



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

2011

25-02-2012

HUMAN RIGHTS VIOLATIONS MONITORING

SUMMARY

Politically motivated human rights violations continued to be recorded throughout the country despite the signing of the non-violence pact by all the three principals to the Global Political Agreement (GPA) in November.

The Zanu PF national annual conference was held in Bulawayo during the month under review amid increased calls for an early election before critical security, media and constitutional reforms that will ensure the holding of a free, fair and uncontested election are concluded.

The Zanu PF leadership including President Robert Mugabe was unanimous in supporting an early election in 2012 and the hate language at the conference against human rights activists indicates that violent elections are most likely.

The Zimbabwe Electoral Commission ZEC also hinted on a possibility of elections in 2012 through a statement from ZEC chief elections officer Mr Lovemore Sekeramayi published in daily newspapers urging people to register as voters.

"The public is hereby informed that as its legal mandate, the commission has an oversight function over the Registrar-General of Voters," he said. "ZEC urges citizens of Zimbabwe - 18 years and above - to inspect the voters' rolls and/or register as voters at Registrar-General of Voters offices at the national, district and designated centres.

It was also noted during the month of December that the police had intensified harassment and persecution of civil society actors with the crackdown targeting the Media Monitoring Project of Zimbabwe whose coordinator Andy Moyse and members of staff were detained for allegedly violating sections of the Criminal Law Code.

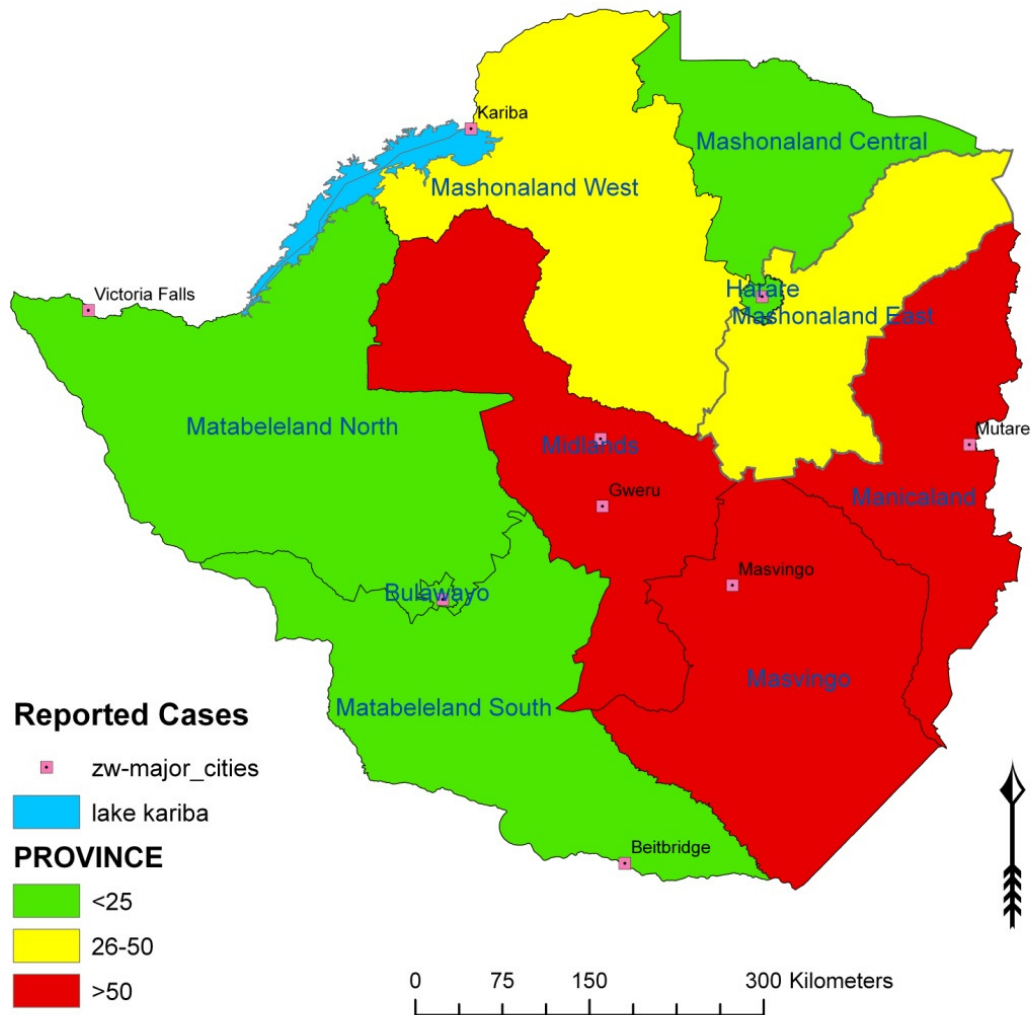
However, there was a significant decrease in incidents of politically motivated human rights violations from the 599 recorded in November to 319 cases witnessed during the month under review.

