



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

**October 2011**

**25/11/2011**

## HUMAN RIGHTS VIOLATIONS MONITORING

### SUMMARY

Despite a significant dip in the number of politically motivated human rights violations in the month of October, political tensions have remained very high throughout the country. Physical and psychological violence continued to be recorded throughout the country. Cases of displacement, assault, harassment and intimidation dominated the violations for the month of October.

There was a significant decrease in incidents of politically motivated human rights violations from the 791 recorded in September to 605 cases witnessed during the month under review.

An analysis of the violations trends during the month of October over the past four years reveals that the month has always had fewer incidents compared to the other months. The highest number of violations during the month of October was witnessed in 2008 despite it being one month after the Global Political Agreement (GPA) was signed by the three leaders from Zanu PF and the two MDC formations.

Politically motivated human rights violations took a dip in October 2009 when 1058 cases were recorded and continued on a downward trend for October 2010 to 896 incidents.

Cases of politically motivated violence remain high and the atmosphere has remained volatile in the Manicaland, and Masvingo provinces.

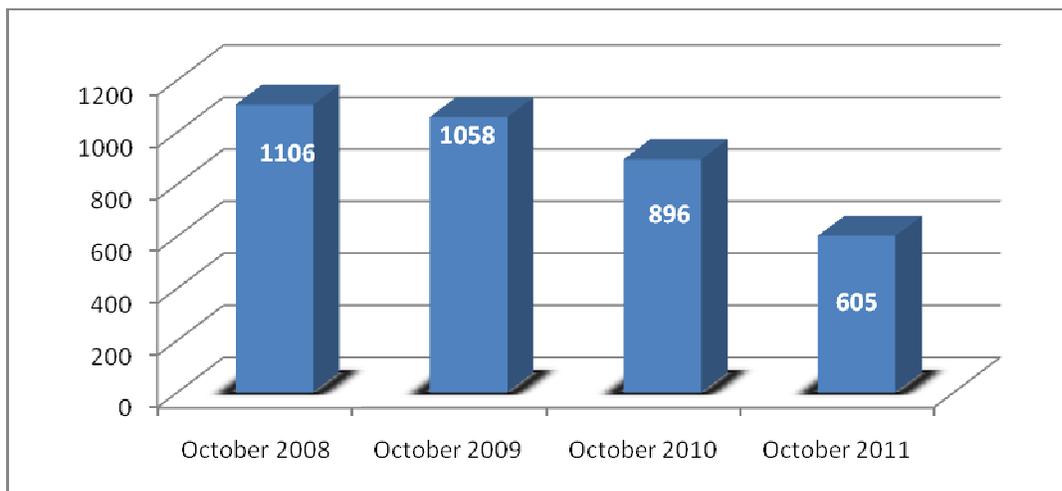
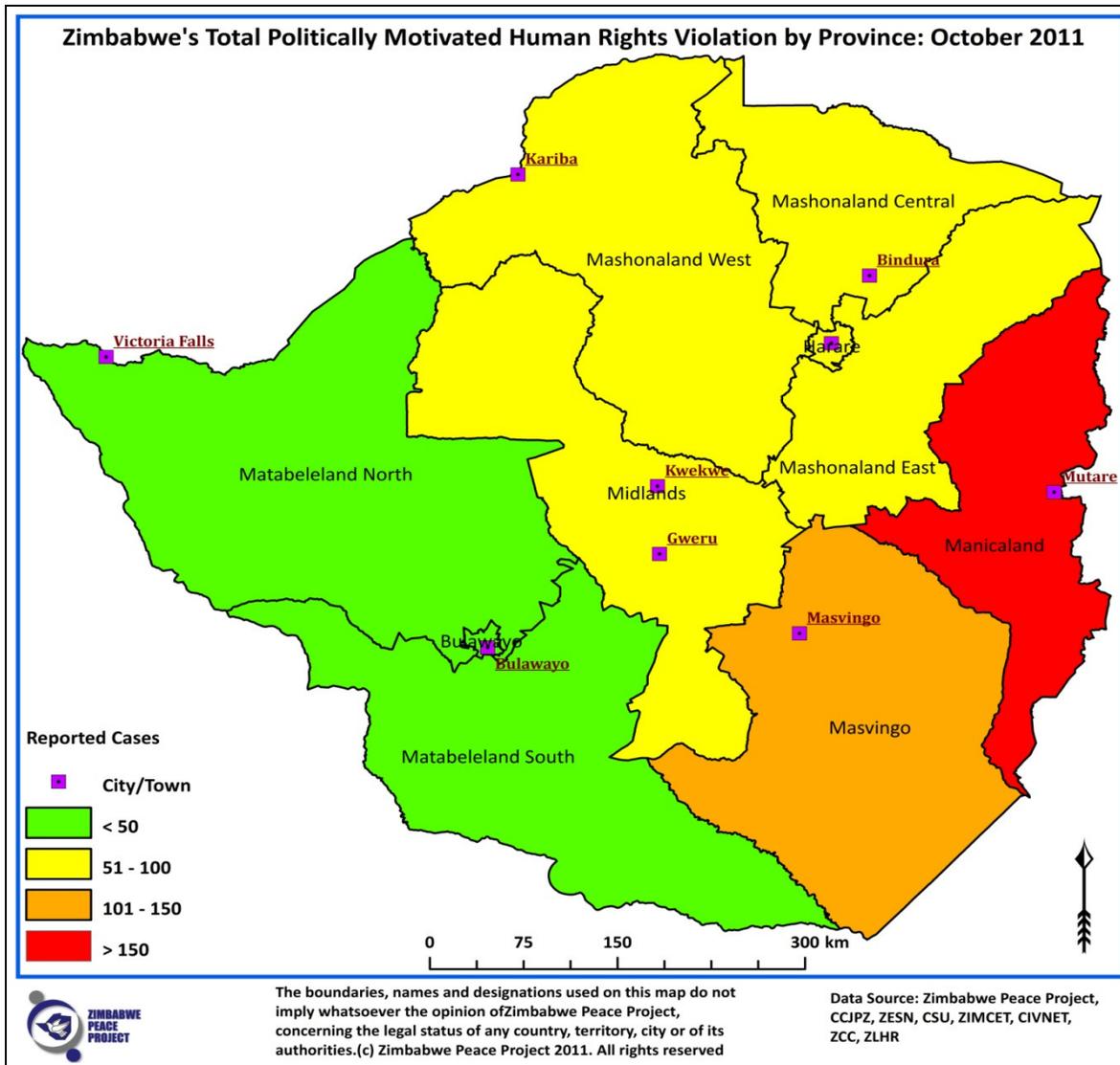
Zanu PF supporters have been accused of leading political violence in the majority of incidents that were recorded during the month. The people's rights to freedom of association and freedom of movement were violated more after being forced to attend Zanu PF meetings throughout the country.

