

Community Tolerance Reconciliation and Development (COTRAD)

Programme Reports

ACRONYMS

DA	District Administrator
DCC	District Coordinating Committee
FORD	Forum for Democracy.
GNU	Government of National Unity.
GPA	Global Political Agreement.
JOMIC	Joint Monitoring and Implementation Committee.
ONHRI	Organ of National Healing Reconciliation and Integration.
MDC	Movement for Democratic Change.
MPOI	Mass Public Opinion Institute.
NANGO	National Association of Non Governmental Organizations.
NGO	Non Governmental Organization.
SST	Students Solidarity Trust
YETT	Youth Empowerment and Transformation Trust
ZAPU	Zimbabwe African Peoples' Union
ZANU-PF	Zimbabwe African National Union Patriotic Front
ZLHR	Zimbabwe Lawyers for Human Rights
ZRP	Zimbabwe Republic Police

Overall Objective

- Promote reconciliation, tolerance and an enabling environment for positive youth participation in national processes in Zimbabwe

Location Masvingo Province

Period May to August 2012

Activity Monitoring political violence in Masvingo province.

Objectives

- To monitor the prevalence of politically motivated violence in Masvingo province between May and August 2012.
- To facilitate the development of a conscious youth in respect of their rights, roles, duties, obligations and responsibilities in national healing for positive development.
- To promote informed and positive youth participation in national processes such as the forthcoming constitutional referendum and general elections.
- To impart an insight, build confidence amongst rural youths in pursuing justice through democratic needs; facilitate legal advice and rehabilitation services.

Background and Formation

The Community Tolerance Reconciliation and Development was formed by Great Zimbabwe University students' activists and members of the Zimbabwe National Students Union in October 2008 after the controversial and violent 2008 general elections that led to gross human rights violations and the formation of the Government of National Unity. The major interest was to mitigate, monitor and document cases of politically motivated violence, promote peace and tolerance amongst youths across the political divide as well as promote

positive and informed participation amongst the youths on the national discourse. COTRAD has established 26 task forces members in each constituency in the 7 districts of Masvingo province who help in the execution of the duties of the organisation. COTRAD works in collaboration with other youth Community Based Organizations in Masvingo Province which are into the promotion positive youth participation in national processes and upholding of human rights namely Masvingo Youth Network, Youth Forum, Chivi Youth Forum, Gutu Youth Forum, Forum for Democracy, Zimbabwe Poets. COTRAD has also built networks with other youth organizations in the form of Student Solidarity Trust and the Youth Empowerment and Transformation Trust. The COTRAD enjoys good working relations with ZimRights, Zimbabwe Lawyers for Human Rights and National Association of Non Governmental Organisations.

METHODOLOGY

The report is an ongoing monitoring programme based on reports from COTRAD task force members who monitor, observe and record cases of politically motivated violence in the constituencies they come from. COTRAD has got 2 members of the task force in each of the 26 constituencies of Masvingo province who are residents of the constituencies they monitor. The COTRAD task force compiles reports that are handed to the district chairpersons of the task force who submit the reports to the information department. The information Department compile these monitoring monthly reports and consolidate them to form quarterly reports which are published.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY.

The 4 months under review from May to August 2012 depicts high levels of human rights violations as continuously prevailing and mostly the increase have been largely attributed to by an increase in cases of socio-economic and politically motivated human rights violations in Masvingo province in comparison to the period between January and April 2012. A culture of impunity has engulfed the societies and the police force has become highly partisan in the period under review. Uniformed forces and state agents have played significant roles in the violation of human rights. Intra party political intolerance has hugely culminated in the increase of levels of political violence. Non tolerance to political diversity has also grossly attributed to highly levels of victimisation and it remains a common phenomenon especially in the rural constituencies. Elections even at political part level, national level and

organizational level in Zimbabwe continue to witness organised and systematic violence, intimidation and victimization of potential voters thus perverting freedom of choice in the elections. There has been lack of meaningful dialogue amongst major stakeholders aimed at breaking the violence impasse in the communities. Young people and the traditional chiefs were involved in most of the cases committed during the period under review. The reasons behind an increase in the cases of politically motivated violence in Masvingo province have been attributed to the political impasse that is being associated with the constitution deadlocks and the shortage of food in Masvingo province.

