



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

September 2011

20/10/2011

HUMAN RIGHTS VIOLATIONS MONITORING

SUMMARY

The country's Global Political Agreement (GPA) marked its third anniversary during the month under review with a number of tasks still outstanding. The month of September is widely recognized as the month of peace the world over but this was not the case for Zimbabwe as more politically motivated human rights violations were witnessed throughout the country.

There was an increase in incidents of politically motivated human rights violations from the 720 recorded in August to 791 during the month under review.

An analysis of the violations trends during the month of September 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 September was witnessed in 2008 despite it being the month the GPA was signed by the three leaders from Zanu PF and the two MDC formations.

Politically motivated violations took a dip in September 2009 when 931 cases were recorded and continued on a downward trend for September 2010 to 861 incidents.

Cases of politically motivated violence remain high and the atmosphere has remained volatile in the Manicaland, Midlands, 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 political environment remained very tense despite a major climb down by President Robert Mugabe on his call for elections in 2011 announcing that elections will be held no later than March 2012. The tensions in the political environment were also heightened by the revelations from the whistle blower website Wikileaks on the political views of most prominent figures in the country's politics.

Zanu PF and the MDC-T were the most affected as their leaders were allegedly exposed by some of their own in several meetings with the United States of America diplomats where they discussed the country's political situation. Senior Zanu PF leaders are alleged to have privately indicated their desire to have President Robert Mugabe step down as leader. However, President Mugabe is yet to respond publicly to the Wikileaks revelations while Prime Minister is on record as having encouraged his party to ignore the revelations although there are rumours now that the revelations are tearing the party apart.

During the month under review ZPP also recorded the murder of a villager from the controversial Chiadzwa diamond fields by police officers while in police custody. More human rights violations have continued to be recorded from Marange in Manicaland.

In this report ZPP also reports on the police’s failure to take action with regards to a number of violations that have been organised and perpetrated by Zanu PF’s Chipangano militia group based in Mbare.

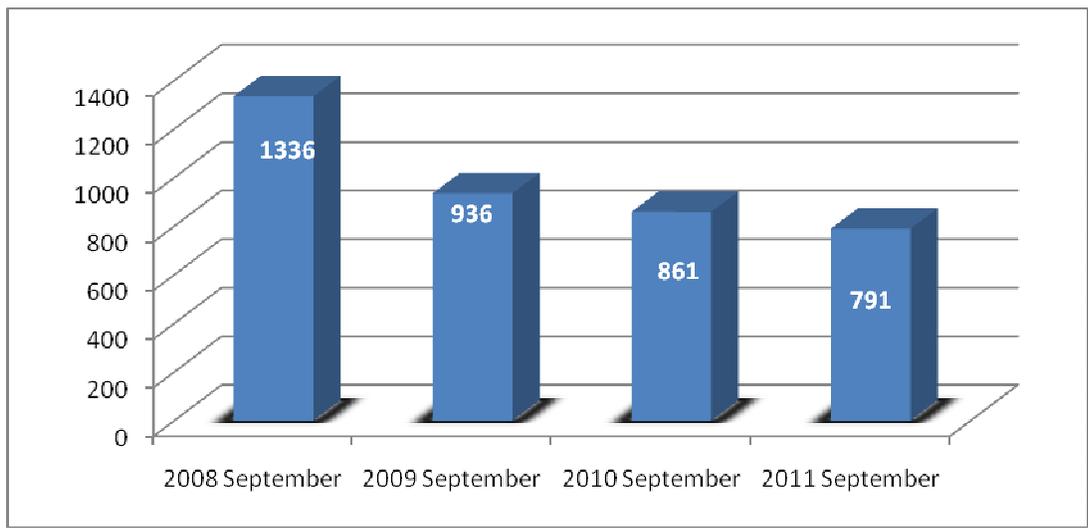
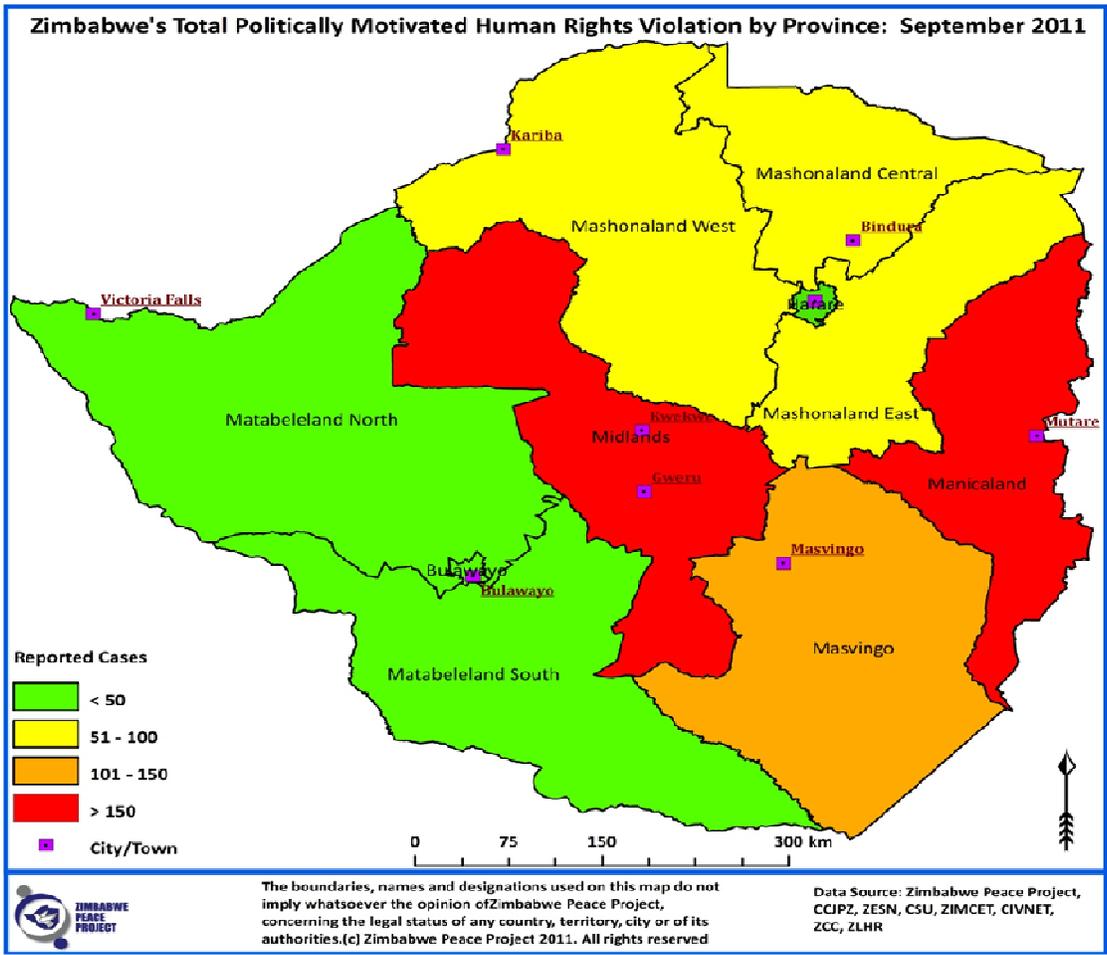


