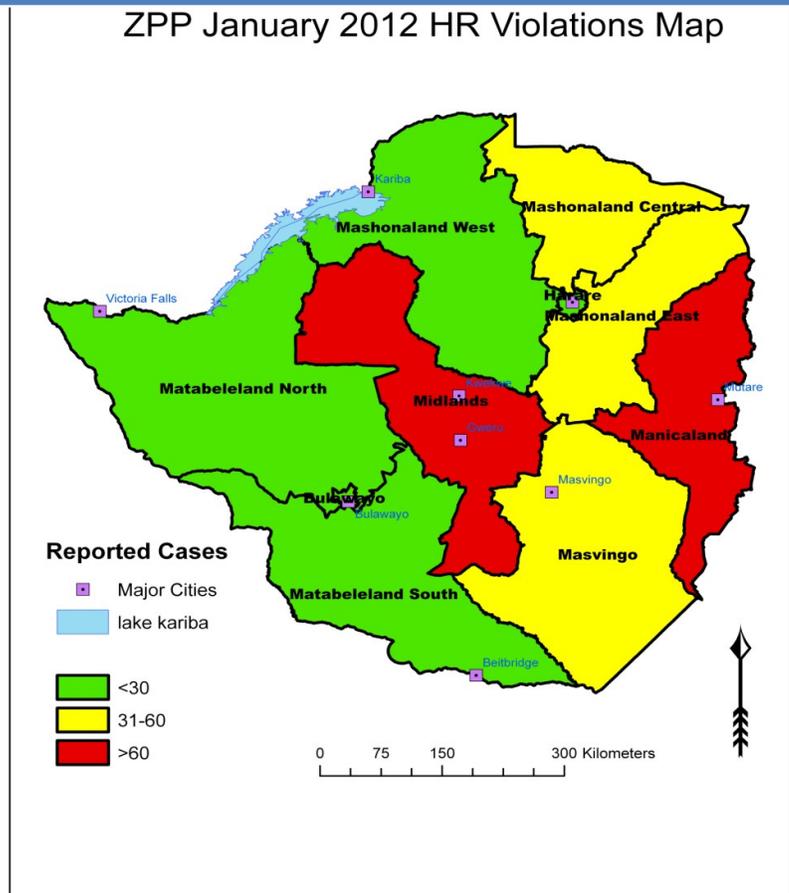


2012

ZPP Monthly Monitor (January)

ZPP January 2012 HR Violations Map



HUMAN RIGHTS VIOLATIONS MONITORING

SUMMARY

The beginning of 2012 brought with it new challenges and maybe a new state of mind among Zimbabwean political protagonists. Activities on the ground clearly show that 2012 is going to be a turning point for Zimbabwe, a make-or-break year in terms of preparations for the decisive elections and critical constitutional reforms that have been moving at a snail's pace. Zanu PF has come out clearly demanding that elections are to be held this year with or without a new constitution.

Food and others forms of aid related violations were prominent throughout the country where victims were denied access to the resources on political grounds. Failure to produce Zanu PF party cards was one of the major reasons why people's rights are being violated.

With an imminent 2011/2012 drought and the proposed elections in 2012, ZPP foresees a violent election campaign marred with politicisation of food aid.

Compared to the same period last year, one can deduce that the year 2012 started peacefully given the low number of violations recorded across the country. There were 365 incidents of politically motivated human rights violations in January this as compared to the 885 cases recorded during the same month in 2011.

An analysis of the violations trends during the month of January over the past five years reveals that the month has always had fewer incidents compared to the other months. The highest number of violations during the month of January was witnessed in 2009 with 1 125 cases. This was during the period leading to the formation of the inclusive government in February 2009.

