	<b>1983</b>	<b>1558</b>	<b>1335</b>	<b>527</b>	<b>936</b>	<b>1058</b>	<b>890</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>13739</b>

Graphically the same trends as shown below.

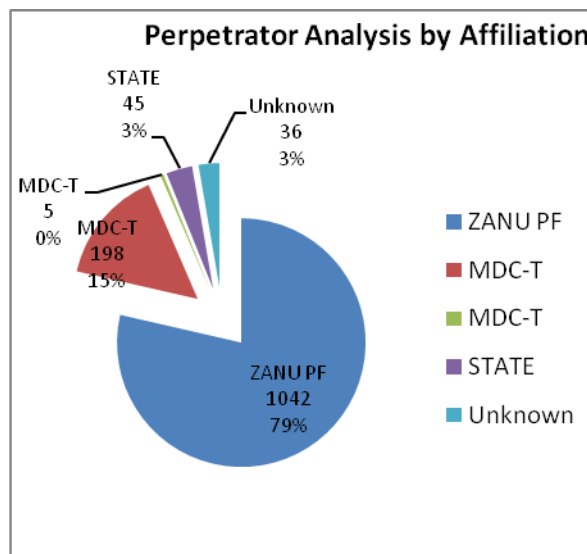


A total of 1098 people were recorded as victims, the bulk 773 [69%] being members of the MDC-T while 202 [18%] were ZANU PF, 115 [10%] Unknowns, 6 MDC [1%] and 2 State. Analyzing trends in terms of gender

spread reveal that there were more male victims than female victims as they constitute 76% of the total victims recorded as compared to 24% female. The majority of male and female victims belonged to the MDC-T. Reports show that most of these male victims like in previous reports, are victimized for their activism especially their involvement in political issues such as attending political party meetings, wearing party regalia. This victim spread should be viewed with utmost concern as within this pool are vulnerable groups such as the elderly, children, the sick and the disabled.



A figure of 1326 perpetrators, the majority of which were members of ZANU PF was recorded in the month of November. In fact, of the 1326 perpetrators recorded in the period under review, 1042 were ZANU PF, 198 MDC T, 5 MDC, 45 State and 36 Unknowns. Like in the analysis of victims, male perpetrators also constitute the bulk of the recorded perpetrators, numbering 1183 [90%] while 134 [10%] were female. This trend shows that in most politically motivated violence males are largely involved in both perpetrator and victim roles. The gender spread trend also remains consistent when analyzed in terms of party affiliation.



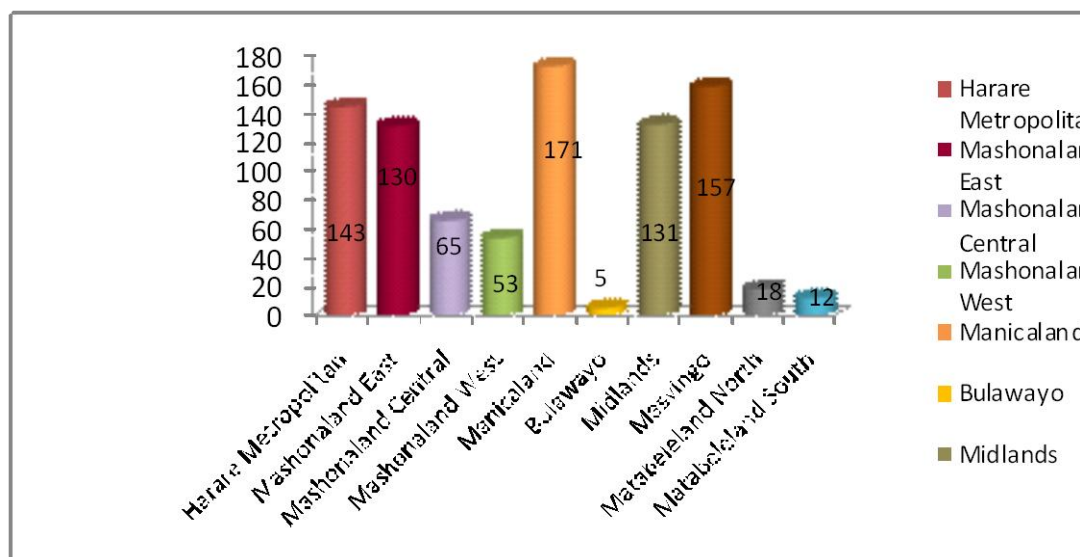
Although the November 2009, statistical trends have decreased, they are to be read within the broader picture of the unfolding macro level setting within the Inclusive Government which throughout the period under review are undergoing tremendous wearisome times as rifts between the ZANU PF and MDC-T over outstanding issues seem to be widening. Hopes are high that the SADC mediation talks will yield fruit as the levels of uncertainty are continuously heightening as witnessed by the kind of politically motivated violations being witnessed in the country. Analysis of circumstances have revealed that most of these politically motivated violations were committed in communities for trivial reasons such as comments on rifts within the inclusive government, the Kariba Draft and views expressed about the slow constitutional making process and factionalism in political parties such as the ZANU PF over the nominations of the members of presidium. All