PERTRATORS

Youths are the most group which have been perpetrating political violence as they are manipulated by political leaders. There has been the resurfacing of youth militia bases in Mwenezi, Bikita and Zaka where young people are forcing civilians to attend ZANU PF meetings. Traditional leaders are on the record of intimidating, harassing and threatening their subjects for not supporting the revolutionary party ZANU PF. Traditional leaders have assumed quite a fundamental role of distributing food formerly given by NGOS. The distribution of food aid has been highly partisan. War veterans have once again collaborated with the youths under the auspice of indigenisation invading farms and assaulting members of opposition political parties.

There has been an increase in the number of threats, intimidation and assault due to the resurgence of youth militia bases in Masvingo, Mwenezi, Zaka, Gutu and Bikita districts and unlawful arrests by members of the uniformed forces, has decreased. The presence of youth militias in the rural communities of Masvingo has skyrocketed. There has been a significant rise of inter party violence in the second quarter under review and the mystery surrounding the constitution making process has further exacerbated tension between political players within the province and the nation as a whole. Cases of political leaders and activist purporting threats, intimidation and clashing with traditional chiefs have also been noticed in the period under review. Most noticeable phenomenon has been the rise in the number of cases of threats, assaults and intimidation between the elected local authorities (Councillors) and Traditional leadership over the manner of entitlement of the Grain Loan Scheme



Fig1



Fig 2

Some of the disgruntled MDC-T youths protesting against their Member of Parliament accused of embezzling Community Development Fund (CDF) Festus Dumbu in front of the MDC-T President Morgan Tsvangirai were assaulted a day after the tour.

Date	District	Description	Perpetrator/s	Action
03/05/12	Gutu	Lazarus Chidanhika MDC-T Councillor of Gutu South Constituency Ward 30 threatened Chief Nerupiri for swindling villagers of their hard-earned cash by overcharging them transport for maize delivery from Grain Marketing Board.	MDC Youths	Matter referred to JOMIC
05/05/12	Mwenezi	Male teacher Mr Trust Mavambire was threatened by ZANU PF youths with violence after he participated in the restricting process of the MDC party at Mleme Primary School in Mwenezi East Constituency	Zanu PF Youths	Matter referred to JOMIC
27/05/12	Masvingo	Vendors selling independent newspapers were threatened not to sell privately owned newspapers Zimbabwean Ex	Political prisoners and members of Detainees and	Matter reported to the police and no arrest was made

		Political prisoners, Detainees and Reestrictees Association.	Reestrictees Association.	
29/05/12	Masvingo	Invasion by Ward 8 Councillor MDC-T Misheck Gapare invaded a NASSA exhibition building at Masvingo Showground.	MDC-T Councillor	Matter reported to the police and was evicted from the NASSA premises
30/05/12	Masvingo	In Masvingo Central Constituency ward 34 Albert Mapurisa who is MDC ward Chairman was threatened by war veterans with violence if ever seen conducting MDC activities.	War veterans	No report was made.
30 May	Gutu	Chief Serima banned MDC rally in his areas of jurisdiction.	Traditional leadership	Matter referred to JOMIC
02 June	Chivi	MDC councillor Tobias Macheka was threatened with violence by Zanu PF youths for questioning the partisan and unfair distribution of grain loan scheme.	Zanu PF youths	Matter referred to JOMIC
06 June	Zaka	Members of the MDC-T youth assembly manhandled each other at an MDC party restructuring exercise meeting near Ndanga hospital ward 13 Zaka North.	MDC T Youth	Matter not reported
10 June	Zaka	4 MDC-T members of the youth assembly, Tatenda Mabota, Abel Mlambo, Brian Muzenda and Takawira Mhindo were assaulted a day after they protested against their Member of Parliament Festus Dumbu for embezzlement of constituency development	MDC T youths.	No report was made.