Figure 1: Trends of PMV for September 2008 -2011

INCIDENCES OF POLITICALLY MOTIVATED VIOLATIONS

Politically motivated human rights violations have remained very high in **Manicaland Province** with a high profile murder case having been reported in the Chiadzwa Diamond fields. The province witnessed a significant jump in violations to 199 from the 149 incidents witnessed during the month of August.

On September 23, 2011, a 39 year old man from Betera Village in the diamond-rich Chiadzwa area died in police custody while his brothers are battling for life at Mutare Provincial Hospital after they were heavily assaulted by police officers on allegations they were illegal diamond miners.

The victims were arrested by a team of Mbada Diamonds Security details who accused them of illegally panning diamonds under the guise of sinking a well. They were handed over to the police at Zengeni Diamond base where a ZRP Inspector identified as Joseph Chani took the law into his own hands and decided to “discipline” victims.

Inspector Chani reportedly pounded victims with an array of sticks and baton stick on the back, abdomen and under the feet (falanga) from around 1230 in the afternoon to 2100hrs in the evening accusing them of being diamond panners. However, victims were never officially told of their crime neither was a docket opened.

The late victim reportedly began vomiting blood and later died at around 2230 in police custody without any medical assistance being availed. Inspector Chani is reported to have vanished soon after learning that one of his victims had died.

Traditional leaders remained the major perpetrators of human rights violations in clear violation of the provisions of the Global Political Agreement (GPA). On September 10, 2011 headman Aaron Zimunya from Chinyauhvera in Mutare South reportedly summoned one hundred villagers (100) to a meeting after lying to them that the villagers were required to convene in order to register for food relief. On arrival, the villagers only realized that it was a Zanu PF meeting which was addressed by the village head and Zanu PF members of the District Coordinating Committee. Two villagers Dzobo and NemaKonde were allegedly assaulted at the meeting and accused of being MDC-T members.

At Karimba village in Buhera North, village head Karimba and some war veterans forced villagers to a Zanu PF meeting where they threatened all opposition members with serious consequences if they do not renounce their membership of the MDC-T.

In Chimanimani West, headman Chieza reportedly summoned the Musewe family to his court for hosting a memorial service and tombstone unveiling ceremony of their late relative accusing the family of having being sponsored by the MDC-T.

War veterans have assumed the role of foot soldiers for Zanu PF and are in breach of the law as they wantonly harass and beat up people with impunity. At Makandi farm in Chipinge East, a war veteran Muzamana reportedly evicted Stephen Khaiye from the farm as punishment for hosting the MDC-T Member of Parliament for the Constituency Mathew Mlambo at his house on the farm on the 18th of September.

A war veterean and serving soldier Captain Muresherwa from Chimanimani West reportedly went door to door in Nechitima village threatening villagers and demanding that they vote for Zanu PF in the next election.

The **Midlands Province** remained one of the top provinces with high numbers of violations where 163 incidents were recorded during the month September with the majority of the violations being cases of harassment and intimidation. The districts of Gokwe, Kwekwe, Zvishavane and Gweru had the highest number of violations during the period under review.

