



EARLY WARNING REPORT ON POLITICALLY- MOTIVATED HUMAN RIGHTS AND FOOD- RELATED VIOLATIONS

FEBRUARY 2009

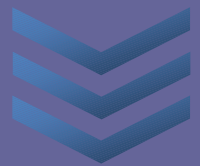


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ACRONYMS	DENOTATION
BACOSI	Basic Commodities Supply Side Intervention
CIO	Central Intelligence Organisation
FBO	Faith Based Organisations
GMB	Grain Marketing Board
GSF	Government Subsidized Food
NGO	Non Governmental Organisations
MDC	Movement for Democratic Change
MDC – T	Movement for Democratic Change – Tsvangirai
MDP	Malicious Damage to Property
WFP	World Food Programme
ZANU PF	Zimbabwe African National Union Patriotic Front
ZTV	Zimbabwe Television

Glossary

TERM	DEFINITION
MURDER	Unlawful and intentional killing of another person.
RAPE	Intentional, unlawful sexual intercourse with a woman without her consent.
SEXUAL HARASSMENT	Unlawfully subjecting one to pressure, insult or threat with intent to cause him/her to suffer anxiety, discomfort and /or the feeling of insecurity as a result of sexual differences.
ASSAULT	Unlawfully and intentionally (i) applying force to the person of another or (ii) inspiring a belief in that other person that force is immediately to be applied to them.
KIDNAPPING/ABDUCTION	Unlawful and intentional deprivation of a person of liberty of movement and/or his/her custodians of control.
MALICIOUS DAMAGE TO PROPERTY	Consists of both arson and what used to be termed Malicious Injury to Property (MIP) which is; unlawful setting an immovable structure on fire with intent to injure another and malicious and intentional damaging of property of another.
THEFT	Unlawful taking of another's property
TORTURE	Any act by which severe pain or suffering, whether physical or mental is intentionally inflicted on a person for such purposes as obtaining from them information or a confession.
HARASSMENT/INTIMIDATION	- Unlawfully subjecting one to pressure, insult or threat with intent to cause him/her to suffer anxiety, discomfort and /or the feeling of insecurity - Duress
UNLAWFUL DETENTION	Unlawful and intentional deprivation of one's liberty of movement by a person or persons in positions of authority.
DISPLACEMENT	- Act of unlawfully, intentionally and forcibly evicting or causing someone to vacate or leave his/her usual place of residence or settlement as a result of political differences. - Forced evictions

OVERVIEW

February 2009 is set to occupy a special niche in Zimbabwe's post independence history. The month was witness to the birth of an inclusive government comprising ZANU PF and the two MDC factions, MDC-T and MDC-M; an inclusive administrative framework which among other things, was expected to inculcate and nurture the politics of inclusivity at both the macro and micro levels of society.

While these historic developments left the nation in a general celebratory mood, some unfolding events at both the macro and micro levels of society following the formation of the inclusive government cast worrying trends. Since the formation of the inclusive government, the nation became witness to a surge in high profile politically-motivated violations in which involvement of arms of government was reportedly visible, the defence chiefs quoted in some local press as having difficulties saluting the new Prime Minister Morgan Tsvangirai.

At grassroots level, a sort of wait-and-see attitude greeted the formation of the new government while fear of yester experiences restrained those who would have wanted to openly celebrate the unfolding developments. In most rural areas,

yester perpetrators were reported to be openly dismissing the historic event as a mere “Harare event” that has no full force in rural politics while incidents in which those found celebrating the formation of the inclusive were reportedly assaulted, harassed or even threatened with evictions. In “far from the madding crowd” areas, the grass is still singing with potential resistance.

Since the formation of the inclusive government, grassroots politics has also visibly assumed a disturbing fixation with “panyanga politics” [*Who between Robert Mugabe and Morgan Tsvangirai is now at the centre of power?*], a retrogressive power-politics question that was reported to be generating tension and reviving yester violence instincts in several communities. Also worrying were reports of some unscrupulous senior politicians were allegedly fanning violence by raising ‘panyanga’ questions as well as using hate slogans at rallies instead of preaching the new message of political inclusivity. The Zimbabwe Peace Project condemns these practices and exhorts all political leaders to desist from indulging in ‘panyanga’ politics in their outreach rallies as this preoccupation is indeed counter to the spirit and letter of the Global Political Agreement.

There were also reports of growing tension between perpetrators and victims of violence, yester perpetrators reportedly showing no remorse and even threatening to make a repeat of what they did to their victims in the past while victims were also readying themselves to reclaim and secure compensation for property and livestock lost in the countdown to the 27 June elections. In Harare, barely 72 hours after the swearing in of the MDC-T as Prime Minister, Mbare became witness to violent clashes between MDC and ZANU PF members as yester victims [mostly MDC members] who had reportedly been evicted allegedly by ZANU PF members from Nyenere, Shawasha, Matapi and Tagarika flats, moved in to reclaim their property and accommodation. Eleven [11] MDC-T members were arrested when police intervened to stop the mayhem, despite claims by victims that they had initially approached Mbare Police station for authorization. Across the ten provinces, relations between yester-perpetrators and yester-victims remained tense and volatile generally pointing to the need for restorative justice possibly along the [South African Truth and Reconciliation Commission.]

Also disturbing was that as cabinet ministers from ZANU PF and the two MDC factions were taking their oaths of office before President Robert Mugabe at State House on 13 February 2009, state security agents reportedly arrested and detained Roy Bennet [the MDC T Treasury-General, former Chimanimani legislator and designate deputy minister of Agriculture], accusing him of involvement in acts of terrorism, sabotage and banditry. Bennet, whose arrest came at a time when he was expected to be sworn in as deputy minister of agriculture in the inclusive government, had fled the country into self-imposed exile in South Africa and had only returned two weeks after the MDC T had resolved to join the government of national unity. Also worrying was the continued detention of human rights and MDC political activists.

Equally worrying were reported waves of high profile fresh farm invasions across the country allegedly led by police, army, top government [MPs, senators, DAs] and party officials, developments that reportedly left behind around 40 white owned farms invaded; farmers [especially those who successfully challenged the government’s land reforms at the SADC Tribunal] being targeted and attacked; farming activities disrupted, several farm workers displaced, left homeless and jobless; farmers served with eviction notices and around 100 farmers fast tracked to courts [allegedly under the directive of the Attorney General]. Although these invasions were countryside, areas such as Mashonaland Central, Mashonaland West, the Vumba area, Chipinge, Mwenezi, Chiredzi and Masvingo were the most affected. Among the most notable farms invaded were Mazoe Citrus Estates [owned by Stock Exchange listed Interfresh Ltd] and Chegutu farms such as Wakefield Farm, Stockdale Farm, Mt Carmel Farm and Northleigh. What is particularly worrying was the apparent general disregard of the High Court orders in the possession of farmers allowing them to continue farming operations.

The infamous Public Order and Security Act [POSA] is still widely invoked by police to put down what they deem to be anti-government protests. A day before the formation of the inclusive Government, Women of Zimbabwe Arise [WOZA] and Men of Zimbabwe Arise [MOZA] activists expressing their legal rights to freedom of expression were reportedly arrested and detained after participating in a march in the Harare and Bulawayo city centres on Valentine Day carrying placards and fliers exhorting politicians to “let love light the way” and also in the process giving out candles and matches urging Zimbabweans “not just to complain but to light the darkness by continuing to be active in demanding social justice”. The activists were detained for several days accused of committing a crime by disturbing public peace under section 37[1][b] of the Criminal Law [Codification and Reform] Act, although they were subsequently unconditionally released after appearing in courts.

