



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



September/October 2009

27 November 2009

Glossary of Terms

TERM	DEFINITION
MURDER	Unlawful and intentional killing of another person.
RAPE	Intentional, unlawful sexual intercourse with a woman without her consent.
SEXUAL HARASSMENT	Unlawfully subjecting one to pressure, insult or threat with intent to cause him/her to suffer anxiety, discomfort and /or the feeling of insecurity because of sexual differences.
ASSAULT	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.
KIDNAPPING/ABDUCTION	Unlawful and intentional deprivation of a person of liberty of movement and/or his/her custodians of control.
MALICIOUS DAMAGE TO PROPERTY	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.
THEFT	Unlawful taking of another's property
TORTURE	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.
HARASSMENT/INTIMIDATION	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Unlawfully subjecting one to pressure, insult or threat with intent to cause him/her to suffer anxiety, discomfort and /or the feeling of insecurity • Duress
UNLAWFUL DETENTION	Unlawful and intentional deprivation of one's liberty of movement by a person or persons in positions of authority.
DISPLACEMENT	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Act of unlawfully, intentionally and forcibly evicting or causing someone to vacate or leave his/her usual place of residence or settlement because of political differences. • Forced evictions

ACRONYMS	DENOTATION
AIPPA	Access to Information and Protection of Privacy Act
FBO	Faith Based Organisations
GMB	Grain Marketing Board
GNU	Government of National Unity
GPA	Global Political Agreement
GSF	Government Subsidized Food
HICC	Harare International Conference Centre
JOC	Joint Operations Command
MDC	Movement for Democratic Change
MDC – T	Movement for Democratic Change – Tsvangirai
MDP	Malicious Damage to Property
MP	Member of Parliament
NCA	National Constitutional Assembly
NSC	National Security Council
NGO	Non Governmental Organisations
POSA	Public Order and Security Act
ZANU PF	Zimbabwe African National Union Patriotic Front
ZAPU	Zimbabwe African People’s Union
ZESN	Zimbabwe Election Support Network

Overview

The report has a bi-monthly focus, covering the months of September and October.

The period under review witnessed resurgences in acts of politically motivated human rights violations. A breach toll of 1986 was recorded, 931 of which were cases recorded in September while 1055 were cases recorded in October, both months showing huge increases in the harassment and assault categories. Harassments and assaults accounted for 1587 cases of the total violations recorded, scenarios that cast a bad omen for the country's human rights profile.

2793 people were recorded as victims, the bulk [1513] being members of the MDC T while 730 were Unknowns, 529 ZANU PF, 19 MDC and 4 State. This trend maintained when the victim profile was analyzed in terms of gender spread by party affiliation. Of the 1932 male victims recorded, 1189 were MDC T, 314 were ZANU PF, 12 MDC, 3 State and 414 Unknowns while out of the 687 female victims recorded, 319 were MDC T, 66 ZANU PF, 5 MDC, 1 State and 296 Unknown. 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.

The period under review also recorded a figure of 3918 perpetrators, the majority of which were members of ZANU PF. In fact, of the 3918 perpetrators recorded in the period under review, 2251 were ZANU PF, 414 MDC T, 10 MDC, 109 State and 111 Unknowns. This trend remained consistent when the gross figure was analyzed in terms of gender spread by party affiliation.

These statistical trends have to be understood within the broader picture of the unfolding macro level scenarios within the Inclusive Government which throughout the period under review went through extremely trying times as disagreements on outstanding issues between its major stakeholders, ZANU PF and the MDC T continued to widen by frightening margins. The MDC T ended up adopting the cabinet and council of ministers' meetings boycott route in a desperate attempt to nudge ZANU PF into action on outstanding issues.

Analysis of the circumstances under which most acts were committed in communities [micro level politics] show close links with macro level politics. Most of the violations committed in communities derive their inspiration from the conduct of political business at macro level. In the period under review, members of the public were victimized for commenting on most macro level issues such as the MDC disengagement, arrest of Roy Bennett, changes brought about by the inclusive government. When macro politics tensed up, members of the public in both rural and urban communities became highly protective of their political turf and even quick to resort to violence at the slightest provocation.

Macro level political dynamics also lent a polarized and partisan approach to constitution making and national healing programs, members of the public adopting political rather than issue-based positions on constitutional matters. Under such obtaining scenarios, ordinary disagreements quickly assumed political connotations. For instance an ordinary appreciation of some of the positive changes that have occurred since the formation of the Inclusive Government were generally interpreted as a snub on the political party that was in power before the formation of the inclusive government. For perpetrators it was tantamount to praising the MDC T.

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 were also a common, an indicator of how political polarizations have soiled the entire fabric of social life.

The Kariba Draft issue continued to distract attention from real constitutional issues as pro-ZANU PF organizers were at most meetings quick to take it as an opportunity to instruct villagers to either accept the Kariba Draft or face unspecified actions.

Scrutiny of the specifics of most issues reported suggest the need to refocus human rights monitoring strategies as perpetrators have become more adept and cunning and quick to frame their political targets by falsely accusing them of having committed criminal acts such as cattle rustling. Cases abound where well known victims of the 27

June 2008 elections had tables turned against them by being accused as perpetrators. In Mutoko, there were reports that victims of last year's political violence from the Chimoi area appeared before a Mutoko Magistrate charged with robbery for trying to repossess property forcibly seized by ZANU PF party supporters. This as reported was despite that some of them had signed agreements with repentant former perpetrators who had looted their belongings.

The operational framework of NGOs in the human rights sector remained severely constrained with an almost systematic and uniform approach adopted towards them across the ten provinces. Reports made references to several cases in which constitution awareness workshops by Zimbabwe Human Rights Association (ZimRights), National Constitutional Assembly (NCA) and others were frequent targets of disruptions by party youths, police and traditional leaders. Traditional leaders were reportedly under extreme pressure from war veterans and the local political leadership with several cases in which village heads were threatened with demotion whenever they were reported to have given permission to human rights activists to conduct workshops in their areas. Reports were also common of cases in which members of the public were summoned to the kraal heads/chiefs' courts for questioning after they were reported to have attended or participated in NGO-initiated workshops.