High Court Judge Justice Nicholas Mathonsi on Monday September 26, found six Zanu PF supporters guilty of murdering an MDC-T activist Moses Chokuda in March 2009. Four of the suspects including Midlands Governor Machaya's son were sentenced to 18 years imprisonment.

The four convicted suspects Farai Machaya (the governor's son) Abel Maposa, and brothers Edmore Gana and Bothwell Gana, as well as soldiers Obert Gavi and Tirivashoma Mawadze, all of Gokwe Centre, had earlier on pleaded not guilty to the charge of murder as defined in Section 47 of the Criminal (Codification and Reform) Act.

Soldiers Gavi and Mawadze were acquitted on the murder charge but were convicted of assault and sentenced to 12 months imprisonment which was wholly suspended for five years on condition that they do not commit a similar offence.

Of the 33 incidents of assault recorded during the month of September, the majority of the violations were from Shurugwi North, Gokwe-Kabuyuni, Chiwundura, Kwekwe Central and Mberengwa West constituencies.

An MDC-T activist was allegedly assaulted by a Zanu PF supporter at Rengwe Primary school in Mberengwa West Constituency after the former had allegedly denounced deposed Libyan leader Muammar Gaddafi. The slur did not go down well with the Zanu PF member who is also one of the youth militia leaders in the constituency and he attacked the victim with open hands.

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

Masvingo Province witnessed an increase in the number of politically motivated human rights violations recorded during the month of September. There were 126 incidents during the month under review as compared to the 94 witnessed during the month of August.

The increase can be attributed to the campaigns by political parties in anticipation of the constitutional referendum. Zanu PF officials in the province have reportedly been campaigning for a 'No' vote among their supporters if ever the draft constitution leaves out the party's views advocated during the constitutional outreach process.

Most of the violations recorded from the province are mainly harassment and intimidation by traditional leaders and Zanu PF youths led by war veterans who are reportedly forcing people to attend Zanu PF meetings. Chief Ndanga from Zaka allegedly threatened villagers with eviction if ever they are found supporting the MDC-T. The chief also threatened to invite soldiers to deal with villagers who are anti-Zanu PF. The threats were issued out at a meeting on September 2, 2011 at the chief's homestead.

Three MDC-T youth members from Gutu East allegedly burnt three huts belonging to a war veteran and Zanu PF supporter in Mazuru Ward 13. The youths were reported to have accused the war veteran of bringing senior army officers to the area to intimidate and harass villagers.

Zanu PF youths in Chiredzi invaded three buildings owned by white businessmen in the sugar-producing town. Led by a shadowy Zanu PF youth group, Masvingo Youths Empowerment Association (MYEA) — an equivalent of Harare's Upfumi Kuvadiki — the youths, toyi-toying and singing revolutionary songs, stormed three buildings.

They invaded Govan Investments' building, owned by Southhood Govan, Graig Hanning Building and another one belonging to Jan Van Javeert, proprietor of the South East Tanning Company declaring the properties theirs. The youths allegedly threatened that they would move into bigger companies such as sugar conglomerate Tongaat Hulett, owners of Triangle and Hippo Valley estates.

The registration exercise by Care International for the beneficiaries of food aid has been reportedly hijacked by Zanu PF officials and traditional leaders throughout the province. The reports suggest that Zanu PF has been trying to interfere with the process by requesting Care officers to discriminate beneficiaries according to their political party affiliations.

Mashonaland East Province witnessed a significant decrease in the number of politically motivated human rights violations during the month under review. There were 95 incidents recorded during the month under review down from the 133 incidents witnessed in August and the decline could be attributed to the fact that it has become clear that elections will not be held this year.

Incidents of intimidation and harassment topped the violations in all the province's ten districts. Zanu PF supporters were reported to be forcing people to update their monthly subscriptions to the party. This is after the people had been forced to buy the membership cards and membership monthly subscription costs of US\$1.

On September 30, 2011, a mob of Zanu PF supporters allegedly blocked Prime Minister Morgan Tsvangirai from visiting market stalls at Murehwa Shopping Center with threats of violence. The delegation was forced to abandon the visit and proceed to Murehwa Hospital where he toured the institution.

The province also witnessed a case of displacement in Maramba Pfungwe where a suspected MDC-T supporter was forced off his homestead in Soni Village by more than 10 Zanu PF youths and war veterans. The incident allegedly took place on September 3, 2011, following some utterances the victim had made about Zanu PF.

The political situation in **Mashonaland Central Province** remained tense as political parties in the inclusive government continue to fight for political space in terms of holding meetings and re-building party structures. The province witnessed 86 incidents of politically motivated violence one incident up from the 85 cases recorded in August.

The province witnessed a single case of farm invasion in Mazowe District when over 40 Zanu PF youths with the support of war veterans and senior Zanu PF members invaded Verona Farm. The white commercial farmer only identified as Chadwick left most of his property including farming equipment. The youths also allegedly hijacked a truck belonging to the Mazowe Rural District council.

Of the 85 violations recorded during the month under review, the majority of cases were of harassment and intimidation where villagers were being forced to attend political party meetings. The province witnessed five incidents of assault and the major perpetrators were recorded to be Zanu PF supporters. An MDC-T activist from Kachere Farm in Mazowe West was assaulted by a Zanu PF supporter for allegedly attending an MDC-T organised official opening of Shopo Clinic in Chiweshe.