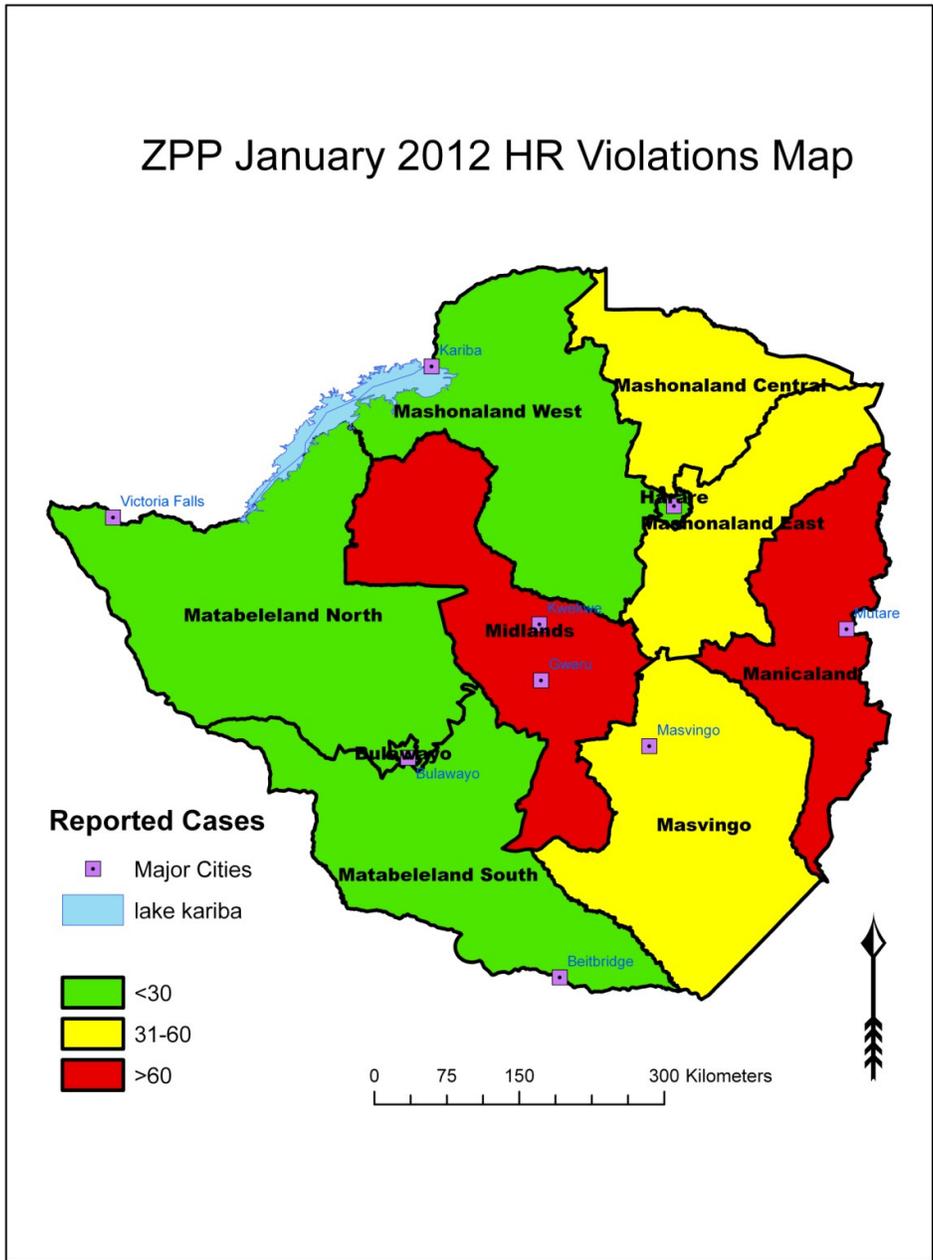
Politically motivated human rights violations in January 2010 were 779 cases and marginally increased in January 2011 to 885 as Zanu PF moved to get over 2 million signatures in the anti-sanctions petition campaign.

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

However, the majority of the cases recorded during the period under review were of harassment and intimidation with sporadic incidents of physical violence having been recorded across the country.

Traditional and community leaders have been recorded as the major perpetrators of human rights violations in most rural constituencies. The reports of forced meetings have been reported from the majority of the country's provinces and mainly from the northern parts of the country.