Unfolding scenarios suggest that forces opposed to the new-order were fast gaining ground and posing potent threats to the consummation of citizen social, political and economic basic rights. Fear remained a common feature in both rural and urban areas.

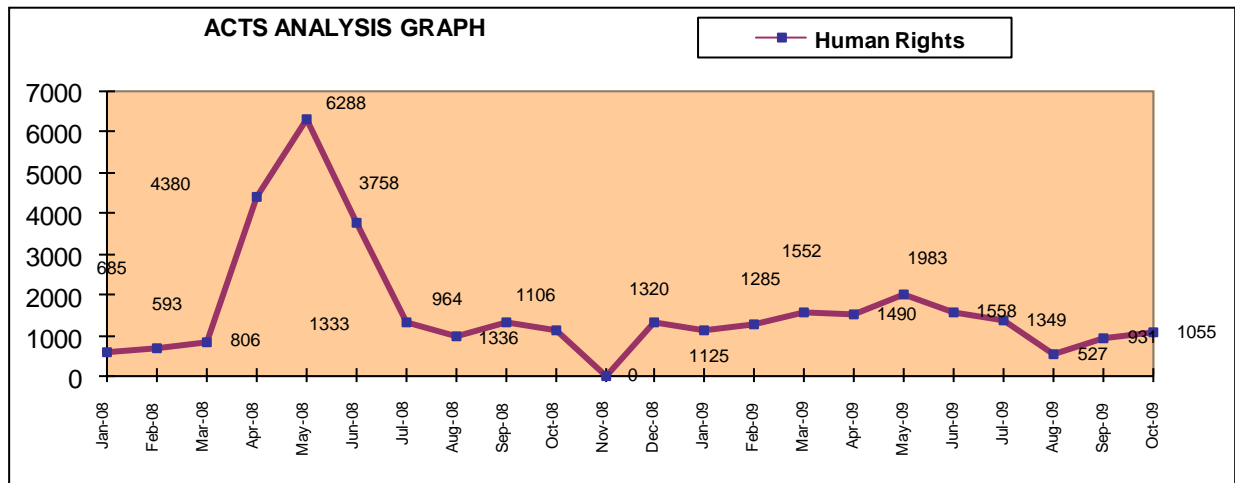
Since January 2009, a cumulative violations toll of 12 824 cases have been recorded. Since January, acts spread have been heavily leaning towards the harassment, assault, discrimination and displacement categories.

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	0	0			0
Rape	4	12	8	7	8	7	5	6	3	5			65
Kidnapping/Abduction	21	20	17	13	15	11	13	9	8	5			132
Assault	270	378	367	292	398	308	310	129	205	226			2883
Theft/Looting	80	44	78	76	92	64	39	13	24	45			555
MDP	40	29	28	37	34	32	25	8	13	22			268
Torture	17	13	33	27	13	10	19	6	8	6			152
Unlawful Detention	37	41	35	34	36	32	18	1	17	10			261
Harassment/Intimidation	553	658	787	740	976	829	765	286	538	627			6759
Displacement	75	51	65	78	56	88	87	23	35	51			609
Discrimination	28	39	134	186	355	171	52	46	79	54			1144
Attempted Rape	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	1	1			3

Attempted Murder	0	0	0	0	0	5	2	0	0	3			10
Total	1125	1285	1552	1490	1983	1558	1335	536	931	1055	0	0	12841

Graph 1: Act; Analysis;



**PART A
POLITICALLY-MOTIVATED HUMAN RIGHTS VIOLATIONS
Manicaland**

Reports pointed to a province that was generally politically tense with members of the public quick to capitalize on the highly polarized environment to settle personal and political scores. Citizen participation in key ongoing transitional reforms was heavily restricted with several incidents in which constitution awareness workshops by NGOs such as NCA and ZimRights were disrupted and facilitators accused of advocating for regime change. A record 414 cases of politically motivated human rights violations was recorded, 199 of which were in September cases while 216 were in October. Both records exhibit very huge increases in the harassment and assault categories. Glaringly evident from the circumstances of most incidents was the fact that prospects for tolerance to political diversity and inter-party participation were still remote especially in most parts of Mutasa, Buhera, Nyanga, Mutare, Makoni, Chipinge, Chimanimani and Headlands. September reports pointed to several cases in which human rights defenders were targeted for victimization, headmen assaulted by suspected ZANU PF youths for allowing the ZimRights to hold meetings in their areas, victims of the last electoral violence facing extortion charges for reclaiming their properties from the perpetrators. There were also cases of villagers who were immediately summoned to the chiefs' kraals for questioning after being reported to have attended constitutional awareness workshops. These scenarios continued to feature in October reports with several reported cases of people being assaulted or harassed by youths allegedly for preaching politics in churches, being members of other parties, refusing to hand over own party regalia, organizing MDC meetings and for wearing T-shirts written 'Take Charge,' among others.

Midlands

The province's human rights violations profile continued to worsen with the period under review recording 358 cases of human rights abuses, 166 in September and 192 in October. Of the gross figure, 202 and 96 were incidents of harassments and assaults, respectively with various parts of Gokwe, Shurugwi, Mberengwa, Gweru, Kwekwe, Chiundura and Zvishavane among the incident-prone areas. While cases of discriminations, displacements, MDPs, looting and torture were on the low side, it is instructive to note that they remained thinly spread across

constituencies. Scrutiny of incidents reported showed that inter-party relations were generally brittle with supporters of the two main political parties ZANU PF and the MDC-T over protective of their political turf and prone to pouncing at each other at the slightest provocation. Constitution making activities were highly politicized with several incidents in which constitutional deliberations ended up entirely a Kariba Draft issue. Hate slogans continued to grace meetings especially those addressed by war veterans and some ZANU PF party leaders. Human rights activists and teachers continued to be labeled fronts for the MDC-T with several cases in which their constitutional awareness workshops were disrupted. The period under review received several claims of victimization for “offences” that included playing music viewed as pro-MDC-T, wearing NGO/own party T-shirts, expressing in public that things had changed for the better, participating in industrial action, attending and actively participating at constitutional workshops, speaking against the Kariba Draft, among others. Cases of internal displacements were also received with one incident reported in October in which a plot holder in the Boterekwa area of Shurugwi was reportedly displaced from his plot by a war veteran alleging that he was an MDC-T supporter.