On September 9, 2011, a group of soldiers in an army lorry registration number 33BB06 allegedly camped at the gate of Trossex Farm in Muzarabani South. Fearing for his life the victim did not sleep at the farm and only returned the following morning. The motive of the actions by the soldiers is still not yet clear.

In a case of intra-party violence that took place on September 15, 2011, a Zanu PF youth leader was heavily assaulted by fellow Zanu PF youths at Kadonzvo Village in Mt Darwin West Constituency. The victim's crime was that he had advised his colleagues not to use violence as a way of gaining support for their party.

Politically motivated human rights violations remained high in **Mashonaland West Province** where ordinary public meetings on development issues were turned into political gatherings by Zanu PF leaders. The province witnessed 71 cases of politically motivated violence in September down from the 75 incidents recorded in August.

Although the majority of the cases recorded were mainly harassment and intimidation, the province also had assault reports during the month under review. A resident from Chakari was reportedly assaulted by soldiers in plain clothes after he had argued that soldiers should not be allowed in polling stations. In Chegutu West an MDC-T activist allegedly assaulted a Zanu PF supporter who had come to his homestead selling Zanu PF party cards.

Traditional leaders in the province have been recorded to be actively involved in partisan politics, in clear violation of the provisions of the Global Political Agreement (GPA), some voluntarily while others are being forced to take sides. In Sanyati, war veterans' leader Jabulani Sibanda allegedly warned Chief Hozheri, Chief Neuso and over 200 headmen against allowing NGOs to operate freely in their communities. Sibanda told the traditional leaders that all NGOs working in their areas should first get clearance from Zanu PF.

Teachers continued to be recorded as victims during the month under review. In Zvimba West Constituency teachers from schools under Chief Chirau were reportedly forced to buy Zanu PF party cards. Those who declined and were suspected of belonging to the MDC-T were threatened with transfers.

Harare Province witnessed 34 incidents of politically motivated human rights violations during the month under review up from the seven witnessed during the month of September. The Zimbabwe Republic Police officers showed their partisan approach during the month under review in Harare.

The police failed to arrest a single perpetrator from the suspected Zanu PF supporters who assaulted members of the MDC-T, a freelance journalist and other people whose political affiliation is unknown during the official opening of the fourth session of the 7th parliament by President Robert Mugabe outside the Parliament Building.

Zanu PF's Chipangano group invaded Machipisa Market popularly known as Mukambo with the intention of flashing out all suspected MDC-T supporters. The MDC-T supporters reacted resulting in violence and the police reacted by throwing tear smoke to disperse the people. Again no perpetrators were arrested for causing the violence.

Another group of Zanu PF youths linked to Chipangano invaded the Sunningdale terminus next to the Harare Central Police Station Charge Office where they assaulted commuter omnibus drivers and conductors for allegedly refusing to pay the youths money. The police arrived late and no one was arrested in connection with the assaults.

Police are still arresting MDC-T activists who are suspected to have murdered police inspector Mutedzi at Glenview Shopping Centre in May this year.

The political situation in **Matabeleland North Province** has remained relatively quiet. The region witnessed very few incidents of violence during the period under review with nine cases having been recorded in September up from the six that were recorded in August. The major cause of confusion in the province has been the reported presence of war veterans' leader Jabulani Sibanda in Tsholotsho.

There are also growing activities of the ZAPU party in Bubi constituency and this is causing tension as it has seen people defecting from Zanu PF.

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.

In Tsholotsho South Constituency at the Tsholotsho Business Centre there was a Zanu PF intra-party fight when the wife of Bulawayo Metropolitan Governor Cain Mathema harassed and intimidated a youth from her party over gardens owned by the party. It is alleged that Mrs. Mathema threatened to drive away the youths from the gardens which she intended to take over.

Matabeleland South Province witnessed very few incidents of politically motivated human rights violations during the period under review with six cases having been recorded during the month of September.

Political parties Zanu PF, MDC-T, MDC-N and ZAPU are all reported to be setting 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.

War veterans' leader Jabulani Sibanda was in September also reported to have visited Gwanda North Constituency where he held meetings with Zanu PF structures and war veterans.

Zanu PF officials in the province have also been forcing people to buy Zanu PF party cards in preparation of the campaign period leading to the proposed election in 2012.

The political situation in **Bulawayo Province** remained calm and quiet during the period under review with only three 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 operating environment has however remained a big challenge as civic society organisations have not been able to do their work freely as they are constantly denied the freedom to assemble by the police. One such organisation is the Women of Zimbabwe Arise (WOZA).

WOZA leaders Jenni Williams and Magodonga Mahlangu and 10 other women were arrested on September 21 while attempting to commemorate the International Day of Peace with hundreds of WOZA women and men. As well as those arrested, over 20 others were injured after being beaten by riot police.