		fund		
16 June	Masvingo	Youth Forum was prohibited to hold road show in Masvingo Urban Constituency by the ZRP on grounds that their gathering was political.	Zimbabwe Republic Police	Decision made by the Police
18 June	Masvingo	In Masvingo Central Constituency ward 34 Albert Mapurisa who is MDC ward Chairman was threatened by ZANU PF youth militia with violence if ever seen conducting MDC activities.	ZANU PF Youths	The matter was referred to JOMIC
19 June	Chiredzi	Murder of Simbarashe Nemauro a member of the MDC-T at Hippo Valley Estates by John Hussein Chari member of ZANU PF after altercation the later stabbed Nemauro accusing him of supporting a political party that promote theft.	ZANU PF youths and youth officers	ZRP and JOMIC
19 June	Masvingo	6 families were evicted from the Mbudzi Housing Cooperative for defecting from ZANU PF to the MDC. Youth ,militia was used to forcefully evict the families from the cooperative	ZANU PF youths	Matter referred to JOMIC and is before the Civil Courts
21 June	Gutu	A hut belonging to Mavis Madhumu was burnt down by a member of ZANU PF was burned by suspected assailants from Shuvai Mahofa faction from ZANU PF.	ZANU PF youths from the Shuvai Mahofa faction.	Not reported to police or JOMIC.

24 June	Zaka	MDC T and ZANU PF youths assaulted each other at the distribution of the Grain Loan Scheme at Jichidza Primary School.	MDC T AND ZANU PF youths.	Matter reported to the Police but no arrests were made.
26 June	Gutu	ZANU PF youth established a Militia base at Man'a Business Centre singing revolutionary songs, threatening villagers and chanting ZANU PF slogans.	ZANU PF youths	Reported to JOMIC
28 June	Chiredzi	ZANU PF youth established a Militia base at Chilonga Business Centre in Chiredzi East Constituency Ward 10 singing revolutionary songs, threatening villagers and chanting ZANU PF slogans.	ZANU PF youths	Matter referred to JOMIC
30 June	Chiredzi	A militia Base was established at Chambuta Training Centre in Chiredzi South. Stationed in these bases are youth officer drawn from the Border Gezi scheme. The youth officers are threatening villagers with regards coercing villagers to accept the Zanu Pf ideology ahead of the constitutional referendum.	Youth militia	Matter not referred to JOMIC or Police
30 June	Bikita	ZANU PF youth assaulted the Ward Chairman Samuel Guzha for purporting factionalism aligning himself to Retired Brigadier Makova who is the aspiring candidate for Bikita	ZANU PF youths	Matter not reported

		South Constituency.		
01 July	Bikita	Youth Officer Emmanuel Mwale in Bikita East attended an MDC T rally and took down names of villagers who attended the rally at Chikuku Business Centre. He further threatened the villagers of participating in MDC activities.	Youth Officers	Matter referred to JOMIC
01 July	Mwenezi	Chief Chitanga gathered village heads and threatened them with violence and dissolution if ever they are seen allowing MDC activities to be carried out in their areas of jurisdiction.	Traditional Leadership.	Matter not reported
03 July	Chivi	Cleopas Masunungure a war veteran gathered ZANU PF structures at Chivi Growth Point and instructed them to intimidate all MDC elements in the district.	War Veterans.	Matter not reported.
04 July	Masvingo	Unlawful arrest and detention of COTRAD peaceful marchers.14 activist were arrested.	Central Intelligence Organization.	Matter before the Magistrate Courts.
04 July	Masvingo	In Masvingo Central Constituency MDC ward 16 chairman Kundai Mazanhi was summoned by chief Murinye for distributing MDC fliers in his area without his approval.	Traditional Leadership.	Matter referred to JOMIC.
07 July	Gutu	ZANU-PF members were assaulted by MDC youths after having a quarrel during grain loan scheme distribution at Man'a Business Centre	MDC-T youths	Matter reported to JOMIC