Mashonaland East

The province’s human rights profile was generally challenged, recording 307 cases of human rights violations, 147 being for September while 160 were for October. Of the total figure, 160 were cases of harassments while 64 were of assaults with areas such as Murewa, Marondera, Mudzi, Uzumba, Murewa, Mtoko, Goromonzi and Wedza among the commonly cited areas. Social interactions in both the rural and urban parts of the province generally reflected a disturbingly party-line mindset, scenarios that were reportedly putting paid to most inter-party initiatives in the province. The period under review continued to receive claims of abuse of those in the teaching profession by ZANU PF party members, youths and war veterans. As common in other provinces, constitutional awareness campaigns by human rights groups were commonly disrupted by either members of the police or party youths or traditional leaders or local ZANU PF leaderships or war veterans. Those who were reported to have participated in these workshops were in some cases reportedly visited at night and were either harassed or issued with threats of eviction from their homesteads and plots. Also evidently restricted was space for freedom of expression with the period under review generally witness to cases in which members of the public were victimized for commenting on such national issues as the Roy Bennett case, disengagement of the MDC-T from cabinet council of ministers’ meetings, praising the formation of the Inclusive Government, wearing T-shirts written “NO TO KARIBA DRAFT”, speaking their minds at constitution awareness workshops, among others. Reports also point to several incidents in which members of the security sector [soldiers and CIOs] and retired army personnel were reportedly instructing villagers to accept the Kariba Draft.

Mashonaland West

Although the province’s human rights violations record in the period under review appeared comparatively low at 143, the province experienced an increase in its October records, figures rising from the September toll record of 46 to 97 in October. Also disturbing was that its record of harassments remained on the high side contributing 87 to the gross record. Furthermore, most constituencies in areas such as Zvimba, Makonde, Karoi, Mhondoro, Chegutu, Chinhoyi, Kariba and Kadoma remain prone to incidents of human rights violations. In both rural and urban constituencies, an anti-new order climate and anti-inter party spirit prevailed with those who were snuffed to have actively participated in constitution awareness workshops reportedly summoned by traditional leaders and party structures to account for their involvement. In the Mahombekombe area of Kariba, the local ZANU PF leadership was reported to have moved around discouraging people from attending the Prime Minister’s address which was penciled for Nyamhunga Stadium in September.

Harare

The province’s high density areas remained prime zones of politically motivated human rights violations with most of the incidents occurring in areas that include Budiriro, Kuwadzana, Dzivarasekwa, Mabvuku-Tafara, Kambuzuma, Harare South and East, Chitungwiza, Mbare, Glen View, Mufakose, Epworth and Sunningdale. Intra-party factions within ZANU PF saw the province going for almost the whole year without a provincial party chairperson. The period under review witnessed 344 cases of violations, 176 of which were committed in September while 168 were in October and as in other provinces harassments and assaults constituting the bulk of the gross record. Incidents of discrimination, displacement, and unlawful detentions though on the low side, remained threateningly visible in most parts of the province. Reports showed isolated cases in which members of the public in residential areas, shopping centers, bars, church gatherings, market stalls, city center, co-operatives and peri-urban farms being politically victimized for “offences” that included playing music [even on their mobile phones] that was deemed by

perpetrators as critical of the ZANU PF administration, for wearing own party/ Zimbabwe Congress of Trade Unions (ZCTU)/Zimrights/Mavambo T-shirts in public, refusing or failing to attend party meetings, commenting on the MDC-T disengagement from cabinet and council of ministers' meetings, the arrest of Roy Bennett and outstanding issues, among others. In the Chimusoro area of Harare South, a suspected supporter of the MDC-T party who had reportedly earlier been involved in a bitter argument with a ZANU PF supporter over the outstanding issues in the inclusive government was on 12 October reportedly seriously injured when a group of five ZANU PF supporters attacked him on his way from the local shopping centre. On 15 October, 7 MDC-T youths who were gathered at Machipisa Park waiting to be picked up by other party members were reportedly picked up by five police men who were questioning why they were gathered without police clearance. The youths were reportedly pushed into a truck and taken to Southerton Police Station where they were detained from 10 am to 5 pm and later released with no charge preferred against them. In ward 26 of Western Triangle of Highfields, a contract disc jockey with Maombera Night Club was reportedly harassed by his employer for playing a pro-MDC-T party song "Nhare Mbozha" on his show of 10 October.

Masvingo

The nature of incidents reported pointed to a province that is still struggling to come to terms with best practices of political tolerance, inclusivity and inter-party participation with most constituencies in Zaka, Chivi, Bikita, Chiredzi, Gutu, and Masvingo generally prone to sporadic acts of human rights violations. The period under review recorded 235 cases of human rights abuses, 114 in September and 121 in October. Among those received in September were incidents that smacked of politically-motivated looting with one incident in Zaka Central where suspected ZANU PF local leaders and youths were reported to have looted from shops that were owned by businesspeople who were attending MDC-T party meetings at Zibwowa business centre. Isolated incidents of farm invasions were also received with one incident in Masvingo West where the resident governor was reported to have invaded Panyarinda farm house and displaced the white farm owner under the pretext that he was a supporter and financier of the MDC-T party in the province. The province's human rights situation remained tense in October with several incidents in which civic education meetings were quickly turned into forums for intimidating people to accept the Kariba Draft document, youths disrupting NCA/ZimRights-organized constitution awareness campaigns, among others. Glaringly evident in the reports under review was that the cohabitation of the three main political parties in the inclusive government was yet to be reflected in micro level politics.

