



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

March 2010

13/05/2010

HUMAN RIGHTS VIOLATIONS MONITORING

OVERVIEW

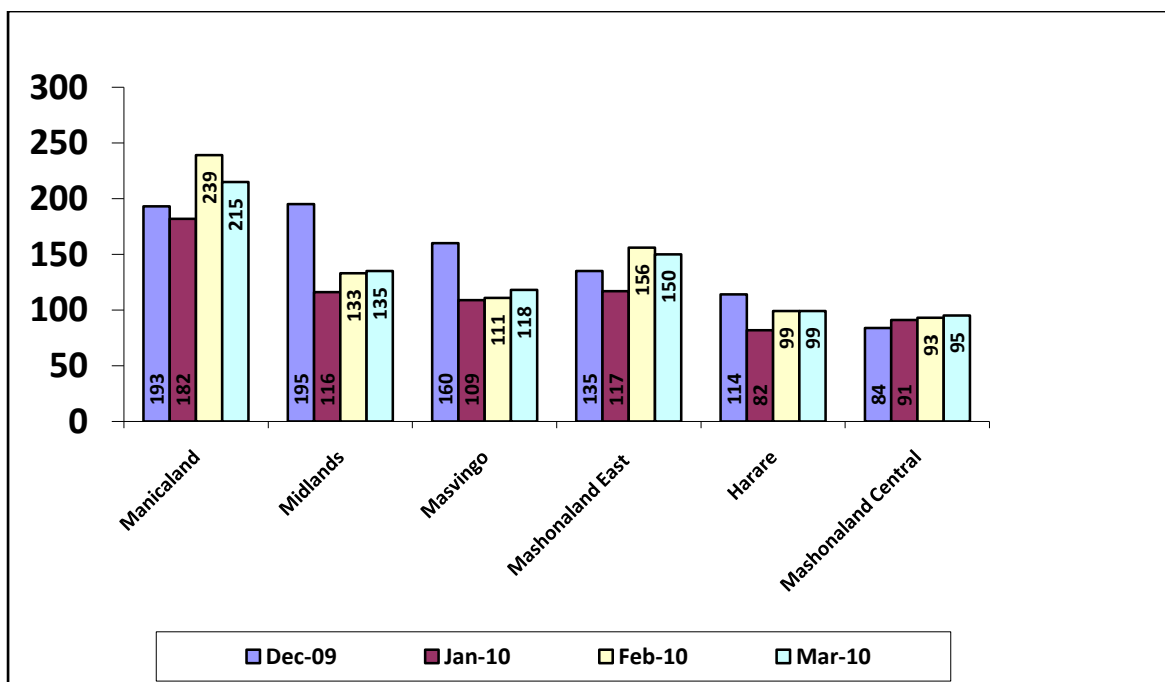
Generally, the month of March realised an 8% decrease in cases of human rights violations with a toll of 908 from 979 recorded in February 2010. Harassment and intimidation cases continue to top the violations chart with 589 reported cases although there, has been a 7% decrease of the same in the month of March from the February toll of 628. Meanwhile, assaults [161] and discriminations [61] consistently maintain their second and third positions respectively in reported cases of human rights abuses in the country.

Apart from the Global Political Agreement [GPA] talks still lying on the table, after missing several deadlines to conclude them, the month of March unlike February was relatively calm with a few activities taking place on the political pane. Deadlocks on power sharing and sanctions issues remain eminent and continue to mystify the way forward of the inclusive government. The talks appear to be mired in confusion with mixed feelings as to whether the agreement will prevail or not. While on one hand, the principal negotiator, South African President Jacob Zuma is said to have announced that the protagonists in the power-sharing pact had agreed on a “package of measures” to be implemented under the GPA to be finalised on 31 March 2010; on the other, the GPA principals seem to be singing another tune, saying no agreement was made on any package. President Robert Mugabe’s announcement for possible elections in 2011, compounded with speculations that the Constitution Parliamentary Select Committee [COPAC] consultations were to commence at the end of April, or early May 2010 has given rise to political tensions in the different provinces as political parties jostle to control the events and views on the constitution.

