



EARLY WARNING REPORT ON HUMAN RIGHTS AND FOOD RELATED VIOLATIONS

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ACRONYMS	DENOTATION
BACOSI	Basic Commodities Supply Side Intervention
CIO	Central Intelligence Organisation
FBO	Faith Based Organisations
GMB	Grain Marketing Board
GPA	Global Political Agreement
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

Definition of Terms

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

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

This report is presented under very special circumstances when the Zimbabwe Peace Project Director and two of its staffers are held at Chikurubi Maximum Prison charged with '*recruiting people to undergo training to topple the government.*' The report is also presented as a checklist on how far the Global Political Agreement has influenced the level of politically-engineered human rights violations.

Against this background the Zimbabwe Peace Project in chorus with all other peace loving organizations observe with deep concern that five months after the signing of the 15 September 2008 Global Political Agreement, the envisaged Inclusive Government is yet to be formed, a delay that has left the nation rudderless at a time when high profile robust interventions are most needed to deal with the raging socio-economic meltdown. The run up to the 27 June Elections left behind a society boiling with tension and revengeful hate, a nation pleading for peace, social justice and national healing. Continued feet dragging on the enforcement of the Global Peace Agreement is likely to see residual forces of darkness resurfacing in a bid to scupper all efforts that have so far been invested into the promotion of national unity, a development that may see a worsening in politically engineered human rights violations.

While records of overt inter-party human rights violations have been declining since July 2008, this trend has to be viewed with some caution as this may be a mere case of muted violence, violence simply gone under-ground but with a potential to resurface at the slightest touch. Close scrutiny of incident sheets from both rural and urban constituencies point to a society that is still overcast with fear, a fear that is likely to worsen if reported cases of abduction, unlawful arrest and detention without trial continue.

Traits of residual violence are still spread [though thinly] across the ten provinces. A total of 1125 cases of politically motivated human rights violations were recorded. Violations records in Manicaland, Masvingo, Harare, Midlands and Mashonaland Central remain disturbingly on the high side.

The spirit of an inclusive government is yet to cascade from macro circles to grassroots structures of both the MDCs and ZANU PF. Incidents in which members of the public were reportedly assaulted for either being too enthusiastic or for being too pessimistic about Inclusive Government are still reported with a disturbing frequency. In essence, 2009 is still to recover from the violence hangover of 2008. Incidents in which members of the public are still assaulted or publicly humiliated for committing "offences" such as wearing own party regalia, listening to Studio 7, expressing own views in public on the socioeconomic meltdown or simply passing a comment on the potential capacities of the leadership of the MDCs and ZANU PF recurred in most parts of the ten provinces.

Equally disturbing are reported increases in incidents in which suspected members of the police, army, central intelligence, and war veterans were reportedly involved in acts of lawlessness. Since December 2008 both rural and urban areas have reportedly been silent witnesses to incidents in which the said members of the army converted the national campaign against unlicensed dealing in foreign currency into an own cash cow, allegedly invading and looting goods and foreign currency from shops, flea markets and vendors that were illegally selling goods in foreign currency. In some cases, invasions assumed political dimensions, reportedly targeting shops and businesses of those suspected to be members of the MDC. The Zimbabwe Peace Project deplores this looting frenzy and accordingly exhorts the powers that be to take corrective action for the good of citizen security.

Also unnerving to Zimbabwe Peace Project is the continued state onslaught on human rights defenders, with developments that all the political and human right activists abducted in December 2008 [including the Zimbabwe Peace Project Director, Jestina Mukoko and staffers Broderick Takawira and Pascal Gonzo] are still held at Chikurubi Maximum Prison accused of involvement in recruiting people to undergo military training to topple the government. Equally unnerving is the impunity with which the basic human rights of the said detainees are being trodden upon, the state reportedly denying these severely tortured victims access to bail and treatment.

Also disturbing are looming signs of upsurges in revengeful violence. Provincial incident reports point to unfolding scenarios in which yester-victims are reportedly taking the law into their own hands to settle what they see as unjustified delays in justice and compensation for the livestock and property looted, homesteads and houses torched, beatings, injuries and humiliations suffered, evictions from own farms and houses in the run up to the June 2008 Elections. In some communities known yester-perpetrators are reportedly shunned, ostracised, or chased away from village social gatherings [beer drinking places, funerals, church services] while in extreme cases incidents of retaliatory abductions, looting, assaults and evictions have been reported with a frequency that does not augur well for future national stability. The Zimbabwe Peace Project deplores these developments and strongly exhorts relevant authorities to urgently stop these practices while putting in place measures and procedures to ensure that aggrieved parties have recourse to social and economic justice. This must be accompanied by a nationwide social healing process in which the leadership of the main political parties, civic organizations and church organizations in deed and practice take proactive steps to inculcate and nurture feelings of forgiveness, love and unity of purpose. Failure to make these timely interventions, in our considered view, may see a serious rupture in community relations and general societal stability.

With respect to food discriminations, the Zimbabwe Peace Project observes with regret that cases of politically engineered food discriminations remain visibly pronounced in all the ten provinces, the party card requirement still dominant. Particularly disturbing are allegations of the involvement of high ranking members of the ZANU PF party, police, army, and war veterans in the diversion and looting of agricultural inputs and maize meal either sourced from state or food aid agencies. Most food aid agencies are reportedly under political pressure to give preference to war veterans and senior members of the party, developments that in most cases have left communities starving when food aid agencies resist the move and relocate to other areas. Cases of retaliatory food discriminations have also been reported especially where yester-victims would have sourced their own maize meal or agricultural inputs.

Against this background, the food situation remains very critical with some sorry incidents in which villagers reportedly ended up consuming maize seed. While food availability [supply] in both rural and urban shops had by January 2009 visibly improved, for most ordinary villagers, the goods are almost as good as non-available as their foreign currency pricing places these goods out of their reach.