Mashonaland Central

The period under review recorded 143 cases of politically motivated human rights violations, 46 of which were recorded in September while 97 were recorded in October, both months reflecting high tolls in cases of harassments and assaults. Most of the incidents occurred in several parts of Mbire, Mt Darwin, Guruve, Shamva, Centenary, Bindura and Mazowe. Though in comparison with trends in other provinces its gross figure may suggest declines in acts of violence, close analysis of the profile of incidents show that the province's human rights profile remained under threat. September reports referred to incidents in which some unscrupulous headmen were cashing in on prevailing party polarization with a case in the Kasembere village of Mbire where a village head reportedly forced known MDC-T members in his area to pay in cash or kind in order to safeguard their homesteads. In the Chiwanda village of Mt Darwin West, a group of suspected ZANU PF supporters were reportedly visiting people at their homesteads threatening them with violence if they continued attending workshops conducted by civic organizations. In the Jongwe village of Mt Darwin a man who had held a ZimRights workshop at his home was victimized for what the perpetrators said was "bringing opposition parties in the area". This intolerance to political diversity remained visible throughout the month of October with widespread incidents in which MDC-T meetings were blocked, members of the public victimized after being spotted wearing ZimRights T-shirts, for organizing constitution awareness workshops, for failing to comply with orders to attend meetings of other political parties, for attending MDC-T rallies, playing music that was viewed as critical to the ZANU PF party, among others. In the Bveke village of Mt Darwin a teacher at Tsengwe primary school was reportedly asked to leave the school allegedly after the headmaster of the school had reported to Mt Darwin education officers that the victim was influencing other teachers to boycott lessons pressing for better working conditions and that he was always seen wearing MDC-T shirts at school.

Matabeleland South

With the exception of some parts of Gwanda, Plumtree, Umzingwane, Mangwe, and Bulilima, the province was relatively calm, the period under review recording 56 cases of politically motivated human rights violations, 27 of which were recorded in September while 29 were recorded in October. However, cases of harassment remained

on the high side constituting 33 of the gross figure, scenarios that account for continued fear in the province. September reports pointed to isolated incidents in which the presence of Police Internal Security Intelligence officers at meetings organized by Transparency International Zimbabwe in the Bulilima area, reportedly instilled fear among villagers and restrained them from active participation. The month of October had its own incidents, among which were incidents in which victims were forced to take off own party regalia, assaulted for associating with people who belong to other parties, meetings of other political parties were disrupted, and commenting on the MDC-T decision to disengage from cabinet and council of ministers' meetings was forbidden.

Matebeleland North

The province was generally relatively calm recording a total of 35 cases of human rights violations involving isolated incidents in which some members of the public in areas that include Nkayi, Binga, Lupane and Hwange claimed victimization for distributing MDC-T newsletters, expressing support for the new-order, explaining that ZANU PF was no longer the ruling party and for insinuating that President Robert Mugabe was the stumbling block in the constitution making process among the many cases. In Hwange West, the Director and Chairperson of the National Association of Non Governmental Organisations were on 25 October arrested at Victoria Falls Airport and detained for two days after holding the Directors' summer school in the resort town. The Police accused them of contravening section 25 of the Public and Order and Security Act. Police alleged that the meeting ended up discussing political rather than social issues.

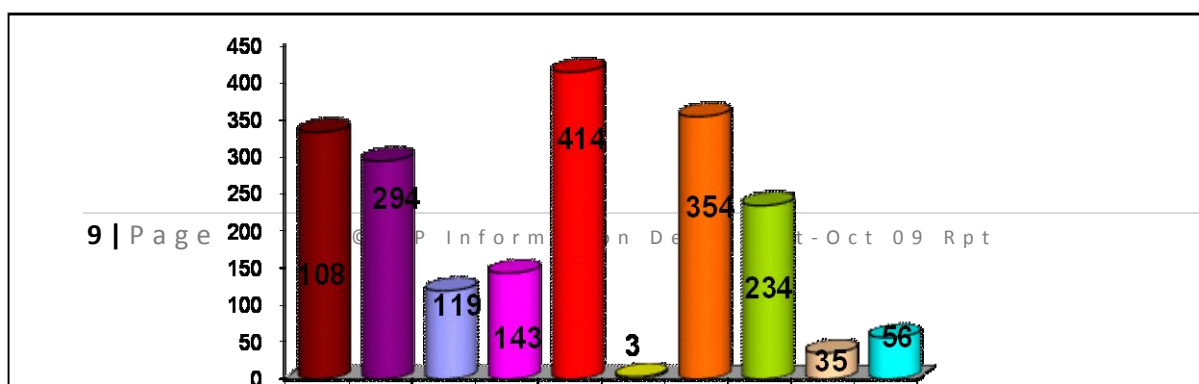
Bulawayo

The province remained generally calm recording a total of 3 cases in areas that include Luveve, Bulawayo and Nkulumane with instances in which people were victimized for being supporters of other parties beside ZANU PF, members of human rights NGOs as well as asking questions that were deemed politically unsound.

DETAILED PROFILE OF VIOLATIONS BY PROVINCE

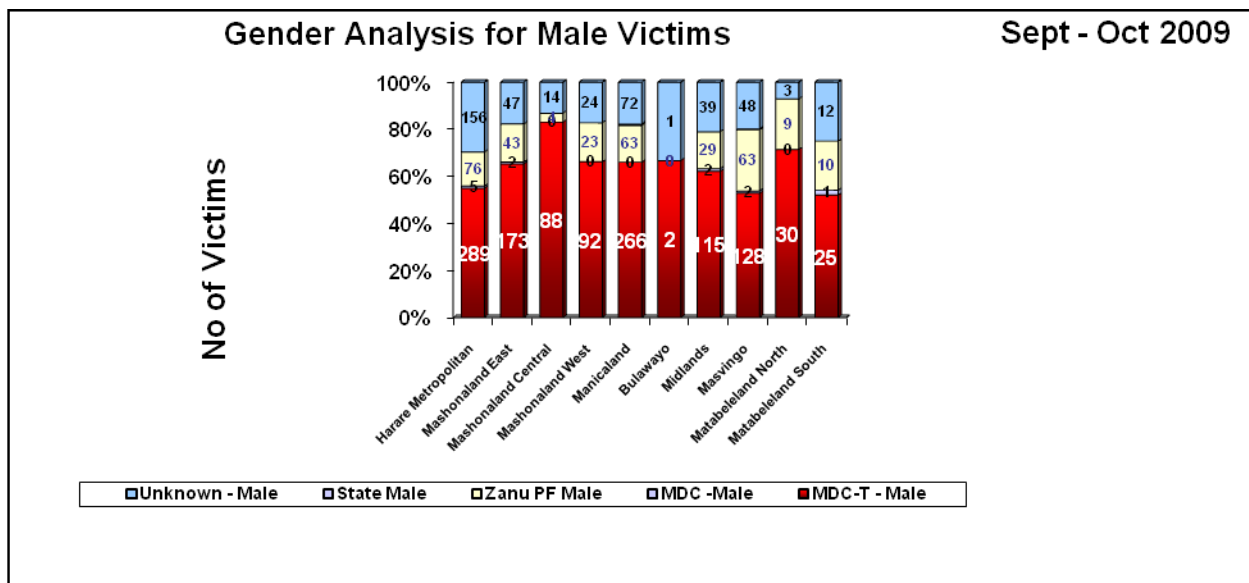
ACTS	Midlands	Byo	Mat. South	Mat. North	Masvingo	Manicaland	Harare	Mash. East	Mash West	Mash Central	TOTAL
Murder	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Rape	2	0	0	0	0	2	0	4	0	0	8
Abduction	3	0	0	0	1	6	1	2	0	0	13
Assault	96	1	9	5	42	91	89	64	23	11	431
Theft/Looting	7	0	1	0	4	11	27	8	2	9	69
MDP	6	0	2	0	4	8	8	5	1	1	35
Torture	6	0	1	0	0	1	1	4	0	1	14
Unlawful Detention	1	0	1	3	1	7	13	1	0	0	27
Harassment	202	2	33	19	170	227	163	160	102	87	1165
Displacement	12	0	1	6	7	10	20	20	4	6	86
Discrimination	19	0	8	2	5	49	11	26	9	4	133
Attempted Rape	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	2
Attempted Murder	0	0	0	0	0	2	0	0	1	0	3
Total	355	3	56	35	234	414	333	294	143	119	1986