An analysis of the violations trends during the month of December 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 December was witnessed in 2008 with 1 320 cases.

Politically motivated human rights violations took a dip in December 2009 when 986 cases were recorded and continued on a downward trend for December 2010 to 873 incidents.

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

ZPP December 2011 HR Violations Map



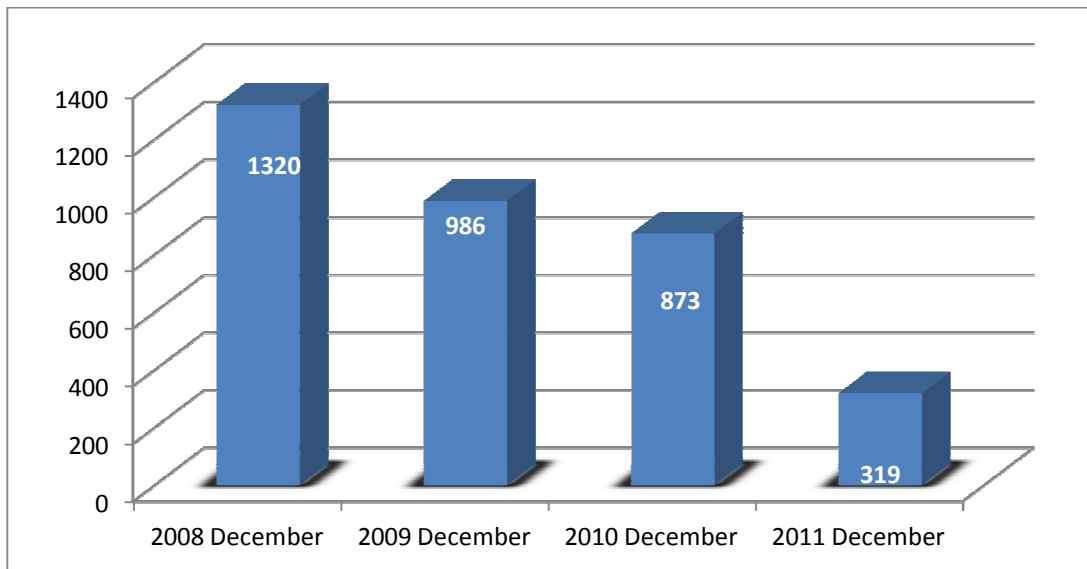


Figure 1: Trends of PMV for December 2008 -11

INCIDENCES OF POLITICALLY MOTIVATED VIOLATIONS

The **Midlands Province** witnessed an increase in the number of politically motivated violations during the month of December as compared to the November figures. There were 85 incidents recorded in December showing a rise from the 77 witnessed during the month of November.

The province recorded 55 incidents of harassment and intimidation, 22 cases of discrimination and 18 assault cases in December with the majority of the incidences being concentrated in Mberengwa North and West, Zhombe and Kwekwe Central constituencies.

Inter-party violence was recorded in the province with perpetrators coming from the two main political parties of Zanu PF and the MDC-T.

A suspected MDC-T activist was allegedly assaulted by a Zanu PF supporter at a Zanu PF meeting at Mkondo Village in Zhombe. The victim was asked why he had turned up for the Zanu PF meeting for the first time. As the victim tried to respond, he was slapped on the face several times before being told to leave.

From Gweru's Mkoba constituency, a Zanu PF supporter was reportedly assaulted by an MDC-T supporter at Batanai Night club. As the two were drinking at the night club there was a power blackout and the victim started playing Zanu PF jingles on his cell phone. This did not go down well with the MDC-T supporter who snatched the cell phone in order to switch it off. As the victim tried to get his phone back, he was hit with a fist in the face and fell on the ground. The two were later restrained by other revellers at the night club.

The majority of victims from the province had their rights violated for refusing to attend Zanu PF meetings, failure to produce Zanu PF party cards as well as putting on MDC-T t-shirts.

Manicaland Province recorded a significant decline in the number of politically motivated human rights violations during the month of December. There were 77 incidents witnessed compared to the 138 recorded during the month of November.