ZPP January 2012 HR Violations Map



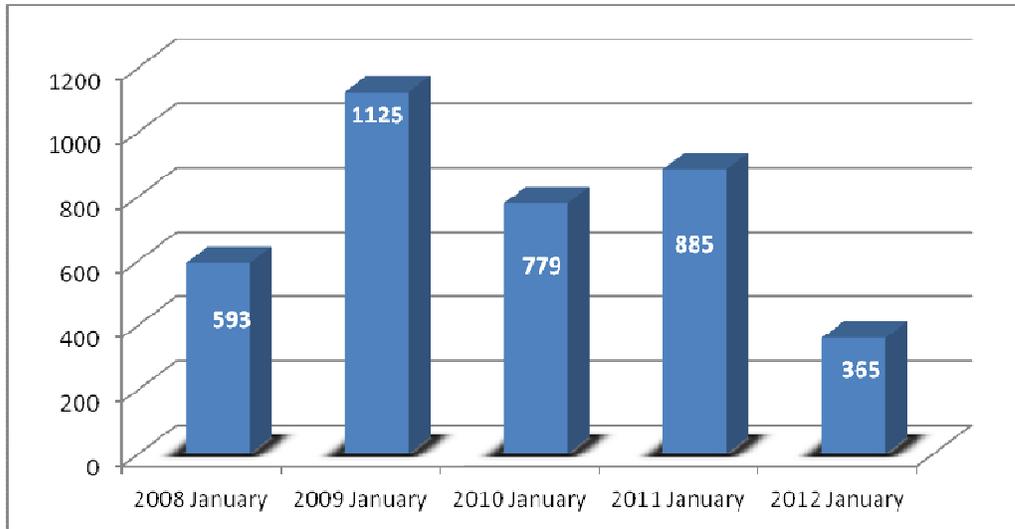


Figure 1: Trends of PMV for January 2008 - 12

INCIDENCES OF POLITICALLY MOTIVATED VIOLATIONS

Manicaland Province had the highest number of politically motivated human rights violations during the month of January. There were 94 recorded incidents up from the 77 cases witnessed during the month December 2011.

War veterans and traditional leaders have remained the chief violators of the people's rights across the province as they continued to involve themselves in political matters in contravention of the provisions of the Global Political Agreement (GPA). The right to free expression, association remain the most violated.

A teacher at Gunura Primary School in Buhera South was reportedly assaulted by Zanu PF supporters for having glowingly credited Prime Minister Tsvangirai for facilitating the availing of school text and exercise books through UNICEF. In another related matter Zanu PF members led by war veterans allegedly invaded Chatindo School in Nyanga North demanding that a number of teachers leave the school since they were suspected of being MDC-T members.

Zanu PF infighting has already started in preparation of the proposed elections as the current incumbent MPs are fighting off pressure from prospective candidates. The infighting has been recorded to be very serious in Chimanimani and Mutare North constituencies ahead of the party's primary elections.

Politically motivated human rights violations remained very high in the **Midlands Province** with the majority of the violations having been recorded in the Kwekwe, Gweru and Mberengwa districts. The province witnessed 84 cases of politically motivated violence as compared to the 85 recorded in December.

The bulk of the violations witnessed in the region were mainly of harassment and intimidation with 53 incidents recorded. There were also 15 incidents of assault that were recorded mainly from Gokwe and Kwekwe districts. For refusing to attend a Zanu PF meeting, an MDC-T supporter was heavily assaulted by Zanu PF youths near Magwiro Business Centre in Gokwe Kabuyuni. The incident allegedly took place on January 5, when the Zanu PF youths were forcing people to attend one of the regular Zanu PF meetings held in the area.

The majority of the victims of harassment and intimidation had their rights violated for refusing to attend forced Zanu PF meetings, wearing political party regalia and expressing views with regards to the ongoing constitutional making process.

One MDC-T supporter was threatened with physical assault by Zanu PF youths in Vungu on January 22. The incident happened at a funeral of another MDC-T supporter who had died the previous day. The victim was accused of leading in the singing of MDC-T campaign songs and was also wearing the party's t-shirt.

Masvingo Province remained one of the top three provinces with the highest number of politically motivated human rights violations with 59 incidents having been witnessed during the month under review. Most of the violations were still dominated by the distribution of farming inputs from the GMB and the Presidential Farming Inputs Scheme.

As was with the rest of the provinces, the majority of the violations were incidents of harassment and intimidation. The districts of Zaka, Chiredzi, Chibi and Gutu witnessed the highest number of violations in the province.

Zanu PF's Masvingo District political commissar reportedly harassed Chief Murinye on January 22, alleging that the chief's aide had beaten him earlier and confiscated a Zanu PF vehicle. The chief, however, did not badge and refused to apologise.

The province witnessed a case of intolerance when an MDC-T supporter allegedly assaulted his would be son-in-law arguing that the victim cannot marry his daughter as he belonged to Zanu PF. The victim is reported to have left the village as the MDC-T family accused the would-be in-laws of having terrorised them during the 2008 election violence.

The call for elections in 2012 has increased tensions with the communities of **Mashonaland Central Province** as traditional leaders have leading to force people attend weekly Zanu PF meetings. The province witnessed an increase in cases of politically motivated human rights violations to 45 in January as compared to the 19 incidents recorded in December 2011.

Food and other forms of aid related violations were the major sources of conflict in January as the majority of people in the province depend on farming. Accessing subsidised maize seeds and fertilisers was a big challenge particularly to those perceived to be members of the MDC-T.

A Zanu PF councillor for Ward 15 – Dandamera Township, Mazowe West constituency allegedly denied suspected members of the MDC-T access to residential stands because of

their political affiliation. This was despite the fact that some of the members had paid for the respective stands.