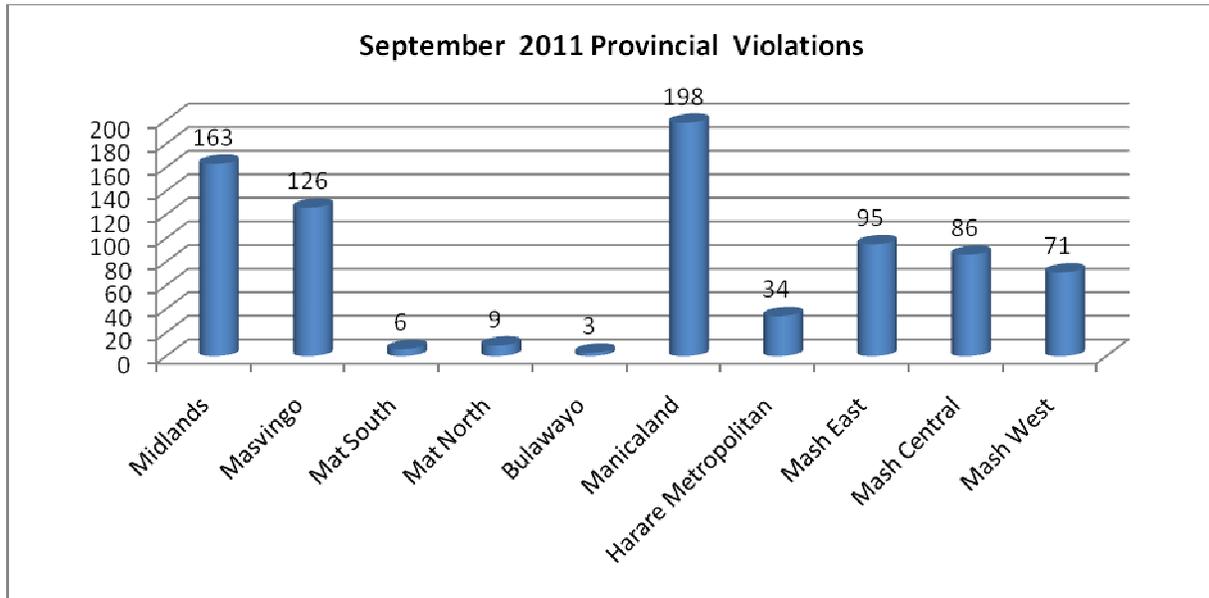
In August, the province also witnessed reports of Zanu PF youths who were invading buildings owned by whites under the guise of the Indigenisation and Empowerment Act. The invasions have a potential of causing more human rights violations on political grounds.

A planned peaceful demonstration did not take place due to heavy police presence all around the city centre. Several separate groups had intended to set out from various starting points and converge on the Mhlahlandlela government complex to present their preliminary report on transitional justice to the Governor of Bulawayo Province. But police patrol cars were circling around all the start off points and members of the riot police, in full riot gear, assaulted anyone suspected of being a demonstrator.

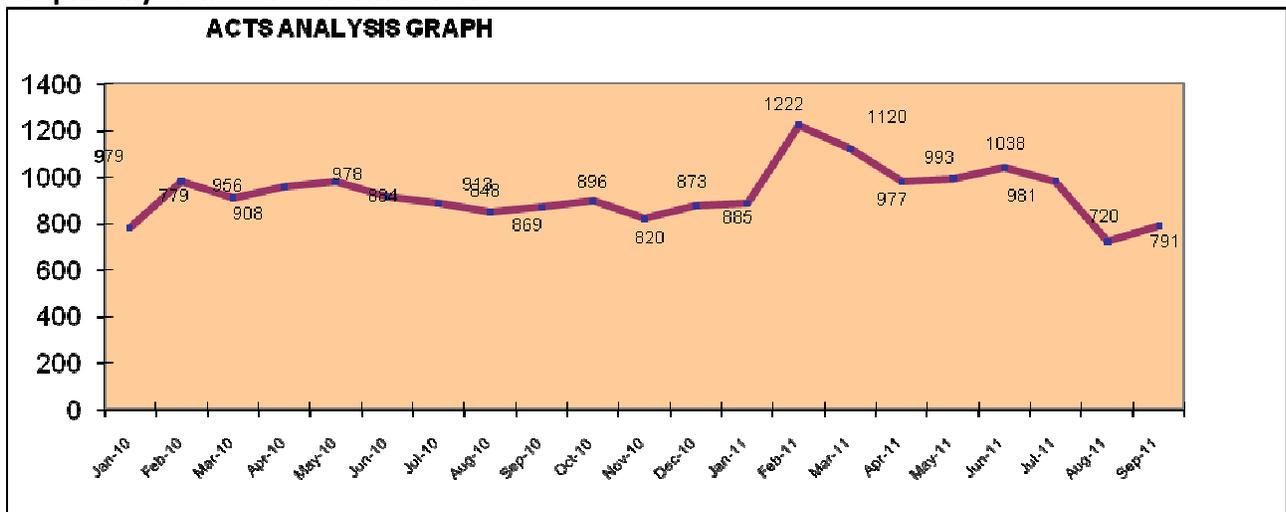
Table 1: Analysis of Politically motivated Violations by Province