Harassment and intimidation cases dropped significantly during the period under review from 105 recorded incidents in November to 49 in December. Incidents of murder, malicious damage to property, rape and torture were off the radar in December.

Zanu PF councillors in the province have been accused of swindling their subjects of their hard earned money through making false claims. A councillor for Ward 11 in Mutare North Constituency reportedly demanded that each house hold that was to benefit under the PLAN International agriculture voucher scheme pay five rand (R5) contribution towards his travel and subsistence allowance. At least 18 villagers from Muoko Village were forced to contribute.

Another Zanu PF councillor for Ward 3 in Mutare South allegedly cheated more than 50 villagers in Chipendeke area through misrepresentation that Practical Action, which is funding the establishment of a micro-hydro electric scheme in Chipendeke village had requested that each household pay five rand (R5) towards the mini hydro scheme. However this turned out to be false as Practical Action had not requested any payment from the villagers.

Members of the security forces especially soldiers and CIO agents were reportedly harassing villagers denying them their rights to freedom of assembly and expression. On the 16th of December, at Chegore village in Mutare north, an unnamed CIO agent reportedly detained a war veteran and Zanu PF activist. This was alleged to be at the instigation of Governor Christopher Mushowe and senior Zanu PF official Didymus Mutasa. The victim had reportedly publicly attacked Mushowe at a rally that Mushowe and Mutasa had addressed at Chegore.

At Nyatate business centre on Christmas Eve, a CIO detail Passmore Nyatoro and ZNA members Chris Mutsambi and Garikai Bukuta reportedly harassed MDC-T members Bongani Chipunza and others for playing MDC-T music. At Birchenough Bridge on the 10th of December a group of soldiers led by Mike Rusike allegedly harassed Norman Nyambodza and others for wearing MDC-T regalia. The soldiers reportedly demanded that victims remove the t-shirts and set the t-shirts on fire.

Politically motivated human rights violations in **Masvingo Province** remained the same during the month of December compared to the November figures. There were 56 incidents recorded and these were mainly caused by the highly politicized distribution of maize seed by the Grain Marketing Board (GMB) under the Presidential Farming input scheme.

The maize seed was packaged in 10kg bags with President Robert Mugabe's photo and Zanu PF supporters in the province hijacked the process and this resulted in an increase in cases of discrimination as well as denial of the farming inputs to perceived political opponents.

A man from Bikita East was allegedly evicted from his homestead by the headman in Runganizi Village after failing to produce a Zanu PF card. The headman also accused the victim of being linked to the MDC-T and working as the party's point person in the village. The dispute is still raging on.

Two MDC-T MPs were verbally assaulted by a senior police officer at the funeral of one officer from the Police Protection Unit (PPU) in Zaka Central Constituency on December 21, 2011. The senior police officer publicly attacked Elias Mudzuri, the MP for Warren Park and Zaka Central MP Harrison Mudzuri at the same time denouncing the MDC-T. However, the parents of the deceased did not allow the abuse and instead gave the MPs an opportunity to pay their last respects and gave graveside speeches. Zaka Central MP confirmed the incident.

Several cases where villagers were denied access to farming inputs because of their perceived linkages to the MDC-T and failure to produce Zanu PF party cards were recorded in Bikita, Chiredzi, Chivi, and Masvingo districts.

Mashonaland West Province witnessed a significant decline in the incidents of politically motivated human rights violations during the month of December. The decline could be attributed to the fact that many villagers were busy working on their farms as it was the peak of the farming season. The province recorded 28 cases during the month under review compared to 80 cases witnessed in November.

The majority of the violations recorded were linked to the distribution of maize seed and fertiliser packages with the images of President Mugabe. The distributions were marked by discrimination based on political party lines with the majority of MDC-T supporters' rights being violated. The farming inputs were being distributed in Hurungwe, Mhondoro, Makonde and Chegutu districts.

An MDC-T councillor from Sanyati was not allowed to participate in the distribution of inputs in spite of the fact that other councillors (Zanu PF) were in charge of the circulation in their respective wards.

The political division within Zanu PF also manifested in the province, where people were being forced to attend Zanu PF meetings in preparation for the party's elections for the provincial executive.

Politically motivated human rights violations took a significant decrease in **Mashonaland East Province** during the month of December. There were 27 cases recorded in December as compared to 83 witnessed in November. The decline could be attributed to the fact that the chief perpetrators of violence, Zanu PF supporters, were busy preparing for the Zanu PF national conference in Bulawayo and that the farming season had just begun and energy and time was diverted into the fields.