The number of politically motivated human rights violations remained relatively low in **Mashonaland East Province**. However, there still remain isolated cases of political violence dominated by harassment and intimidation, assaults and looting of farming inputs.

A senior CIO agent from the province allegedly looted an estimated five tonnes of top-dressing fertiliser from Uzumba Maramba Pfungwe, GMB Depot. The agent who is the officer in charge of Murehwa District used political powers to loot the fertiliser which was meant to benefit farmers in the district under the Presidential Farming Inputs Scheme. The CIO agent openly told the GMB depot manager that she was the one with the powers to determine the beneficiaries.

On January 30, some police officers from Harare Central Police Station and Goromonzi Show-Grounds reportedly assaulted youths from Kadzviti and Murape villages before confiscating 19 wireless radios that had been distributed by the Youth Initiatives for Democracy in Zimbabwe YIDEZ. The police officers managed to get only 19 radios out of the 31 which had been distributed accusing the youths of possessing "pirate radios" that were not cleared by ZIMRA.

An MDC-T activist had to run away from his homestead on January 5, after getting wind that Zanu PF youth militias had planned to assault him on the day in question. While in hiding the victim was informed that the youths indeed visited his homestead and told his wife that they wanted to teach him a lesson. Since then the victim has not visited his house, leaving behind his wife and children.

The political situation in **Mashonaland West Province** has remained the same despite the increase in number of political meetings from Zanu PF and the MDC-T. There were 27 cases recorded as compared to the 28 witnessed during the month of December.

The Zanu PF intra-party violence was witnessed before and during the party election of the provincial chairperson which was eventually won by John Mafa. One supporter was allegedly assaulted by members of the Mafa faction in Kadoma after he had campaigned for Reuben Marumahoko in the mining town.

The elections were also marred with harassment and intimidations as ordinary people were forced to go and vote during the elections and this was rampant in Chakari and Makonde. Mafa was accused of vote buying in Hurungwe as he was distributing fertilisers in the run up to the election. He was accused of using his position as a GMB employee to distribute farming inputs to his supporters and other influential people in the province.

Police officers and state security agents have continued to show their partisan support for Zanu PF in **Harare Province** when they raided vendors in the Central business District accusing the vendors of being MDC-T activists disguising as vendors.

More than forty policemen came and rounded vendors around Nelson Mandela and First Street in the CBD and assaulted them for vending, the vendors fought back and overpowered the police officers who took refuge at a police post along First Street which was destroyed by the vendors.

Police had to call for reinforcement of more than two hundred riot police in riot gear who controlled the situation as people were now running away, police arrested about thirteen vendors and came back the following day and raided harvest house and arrested about ten people whom they accused of being MDC-T supporters disguising as vendors.

There have also been reports of violence by the Zanu PF militia, Chipangano, since last year but they have never been arrested which gives them room to terrorize people at will. Since Zanu PF is advocating for early elections, there are reports of intra party violence within Zanu PF as politicians fight to get an opportunity to represent the party in the next elections.

The imminent drought in **Matabeleland North Province** has seen a rise in activities around food distribution and the majority of the resources are reportedly coming from Zanu PF. This has raised fears that the food resources may be politicised ahead of the anticipated elections this year.

A village head from Kamaga village in Binga North constituency was reportedly denied maize seed and fertiliser after being accused of supporting the MDC-T. The incident happened on January 3, when the perpetrators threatened the victim by telling him that war veterans will soon visit him.

A man from Bubi constituency was relieved of his duties on January 10 after his employer an MDC-T activist had discovered he belonged to Zanu PF.

The political environment in **Matabeleland South Province** was calm with only three incidents having been recorded during the month of January. The province also witnessed the continued court case of the MMPZ employees and their regional chairperson at the Gwanda Magistrates' Court. Other charges have been dropped and they remain with the charge of undermining the authority of the president.