The food situation remained dire and even poised to deteriorate due to low harvests across the country owing , among other things, to late access of maize seeds and related inputs, evictions of some villagers from their farming areas and also lack of draught power. Around 75% of the population in Zimbabwe are reportedly in need of food assistance [USAID, 13 February Report, 2008].

Food politics was so manifest that most food distribution points are generally cauldrons of tension between MDC and ZANU PF supporters, NGOs prone to labels of either being pro ZANU PF or MDC. Cases of interferences with distribution processes, selective food registrations, delisting of people from the food register on political grounds, bribing of government officers, as well as diversion and looting of maize meal, maize seeds and agricultural inputs continue to feature prominently in reports. Involvement of senior army officers, war veterans, councillors, and chairpersons remain on the high side. Since the formation of the inclusive government there have also been reports of revengeful discriminations, yester food discrimination victims reportedly subjecting ZANU PF supporters to what they went through in the past.

Operation Re-possession of land from unproductive farmers is reportedly used in a number of cases as a ruse by some unscrupulous government officers to target and re-possess plots from suspected and well-known MDC supporters. As farmers are reportedly being asked to produce ZANU PF membership cards and also obtain letters from former councillors or ZANU PF chairpersons before land is allocated, there is growing fear that some unproductive farmers may retain their land as long as they meet the above partisan requirements.

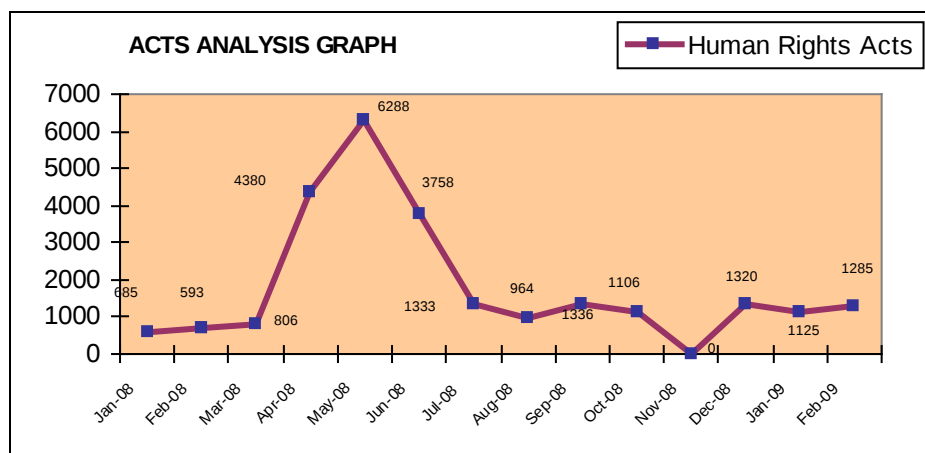
Since January 2008, a cumulative toll of 24 977 cases of politically motivated human rights abuses have been recorded with high records of harassments [13 165], assaults [5229], displacements [2576], MDPs [1048], looting [702] and Unlawful detentions [565]

Since January 2009, a total record of 2410 cases of politically motivated human rights abuse have been recorded 1125 in January and 1285 in February showing an upsurge by 160 cases. Although there were no reported cases of murder since 2009, cases of harassments, assaults, looting, displacement and unlawful detentions continue to maintain a stubborn presence. The specific details were as shown in table A and B below:

Table A: Cumulative Human Rights and Food-Related Politically-Motivated Violations

ACTS	2008	2009												
		January	February	March	April	May	June	July	August	September	October	November	December	TOTAL
Murder	207	0	0											207
Rape	56	4	12											72
Kidnapping/abduction	496	21	20											537
Assault	4581	270	378											5229
Theft/looting	578	80	44											702
Malicious Damage to Property (MDP)	979	40	29											1048
Torture	436	17	13											466
Unlawful Detention	487	37	41											565
Harassment/Intimidation	11954	553	658											13165
Displacement	2450	75	51											2576
Discrimination	306	28	39											373
Attempted Rape	23	0	0											23
Attempted Murder	14	0	0											14
TOTAL	22567	1125	1285											24977

Table B: GRAPHIC DEPICTION OF HUMAN RIGHTS VIOLATIONS



There was a slight surge in human rights violation records from January 2009 to February 2009.

FOOD-RELATED HUMAN RIGHTS VIOLATIONS

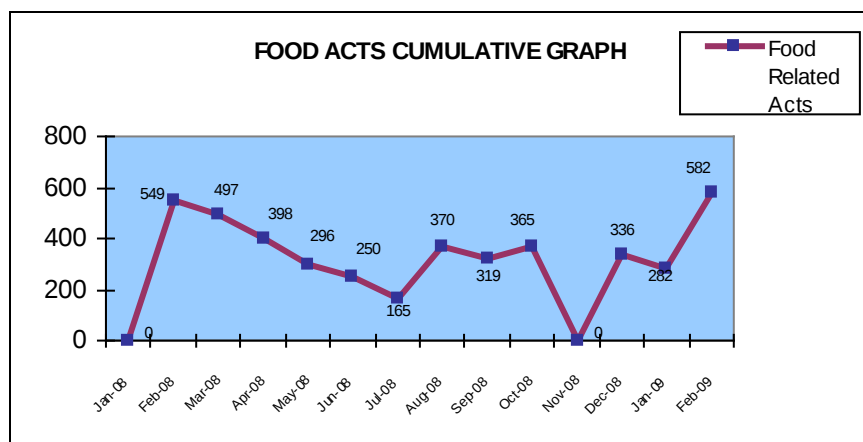
As of February 2009, a cumulative toll of 4782 cases of food-related human rights violations had been recorded, 282 of which were recorded in January 2009 while 582 were recorded in February 2009. Of this cumulative toll [4782], 3242 were cases of discrimination, 61 cases of violence and 1479 cases of harassment. The details were as shown on the table C and graph D below

Table C: Cumulative Food-Related Acts

2008 TOTAL		2009	FOOD RELATED ACTS : 2008– 2009			
			HARASSMENT	VIOLENCE	DISCRIMINATION	TOTAL
	Jan – Dec 2008		1365	39	2514	3918
549		January	46	6	230	282
497		February	68	16	498	582
398		March				
296		April				
250		May				
165		June				
370		July				
319		August				
365		September				
376		October				
0		November				
336		December				
3921		TOTAL	1479	61	3242	4782

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Table D: GRAPHIC SPREAD OF FOOD –RELATED HUMAN RIGHTS VIOLATIONS



Since January 2009 there was a sharp increase in food-related human rights violations from 282 to 582 by end of February, a worrying trend given the dire food situation in the country.

PROVINCIAL INCIDENTS OF POLITICALLY-MOTIVATED HUMAN RIGHTS VIOLATIONS

Mashonaland East

The province was generally restive, values of inclusiveness yet to permeate grassroots politics, with some human rights malpractices that had in the past receded, resurfacing. Appearing in own party regalia, attending political meetings of one's choice, listening to Studio 7 or reading independent sources of information were still treated as political crimes.