The month under review also saw the operating environment for civic society organisations being threatened by state security. There has been a resurgence and escalation in victimization and harassment of human rights defenders following the 2008 abduction of human rights defenders including Jestina Mukoko, Brodreck Takawira & Pascal Gonzo. The arbitrary arrest and subsequent release of Okay Machisa of Zimbabwe Human Rights Association [ZIMRIGHTS] for human rights work was reported during the month of March. This followed the interrogation of Getrude Hambira of the General Agriculture and Plantation Workers Union of Zimbabwe [GAPWUZ] another human rights defender who is currently in hiding for fear of her life following a police raid at the union’s offices in Harare in February 2010.

In the month under review, Manicaland, Mashonaland East, Midlands, Masvingo Harare and Mashonaland Central consistently ranked high as volatile zones for politically motivated abuses with Manicaland topping the list. A close look at the trends of violence for these provinces tends to register high figures of harassments and assaults. Of the top six provinces, only three [Midlands, Masvingo and Mashonaland Central] recorded an upsurge in cases of human rights abuses for the month of March. Manicaland and Mashonaland East showed a decline in number of cases recorded while Harare remained static. The decline is mainly attributed to the slow activities of Constitution making consultations. Below is a graph showing trends of violence in the six provinces since December 2009.

Graph 1: Trends of Violence for Top Six Provinces in the last four months



INCIDENCES OF POLITICALLY MOTIVATED VIOLATIONS

Following up on the “torture bases” reported in the last report, Manicaland’s Headlands constituency has registered five confirmed bases viz; **Mugadza Village 56 base, Nyamukamani base, Rural Hills base, Bethel Cooperative Farm and Karori Farm bases respectively**. In Mashonaland Central, three bases have been established and these are located at **Old night club, Tsungubvi Township** - Mazowe South, **Mukunyadzi Village** – Mazowe North, and **Chawanda Centre** - Mt Darwin East. In Harare Metropolitan, the 6 bases that were established in Epworth have since been disbanded following the quailing of violence that took place last month. Although the bases are in place, not much violent activities have been reported there. It is suspected that they were established in preparation for the 2011 elections just like was done for the June 2008 elections.

ZPP also followed up on the Epworth violence that took place on 21- 23 February 2010, to establish the causes and the following findings revealed that the violence was caused by sheer political intolerance. **See annexure B on page 14 for details**

While incidents of politically motivated violence were on the decline in March, reports of harassments and intimidations [589] in the form of, forced meetings, death threats and threats of unspecified action against citizens if perceived to be anti Kariba Draft, wearing political or civil society constitutional campaign t/shirts and specified threats of the repeat of 2008 June election violence; were recorded. Assault reports [161] for similar reasons continue to trickle in. Also reports of murder, displacements, malicious damage to property and farm invasions were noted during the month. Anxieties from the much anticipated constitutional consultative meetings continue to worsen the situation as citizens are subjected to other forms of victimization such as extortion as perpetrators take the law into their hands fining people in the form of livestock for not attending constitutional outreach preparatory meetings. In Vhiriri village, Buhera Central, two ZANU PF activists are said to have forced villagers to pay fines in the form of goats for failing to attend a constitutional meeting labelling them MDC-T activists.

Besides violations related to the constitution making process, people continue to be victimized owing to the political polarization the country has been experiencing. Belonging to a different political party, wearing party regalia, commenting on the political situation are some the causes of politically motivated human rights abuses. In an extreme case of political intolerance is the case of the disappearance of an MDC- T activist in Manicaland - Musikavanhu constituency on the 12th of March subsequent to death threats from a headman and four other ZANU PF supporters on the 5th of March. The victim is feared dead as speculations of his death are so high given the recovery of clothes said to be his on the banks of the river in the area and toes of a left foot fished out from the same river a week later. Motives of the victim's disappearance and his whereabouts are yet to be established. In Chiadzwa, the situation remains tense with an impending relocation of more than five hundred families to ARDA-Transaal Farm in Odzi Mutare North.

New developments emerged in the province, with the recent discovery of diamond fossils at Wengezi, Chakohwa, and Charleswood Estates posing threats of chaos in terms of human rights violations as this entails the deployment soldiers, police, and ZANU PF militia in the near future. Reports from Chakohwa show that people in the area no longer feel free to live their normal lives due to "curfew" like orders and violence employed by government agents. Normal routines like digging pit latrines or digging out foundations for building purposes are no longer permitted as this may be interpreted as diamond panning.