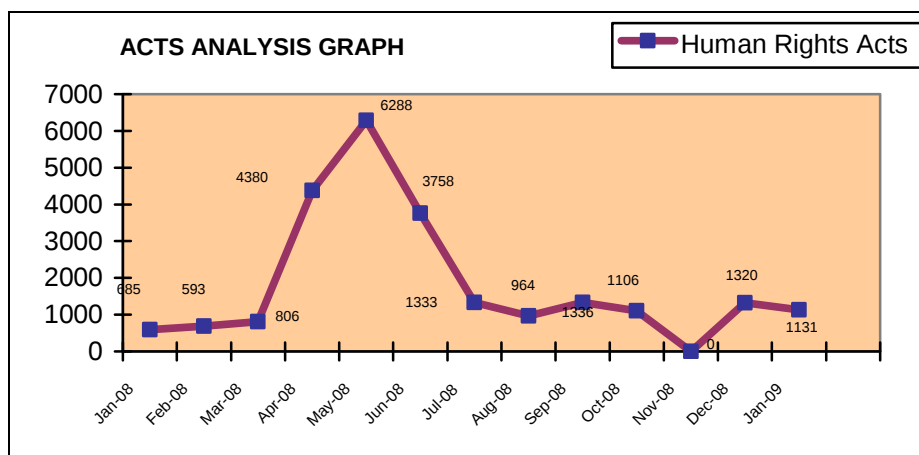
A cursory review of human rights violations record since January 2008 shows:

- That monthly records have generally been increasing since January 2008.
 - That there was a slight drop in the January 2009 record of 1125 from the December 2008 level of 1320.
 - An overall cumulative increase in acts of violations from their January 2008 level of 593 to 23 692 by January 2009.
- The details are as shown below:

Cumulative Human Rights and Food-Related Politically-Motivated Violations

ACTS	2008	2009												TOTAL
		January	February	March	April	May	June	July	August	September	October	November	December	
Murder	207	0												207
Rape	56	4												60
Kidnapping/abduction	496	21												517
Assault	4581	270												4851
Theft/looting	578	80												658
Malicious Damage to Property (MDP)	979	40												1019
Torture	436	17												453
Unlawful Detention	487	37												524
Harassment/Intimidation	11954	553												12507
Displacement	2450	75												2525
Discrimination	306	28												334
Attempted Rape	23	0												23
Attempted Murder	14	0												14
TOTAL	22569	1125												23692

Graphically shown, scenarios are as below:

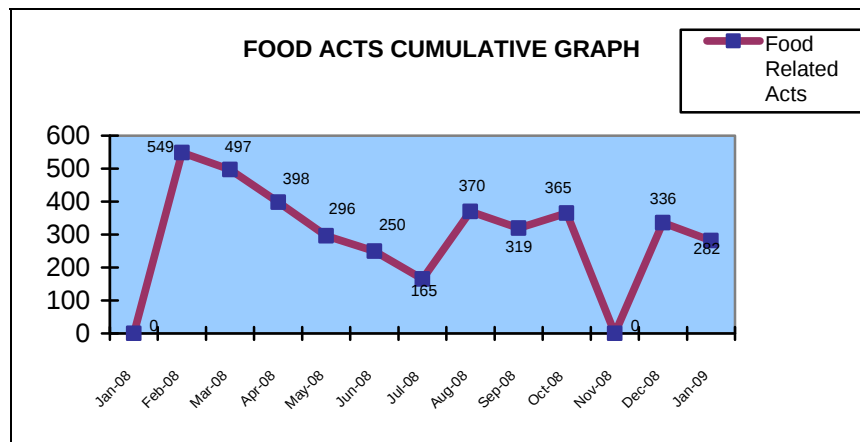


This cumulative trend is also reflected in food-related human rights violations. By January 2009, a total of 4200 food-related human rights violations were recorded of which 2744 were discriminations, 45 [violence] and 1411 [harassment]. See the tables and graphs below:

Table of 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				
398	March				
296	April				
250	May				
165	June				
370	July				
319	August				
365	September				
376	October				
0	November				
336	December				
3918	TOTAL	1411	45	2744	4200

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



PROVINCIAL CASE INCIDENTS OF HUMAN RIGHTS VIOLATIONS

Midlands

Inter party engineered human rights violations have almost gone underground although some residual traits are still evident in both the rural and urban parts of the province with state operatives, war veterans and party youths from both the ZANU PF and MDC frequently cited as prime perpetrators. Victims were reportedly harassed for a wide range of petty “offences” that included condemning abductions of human rights activists, expressing a political opinion on either the MDC or ZANU PF leadership, speaking enthusiastically about the Inclusive Government, selling goods in foreign currency, among others.

The notion of “inclusivity” is yet to cascade to the grassroots political structures of both the MDC and ZANU PF, members still viewing each other with evident contempt. Party members are yet to accept each other as integral elements of the community development process. In Gokwe South, a woman was on 4 January 2009 assaulted for accepting maize seed sourced by the local MDC leadership while in Mberengwa East a man was on 3 January 2009 evicted from a farm where he had been resettled allegedly for sharing draught power with suspected MDC members. In Mberengwa North a suspected ZANU PF youth reportedly assaulted a vendor at C Mine for selling goods in foreign currency, accusing him of economic sabotage; his goods were reportedly looted in the process. In Zhombe, a man wearing a ZANU PF T shirt at Empress Mapani Primary school was mobbed by suspected MDC supporters and mockingly asked why he was not ashamed to wear such regalia given what they alleged was ZANU PF’s inept and pathetic economic management history. In Mkoba, Gweru, a young man was on 6 January 2009 reportedly beaten with clenched fists and boots by a group of soldiers allegedly because he was found in possession of MDC party regalia. The net impression is that while human rights violations are overall on the decline, the grass is still singing in a number of constituencies.

Bulawayo

While human rights violations are generally on the low side, there is a disturbing visibility of state security details and war veterans in acts of lawlessness, especially looting of public property. Also visible is the involvement of MDC members in retaliatory violence. In addition to traditional and commonly cited “offences”, people were harassed and assaulted for participating in WOZA demonstrations, selling goods in foreign currency, expressing pessimism/optimism on Inclusive government talks, attending the re-launch of PF-ZAPU, among others. An Entumbane man wearing a Mavambo T shirt was on 21 January 2009 assaulted by suspected MDC supporters accusing his party of foiling MDC accession to power in the 29 March 2008 elections while in Bulawayo Central, a former ZANU PF provincial Secretary [who has since defected to the newly formed ZAPU] was reportedly forced by youths to surrender car keys since he was no longer a ZANU PF member. As observed in other provinces, human rights activists were under state siege with WOZA offices sporadically raided, their demonstrations disrupted while members were detained without charge at Bulawayo Central Police.

