



**SUMMARY ON POLITICALLY-MOTIVATED
HUMAN RIGHTS AND FOOD- RELATED
VIOLATIONS**

May 2010

18/06/2010

SUMMARY

This report documents politically motivated human rights violations recorded during the month of May 2010 across the ten provinces of Zimbabwe.

A wave of intimidations and harassments was recorded in the month under review with cases of former victims turning out to be the perpetrators on the rise.

The wider political context within which to situate the human rights violations described in this month's report is the re-emergence of the 2008 so-called "terror bases" and an increase in incidents of displacement and evictions in some provinces of the country.

This comes as political tensions begin to boil up ahead of the Constitutional Parliamentary Select Committee (COPAC)'s outreach teams.

Disturbingly, the "terror bases" were used by ZANU PF militias in the run up to the 2008 presidential run-off to torture and maim then suspected opposition supporters and officials. The police has however a duty to bring the majority of those responsible to justice.

Mashonaland Central Province has witnessed the re-surfacing of ZANU PF youth bases following a series of MDC-T rallies that were conducted in various constituencies in the traditionally volatile province.

It has also been noted that the State has failed to respond to the "terror bases" that have already been set up in Manicaland that were recorded two months ago. Interesting to note is that some of the bases in Mutare have been reported to be manned by war veterans and serving members of the Zimbabwe national Army (ZNA).

The Government has a duty to protect the lives and property of the population and to maintain law and order. Law enforcement authorities have the right to use force where necessary and proportionate to accomplish those ends and where other means are insufficient.

However, instead, the police and other state security agencies have been using a partisan approach in responding to the people's complaints and grievances. Furthermore, police also often fail to act in situations where victims and the general public expect them to. As a result, former victims have turned up to become perpetrators by taking the law into their own hands.

In May, ZPP recorded 186 incidents of assault up from April's 156 cases. The increase has been attributed to the amplified tensions caused by the constitution making euphoria by political party activists.

Violations from both Matabeleland provinces and Bulawayo have remained low although there has been a marked increase in cases of assault in Matabeleland North.

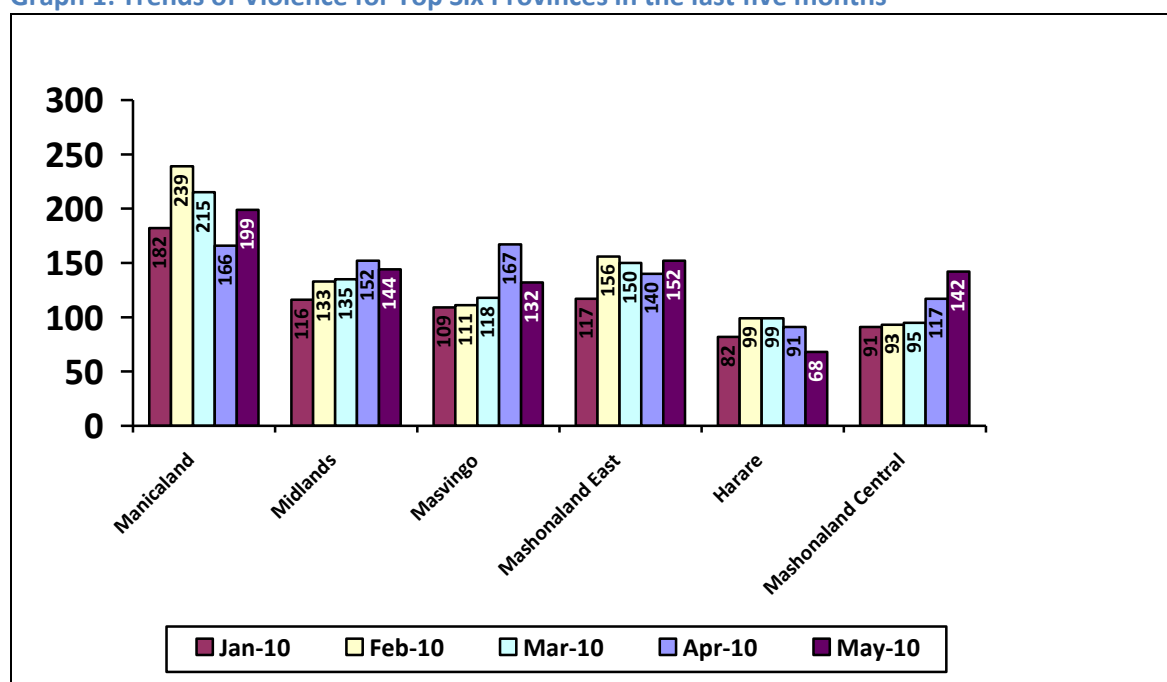
Impunity for human rights violations committed by the state security forces has been and continues to be the norm.