ACTS	Midlands	Bulawayo	Mat. South	Mat. North	Masvingo	Manicaland	Harare	Mash. East	Mash West	Mash Central	TOTAL
Murder	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	1
Rape	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Kidnapping/Abduction	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	2
Assault	33	1	0	0	1	29	15	21	4	4	108
Theft/Looting	2	0	0	0	0	4	2	2	0	0	10
Discrimination	21	0	0	0	7	22	0	11	2	9	72
MDP	1	0	0	0	3	1	1	0	1	0	7
Torture	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	1
Unlawful Detention	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	2
Harassment/Intimidation	104	0	6	9	111	139	15	60	63	70	577
Displacement	2	0	0	0	4	1	1	1	0	2	11
Total	163	3	6	9	126	198	34	95	71	86	791

Figure 2: Provincial PMV Trends - September 2011



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 610 male victims up

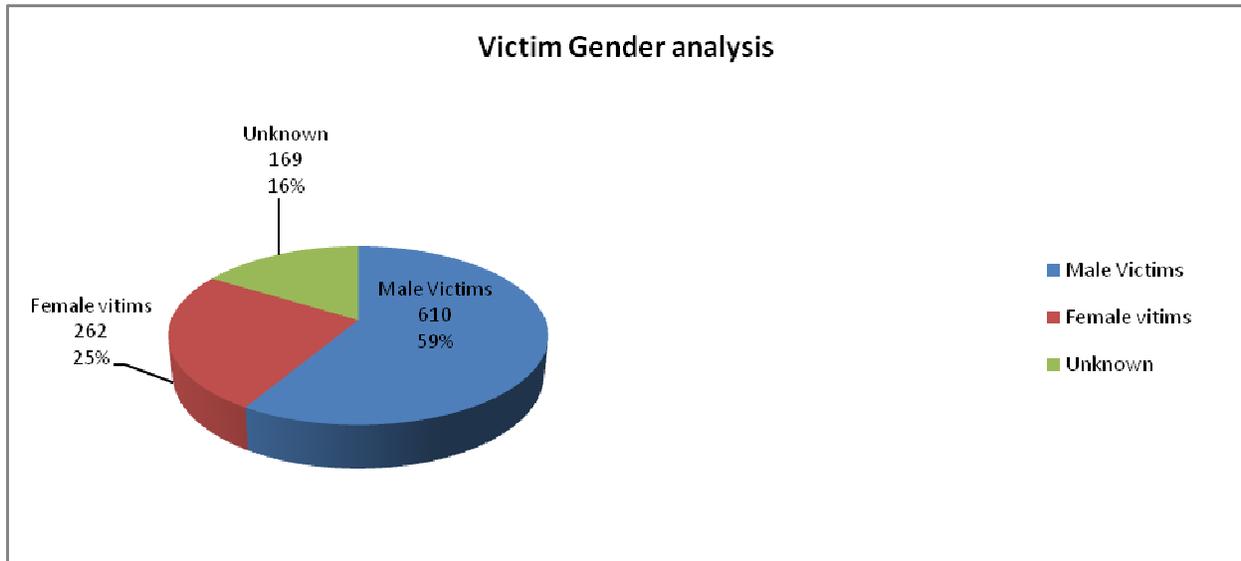
from 606 recorded during the month of August. The male victims represented 59% of the victims tally.

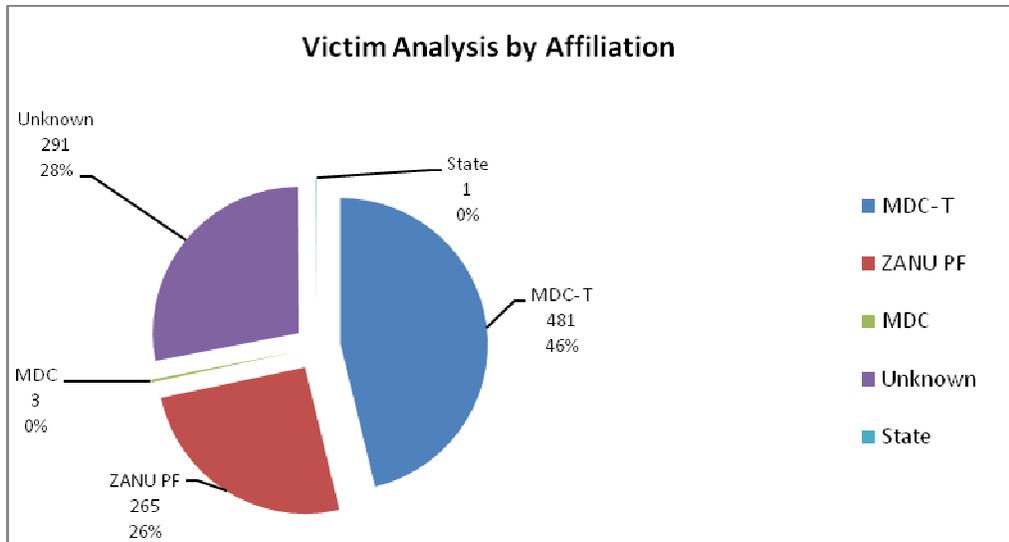
The month saw 262 females having their rights violated up from the 239 recorded in August constituting 25%.

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 481 MDC-T supporters who had their rights violated representing 46% of the victims compared to Zanu PF's 265 supporters accounting for 26% of the victims tally.

The analysis clearly shows that 28% 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 291 whose affiliation was unknown.



