



**ZIMBABWE
PEACE
PROJECT**

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

August 2011

26/09/2011

SUMMARY

Despite a significant decline in incidents of politically motivated human rights violations during the month of August to 720 from the 910 witnessed in July, political tensions and intolerance have remained very high across the country. The talk of a possible election by early 2012 is likely to see a marked increase in the number of violations in the near future.

An analysis of the violations trends during the month of August 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 August was witnessed in 2008 when there were 964 cases a few months after the inconclusive June 27 Presidential Election Run-off.

Politically motivated violations took a dip in August 2009 when 527 cases were recorded only to rise significantly in August 2010 to 848 incidents.

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

Zanu PF supporters have been accused of leading political violence in the many incidents that were recorded during the month.

The country's rapidly changing political landscape has remained very tense in the face of the backbiting revelations from whistle blower website, Wikileaks and the mysterious death of former army commander General Solomon Mujuru during the month under review. The Mujuru family requested for an investigation into the circumstances surrounding the death of the senior Zanu PF politburo member and the nation awaits the outcome with baited breath.

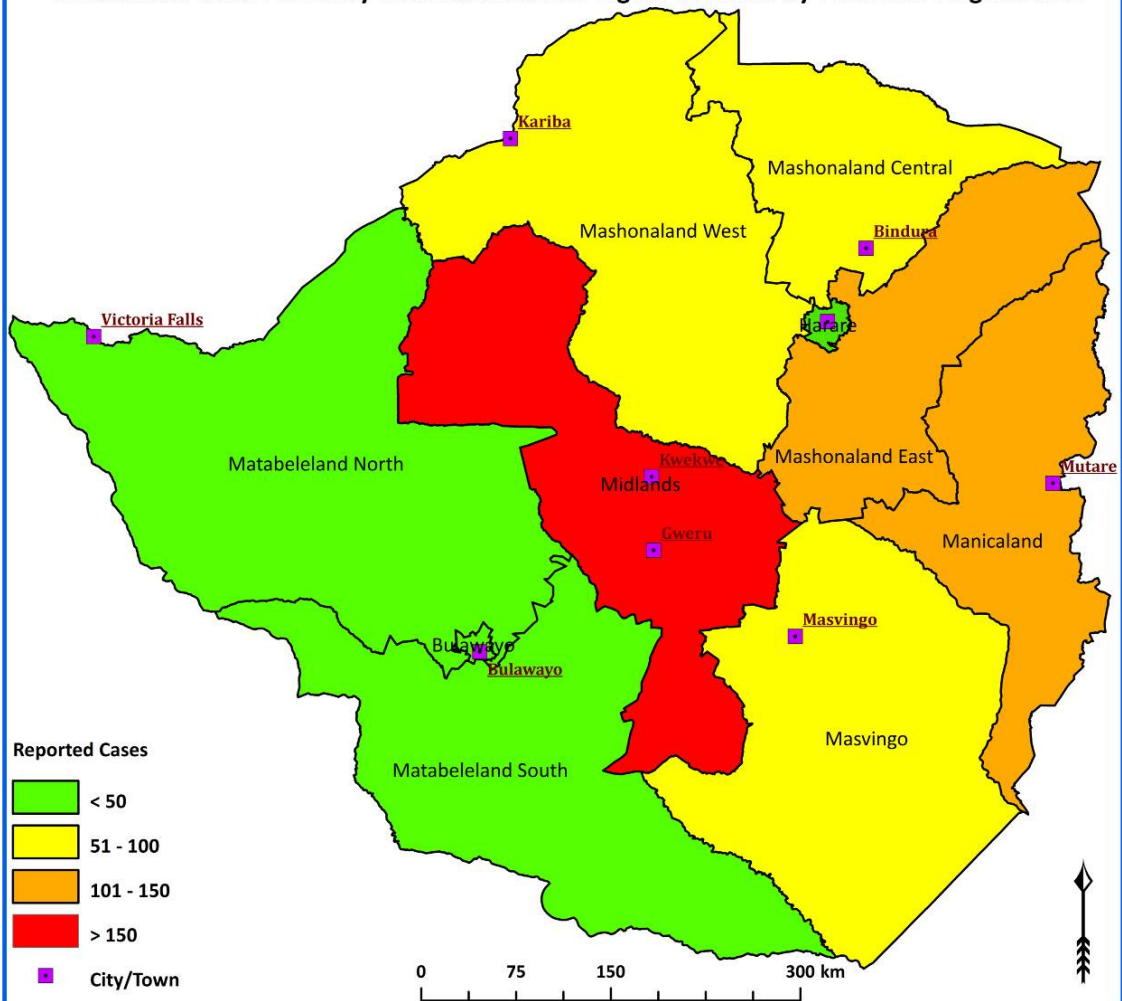
The death of Mujuru also reignited the Zanu PF succession debate in anticipation of possible elections in 2012 although it is also viewed as a source of more pronounced fissures since the late retired General was viewed as leader of a faction within the party.