The formation of the inclusive government appears to be viewed as a mere passing fade which should not be accorded any seriousness- hence those found rejoicing its formation have either been verbally or physically abused. In one notable tale of banal intolerance to freedom of association, a Marondera West Chief was reportedly harassed and denied to appear in his chiefly regalia allegedly because of his alleged affiliation to the MDC T party. The chief reportedly only appeared in his chiefly regalia at the inauguration ceremony of the Prime Minister. Cases in which army and police officers were reportedly involved in acts of lawlessness maintain their statistical visibility. An atmosphere of revenge was also in the air, yester perpetrators reportedly living in fear as yester victims embarked on operation *Waizviitirei* [*Why did you do it in the first place?*] to mete punishment or reclaim lost property and livestock.

Masvingo

The politics of inclusivity was yet to creep into grassroots politics with areas such as Zaka West, Masvingo Urban, Chiredzi North, Chiredzi West, Chiredzi East and Gutu East among the commonly cited restive zones. Political tolerance continued to be a challenge, reports generally pointing to harassments for wearing own party regalia, publicly commenting on socio-economic developments, celebrating the swearing in of the president of the MDC T as Prime Minister, among others. In the Masekesa village of Chiredzi North, a suspected MDC sympathizer was on 12 February 2009 reportedly assaulted for being too enthusiastic about the inclusive Government, perpetrators dismissing the event as a mere "Harare issue not applicable in the countryside". In Chiredzi North, a Chiwi Beture miller was reportedly forced to cease operation and relocate to another area allegedly because he had refused to attend and contribute to ZANU PF party meetings in the area.

Cases in which suspected members of the army and police force were reportedly involved in acts of looting of property continued to feature in reports with a disturbing frequency. In Chiredzi East a group of five suspected ZNA officials were reported to have looted R500 worth of goods which they paid in local currency although all shops were now allowed to sell goods in foreign currency. In Gutu Central around 50 soldiers in uniform went around beer halls at the Mupandawana Growth point harassing and assaulting people.

Communities were generally in revenge mood, yester-victims [mostly MDC supporters] reportedly threatening to reclaim what they allege was forcefully taken from them during the volatile run up to the 27 June elections. In Makombe village, MDC youths reportedly approached the homestead of a yester-perpetrator chanting revolutionary songs and ordered him to compensate them on the medical bills incurred by party members who were assaulted and injured during the 27 June run-off elections. In Gutu East five suspected MDC youths of ward 15 on 13 February 2009 are said to have destroyed the livestock of war veterans [by breaking their legs] allegedly in apparent revenge for the reign of terror the perpetrator is said to have unleashed in the area during the run up to the run-off elections. The general mood in this province calls for restorative justice possibly along the South African Truth and Reconciliation Commission.

Mashonaland West

Grassroots activities were generally shorn of the spirit of inclusive politics, war veterans and some party hardliners generally dismissing the newly formed inclusive government, emphasizing forthcoming elections instead. Following the formation of the inclusive Government, Mashonaland West became witness to spates of fresh farm invasions, notable cases being the invasion of farms in the Chegutu area, Wakefield Farm on 3 February 2009, Stockdale Farm on 28 February 2009 and Campbell Farm on 27 February 2009—developments that saw farm owners being arrested and detained overnight at police stations in the area and also served with eviction orders although these farmers were reportedly in possession of High Court orders allowing them to continue farming.

Reports also point to general intolerance to those wearing own party regalia, those expressing an opinion in public on major political developments, those rejoicing the swearing in of the MDC president as Prime Minister of Zimbabwe, those caught listening to studio 7 or even failing to attend grassroots political meetings. In the Muzveze area of Kadoma, a family was on 5 February 2009 threatened with eviction from its plot allegedly because they had insinuated in a discussion that the president of ZANU PF should leave office.

Known yester perpetrators are reportedly showing no remorse with some reportedly threatening to repeat to their victims what they did in the run up to the 27 June elections while cases in which MDC supporters indulge in retaliatory violence are reportedly on the increase. In Muzveze, Kadoma, a suspected ZANU PF supporter on 11 February 2009 is said to have nearly lost his life after a severe assault by suspected MDC supporters allegedly because he had denounced the inauguration of the MDC president as Prime Minister of Zimbabwe.

MDC MPs and councillors are still to be accepted as political partners at grassroots level, several kraal heads and chiefs openly refusing to work with MDC party structures. In Ngezi, MDC MPs were on 29 February 2009 reportedly denied access to cholera patients.

Harare

The province was generally restive with sporadic incidents in areas such as Harare Central, Mbare, Dzivarasekwa, Highfield West, Chitungwiza South, Harare South, Chitungwiza North and Glen View. Barely 72 hours after the swearing in of the MDC T as Prime Minister clashes between MDC and ZANU PF members erupted in Mbare, reportedly after yester victims moved in to reclaim their property and accommodation. These yester victims [mainly MDC T supporters] allege that they were disposed of their properties and forcibly evicted from Nenyere, Shawasha, Matapi and Tagarika flats during the countdown to the June presidential election run-off. Police intervened and arrested eleven [11] MDC T members accusing them of taking the law into own hands although they claim that they had initially approached Mbare police station for authorization.

A day before the formation of the inclusive Government, eight members of Women of Zimbabwe Arise [WOZA] and two lawyers were reportedly arrested and detained during a march in the city centre that involved around 600 members of WOZA and MOZA, the peaceful marchers carrying placards and fliers exhorting politicians to “let love light the way” and also in the process giving out candles and matches urging Zimbabweans “not just to complain but to light the darkness by continuing to be active in demanding social justice”. They were then charged with being a criminal nuisance under section 37[1][b] of the Criminal Law [Codification and Reform] Act but were unconditionally released after appearing in court on 19 February 2009.

Cases of looting by suspected soldiers and police are still pronounced, perpetrators reportedly in some cases taking advantage of the prevailing state of lawlessness to target and loot property of known MDC members.

Manicaland

Consistent with past trends, Manicaland was generally politically agitated in both its urban and rural areas, most notable being protest marches in Mutare city centre, intra-party clashes, fresh farm invasions and cases of revengeful violence. Areas such as Mutare Central, Mutare West, Mutasa South, Makoni Central, Nyanga North and most parts of Buhera were among the commonly cited restive zones. In Mutare Urban, the political atmosphere became tense and volatile following the arrest and detention at Mutare Central Police Station of Roy Bennet [former MP for Chimanimani] on the day he was expected to be sworn in as deputy minister of agriculture. A group of suspected MDC youths marched through Mutare Central CBD protesting against his arrest to which police reportedly responded by unleashing dogs on the crowd and also firing live ammunition to disperse protesters. Several MDC youths and activists were reportedly arrested and detained at the same prison. By end of February, Roy Bennet was still in custody, his applications for bail reportedly denied by the state.

In the same area a suspected group of ZRP members were on 24 February 2009 reportedly moving around the suburbs in army vehicles, armed with tear gas and guns, scenarios that raised alarm and fear to members of the public.

Perpetrator-victim relations remain potentially volatile, yester victims reportedly demanding return or compensation for property and livestock looted during the run up to the June 27 elections while yester perpetrators [who in most cases are highly influential party members] are reportedly generally showing no remorse, some even threatening their victims with further retribution or demanding payment for forgiveness in money and in kind. A Nyamadzi farmer from Mutasa North reportedly woke up on 3 February 2009 only to find his whole maize field uprooted. The victim was said to have been one of the main purveyors of violence in the run up to the 27 June elections. In the same area suspected ZANU PF youths in Tanyiswa village are on 8 February 2009 alleged to have driven a herd of stray cattle into the field of a suspected MDC member. This followed an alleged reported rape case by an MDC activist to the police that had resulted in the arrest and detention of a number ZANU PF youths. The matter was said to have been reported to the chief where a hearing at the chief's court was pending at the time of this report.