The Movement for Democratic Change (MDC) led by Prime Minister Morgan Tsvangirai had its rallies scheduled for Matabeleland North violently disrupted by the police during the month of October.

Senior members of the Zimbabwe National Army (ZNA) have continued to meddle in politics in Manicaland province and have been at the forefront of harassing and intimidating villagers.

War veterans' leader Jabulani Sibanda has been moving around the Mashonaland West, Masvingo and Matabeleland North provinces where he is reported to be harassing and intimidating people forcing them to attend Zanu PF meetings.

This report also documents cases of inter and intra-party violence within both Zanu PF and the MDC-T. The majority of the cases were reported in Harare, Midlands, Manicaland, Mashonaland East and West provinces.



Graph showing the violations recorded during the month of October from 2008 -2011

## **INCIDENCES OF POLITICALLY MOTIVATED VIOLATIONS**

Despite having recorded a decline in incidents of violence political tensions have remained very high in **Manicaland Province** as witnessed by the violent disruptions of public hearings on the Electoral Amendment Bill on October 18, 2011 in Mutasa and Mutare.

Close to 100 Zanu PF supporters reacted angrily to one contribution that suggested that Zimbabwe needs an independent electoral commission and that election results should be announced within three days. The Zanu PF activists started to sing liberation war songs and threatened to beat up the contributor “for trying to sell out the country”.

The Parliamentary Committee members failed to calm down the demonstrators forcing the meeting to end abruptly after the Zanu PF mob invaded the podium singing and dancing. The police failed to maintain order as only two police details in plain clothes were in attendance.

An earlier public hearing at Mutasa District Council Hall was disrupted in similar fashion as Zanu PF supporters led by war veterans sang liberation songs during the meeting. At Mutasa, the war veterans were angered by one contribution from a certain lady who requested that before, during and after the election, there should be a United Nations Peace Keeping Force.

On October 9, 2011 more than twenty five traditional leaders from Nyanga South were reportedly summoned to a meeting by Colonel S. Mangena who is the commander at the All Arms Battle School (AABS) at Nyarumvurwe in Nyanga. In his address to the traditional leaders gathered, Colonel Mangena told the traditional leaders that they should start campaigning for Zanu PF. They were asked to declare their allegiance to Zanu PF publicly and to further take steps to ban MDC activities in their respective areas.

In Mutare West and North constituencies, a serving soldier, a Colonel Manjengwa reportedly convened at least six meetings on the 22<sup>nd</sup> and 23<sup>rd</sup> of October where he told villagers at Mushunje, and Domboshawa that as soldiers they reserve the right to end the Global Political Agreement through force and keep President Mugabe as the leader of Zimbabwe if they so wished.

In Rusape on the 14<sup>th</sup> of October, a group of soldiers from 3 Brigade base at Tsanzaguru reportedly abducted an MDC-T activist Teddy Chipere whom they viciously tortured and later dumped him in a bush. Victim was taken to hospital in Mutare for treatment.