07 July	Chiredzi	Langton Charura an MDC activist was arrested at Chitsanga Hall in Chiredzi for undermining the authority of the president during a constitutional feedback meeting.	Zimbabwe Republic Police	Matter before the magistrate courts
09 July	Mwenezi	Chief Chitanga gathered villagers at Neshuro Growth Point and threatened them with violence if seen participating in the MDC activities in the forth coming referendum and election.	Traditional Leadership	No report was made
14 July	Masvingo	Mr Makwarimba was threatened by the ZANU PF youth over a farm which he annexed from the youth association.	ZANU PF youths	Matter reported to the police
14 July	Zaka	ZANU PF youth militia disrupted the grain loan distribution gathering at Chikwanda Business centre and looted the inputs.	Youth Militia	Matter not reported to the police
14 July	Chiredzi	Save Conservancy was invaded by a group called Masvingo Initiative demanding 51% ownership under the indigenization policy.	ZANU PF officials and retired Army personnel and Youth militia.	Matter reported to the police
17 July	Bikita	Martin Mabasa was denied medical treatment from Mukore clinic in Bikita a directive given by Retired Brigadier General Makova because he was a human right activist.	Retired Army officials.	Matter referred to JOMIC.
18 July	Bikita	A primary school teacher Mrs	War veterans.	Matter referred to

		Saidi at Zengeya primary school was attacked by Zanu Pf youths led by the SDC chairperson after she had inquired how much money had been spent the whole term. She was accused of being a mouthpiece of MDC.		JOMIC.
19 July	Masvingo	Prosper Tiringindi ZINASU Masvingo provincial Chairman was detained for 10 hours on allegations of arson after Masvingo Magistrate Court was set on fire by unknown assailants.	Zimbabwe Republic Police.	Warned, cautioned and released by the Zimbabwe Republic Police.
21 July	Masvingo	Fisher Mugabe of Masvingo North constituency ward 13 benefited from the grain loan scheme and hired a truck belonging to Mr Wilstaff Sitemere the MDC provincial chairperson. He was summoned by headman Chikawa and fined four goats and told never to associate with MDC members.	Traditional Leadership.	Matter referred to JOMIC.
22 July	Masvingo	Headman Gurajena of Zimuto communal area threatened with evictions to all the households under his area of jurisdiction who objected paying US\$30 for his upkeep.	Traditional leader	Matter reported to the Zimbabwe Republic Police
26 July	Mwenezi	A hut belonging MDC T ward Chairman Mr Hlamalani of the was burned by suspected ZANU	ZANU PF youths	Matter reported to JOMIC and ZRP

		PF youths after a organising an MDC-T rally near Mwenezi Government School.		
01 August	Gutu	Chikwava Johannes MDC activist in Gutu West Constituency ward 1 attacked ZANU-PF Ward secretary for security Elias Nhatare with a log after having a misunderstanding on the issue of grain loan scheme.	MDC youths.	The matter is before the courts at Masvingo Magistrate Court.
03 August	Masvingo	Young people who participated at the annual YOCAF Festival were arrested and sent to court for staging a drama dubbed Mudhara (old man).Members were arrested at Charles Austin Theatre Masvingo.	Zimbabwe Republic Police.	Matter before the courts.
04 August	Chiredzi	Chief Tshovani and 500 youths invaded farm number 16 sub division 2 under Hippo Valley Estates under the auspices of indigenization and empowerment program	Traditional Leadership and youths	Matter reported to JOMIC and Police
12 August	Masvingo	Soldiers assaulted enumerators during census who were training Enumerators at Masvingo Polytechnic College.	Army officials.	Reported but no arrest were made.
13 August	Chivi	Villagers threatened census enumerators at Chivi Growth Point accusing government of funding census activities neglecting the drought stricken	ZANU PF youths.	Matter reported to Police but no arrests were made.