Therefore it is ZPP's position that impunity perpetuates a lack of adequate public security provisions.

It is important that this is dealt with through inclusive democratic practice and not approached as a security issue. Human rights and human security, not simply order, should underpin any government's strategy.

The trends of violations have remained predominantly the same over the past five months.

Graph 1: Trends of Violence for Top Six Provinces in the last five months



INCIDENCES OF POLITICALLY MOTIVATED VIOLATIONS

Politically motivated violations have continued unabated in all the country's ten provinces as differences in the inclusive government cascade down to grassroots communities.

Cases of intimidation and harassment continue to top the violations table with 641 cases having been recorded during the month under review. The most affected provinces have also remained Manicaland, Midlands, Masvingo, Mashonaland East and Central.

The mostly cited violations were because victims had attended MDC-T meetings or putting on political party regalia and failure to support ZANU PF's position on the new constitution at preparatory meetings.

Reports from Manicaland, Mashonaland Central and Mashonaland West indicate that bases that were used by ZANU PF two years ago have been re-activated and they continue to harbour perpetrators of politically motivated violence. The bases in Mashonaland Central were established after a series of successful series of meetings by the MDC-T in the province.

At one base in Manicaland's Nyanga North constituency ZANU PF militias and war veterans assaulted MDC-T supporters, as in many of the other constituencies, for talking negatively about the Kariba Draft or simply belonging to the party of their choice.

The bases in Mashonaland Central have been confirmed in Mazowe South, Shamva South, Muzarabani North and Bindura urban and are being manned by war veterans and ZANU PF youths.

In Mashonaland West the bases were recorded in Kadoma Central and Chegutu.

Similarly, a group of war veterans from Harare Province's Mabvuku-Tafara constituency have set up a permanent base at Caledonia Farm where people are assaulted and harassed for failure to attend ZANU PF meetings.

Reports of victims having been assaulted for wearing political party regalia were recorded across the country and the perpetrators have been from either ZANU PF or the MDC.

Again from Mashonaland Central property rights continued to be trampled upon after four families including a white commercial farmer were evicted from their properties. The white farmer had in the past offered part of his farm for resettlement until an army officer got interested in the property leading to the eviction.

From Midlands, ZANU PF militias from the notorious Border Gezi tortured an MDC activist on May 22, 2010 after the victim had mistakenly dropped his party card in the presence of the youth militias. The militias beat the MDC activist under the feet throughout the night and was only released the following morning and ordered to denounce his party at a public meeting. The victim was later treated at Masase Hospital.

In another violation from the Midlands, a Mberengwa man was forced to beat up his sister after she had failed to attend a ZANU PF meeting that was being addressed by the District Coordinator.

The month of May witnessed a marked increase in the number of politically motivated human rights violations and these were mainly registered in Goromonzi, Hwedza, Seke, Mudzi and Mutoko districts. Cases of harassments, discriminations and assaults were recorded and these were mainly linked to the ongoing constitutional making process.

The political environment remained volatile in Masvingo with harassment and intimidation cases topping the violations chart. Below please find tables on the violations' spread for the month of May, 2010 and cumulative tolls since 2008.