Another worrying development that could trigger upheavals in the country is the move by government, under the guise of implementing indigenization and economic empowerment regulations, to seize foreign owned companies, particularly mines and banks operating in the country.

The country also came under the spotlight during the SADC Summit held in Luanda, Angola during the month under review. The summit came up with a raft of resolutions that were aimed at finding a lasting solution to the country's political crisis.

However, ZANU-PF challenged the Luanda SADC Summit resolutions on Zimbabwe - arguing that they were drawn up when President Robert Mugabe had left the summit.

Zimbabwe's Total Politically Motivated Human Rights Violation by Province: August 2011



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Data Source: Zimbabwe Peace Project, CCJPZ, ZESN, CSU, ZIMCET, CIVNET, ZCC, ZLHR

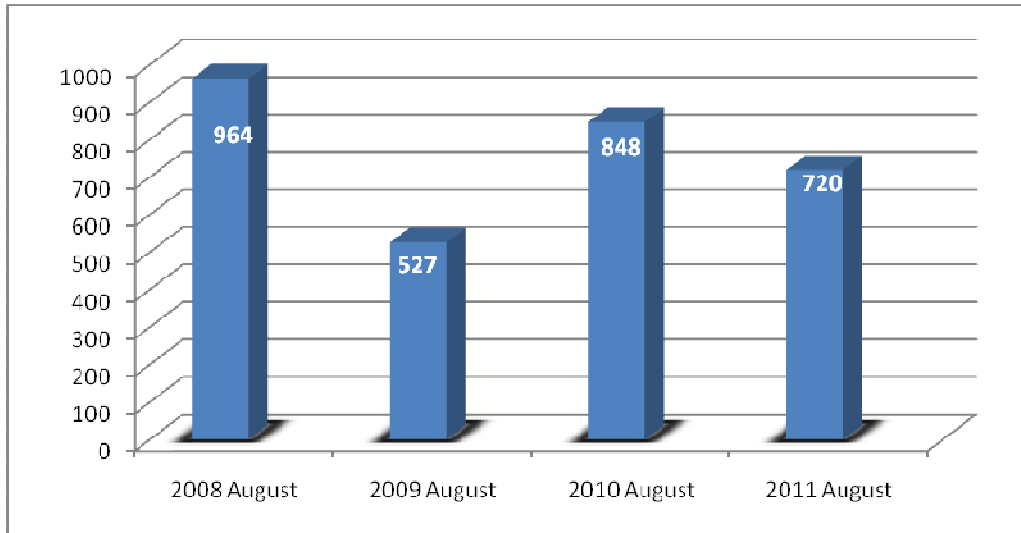


Figure 1: Trends of PMV for August 2008 -2011

INCIDENCES OF POLITICALLY MOTIVATED VIOLATIONS

The **Midlands Province** remained the top region with the highest number of violations recorded during the month of August. Despite the slight decrease in the number of politically motivated violations, the province had 163 incidents down from the 170 witnessed during the month of July.

Cases of assault continued to be recorded in the Gokwe, Zvishavane and Mberengwa districts with Zanu PF supporters reported as the main perpetrators. An MDC-T activist was heavily assaulted by a Zanu PF supporter after failing to raise money to have his cattle dipped at Zumbikwa Village in Gokwe Nembudziya. The victim had been ordered to pay US\$1 per cattle as tax levy.

The province also witnessed a decline in the number of harassment and intimidation cases since the beginning of the year with Gweru, Gokwe and Kwekwe districts recording most of the violations. A lot of villagers were harassed for failing to attend the Heroes' Day commemorations while others had their rights violated for openly declaring their support for the MDC-T. An MDC-T activist was harassed for distributing the party's fliers written "Real Change" in Mushangaire Ward 6, Mberengwa East constituency.

Another MDC-T activist was harassed by a group of Zanu PF supporters for reading the MDC-T newsletter, The Changing Times in Gweru's Mkoba 6. One of the Zanu PF supporters allegedly took the newsletter and tore it into pieces before throwing it in the face of the victim.

Politically motivated human rights violations continued on a downward trend in **Manicaland Province** during the month under review with 149 cases down from the 161 witnessed during the month of July. The Heroes' and the Defence Forces Day celebrations were the major sources of violations during the period under review as the people were forced to contribute money towards the commemorations.

A group of soldiers reportedly went from business to business in Chipinge Town on August 5, 2011 demanding contributions in both cash and kind for the Heroes' and the Defence Forces celebrations. At Domborembizi in Makoni North, a group of Zanu PF supporters allegedly heavily assaulted an MDC-T activist during the Heroes' Day commemorations. A villager was allegedly assaulted on August 12, 2011 at Mapere Village in Makoni North by a Zanu PF supporter as punishment for failing to attend the Heroes' Day commemorations in the area.