In Mashonaland Central, political tensions are on the rise with one hideous case of murder of a civilian at Hermistone Farm in Mazowe South. The perpetrator a ZANU PF activist is reported to have used his political muscle to deny the deceased from panning gold in the area. A quarrel is said to have ensued between the two, leading to the axing of the victim who later died of the injuries. Police investigations on the case are currently underway. In Majome village in Mazowe Central, property belonging to an MDC –T councillor was burnt to ashes by ZANU PF activists over political differences. Farm invasions continue to occur in Shamva South with one farmer having been evicted from his farm and replaced by a family belonging to ZANU PF.

Masvingo Province noted cases of reprisals and threats of revenge by victims of the 2008 election violence. Also on the increase are cases of people who are still suffering from injuries sustained during the 2008 political violence and need treatment. Midlands and Mashonaland East also had their fair share of violations especially those related to the constitutional making process. Like in all other provinces, noted is a pattern or stratagem stemmed by the perpetrators to deny civilians their right to participate in the consultative meetings when the Thematic Committees outreach meetings commence. Perpetual threats of the repeat of the 2008 violence are issued to civilians to keep them from making contributions at consultative meetings a strategy supposedly deployed to cause apathy on the part of citizens to pave way for the success of the ill-famed Kariba Draft. The Matebeleland region remained relatively calm during the month under review with a few pockets of violence mainly harassments & intimidation on the constitution making process as with other provinces.

The table below shows the spread of violations by province for the month of March 2010. ***See also annexure on page 13 for common violations by province.***

Table 1: Analysis of Politically motivated Violations by Province

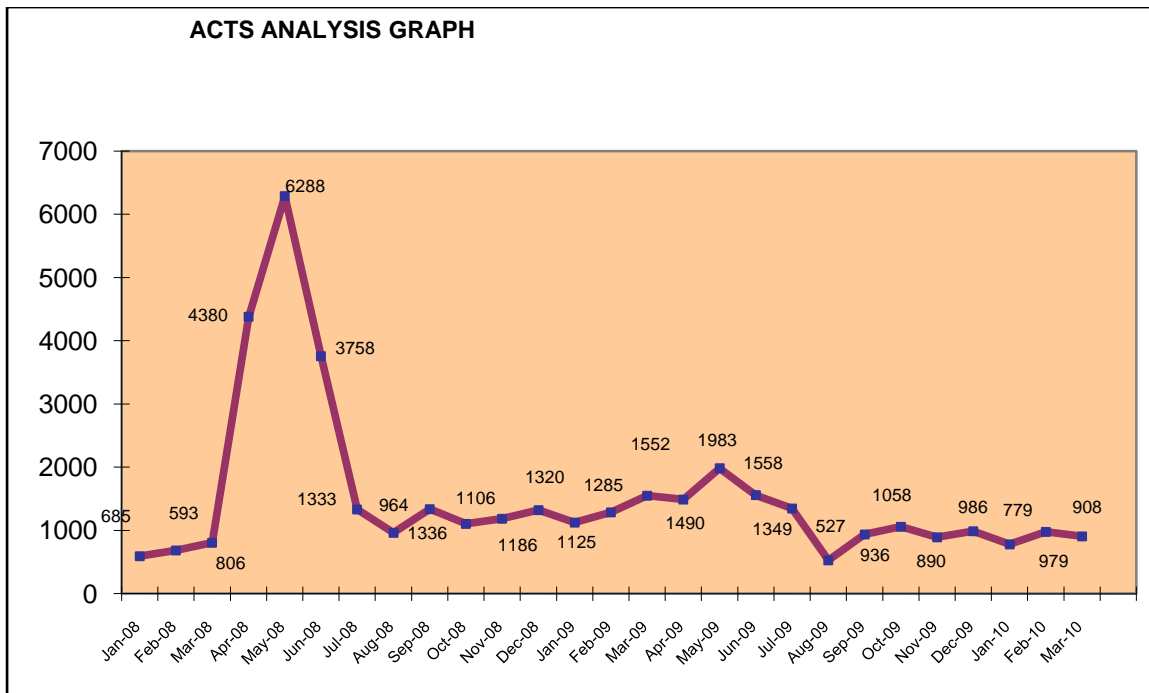
ACTS	Midlands	Bulawayo	Mat. South	Mat. North	Masvingo	Manicaland	Harare	Mash. East	Mash West	Mash Central	TOTAL
Murder	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	1
Rape	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	2	5
Kidnapping/Abduction	0	0	0	0	1	4	0	0	0	0	5
Assault	42	0	5	2	14	36	25	24	12	4	161
Theft/Looting	1	0	0	0	3	8	0	8	1	4	25
MDP	6	0	0	0	0	7	1	0	1	1	16
Torture	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	1	0	0	2
Unlawful Detention	0	0	1	3	1	3	3	3	1	0	15
Harassment/Intimidation	74	2	11	9	91	129	65	91	47	75	589
Displacement	3	0	0	0	1	5	3	10	2	3	28
Discrimination	7	0	0	1	7	22	2	12	6	5	61
Total	135	2	17	15	118	215	99	150	70	95	908