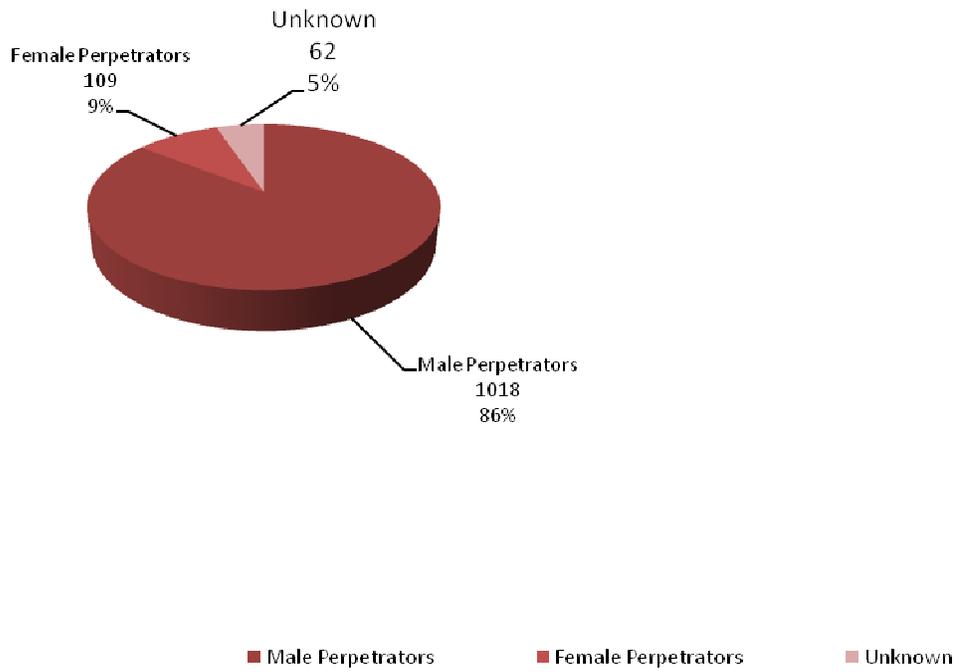


Male and Female Perpetrator Analysis and Charts

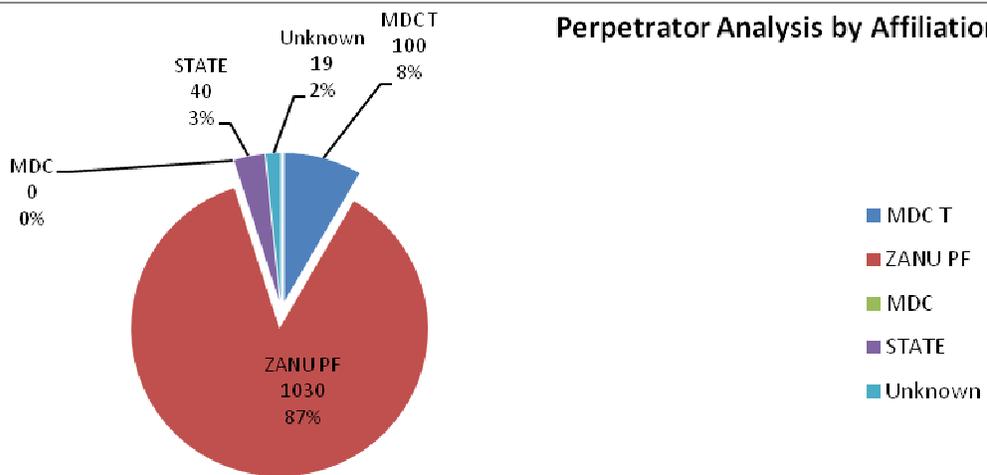
The perpetrators analysis by gender show that males were the chief culprits representing 86% of the violators of human rights compared to their female counterparts who constituted a lowly 9%. During the month of September, 937 males were recorded as perpetrators, while only 109 were females.

Zanu PF accounted for the highest percentage of perpetrators during the month of September accounting for 87% of people directly responsible for leading politically motivated human rights violations. There were 1 030 perpetrators from Zanu PF while 100 were MDC-T activists with 40 cases having been reportedly perpetrated by state security agents with mainly police officers accounting for only 3%. 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.

Perpetrator Gender analysis



Perpetrator Analysis by Affiliation



FOOD & OTHER FORMS OF AID RELATED VIOLATIONS

Food and other forms of aid violations rose slightly to 77 in the month under review from the 66 incidents witnessed during the month of August. As has been in the past month the highest number of violations were recorded from the Midlands Province.

The majority of the violations that were recorded were of victims being discriminated when trying to register as beneficiaries for food, farming inputs and various food-for-work projects. On September 10, 2011 an MDC-T activist from Zvishavane was blocked from registering so that he could receive seeds and fertilizers that were to be distributed for free by Africare. It is alleged that the beneficiaries were supposed to register their names with a known Zanu PF supporter. The perpetrator told the victim that all known and suspected MDC-T supporters would not benefit.

The Grain Marketing Board (GMB) continued with the distribution of government subsidized food in the province. The majority of the victims from the Midlands were either told to produce Zanu PF party cards or ordered to chant Zanu PF slogans in order to receive the food from the GMB.