Teachers remained one of the major groups of victims of politically motivated human violations in the province. Zanu PF youths reportedly demanded that teachers at Gwebu Primary School pay US\$10 as protection fee so as to be spared of violence in the forthcoming constitutional referendum and elections.

Ten suspected MDC-T activists have lost land, livestock and property to Zanu PF supporters in Maya Village, Mutasa North Constituency following a spate of harassments and intimidation. Some of the victims have since crossed the border into neighbouring Mozambique while others have sought refuge at relatives' homes near Katiyo Tea Estates. ZPP has noted that the victims were once affected by political violence in 2008 and only managed to return to their homes after the consummation of the inclusive government in 2009.

On August 5, 2011, a Zanu PF District Coordinating Committee (DCC) official only identified as Mukupe, held a meeting at Maya Village, Ward 29 where it was openly declared that the victims should permanently leave the area as they were MDC-T activists.

A decline in the number of political activities from both Zanu PF and the two MDC formations has resulted in a steady decrease in the number of politically motivated human rights violations in **Mashonaland East Province** over the past three months. The province witnessed 133 incidents during the month of August down from the 152 recorded in July.

However, there is still a lot of intimidation and harassment being experienced in the province with 83 recorded incidents during the month under review. The cases of harassment and intimidation have been high in Mutoko North constituency, where villagers from the newly resettled areas of Hoyuyu and Nyadire resettlement schemes are constantly being harassed by the village heads for allegedly belonging to the MDC-T.

The province also had violations that were related to the mysterious death of Zanu PF politburo member and retired army commander General Solomon Mujuru in a farmhouse fire at his farm in Beatrice on August 16, 2011. In one incident, a Chivhu man was denied access to board a ZUPCO bus that was ferrying people to the National Heroes' Acre to witness the funeral. The man was accused of belonging to the MDC-T.

An MDC-T official was violently displaced by Zanu PF youths from his homestead in Choto Village under Chief Nyamukoho, Mudzi West Constituency. A group of Zanu PF youths besieged the home of the MDC-T information and publicity secretary of August 27, 2011 around 3 AM. The group was singing and chanting Zanu PF slogans demanding to talk to the victim. The perpetrators allegedly threw stones at the houses threatening to kill the whole family if ever they remain in the village.

The victim only managed to escape the following morning with his wife and three daughters aged 12, eight and five who were all attending Chisvo Primary School.

The total number of violations continued to decline in **Masvingo Province** with the month of August recording 96 incidents down from the 127 witnessed during the month of July. The decline could be attributed to the fact that it had become clear that elections will not be held this year.

War veterans' leader Jabulani Sibanda's continued stay in the province has remained one of the major causes of politically motivated human rights violations.

As with the case in Manicaland, teachers and other civil servants were also found on the receiving end of violations in the province. Zanu PF's Zaka District Coordinating Committee has come up with a monitoring tool to gauge its support within the civil service. The monitoring tool is designed to track on teachers and nurses on the Zanu PF register and those not their members. The template also checks on whether their members are registered voters.

From Bikita District, ZPP noted a case of revenge when a group of MDC-T activists harassed a Zanu PF youth officer whom they accuse of terrorizing villagers from Gangare Village, Bikita East during the 2008 electoral violence. Zanu PF and MDC-T officials have been accused of issuing public statements with regards the holding of public political meetings in the area. The politicians have been threatening villagers against attending rival political party meetings.

In Masvingo District village heads were in the forefront of threatening non-Zanu PF supporters with eviction if ever they vote for any other party besides Zanu PF in future elections. A case of arson was recorded in Masvingo South when a Zanu PF supporter's home was burnt by suspected fellow party members in intra-party violence.

Politically motivated human rights violations by politicians continued in **Mashonaland Central Province** and the majority of the victims have been MDC-T supporters who have suffered abuse at the hands of Zanu PF. The province had 85 recorded incidents down from the 98 witnessed in July.

The province recorded 11 cases of assault where the majority of the victims were MDC-T supporters their crime being refusal to either chant Zanu PF slogans, belonging to the MDC-T or wearing civil society t-shirts. An MDC-T activist was heavily assaulted by three Zanu PF youth officers for allegedly refusing to chant Zanu PF slogans during the Heroes' Day celebrations in Mazowe Central.

Forced attendance of political meetings have continued in the province where people are driven and threatened for failing to attend Zanu PF meetings. At most of the meetings, suspected MDC-T supporters are forced to chant Zanu PF slogans. The majority of the incidents were recorded from Guruve South and Mazowe South constituencies.

Cases of harassment and intimidation made up the bulk of the violations recorded during the month of August where a total of 62 incidents were reported. The victims were mainly MDC-T supporters and their crimes ranged from tuning to Voice of America's Studio 7,

failure to attend the Heroes' Day commemorations, wearing MDC-T and Civil Society T-shirts and failure to attend political party meetings.