The number of politically motivated violations remained constant in **Masvingo Province** with 126 incidents having been witnessed during the month. War veterans’ leader Jabulani Sibanda returned to the province and is now operating from Chivi District.

As was with the case in Manicaland, Zanu PF women’s league members on October 19, 2011 disrupted the parliamentary hearing on electoral reforms at Mucheke Hall. The women sang their party’s songs denigrating the process and confiscated written submissions which they destroyed before forcing the parliamentary portfolio committee members to flee.

The province also recorded one case of arson when a bus belonging to a brother of Bikita South MP Varandeni Jani was burnt by suspected Zanu PF supporters. The incident reportedly happened at Mashoko Mission as the bus was supposed to transport MDC-T supporters to a function in Bikita West. The bus, an AVM 76-seater, is now a right off.

Villagers from Chiredzi, Chivi and Gutu were forced to attend Zanu PF meetings regardless of their political affiliation. An MDC-T activist was forced to take a Zanu PF committee member position in Chivi. Jabulani Sibanda has been reported to be holding several meetings in the district forcing villagers to attend.

A teacher was demoted from the post of head of department and forced to transfer from Tagona Secondary School in Bikita by the Zanu PF aligned headmaster. This was after the teacher was allegedly suspected to be an MDC-T supporter.

The **Midlands Province** witnessed a significant decline in incidents of politically motivated human rights violations during the month under review. There were 93 incidents recorded in October down from the 163 witnessed during the month of September.

Constituencies of Gokwe Central, Kwekwe Central, Zhombe and Zvishavane Runde had the highest number of violations, the majority of which were of harassment and intimidation. There were 61 incidents of harassment and intimidation while 18 were of assault.

Two MDC-T activists were forced to buy Zanu PF cards by a war veteran at Chitambo School in Gokwe Kana. It is alleged that the two were moving from the school when they were approached by the Zanu PF cadre who violently ordered them to buy the party cards. When the two showed signs of resistance they were slapped in the face.

From Kwekwe, an MDC-T activist was assaulted by Zanu PF supporters at the Globe and Phoenix in Ward 6. The victim was assaulted for getting closer to the Zanu PF youths while wearing a red cap. The Zanu PF youths demanded to know why the victim was wearing an MDC-T cap.

During the month under review more villagers were harassed and forced to attend Zanu PF meetings in Zvishavane, Mberengwa and Gokwe districts.

Politically motivated human rights violations remained very high in **Mashonaland West Province** with 60 cases having been recorded in October down from the 71 witnessed during the month of September. The perpetrators have been mainly Zanu PF supporters while the victims have been MDC-T activists.

The province witnessed eight incidents of assault with some of the incidents reported to be very serious. In Mhondoro Ngezi a Zanu PF official was severely assaulted by a supporter after a low turnout at a meeting in an incident of intra-party violence. The victim was accused of destroying the party from within.

Infighting within the MDC-T was recorded in Sanyati and Chegutu West where the party is reported to be filling in vacant posts of the local structures. MDC-T activists were accusing their top leadership of imposing candidates at a meeting held at Dombwe in Chegutu West.

The inter party violence continued to be recorded in Kadoma where an MDC-T activist was verbally and physically assaulted by Zanu PF supporters in front of his family. The perpetrators allegedly demanded that the victim convince his colleagues from the MDC-T to join Zanu PF. A group of MDC-T activists revenged on the attack by visiting one of the perpetrator's houses at midnight and threatened to burn the house.

Villagers from Mhangura are reportedly being forced to attend Zanu PF meetings. A Zanu PF chairlady from the area is report to be in the forefront of harassing people forcing people to attend such meetings. From Kariba, villagers from the Makande area were reportedly forced to attend Zanu PF meetings by Chief Mapfunde. During such meetings the villagers are told to vote for Zanu PF during the proposed 2012 elections.

**Mashonaland Central Province** continued to witness grave human rights violations being perpetrated by political activists, state security agents as well as traditional leaders. Villagers continued to suffer being forced to attend Zanu PF meetings in all of the province's 18 constituencies.

Meetings organised by other political parties other than Zanu PF were disrupted including one organised by the Consumer Council of Zimbabwe (CCZ). A church organisation – Destiny for Africa Trust – led by Obadiah Musindo has reportedly set up offices in Bindura, Glendale and Guruve and is allegedly campaigning for Zanu PF. The trust is inviting people to register with it so as to access loans and housing stands. Upon registering, the prospective home and loan seekers are issued with a Zanu PF party card.

An MDC-T activist had his house set on fire in a suspected arson attack at Chiwashira Village in Muzarabani South. The victim had his homestead attacked by suspected Zanu PF supporters for his affiliation to the MDC-T. During the same month the victim was also assaulted by Zanu PF Youth Officer for receiving visitors from Harare.