The province witnessed two incidents of displacements as the cases of politically motivated farm invasions continue to be recorded. On December 16, 2011, a group of Zanu PF supporters invaded a white owned farm about 20km from Chivhu along the Masvingo Road. The victim was

told to hand over the farm to its “rightful owners” as it was now time for all white farmers to leave Chikomba district.

About five Zanu PF youths allegedly attacked and damaged a house belonging to a 27 year-old woman from Munetsi Village in Mudzi West constituency along the Harare-Nyamapanda road. The youths sang Zanu PF and revolutionary songs as they visited the village where they accused the woman of supporting MDC-T. The victim had previously been spotted wearing a ZimRights t-shirt with the inscription “*Tisu Anhu Acho*”. The case was reported and the police say they are still investigating.

Although cases of the human rights situation in **Mashonaland Central** remained tense, December 2011 saw a relatively quiet situation in terms of politically motivated human rights violations a situation which can be attributed to the farming season. The farming season saw almost everybody busy and with little time to engage in political activities.

The Province witnessed a massive decrease in the number of politically motivated human rights violations where 19 incidents were recorded as compared to the 116 cases in November.

MDC-T organised political meetings continued to be disrupted by Zanu PF youths in the province and one such meeting was at Chemutanda Village in Muzarabani North. The Zanu PF youths threatened to beat up everyone who had gathered for the MDC-T meeting on December 14, 2011. The Zanu PF youths were led by an individual who doubles up as a police neighborhood watch member working with Muzarabani Police.

A teacher from Kuhondo Secondary School in Mt Darwin was threatened with eviction from his home by Zanu PF supporters after he was accused of supporting the MDC-T. The victim openly supports MDC-T and is a well known activist in the area. On the reported incident of December 22, the victim was to be evicted from his rural home in Murinhima Village which is close to the school.

The political environment in **Harare Province** was a bit calm during the month of December with the region witnessing a slight decrease in incidents of politically motivated human rights violations. There were 22 recorded cases during the month under review down from the 30 incidents witnessed during the month of November.

Zanu PF supporters and state security agents continued to abuse peoples’ rights at will and with impunity while supporters from the two MDC formations and their sympathizers remain victims. The Chipangano group which is a Zanu PF militia continues to harass, assault MDC-T supporters at will without arrest.

Police officers from Machipisa Police Station violently intimidated and threatened to arrest six MDC-T activists who were having their meeting in Highfield. The police accused the victims of holding an unsanctioned political meeting in the area.

Three members of ZimRights wearing the organisation's promotional t/shirts and coming from Human Rights Day commemorations were harassed and forced to remove their t/shirts by Zanu PF members. The three were threatened with heavy beatings at Chigovanyika Shops in St Mary's Constituency.

The intra-party fighting within the MDC-T was recorded in Highfield West Constituency when a youth assembly association member was assaulted by another MDC-T activist Marlon Chari at a meeting at a house in Zororo, Western Triangle. The victim was accused of being a sell-out since he had been seen attending a Zanu PF meeting.

The political environment in **Matabeleland North Province** remained calm in the province with only three incidents having been recorded throughout the month of December. The major violations were the denial of aid such as maize seed and fertilisers.

On December 3, 2011, a member of the Habakkuk Trust operating from Tsholotsho North constituency was reportedly harassed and intimidated by a police officer at Sizalobuhle Village. The police officer accused the victim of wearing a Habakkuk t-shirt and that the organisation had close links with the MDC-T.

Four villagers from Hwange West Constituency were denied maize seed at a distribution point at Lumbora Village on the allegations that they belonged to the MDC-T. The maize seed was being distributed by the Hwange district Administrator and some Zanu PF officials. The victims were openly told that their names were not in the register as they belonged to the MDC-T.

Matabeleland South Province recorded very few incidents of politically motivated human rights violations during the month of December. The province witnessed only two incidents as compared to eight cases recorded during the month of November. Tensions however remain very high in the province as the country's major political parties continue to fight for political space.

The distribution of farming inputs with President Mugabe's face pasted on them was also recorded in the province and the exercise was done on a partisan basis. In Beitbridge East there was a land ownership wrangle between 2 families, the (Kembo) Mohadis (Co-Home Affairs Minister) and the Mbedzi family. The Mohadis claim the land settled on by the Mbedzi family belongs to the Mohadi family. The land ownership dispute is now before the courts.