Acts Graph by Provinces



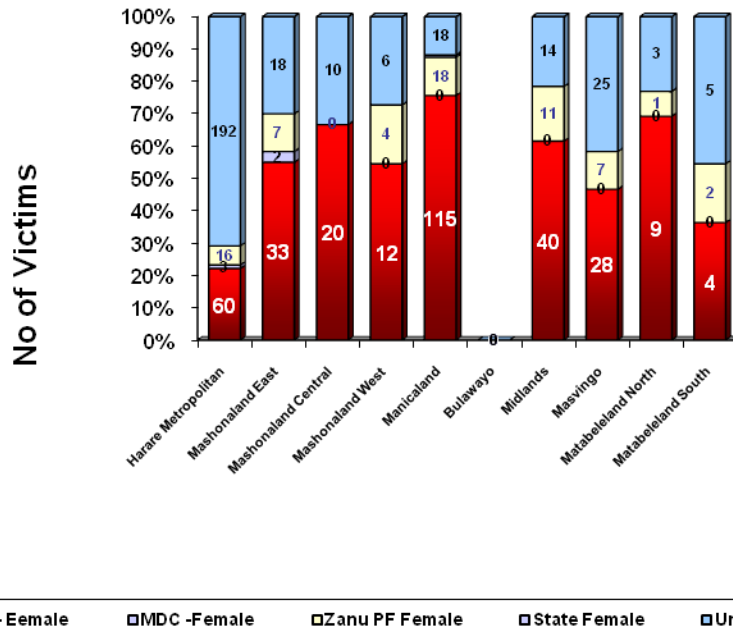
GENDER SPREAD OF HUMAN RIGHTS VIOLATIONS BY PROVINCES