Matebeleland South

Reports point to thinly spread incidents of violence with visible state security and war veteran involvement in property-related violations such as looting of property. A revengeful mood is also building up among MDC grassroots members. In a tale of children paying for the sins of their fathers, a Mangwe young man [Plumtree] was assaulted by suspected MDC members allegedly because “he is son to a war veteran”. In most provinces war veterans have reportedly earned notoriety for violence, generally linked to spates of politically-motivated violations in the run up to the 27 June Elections. In Mamhlomhllope, a suspected ZANU PF supporter was reportedly assaulted allegedly for insinuating that the MDC leader was not educationally-well equipped to lead the country while in Plumtree another suspected ZANU PF supporter was on 11 January 2009 assaulted reportedly for suggesting that the MDC was the source of sanctions on Zimbabwe while in Mangwe, a suspected MDC supporter was on 16 January 2009 assaulted allegedly for linking ZANU PF with nightly abductions.

Matebeleland North

While inter-party violence has visibly declined, as in other provinces, incidents in which suspected elements of the army, police and war veterans were reportedly involved in acts of lawlessness remained a disturbing feature. There were also reports of some members of the police and army using the anti-foreign currency dealing campaign as a pretext to loot property in shops and flea-markets mostly owned by suspected MDC members. In other related incidents, shoppers who were viewed as having purchased too much grocery for a single family were reportedly asked to account for their source of foreign currency.

Harare

Involvement of suspected state operatives in acts of abductions, looting of property, harassment, assault, torture and unlawful detentions remain cause for major concern. In Kambuzuma vendors were reportedly assaulted by soldiers in uniform, allegedly for refusing to accept payments in local currency and bread looted in the process. In the same area, on 16 January 2009, two primary teachers were reportedly harassed by two ZNA soldiers allegedly for reporting for duty while other teachers are on industrial action while in Harare Central, ZNA members on 25 January 2009 reportedly turned away students attending private schools telling them that they could not go to school while other children were unable to do so. In Graniteside, military police had to be called in on 27 January 2009 to evict scores of soldiers and war veterans from Harare Municipality-owned residential flats [under construction] they had invaded arguing that they had nowhere else to stay because they could not afford the foreign currency rentals that most landlords were demanding.

Human rights NGOs remain under siege, their operations disrupted in fear of possible invasions and abductions. There were also widespread reports of members of the public being assaulted by members of the army, police, war veterans and CIO operatives for several “offences” that include simply expressing their views in public on matters relating to economic hardships, commenting on abductions and delays in the forming the Inclusive Government, among others. In Harare East, a newly resettled farmer was on 8th January 2009 forced to leave the area within 24 hours by a suspected group of ZANU PF party supporters allegedly because he had opposed the idea of GNU while at Kamfinsa Shopping Centre, on 5 January 2009 an ordinary misunderstanding over issues raised on Studio 7 resulted in a fist fight in which one sustained severe head injuries.

Reports also refer to cases in which political differences were reportedly tearing apart family ties with one notable case in Chitungwiza South where a parent reportedly harassed and evicted his two daughters from the family house allegedly because of irreconcilable political differences. The daughters were reportedly staunch MDC supporters while the father was a strong ZANU PF supporter. In Mabvuku/Tafara, at section 3 Caledonia farm family suspected to be members of the MDC T was on 17 January 2009 denied access to a farm borehole by suspected ZANU PF supporters allegedly because the borehole belongs to the ZANU PF. The family is reportedly now sourcing water from an unprotected well, developments that place the family at high risk of contracting cholera.

Manicaland

While as observed in other provinces human rights violations are generally subsiding, the province’s human rights record remain cause for major concern with reports of people still being harassed for wearing own party regalia, expressing views on unfolding political developments in the country, dealing in foreign currency, among others. As also observed in other provinces, there is a revengeful agitation especially among MDC grassroots members who were victimised during the run up to the 27 June Elections. In some isolated cases political differences have reportedly generated tension in families. A Mutare South man on 4 January 2009 divorced his wife allegedly over irreconcilable political differences. She was MDC while the husband was ZANU PF. Other notable incidents involved cases of unlawful detentions. In Chipinge, MDC MP for Chipinge South was on 14 January 2009 reportedly unlawfully arrested together with 15 MDC activists at his Chiredzi business offices on allegations of kidnapping. His application for bail initially granted by a Chipinge magistrate was set aside when the state appealed against the decision forcing the MP to remain in prison until the State’s appeal was dismissed.

Mashonaland Central

Freedom of association and expression remain largely ring-fenced. Provincial reports commonly refer to cases in which members of the public were assaulted or harassed allegedly for belonging to a political party of own choice, for expressing a different view on issues of national significance, for wearing own party T shirts, listening to Studio 7, among other things. Cases of politically-motivated unlawful arrests were also reported. In Bindura South, two MDC officials [one a mayor of Bindura and the other a security officer in the party] were on 15 January 2009 reportedly arrested on charges of threatening to kidnap and kill police officers investigating the shooting of Air Marshall, Perence Shiri. The two were remanded in custody until 26 January 2009. As also noted in other provinces, the two political parties are yet to embrace each other as partners in community development. In Mt Darwin, a Mutyandaedza villager was on 19 January 2009 accused of being MDC because he had solicited for food help of those who were chased away from their villagers while in ward 8 of Bindura South, MDC councillors were reportedly barred by police from holding public meetings. In Rushinga, a man was on 18 January 2009 harassed for joining a newly formed village which was reportedly branded an opposition enclave while in Rushinga, a man was on 23 January 2009 assaulted by his relatives allegedly for “betraying them by joining a party of sell-outs”.