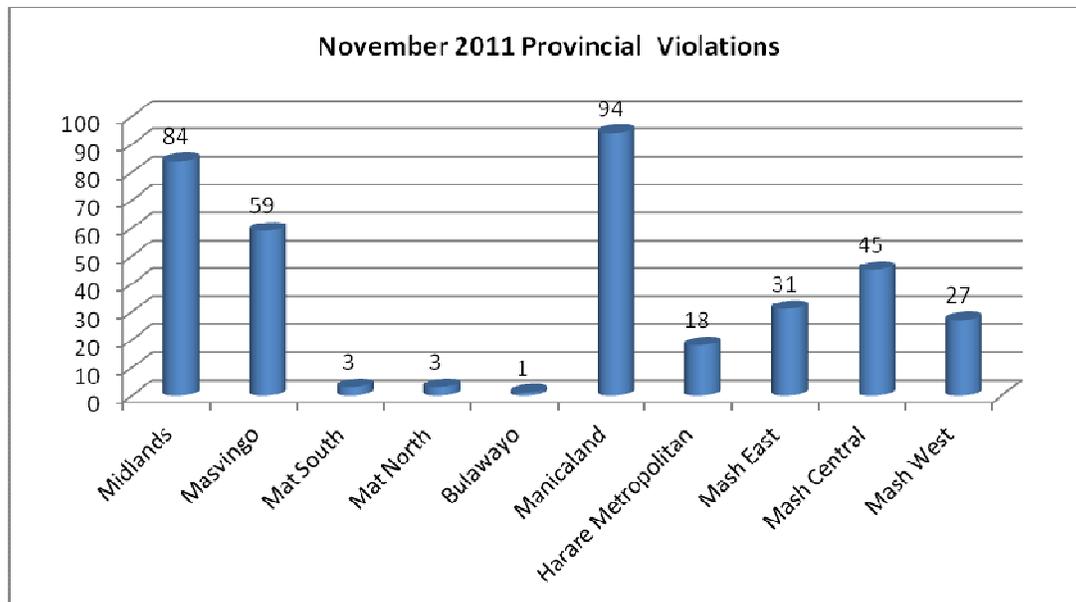
There was one incident of unlawful detention of three brothers from Mawabeni in Umzingwane on January 28, 2011. The police allegedly arrested and detained the brothers on charges that they had threatened to shoot a member of the Zanu PF following a dispute they had had. The brothers were detained for more than twelve hours before being released for lack of evidence.

Bulawayo Province During the month of January the political situation was relatively peaceful in most of constituencies. Furthermore, there was a marked decline in activities of human rights abuses. In ward 29 of Magwegwe Constituency two political parties, MDC-N and ZAPU held a joint meeting where members of the public were not allowed to attend.

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	15	0	0	1	2	21	1	5	3	4	52
Theft/Looting	1	0	0	0	0	4	0	1	2	3	11
Discrimination	14	0	0	2	24	19	1	5	4	9	78
MDP	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	1
Torture	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Unlawful Detention	1	1	1	0	0	1	0	1	0	0	5
Harassment/ Intimidation	53	0	2	0	30	48	16	18	18	29	214
Displacement	0	0	0	0	3	0	0	1	0	0	4
Total	84	1	3	3	59	94	18	31	27	45	365