A cumulative violations toll as of March 2010 stands at 41,146 since 2008. See table below for details

Table 2: 2009 Cumulative Tables of Violations

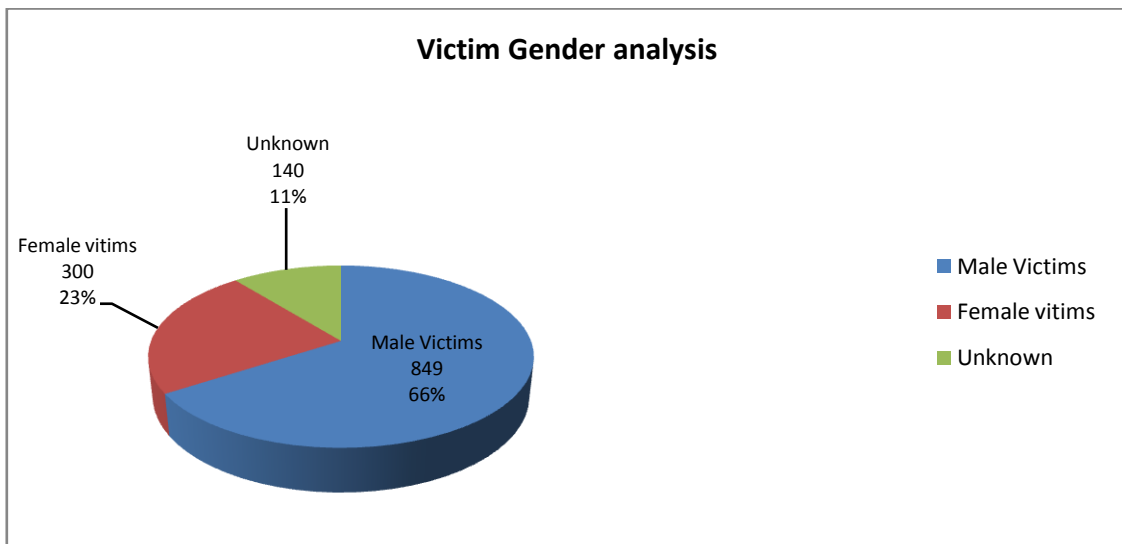
ACTS	2008	2009	2010													
			Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	July	Aug	Sept	Oct	Nov	Dec	Total	
Murder	207	8	0	0	1											216
Rape	61	69	1	0	5											136
Kidnapping/Abduction	511	147	2	5	5											670
Assault	4886	3296	165	196	161											8704
Theft/Looting	611	598	26	30	25											1290
MDP	1009	294	14	10	16											1343
Torture	452	157	3	3	2											617
Unlawful Detention	514	284	6	5	15											824
Harassment/Intimidation	12593	7865	490	628	589											22165
Displacement	2508	680	45	26	28											3287
Discrimination	366	1314	27	76	61											1844
Attempted Rape	23	3	0	0	0											26
Attempted Murder	16	10	0	0	0											24
Total	23755	14725	779	979	908											41146

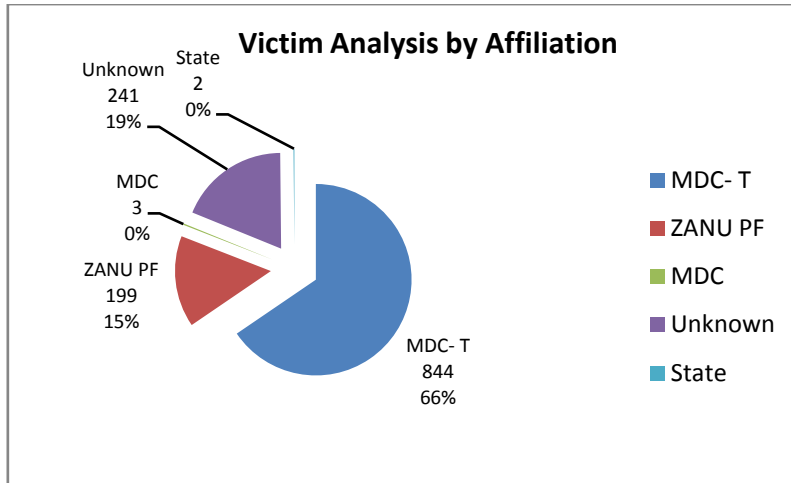
Graphically trends are shown below.