Table 1: Analysis of Politically motivated Violations by Province

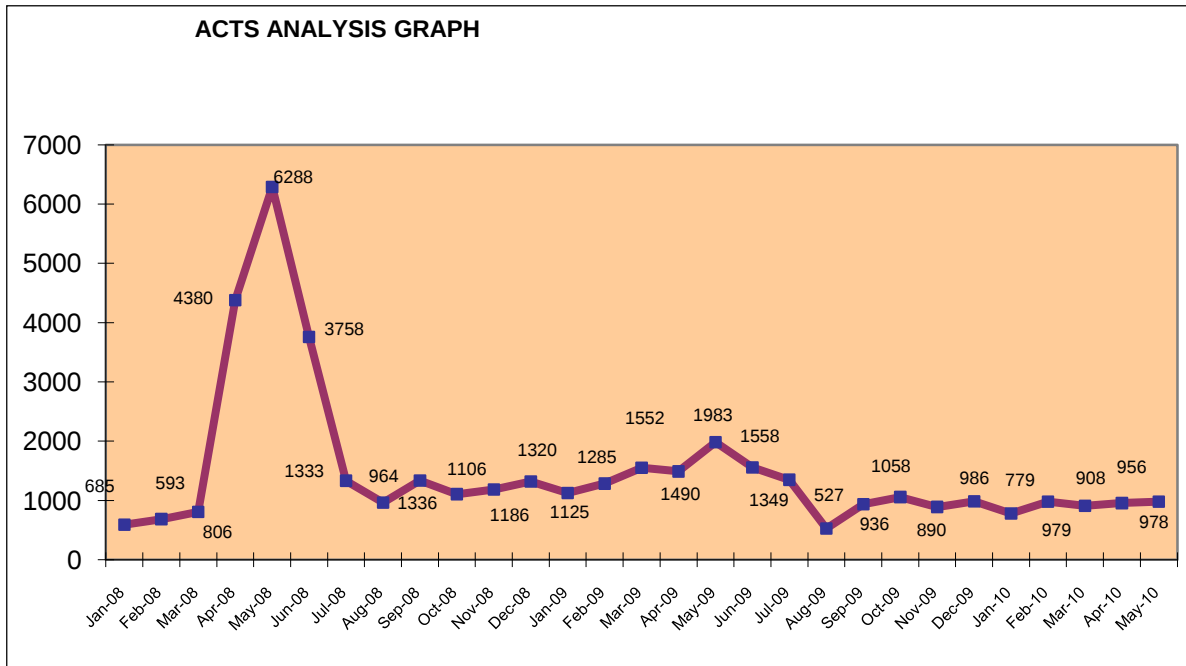
ACTS	Midlands	Bulawayo	Mat. South	Mat. North	Masvingo	Manicaland	Harare	Mash. East	Mash West	Mash Central	TOTAL
Murder	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Rape	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	1
Kidnapping/ Abduction	0	0	0	0	1	3	0	1	0	0	4
Assault	39	0	4	7	19	39	14	34	13	17	186
Theft/Looting	0	0	1	1	1	6	0	8	3	7	27
MDP	1	0	1	1	0	2	1	2	1	2	11
Torture	0	0	0	2	0	1	0	1	0	0	4
Unlawful Detention	1	0	0	2	1	0	0	1	1	0	6
Harassment/ Intimidation	98	9	12	20	103	125	39	92	53	90	641
Displacement	1	0	0	1	1	4	3	4	2	9	25
Discrimination	4	0	1	6	7	18	11	9	0	17	73
Total	144	9	19	40	132	199	68	152	73	142	978

A cumulative violations toll as of May 2010 stands at 43,080 since 2008. See table below for details