Figure 2: Provincial PMV Trends - May 2011

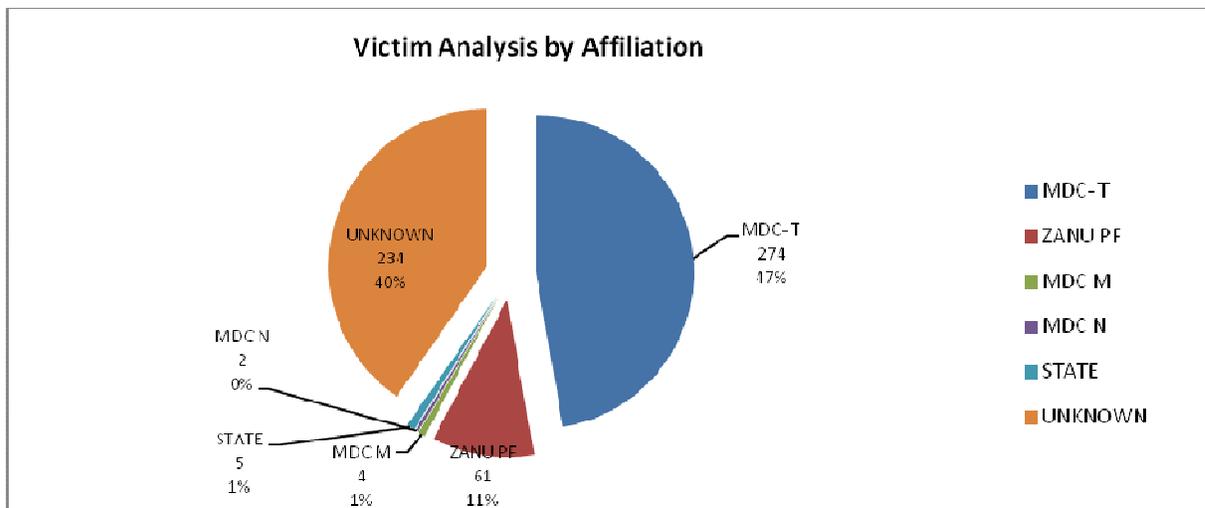
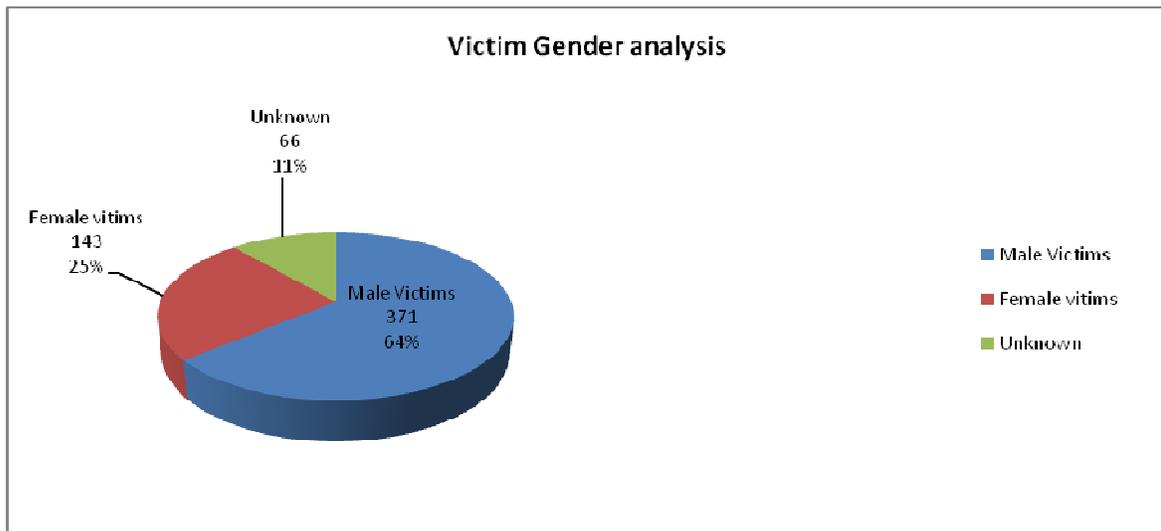


VICTIM ANALYSIS BY GENDER AND ASSOCIATION

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 371 male victims up from 307 recorded during the month of December. The male victims represented 64% of the victims tally.

The month saw 143 females having their rights violated constituting a 25% 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 274 MDC-T supporters who had their rights violated representing 47% of the victims compared to Zanu PF's 61 supporters accounting for 11% of the victims tally.

The analysis clearly shows that 40% 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 234 victims whose political affiliation was unknown.