Victims



Gender Analysis for Female Victims

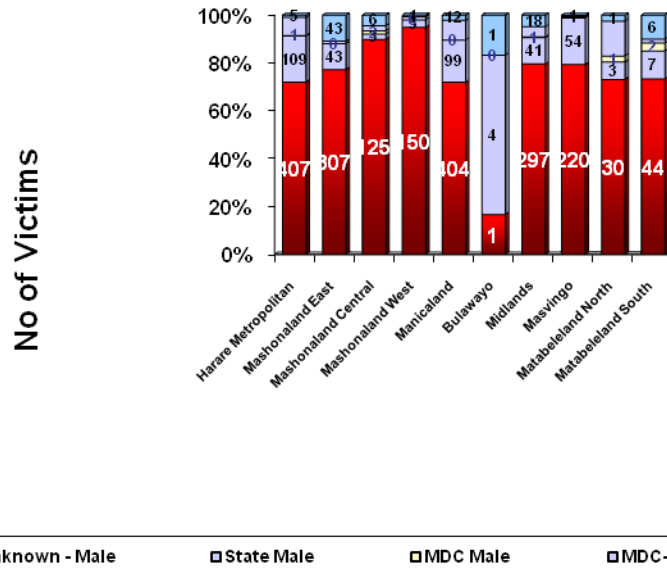
Sept - Oct 2009

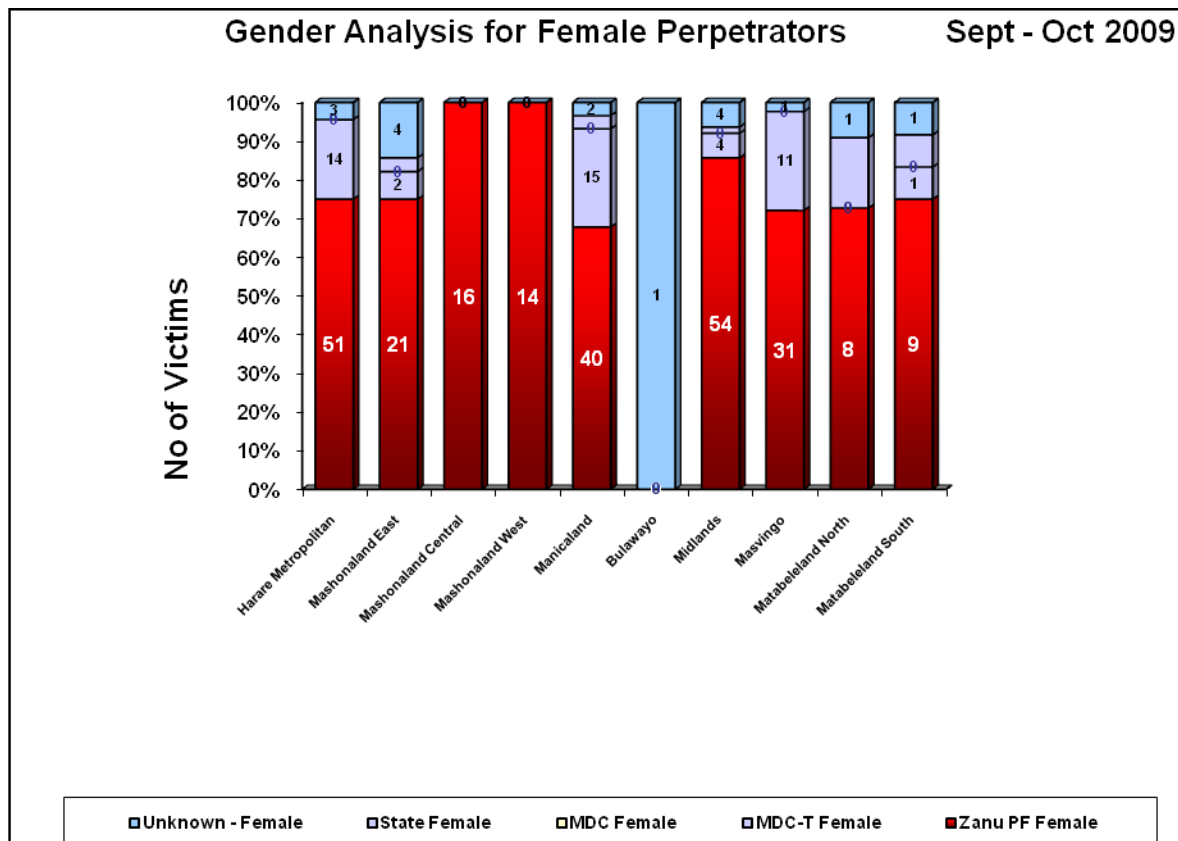


Perpetrators

Gender Analysis for Male Perpetrators

Sept - Oct 2009





Observations on Victim-Perpetrator Graphs

Victims:

- The victim toll [2793] remained on the extreme high side signaling that tolerance to political diversity is yet to inform both macro and micro politics.
- Highest victim tolls were in the MDC-T, Unknown and ZANU PF categories, in that order, although those of the MDC-T were far much higher than the tolls of others.
- Gender distribution of victims by party affiliation revealed that:
 - Out of the 1932 male victims recorded, the MDC-T had the highest number of male victims [1189] compared to those of ZANU PF [529], MDC [19], State [4] and Unknowns [730].
 - Out of the 687 female victims recorded, 319 were MDC-T, 66 ZANU PF, 5 MDC, 1 State and 296 Unknown. 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.

Perpetrators

- A total of 3918 perpetrators were recorded in the period under review, the bulk [2251] of which were members of ZANU PF while 414 were MDC-T, 10 MDC, 109 State and 111 Unknowns.
- This spread remained consistent when the gross figure was analyzed in terms of gender spread by party affiliation.

Part B

Food and Humanitarian Violations

Overview

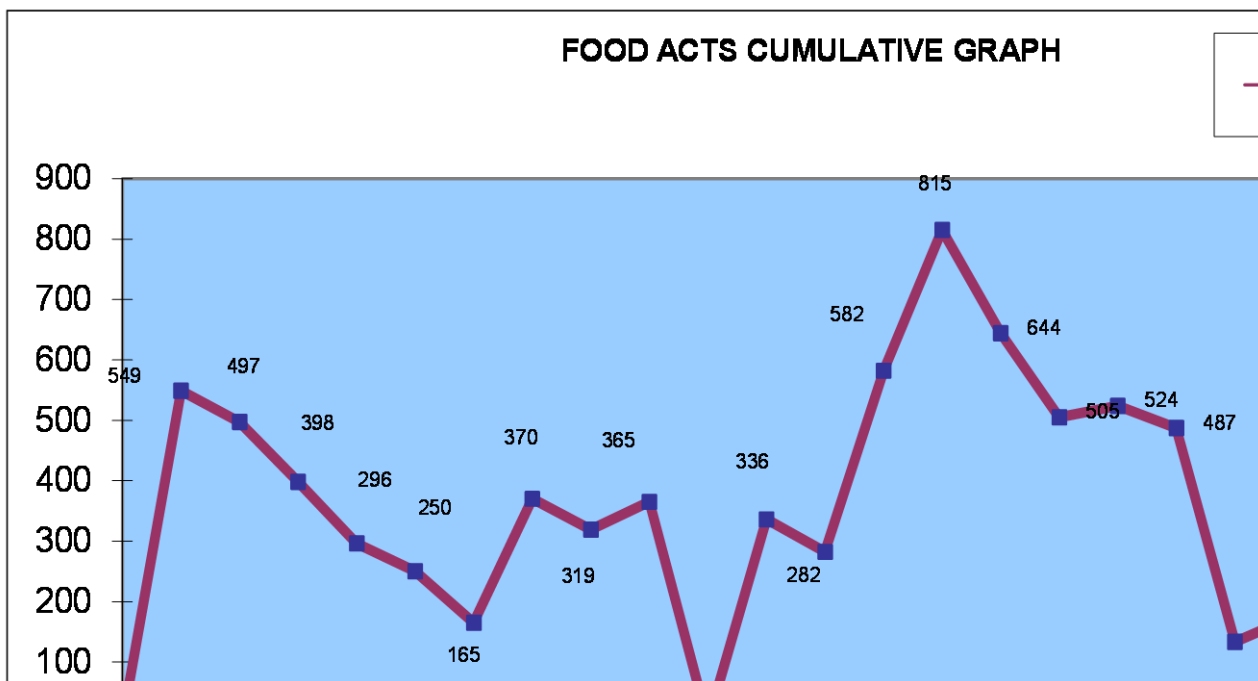
Food distribution processes were generally under political pressure with isolated incidents in which members of the public were denied access to food aid, GSF, agricultural inputs and agricultural credit in circumstances that

were highly politically suspect. Distribution processes remained clandestinely under the influence of ZANU PF party structures. Those in influential positions continued to abuse their authority denying personal and political opponents access to food and humanitarian assistance. In some cases false information was reportedly supplied to NGO officials in order to deny targeted individuals/communities access to food aid. In some cases NGO operations were interfered with, war veterans, councillors and headmen reportedly directing NGO officials to delist those suspected or known to be members of other parties. In areas that include Kadoma Central, tug of wars between MDC-T councillors and former ZANU PF councillors over who should direct proceedings at food distribution points reportedly left intended beneficiaries who include HIV positive and those on TB treatment in the cold.