There have also been reports of retaliatory abductions. In Buhera South, a ZANU PF party activist from Chinyere village was on 6 February 2009 reportedly abducted from his homestead and force-marched to Chinyoka Hills allegedly by suspected MDC supporters where he is said to have been tied to a tree and subjected to various forms of torture. While in Buhera Central, a war veteran was on 7 February 2009 reportedly assaulted by MDC youths, allegedly for threatening to "go back to the bush if Tsvangirai gets into power".

Bulawayo

Freedoms of expression and association were generally ring-fenced activities with incidents in which ordinary members of society were either assaulted or harassed for "offences" such as comparing Studio 7 with ZBC, "bad-mouthing" the leadership, celebrating the formation of the inclusive Government, among others. In one notable incident of banal abuse of freedom of expression, seven WOZA and MOZA activists plus three male Radio Dialogue members spent four nights in custody at Bulawayo Central Police Station for participating in a Valentine Day march exhorting Zimbabweans to inculcate a culture of love. The victims who had been arrested on 14 February 2009 were reportedly denied access to their lawyers until 16 February 2009 where they were then formally charged with being a "criminal nuisance" under Section 46 2[v] of the Third Schedule to the Criminal Law [Codification and Reform] Act-only to be unconditionally released after appearing in court on 19 February 2009.

Matebeleland North

The spirit of inclusiveness is yet to permeate its micro and macro politics with areas such as Binga, Bubi, Hwange, Lupane, and Tsholotsho among the commonly cited troublesome areas. Reports generally referred to incidents in which members of the public were assaulted for rejoicing the formation of the inclusive Government, publicly acknowledging some of the changes

that have been brought about by the new Government or insinuating that power-sharing has reduced the powers of the president of ZANU PF. State security operations are yet to embrace the warmth of the politics of inclusiveness.

Matebeleland South

Although inter-party violence was on the low side, the province was still prone to clandestine forms of violence, micro level politics fraught with cases in which members of the public were reportedly assaulted for issues such as “bad-mouthing” the party and leadership, celebrating the formation of the inclusive government, among others.

Mashonaland Central

The province maintained its traditional volatility tag with relations between yester perpetrators and victims generally tense, yester perpetrators still on the warpath. Grassroots politics hardly reflects politics of inclusivity, the inclusive Government viewed with reservations and generally interpreted in the context of *panyanga politics*.

Reports from Mazowe, Muzarabani, Guruve, Mbire and Mt Darwin generally point to people being assaulted for commenting in public on the composition of the cabinet, celebrating the swearing in of MDC T president as Prime Minister, insinuating that ZANU PF power has been diluted, attending or organizing MDC rallies, among others. In Mazowe West, Sherrywood resettled farmers were forced out of their houses after they had attended the swearing in ceremony. The victims have since moved to neighbouring farms looking for employment. In Bere village, Mazowe North, inter-party violence broke out following the inauguration of the MDC president as Prime Minister, MDC supporters celebrating the event while ZANU PF moved around holding a provoking placard “British puppet now Prime Minister”.

The province was also witness to spates of fresh farm invasions one notable incident being the case of Mazoe Citrus Estate [now operating as Interfresh-Mazoe and also listed on the Zimbabwe stock exchange] which was reportedly invaded by a group suspected to be members of the Zimbabwe National Army and the Zimbabwe Republic Police, who as reported, quickly declared themselves as owners of the estates before ordering the farm workers out of the farm. The province was also witness to the invasion of Rochwood Farm by alleged police officers and army personnel who also reportedly displaced the farmer and farm workers in the process.

As reported in other provinces, village-heads and chiefs are reportedly not comfortable with working with elected MDC councillors and MPs while villagers who had fled violence [returnees] are reportedly being rejected by village-heads, in some cases told to relocate to newly formed villages, scenarios that have left most victims in no man’s land after being rejected by heads of the newly formed villages.

Midlands

The province was still prone to clandestine forms of violence, fear of retribution still haunting communities. Politics of inclusivity was visibly low in areas such as Gokwe, Zhombe, Kwekwe Central, Gokwe Sesane, Gokwe Kana, Chiundura, Mkoba, Mbizo, Silobela, Mberengwa West and Ngezi and Runde areas of Zvishavane where reports commonly refer to people being harassed for commenting on the economic meltdown, for different views on “who has more power between Tsvangirai and Mugabe”, playing MDC songs in public places, or even listening to Studio 7.

In Gokwe- Kana, revellers who were playing MDC music “Chikara CheZANU” at Beer Engine Cocktail Bar at Manoti Business Centre on 15 February 2009 were reportedly ordered to switch off, close the bottle store and leave for their homes by members of the ZNA. Revellers were accused of playing music that was insulting the state president.

There were also signs of deep-seated tension between ZANU PF and MDC supporters at grassroots level, ordinary discussions at beer drinks, within families, churches and funeral gatherings reportedly turning political.

A revengeful mood still hovers over most communities, daggers reportedly drawn between yester perpetrators and victims, yester victims generally viewing the unfolding dispensation as a windfall to have past injustices redressed. In several parts of Gokwe, MDC councillors were reportedly evicting ZANU PF members from tuck-shops they had earlier been allocated to,

allegedly in a bid to correct earlier partisan allocations. In the same area, reports also show that yester perpetrators who go to their victims asking for forgiveness are generally assaulted rather than forgiven while those perpetrators who are returning from self-imposed exile also find yester victims awaiting them and ready to mete punishment in revenge. In Gokwe-Kana, a ZANU PF councillor was on 5 February 2009 reportedly refusing to short-list suspected MDC youths into the ZNA recruitment exercise at Gawa Business Centre, victims told to "go and join MDC bandits in Botswana and train as a soldier".

There are also reports of disturbances in some farming communities. In Zibagwe Chirumanzu, unknown people were reportedly moving around farms in the Estclare Block threatening, assaulting, and serving eviction orders to the few remaining white farmers in the farming areas, scenarios that have left white farmers in the area reportedly living in fear.