Mashonaland East

As observed in other provinces, there is visible involvement of state operatives in human rights violations with state security and army generally suspicious of people travelling to and from Botswana. This suspicion was so deep-seated that in Goromonzi North armed soldiers and state security agents on 8 January 2009 reportedly descended on an outdoor adventure camp in Ruwa [Kudu Creek camp] in armoured vehicles with a helicopter hovering overhead and arrested the campsite owner and two farmers who live close by. Kudu Creek camp is a training camp for Boy Scouts and young Christian groups in adventure activities and personal development. Other notable reports refer to incidents in which soldiers were reportedly involved in acts of looting of public property. So also are references to harassments and assaults for “offences” such as commenting on hardships, reading the Zimbabwean Newspaper in public, wearing own party regalia, among others. Reports also point to a revengeful mood with yester-victims threatening to attack yester-perpetrators as redress to injustices committed during the run up to the 27 June elections.

Mashonaland West

As gleaned from the reports that were submitted this month, political tolerance remains a major challenge with most human abuses gravitating around issues documented in our earlier reports.

Masvingo

The province’s human rights violation records remain cause for concern with incidents of murder, evictions, intimidations, assaults, revenge, torture and unlawful detentions and forced false confessions. In Masvingo North, attempts to invade a farm owned by an MDC MP resulted in a fatal incident when one of the invaders was shot to death. According to reports, this tragic incident occurred after the MP had reportedly fired three warning shots to no avail as invaders continued to advance. At the time of this report, the matter had been reported to the police although no one has been arrested. Reports also point to general lawlessness in the province with some soldiers and war veterans reportedly involved in acts of looting of public property. In Masvingo Central, a group of about 10 soldiers clad in full military gear reportedly deserted 4 Brigade Headquarters on New Year’s Day, allegedly moving from door to door demanding cash, assaulting people and looting goods from shops before crossing over to South Africa.

Tolerance to political diversity remains a daunting challenge. In Chiredzi North, a man was on 5 January 2009 evicted from DTZ Nuanetsi Ranch in what was generally viewed as a politically motivated eviction. The man was an MDC activist and had reportedly turned down orders to denounce his party affiliation. The victim whose homestead, cattle, kraal and fence were reportedly destroyed has since relocated to Chiredzi Urban.

In Bikita West, a group of 5 soldiers on 20 January 2009 forced shop owners to sell goods in Zimbabwe dollars. Shop owners closed their shops in protest. In Masvingo South, a group of war veterans on 4 January 2009 reportedly raided goods and

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foreign currency from shops at Ngundu shopping centre along the Masvingo-Beitbridge highway which as reported, shared and spent on alcohol. In some cases, invasions took a political dimension, with incidents in which shops that were invaded by soldiers and forced to sell goods in local currency were reportedly mainly those of suspected MDC members. In Gutu Central, an invasion of shops by soldiers at Mpandawana Growth Point on 14 January 2009 reportedly left out shops owned by ZANU PF members, allegedly targeting only shops belonging to suspected members of the opposition.

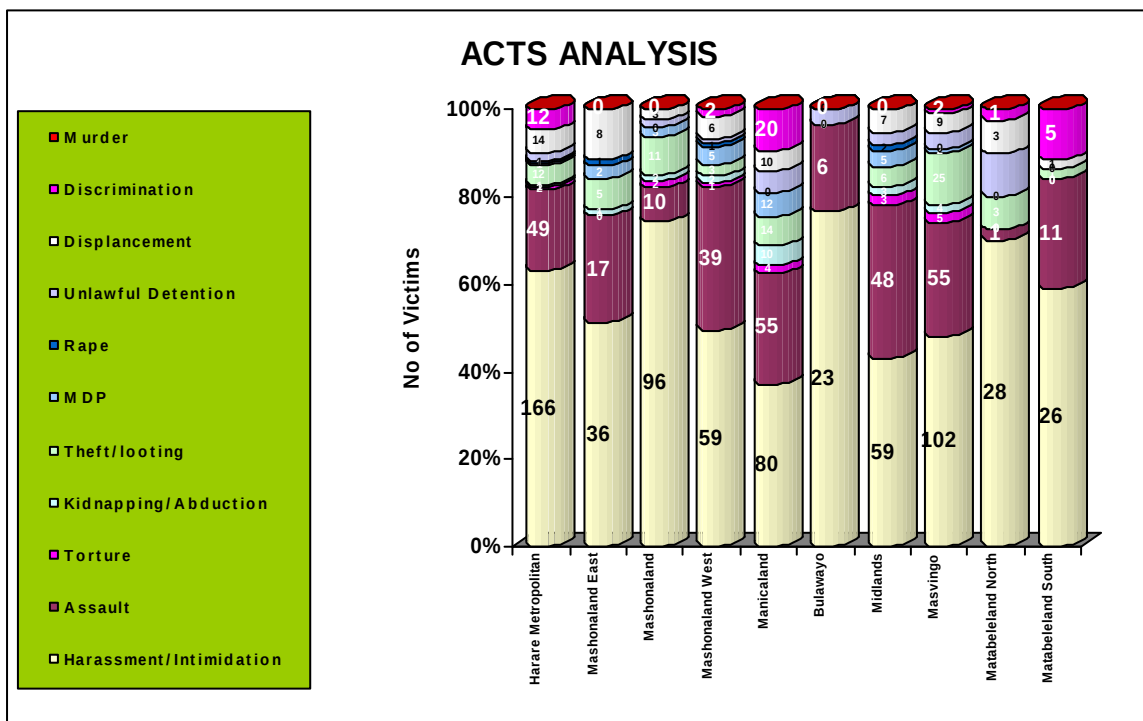
As reported in other provinces Masvingo is overcast with revengeful mood with widespread incidents in which yesterday's perpetrators were beaten. In some cases, yesterday's perpetrators are reportedly ostracised, villagers refusing them access to beer drinking places. In Masvingo North a man suspected to have assigned youth militia to assault neighbours on political grounds reportedly pushed out of the house when he sought refuge at a neighbour's homestead during a heavy downpour. In Govo village of Masvingo West, village head and ZANU PF party chairperson on 15 January 2009 reportedly ordered villagers not to attend a neighbour's funeral because of his continued support of the MDC. Only MDC supporters ended up gathered for the funeral service.

The notion of 'inclusivity' is yet to be embraced at local level structures. In Gutu North, elected councillors were on 18 January 2009 reportedly barred from addressing community development meetings while in Zaka West, a local development meeting conducted by MDC chairperson was disrupted by a former councillor.

