

ZPP Monthly Monitor

BACKGROUND & FORMATION

The Zimbabwe Peace Project (ZPP) was conceived shortly after 2000 by a group of faith-based and human rights organisations 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 politically motivated human rights violations. Today, ZPP's co-operating member organizations include, Zimbabwe Council of Churches (ZCC), Catholic Commission for Justice & Peace in Zimbabwe (CCJPZ), Evangelical Fellowship of Zimbabwe (EFZ) Zimbabwe Election Support Network (ZESN), Counselling Services Unit (CSU), Zimbabwe Civic Education Trust (ZIMCET), Zimbabwe Lawyers for Human Rights (ZLHR), Zimbabwe Human Rights Association (ZIMRIGHTS), Civic Education Network Trust (CIVNET), Women's Coalition and the Habakkuk Trust.

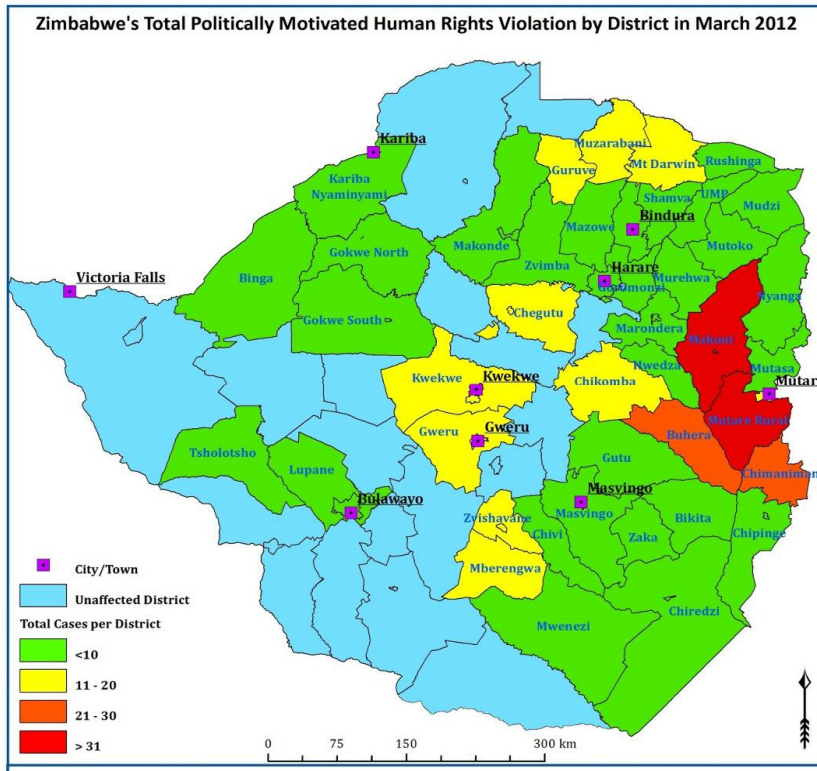
The ZPP is a non-partisan organisation that reports on politically motivated human rights violations without any bias. The information that we publish is verified through a thorough verification process within ZPP.

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



METHODOLOGY

This report is based on reports from ZPP long-term community based human rights monitors who observe, monitor and record cases of human rights violations in the constituencies they reside. ZPP deploys a total of 420 community-based primary peace monitors (two per each of the 210 electoral constituencies of Zimbabwe). The ZPP reports are published in retrospect.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

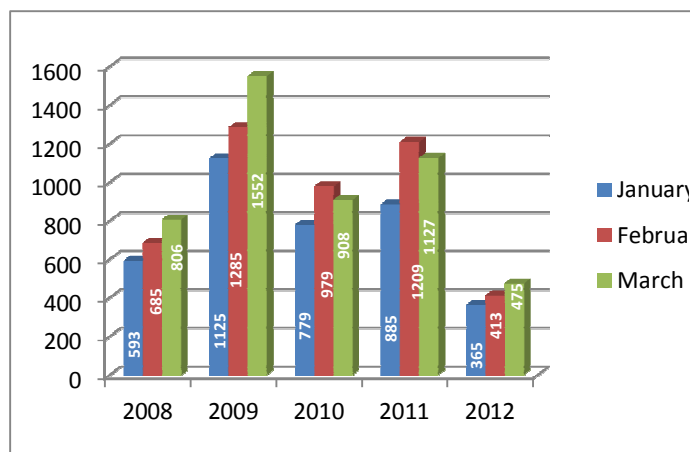


Figure 1: Trends of PMV for March 2008 - March 2012

Politically motivated human rights violations continued on the upward trend as the talk of holding elections this year gathered momentum. The elections mantra was also laced with attacks on the constitution making process as the Zanu PF leadership threatened to go for an election with or without a new constitution.

