



EARLY WARNING REPORT ON HUMAN RIGHTS AND FOOD RELATED VIOLATIONS



DECEMBER 2008

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ACRONYMS	DENOTATION
BACOSSI	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

DEFINITIONS OF TERMS (HUMAN RIGHTS VIOLATIONS)

<i>TERM</i>	<i>DEFINITION</i>
<i>MURDER</i>	Unlawful and intentional killing of another person.
<i>RAPE</i>	Intentional, unlawful sexual intercourse with a woman without her consent.
<i>SEXUAL HARASSMENT</i>	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.
<i>ASSAULT</i>	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.
<i>KIDNAPPING/ ABDUCTION</i>	Unlawful and intentional deprivation of a person of liberty of movement and/or his/her custodians of control.
<i>MALICIOUS DAMAGE TO PROPERTY</i>	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.
<i>THEFT</i>	Unlawful taking of another's property
<i>TORTURE</i>	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.
<i>HARASSMENT/INTIMIDATION</i>	• 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
<i>UNLAWFUL DETENTION</i>	Unlawful and intentional deprivation of one's liberty of movement by a person or persons in positions of authority.
<i>DISPLACEMENT</i>	• 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

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

In this end of year Report, ZPP in line with its fundamental concern for a violence free nation, continues to identify human rights abuses and forewarn the nation of incidences that may erode the basis for national peace and stability.

Four months after the signing of the 15 September 2008 Global Political Agreement, prospects for an all inclusive Government remained a will-of-the wisp which the nation fervently chased but never caught. With each power-sharing talk, differences appeared to widen, scenarios that left the nation in a state of political anxiety and uncertainty.

This anxiety was indeed well founded given that the nation was currently facing a limping economy with a staggering inflation of around two hundred million percent and a severely stressed social sector. The health sector had to grapple with a ravaging cholera epidemic which by end of December 2008 had claimed around seven hundred lives while in the education sector, public examinations which were written under severely compromised conditions are yet to be marked and released, scenarios that are likely to place the future foundation of the nation up in smoke.

NGO efforts at monitoring politically motivated human rights violations in a bid to nurture and sustain a violent-free society are currently under siege, their programming activities in epileptic convulsions amid spates of office invasions and abductions of employees. On third December 2008, the nation awoke to the sad and agonizing news of the abduction of Jestina Mukoko, the national director of the Zimbabwe Peace Project and fiery defender of human rights, reportedly, by a group of yet-to-be-identified and yet-to-be arrested armed gang. Disaster struck again at the same organization when on the 8th December 2008 its two staffers [Brodreck Takawira and Pascal Gonzo] were abducted in broad daylight by another yet- to-be identified and yet-to-be arrested law-unto-itself group. Until December 24, 2008, the whereabouts of the triad was unknown with the police and state media maintaining a business- as-usual mum stance over these abductions.

Provincial reports strongly suggest that politically motivated human rights malpractices still maintain their earlier observed stubborn retreat trend, imprints of abuses still dotted in most constituencies, members of the public reportedly still being harassed, assaulted, abducted, and threatened with dire consequences for what passes as generally flimsy and petty reasons like publicly complaining of the hard times, wearing own party regalia, listening to Studio 7, reading independent press, belonging to a political party of one's choice, commenting on delays in the implementation of the 15 September 2008 Global Political Agreement, condemning abduction of human rights defenders, among others. In the wake of these spates of nightly and broad daylight abductions, a growing sense of vulnerability has once more gripped the nation.

With victims of violence allegedly disillusioned with the fact that most known perpetrators of yester violence still roam free with impunity, some communities and individuals are reportedly celebrating the deaths or misfortunes of people suspected to have been linked to the perpetration of violence. In the Nyanga South constituency of Manicaland people reportedly refused to attend the funeral of a man alleged to have perpetrated violence in the community while a Bikita East community reportedly celebrated after the home of an alleged perpetrator of violence was razed down by a fire, declaring it "well deserved punishment from God". ZPP deplors these developments and exhorts the state to take measures that can restore societal unity, social healing and transitional justice.

Incidents of revengeful violence remain thinly dotted across the ten provinces. In ward 13 of the Nyanga South constituency of Manicaland, four families alleged to have taken the lead in terrorising villagers in the area during the June 27 elections woke up on the 9th of December 2008 to find that their healthy crop of maize had been viciously slashed, a flier dangling in one corner of the field with the damning retaliatory message "this is just the beginning of our revenge, you know what you did to us". ZPP strongly abhors these

developments and once more calls for timely social healing interventions to be put in place in the name of peace and justice.

With most rural shops now selling mealie-meal, seed maize and other basic food stuffs in foreign currency, villagers are reportedly at high risk of losing their hard earned livestock to unscrupulous politicians and business people who in some cases are reportedly exchanging a beast for as low as a 50 kg bag of mealie-meal. This unethical practice, if not urgently contained, is set to not only reduce the draught power of rural farmers but also decimate their future source of livelihood and food security.

Reports of widespread diversion of both state and NGO donated food and seed maize for selfish gains by those in strategic and influential positions, if also not urgently addressed, are set to further worsen the food plight of the rural farmers. Well into the rain season, most farmers were reportedly struggling to access seed maize, with one reported case of a group of villagers who were made to share bag of seed maize and ending up with a cup of seed maize each!