STATISTICAL PROFILE OF HUMAN RIGHTS VIOLATIONS

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/Sexual Harassment	0	0	0	2	0	1	1	0	0	0	4
Kidnapping/abduction	0	0	0	3	4	1	1	0	2	10	21
Assault	6	11	1	48	55	49	17	18	10	55	270
Theft/looting	0	1	3	6	25	12	5	3	11	14	80
Discrimination	0	5	1	0	2	12	0	0	0	20	40
MDP	0	0	0	5	2	1	2	3	3	12	28
Torture	0	0	0	3	5	2	1	0	2	4	17
Unlawful Detention	1	0	4	4	8	5	0	2	2	11	37
Intimidation /harassment	23	26	28	59	102	69	36	34	96	80	553
Displacement	0	1	3	7	9	14	8	20	3	10	75
Total	30	44	40	137	212	166	71	80	129	216	1125

Graphically, scenarios were as shown below:



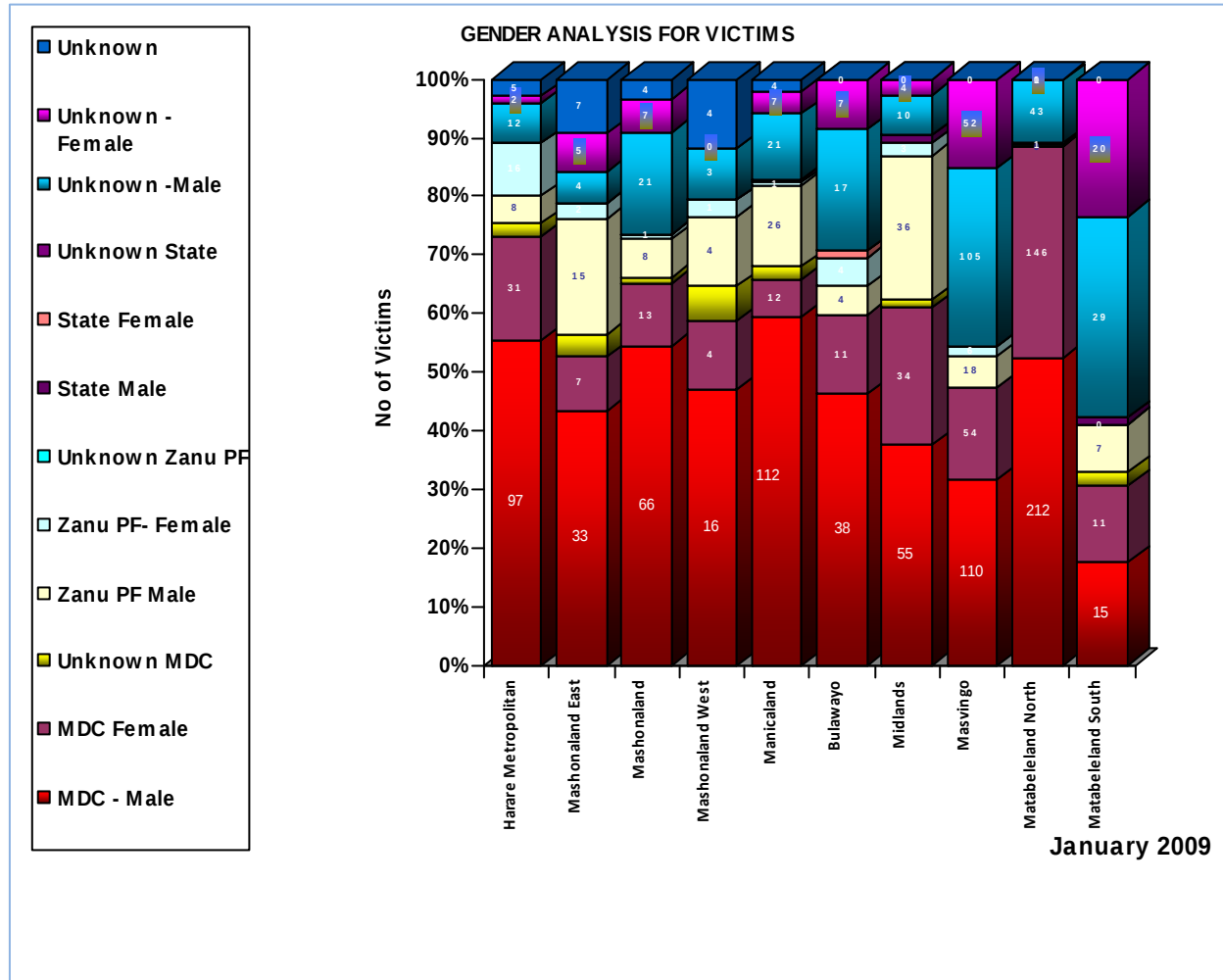
Salient Observations

- A gross acts toll of 1125 cases was recorded showing an insignificant statistical decrease from their December level of 1320.
- Incident density remains concentrated in Manicaland, Masvingo, Harare, Midlands and Manicaland Central with least records of incidents in Bulawayo, Matebeleland South and Matebeleland North
- As in the past, harassments and assaults remain the most commonly committed offences.

Concluding Remarks

There was a statistical insignificant drop in human rights violations suggesting that residual elements of violence are still evident. The 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