From Bulilima East constituency members of the police allegedly harassed and threatened to arrest a member of ZAPU at Nkankezi Shopping Centre. The victim was accused of holding a public meeting without police clearance as he was seen mobilising other ZAPU supporters to attend the party's 50th anniversary that was to be held in Bulawayo. This happened on December 14, 2011.

Despite the fact that **Bulawayo Province** was hosting the Zanu PF national annual conference, the region recorded very few incidents of politically motivated human rights violations during the month under review. The two recorded incidents were of discrimination as people were denied access to maize seed and fertilisers which were being distributed through the Grain Marketing Board.

On December 10, 2011 some Zanu PF members from Zulukandaba branch in Lobengula constituency were requested to contribute \$1.00 each towards the transportation of maize seed from the Grain Marketing Board. However, some members were denied access to the maize because they were not members of the party.

Table 1: Analysis of Politically motivated Violations by Province

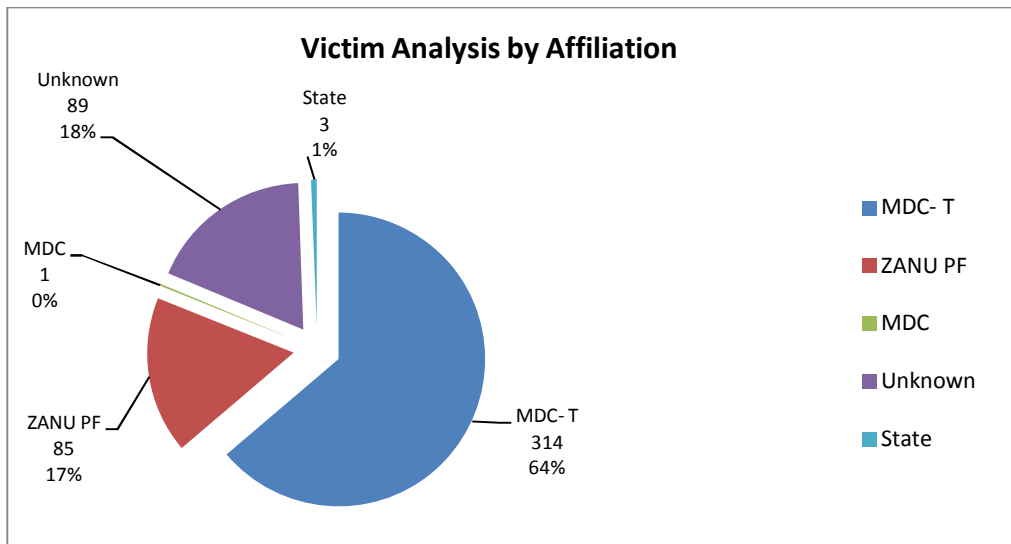
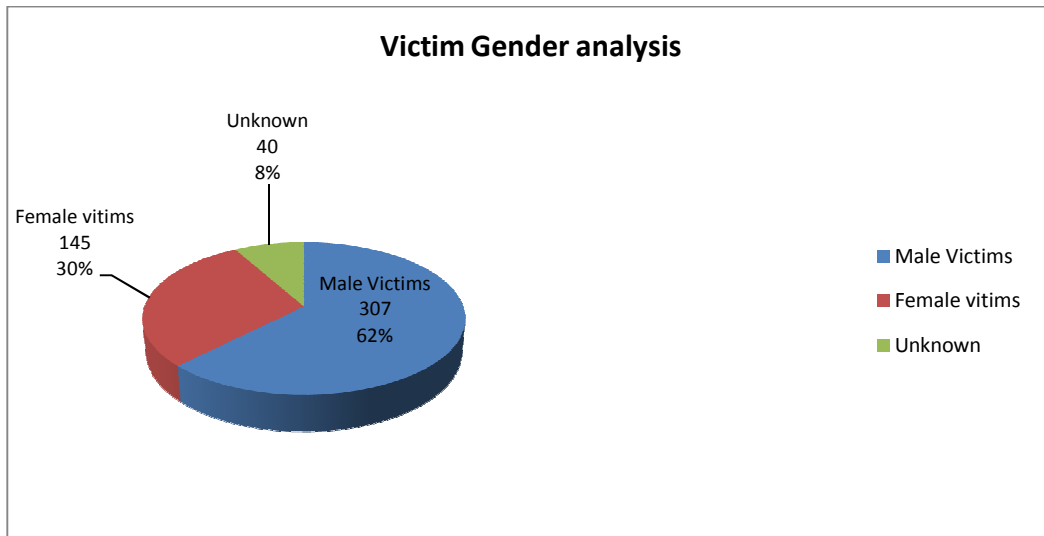
ACTS	Midlands	Bulawayo	Mat. South	Mat. North	Masvingo	Manicaland	Harare	Mash. East	Mash West	Mash Central	TOTAL
Murder	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Rape	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Kidnapping/ Abduction	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Assault	18	0	0	0	3	8	4	7	2	0	42
Theft/Looting	2	0	0	1	3	1	1	0	0	0	8
Discrimination	12	2	0	0	14	19	1	2	5	5	60
MDP	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	1
Torture	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Unlawful Detention	1	0	0	0	1	0	2	0	1	0	5
Harassment/ Intimidation	52	0	2	1	33	48	13	15	18	12	194
Displacement	0	0	0	0	1	1	1	2	2	2	9
Total	85	2	2	2	55	77	22	27	28	19	319