The province also witnessed reports where teachers were allegedly victimised for their purported affiliation to the MDC-T. School teachers at Manyika Primary in Guruve North are being forced by war veterans to vacate their houses because of their affiliation to the MDC-T.

Political tensions continued to rise in **Harare Province** with the Zanu PF militia group of Chipangano leading the majority of the violations in Mbare and the surrounding suburbs. There were 54 incidents of politically motivated human rights violations during the month up from the 34 cases witnessed in September.

Zanu PF supporters and youths were reported to be beating up residents forcing them to attend party meetings in Hatcliffe, Epworth and Chitungwiza. The meetings are being

coordinated in a restructuring operation called “*Simukai Tiverengane*” which means stand up and be counted as the party prepares for the Zanu PF national conference to be held in Bulawayo in December and the coming elections.

State security agents have been accused of their partisan support of Zanu PF as they violently blocked MDC-T meetings during the month under review. About six police officers violently disrupted an MDC-T meeting on October 4, 2011 at the party’s district offices in Dzivarasekwa. The police argued that the meeting was not cleared.

Another MDC-T rally which was scheduled for Hatcliffe and to be addressed by Home Affairs co-Minister Theresa Makone was violently disrupted by Zanu PF youths on October 30, 2011. More than 100 MDC-T supporters who had gathered at the venue were attacked with stones, knobkerries and sticks.

There was a marked decrease in the number of violations in **Mashonaland East Province** where 51 cases were recorded down from the 95 witnessed during the month of September. The low figures in violations were attributed to the fact the areas of Seke, Uzumba Maramba Pfungwe (UMP), Mutoko and Goromonzi’s political situation was reported to be very calm.

Vice President Joice Mujuru visited Mutawatawa Growth Point on October 17, 2011 where she addressed villagers emphasising the need for peace rather than calling for unnecessary rallies and meetings that are counterproductive.

The province witnessed one incident of displacement in Chikomba West Constituency as the Anglican Church property dispute rages on. On October 10, 2011, the priest in charge of Daramombe Mission was displaced and evicted from his residence to a village outside the mission boundaries.

The faction led by Dr Nolbert Kunonga had earlier in September evicted headmasters and senior nursing staff at the school on the basis of a Supreme Court judgment that gave it custody of the properties.

Cases of harassment and intimidation constituted the majority of the violations in the province during the month under review. Zanu PF supporters were recorded as the perpetrators where MDC-T supporters were forced to attend Zanu PF meetings. Villagers from Chivhu, Hwedza and the area under Chief Svosve were bused to Mbuya Nehanda Hall in Marondera where they were told to give the Zanu PF views during the parliamentary public hearing on the electoral amendment bill.

**Matabeleland North Province’s** political environment has become tense despite the fewer numbers in incidents of politically motivated human rights violations. There were five incidents recorded down from the nine witnessed during the month of September.

The election fever is slowly gripping the region and this can be evidenced by the banning and disruption of MDC-T rallies in the province by the police. The MDC-T had scheduled a meeting at St Pauls in Lupane East Constituency but it was disrupted on October 29, 2011. The MDC-T delegation which included Prime Minister Morgan Tsvangirai was denied access to the venue by armed anti-riot police officers.

In another related incident the MDC-T had a meeting disrupted at Chinotimba Stadium in Victoria Falls on October 30, 2011. This was despite the fact that all the rallies had been given the green light by the High Court.

The MDC-T leadership and supporters were harassed by the police on October 21, 2011, at Nesigwe Business Centre in Nkayi North Constituency. The MDC-T officials were told that they could not hold their rally at the centre because MP for the constituency Sithembiso Nyoni was having a meeting Gwelutshena about 16km away.

The **Matabeleland South Province** has continued to witness a very low number of politically motivated human rights violations.

War veterans from Datata Village in Gwanda North were reported to be threatening villagers demanding that everyone should buy Zanu PF party cards in preparation for the proposed elections next year. This happened after the war veteran leader Jabulani Sibanda had visited the villages and addressed the local leadership and Zanu PF officials.

The group of war veterans also visited the MDC-N chairperson and told him that he should leave his “sell out” party and join Zanu PF. The victim was given two months in which to make up his mind. The war veterans promised to come afterwards and check if he would have defected to Zanu PF.

The political situation in **Bulawayo Province** has remained very calm despite the violence that rocked the public hearing on the electoral amendment bill at the Small City Hall. A group of Zanu PF youths violently disrupted the hearing before stealing written submissions from members of the public.

MPs who were chairing the hearing had to flee from the venue after the youths had started singing revolutionary songs demanding that the meeting be stopped. The youths also demanded that some two white ladies who were in attendance be thrown out of the meeting.

During the same month, some suspected Zanu PF youths who were leading others to invade private owned properties in the province were arrested by the police. There were three incidents of harassment and intimidation recorded from Lobengula and Pumula constituencies.