As shown on the table and graph below, since the beginning of the year, monthly human rights violations have been increasing cumulatively, increasing from their January level of 593 to 22 568 by December 2008 even minus November figures. This cumulative trend is also reflected at incidents level. The details are as shown below:

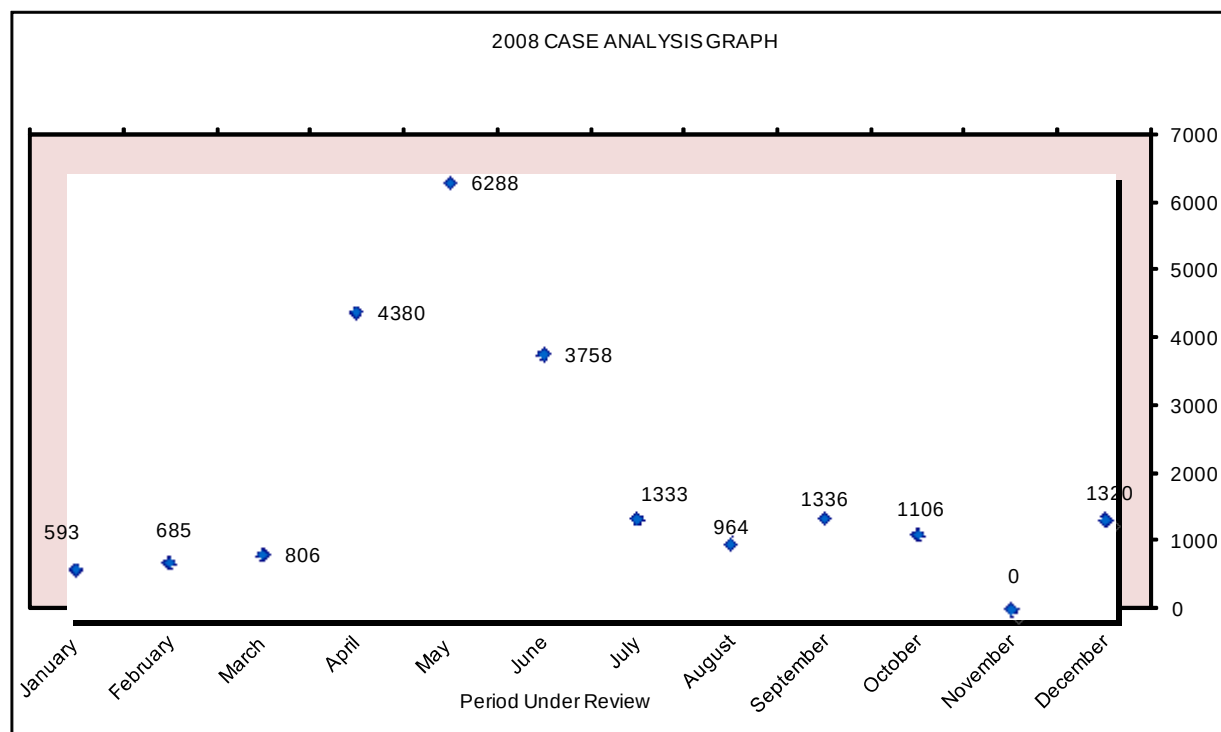
Cumulative Human Rights and Food-Related Politically-Motivated Violations

ACTS	January	February	March	April	May	June	July	August	September	October	November*	December	TOTAL
Murder	0	0	7	27	47	78	15	21	7	3	-	2	207
Rape	1	1	4	4	1	4	12	5	9	6	-	9	56
Kidnapping/abduction	3	7	5	149	85	133	44	17	20	9	-	25	496
Assault	163	178	219	771	704	804	470	285	348	348	-	291	4581
Theft/looting	14	6	8	80	64	99	61	48	39	35	-	124	578
Malicious Damage to Property (MDP)	20	12	38	345	214	141	66	36	35	31	-	41	979
Torture	6	2	6	157	60	102	38	21	19	8	-	17	436
Unlawful Detention	18	8	6	125	114	103	15	21	34	17	-	26	487
Harassment/Intimidation	343	449	475	1484	4288	2127	460	423	746	564	-	595	11954
Displacement	15	12	23	1219	670	134	114	56	47	43	-	117	2450
Discrimination	10	10	15	19	32	25	28	27	29	39	-	73	306
Attempted Rape	-	-	-	-	5	6	7	2	1	2	-	0	23
Attempted Murder	-	-	-	-	4	2	3	2	2	1	-	0	14
TOTAL	593	685	806	4380	6288	3758	1333	964	1336	1106	-	1320	22569[†]

*November figures for human rights violations are indicated by "0". This however, is not to say that there were no cases in November but due to problems faced by ZPP following the abduction of the Director Jestina Mukoko and other members of staff, data collection was disturbed and thus the report was not produced. However, ZPP will in due course produce an addendum for November 2008 events in which the figures will be reflected. Thus the total 22569 is not conclusive for the year 2008.

[†]Please note that the cumulative figure of 22567 is not inclusive of food related violations.

Graphically shown, scenarios are as below:



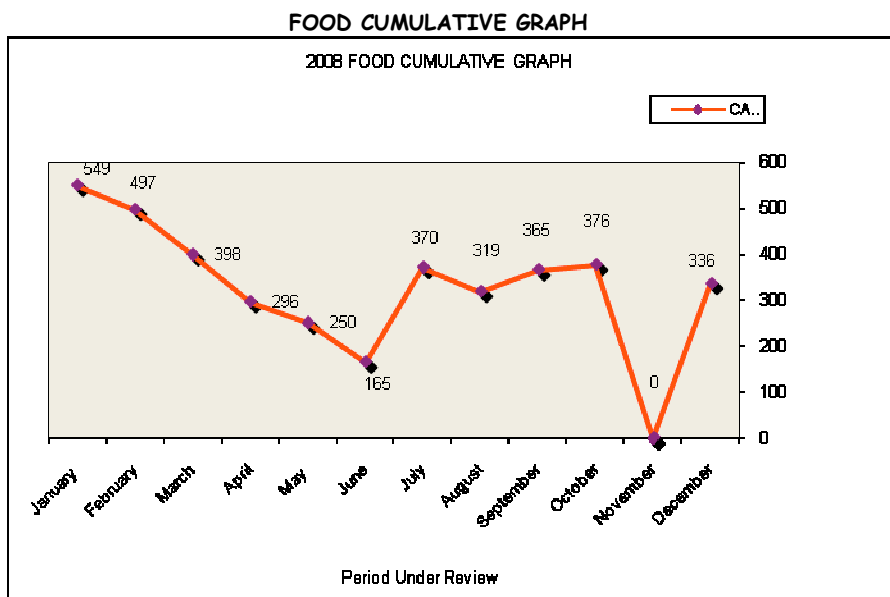
This cumulative trend is also reflected in food-related human rights violations with scenarios as shown in the tables and graphs below:

December Table of Cumulative Food-Related Acts

MONTH	FOOD RELATED ACTS - 2008			
	HARASSMENT	VIOLENCE	DISCRIMINATION	TOTAL
January	215	1	333	549
February	213	4	280	497
March	159	3	236	398
April	107	1	188	296
May	184	0	66	250
June	60	9	96	165
July	135	3	229	370
August	85	3	231	319
September	115	5	245	365
October	91	10	275	376
[‡] November	0	0	0	0
December	1	0	335	336
TOTAL	1365	39	2514	3918

A graphic depiction of food-related human rights violations is as shown below:

[‡] November food figures are indicated by '0' - This however, is not to say that there were no cases in November but due to problems faced by ZPP following the abduction the Director Jestina Mukoko and others data collection was disturbed and thus the report was not produced. However, ZPP will in due course produce an addendum for November 2008 events in which the figures will be reflected. Thus the total **3918** is not conclusive for the year 2008



PROVINCIAL CASE INCIDENTS OF HUMAN RIGHTS VIOLATIONS

Midlands

The province is still home to several forms of human rights with areas such as Shurugwi North, Gweru Urban, Mberengwa, Mvuma, Mkoba and parts of Gokwe common features in most reports. Other party politics is not yet welcome, members of the opposition commonly insulted as "sell-outs" while wearing of opposition regalia remains a rare sight in the province. On 23 December 2008 a man from Mvuma was reportedly harassed for "singing a song aligned to the opposition" while on 12 December 2008 soldiers reportedly ran amok and randomly assaulted people at Mpambadzire Night Club allegedly for failing to explain "where they were getting money to generously drink when things were so tight".

Masvingo

Political intolerance remains rather on the high side with one reported fatal case arising from inter-party clashes in Zaka West on 5 December 2008. The victim, a youth who had sustained serious injuries reportedly died three hours after admission to Ndanga hospital.

Yester-victims are reportedly revenging past injustices by resorting to "spiritual assaults", a common practice in Africa where one is threatened with use of mystical powers, say being struck by lightning, being attacked by goblins, suffering mysterious death or illness/dementia. In African settings such threats are as real as a physical threat and are therefore viewed with utmost awe especially with the onset of the rain season. Reports point to several incidents in which perpetrators reportedly mysteriously going dementia while others reportedly had their homesteads struck by lightning under mysterious circumstances. Retaliation also took other forms. In Chiredzi North, a deceased man was on 17 December 2008 reportedly denied burial space/ground by the ward councillor allegedly for his active involvement in political violence in the run up to the 27 June Elections. In a development likely to be linked to widespread starvation in this drought-hit province, suspected hungry villagers are reportedly waylaying travellers from Beitbridge to Harare, looting their property.

Mashonaland West

Although human rights abuse is no longer openly systematic, it remains thinly spread across the province with areas such as Mhondoro Ngezi, Hurungwe West, Kadoma Central, Zvimba North and Kariba as commonly cited areas. "Offences" range from traditional ones such as failure to attend party meetings, wearing own party regalia, listening to Studio 7 to new forms such as condemning the abduction of human rights defenders, externalizing information, among others. In Zvimba North, a man was on 6 December 2008 reportedly evicted from the house he was lodging after being found listening to Studio 7. Studio 7 is associated with disseminating anti-Government propaganda. On 21 December 2008, a man from Ngezi Mhondoro was reportedly assaulted for wearing a Crisis in Zimbabwe Coalition T shirt. In Kadoma Central, a man was on 17 December 2008 assaulted allegedly for condemning the abduction of Jestina Mukoko while in Hurungwe West, a man was on 8 December 2008 harassed at Sengwe Business Centre allegedly because he had approved a theatre group from Kariba to perform a play on political tolerance and development. The play had depicted youths beating people during the election campaigns-scenarios that did not go down well with the local leadership.

Mashonaland Central

While incidents of human rights abuse have generally lost their intensity, they remain thinly dotted in all constituencies. Fear of retribution is still in the air, people generally cautious on what they say in the public. Support for an inclusive Government within political leadership structures remains unclear in most constituencies with little being done around to promote the spirit of an inclusive Government. In some cases those deemed to be too enthusiastic about the Unity Government were reportedly denigrated as sell-outs.

At community level, a spirit of political unity is yet to take root as most MDC sworn-in MPs and councillors remain fenced off from community developments. Ridiculing supporters of opposition parties as sell-outs remains a popular pastime in most constituencies. Anti-other party slogans are still chanted at political rallies, community development meetings and even NGO food distribution points. Cases where citizen rights to information have been abused are also still reported. In Muzarabani North, a man was reportedly assaulted for listening to Studio 7. In Mazowe Central, villagers were reportedly intimidated and threatened with dire consequences for participating in projects run by an NGO the Zimbabwe Civic Education Trust, an NGO which is operating in the area.