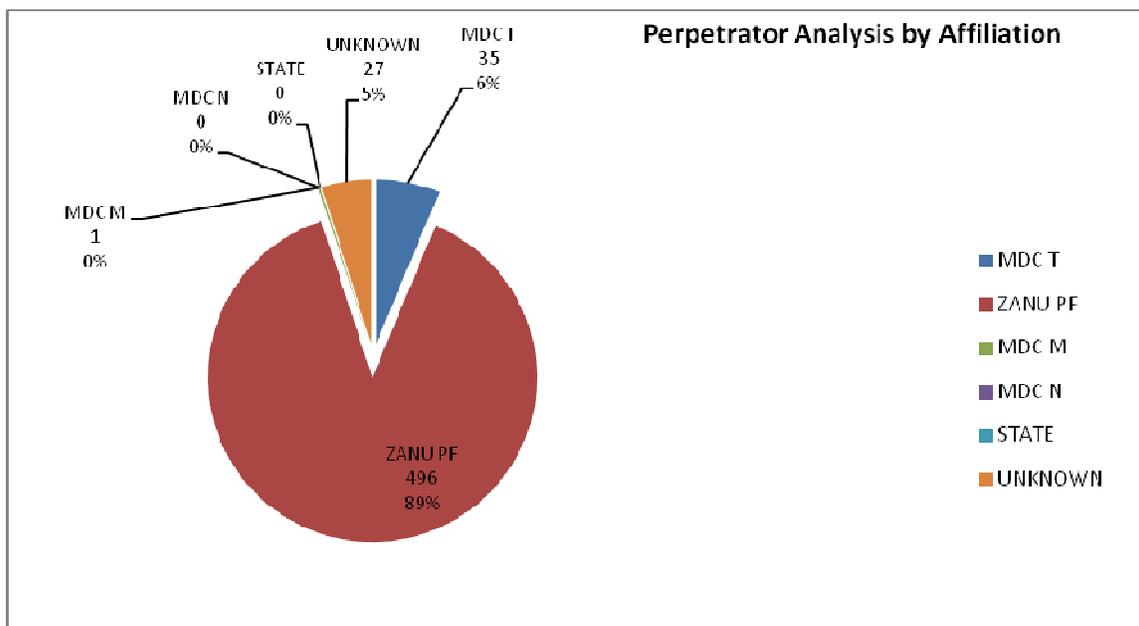
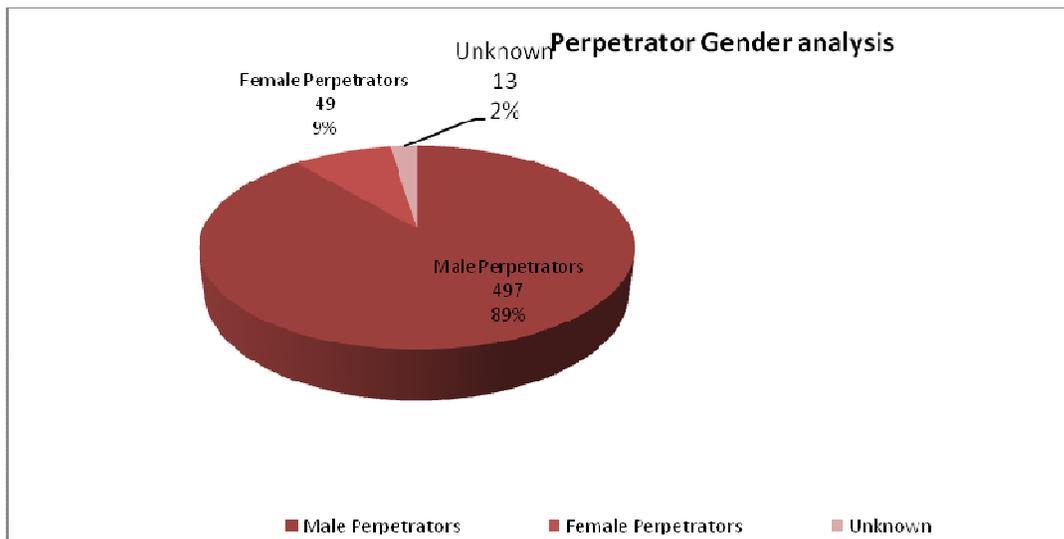
Male and Female Perpetrator Analysis and Charts

The perpetrators' analysis by gender show that males were the chief culprits representing 89% of the violators of human rights compared to their female counterparts who

constituted 9%. During the month of January, 497 males were recorded as perpetrators, while only 49 were females.

Zanu PF accounted for the highest percentage of perpetrators during the month under review accounting for 89% of the people directly responsible for leading politically motivated human rights violations. There were 443 perpetrators from Zanu PF while 35 were MDC-T activists with 5 cases having been reportedly perpetrated by state security agents accounting for only 1%.

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

In the period under review, food and other forms of aid continue to be manipulated as modes of punishment for those found not supporting the views of the ZANU PF. Reports of partisan distribution of aid under a scheme dubbed “Presidential Scheme” at which the President Robert Mugabe is said to have sourced farming inputs for the communities continue to be received.

As has been in the past six months, the Midlands Province had the highest number of food and other forms of aid related human rights violations during the month of January. The province accounted for 36 cases of the 73 incidents recorded throughout the country. The majority of the violations were related to the Grain Marketing Board’s distribution of subsidized food and farming inputs.

Two villagers from Gokwe Kabuyuni were denied some maize seed, cotton seed and fertilisers which were being distributed by the GMB officials at Chireya Business Centre. Zanu PF officials including one councillor were in charge of the distribution and made sure that only Zanu PF supporters got their share while MDC-T activists and suspected MDC-T supporters did not get anything.

Some of the victims were asked to produce Zanu PF party cards in order to receive the farming inputs and the subsidized food handouts from the GMB.