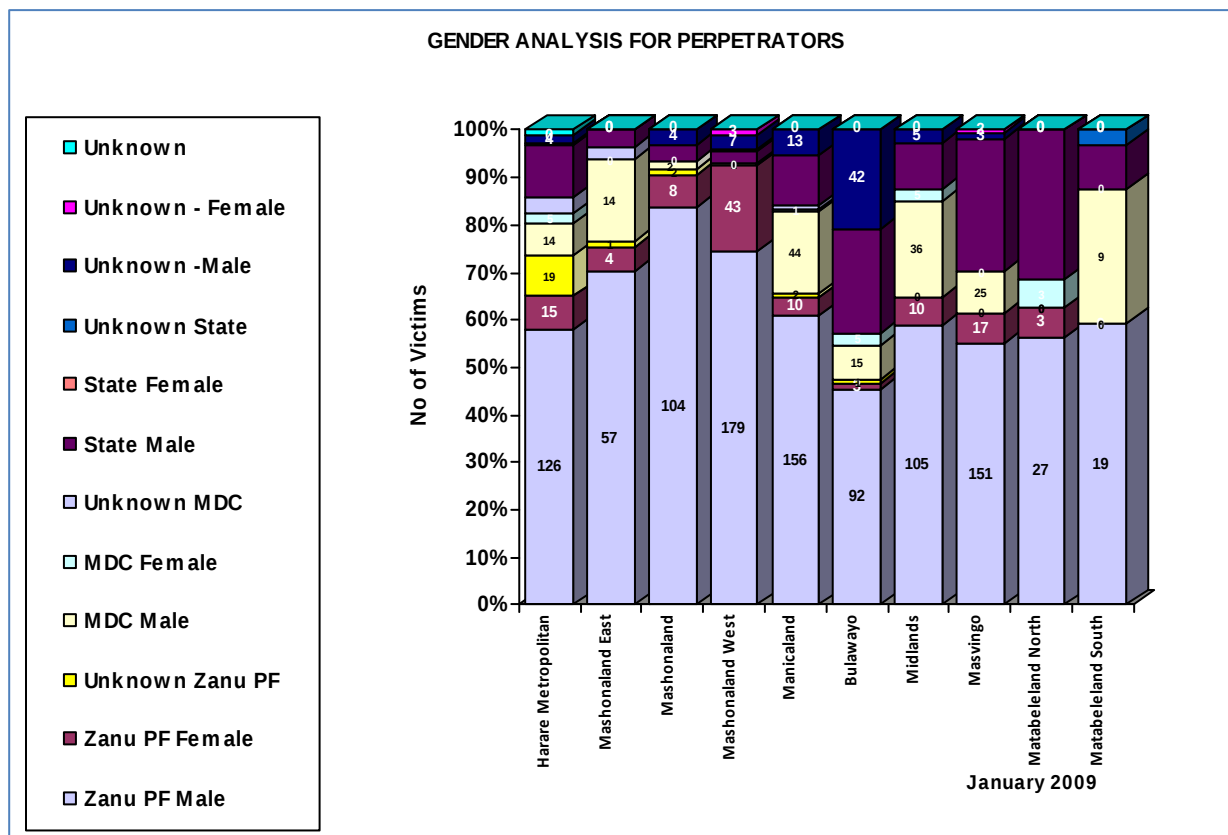
Observations

- There was a total victim toll of 1647, 1140 being male while 458 were female.
- This total victim toll [1647] reflects a slight victim toll drop from its December level of 2092 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 three times that of the ZANU PF male victim toll.
- As in December, the Unknown victim toll remains disturbingly high suggesting the widespread nature of victimization.

Concluding Remarks

The number of those traumatized for various “offences” is still disturbingly high although there was a slight drop from its December 2008 level of 2092 to 1647 by January 2009. Males remain the main victims of violence in both the MDC and ZANU PF however with a disturbing victim toll in the MDC female category. For the sake of future lasting peace and social stability, there is need for a nation-wide social healing process.

GENDER-PERPETRATOR ANALYSIS GRAPH



Observations

- There was an increase in gross perpetrator toll from its December level of 2192 to 1471 by January 2009 and as in the past, the bulk remaining ZANU PF members with 909.
- The number of state perpetrators at 222 also remains high although this was a drop from its December level of 376. Also instructive is to note that even at this level of 222 the toll is still higher than the MDC total of 204.
- ZANU PF remains the main perpetrator across both sexes.
- Perpetrator density remains concentrated in Masvingo [274], Manicaland [256], Harare [217] and Midlands [178].
- Males remain the main perpetrators in both the ZANU PF and the MDC.

Concluding Remarks

Perpetrator statistical spread still suggests that ZANU PF remains the main perpetrators across the board although the level of residual violence in MDC is also cause for concern. Both political parties are therefore obliged to spread the message of non-violence to all their supporters.

FOOD-RELATED HUMAN RIGHTS VIOLATIONS

Midlands

Although as in December 2008 reports point to availability of maize meal in most shops, for most rural dwellers in this province, access remained a major challenge as all goods were now sold in foreign currency. Food shortage therefore remained very critical throughout January 2009. Reports suggest that politically motivated food discriminations are still widespread though clandestinely undertaken. Production of party membership card remains a recurrent problem. In Mberengwa North, a suspected ZANU PF TB patient was reportedly denied access to food in circumstances that smack of political discrimination while in Mberengwa West, a man suspected to be an agent of the MDC was on 7 January 2009 reportedly denied access to maize seeds. In yet another incident in the same constituency, a man was on 23 January 2009 reportedly refused to collect a scotch cart and harrow donated under the RBZ mechanization programme allegedly because his son had been an MDC agent in the March 2008 elections.

Mashonaland West

The food situation was generally acute with reports of some villagers in some parts of the province reportedly consuming maize seed donated either by the state or by food aid agencies. In most shops, maize meal and other food stuffs are reportedly only sold in foreign currency, scenarios that have worsened the food plight of people in both rural and urban areas. With respect to SADC agricultural inputs, reports generally suggest unfair distribution with some local MPs reportedly handing maize seed packets to own supporters.

Masvingo

The food situation remains dire despite the visible NGO involvement of Care International, Christian Care and CADEC among others. As experienced in other provinces most shops are selling maize meal in foreign currency. The problem of politicisation of food aid is still evident. Local political leadership structures are reportedly trying to force themselves in food aid programs, even those sourced by local churches.

Some RBZ farming inputs given to Chiefs for sharing with their people are reportedly not reaching target beneficiaries. Only a few people are said to be benefitting with cases in Bikita South in which names of party supporters were submitted instead of vulnerable people who qualify for free donations. The Gokomere area, reportedly known for its unwavering support for opposition politics has reportedly been denied access to GMB food assistance and agricultural inputs.

In Chiredzi West, SADC Seed distribution at Arex offices were reportedly stopped after reported cases of interferences by senior army officers. Arex officers are reportedly under mounting pressure to surrender seed maize distribution to ZANU PF party, chiefs, headmen and councillors. Seed distribution was relocated to partisan chiefs, headmen and councillors.