Manicaland

Traces of political intolerance are still evident in constituencies such as Dangamvura, Chipinge Central, Chipinge West, Chipinge East, Makoni South, Nyanga South, Makoni North, Buhera North and Headlands where cases were reported of people being still being harassed for wearing own party regalia, expressing views on unfolding political developments in the country, dealing in foreign currency, among others.

Cases of retaliatory arson have also been reported with one case in Chipinge East where a homestead was burnt down on 10 December 2008 by an alleged gang of war veterans accusing the victim of belonging to a party that has caused hardships by calling for sanctions. In Nyanga, the house of a suspected perpetrator of violence in the run up to the 27 June Elections was reportedly burnt on 9 December 2008.

In some cases church organisations have also been threatened with politically-motivated splits, a notable case the Anglican Church where members are reportedly prioritizing political affiliation over church affiliation. Consistent with experiences in most provinces, grassroots politics is yet to incorporate other political contenders as partners in community development, cases where villagers have been threatened with dire consequences for participating in projects initiated by rival political parties even reported.

Mashonaland East

Sporadic incidents of human rights abuse are still reported in constituencies such as Murewa South, Wedza, Marondera Central and Marondera East, the most commonly committed offence being harassments.

In one reported case, a member of the public was reportedly harassed for celebrating the death of a politician they alleged to have been actively involved in the perpetration of violence in the run up to elections while another man from Marondera Central was on 29 December 2008 reportedly severely beaten for celebrating the death of a senior politician in the area by saying "its good he has gone to hell".

In other cases, political intolerance is reportedly interfering with the operations of the civil service with reports of some civil servants being victimized for remaining politically-neutral in the execution of their duties. In Marondera East, an Arex officer was on 27 December 2008 reportedly assaulted by war veterans for allowing members of other parties to benefit from Government Input Support Schemes.

Harare

The province was home to a spate of abductions which left the operations of some human rights organizations in disarray, the most publicised being the abduction of the national director of the Zimbabwe Peace Project Jestina Mukoko on 3rd December 2008 and its two staffers [Brodreck Takawira and Pascal Gonzo] on the 8th of December 2008 whose whereabouts, despite spirited local and regional calls, remained a mystery up to the 23rd December 2008. On December 24, they appeared in court, under a heavily armed escort, chained in both hands and legs being charged of trying to topple the government through banditry training charges.

In areas such as Harare East, Zengeza East, Epworth, Zengeza 1, Hatfield, Mabvuku and Chitungwiza isolated cases of human rights abuse were reported, cases involving people commonly assaulted and harassed for "offences" such as wearing own party or human rights NGO regalia, condemning the onslaught on human rights activists, expressing an opinion on economic hardships, commenting on delays in forming the Unity Government, among others.

Incidents of outright lawlessness were also experienced in several parts of Harare, interestingly involving army officers. In Zengeza East and Seke South, army personnel reportedly assaulted foreign currency dealers and looted foreign currency in the process [on 4 December 2008 and 26 December 2008], dealers accused of "devaluing the Zimbabwe dollar" and also "creating money shortages". In Harare Central, soldiers on 2 December 2008 reportedly randomly beat up people at the Road-port, allegedly looting their foreign currency in the process.

Matebeleland Region

Matebeleland region is made up of three provinces, Matebeleland North, Matebeleland South and Bulawayo. While human rights violations are generally on the low side, isolated incidents are still reported. In all the three provinces, there is common reference to people being assaulted for "offences" relating to public comments on economic hardships and continued political impasse, demonstrating against cash shortage, condemning abduction of human rights defenders and political activists, among others. Provincial reports also commonly indicate that people were still assaulted for traditional "crimes" such as refusing to attend party meetings, wearing own party regalia, listening to Studio 7, failure to produce the required party card or simply being suspected to be a member of a rival party.

On 15 December 2008, a Pelandaba/Mpopoma woman was allegedly threatened with 'following Jestina' after making a public comment on the abductions of human rights activists while in Makokoba a woman was assaulted and sustained injuries on the head and ribs after she had refused to attend a party meeting which had been organized by ZANU PF. In Bulawayo East constituency, a court official was on 2 December assaulted by a group of four men allegedly for "being biased towards opposition members" who had been arrested. The court official was clapped and kicked all over the body and left lying on the tarmac, writhing in pain. The four perpetrators have since been arrested by the police. On 2 December 2008, a woman [war veteran] from Bulawayo Central constituency was reportedly evicted from Castle Arms premise allegedly as punishment for attending the