Table 1: Analysis of Politically motivated Violations by Province

ACTS	Midlands	Bulawayo	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	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Kidnapping/ Abduction	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	1
Assault	18	0	0	0	7	15	10	0	8	5	63
Theft/Looting	0	0	0	0	2	4	0	1	0	3	10
Discrimination	12	0	1	3	14	17	0	7	6	9	69
MDP	1	0	0	0	1	2	2	0	1	1	8
Torture	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Unlawful Detention	0	0	0	1	0	0	1	1	0	0	3
Harassment/ Intimidation	61	3	3	1	100	115	38	42	43	37	441
Displacement	0	0	1	0	2	0	2	0	2	1	8
<b>Total</b>	<b>92</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>126</b>	<b>153</b>	<b>54</b>	<b>51</b>	<b>60</b>	<b>56</b>	<b>605</b>

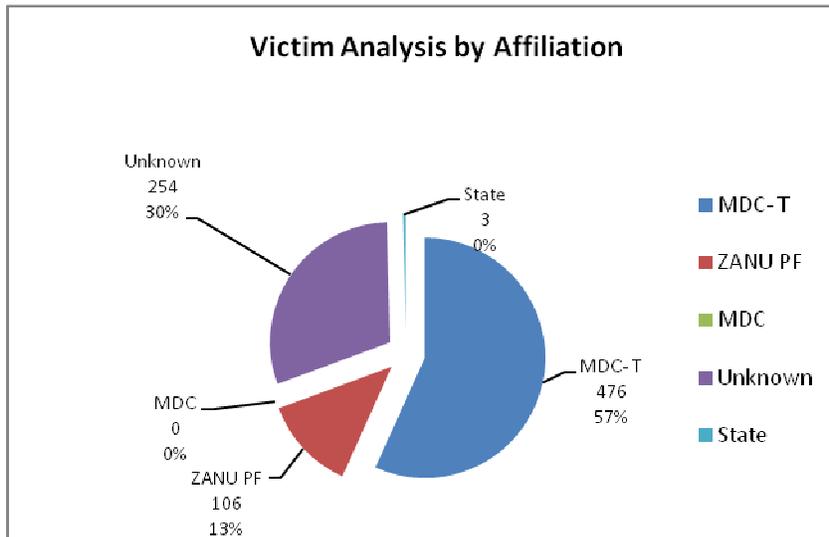
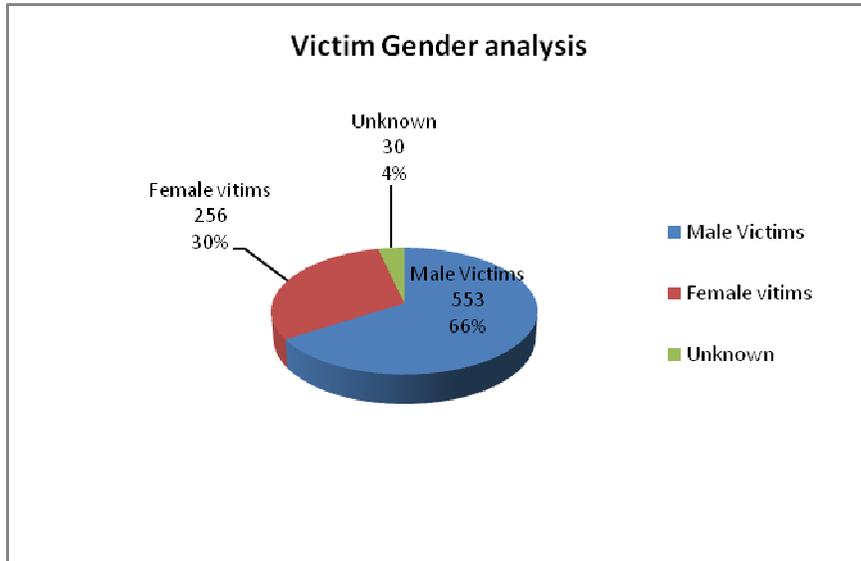
#### VICTIM ANALYSIS BY GENDER AND ASSOCIATION

A close look at the victims' toll distribution shows that more males had their rights violated than their female counterparts during the month under review. There were 552 male victims down from 610 recorded during the month of September. The male victims represented 66% of the victims tally.

The month saw 256 females having their rights violated constituting 30% of the victims tally. As has been with the past trends, the bulk of the victims have been MDC-T supporters who had their rights violated more than their counterparts from the other two political parties in the inclusive government that is Zanu PF and the MDC-N.

There were 476 MDC-T supporters who had their rights violated representing 57% of the victims compared to Zanu PF's 106 supporters accounting for 13% of the victims tally.

The analysis clearly shows that 30% of the victims were of an unknown political affiliation but were caught up in the cross fire of political violence between the two main political parties of Zanu PF and the MDC-T. There were 254 whose affiliation was unknown.