Incidents of politically motivated violations in areas of food and humanitarian assistance continued to be reported in the period under review, a total of 384 cases being reported with 175 in September and 209 in October, both months showing extremely high incidents of discriminations. Of this total, 131 were reported in the Midlands province while violations also maintained a visible spread in provinces such as Mashonaland East, Manicaland, Mashonaland Central and Masvingo. In the Matebeleland region violations were on the extreme low side, toll records ranging from 0 to 4.

Since January 2009, a cumulative violations toll of 9186 cases have been recorded. Below is a graphic illustration of these cumulative trends:

Table: Food Acts; Cumulative Graph



CASE EXPERIENCES BY PROVINCES

Mashonaland West

Humanitarian relief interventions remained dotted in most parts of the province, some distributing beans, bulgar, porridge meal and cooking oil to residents in Guzha area of Zvimba; some registering people in need of inputs assistance for the coming rain season. The period under review recorded a gross violations toll of 19, 10 of which were in September while 9 were in October. Of the gross toll, 18 were discriminations generally relating to food

relief, seeds and fertilizer that were reported in areas that included Zvimba North, Kariba and Hurungwe. The harassment record was in the form of forcing people to remove party regalia. Discriminations were based on both personal and political considerations with names of targeted people removed from beneficiary lists. In some cases tug of wars between MDC-T councillors and former ZANU PF party councillors over who should be in control of food distributions resulted in some NGOs pulling out of the areas they were operating in.

Midlands

The province remained prone to isolated incidents of politically motivated food denials and harassments. The period under review recorded 131 cases of violations, 69 of which were in September and 62 in October. Of this gross figure, 115 were cases of discriminations most of which were reported in various parts of Mberengwa, Zvishavane, Gokwe South, Shurugwi, Mvuma, Zhombe, Gweru, Redcliff and Chiundura. Discriminations generally related to food relief, seeds, fertilizer and GSF while harassments took the form of people being ordered to produce party cards and chant slogans.

Harare

The metropolitan province recorded 32 cases of food and humanitarian assistance-related violations, 22 of which were recorded in September and 10 in October. Of the gross figure, 25 were cases of discriminations most of which were reported in areas such as Harare East, Chitungwiza, Highfields West and East and Sunningdale relating to food relief. Cases of harassment involved people being forced to attend political meetings, forced to remove party regalia. These malpractices also affected vendor access to markets, orphans access to educational assistance and people's access to housing cooperatives, among others.

Mashonaland East

Food distribution processes remained generally accused of being partisan throughout the period under review, the province recording 55 cases of violations, 24 cases in September and 31 in October. Discriminations constituted the bulk of the gross record accounting for 49 cases most of which were reported in various parts of Mudzi, Murewa, Mutoko, Wedza, Goromonzi and Marondera. Discrimination incidents relating to GSF and food relief, seeds, fertilizer, educational assistance, food loans, and agricultural credit while cases of harassments generally took the form of forced attendance to political meetings, forced denunciation of one's political party, forced to produce one's card, among others. Incidents in which kraal heads denied targeted individuals access by refusing to grant them authorizing letters, cases in which local MPs turned away donor donated fertilizer and seed maize from communities that were suspected to be affiliated to the MDC-T party were reported with a disturbing frequency.

Manicaland

Reports of politicization of access to state food and agricultural inputs support were generally widespread with most of the volunteers, health care-givers and ward coordinators reportedly directly or indirectly influenced by the ZANU PF party. The period under review recorded a total of 50 cases of violations with 14 in September and 36 in October. Discriminations remained on the extreme high side constituting 42 of the gross toll of 50. Areas such as Makoni, Nyanga, Buhera and Chipinge were the most commonly cited incident areas. Reported discriminations related to GSF, food relief, seeds, fertilizer, tillage support, medical treatment and agricultural credit. Reports from most constituencies claimed that tobacco loans were only granted to ZANU PF members; children whose names were removed from Home Based Care Programs in politically suspect circumstances, people refusing to sell grain to political rivals, that beneficiaries were selected on the basis of current party cards, that people were told to join ZANU PF party before getting groundnuts, that Government Loan schemes to avail support to small and large scale farmers with subsidized inputs were fraught with corruption and lack of transparency.

Masvingo

The food situation was generally critical with some individuals who had good harvests reportedly refusing to sell maize to individuals they suspect to be politically suspect. Claims of politically motivated harassments and discriminations remained recurring issues in most parts of the province with most areas of Zaka, Chivi, Chiredzi, and Masvingo rural among the most commonly cited. Political interferences were reportedly putting paid to efforts by NGOs in the area with even reports of harassment of some NGO coordinators. The period under review reported 39 cases of violations, 12 of which were in September and 27 in October. As in other provinces discriminations remained on the extreme high side constituting 25 of the gross toll and generally relating to seeds, fertilizer, food relief, educational support, tillage support and medical treatment.

Mashonaland Central

Distribution of food and humanitarian assistance were still dogged by incidents of politically-motivated denials and harassments with most parts of Guruve, Mt Darwin, Shamva and Mazowe among the most commonly cited. Access to both state and NGO was closely monitored, those intending to buy maize from the GMB doing it through village-heads who issue authorizing letters with a stamp. This authority structure was in most areas subject to abuse in some cases these authorities refusing to include those who are from other parties. A total of 51 cases of violations were recorded, 19 in September and 32 in October. Of the total, 45 were discriminations relating to access to GSF, food relief, agricultural credit, seeds and fertilizer. Recorded cases of harassment were in the form of people being forced to denounce own political parties, chant slogans, and produce party cards.

Matebeleland North

The province reported very few cases of politically-motivated food-related violations with only 5 cases being recorded in the period under review. The 2 cases of harassments reported were mainly in the form of people being forced to denounce own party as a precondition for accessing food aid while the 3 cases of discrimination related to food relief and medical treatment. Incident prone areas were parts of Matobo, Bubi and Tsholotsho.