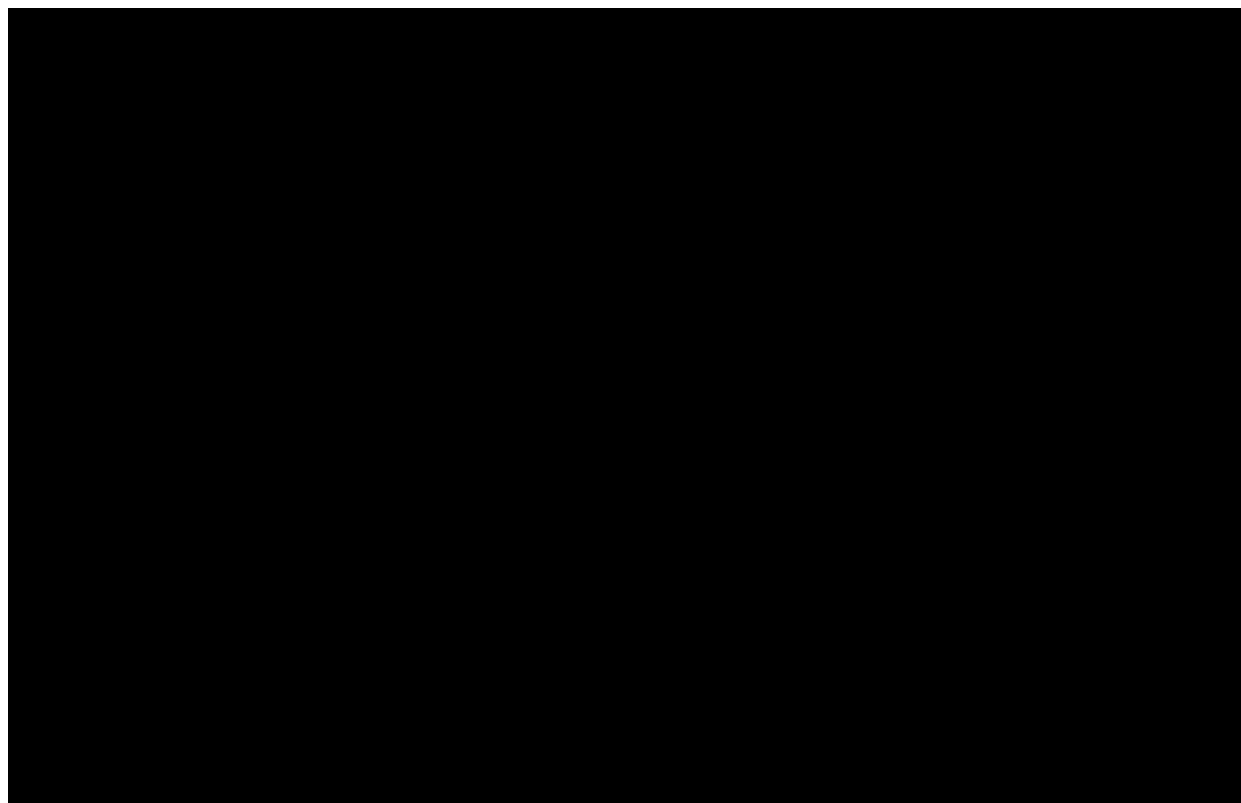
launch of the break-away ZAPU party. The woman was allegedly told that the premises were owned by the ruling party.

STATISTICAL PROFILE OF HUMAN RIGHTS VIOLATIONS

December Provincial Acts Spread

ACTS	Midlands	Bulawayo	Mat. South	Mat. North	Masvingo	Manicaland	Harare	Mash. East	Mash West	Mash Central	TOTAL
Murder	1	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	2
Rape	2	0	0	0	1	3	0	0	0	3	9
Kidnapping/Abduction	2	0	0	0	3	14	4	1	1	0	25
Assault	57	11	12	2	40	78	47	24	12	8	291
Theft/Looting	15	0	6	1	21	46	12	11	3	9	124
MDP	2	2	0	1	5	22	0	3	2	4	41
Torture	2	0	0	0	4	5	2	1	1	2	17
Unlawful Detention	7	0	0	3	3	5	3	2	1	2	26
Harassment/Intimidation	102	27	28	15	75	106	68	44	33	97	595
Displacement	8	2	4	2	3	74	12	4	3	5	117
Discrimination	3	0	6	1	3	49	6	1	4	0	73
Attempted Rape	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Attempted Murder	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
TOTAL	201	42	56	25	159	402	154	91	60	130	1320

Graphically, scenarios were as shown below:

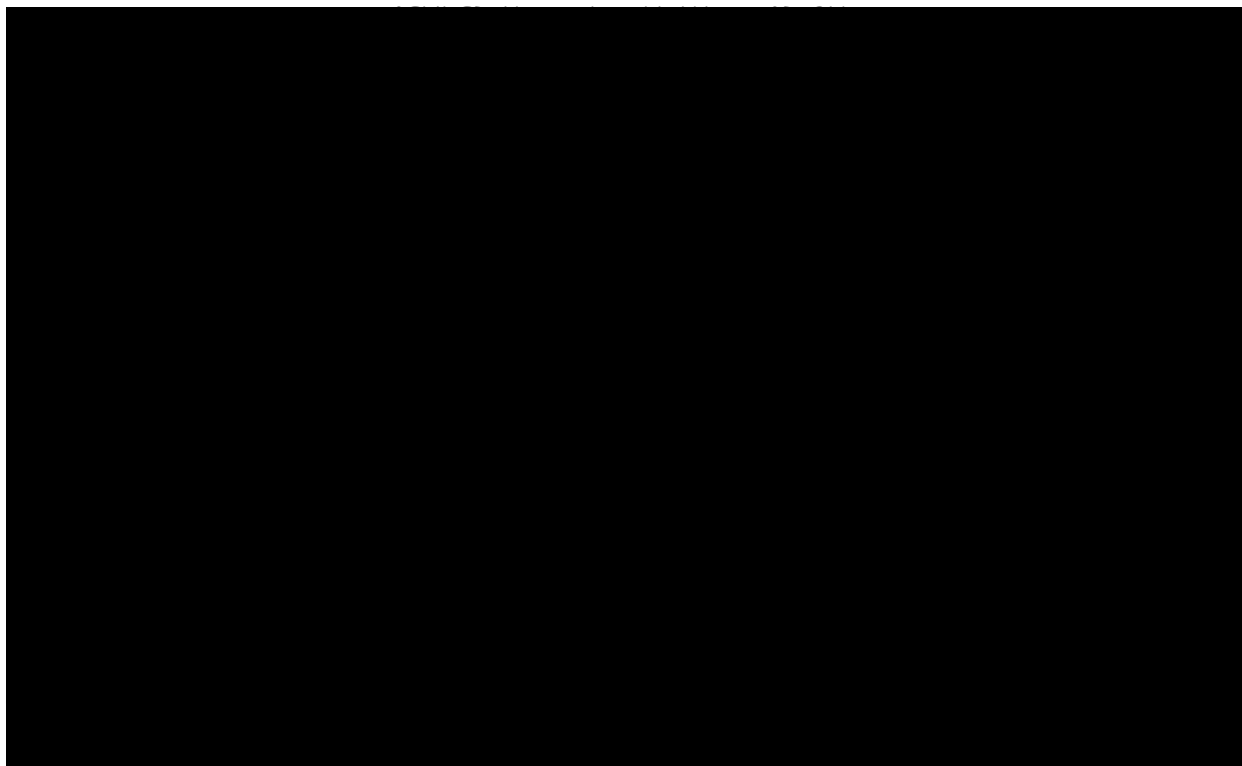


Salient Observations

- A gross acts toll of 1320 cases was recorded, showing a slight increase of 124 from the October level of 1106.
- Incident density remains concentrated in Manicaland, Midlands, Masvingo and Harare with least records of incidents in Bulawayo and Matebeleland North
- Harassments and assaults remain the most commonly committed offences.

Concluding Remarks

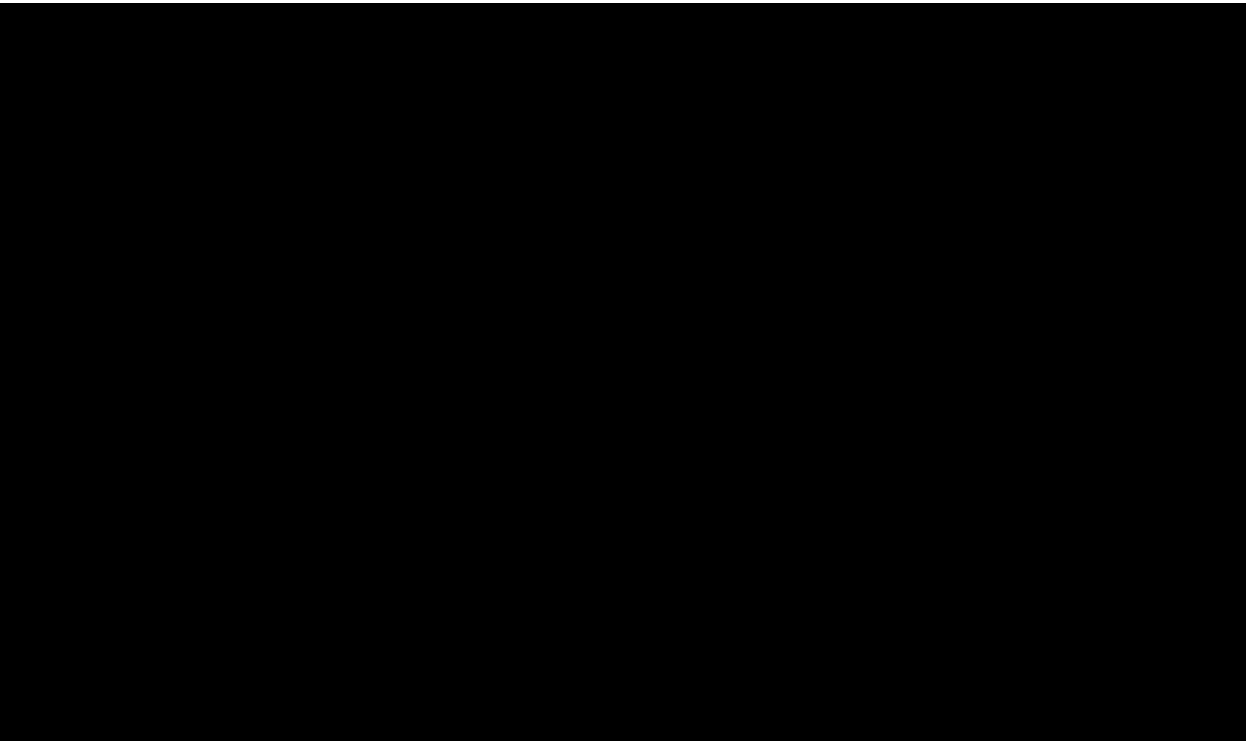
By end of year, the issue of human rights violations remains a major challenge in Zimbabwe with malpractices still pronounced in all provinces.



- There was a total victim toll of 2092, 1926 being male while 166 were female.
- The December total victim toll [2092] reflects a slight victim toll drop from its October level of 3026 however with high victim tolls in the male sex in both the MDC and the Unknown.
- Males remain the main victims of violence in both ZANU PF and MDC, however with the number of MDC female victims on the high side, almost doubling the ZANU PF male victim toll.
- The Unknown victim toll remains disturbingly high suggesting the widespread nature of victimization.

Concluding Remarks

December trends remain consistent with past records. The bulk of victims remain males, however with a rather high victim toll in the MDC female category. The net picture is that MDC members across both sexes remain the main victims.

- 
- There was an increase in gross perpetrator toll from its October level of 1719 to 2192 by December, however the bulk being ZANU PF members [1509].
 - The number of State perpetrators at 376 was even higher than the MDC total of 238.
 - ZANU PF remains the main perpetrator across both sexes.
 - Perpetrator density remains concentrated in Harare Metropolitan [505], Manicaland [332], Masvingo [326] and Midlands [397] with low perpetrator toll in the Matebeleland provinces, a trend consistent with their past records.
 - Males remain the main perpetrators in both the ZANU PF and the MDC.