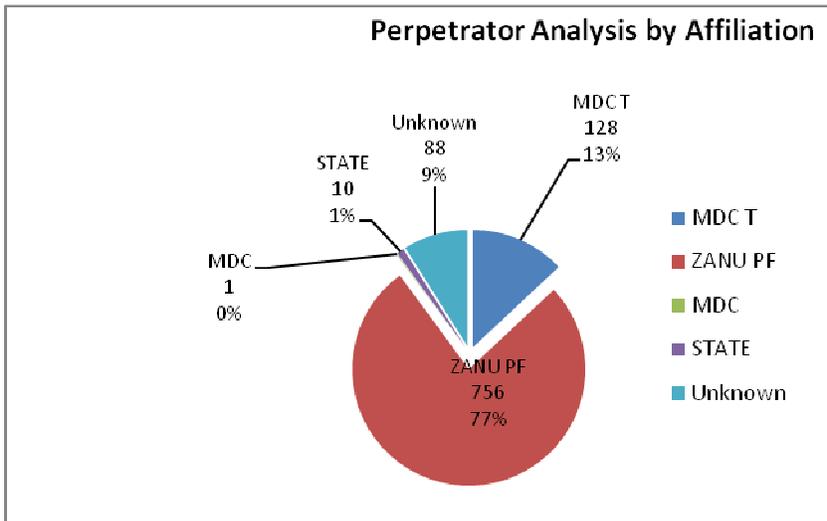
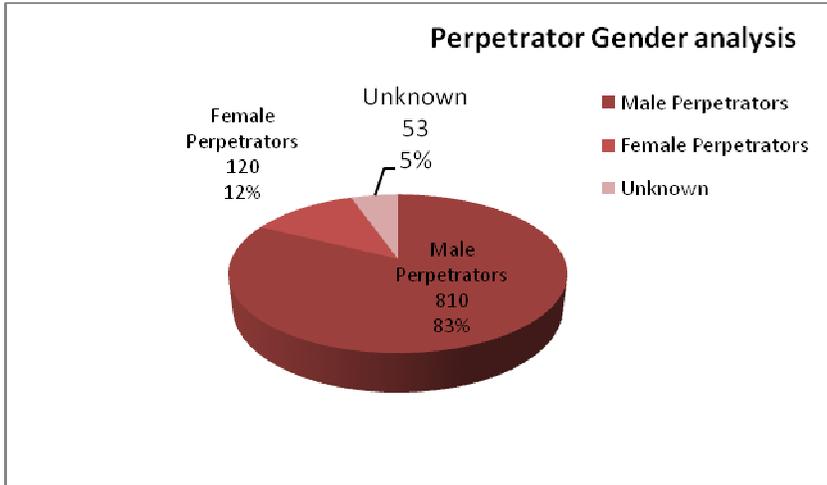


**Male and Female Perpetrator Analysis and Charts**

The perpetrators analysis by gender show that males were the chief culprits representing 83% of the violators of human rights compared to their female counterparts who constituted 12%. During the month of October, 810 males were recorded as perpetrators, while only 120 were females.

Zanu PF accounted for the highest percentage of perpetrators during the month under review accounting for 77% of people directly responsible for leading politically motivated human rights violations. There were 756 perpetrators from Zanu PF while 128 were MDC-T activists with 10

cases having been reportedly perpetrated by state security agents with mainly police officers accounting for only 1%. The perpetrator statistical spread still suggests that Zanu PF supporters have remained the major perpetrators across the board although the levels of violence within the MDC-T remain on the rise.



## FOOD & OTHER FORMS OF AID RELATED VIOLATIONS

THE government and other international humanitarian aid organisations have started distributing seed and fertilizers for this year's agricultural season and a number of violations have been recorded in the form of discrimination. There were 74 incidents recorded during the month up from the 71 cases in September.

Although the cases of food and other forms of aid related violations have not shot up significantly, villagers have been recorded as the major victims of discrimination in the distribution of farming inputs particularly those from the government and are being distributed through the Grain Marketing Board (GMB).

The **Midlands Province** had the highest number of food and other forms of aid related violations with 35 incidents having been recorded. The GMB has been accused of distributing maize seed in a partisan manner in Mberengwa, Zvishavane and Kwekwe.

An MDC-T activist was denied a 10kg bag of maize seed which was being distributed by the GMB at Dobe Primary School in Mberengwa. Other several victims failed to get access to the inputs after failing to produce Zanu PF party cards.

From Masvingo, the Zanu PF Bikita District Coordinating Committee (DCC) allegedly hijacked a SeedCo scheme that was meant to benefit over 100 women communal farmers. The Zanu PF leadership claimed that the project was a party programme and barred non-members from accessing funding and farming inputs.

Villagers from Manicaland Province were victimized mainly because the rainy season has arrived and the government and other NGOs are distributing subsidized agricultural inputs around the province.