In Masvingo West, a well-known Chief on 16 January 2009 reportedly used Bacossi products [which were supposed to be sold to people in September 2008] to pay farm labour at his plot at Sikato Estate. The said commodities were reportedly stored at his homestead during the distribution period and were said to have run out under unclear circumstances and were now resurfacing as payment for the labour.

Mashonaland East

Cases of partisan food discriminations are still reported in most parts of the province. Distribution of maize seeds and information about maize seed allocation is reportedly on political lines, in some cases lists of beneficiaries clandestinely prepared. In Marondera East, suspected MDC members were on 17 January 2009 denied access. Victims were openly told that "the food was sourced by the ruling party". In Marondera Central a woman was on 31 January 2009 denied access to agricultural inputs allegedly because husband works as a driver of the MDC.

Some wards which are deemed MDC T strongholds are reportedly discriminated against. In Mutoko Central, residents were reportedly denied fertilizer because the “ward is for MDC” while in Mudzi West, Kotwa Enterprises was reportedly discriminated against in receiving maize seeds from the National Food Security Programme allegedly because of its leanings to MDC.

Mashonaland Central

Cases of fair food distributions remain very isolated. Most food distribution points are still under the control of ZANU PF, winning MDC councillors yet to take their rightful roles. In most maize seed and food allocations, soldiers and top local leadership are reportedly prioritized to the disadvantage of the most vulnerable groups. At Apam Farm in Bindura South, wheat destined for farm workers was on 4 January 2009 reportedly looted by some unscrupulous local party leaders.

Manicaland

As reported in the December 2008 Report, the food situation remains very critical while incidents of looting of maize seed, agricultural inputs and maize meal as well as partisan distribution of food remain common occurrences in most parts of the province.

Reports also point to partisan access to resources in most communities. In Makoni South, reports refer to a case in which suspected MDC supporters in the Masokis area were prohibited by local headman from accessing grazing areas in the community while in Nyanga North some suspected MDC supporters reportedly denied some suspected ZANU PF party supporters access to Kambudzi Dip Tank, allegedly in retaliation to earlier denials to the facility by suspected ZANU PF members.

Reports also point to continued interferences with the operations of food aid NGOs in the province, in some cases ZANU PF party structures reportedly threatening to take over GOAL food distribution operations in the area if their demands for special preference are not met, a move which GOAL reportedly rejected. In Nyanga District suspected war veterans on 25 January 2009 reportedly stopped the distribution of food aid which had been sourced by a local organization ASAP and intended for the most vulnerable [children, elderly, grandparents, parent-headed families, child-headed families, people living with long-term illness, HIV/AIDs patients]. The organization was reportedly asked to produce a letter of permission from the DAs office and then ordered to halt the allocation of food aid until the required authorization was produced, developments that saw the food aid agency relocating to Nyanga North.

Harare

While by January 2009 maize meal and other food stuffs were readily available in most shops, their availability in foreign currency seriously compromised their access by ordinary members of the public. Access to GFSs remain largely partisan, an active party membership card a requirement. Where food is availed by food aid agencies, reports point to clandestine efforts to take control of the distribution processes by either MDC or ZANU PF party supporters. At the Roman Catholic Church in Highfield East, suspected MDC supporters reportedly denied access to food those who did not have their party regalia. Some local food aid agencies in St Marys Chitungwiza have reportedly been accused of being pro-MDC, most likely by pro-ZANU PF supporters.

Matebeleland North

The food situation is generally critical as reported in December 2008. While most shops are reportedly well stocked with maize meal and other related food stuffs, food sources remain out of reach of most members of the public as it is sold in foreign currency. Interventions by food aid agencies remain stressed as state sources have reportedly been dry for some months. Villagers continue to cheaply exchange their livestock, cattle, goats and fowls for maize meal, a serious risk to their draught power and source of livelihood and security. Food-related incidents remain dotted across the province. In Lupane West, a local miller reportedly refused to offer services to MDC members accusing them of inviting sanctions.

Matebeleland South

Incident reports point to a grim food situation, although as experienced in other provinces, imported and foreign-prized maize meal is readily available in shops. Cases in which food sourced from either state or aid agencies is diverted and sold at exorbitant foreign currency prices remain recurrent issues in most reports. So are cases of party-card food discriminations especially in areas such as Plumtree, Mangwe, Brunerpeg, Bulilima East, and Marula. In some incidents, villagers were reportedly failing to access food from food aid agencies because intended beneficiaries were strictly graded with those according in employment or having children working out of Zimbabwe or having more than four cattle reportedly denied access to food aid, a requirement that we see as out of touch with realities aground as Zimbabwe has been declared a food disaster area with everyone in need of food.

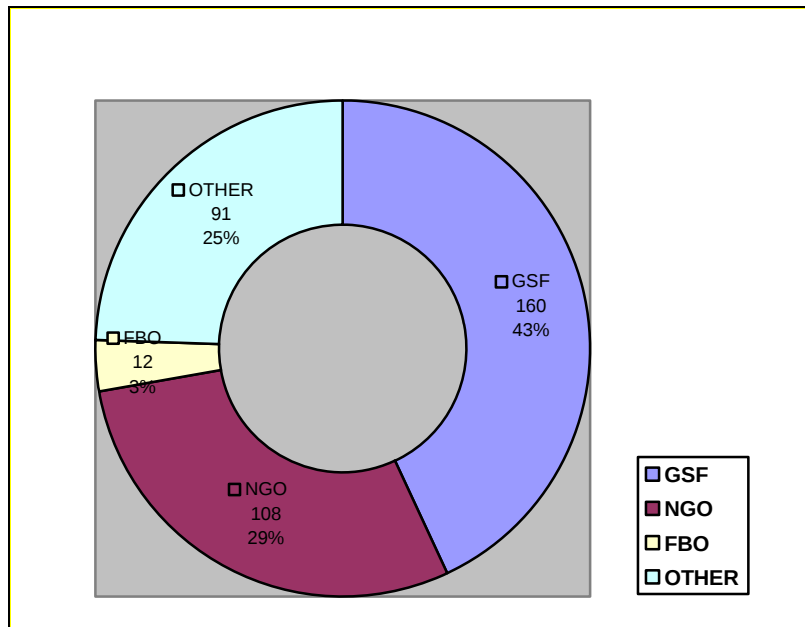
Bulawayo

Reports portray a critical food situation. GFSs remain stressed although maize availability in shops has significantly improved. Resort to wholesale foreign currency pricing in an economy where most people are not being paid in foreign currency has had a serious dent on public access to the readily available maize meal. As reported in Metropolitan Harare, where there is an intervention by a food agency, both political parties jostle to take control of the distribution process.