VICTIM ANALYSIS BY GENDER AND ASSOCIATION

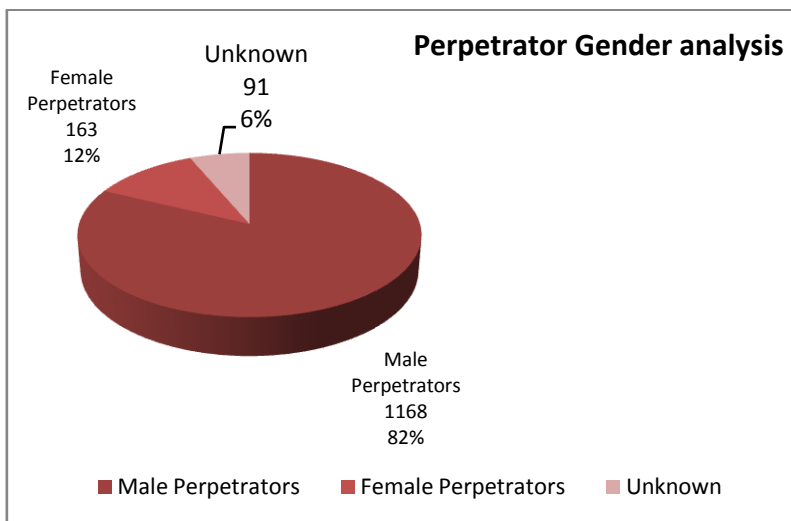
The period under review recorded a victim toll of 1289 indicating a 3% rise from the 1253 February toll. Of the 1289 victims 849 [66%] are male while 300 [23%] are female and 140 [11%] recorded as unknown. Analyzing trends by political affiliation, MDC –T victims recorded 844 [66%], while ZANU PF has 199 [15%], MDC-M [3] , unknowns 241 [19%] [281] and state had nil. From a gender perspective, the male victim toll remained consistently high with the female victims’ toll maintaining its lower rank. However, for months January and February the female victim toll witnessed an upsurge in numbers.

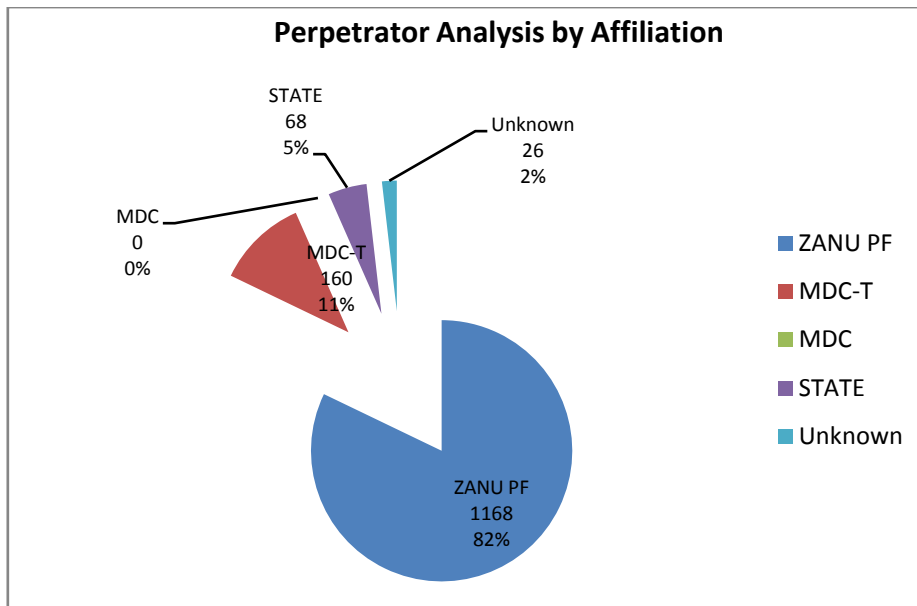




The perpetrator toll for the month of March [1422] was relatively lower than the one reported in February [1464]. Of the 1422, 1168 [82%] were males while 163 [12%] were female and 91 [6%] were unknowns. A political affiliation analysis of perpetrators revealed that 82% [1168] were ZANU PF, 11% [160] MDC-T, 5% [68] State and 2% [26] Unknowns.