Mashonaland West Province witnessed a decrease in politically motivated human rights violations from 91 cases in July to 76 incidents during the month of August. The major political highlights for the province were the MDC-T rally and the Heroes' Day commemorations.

Traditional leaders were recorded to be in the forefront violating people's rights on behalf of Zanu PF. Chief Mapfunde from Kariba reportedly forced people to chant Zanu PF slogans as well as forcing them to buy party cards in Makonde Village. From Hurungwe West, Chief Nyamhunga allegedly suspended a village head for belonging to the MDC-T. There were also many cases of people being forced to attend Zanu PF meetings and these were mainly concentrated in Kariba, Mhangura, Magunje, Mhondoro Ngezi and Chegutu.

An MDC-T activist had his house razed to the ground in a suspected arson attack in Magunje for allegedly attending an MDC-T rally addressed by Prime Minister Morgan Tsvangirai. The incident was positively verified and it occurred in Ward 10, Nyamadzawo Village 2 under Chief Dendera. The roofs of the one mud hut and one roomed brick house were destroyed. The family allegedly lost blankets, clothes, 2 tonnes of maize, welding machine and a wheel chair for a disabled child.

Intra-party violations have also been recorded within the MDC-T where incumbent MPs are fighting to retain their seats from aspiring MPs who also want to represent the party. These intra-party fights have been more prominent in Chinhoyi, Chegutu and Sanyati.

There was one prominent case of assault when former MP Margaret Dongo was attacked by Taurai Matonga, the brother of Mhondoro-Ngezi MP Bright Matonga. The case was reported to Kadoma police and the perpetrator paid a fine for the offence. Dongo confirmed the altercation with Matonga.

Harare Province witnessed a significant decline in the number of politically motivated violation from 81 in July to seven but political tensions have remained very high.

Zanu PF militia group of Chipangano continued to harass and intimidate people in the Mbare, Budiro and Epworth suburbs. The group force-marched people to attend the burial of Mujuru at the National Heroes' Acre from Mbare and Epworth.

In Mbare, Zanu PF youths allegedly poured hot oil in the face of an MDC-T youth organiser from the Southerton Constituency. According to the MDC-T, the Youth Assembly chairperson for Ward 11 was visiting other activists in order to organise meetings. The youths followed him when they realised who he was and attacked him using knobkerries and kicked him while he was lying on the ground. He was hospitalised following the attack.

More than twenty people were assaulted by five suspected members of the Central Intelligence Organisation (CIO) at Epworth home industry. The people were accused of discussing the mysterious death of Mujuru in a fire at his farm in Beatrice.

The political situation in **Matabeleland North Province** has remained relatively quiet. The region witnessed a significant decline in violations from 15 in July to six during the month

under review. The major cause of confusion in the province has been the reported presence of war veterans' leader Jabulani Sibanda in Tsholotsho.

Although there are other violations that have been recorded in the province such as unlawful detention, forced to chant party slogans and torture, the main violations in the province have been harassment and intimidation.

The province witnessed one incident of torture when a man was allegedly tortured by soldiers at Mpofu Village in Lupane West constituency. The man was being accused of having assaulted one of the soldiers. It was reported that the man was handcuffed and beaten up before being taken to a base at Mabhikwa Secondary School where he was tortured the whole night only to be released the following day.

Matabeleland South Province saw a decline in the number of politically motivated human rights violations during the month of August. There were five incidents in August down from the nine recorded during the month of July.

Political parties Zanu PF, MDC-T, MDC-N and ZAPU are all reported to be putting up structures in the province peacefully. This has been as a result of hunger in the region and many people are concentrating on food for work projects, gold panning and working in their gardens.

Zanu PF national chairperson Simon Khaya-Moyo allegedly undermined the authority of Matobo North councillors who are mainly from the MDC-T. This was at a diptank handover ceremony at Mahetshe. Khaya-Moyo addressed villagers where he openly denounced the councillors for belonging to the MDC-T.