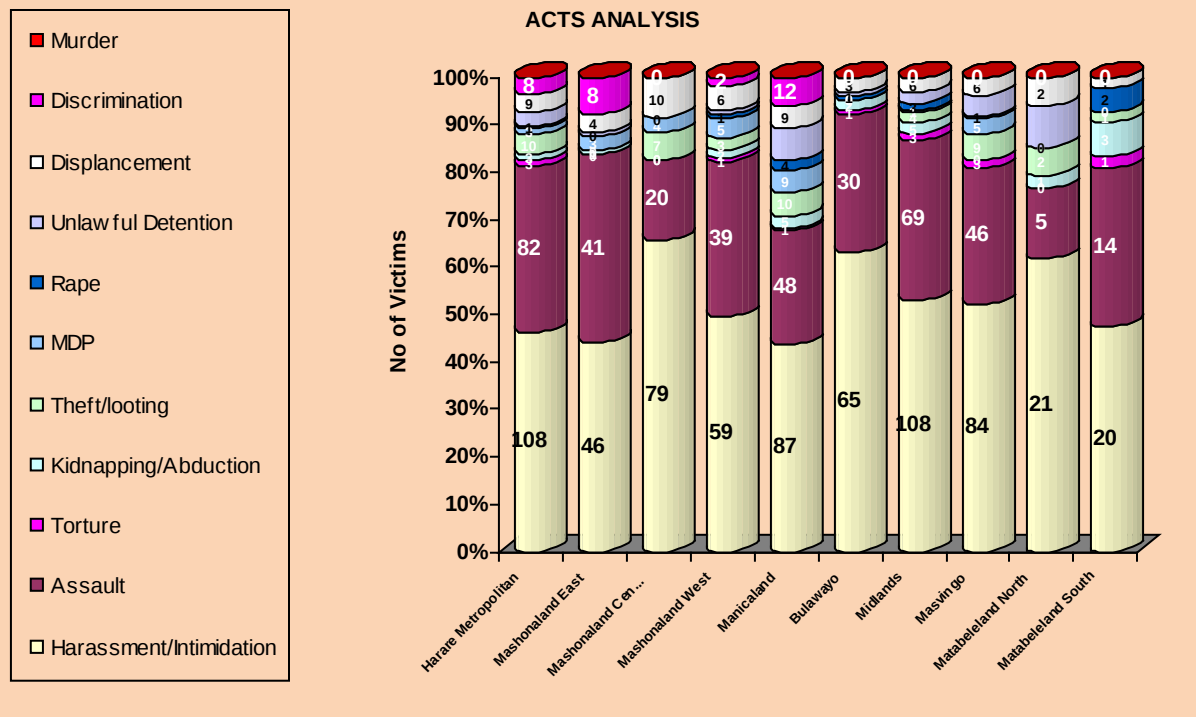
STATISTICAL PROFILE OF HUMAN RIGHTS VIOLATIONS BY PROVINCES

ACTS OF ANALYSIS TABLE

ACTS	Bulawayo	Mat. South	Mat. North	Midlands	Masvingo	Harare	Mash. East	Mash. West	Mash. Central	Manicaland	TOTAL
Murder	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Rape/	1	2	0	3	1	0	1	0	0	4	12
Kidnapping/abduction	2	3	1	5	0	3	1	0	0	5	20
Assault	30	14	5	69	46	82	41	23	20	48	378
Theft/looting	0	1	2	4	9	10	0	1	7	10	44
Discrimination	0	1	0	0	0	8	8	10	0	12	39
MDP	0	0	0	1	5	3	3	4	4	9	29
Torture	1	1	0	3	3	3	0	1	0	1	13
Unlawful Detention	1	0	3	5	7	7	1	3	0	14	41
Intimidation /harassment	65	20	21	108	84	108	46	40	79	87	658
Displacement	3	0	2	6	6	9	4	2	10	9	51
Total	103	42	34	205	162	234	105	84	122	200	1285

GRAPHIC DEPICTION OF ACTS

Graph



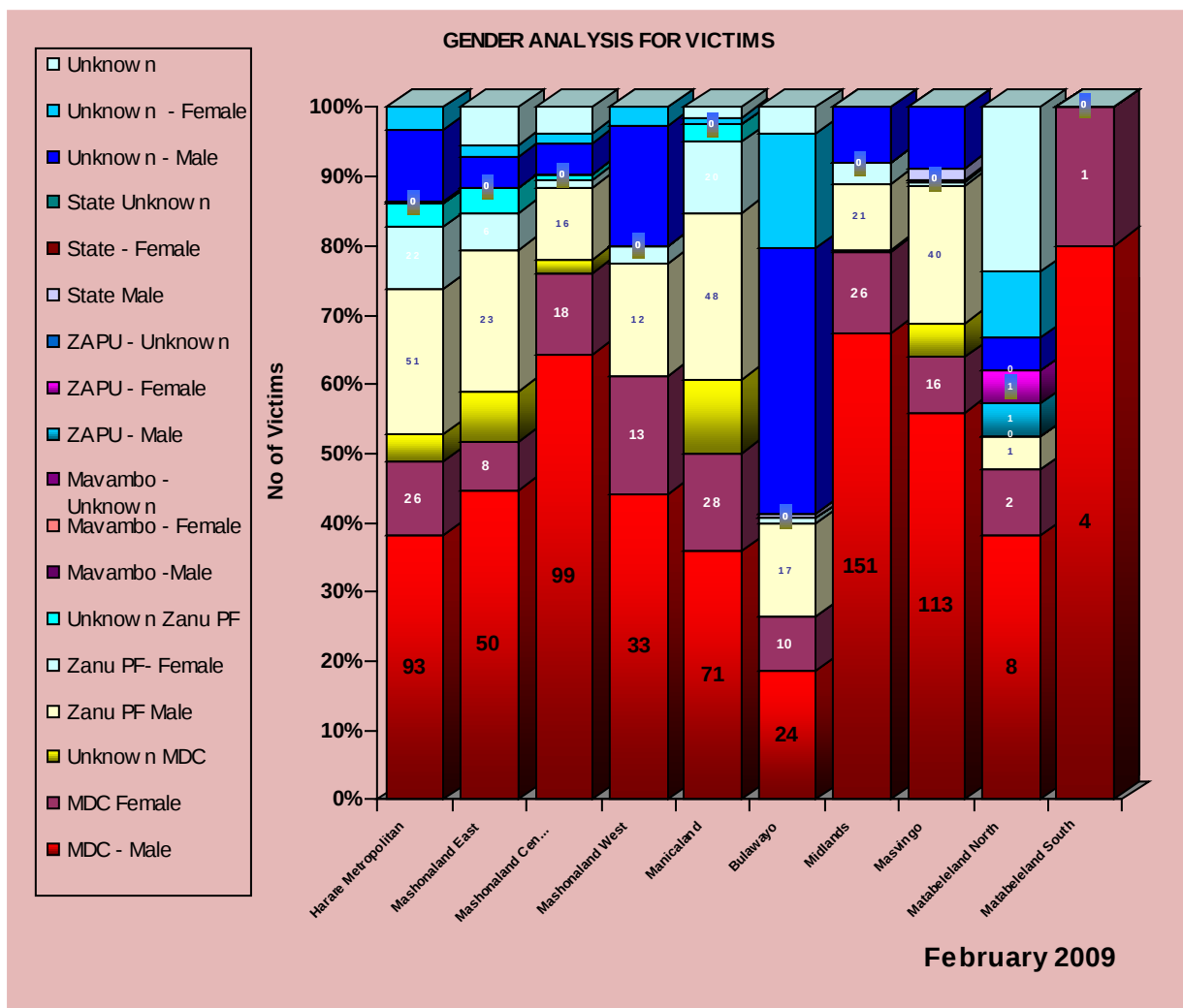
Salient Observations

- A gross acts toll of 1285 cases was recorded showing a slight increase from their January level of 1125.
- Incident density remains concentrated in Harare [234], Midlands [204] and Manicaland [199] and Masvingo [161].
- While Matabeleland South and Matabeleland North remained in the least zone category. Bulawayo records cast a sharp departure from its past least record tradition.
- As in the past, harassments and assaults remained the most commonly committed offences.