Inter and intra-party fighting has been recorded in some provinces as the main political parties gear themselves for the elections. Intra-party fights were recorded within Zanu PF in Manicaland as the party was restructuring its district leadership. The same goes for the MDC-T where supporters fought against each other at a rally in Marondera, Mashonaland East Province.

The ZPP also reported a suspected murder of a war veteran in Mashonaland East Province by unknown assailants. A teacher and member of the MDC-T from Murehwa North constituency was allegedly picked up by the police in connection with the matter but was later released without charge.

There was a rise in the number of violations recorded during the month of March to 475 up from the 413 witnessed during the month of February. However, compared to the same period as illustrated in figure 1 the levels seen so far are still low than in previous periods. The increase could be attributed to the magnified talk of elections and the Zanu PF restructuring exercise.

An analysis of the violations trends during the month of March over the past five years reveals that the month has always had more incidents compared to the other months. The highest number of violations during the month of March was witnessed in 2009 with 1 552 cases. This was during the period when people were confused on how the inclusive government was going to work and an upsurge in revenge cases was the result.

Politically motivated human rights violations in March 2010 eased a bit to 908 cases only to increase in February 2011 to 1 127 as the Zanu PF anti-sanctions petition campaign intensified.

Cases of politically motivated violence remain high and the atmosphere has remained volatile in the Midlands, Manicaland and Masvingo provinces with a significant rise in Mashonaland West Province.

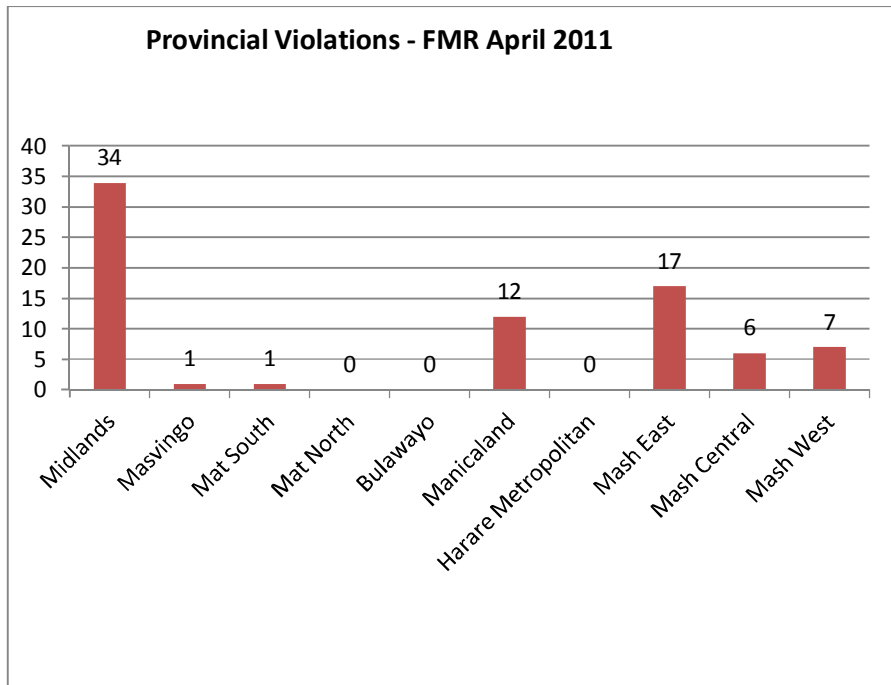
During the month under review Zimbabwe appeared at the 19th session of the Human Rights Council where the Zimbabwean delegation made a decision to consider a further 31 recommendations, including to combat trafficking in persons, to operationalise the Zimbabwe Human Rights Commission, to combat the scourge of HIV/AIDS, to improve the health and education system, and to strengthen the country's social safety nets for the general welfare of the people.

FOOD & OTHER FORMS OF AID RELATED VIOLATIONS

Although incidents of the politicization of food aid remain very low, the situation on the ground shows that people's rights will be violated as they seek food aid as a result of a poor food security situation.

Politicization of food and other forms of aid continue to be encountered in all the 10 provinces of Zimbabwe. A total of 78 cases related to partisan distribution of food and other forms of aid were recorded in the period under review. There was no significant change in the number of violations compared to the 77 cases witnessed during the month of February.