The majority of the cases recorded were of agricultural inputs and to a lesser extent, food items. Failure to produce a Zanu PF party card was really a big issue during the period as many would be beneficiaries failed to access inputs after they could not produce the cards.

At Gowakowa village in Makoni North, more than twenty villagers including Taurai Shapure (MDC-T) failed to register for government subsidized agricultural inputs after a war veteran demanded that victims produce Zanu PF cards.

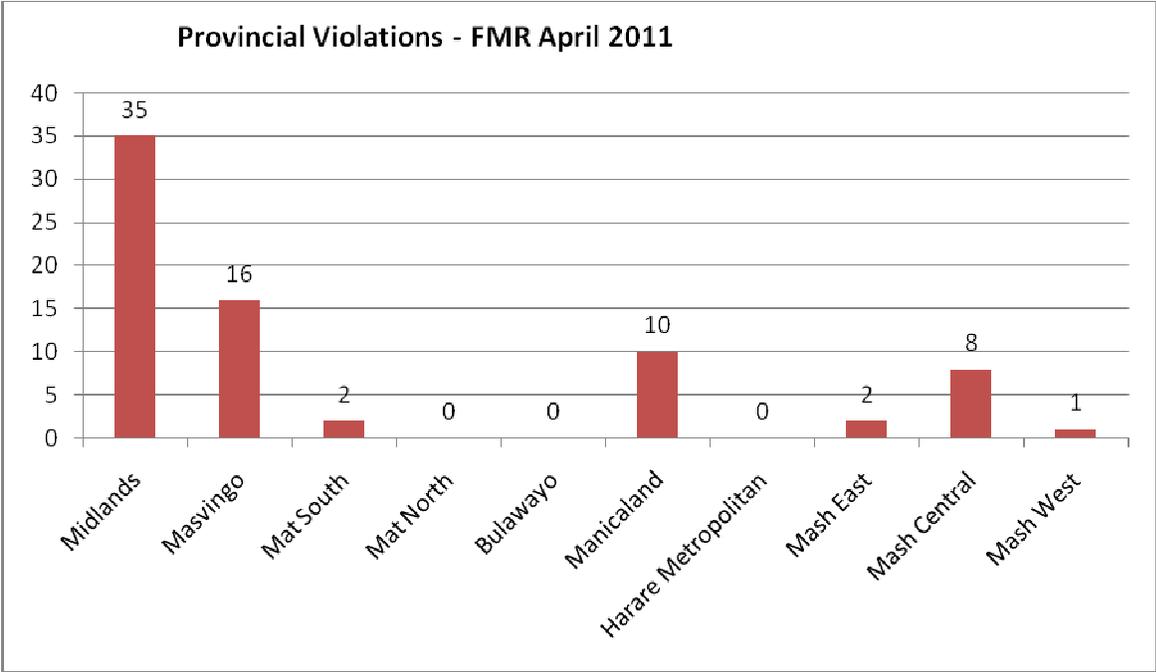
In Chimanimani West Zanu PF supporters led by the village headman demanded that people produce their Zanu PF cards first before they could register for government subsidized maize seed and fertilizer at Mhakwe Village.

From Matabeleland South, villagers were discriminated from receiving food handouts that were being distributed from the Government Department of Social Welfare. A Zanu PF official from

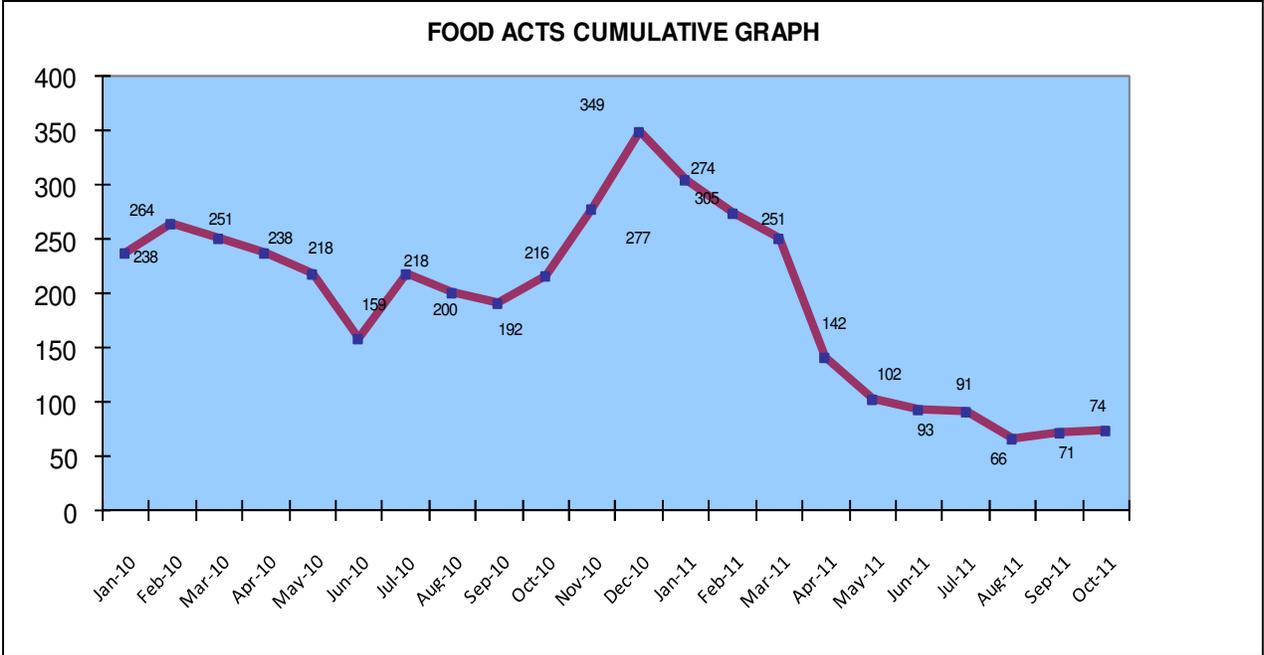
Gwanda South's Pumula selected the beneficiaries for the food handouts which were meant for the elderly on partisan grounds leaving out other deserving beneficiaries.