Table 2: Cumulative Table of Violations

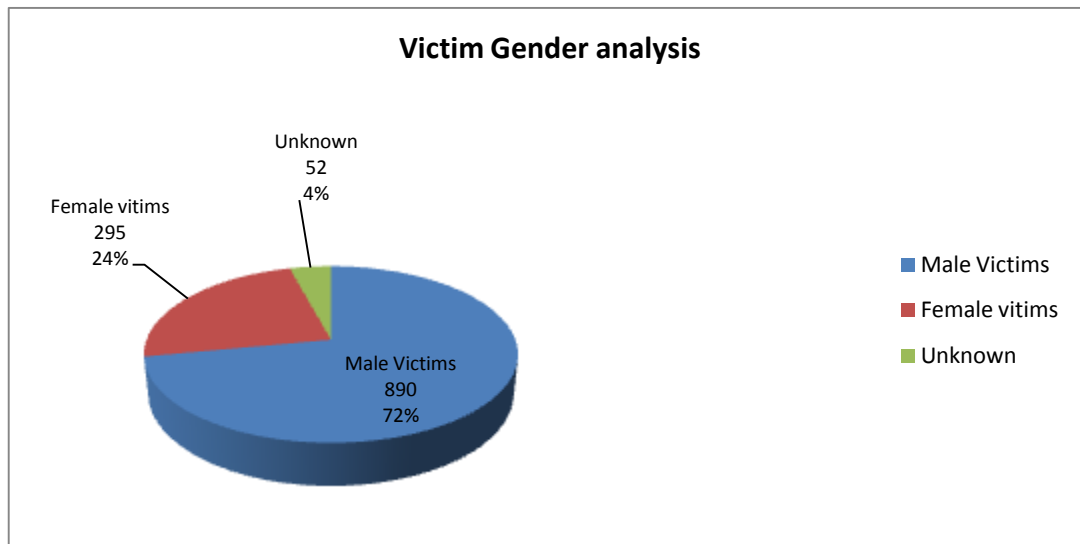
ACTS	2008	2009	2010												Total
			Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	July	Aug	Sept	Oct	Nov	Dec	
Murder	207	8	0	0	1	0	0								216
Rape	61	69	1	0	5	0	1								137
Kidnapping/Abduction	511	147	2	5	5	7	4								681
Assault	4886	3296	165	196	161	156	186								9046
Theft/Looting	611	598	26	30	25	27	27								1344
MDP	1009	294	14	10	16	9	11								1363
Torture	452	157	3	3	2	3	4								624
Unlawful Detention	514	284	6	5	15	8	6								838
Harassment/Intimidation	12593	7865	490	628	589	651	641								23457
Displacement	2508	680	45	26	28	30	25								3342
Discrimination	366	1314	27	76	61	65	73								1982
Attempted Rape	23	3	0	0	0	0	0								26
Attempted Murder	16	10	0	0	0	0	0								24
Total	23755	14725	779	979	908	956	978								43080

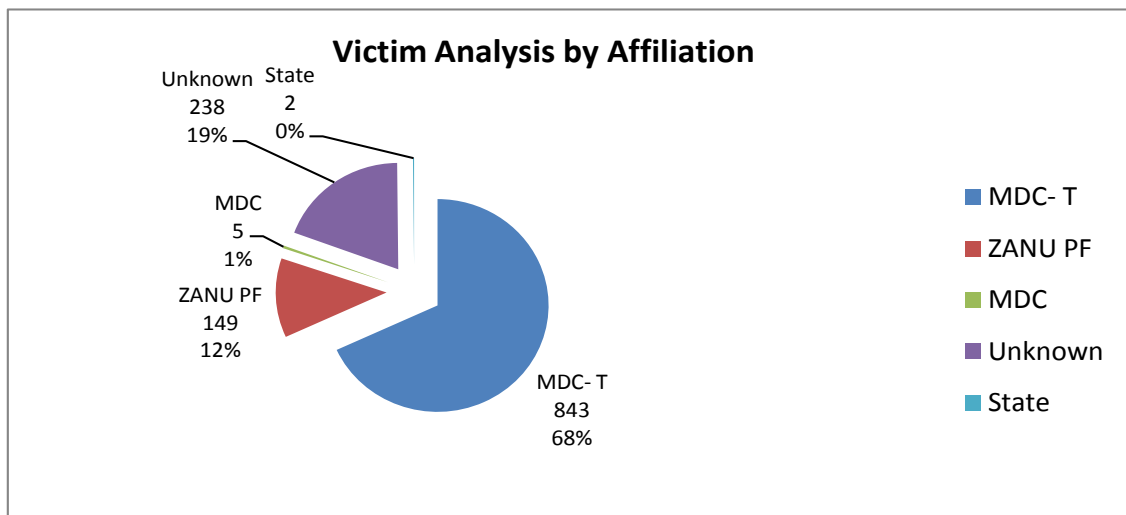
Graphically trends are shown below.