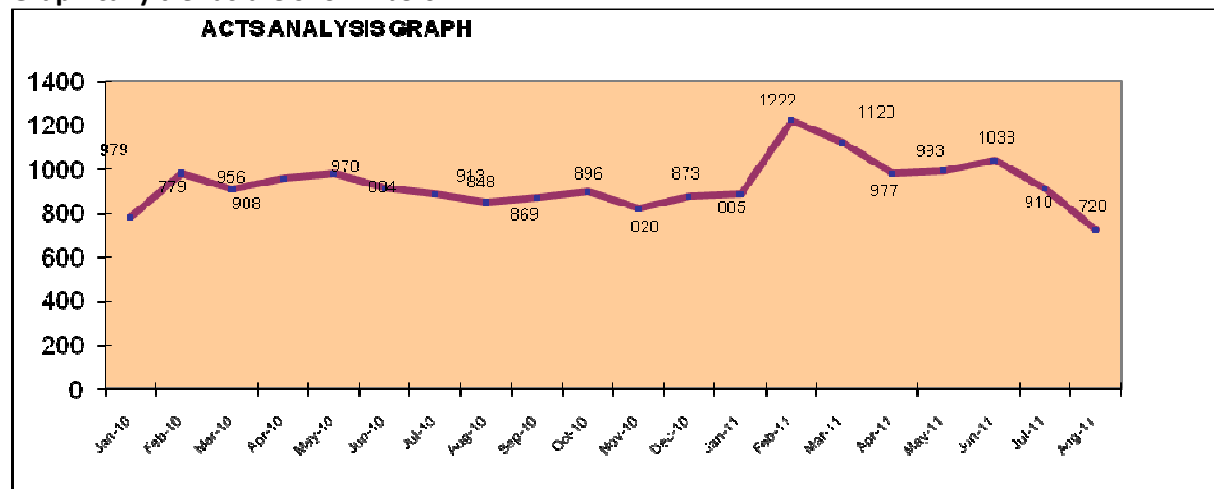
The political situation in **Bulawayo Province** remained calm and quite during the month under review with only two incidents having been recorded. However, the political situation remains very tense as the people are continuously demanding that the issues around Gukurahundi are discussed openly without fear or censor.

The province also witnessed reports of Zanu PF youths who were invading buildings owned by whites under the guise of the Indigenisation and Empowerment Act. The invasions have a potential of causing more human rights violations on political grounds.

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	0	0	0	0	0
Assault	32	2	0	1	6	20	3	25	8	11	106
Theft/Looting	5	0	0	0	2	3	0	3	1	1	15
Discrimination	27	0	0	0	12	22	0	29	9	7	96
MDP	2	0	0	0	2	1	0	2	1	0	8
Torture	1	0	0	0	1	1	0	0	0	0	5
Unlawful Detention	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	1	0	4
Harassment/ Intimidation	93	0	5	2	71	96	4	83	55	65	472
Displacement	3	0	0	3	0	5	0	1	1	10	14
Total	163	2	5	6	94	149	7	133	76	85	720

Graphically trends are shown below.



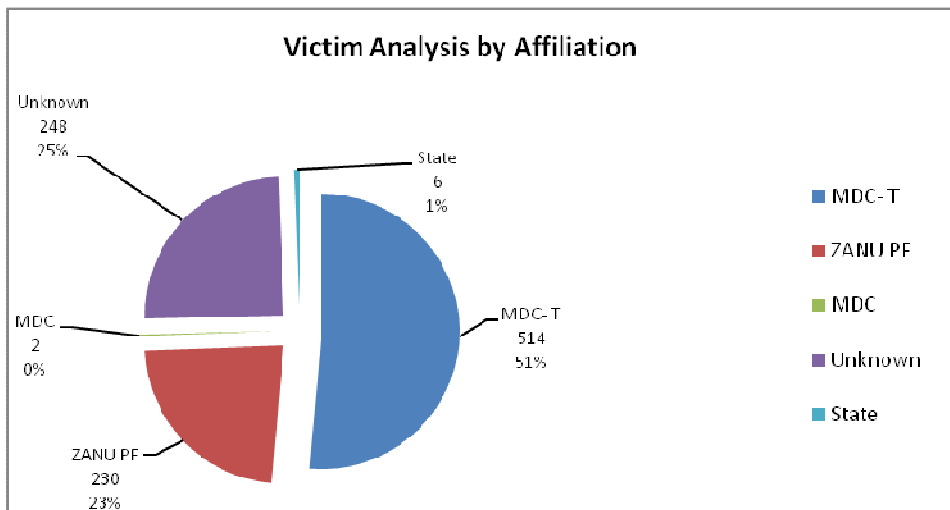
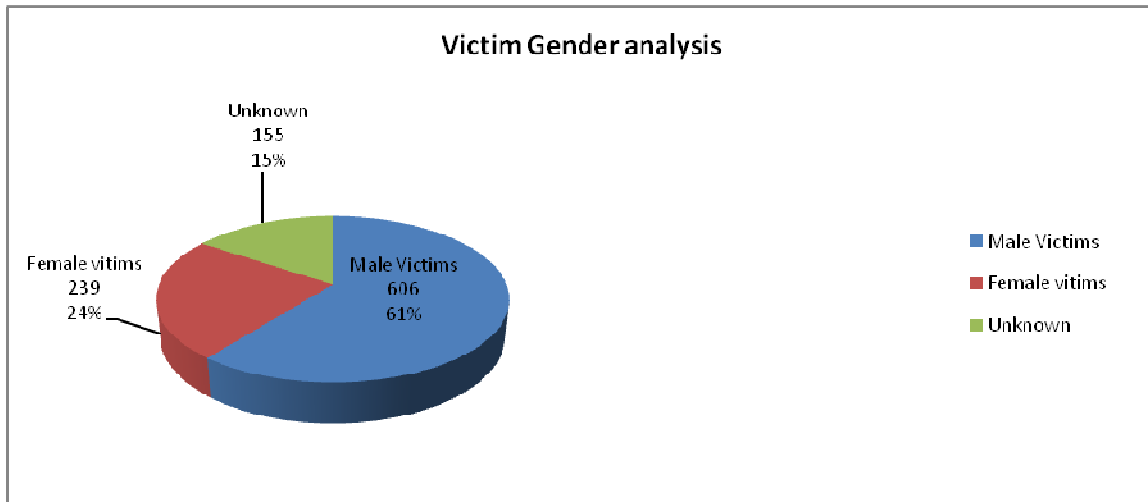
VICTIM ANALYSIS BY GENDER AND ASSOCIATION