Concluding Remarks

February recorded an increase in acts of violence, a surprising trend given the formation of the inclusive government in this month. Residual elements of resistance are resurfacing. The newly formed inclusive Government should mount a robust anti-violence campaign in which political parties, government churches, and human rights defenders are involved.

GENDER-VICTIMS ANALYSIS GRAPH



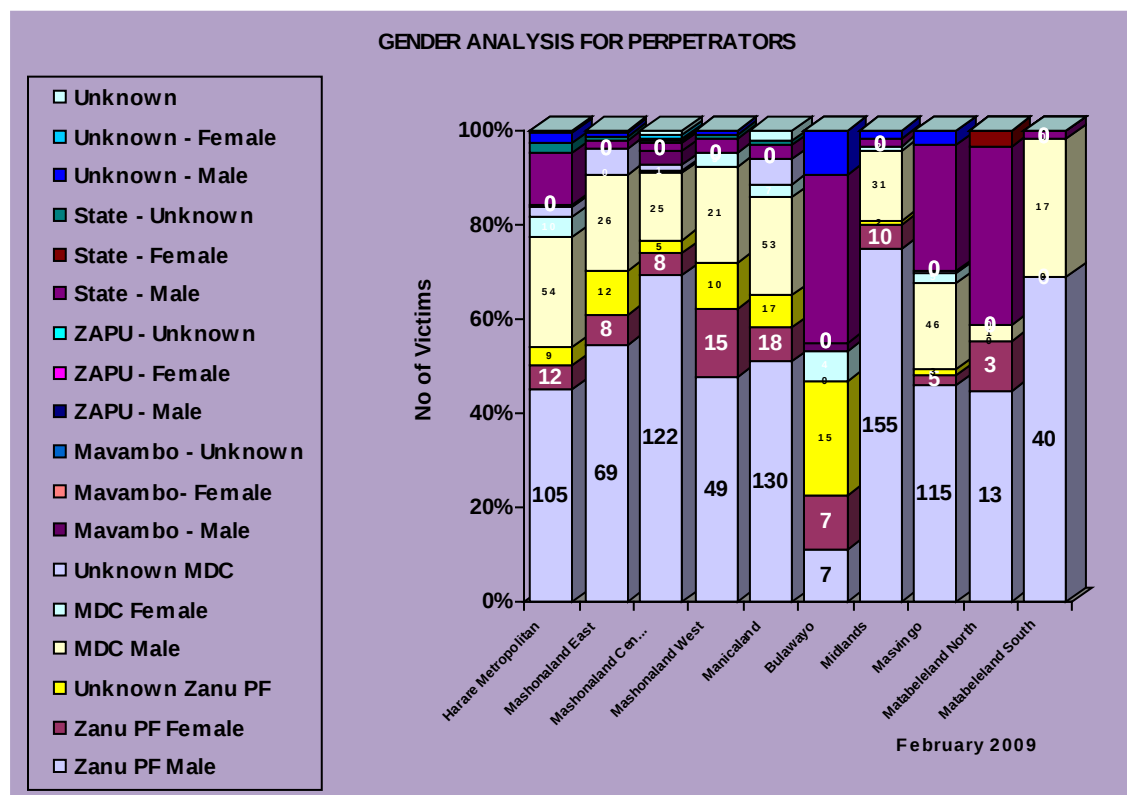
Observations

- There was a total victim toll of 899, 465 being male while 361 were female.
- This victim toll reflects a significant victim toll drop from its January level of 1647 however with high victim tolls in the MDC camp.
- Males remained the main victims of violence in both ZANU PF and MDC, however with the number of MDC female victims [215] almost 3 times that of the ZANU PF male victim toll of 54.
- As in January, the Unknown victim toll at 267 remained disturbingly high suggesting the random nature of violence.

Concluding Remarks

While there was a significant drop in victim toll in February 2009, MDC victim toll remained disturbingly high. Males also remained the main victims in both the MDC and ZANU PF.

GENDER-PERPETRATOR ANALYSIS GRAPH



Observations

- There was a significant drop in the perpetrator toll from its January level of 1471 in January 2009 to 680 by February 2009.
- Consistent with past trends, the bulk remained ZANU PF members with a total record of 520 perpetrators, a figure that is 6 times higher than the MDC perpetrator toll of 85.
- The ZANU PF toll is higher in both sexes, the female perpetrator almost equal to the total MDC perpetrator toll.
- There was also a visible drop in state perpetrator toll from 222 in January to 22, a trend that may be accounted by a drop in acts of lawlessness by soldiers.
- Perpetrator density remained concentrated in Masvingo, Midlands and Manicaland with low perpetrator densities in all the Matebeleland regions.
- In both ZANU PF and MDC, male perpetrator records are higher than their female counterparts.

Concluding Remarks

While there was a significant drop in gross perpetrator toll, the ZANU PF perpetrator record remained on the high side across the board. As implied by this perpetrator spread, ZANU PF has to embark on a very robust anti-violence campaign.

FOOD-RELATED HUMAN RIGHTS VIOLATIONS

Mashonaland Central

Partisan politics coupled with looting of food and inputs generally characterized food distribution systems with senior army personnel, grassroots political leadership and Arex officers commonly cited as main perpetrators. Areas such as Bindura South, Shamva North, Muzarabani North and Mbire remained restive. While food agency outreach programmes remained visible, political interferences were major challenges. Reports of selective distribution of anti-retroviral drugs were also received, AIDs patients with the requisite approved test cards reportedly being ordered by some partisan NGO workers to bring letters from doctors confirming that they need assistance!

Manicaland

Access to both food and other inputs remained highly centralized and partisan with most of the vetting done by former councillors, war veterans, chiefs, village-heads in collaboration with DAs, Arex Officers and senior security officers. In most reports, DAs and Arex officers were accused of being overtly partisan, always favouring ZANU PF supporters. Involvement of security officers in acts of looting was reportedly on the increase, in some cases these breaches done under the guise of roadblock searches. On 12 February 2009, Charezwa villagers of Headlands who had bought maize meal at Headlands Business Centre had their food confiscated by ZRP and national army military police who were manning roadblocks in the area allegedly because they had failed to produce letters from a well-known ZANU PF party stalwart. Since those villagers suspected or well-known to be affiliated to the MDC were reportedly denied access to these authorizing letters, the exercise ended up clandestinely victimizing MDC supporters.

Reports also refer to incidents in Sedze, Nyanga South where war veterans were reportedly going after people they accuse to be MDC supporters, taking by force all the food they would have sourced from food aid agencies, telling victims to get food from their leaders. In Dazi village of Nyanga South, ZANU PF cell registers were reportedly used to deny members of other party access to agricultural inputs, war veterans in control of the processes. In some cases NGO officers were reportedly assaulted for distributing food in impartial ways, giving no preferential treatment to any party. In Tsatse, Nyanga South, workers of a food NGO distributing food in the area were reportedly assaulted by ZANU PF youths allegedly after they had refused to accord preferential treatment to them.

Harare

Scenarios at most food distribution points reflect the tragedy of the politics of polarization with some local NGOs reportedly operating as arms of political parties. Reports also pointed to cases where ZANU PF members were discriminated against in circumstances that smack of retaliatory food discrimination. While wearing of own party regalia at food distribution points is viewed as politically intimidating and therefore discouraged, reports point to general disregard of this requirement, with ZANU PF members as main culprits.