Male and Female Perpetrator Charts





FOOD & OTHER FORMS OF AIDS MONITORING

Politicisation of food and other forms of aid continue to be encountered in all the 10 provinces of Zimbabwe. A total of 251 cases related to partisan distribution of food and other forms of aid were recorded in the period under review. Juxtaposed with the 264 cases reported in February 2010, March figures show a slight decrease of 5% standing at 251. Conversely, the decline is not indicative of change in any behavioural changes as 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.

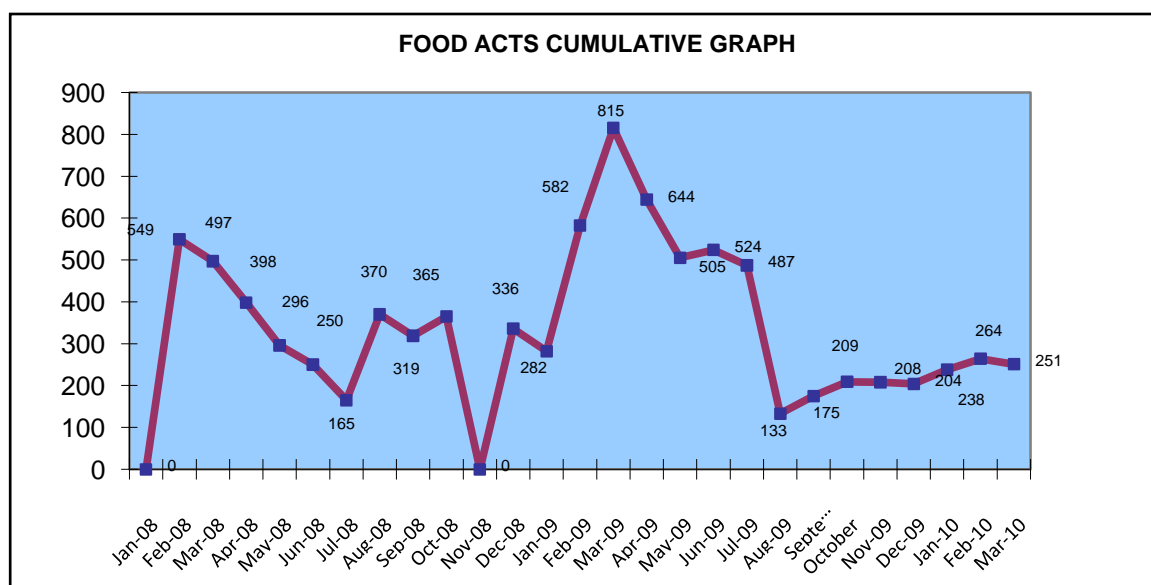
Midlands, Mashonaland East, Manicaland and Masvingo are the most affected with more people having been denied food relief, government subsidised food, farming inputs and medical treatment. Most of the victims were denied these commodities on grounds of their political affiliation and in some cases have to be forced to denounce their political parties, forced to attend perpetrators' meetings and ordered to produce party cards in order to access aid. Worrisome reports of war veterans interfering even in the distribution of food sourced by the church were also received. They are said to be forcibly taking over the distribution of food meant for the elderly, orphans and vulnerable children, diverting it to ZANU PF members leaving the intended beneficiaries stranded. In another instance, former victims in a revengeful mood decided to withhold and deny their former perpetrators from their services. In Manicaland at Headlands Clinic, the case of two nurses who allegedly withheld and denied a ZANU PF member (former perpetrator) access to anti- retroviral drugs telling him to get the drugs from war veterans.

The cumulative toll violations on the distribution of food and other forms of aid since January 2008, has risen to 10371. Acts of discriminations and harassments continue to dominate the violations charts.