ANALYSIS OF FOOD-RELATED TRENDS

HARASSMENT	Harare	Manicaland	Mash East	Mash West	Mash Central	Bulawayo	Mat North	Mat South	Masvingo	Midlands	TOTAL
Forced to attend political meetings	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	3	10	15	28
Ordered to produce party card	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	1	2	4
Ordered to take off party regalia	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	4	8
Forced to chant party slogans	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
Ordered to denounce one's party	1	1	0	0	0	1	0	0	2	0	5
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	1	4	0	1	0	1	0	3	15	21	46
VIOLENCE											
Abduction/unlawful detention	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Sexual violence	0	2	0	0	0	1	0	0	3	0	6
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	2	0	0	0	1	0	0	3	0	6
DISCRIMINATION											
Denied Food Aid	8	34	0	15	23	1	0	1	43	27	152
Denied access to GSF	0	0	0	16	0	0	0	0	3	1	19
Denied seeds & fertiliser	1	23	2	7	1	0	1	0	18	3	56
Denied tillage support	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	1
Denied Agricultural Credit	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Denied irrigation	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Denied Education Assistance	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	1
Denied Medical Assistance	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Other	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
TOTAL	9	57	2	38	24	1	1	1	64	31	230
O VERRALL TOTAL	10	63	2	39	24	3	1	4	82	52	282

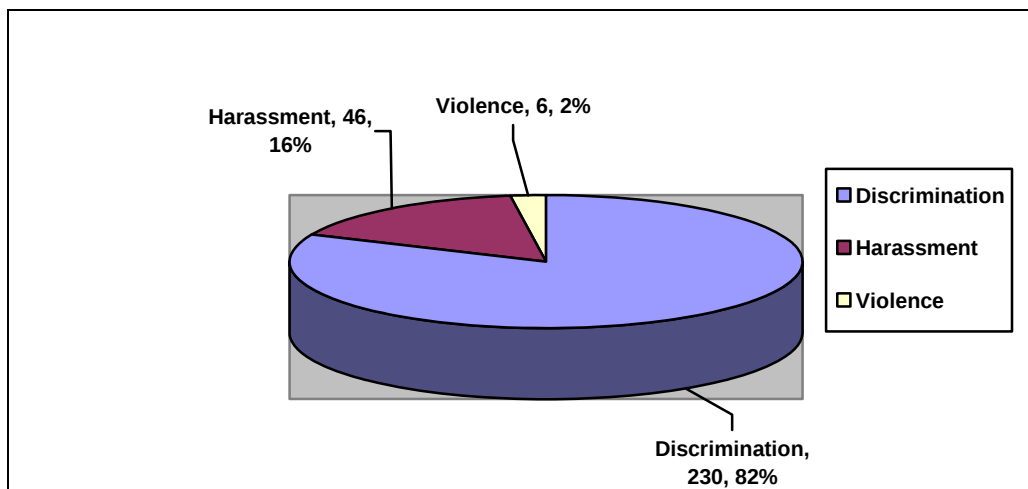
FOOD SOURCES CHART



Observations

- A gross total of 371 food-related human rights violations were recorded with high records in Midlands, Manicaland and Masvingo with least records in Bulawayo, Matebeleland North and Matebeleland South.
- GSF remains the main source of food. Dependence on GSF is high in Midlands, Manicaland and Masvingo; and very low in Matebeleland North, Harare and Bulawayo.
- NGO Sources remain the second main source of food with high NGO visibility in Midlands, Masvingo, Mashonaland East and Manicaland.
- FBO visibility is on the very low side in eight out of the ten provinces.
- There is high dependence on other sources especially in Midlands, Manicaland and Masvingo.

PREVALENCE OF VIOLATIONS CHART



Observations

- A total of 282 cases were recorded showing a slight drop from its December level of 333.
- Of this gross total, 46 [16%] were harassment, 6 [2%] were cases of violence while 230 [82%] were cases of discrimination.
- Cases involving denials of food aid, food relief, and agricultural inputs remain statistically visible.

Concluding Remarks

Food 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

That Zimbabwe remains without a Government five months after the signing of the Global Agreement is hardly tenable as it continues to inflict irreparable damage on the economy, societal welfare and basic human rights. We accordingly implore upon the authorities speedily implement the GPA and form the envisaged all inclusive government as further delay will cause irreparable damage to a society that has gone through much suffering, socially, politically and economically. In particular, urgent intervention measures must be put in place in the education and health sector to ensure that society's basic rights to education and health are protected.

Society is yet to recover from the aftermath of the 27 June Elections. 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 experience in Zimbabwe's electoral history in which relatives from across the political divides fought against each other, many lives were lost, livestock, homesteads, farms and property was lost through looting, arson and evictions while a multitude are currently nursing life-threatening scars and injuries. While narration of these scenarios is not meant to revive past memories, we as the Zimbabwe Peace Project for the sake of lasting peace and social stability there is need for a high profile program of social justice and healing. Those who had their livestock and property looted must be compensated while those who were evicted from homes, houses, farms must be re-instated.

Continued detention of human rights and political activists without trial, denial of treatment of human rights activists and political prisoners is a banal breach of their basic rights. It is the least development given the signing of the 15 September GPA.

Politically engineered food discriminations remain a pronounced issue in all provinces. This scenario is highly untenable given the crisis food situation in the country. Transparent processes must be put in place to ensure that all maize meal and agricultural inputs sourced from both state and non state sources reach intended beneficiaries.

BACKGROUND & FORMATION



The Zimbabwe Peace Project (ZPP) was conceived shortly after 2000 by a group of Churches and NGOs working or interested in human rights and peace-building initiatives, and was to become a vehicle for civic interventions in a time of political crisis. In particular ZPP sought to monitor and document incidents of human rights violations and politically-motivated breaches of the peace e.g. violence.

Today, ZPP's member 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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