VICTIM ANALYSIS BY GENDER AND ASSOCIATION

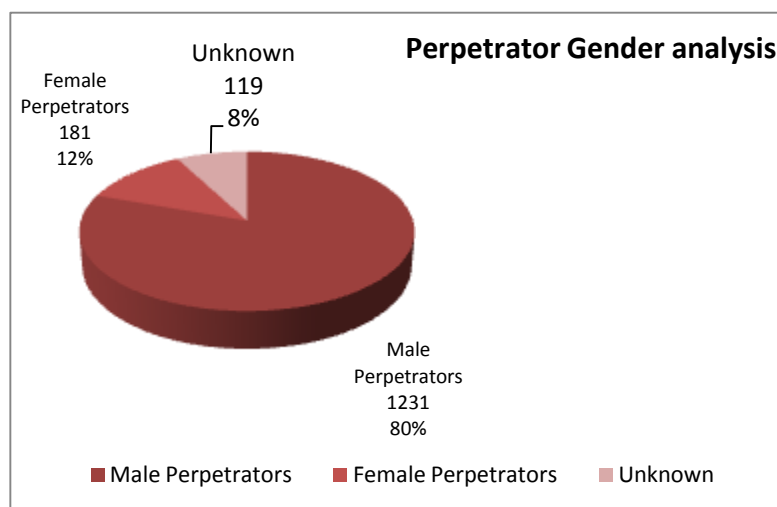
The month under review witnessed a victim toll of 1237 reflecting a slight decrease from April's 1260. Of the 1237 victims 890 are males catering for 72% of the people whose rights were violated during the course of the month. Female human rights violations were 295 representing 24% with the remaining 4% unknown. The trends in violations by affiliation show that MDC-T supporters had their rights violated more, representing 68% of the victims' toll.

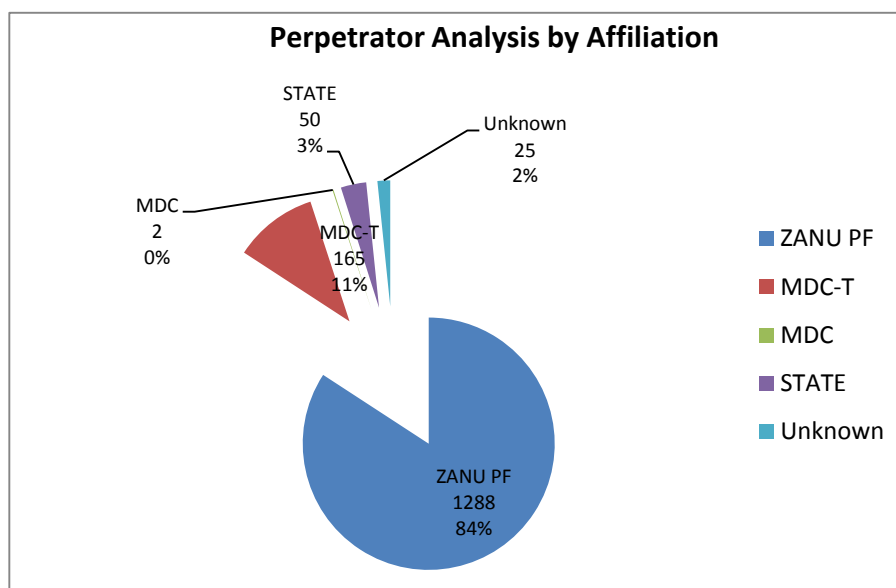




Male and Female Perpetrator Charts

Although still very high, the figures for human rights violators in the month under review showed slight decrease in the number of perpetrators. The month recorded 1531 violators as compared to April's 1646. Males contributed the bulk of the perpetrators representing 80% (1231) while females accounted for 12% (181) of the violations.