Table 3: CUMULATIVE TABLE FOR FOOD& OTHER FORMS OF AID RELATED VIOLATIONS

2008	2009	FOOD & OTHER FORMS OF AID RELATED ACT - 2009				
		2010	HARASSMENT	VIOLENCE	DISCRIMINATION	TOTAL
		<i>Closing Figures for 2009</i> →	3101	269	6248	9618
549	282	January	88	2	148	238
497	582	February	100	3	161	264
398	815	March	91	2	158	251
296	644	April				
250	505	May				
165	524	June				
370	487	July				
319	132	August				
365	175	September				
376	209	October				
930	208	November				
336	204	December				
4851	4767	TOTAL	3380	276	6715	10371

Food Acts Cumulative Graph



EMERGING ISSUES & WAY FORWARD

The political situation bottlenecked with outstanding GPA issues and exclusive politics continue to impede on critical national programs such as the constitution making and national healing processes. Public participation remained largely partisan and retrogressive. The Zimbabwe Peace Project, as in the past, calls all the concerned parties to prioritize national interests at the expense of party interests for the sake of national progress.

The right to participate in the constitution making process remains a sacred basic citizen right that should be protected at all costs. Zimbabweans must be accorded enough space to exercise this right. The current state of affairs poses a threat of violence erupting soon after the constitution making process and the period in the run-up to the 2011 elections as echoes of the 2008 violence seem to

be getting louder by the day. As such, ZPP concerned with the level of violations threatening basic rights of citizens, reiterates its call for sanctity in the preservation and observation of basic human rights. More so, ZPP restates that a repeat of what the nation experienced at the 1999 constitutional making process or even worse should be avoided at all costs.

Continued victimization of Civic groups remains a concern for ZPP. Civic groups' participation remains a critical element to the promotion of democracy, peace and socio-economic development. As in the past, ZPP exhorts that more operational space be given to these groups to play their supplementary roles.

Appalling party politics continue to stalk distribution of food and humanitarian assistance with distribution processes largely manipulated by highly politically-compromised local structures that include District Administrators, Chiefs, headmen, councilors, village heads, and ward coordinators. ZPP calls on the powers that be to put in place appropriate operational frameworks to ensure that food relief and other forms of aid are distributed in a transparent and non-partisan manner.



BACKGROUND & FORMATION

The Zimbabwe Peace Project (ZPP) was conceived shortly after 2000 by a group of Churches and NGOs working or interested in human rights and peace-building initiatives, and was to become a vehicle for civic interventions in a time of political crisis. In particular ZPP sought to monitor and document incidents of human rights violations and politically motivated breaches of the peace e.g. violence.

Today, ZPP's member organizations include, Zimbabwe Election Support Network (ZESN), Counselling Services Unit (CSU), Zimbabwe Liberators' Platform (ZLP), Zimbabwe Civic Education Trust (ZIMCET), ZimRights, Civic Education Network Trust (CIVNET).

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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Table 4: PROVINCIAL VIOLATIONS OUTLOOK – MARCH 2010

PROVINCE	TYPE OF VIOLATIONS/ACTIVITY(IES)		TROUBLE ZONES
	COMMON ACTS (VIOLATIONS)	CAUSES	
MANICALAND	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Harassment/Intimidations (death, violence & unspecified Threats, hate language, forced meetings on constitution, denial of right to participate in constitution making process) Abduction Assaults Discrimination – distribution of food & other forms of aid Establishment of “Torture” Camps 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Recent discoveries of diamonds in areas such as Wengezi, Chakowa and Charleswood Political intolerance Differing views on constitution: People Driven process Vs. Kariba Draft, NCA Draft Wearing own party regalia and T/shirts from civil society organisations Preparation of COPAC consultative process, campaigns for referendum and 2011 harmonised elections 	<p>(Wengezi & Chakohwa) – Chimanimani West, (Charleswood) Chimanimani East</p> <p>Musikavanhu, Buhera West, Nyanga South, Headlands, Buhera North, South , West and Central,</p> <p>Nyanga North, Headlands, Buhera North, South, and Central</p>
MASHONALAND EAST	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Harassments/intimidation - death, violence & unspecified Threats, hate language forced meetings on constitution, denial of right to participate in constitution making process) Assault confrontational and retaliatory beatings) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Political intolerance Differing views on constitution: People driven process Vs. Kariba Draft, NCA Draft Wearing own political party regalia and T/shirts from civil society organisations 	<p>Mudzi, , Marondera, Mutoko, Hwedza and Murehwa Districts</p>
MIDLANDS	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Harassment /Intimidation – death, violence & unspecified Threats, hate language, forced meetings on constitution, denial of right to participate in constitution making process) Assaults (confrontational and retaliatory beatings) Discrimination Recruitment of “torture gangs” youth militia 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Political intolerance Differing views on constitution: People drive process Vs. Kariba Draft Wearing own political party regalia and T/shirts from civil society organisations Partisan distribution of food & other forms of aid Preparation of COPAC consultative process, campaigns for referendum and 2011 harmonised elections 	<p>Gokwe Nembudziya, and , Zhombe, Kwekwe and S, Mberengwa,</p> <p>Gokwe Chireya, Nembudziya</p>