Mashonaland West

Requirement of the party membership card was a recurring issue at most points where food and agricultural inputs were being distributed, in some cases small scale farmers reportedly being asked to produce party cards to even access SADC inputs. SADC inputs are supposed to benefit all farmers in reserves and communal areas who got their farms before the fast track land reform programme.

People in senior positions were also reportedly abusing their positions to loot maize and agricultural inputs while those NGOs that insisted on impartiality in their operations had their activities disrupted. In some cases, fake names have been reportedly used to access maize and inputs from both state and non state sources while in other cases suspected MDC members who successfully accessed food from GSF sources had their food forcefully taken away by suspected ZANU PF supporters, victims being told that they were not supposed to benefit from state food sources. In some areas teachers and other civil servants were reportedly being threatened with food denial, allegedly because they “now have grocery vouchers”, a move which some interpret as punishment for their involvement in the national industrial action by teachers.

Masvingo

Food and inputs distribution did not reflect the spirit of inclusivity, most food distribution points reportedly zones of conflict between MDC and ZANU PF supporters, NGOs either labelled either pro ZANU PF or MDC. Cases of politically-related verbal abuse, assaults, harassments, diversion and looting of inputs occurred in most reports.

Some kraal heads were reportedly refusing to work with MDC elected councillors arguing that they were yet to receive the go-ahead from the top leadership while some chiefs in the area were also said to be refusing to sign papers to enable MDC Councillors to buy maize for their wards from the Beitbridge GMB. Cases of suspected politically-motivated looting were also reported. In Gutu East, a ward 13 MDC councillor who had sourced maize from Beitbridge on 1st February 2009, reportedly had his truck diverted at gun point to an army colonel's plot where the loot were off-loaded and then sold for own benefit.

Cases where starving villagers make own effort to source food by making contributions only to be swindled of their hard earned foreign currency were also reported. In Chiredzi East, villagers around Mpinga Secondary school who had contributed R50 for buying maize through their councillor were referred to senior party officials when they enquired about their money.

Former councillors were reportedly conniving with senior army officers, AREX officers, chiefs, chairpersons and village-heads to loot drought relief maize and SADC sourced inputs. In Gutu Central an army colonel in control of Maguta at Mpandawana Growth Point on 5 February 2009 reportedly diverted fertiliser intended for poor farmers and sold it for personal gain. In the same constituency, a well-known senior politician on 2nd February 2009 reportedly connived with AREX officers to loot more than 3 tonnes of beans and fertilizer meant for farmers.

Mashonaland East

Reports pointed to widespread cases of politically motivated food discriminations with even food aid agencies reportedly under intense political pressure. Cases of diversion and looting of SADC sourced inputs and GMB Maguta maize were also reported with senior members of the party, government officers, war veterans and army personnel among the commonly cited perpetrators. In some instances "no food for sell-outs" slogans were chanted to the shock of starving villagers at food distributing points while others were reportedly denied access to food and inputs, allegedly because they had been seen celebrating the swearing in of the president of the MDC T as Prime Minister. As generally observed in other provinces, former [losing] councillors were still in charge of food distribution processes, efforts by elected councillors to participate in food alleviation efforts thwarted by village heads, chiefs, local party leaders and war veterans. In Murewa North, maize sourced by an MDC councillor and intended for people in his ward was reportedly impounded by suspected members of the CIO, the victim ordered to reveal the source and intended beneficiaries.

Midlands

Reports pointed to a highly stressed food situation and which is projected to worsen as most farmers expect little or no harvest at all due to critical shortages of seeds, fertiliser and draught power. In some cases villagers had fled their areas and were afraid to go back before the situation had stabilized.

Food distributions hardly reflect the spirit of inclusivity with distribution processes generally tension laden, suspected and known members of the MDC clandestinely or overtly harassed at distribution points. Incidents in which targeted members of the public were verbally abused, assaulted and harassed at food queues were reportedly widespread.

Reports also showed that most state provided farming implements did not reach their intended beneficiaries. Government projects were deliberately projected as ZANU PF projects with the result that preferential treatment was overtly given to ZANU PF supporters. In Chirumanzu South, scotch carts which were provided by government to all small scale farmers under the mechanization programme were reportedly given out only to ZANU PF members while in Gokwe South, known MDC activists who were like everyone at the Gokwe District Administrator's office trying to access fertiliser that was being distributed by government were reportedly denied access to the input, perpetrators openly telling them to "wait for their MDC president to be elevated to the position of state president".

There was also widespread involvement of Arex extension officers in corrupt and partisan activities, activities that resulted in only a selected few benefitting from state provided seeds [beans, sorghum and groundnuts]. In most cases one had to bribe government officers, senior party members and the traditional leadership in order to be registered for food or have an authorizing letter or permit to be processed.

There have also been cases of *revenge denials*, known yester perpetrators being denied access to food as punishment for what they were deemed to have done during the run up to the 27 June elections. These incidents occurred in those instances where MDC councillors and MPs were in control of the distribution process or where they would have taken own initiatives to source food and agricultural inputs from private sources.

Matebeleleland South

Food distributions processes were generally under political pressure, party membership cards a common requirement in both state and non state food sources, overt in the former and covert in the latter. Cases of politically motivated verbal abuses, assaults and harassments characterized most distribution points while corruption in the form of double registrations, diversion and looting of food, and agricultural inputs and equipment allegedly by senior army officers, government officers and senior party officers also remained on the high side. In Gwanda South, maize seeds and groundnuts meant for Kluzi villagers were on 17 February 2009, reportedly converted to own use by an Arex Supervisor for Gwanda District.

Matebeleleland North

The food situation was generally acute although involvement of NGOs was visible. Although food discriminatory practices were reported in both the MDC and ZANU PF camps, main perpetrators were ZANU PF party members, senior army personnel and councillors.

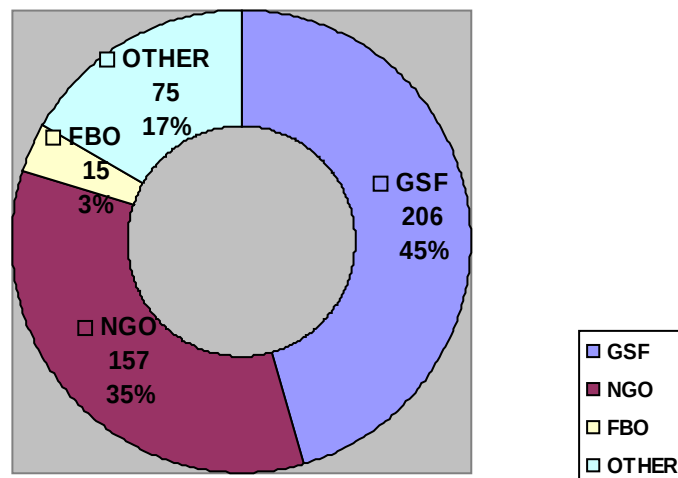
Bulawayo

Reports pointed to a generally stressed food situation. While food supply in most shops has improved, access remained a recurring problem. Food distribution processes were also said to be operating under intense political pressure, political parties reportedly trying to sway distribution processes to their advantage. Reports also pointed to cases of looting mostly by former councillors, army personnel and party members.