FOOD & OTHER FORMS OF AID RELATED VIOLATIONS

Although the month of May witnessed a slight decline in violations, cases of politicisation of food aid and discrimination are still being recorded across the country.

Incidences where beneficiaries are asked to produce party cards and denounce their political parties before one can qualify to get food aid were widespread.

The month under review witnessed 218 violations, a figure slightly lower than April's 238 which were mainly recorded in Midlands, Masvingo, Manicaland and Mashonaland Central.

The major sources of food aid have been non-governmental organisations (NGOs), Faith Based Organisations (FBOs) and the Grain Marketing Board (GMB) to a lesser extent.

From Matabeleland North, there has been a new trend where beneficiaries are being vetted first before they can receive food aid. A senior civil servant from Nkayi has been accused of sifting out beneficiaries from the MDC from a list of registered recipients.

Reports of church and faith based organisations which have been barred from distributing food aid also continue to trickle in.

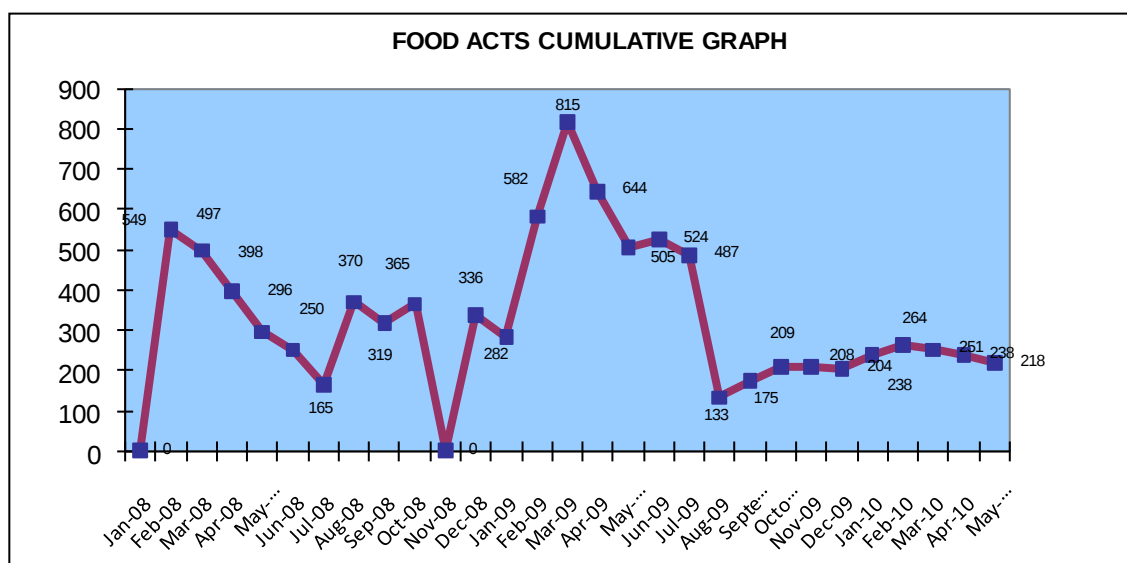
In another incident of discrimination, a man living with HIV was denied food aid which was being distributed by the Farm Community Trust in Mazowe South on the grounds that he supported the MDC.

The cumulative toll violations on the distribution of food and other forms of aid since January 2008, has risen to 10827. Acts of discriminations and harassments continue to dominate the violations charts and there have been no investigations instituted aimed at curbing the abuses.