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 307 male victims down from 655 recorded during the month of November. The male victims represented 62% of the victims tally.

The month saw 145 females having their rights violated constituting 30% of the victims tally. As has been with the past trends, the bulk of the victims have been MDC-T supporters who had their rights violated more than their counterparts from the other two political parties in the inclusive government that is Zanu PF and the MDC-N. There were 314 MDC-T supporters who had their rights violated representing 64% of the victims compared to Zanu PF's 83 supporters accounting for 17% of the victims tally.

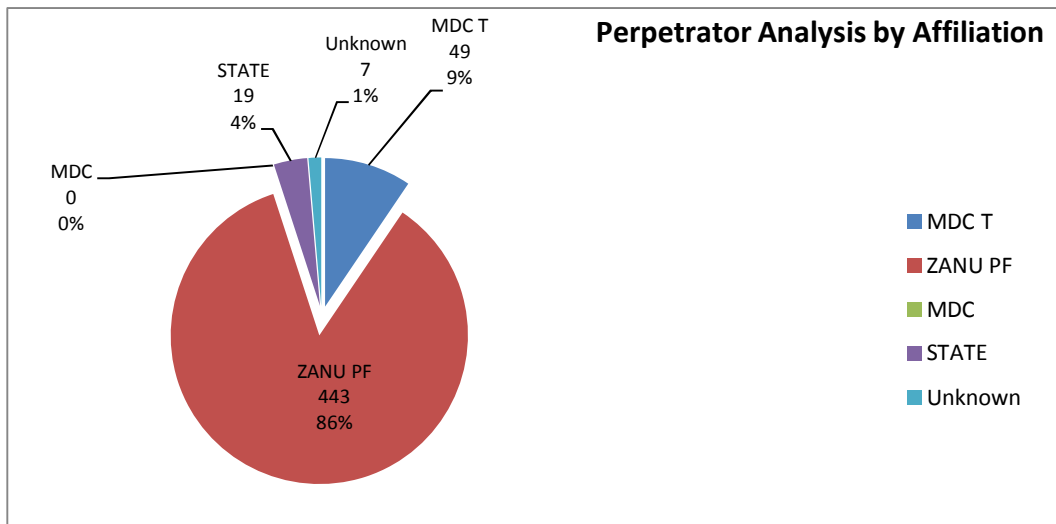
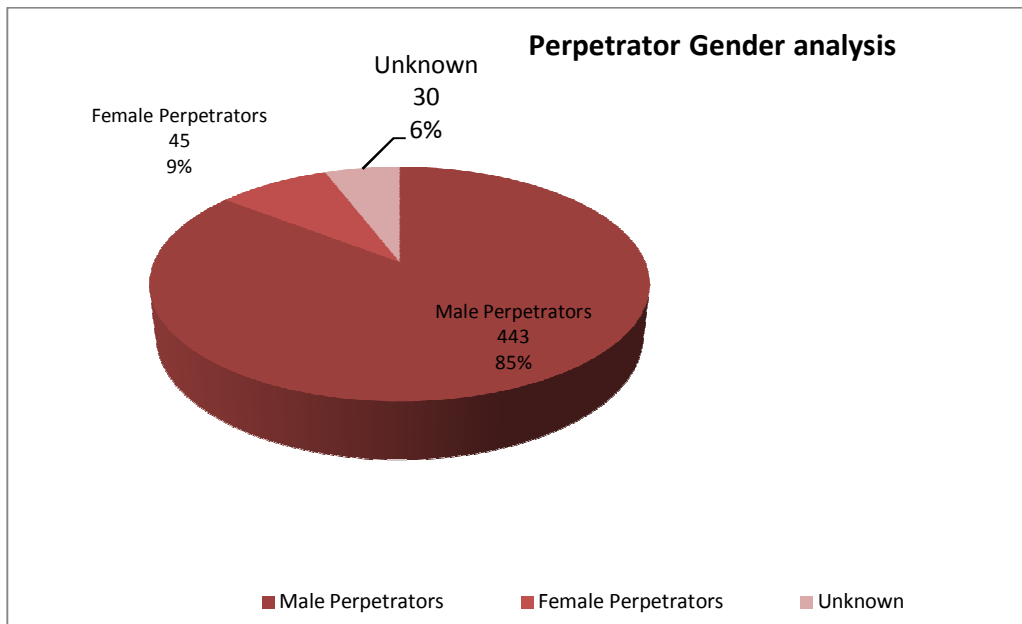
The analysis clearly shows that 18% of the victims were of an unknown political affiliation but were caught up in the cross fire of political violence between the two main political parties of Zanu PF and the MDC-T. There were 89 victims whose political affiliation was unknown.