these reasons for people to quickly resort to violence are an indication of the tensions and uncertainty levels within society.

Cases in which members of the public were assaulted simply because they were reported to be associating with their relatives or friends who are members of other political parties continue to filter even in the face of the Global Political Agreement in which political parties dedicated to themselves to “putting an end to the polarization, divisions, conflict and intolerance that has characterized Zimbabwean politics and society in recent times”. This declaration seems to continue to be ignored in most provinces and rural areas. The GPA is still viewed as a “Harare” document not applicable to “non Hararians.” This view is mainly common within ZANU PF sectors and is echoed in almost all provinces like Midlands, Manicaland, Masvingo, Mashonaland Central, Mashonaland West and Mashonaland East.

Generally, the spread of violence at a provincial level was lower than the October figures with Manicaland recording the highest with 171[19% ], followed by Masvingo with 157 [18%] and Harare 143 [16%]. Manicaland remains potentially high in records of politically motivated violations although there is a slight decrease in the same compared to the 215 reported in October. Masvingo however, recorded a 6% increase from the 121 with Midlands showing a decrease of 3% from the 192 acts recorded in October. The graph below gives a representation of violence spread throughout Zimbabwe.

Graph 1: Provincial Analysis of Violations.



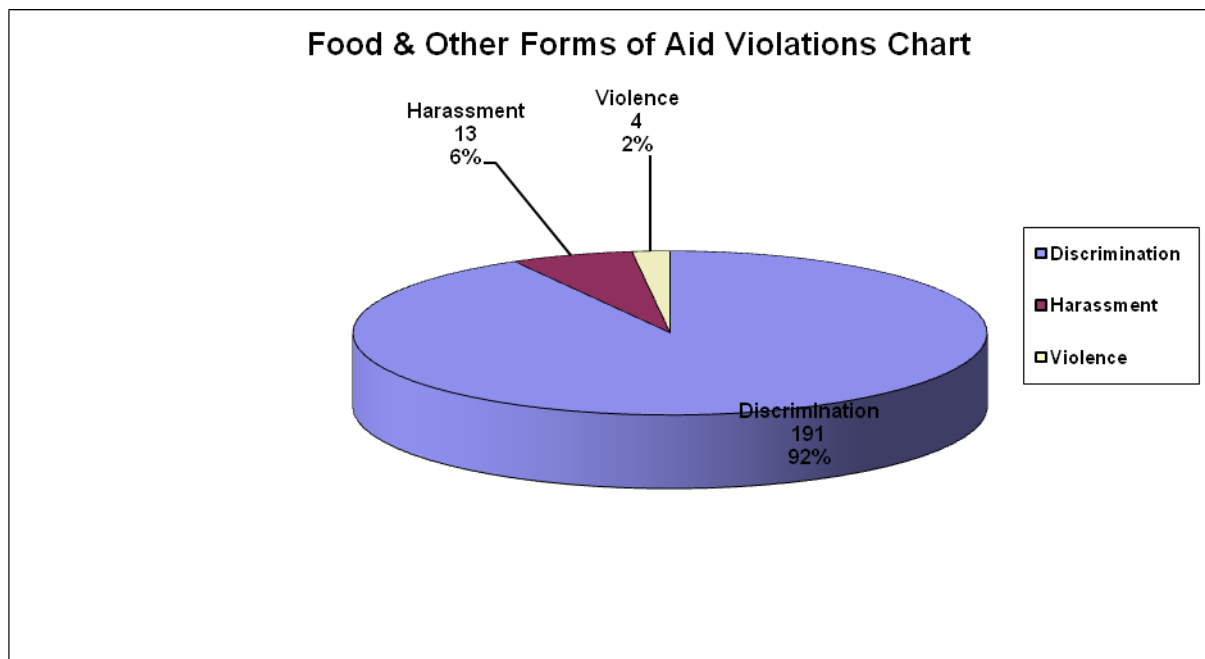
The Kariba Draft issue remains a persistent distraction of attention from bona fide constitutional issues as pro-ZANU PF supporters continue to use it as a basis for the formation of a new constitution. Villagers at most ZANU PF meetings are given instructions to either accept the Kariba Draft or face unspecified actions. Villagers seen wearing T-shirts distributed by NGOs such as the National Constitutional Assembly and Zimbabwe Human Rights Association on the constitution are victimized and in most cases have their t-shirts confiscated in provinces like Mashonaland Central and Manicaland.