Trends and patterns keep pointing to political parties mostly ZANU PF followed by MDC-T, war veterans and traditional leaders persisting in the manipulation of distribution of food and other forms of aid processes, using the commodities as a bait to lure support of their respective groupings ahead of the proposed elections.

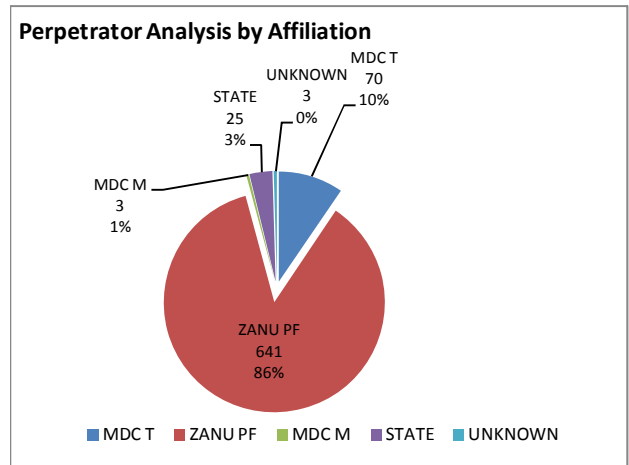
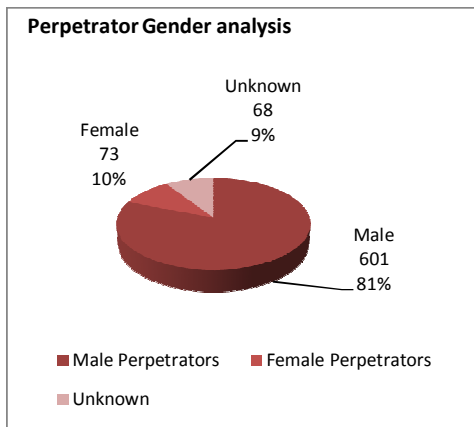
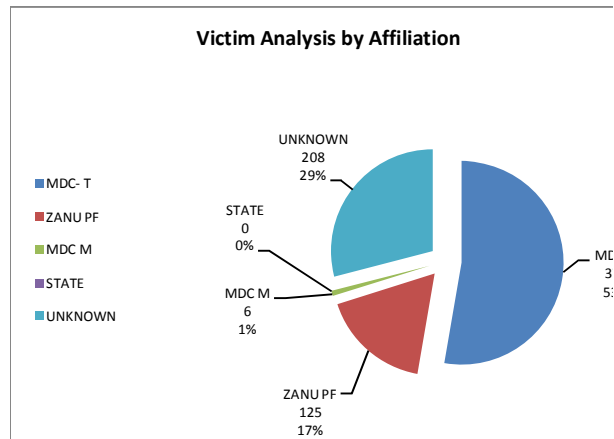
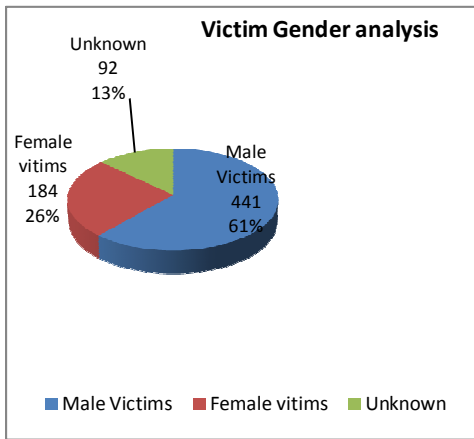