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 606 male victims down from 801 recorded during the month of July. The male victims represented 66% of the 1 000 victims tally.

The month saw 239 females having their rights violated constituting 26%.

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-M.

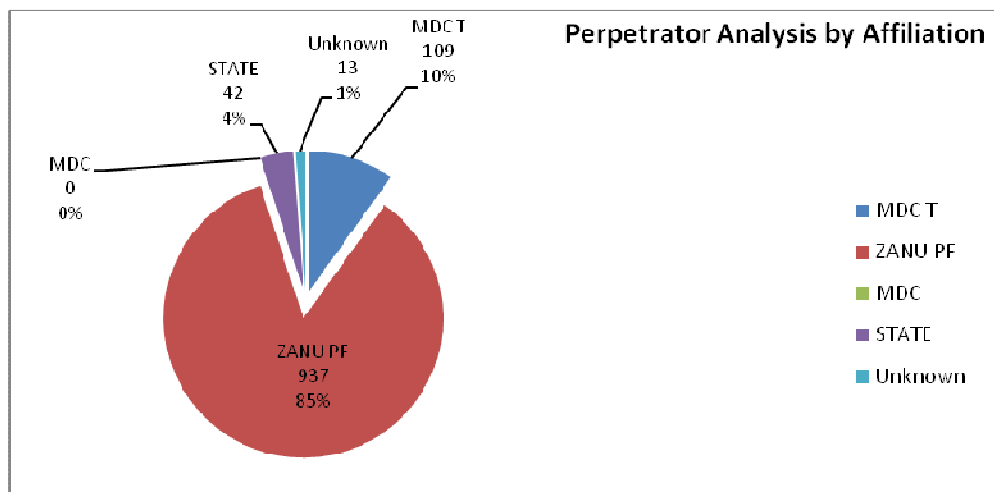
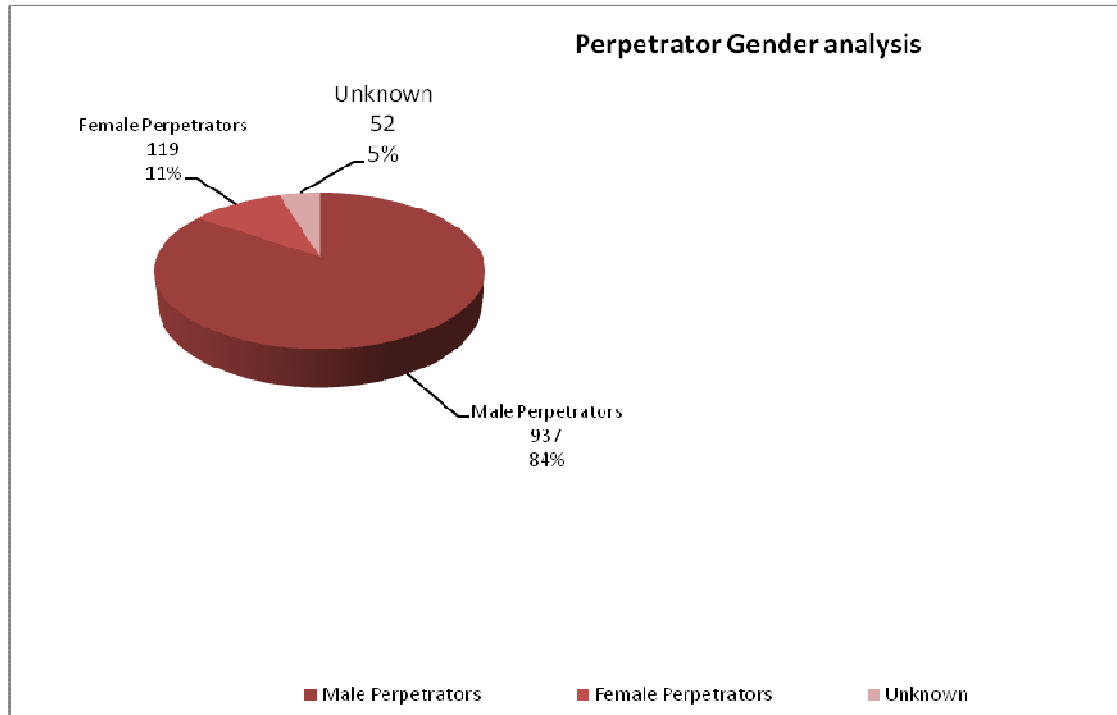
There were 514 MDC-T supporters who had their rights violated representing 51% of the victims compared to Zanu PF's 230 supporters accounting for 23% of the victims tally. The analysis clearly shows that 25% of the victims were of an unknown political affiliation but were caught up in the cross fire of political violence between the two main political parties of Zanu PF and the MDC-T. There were 248 victims whose affiliation was unknown.