Food and other forms of aid continue to be used as a weapon to cow members of the public to submit or maliciously conform allegiance to the ZANU PF party. Records show that most members of the public have been harassed and asked to produce ZANU PF cards in order to get food, medical or education assistance. In some instances, for being known to be MDC –T supporters some have been denied food aid especially the government subsidized food and other forms of aid.

Since January 2009, a cumulative figure of 4563 violations around issues of distribution of food and other forms of aid were recorded. The highest violations are those of discrimination and harassment in the form of people being denied food relief, government subsidised food, and farm inputs mainly for not belonging to the politically correct party. The month of November recorded a total of 208 cases, 191 acts of discrimination, 13 cases of harassments and 4 violence acts. Midlands, Manicaland and Harare recorded most of these cases.

2008	2009	FOOD & OTHER FORMS OF AID RELATED ACT - 2009			
		HARASSMENT	VIOLENCE	DISCRIMINATION	TOTAL
		<b>1581</b>	<b>54</b>	<b>3216</b>	<b>4851</b>
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	252	17	236	505
165	June	255	23	246	524
370	July	208	71	208	487
319	August	20	2	110	132
365	September	31	2	142	175
376	October	28	1	180	209
<b>930</b>	November	13	4	191	208
<b>336</b>	December				
<b>4851</b>	<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>3081</b>	<b>269</b>	<b>6064</b>	<b>9414</b>

Graphically the monthly spread of food and other forms of aid



## BACKGROUND & FORMATION



The Zimbabwe Peace Project (ZPP) was conceived shortly after 2000 by a group of Churches and NGOs working or interested in human rights and peace-building initiatives, and was to become a vehicle for civic interventions in a time of political crisis. In particular ZPP sought to monitor and document incidents of human rights violations and politically motivated breaches of the peace e.g. violence.

Today, ZPP's member organizations include, Zimbabwe Election Support Network (ZESN), Counselling Services Unit (CSU), Zimbabwe Liberators' Platform, Zimbabwe Civic Education Trust, ZimRights, Civic Education Network Trust (CIVNET).

### VISION

To see Zimbabwe transform into a society that cherishes the pursuit and realization 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 organizations that will help the attainment of sustainable peace and democracy in Zimbabwe.

### CONTACT US

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