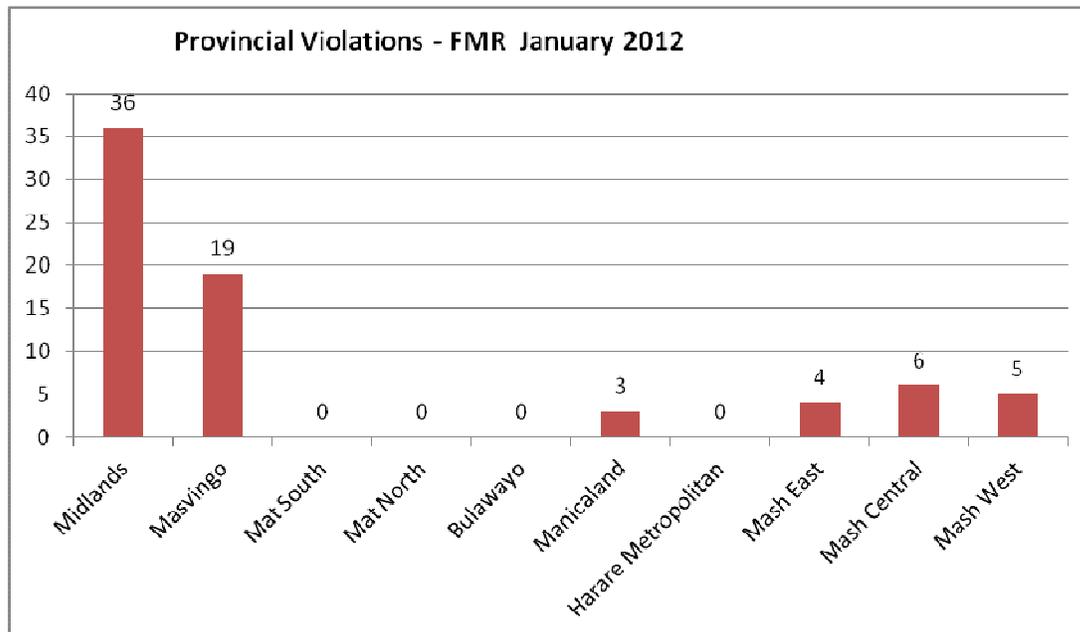
Most of the victims were denied these commodities on grounds of their political affiliation and in some cases have to be forced to denounce their political parties, forced to attend perpetrators’ meetings and ordered to produce party cards in order to access aid.

The cumulative toll violations on the distribution of food and other forms of aid since January 2008, has risen to 14 130. Acts of discriminations and harassments continue to dominate the violations chart.

However, article 16 of the Global Political Agreement (GPA) clearly states that every Zimbabwean regardless of race, ethnicity, gender, political affiliation and religion is entitled to food assistance from the state. But the politicisation of food and other forms of aid continue to be abused throughout the country more than two years after the inclusive government came into effect.

Table 2: CUMULATIVE TABLE FOR FOOD& OTHER FORMS OF AID RELATED VIOLATIONS

2008	2009	2010	2011	FOOD & OTHER FORMS OF AID RELATED ACT - 2009				
				2012	HARASSMENT	VIOLENCE	DISCRIMINATION	TOTAL
Closing Figures for 2008-2011				➔	4909	283	8865	14057
549	282	238	305	January	23	0	50	
497	582	264	274	February				
398	815	251	251	March				
296	644	238	142	April				
250	505	218	102	May				
165	524	159	93	June				
370	487	218	91	July				
319	132	200	66	August				
365	175	282	64	September				
376	209	216	76	October				
930	208	277	49	November				
336	204	349	60	December				
4851	4767	2866	1573	TOTAL	4932	0	8915	14130



EMERGING ISSUES & WAY FORWARD

While Zimbabwe is not prepared to hold non-violent, free and fair elections, the current inclusive government arrangement cannot exist indefinitely - making 2012 a decisive year for Zimbabwe civil society, together with others, to set and drive the agenda for credible elections.

The prevailing political situation in the country is a serious cause for concern with sporadic cases of violence being recorded as a direct result of the premature calls for elections by Zanu PF to end the country's two-year-old inclusive government.

Most of the violations that have been witnessed in most of the province are emanating from some of Zanu PF's resolutions made at the party's annual national conference held in Bulawayo in December 2011.

Indications are that there will be a rise in political temperatures across the country, especially with the talks of an early election in the air.

With an imminent 2011/2012 drought and the proposed elections this year, ZPP foresees a violent election campaign marred by politicisation of food aid.

It is paramount for the inclusive government to spearhead legal and structural reforms that will ensure that the elections are held in a free environment that guarantees the protection of the people's rights.

The ZPP will continue to exert pressure on the principals to the GPA to fully implement provisions to the agreement putting the interests of people first before calling for an election.

ZPP has also noticed that the structures of violence that were used during the 2008 election campaigns are still intact and continue to be used by the same perpetrators with no concrete reactions from the police and other security agents.

It is however very critical that the government works towards breaking this cycle of violence by getting people in the communities to work together to improve their living conditions, regardless of political affiliation and by working with the very people who have committed acts of violence.

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 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 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

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

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