Male and Female Perpetrator Analysis and Charts

The perpetrators analysis by gender shows that males were the chief culprits representing 85% of the violators of human rights compared to their female counterparts who constituted 9%. During the month of December, 443 males were recorded as perpetrators, while only 77 were females.

Zanu PF accounted for the highest percentage of perpetrators during the month under review accounting for 86% of the people directly responsible for leading politically motivated human rights violations. There were 443 perpetrators from Zanu PF while 49 were MDC-T activists with 19 cases having been reportedly perpetrated by state security agents accounting for only 4%. The perpetrator statistical spread still suggests that Zanu PF supporters have remained the major perpetrators across the board.



FOOD & OTHER FORMS OF AID RELATED VIOLATIONS

Food and other forms of aid violations were on the increase during the month of December as compared to the previous month. The increase was mainly attributed to the distribution of farming inputs throughout the country through the Presidential Inputs Scheme and the Grain Marketing Board.

Although the cases of food and other forms of aid related violations have not shot up significantly, villagers have been recorded as the major victims of discrimination in the distribution of farming inputs particularly those from the government that are being distributed through the Grain Marketing Board (GMB). There were 60 incidents recorded during the month of December as compared to the 48 cases witnessed in November.

As has been the case throughout the year, the Midlands province had the highest number of food and other forms of aid related violations. The majority of the victims failed to access the farming inputs after failing to produce Zanu PF party cards.

On December 15, a villager was denied access to fertilisers from the GMB by Zanu PF supporters at Matongo Village in Zhombe. The victim had attended a meeting at the distribution centre hoping to benefit but was denied access and was told that the fertiliser was meant for Zanu PF supporters only.

From Manicaland, Zanu PF officials reportedly barred two villagers from receiving maize and fertilizer inputs at Garwi village in Mutare North on December 30. The victims were accused of failing to pay US\$1 towards the Unity Day commemorations in the area.


A member of the Zanu PF District Coordinating Committee (DCC) from Mutare North allegedly politicized the distribution exercise on December 10, at Wendumba School. During the distribution, the DCC member reportedly threatened serious action against all MDC-T activists maintaining that the scheme should benefit Zanu PF supporters only.