INCIDENCES OF POLITICALLY MOTIVATED VIOLATIONS

PROVINCE	TYPE OF VIOLATIONS	COUNTS	MAJOR SOURCES OF CONFLICT
Manicaland	Kidnapping	1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ The province witnessed a case of kidnapping of a Zanu Pf supporter by suspected soldiers in Mutare West constituency ➤ The Zanu PF District Coordination Committee (DCC) elections caused a lot of human rights violations in the province (The elections were between Albert Nyakuedzwa and Nathaniel Mhiripiri in Makoni District) ➤ A number of people had their rights violated during a music gala that was held in Chipinge to celebrate President Robert Mugabe's birthday ➤ Politicisation of subsidised food from the GMB was also recorded in Buhera Central, Nyanga South and Makoni North constituencies
	Harassment/intimidation	102	
	Assaults	27	
	Theft/looting	8	
	Discrimination	14	
	Displacement	1	
	Total	160	
Midlands	Harassment/intimidation	49	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ A lot of people had their rights violated in the province by being forced to attend to Zanu PF meetings ➤ The province had the highest number of people who were discriminated on party grounds during subsidised food distribution exercises mainly from GMB (Zhombe, Chiwundura and Mberengwa west are the most affected constituencies) ➤ The political environment however remains calm.
	Assault	21	
	Theft/looting	2	
	Discrimination	5	
	Total	77	
Mash Central	Harassment/intimidation	49	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Zanu PF intra-party fighting was recorded during the restructuring exercise of the party's DCC leadership ➤ Teachers and civil servants from Rushinga have endured threats of eviction and intimidation for their affiliation to the Progressive Teachers Union of Zimbabwe (PTUZ) which the Zanu PF leaders in the province say is an extension of the MDC-T ➤ Forced meetings were also recorded throughout the province and were prevalent in Guruve, Mt Darwin, Muzarabani and Mazowe districts
	Assault	5	
	Theft/looting	2	
	Discrimination	6	
	Displacement	2	
	Total	64	
Mash East	Murder	1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ The province witnessed a single case of murder of a war veteran who was found dead on March 5, 2012 in Murehwa North constituency. A teacher (an MDC-T supporter) from Nyamashato Secondary was arrested by the police in connection with the murder but was later released without charge. ➤ A number of assault cases were recorded during the month. One teacher from Dendera Mission was allegedly assaulted by Chief Goronga who accused the victim of having received a motor-cycle from the MDC-T. ➤ The province also witnessed intra-party violence within the MDC-T after party youths attacked the leadership during a rally in Marondera. 18 suspects were arrested in connection with the violence.
	Harassment/intimidation	36	
	Assault	15	
	Discrimination	4	

	Displacement	1	
	Total	56	
Mash West	Assault	5	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Villagers were being forced to attend Zanu PF meetings where they are forced to buy party cards and these were mainly recorded in Kariba, Norton and Zvimba and Mhangura ➤ There were reports of intra-party conflict within the MDC-T in Sanyati as party activists fight to represent the party in the next elections ➤ Tensions were also rising within Zanu PF as the party prepared to restructure its leadership in the province ➤ The month also saw the resuscitation of the notorious terror group Top Six in Chinhoyi
	Discrimination	3	
	Harassment/Intimidation	36	
	Total	44	
Masvingo	Harassment/Intimidation	32	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Villagers were forced to attend to Zanu PF meetings in preparation for the DCC elections in the province scheduled for April and from Zaka people were forced to provide information on their affiliation to Zanu PF including the year joined and whether the member is a registered voter. ➤ Soldiers were also reported to be harassing villagers forcing them to vote for Zanu PF in the upcoming elections. A Major Bedza from Chivi allegedly threatened to beat up an MDC-T official at Chivi Centre on March 2 ➤ A villager from Gutu was convicted of insulting the President by a Gutu magistrate and was fined US\$300 or 3 months imprisonment.
	Assault	4	
	Theft/Looting	1	
	Discrimination	3	
	Total	40	
Harare	Assault	6	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ The political environment in the province is very tense as Zanu PF supporters are going on a door to door campaign mobilising people to take up leadership roles in their restructuring exercise in Epworth ➤ The month also saw Munyaradzi Gwisai and five others being convicted and sentenced for plotting to incite public violence by a Harare Magistrate.
	Harassment/Intimidation	18	
	Theft/ Looting	1	
	Total	25	
Mat North	Discrimination	1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ The political situation in the province has remained relatively calm although tension is rising in some constituencies due to the ongoing distribution of food aid through the government's grain loan scheme ➤ Zanu PF has also started campaigning in the province in preparation for the elections resulting in people's rights being violated.
	MDP	1	
	Harassment/Intimidation	2	
	Total	4	
Bulawayo	Harassment/Intimidation	1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ The major political activities within the province have been between the two MDC formations that are fighting for space.
	Total	1	
Mat South	CALM	0	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Although there are no incidents recorded during the month, tensions are likely to rise as a result of the ongoing distribution of food aid around the province.
	OVERALL TOTAL	475	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤

VICTIM/PERPETRATOR ANALYSIS BY GENDER AND ASSOCIATION



This Report was produced and circulated by the Zimbabwe Peace Project, P. O. Box BE 427, Belvedere, Harare Tel: (04) 747719, 2930180, 2930182 and email: zppinfo@gmail.com,

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