		area of Chivi.		
14 August	Chivi	Members of the Zimbabwe Republic Police disrupted a Census Training programme at Chivi growth point.	Zimbabwe Republic Police.	No arrests were made.
15 August	Mwenezi	The District Administrator (DA) of Mwenezi district Mr Chamisa recalled Philip Marufu and Kumbirai Vambire who are teachers from the census training after two weeks of training on allegations that they are in the structures of MDC. Upon inquiry from the District Education Officer Mr Chigaba for Mwenezi they were told it was political decision.	District Administrator	Matter reported to JOMIC
15 August	Bikita	Soldiers' assaulted census members who were being trained at Silveira Mission	Army Officials	Reported to the Police but no action was taken
16 August	Bikita	MDC T members of the youth assembly Takudzwa Machokoto and Brian Chatiza assaulted each other during an MDC T meeting after having some misunderstanding on how to co-opt some of the party members into the district structure.	MDCT youths.	Matter not reported.
18 August	Masvingo	Census enumerators were harassed by Zanu Pf youths near the Mbudzi Housing Cooperation for allegedly siding with the MDC led council of the city of	Youth Militia and war veterans.	Matter reported to Zimbabwe Republic Police.

		Masvingo. Reasons for the harassment were the non existence of sewer and reticulation system in the cooperative.		
20 August	Masvingo	27 families were denied access to grain loan scheme by Kwangari Mukasi, Samson Mukasi, Jacob Mumbire and Takura Chiduka ZANU PF youths in Mukasi village Masvingo South constituency	Youth Militia	Matter referred to JOMIC
21 August	Masvingo	Chief Matubede Mugabe suspended kraal head Rangarirai Mugunzva for allegedly aligning to MDC and replaced him with Don Mugabe a ZANU PF protagonist.	Traditional leadership	Matter not reported to police/JOMIC
23 August	Masvingo	ZANU PF youth disrupted and intimidated participants at the Annual General Meeting of Masvingo United Residents Ratepayers Association.	Youths	Matter reported to police
23 August	Chivi	A teacher Edison Mudereri was threatened by ZANU PF youths in Chivi district. He was alleged to be aligning with MDC.	Youth militia	Matter referred to JOMIC
26 August	Masvingo	MDC-T youths engaged in intra party violence in Chiredzi west at a party restructuring exercise meeting organised by the party district leadership	Youths	Matter not reported to JOMIC/Police
27 August	Mwenezi	Groups of MDC women and	Women	Matter referred to

		ZANU PF women threatened and intimidated each other during the distribution of grain in Mwenezi east		JOMIC
28 August	Mwenezi	Member of parliament for Mwenezi East Kudakwashe Basikiti and traditional leaders participated in the victimization of villagers alleged of supporting the MDC who were benefitting from the CARE INTERNATIONAL humanitarian aid	Member of parliament and traditional leadership	Matter not reported
28 August	Masvingo	The Norbert Kunonga led Anglican church and a Zanu pf protagonist threatened Anglicans who had gathered to commemorate the Arthur Sheary Cripps annual Anglican Anniversary. Police through the interdict raised by Kunonga who violently seized 78 Anglican church properties in Masvingo province declared the anniversary illegal and forceful pushed people out of the premise.	Zimbabwe Republic Police ZANU PF youths	Matter in the Police records but nothing has been done
29 August	Masvingo	Intra party violence occurred at the Tokwe Mukosi with Zanu Pf heavy weights and army generals threatening each other over the distribution of stands in the area. Hebert Murerwa, Dzikamai	Youth militia	Matter not reported to either JOMIC or Police