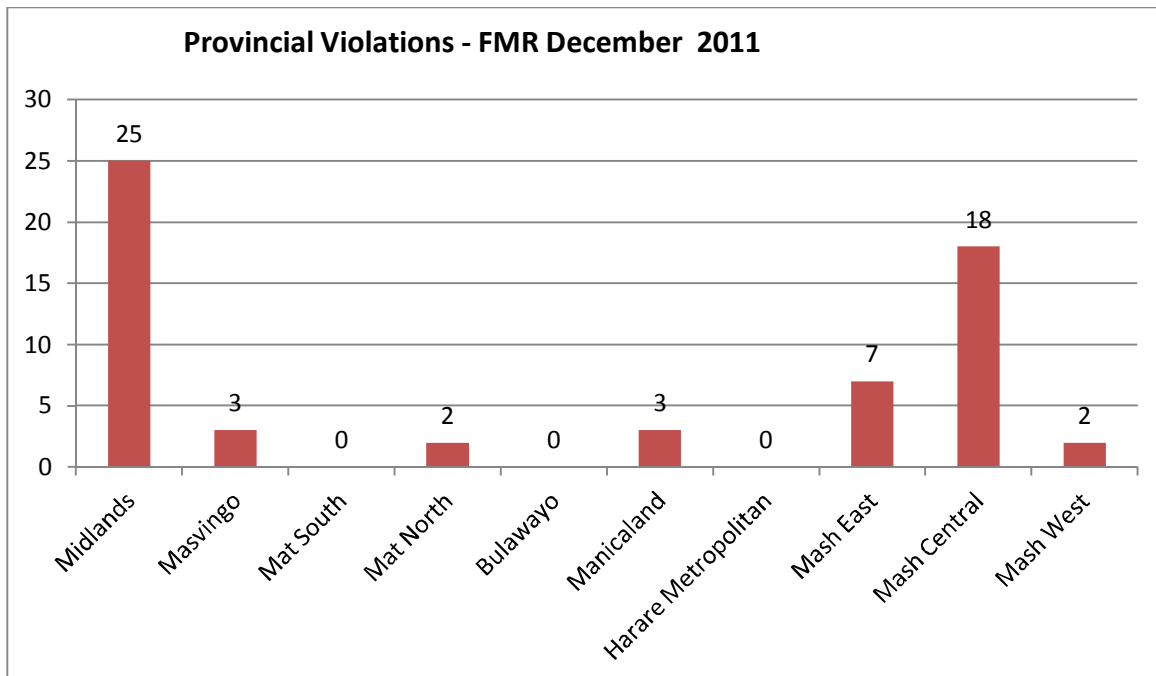
In Mashonaland West, all villagers suspected to be members of the MDC-T were not allocated the farming inputs and this was reported to have occurred in Chakari, Hurungwe, Mhangura, Mhondoro and Chegutu. The same trend was witnessed in Mashonaland Central province as victims were denied farming inputs on partisan grounds.

The majority of the victims throughout the country were denied farming inputs from the Presidential Inputs Scheme. The programme was being managed by the Zanu PF local structures and the inputs were being handed over to villagers with Zanu PF party cards. The rest of the

other provinces recorded very few incidents of food-related and other forms of aid human rights violations compared to the early months of 2011.

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
<i>Closing Figures for 2008-2010</i>				4332	281	7871	12484
549	282	238	January	141	0	164	305
497	582	264	February	115	2	157	274
398	815	251	March	92	0	159	251
296	644	238	April	46	0	96	142
250	505	218	May	41	0	61	102
165	524	159	June	30	0	63	93
370	487	218	July	26	0	65	91
319	132	200	August	18	0	48	66
365	175	282	September	23	0	48	71
376	209	216	October	17	0	59	76
930	208	277	November	15	0	34	49
336	204	349	December	18	0	42	60
4851	4767	2866	TOTAL	4909	283	8865	14057



EMERGING ISSUES & WAY FORWARD

Although there was some marked decrease in violations, overall, the human rights situation remains tense. Zanu PF had its conference in Bulawayo and the party came up with a number of resolutions and among them was that the country should go to elections in 2012.

The party also raised concerns over the work of non-governmental organisations accusing them of working to dethrone the leadership of President Robert Mugabe in support of the “regime change agenda”. It was also noted during the month of December that the police had intensified harassment and persecution of civil society actors with the crackdown targeting the Media Monitoring Project Zimbabwe whose coordinator Andy Moyse and members of staff were arrested for allegedly violating sections of the Criminal Law (Codification and Reform) Act.

These increased attacks on civil society and the independent media clearly show that the political field remains uneven and unreformed. ZPP fears that the government might move to prevent NGOs and other humanitarian organisations from carrying out their activities in the build up to the proposed elections.

The government’s failure to institute security sector reforms has resulted in the police force in Zimbabwe to remain partisan. There is still a lot of mistrust as the police continue to target human rights defenders (HRDs) as they are doing their development work.

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.

It has become evidently clear that the same institutions of violence have remained intact despite calls by the political leaders to shun political violence. The involvement of soldiers and members of the Zimbabwe Republic Police (ZRP) in most incidents is very worrying.

There is an urgent need to transform the ZRP from the current violent “police force” to a “police service” which is there to protect the people and not the politicians.

ZPP maintains that if Zimbabwe is to successfully hold credible, free and fair elections, one of the minimum requirements is that the parties must be able to freely campaign within the boundaries of the law.

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, 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 Human Rights Association (ZIMRIGHTS), Civic Education Network Trust (CIVNET) the Zimbabwe Lawyers for Human Rights (ZLHR), Women’s Trust and the Habakkuk Trust..

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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