Concluding Remarks

Consistent with past ZPP trends, perpetrator density remains heavily skewed towards ZANU PF across both sexes.

FOOD-RELATED HUMAN RIGHTS VIOLATIONS

Midlands

The food situation remains dire despite concerted efforts by food aid agencies such as Christian Care and others. Some villagers are reportedly going for days without food surviving on wild fruits. In ward 3 of Sengwa Bridge in Gokwe, some villagers were by 2 December 2008 reportedly going for days without food, surviving on mango fruits which they got from working in other people's fields. The food situation is so dire that in some cases it has resulted in food-related fatal accidents. In the Sengwa Bridge of Gokwe, a woman was murdered by her husband allegedly for using the family meal-mealie to cook sadza for her relative visitors.

Access to maize meal and other food stuffs is mainly through the South African rand, scenarios that have seen most villagers cheaply exchanging their cattle, goats and fowls for maize-meal and in the process severely compromising their drought power. In some cases seed maize donated by NGOs is reportedly diverted from intended beneficiaries for own selfish pursuits. In the Nehanda area of Mberengwa East, some food aid sourced seed packs meant for villagers were reportedly diverted for own use by some influential local leadership structures and ended up in shops where they were sold at very expensive foreign currency prices.

Food discrimination practices remain a clandestine practice. In Mberengwa West a woman was on 28 December 2008 reportedly denied access to Care food aid by the local headman because she was wearing MDC T/shirt. In the same province a man was on 15 December 2008 reportedly denied access to NGO food aid because "he had the picture of MDC president in his house"

Manicaland

While NGOs such as GOAL, Red Cross, CONCERN and Christian Care are active supplementary sources of food aid in the province, reports of political interferences in their operations continue to pose a serious risk to impartiality in food allocation processes. Food aid destined for the poor of the poorest is in some cases reportedly diverted for own use by unscrupulous well-connected individuals. With most shops in the province selling mealie-meal [mainly imported from neighbouring countries] in foreign currency, villagers have been left with no option but to exchange their livestock for maize, scenarios that are set to seriously compromise their draught power. In most constituencies, elect MDC councillors are yet to be embraced as integral elements of the community development process, rural villagers reportedly being dissuaded from participating in projects initiated by MDC councillors.

Mashonaland Central

Access to both GSF and NGO food aid is in the main partisan-based. Those suspected to be politically-incorrect reportedly tend to find their names not on the food list despite earlier registration. In Mazoe Central, a case was reported where villagers were on 10 December 2008 denied access to cotton seeds from Food Aid NGO by suspected Zanu PF party supporters allegedly because "inputs are not for sell-outs", a practice that appears well spread throughout the province.

Mashonaland East

The food situation in the province is dire with villagers in some constituencies reportedly surviving on wild fruits. As reported in other provinces, local leadership structures are reportedly interfering with Red Cross food allocations, demanding party cards as basis for registration to both GMB and aid agency sources. Reports also point to unethical practices where names of those suspected to be "politically wrong" are reportedly clandestinely removed by village headmen from food lists.

Masvingo

Provincial reports indicate that seed maize destined for rural farmers is in some instances not reaching its intended beneficiaries. Food and maize seed sourced from both the state and aid agencies is in most instances diverted and sold on the black market in foreign currency or exchanged with livestock. In one sad incident in Bikita South on 27 December 2008, rural farmers reportedly ended up receiving one cup each of maize seeds distributed from the Maguta Seed program.

Reports also accuse traditional chiefs of playing partisan roles in food distribution. In Masvingo West, one prominent Chief on 23 December 2008 reportedly selectively called followers of one party to his homestead where they each received 10 kg maize seed, scenarios that have seen well intended government input programs benefitting a selected few. The local traditional leadership are also accused of interfering with the operations of food aid NGOs and forcing villagers to chant party slogans at food distribution points. Cases where names submitted for food aid from NGOs were reportedly turned down by local authorities on political grounds are also widespread. In some cases, food aid NGOs have also been accused of being partisan in their food

allocations. In Masvingo Urban, WFP on 22 December 2008 reportedly suspended food aid to one relief agency operating in the area amid reports of corruption, asking it to put its house in order.

Villagers are reportedly losing livestock to unscrupulous business people. Some business people are reportedly cashing in on the dire food situation in the province. In Gutu South, one businessman on 23 December 2008 took advantage of the funeral to exchange a 50 kg of maize meal for a beast.

Mashonaland West

Food discriminations remain challenges in areas such as Mhondoro Ngezi, Hungwe West and Kadoma Central with some reports even pointing to continued political interferences in the operations of food aid agencies. Incidents in which food donated by food aid NGOs has been distributed by youth militia have also been reported. Cases where names of suspected members of the opposition are clandestinely removed from the food list, where villagers are told to attend party meetings in order to benefit from either GSF or NGO-donated food also continue to grace provincial reports. So are cases where civil servants, especially teachers have been denied access to farm inputs. At Rafingora GMB Depot in Zvimba North, scores of teachers in ward 13 were reportedly denied maize seed which was distributed by members from one of the main political parties. These teachers had been allocated plots in the area.

Matebeleland North

The food situation in the province remains dire, some villagers reportedly starving as foreign currency-priced mealie-meal remains out of reach. Intervention efforts by food aid NGOs like Save the Child [UK] and World Vision are reportedly overwhelmed with demands for food as most GMB depots are dry most times. These untenable food challenges have left villagers in this drought-prone province with no option but to cheaply exchange their cattle, goats and fowls for food and in the process decimating their draught power and source of livelihood and security.