		Mavhaire, Sipepa Nkomo through Minister Chombo seized stands in the Tokwe – Mukosi area. Youth militia disrupted a gathering attended by Minister Chombo and Herbert Murerwa.		
29 August	Masvingo	Zanu Pf DCC chairman Saviours Masase threatened School heads with violence if they continue supporting MDC at Muchakata Business Centre ward 19 Masvingo Central Constituency.	Traditional Leadership and Political leaders	Matter not referred to JOMIC or Police
29 August	Mwenezi	Zanu pf Chairman for Ward 13 Mwenezi East Simon Tsatsa and youth officers threatened villagers who attended an MDC-T rally with violence in Mwenezi. The youth officers took down the names of the people who participated in the rally threatening and warning them of participating in MDC-T activities	Youth Officers and ZANU PF member.	No report was made
30 August	Gutu	MDC-T youths Tapiwa Mandivenga, Tobias Gondo assaulted Zanu members in Gutu Central Constituency for alleged atrocities committed in 2008 during the political violence era. The assaulted are Rangarirai Majange, Shepherd Timburwa	MDC youths	Matter reported to Police
30 August	Zaka	Violence erupted during the distribution of grain loan scheme	Youths	Matter reported to JOMIC

		in Zaka. Traditional leadership and responsible censored possible beneficiaries and secluded suspected MDC-T activist and this culminated into first fighting between Zanu Pf youths and MDC youth.		
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Fig 4

	Assault	Murder	Arson	Intimidation	Invasions	Unlawful arrests	Evictions
Masvingo	4	-	-	11	2	3	2
Mwenezi	-	-	1	5	-	-	1
Chiredzi	-	1	-	3	2	2	-
Bikita	5	-	-	-	-	-	1
Zaka	4	-	-	4	-	-	-
Chivi	-	-	-	4	-	-	-
Gutu	4	-	1	-	-	-	1
Total	17	1	2	27	4	5	5

Fig 5



Fig 6

Villagers scramble for Grain Loan Scheme forms in Mwenezi



Fig 7

COTRAD activist at ZCTU premises before the Peaceful March.