Table 3: CUMULATIVE TABLE FOR FOOD& OTHER FORMS OF AID RELATED VIOLATIONS

2008	2009	FOOD & OTHER FORMS OF AID RELATED ACT - 2009				
		2010	HARASSMENT	VIOLENCE	DISCRIMINATION	TOTAL
		<i>Closing Figures for 2009</i> →	3101	269	6248	9618
549	282	January	88	2	148	238
497	582	February	100	3	161	264
398	815	March	91	2	158	251
296	644	April	115	0	123	238
250	505	May	98	4	116	218
165	524	June				
370	487	July				
319	132	August				
365	175	September				
376	209	October				
930	208	November				
336	204	December				
4851	4767	TOTAL	3593	280	6954	10827

Food Acts Cumulative Graph



EMERGING ISSUES & WAY FORWARD

The re-activation of terror bases is a very worrying development and may grossly affect the smooth movement of constitutional outreach teams and the type of contributions that may come for the general public.

It is also worrying that the same bases that are coming up now are the ones that were used by ZANU PF as venues to torture and maim supporters of the MDC during the electoral violence that engulfed most parts of the country in 2008.

The continued existence of these bases raises fears of a resurgence of political violence in the rural areas that were greatly affected.

ZPP also believes that a culture of fear that grips Zimbabweans today, after years of political violence could hamper free debate during the constitutional reform process.

The national healing process has to seriously consider the cries of victims of violence who are on a daily basis confronted by the sad reality that their perpetrators are still walking free without being prosecuted.

In the same vein, police officers must freely investigate all the complaints from victims of politically motivated violence with a clear intention of delivering justice and maintaining the rule of law.

ZPP has also noted with concern that party politics continue to shadow the distribution of food and aid related assistance where distribution processes are manned by highly compromised local leadership including chiefs and senior civil servants.

There is need to come up with clear and acceptable guidelines that govern the distribution of food and other forms of aid throughout the country.



BACKGROUND & FORMATION

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

Today, ZPP's member organizations include, Zimbabwe Election Support Network (ZESN), Counselling Services Unit (CSU), Zimbabwe Liberators' Platform (ZLP), Zimbabwe Civic Education Trust (ZIMCET), ZimRights, Civic Education Network Trust (CIVNET).

VISION

Sustainable Justice, Freedom, Peace and
Development in Zimbabwe, for All.

MISSION

To work for sustainable Peace through Monitoring, Documentation, Research & Publications,
and Community Peace Building Interventions ~ through & with our Members & Partners

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Table 4: PROVINCIAL VIOLATIONS OUTLOOK – MAY 2010

PROVINCE	TYPE OF VIOLATIONS/ACTIVITY(IES)		TROUBLE ZONES
	COMMON ACTS (VIOLATIONS)	CAUSES	
MANICALAND	- Harassment/Intimidations (death, violence & unspecified Threats, hate language, forced meetings on constitution, denial of right to participate in constitution making process) - Abduction - Assaults - Discrimination – distribution of food & other forms of aid - Establishment of “Torture” Camps	- Recent discoveries of diamonds in areas such as Wengezi, Chakowa and Charleswood - Political intolerance - Differing views on constitution: People Driven process Vs. Kariba Draft, NCA Draft - Wearing political party regalia, T/shirts from civil organisations - Preparation of COPAC consultative process, campaigns for referendum and 2011 harmonised elections	Makoni Central , Chipinge South, West; Buhera South, Headlands Mutasa South “Torture Base “ Locations Nyanga North, Headlands, Buhera North, South, and Central, Mutare South
MASHONALAND EAST	- Harassments/intimidation - death, violence & unspecified Threats, hate language forced meetings on constitution, denial of right to participate in constitution making process) - Assault confrontational and retaliatory beatings)	- Political intolerance - Differing views on constitution: People driven process Vs. Kariba Draft, NCA Draft - Wearing political party regalia, T/shirts from civil organisations	Mudzi, Goromonzi, Hwedza, Seke , Mutoko and Hwedza Districts
MIDLANDS	- Harassment /Intimidation – death, violence & unspecified Threats, hate language, forced meetings on constitution, denial of right to participate in constitution making process) - Assaults (confrontational and retaliatory beatings) - Discrimination	- Political intolerance - Differing views on constitution: People drive process Vs. Kariba Draft - Wearing political party regalia, T/shirts from civil organisations - Partisan distribution of food & other forms of aid - Preparation of COPAC consultative process, campaigns for referendum and 2011 harmonised elections	Gokwe, Zhombe, , Kwekwe , Mberengwa, Gweru and Zvishavane Districts
MASVINGO	Harassment/Intimidation – (death, violence	Political intolerance	Bikita, Chibi, Zaka North, Chiredzi, Gutu,