Male and Female Perpetrator Analysis and Charts

The perpetrators analysis by gender show that males were the chief culprits representing 84% of the violators of human rights compared to their female counterparts who constituted a lowly 11%. During the month of August, 937 males were recorded as perpetrators, while only 119 were females showing a slight decrease as compared to the July figure of 142 females who were reported as having caused human rights violations throughout the country.

Zanu PF accounted for the highest percentage of perpetrators during the month of April accounting for 85% of people directly responsible for leading politically motivated human rights violations. There were 937 perpetrators from Zanu PF while 109 were MDC-T activists with 42 cases having been perpetrated by state security agents and mainly police officers accounting for only 4%. 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

Food and other forms of aid related violations have been on a steady decrease over the past three months. There were 93 food related violations in June followed with a slight decline in July to 91 cases. During the month under review there were 66 incidents recorded with the majority of violations coming from the Midlands Province.

The decrease could be attributed to the fact that most villagers from across the country have not been relying on food aid since they are surviving for the harvests from the last season.


The Midlands Province had the highest number of food and other forms of aid violations during the month under review. This has been as a direct result of the ongoing Grain Marketing Board (GMB) projects to distribute maize and farming inputs at subsidized rates.

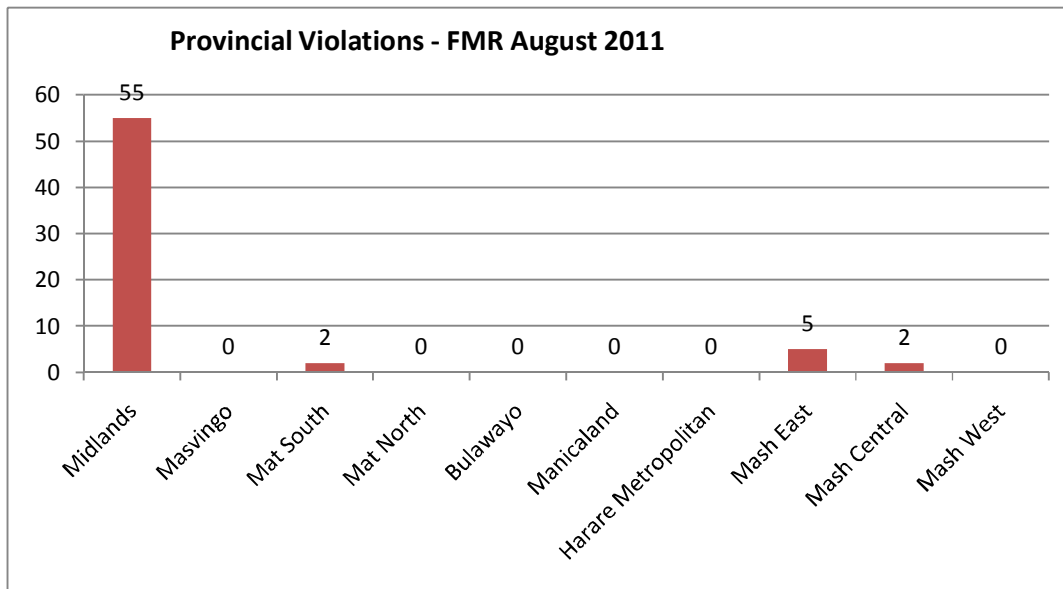
The violations have been recorded in Gokwe, Kwekwe, Gweru, Zvishavane and Mberengwa districts. An MDC-T activist was denied access to maize seeds and fertilizers which were being distributed by GMB in Ward 11, Senga Resettlement area in Shurugwi North constituency. The victim was told that the farming inputs were for Zanu PF supporters only.

An MDC-T activist widow was allegedly denied access to the Basic Education Assistance Module (BEAM) for her child because of her political affiliation. This happened at Chifamba Secondary School in Guruve South where the committee members for the BEAM project are largely Zanu PF.