Matebeleland South

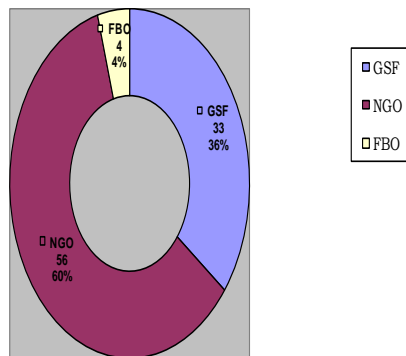
Only 3 cases were reported in September, 2 of harassments involving people being forced to denounce own parties and 1 case of discrimination relating to food relief.

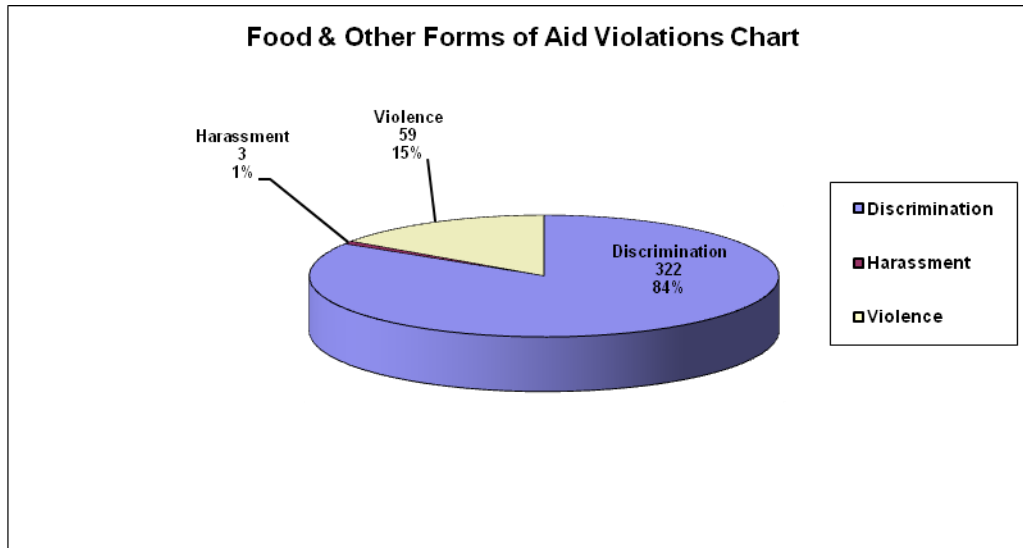
PREVALENCE SCENARIOS BY PROVINCES

ACTS	Midlands	Byo	Mat. South	Mat. North	Masvingo	Manicaland	Harare	Mash. East	Mash West	Mash Central	TOTAL
HARASSMENT											
Forced to attend political meetings	2	0	0	0	5	1	2	2	1	0	13
Ordered to produce party card	8	0	0	1	4	2	2	2	0	1	20
Ordered to remove party regalia	0	0	0	0	1	0	2	0	1	0	4
Forced to chant party slogans	2	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	1	4
Ordered to denounce one's party	2	0	2	0	2	2	1	2	0	2	13
Summoned to meeting	1	0	0	0	1	2	0	0	0	1	5
TOTAL	15	0	2	1	14	7	7	6	2	5	59
VIOLENCE											
Abduction/unlawful detention	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Sexual violence	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1

MDP	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	1	2
Physical Attack	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Grievous bodily harm	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
TOTAL	1	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	1	3
DISCRIMINATION											
Denied access to GSF	4	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	0	3	9
Denied seeds & fertiliser	19	0	0	0	8	12	3	21	4	6	73
Denied tillage support	0	0	0	0	4	7	1	0	0	0	12
Denied agricultural credit	4	0	0	0	0	2	0	1	0	1	8
Denied food loan	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Denied food relief	87	0	0	3	9	17	20	25	11	35	207
Denied irrigation	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Denied Educational Support	1	0	0	0	3	0	0	1	0	0	5
Denied Medical Treatment	0	0	0	0	1	3	1	0	1	0	6
TOTAL	115	0	0	3	25	41	25	50	16	45	320
GRAND TOTAL	131	0	0	4	39	49	32	56	18	51	382

Graphic Summary of Food and Humanitarian-related Violations





Observations

Prevalence Table and Graph

- The period under review recorded a total of 384 cases, 175 in September and 209 in October
- In both months, there were high tolls in acts of food-related discriminations.
- Of the total toll, 131 were reported in the Midlands province with other provinces such as Mashonaland East, Manicaland, Mashonaland Central and Masvingo showing visible violations records.
- In the Matebeleland region, violations were on the extreme low side, tolls records ranging from 0 to 4.

Food-Related Violations

- A total of 271 food distribution sources were recorded, 118 of which were for September while 153 were for October.
- Interestingly food-stressed provinces such as Masvingo, Bulawayo, Matebeleland North and Matebeleland South recorded extremely low food distribution sources.
- The non state sector [NGO and FBO] was the main source of food constituting 64% of food sources, GSF with 36%.

EMERGING ISSUES AND THE WAY FORWARD

Macro politics continue to fuel political agitation and intolerance in micro politics. The political leadership of the three main parties should prioritize national interests at the expense of partisan considerations. Without resolving these disagreements, prospects for micro inter-party participation will remain elusive.

Citizen's rights to participate and be heard in national transitional reforms such as the constitution-making and national healing processes continue to be trampled upon with several reports of villagers being instructed to accept the Kariba Draft or face unspecified action. We once more reiterate that a repeat of what the nation experienced at the 1999 constitutional making process should be avoided at all costs.

Reports of continued harassment of those in the teaching profession by some party supporters do not augur well for the future of the nation. Global experiences amply demonstrate that respect for professionalism is the bedrock of socio-economic development. A nation that destroys its own professional base is also destroying its future.

Food and humanitarian assistance continue to be politically interfered with. This is hardly sustainable given the critical food situation in the country. NGOs must be accorded more space to execute their mandates.

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

P O Box BE 427, Belvedere

Tel: (04) 747719, 2930180,

2930182, 2900555, 2900556

Email: zppinfo@gmail.com, zpp@africaonline.co.zw