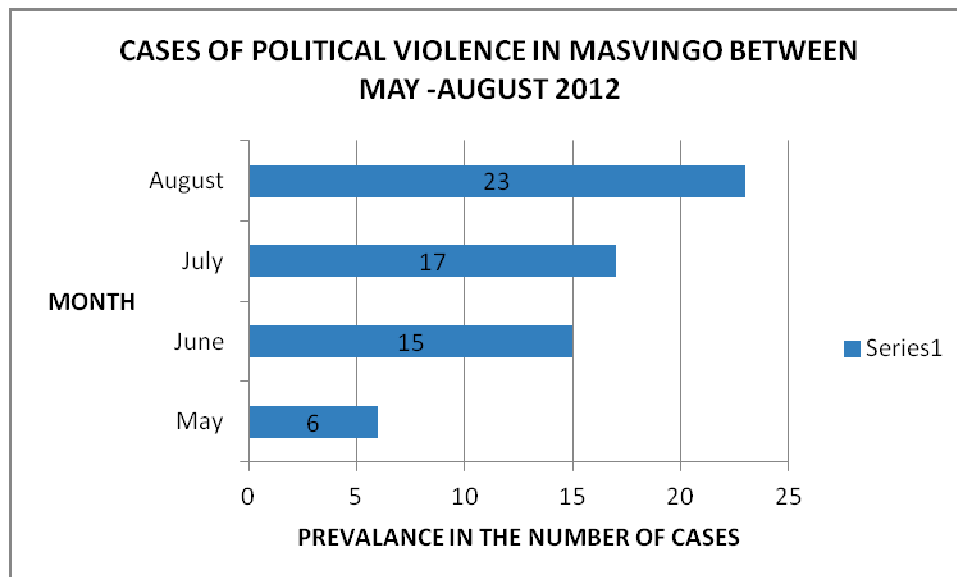


Fig 8

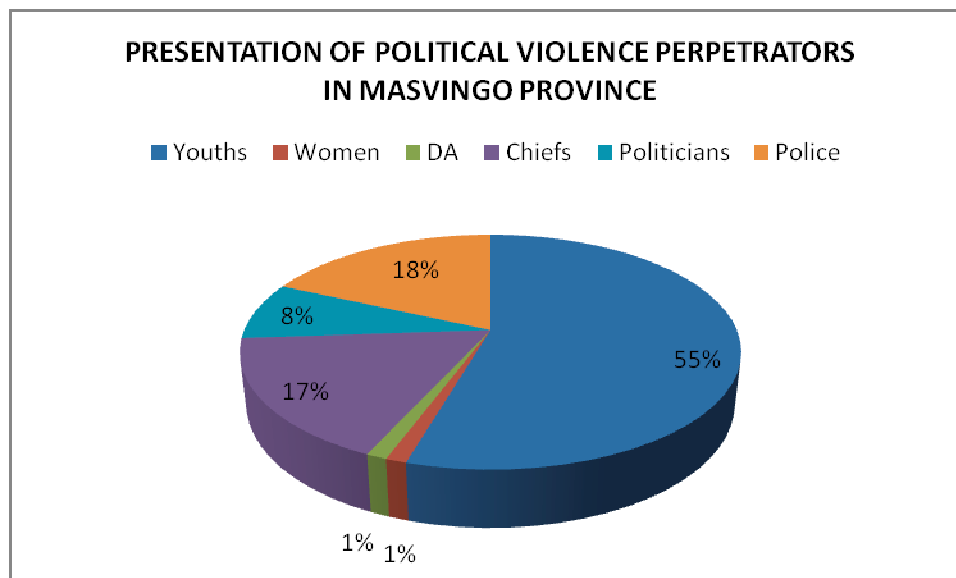


Fig 9

CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATIONS

The monitoring activity carried by COTRAD reflects that cases of political violence have been on the increase between May and August 2012 in Masvingo province with an increase in the number of young people engaged in violence. The statistics reveal an increase of 13% to reach 55% young people engaged in violence from a recorded 42% from the first quarter of the year 2012. The increase has been attributed to lack of political tolerance amongst the political parties, lack of civic education on tolerance on diverse political views, failure of the organ of national healing to curb violence, increase in youth manipulation by political

leaders, the election demand which has heightened since the start of the year and jostling for political positions has spanned factionalism amongst political parties and lack of proper implementation of GPA. Young people continue to commit most of the cases of political violence and traditional chiefs have also contributed much in the committing of these offenses. War veterans continue to commit cases of politically motivated violence. There were very few arrests made while most of the cases have not been reported for fear of victimisation. The members of the ZRP continue to be highly partial in the handling of cases of political violence. The possibility of a violent free and fair election remains unrealistic in Masvingo Province. Zaka, Bikita and Masvingo and Mwenezi districts recorded high cases of politically motivated violence and there is a steady increase in the other districts.

There should be the promotion of responsibility at community level and national level and the young people should be educated on how to assume responsibility in the respective communities in order to facilitate for young people that can make informed decisions and choices and upholding positive aspects of communities that shun violence in its forms. There is need for the creation of an effective system based on building youthful leaders and citizens, who clearly understand their specific roles, coordinate efforts to tackle violence, intimidation and threats in order to improve community life. Cooperation amongst Government and stakeholders should concentrate on curbing violence bringing socio-economic and political cohesion aimed at lifting national priorities and commitments with more emphasis on processes that are aimed at bringing tolerance, acceptance of diverse socio-economic and political views. Peace building initiatives ahead of forthcoming general elections and referendum is a crucial component of the election roadmap as it helps in restoring voter confidence. Advocacy initiatives are essential in promoting accountability and responsibility on stakeholders like the responsible ministries and the established organs ONHRI. Failure in including young people in such processes will lead to intense conflicts in communities, lack of accountable leaders and neglect of minority groups.