**Table 2: CUMULATIVE TABLE FOR FOOD& OTHER FORMS OF AID RELATED VIOLATIONS**

2008	2009	2010	FOOD & OTHER FORMS OF AID RELATED ACT – 2009				
			2011	HARASSMENT	VIOLENCE	DISCRIMINATION	TOTAL
<b><i>Closing Figures for 2008-2010</i></b>				<b>4333</b>	<b>281</b>	<b>7868</b>	<b>12482</b>
549	282	238	January	141	0	164	305
497	582	264	February	115	2	157	274
398	815	251	March	92	0	159	251
296	644	238	April	46	0	96	142
250	505	218	May	41	0	61	102
165	524	159	June	30	0	63	93
370	487	218	July	26	0	65	91
319	132	200	August	18	0	48	66
365	175	282	September	23	0	48	71
376	209	216	October	17	0	57	74
<b>930</b>	208	277	November				
<b>336</b>	<b>204</b>	<b>349</b>	December				
<b>4851</b>		<b>2866</b>	<b>TOTAL</b>				
	<b>4767</b>			<b>4882</b>	<b>283</b>	<b>8786</b>	<b>13951</b>



**Food Acts Cumulative Graph**



## **EMERGING ISSUES & WAY FORWARD**

Human rights violations are on the rise despite having registered some decrease in the previous months. The rise in violations is a pointer to the fact Zimbabwe is not yet healed and the structures for violence and destruction are intact and in place only waiting to be re-activated.

Police officers have continued to show their support for Zanu PF after the violently disrupted MDC-T rallies that were scheduled in Matabeleland North Province. The police actions were in clear violation of the amended Public Order and Security Act (POSA).

The amended POSA calls for political parties to notify the police of their intended meetings and rallies but the police have been reading this to mean that police permission is required before political parties can hold their rallies.

It is the Zimbabwe Peace Project (ZPP) belief that there be a total transformation of the police and defense forces into accountable bodies serving the interests of the entire Zimbabwean population not just one political party.

State agents are slowly becoming part of the organised violence, and there is bound to be a sharp increase in political disturbances in the coming months.

Soldiers should keep their constitutional rights of maintaining peace and stability in the country as opposed to engaging in active politics or worse still engaging in violence and causing unnecessary suffering to the general public.

The culture of impunity as espoused by war veterans' leader Jabulani Sibanda's reign of terror in Masvingo, Mashonaland West, Matabeleland North and South provinces clearly shows that the inclusive government has failed to create an enabling environment for citizens to openly participate in issues of governance.

As Zanu PF prepares for its national congress to be held in Bulawayo in December, more people's rights are going to be violated in the form of being forced to contribute either in cash or in kind. ZPP however asserts that people should never be forced to contribute to the cause of a certain political party but this should be done voluntarily.

## BACKGROUND & FORMATION



### ZIMBABWE PEACE PROJECT

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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, Catholic Commission for Justice & Peace in Zimbabwe (CCJPZ) Zimbabwe Election Support Network (ZESN), Counselling Services Unit (CSU), Zimbabwe Civic Education Trust (ZIMCET), Zimbabwe Human Rights Association (ZIMRIGHTS), Civic Education Network Trust (CIVNET) Zimbabwe Lawyers for Human Rights (ZLHR) and the Zimbabwe Council of Churches (ZCC).

## VISION

Sustainable Justice, Freedom, Peace and Development in Zimbabwe, for All.

## MISSION

To work for sustainable Peace through Monitoring, Documentation, Research & Publications, and Community Peace Building Interventions ~ through & with our Members & Partners

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