The cumulative toll violations on the distribution of food and other forms of aid since January 2008, has risen to 13 808. Acts of discriminations and harassment continue to dominate the violations charts and there have been no investigations instituted aimed at curbing the abuses.

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
Closing Figures for 2008-2010				4333	281	7868	12482
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	46	64
365	175	282	September				
376	209	216	October				
930	208	277	November				
336	204	349	December				
4851	4767	2866	TOTAL	4841	283	8652	13806



EMERGING ISSUES & WAY FORWARD

Recent calls by President Robert Mugabe that elections will be held early 2012 have a real danger of having the country slip back into chaos. President Mugabe has also accused his colleagues in government of stalling the constitutional process in order to prolong the life of the inclusive government.

The tone in which President Mugabe made the election remarks was very authoritative and could seriously result in a number of people’s rights being violated as Zanu PF bulldozes its way to elections. “We cannot go beyond March next year. I will definitely announce that

(election) date. It does not matter what everyone would say," declared Mugabe. "Once I announce that date, everyone will follow."

ZPP believes Zimbabwe is not yet ready for an election until a time when a new constitution is ready and security, electoral and media reforms have been effected.

Prime Minister Morgan Tsvangirai allegedly told MDC-T supporters at a rally in Kadoma that they should not fold their hands when they are attacked. The advice was quiet unfortunate considering the fact that politicians hold the ultimate responsibility for their party's supporters.

The Zimbabwe Peace Project appeals to the leaders of political parties in this country to go beyond just making public statements denouncing violence and rather they should take sterner actions against their party members responsible for spearheading political violence. We strongly believe that it is within the power of the politicians and Zimbabweans at large to contribute to stopping the on-going violence.

Police officers have also failed to arrest even a single culprit for allegedly causing violence at important national events on the flimsy excuse that they were not prepared. This has clearly led to the entrenchment of the culture of impunity among most and would be perpetrators of political violence.

ZPP calls on the police to fulfil their constitutional mandate in ensuring that all the perpetrators of violence are brought to justice.

It has also come to our attention that Zanu PF officers have been moving around suburbs in Harare with the intention of expanding the party's membership base. Our appeal is that they do this in a manner that is not violent and will not result in people's rights being violated.

ZPP strongly believe that no one should be forced to join any political party as it is in clear violation of the people's rights to freedom of association and assembly as enshrined in the country's existing Constitution.

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, 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

CONTACT US

P O Box BE 427, Belvedere

Tel: (04) 747719, 2930180, 2930182,

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

Table 3: PROVINCIAL VIOLATIONS OUTLOOK – August 2011

PROVINCE	TYPE OF VIOLATIONS/ACTIVITY(IES)		VOLATILE ZONES
	COMMON ACTS (VIOLATIONS)	CAUSES	
MIDLANDS	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Harassment /Intimidation – death, violence & unspecified Threats, hate language, Assaults Discrimination 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Political intolerance Wearing political party regalia, T/shirts from civil society organisations Partisan distribution of food & other forms of aid 	Gokwe Nembudziya, Gokwe Mapfungautsi, Silobela, Chiwundura, Zvishavane and Mberengwa
MASHONALAND EAST	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Harassment/intimidation - death, violence & unspecified Threats, hate language Discrimination 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Political intolerance Wearing political party regalia, T/shirts from civil society organisations 	Mudzi south, Hwedza North & South, Murehwa North & South and Mutoko
MANICALAND	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Harassment/Intimidations, unspecified Threats, hate language, Assaults Discrimination – distribution of food & other forms of aid Malicious Damage to property Police dog bites on Chiadzwa civilians 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Political intolerance Wearing political party regalia, T/shirts from civil society organisations Preparation campaigns for referendum and projected 2011 elections 	Nyanga, Makoni
MASVINGO	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Harassment/Intimidation – (death, violence & unspecified Threats, hate language,) Assault Discrimination 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Political intolerance 	Zaka, Bikita and Gutu Districts
MASHONALAND CENTRAL	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Harassment/intimidation – (death, violence & unspecified Threats, hate language, Assaults 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Political intolerance Wearing political party regalia, T/shirts from civil society organisations Campaign for Kariba Draft 	Guruve South, Muzarabani North
MASHONALAND WEST	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Harassment & intimidation – (death, violence & unspecified Threats, hate language,) Assaults 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Political intolerance Campaigns for referendum and 2011 harmonised elections 	Chegutu, Mhangura, Mhondoro and Makonde

BULAWAYO	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Harassment & intimidation. Bulawayo is relatively calm 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Political intolerance 	Bulawayo East, Luveve,
MATEBELELAND NORTH	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Harassment & Intimidation (death threats, violence & unspecified Threats, hate language,) • Discrimination 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Political intolerance 	Tsholotsho
MATEBELELAND SOUTH	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Harassment & intimidation • Curfew 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Political intolerance 	Gwanda