Mashonaland East Province had cases where food and farming inputs were distributed on partisan grounds. Zanu PF officials have been accused of hijacking food distribution programmes. There were seven incidents of food and other forms of aid violations during the month of September. People are either forced to denounce their political parties or chant Zanu PF slogans before they can receive the government subsidized food.

The violations from Mashonaland central were mainly of school children being denied access to the government's Basic Education Assistance Module (BEAM) on the grounds that their parents are suspected to be members of the MDC-T. The BEAM committees in the province are largely comprised of Zanu PF members and the selection of beneficiaries has been politically biased.

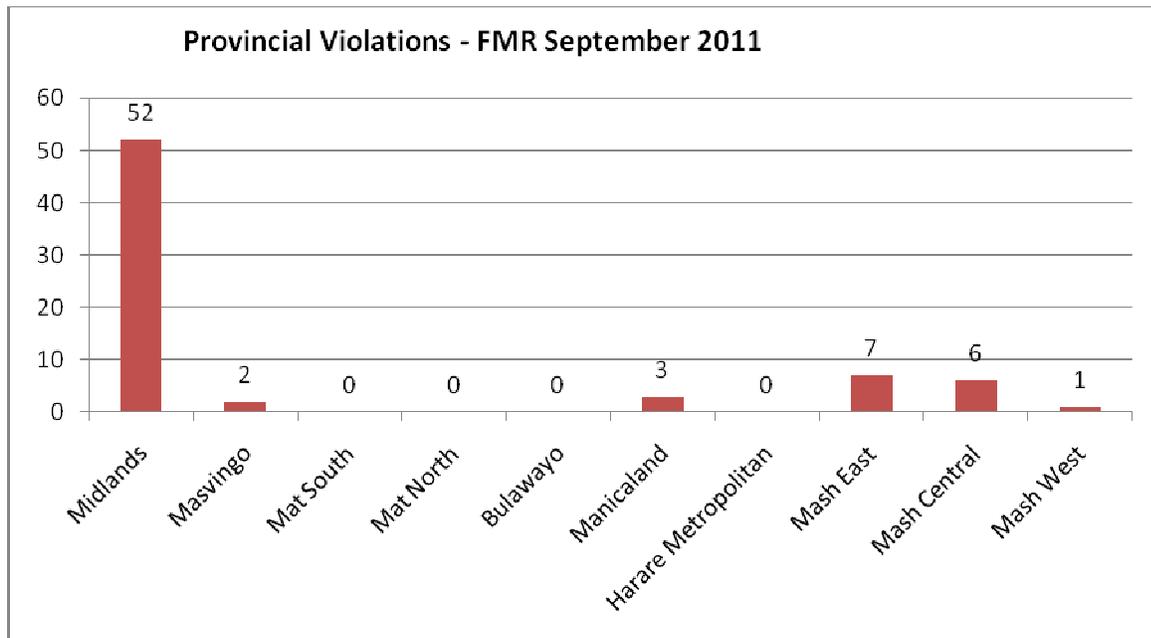
In Mt Darwin West constituency, a local councillor and the BEAM Committee allegedly dropped all children of parents suspected to be MDC-T supporters from the schools support programme at Kuhondo Primary School. An 11-year-old pupil from Nyamhondoro Primary School in Guruve South was allegedly dropped from the BEAM list of beneficiaries on the allegations that her grandmother is a known MDC-T activist.

A newly resettled farmer was denied tillage support in Chakari, Mashonaland West Province after he was accused of supporting the MDC-T. It was alleged that MDC-T supporters had chanted party slogans at his homestead during a funeral.

Acts of discriminations and harassments 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	48	66
365	175	282	September	23	0	48	71
376	209	216	October				
930	208	277	November				
336	204	349	December				
4851	4767	2866	TOTAL	4864	263	8732	13879



EMERGING ISSUES & WAY FORWARD

The month of September is known the world over as the month of peace but events in Zimbabwe clearly show of a country at qualms with peace. The calls for elections next year before meaningful reforms to the security sector and electoral laws are most likely going to lead to a jump in the number of politically motivated violations as the country prepares for both the constitutional referendum and general elections.

President Mugabe's recent announcement that Zimbabwe elections will be held before March 2012 is still an unwelcome proposition given the reforms that must be undertaken before the political field is leveled.

Zimbabwe marked the third anniversary of the signing of the Global Political Agreement - the political and legal basis for the current inclusive government.

ZPP has witnessed a number of violations that have been organised and perpetrated by Zanu PF's Chipangano group from Mbare and these have been carried out with impunity. The police have failed to react according to the police charter which bars a partisan approach to policing.

To this end, ZPP is very worried by the slow pace that has been taken by the inclusive government partners to address the issues around the security sector reforms. Zimbabwe will experience the same, if not worse, human rights violations that were recorded in 2008 if the country is to go for elections in 2012.

It has become evidently clear that the same institutions of violence have remained intact despite calls by the political leaders to shun political violence. This has been the case with the existence of pseudo militia groups such Chipangano and Upfumi Kuvadiki.

Pressure from SADC on Zimbabwe appears to have eased, agreed reforms are stalled, and SADC's own representatives to work with JOMIC have not yet been appointed.

BACKGROUND & FORMATION



ZIMBABWE PEACE PROJECT

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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