MASVINGO	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Harassment/intimidation – (death, violence & unspecified Threats, hate language, forced meetings on constitution, denial of right to participate in constitution making process) • Assault 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Political intolerance • Scramble for stakes in the run-up to the Constitutional consultative outreach – Kariba Draft vs. People driven process • Participation in civil service strike (teachers) 	Bikita, Chibi, Zaka North, Chiredzi, Gutu, Masvingo Rural & Urban
HARARE	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Harassment/intimidation – (death, violence & unspecified Threats, hate language, forced meetings on constitution, denial of right to participate in constitution making process) • Assaults • Discrimination 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Political intolerance • Differing views on constitution: People driven process vs. Kariba Draft, NCA Draft • Wearing own political party regalia and T/shirts from civil society organisations • Preparation of COPAC consultative process, campaigns for referendum and 2011 harmonised elections • Partisan distribution of food & other forms of aid 	, Glen Norah, Glen View South, Highfield East, Glen Norah B
MASHONALAND CENTRAL	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Harassment/intimidation – (death, violence & unspecified Threats, hate language, forced meetings on constitution, denial of right to participate in constitution making process) • Assaults • Establishment of “torture bases” 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Political intolerance • Differing views on constitution: People driven process Vs. Kariba Draft, NCA Draft • Wearing own political party regalia and T/shirts from civil society organisations • Campaign for Kariba Draft 	Mt Darwin East, South, and North, Shamva South, Bindura North & South, Mazowe Central, South, West & North, Muzarabani North
MASHONALAND WEST	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Harassment & intimidation – (death, violence & unspecified Threats, hate language, forced meetings on constitution, denial of right to participate in constitution making process) • Assaults • 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Political intolerance • Differing views on constitution: People driven process Vs. Kariba Draft, NCA Draft • Preparation of COPAC consultative process, campaigns for referendum and 2011 harmonised elections 	Chegutu West, Mhondoro , Mhondoro Ngezi Chinhoyi and Kadoma West Chegutu District
BULAWAYO	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Harassment & intimidation although on minimal levels. Bulawayo is relatively calm 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Political intolerance • 	Bulawayo East,
MATEBELELAND NORTH	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Harassment & Intimidation (death, violence & unspecified Threats, hate language, 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Political intolerance • Differing views on constitution People Drive process vs. Kariba 	Binga North, Binga South, Bubi, Hwange Central, East and West , Lupane West

	<p>forced meetings on constitution, denial of right to participate in constitution making process)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Discrimination 	<p>Draft, NCA Draft</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Partisan distribution of food & other forms of aid 	
MATEBELELAND SOUTH	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Harassment & intimidation • Assault 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Political intolerance • Differing views on constitution: People drive process Vs. Kariba Draft, NCA Draft 	Gwanda South ,Matobo North, Umzingwane, Gwanda North, ,

Annexure B – FOLLOW UP TO EPWORTH VIOLENCE

Follow Up On Epworth Violence – February 2010

It is reported that the whole fiasco started when MDC-T supporters on February 21, convened a meeting on the constitution at Munyuki shops close to where ZANU PF youths were selling firewood. ZANU PF youths are said to have tried to disrupt the meeting when MDC –T youths retaliated and damaged a ZANU PF pick- up truck. The fight is said to have lasted for some time after which people dispersed towards the evening. However, ZANU PF youths in a vengeful mood, reportedly beefed up its crews and bussed in their counterparts from Mbare and other areas in the middle of the night armed with axes, logs, sjamboks and knives. The youths are said to have immediately set up bases in wards 2 – 7 and from midnight to about 0300 am went on a door to door spree identifying and beating up all known and suspected MDC – T youths. Early in the morning the perpetrators would retreat to their bases. This continued for the next two days on the 22nd and 23rd, when the MDC-T also decided to bus in other youths from other areas to beef up their crews for a counter attack. This eventually led to the end of the violence. Many MDC- T youths were injured and some of them seriously and hospitalised. The case has since been reported to the police and some perpetrators (suspected ZANU PF youth leaders) were arrested and released for lack of evidence.