SPREAD OF FOOD-RELATED HUMAN RIGHTS ABUSES BY PROVINCES

	Harare	Manicaland	Mash East	Mash West	Mash Central	Bulawayo	Mat North	Mat South	Masvingo	Midlands	TOTAL
HARASSMENT											
Forced to attend political meetings	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	3	2	3	9
Ordered to produce party card	1	2	0	1	0	0	0	1	2	3	10
Ordered to take off party regalia	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	7	9
Forced to chant party slogans	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Ordered to denounce one's party	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	5	7
Summoned to meeting	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Other	0	0	0	0	0	6	0	0	10	17	33
TOTAL	1	4	0	2	0	6	0	4	16	35	68
VIOLENCE											
Abduction/unlawful detention	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Sexual violence	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Malicious Damage to Property (MDP)	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Physical Attack	0	0	2	3	0	2	0	0	4	5	16
Grievous bodily harm	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
TOTAL	0	0	2	3	0	2	0	0	4	5	16
DISCRIMINATION											
Denied access to GSF	1	0	5	16	10	0	1	3	5	33	74
Denied seeds & fertiliser	0	6	14	15	13	0	2	4	17	24	95
Denied tillage support	0	0	2	0	1	0	0	0	0	2	5
Denied Agricultural Credit	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Denied Food Loan	0	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	3
Denied Food Relief	17	18	18	28	33	5	1	2	17	23	162
Denied Irrigation	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	1	3
Denied Education Assistance	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	3
Denied Medical Assistance	0	4	0	0	9	0	0	0	5	0	18
Other	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
TOTAL	18	30	41	59	66	5	4	10	45	85	504
O VERRALL TOTAL	19	34	43	64	66	13	4	14	65	125	588

FOOD SOURCES CHART



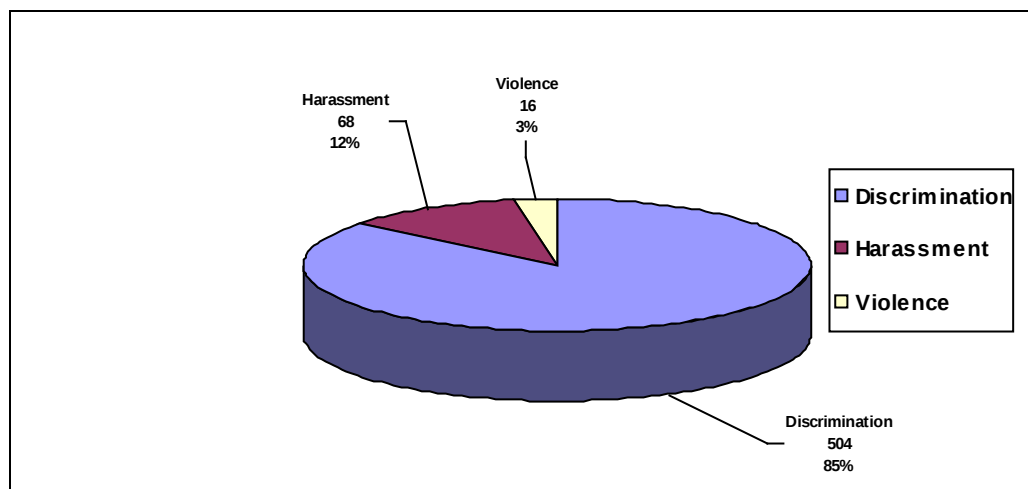
Observations on Sources of Food

- Food was mainly sourced from GSF, NGOs, FBOs and others, with 55% of the food from non state sources and 45 % from state sources.
- There was high dependence on GSF sources in Midlands, Mashonaland Central, Masvingo and Mashonaland West, incidentally ZANU PF strongholds while least dependence was recorded in Matebeleland North and Bulawayo.
- NGO sources, providing [35%] of food aid were the second main source of food with high NGO visibility in Midlands, Masvingo and the Matebeleland regions.
- FBO visibility is on the very low side in eight out of the ten provinces.
- There is high dependence on other sources especially in Bulawayo, Harare, Matebeleland North and Matebeleland South.
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Remarks

While there is visible involvement of both state and non state players in food distribution, 55% of the food is sourced from non state sources.

PREVALENCE OF VIOLATIONS CHART



Observations on Prevalence of Food-Related Human Rights Abuses

- There was an increase in cases of food-related abuses from their January level of 371 to 588 by end of February, discriminations constituting the bulk [85%].
- High human rights violations toll were recorded in Midlands, Masvingo, Bulawayo, and Mashonaland Central.

Harassments

- 12% of the total human rights violations were harassments with the bulk from Midlands, Masvingo and Bulawayo; failure to produce party cards and attend political meetings being the most commonly cited reasons for harassments.

Violence

- 3% of the total human rights violations were food-related violence cases, violence being mainly physical.

Discriminations

- 85% of the total human rights violations were food denials, denials of fertiliser and seeds and denials of access to GSF.

Concluding Remarks

Politics is still pronounced in all the ten provinces. Commonly cited are denials of food aid, food relief and agricultural inputs. There is therefore urgent need for transparent food distribution systems in which all parties to the inclusive government have a role to play in the processes.

EMERGING ISSUES AND THE WAY FORWARD

Politics of inclusivity is yet to creep into grassroots politics and is at risk of being viewed as a mere elite political agreement. The notions of inclusive government and the Global Political Agreement have not been clearly explained to the grassroots of both the MDC and ZANU PF. Some hardliners are exploiting this gap to fan violence by indulging in '*panyanga*' questions and hate slogans during outreach rallies. The Zimbabwe Peace Project condemns these practices and exhorts all political leaders to desist from indulging in such practices as they are counter to the spirit and letter of the Global Political Agreement.

Now that an inclusive government is in office and the relevant ministers responsible for national healing appointed, the authorities should now walk the talk by taking specific steps to remove yester blemishes of fear, revenge, hate, mistrust and violence. Those who had their livestock and property looted must be compensated while those who were evicted from homes, houses etc. must be re-instated. Reports from both rural and urban areas refer to sporadic incidents in which yester-victims are threatening to mete justice to yester-perpetrators. The run up to the 27 June Elections was one of the most traumatic experiences in Zimbabwe's electoral history in which relatives from political divides fought battles against each other, lives, livestock, homesteads, houses, farms and property lost through looting, arson and evictions while scores of people are currently nursing life-threatening injuries.

Politics of exclusivity continues to take its toll on food distribution systems, interfering with vetting and registration of beneficiaries as well as operations of food aid agencies. Incidents of diversion, looting as well as partisan allocation of food and inputs [seeds, fertiliser, scotch-carts] maintain a disturbing prevalence in all communities putting paid to noble efforts by the state to reach needy members of society. These scenarios are highly disturbing and untenable given that 75% of the population in the country is in need of food. The new government must move with speed to put in place a-political, transparent food distribution systems

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 organisations include, Zimbabwe Election Support Network (ZESN), Counselling Services Unit (CSU), Zimbabwe Liberators' Platform, Zimbabwe Civic Education Trust, ZimRights, Civic Education Network Trust (CIVNET)

VISION

To see Zimbabwe transform into a society that cherishes the pursuit and realisation of justice, freedom, peace, human dignity and development.

MISSION

ZPP is a community based Trust that promotes peace through documenting human rights violations and disseminating them to stakeholders and policy makers.

GOAL

To reduce violence and human rights violations through community-based and national monitoring, documentation of cases of human rights abuses, and making partnerships and alliances that tap the expertise and assets of local communities and local and regional organisations that will help the attainment of sustainable peace and democracy in Zimbabwe.

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