Matebeleland South

As in Matebeleland North, the resort to selling mealie-meal in foreign currency has worsened the food vulnerability of people in this province. The situation is further worsened by reported diversion of food donated by food aid agencies for personal gain. Some NGO facilitators are also accused of diverting food from target intended beneficiaries to either their relatives or selling it in the black market in foreign currency.

Bulawayo

Incidents of politically-motivated food denials were reported at almost all food distribution points, either MDC or ZANU PF members seeking to control food allocation processes to their advantage.

ANALYSIS OF FOOD-RELATED TRENDS

December Food Distribution Table

HARASSMENT	Masvingo	Harare	Manicalanda	Mashonaland East	Mashonaland West	Mashonaland Central	Bulawayo	Matabeleland North	Matabeleland South	Midlands	TOTAL
Forced to attend political meetings	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	0	2
Ordered to produce party card	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Ordered to take off party regalia	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
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	0	0	0
Summoned to meeting	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Other	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
TOTAL	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	2	0	3
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	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Grievous bodily harm	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
TOTAL	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
DISCRIMINATION											
Denied access to GSF	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Denied seeds & fertiliser	13	0	60	20	12	14	0	1	1	0	121
Denied tillage support	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Denied Agricultural Credit	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Denied food loan	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Denied food relief	0	0	50	0	0	0	0	0	0	3	53
Denied irrigation	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Denied Food Aid	39	4	1	8	14	11	0	2	13	64	156
Denied Education Assistance	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Denied Medical Assistance	0	0	3	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	3
Other	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
TOTAL	52	4	114	28	26	25	0	3	14	67	333
O VERRALL TOTAL	52	4	115	28	26	25	0	3	16	67	336

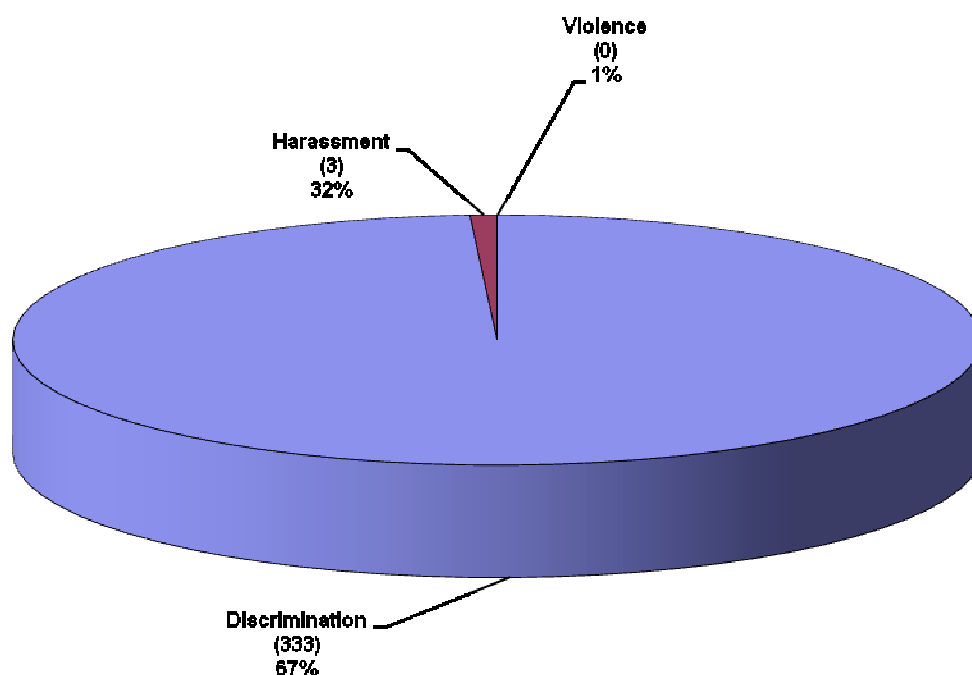
Observations

- A gross total of 336 food-related human rights violations were recorded with high records in Manicaland, Midlands and Masvingo with least records Bulawayo, Matebeleland North and Harare.
- Of this gross total, 333 [67%] were harassments, 3 cases of harassment [32%] and 0 cases of violence [1%].
- Also of this gross total, 156 were food aid denials, 121 denials of fertiliser and 53 denials of food relief.

Concluding Remarks

Food- related human rights violations are still pronounced in all the ten provinces, a worrying trend given the inaccessibility of foreign currency priced mealie-meal. Politically-blind food distribution systems should be adopted to ensure that the majority benefit from both state and NGO food aid.

Prevalence of Violations



CONCLUDING REMARKS AND THE WAY FORWARD

Delays in the implementation of the *Global Political Agreement* continues to have devastating effects in all sectors of the economy, with citizen health and food security as well as children basic rights to education among its notable casualties.

With this uncertainty, some human rights malpractices which were steadily on the retreat are resurfaced with a ferocity that was highly at odds with the ongoing power-sharing talks.

Particularly disquieting were perceived attempts to maim, suffocate and kill human rights monitoring efforts through systematic broad daylight and nightly abductions of human rights activists.

With most shops selling mealie-meal in highly priced foreign currency, rural villagers are at high risk of losing their livestock, their main source of livelihood and security to unscrupulous politicians and business people. Urgent measures must be put in place to bail them out of this untenable situation.

BACKGROUND & FORMATION



ZIMBABWE PEACE PROJECT

The Zimbabwe Peace Project (ZPP) was conceived shortly after 2000 by a

group of Churches and NGOs working or interested in human rights and peace-building initiatives, and was to become a vehicle for civic interventions in a time of political crisis. In particular ZPP sought to

monitor and document incidents of human rights violations and politically-motivated breaches of the peace e.g. violence.

Today, ZPP's member organizations include, the, Zimbabwe Council of Churches (ZCC), 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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