	& unspecified Threats, hate language, forced meetings on constitution, denial of right to participate in constitution making process) - Assault	- Scramble for stakes in the run-up to the COPAC Constitutional consultative outreach – Kariba Draft vs. People driven process - Participation in civil service strike (teachers)	Masvingo Rural & Urban
HARARE	- Harassment/intimidation – (death, violence & unspecified Threats, hate language, forced meetings on constitution, denial of right to participate in constitution making process) - Assaults - Discrimination - Re-activation of “Torture Bases	- Political intolerance - Differing views on constitution: People driven process vs. Kariba Draft, NCA Draft - Wearing political party regalia, T/shirts from civil organisations - Scramble for stakes in the run-up to the COPAC Constitutional consultative outreach – Kariba Draft vs. People driven process - Partisan distribution of food & other forms of aid	Mabvuku-Tafara, Glen View North & South, Highfield West <u>“Torture Base “ Locations</u> Mabvuku- Tafara (Caledonia Farm)
MASHONALAND CENTRAL	- Harassment/intimidation – (death, violence & unspecified Threats, hate language, forced meetings on constitution, denial of right to participate in constitution making process) - Assaults - Displacement - Re- activation of “torture bases”	- Political intolerance - Differing views on constitution: People driven process Vs. Kariba Draft, NCA Draft - Wearing political party regalia, T/shirts from civil organisations - Campaign for Kariba Draft	Mt Darwin East, South, and North, Shamva South, Bindura North & South, Mazowe Central, South, West & North, Muzarabani North <u>“Torture Base “ Locations</u> Shamva South, Mazowe South, Mazowe North, Bindura Urban, Muzarabani North
MASHONALAND WEST	- Harassment & intimidation – (death, violence & unspecified Threats, hate language, forced meetings on constitution, denial of right to participate in constitution making process) - Assaults - Re-activation of “Torture Bases	- Political intolerance - Differing views on constitution: People driven process Vs. Kariba Draft, NCA Draft - Scramble for stakes in the run-up to the COPAC Constitutional consultative outreach – Kariba Draft vs. People driven process	Chegutu West, Mhondoro , Mhondoro Ngezi Chinhoyi and Kadoma West <u>“Torture Base “ Locations</u> Chegutu District, Kadoma Central
BULAWAYO	Harassment & intimidation although on minimal levels. Bulawayo is relatively calm	- Political intolerance	Bulawayo East,

MATEBELELAND NORTH	• Harassment & Intimidation (death, violence & unspecified Threats, hate language, forced meetings on constitution, denial of right to participate in constitution making process) • Assaults • Discrimination	• Political intolerance • Differing views on constitution People Drive process vs. Kariba Draft, NCA Draft • Partisan distribution of food & other forms of aid	Binga North, Binga South, Bubi, , Lupane East, Tsholotsho North
MATEBELELAND SOUTH	• Harassment & intimidation • Assault	• Political intolerance • Differing views on constitution: People drive process Vs. Kariba Draft, NCA Draft	Mangwe ,Matobo North, , Gwanda North,