



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

August 2010

22/09/2010

HUMAN RIGHTS VIOLATIONS MONITORING

SUMMARY

THE human rights situation in Zimbabwe continued to deteriorate during the month of August with politically motivated violations continuing to be recorded from all the country's ten provinces. Most of the violations recorded during the month under review were tied to the ongoing Constitutional making process.

The Zimbabwe Peace Project (ZPP) monitors scattered across the country have reported an upsurge in the number of intimidation and harassment cases related to the ongoing Constitutional Parliamentary Select Committee (COPAC)'s outreach programme. The highest numbers of violations were recorded in the Manicaland Province which had 199 cases followed by Mashonaland East with 182.

Recurrent experiences of violence across the Manicaland province has resulted in outreach meetings being cancelled in most of the districts including Chimanimani, Chipinge and Nyanga.

Most rural communities have been systematically harassed and intimidated during the COPAC outreach meetings and in particular where villagers are grouped under their headmen during meetings for ease of identification of those who stray from agreed positions. It has also been noted that chiefs and headmen are conducting roll calls after meetings.

Another form of violations has been in the form of allowing only known party supporters to contribute during the COPAC outreach meetings and the use of the opening prayers to intimidate and outline party constitutional positions on the constitutional Talking Points.

It has been noted that the high figures of intimidations and harassment during the month under review were arrived at where large groups of people's rights were violated before, during and after the COPAC outreach meetings.

Freedom of speech continues to be covertly suppressed through various means that include verbal threats, intimidation, coaching, assaults, presence of state security agents at outreach meetings, and by misinforming the public that recording equipment will be used to identify individuals who were making contributions that were contrary to declared party positions.

For the other most volatile provinces of Masvingo, Midlands and Mashonaland Central the levels of violations remained almost constant with sporadic incidents of physical violence in terms of assaults being recorded.

Violations have also continued in areas where the COPAC outreach teams would have already finished their consultations in the form of interrogations and harassments where people are being asked to explain why they were making contributions which are contrary to ZANU PF's position on the Constitution.

The main perpetrators of the violations recorded in August have been war veterans, ZANU PF youth militias, chiefs, police officers and serving members of the Zimbabwe National Army (ZNA).

INCIDENCES OF POLITICALLY MOTIVATED VIOLATIONS

Although cases of gross human rights abuses, such as murder, rape, arson, kidnapping and abduction have remained significantly low, incidents of politically motivated violations continue to be recorded throughout the country.

Consistent with past trends, politically motivated human rights violations remain concentrated in Manicaland, Mashonaland East, Midlands, Masvingo and Mashonaland Central provinces.

Manicaland Province has remained a hotspot of violations and this has been mainly attributed to the results of the 2008 harmonised elections. In 2008, the former opposition political party the MDC formation led by Prime Minister Morgan Tsvangirai won the majority of the seats in what was predominantly a ZANU PF stronghold. The MDC- T won in 20 constituencies of Manicaland with ZANU PF only managing 6.

The heightened political tensions in the province have resulted in political parties jostling for the control of the views of the people in the ongoing constitutional outreach meetings. ZANU PF has been using war veterans, traditional leaders, members of the youth militias and at times soldiers to force people to shut up or just parrot the party's views during the consultation process.

During a COPAC outreach meeting at Rattleshoek-Tanganda Tea Estate in Chipinge Central an MDC-T supporter was severely assaulted by ZANU PF supporters for his contribution at the meeting on August 18, 2010. The MDC-T supporter had suggested, during the preamble, that the new Zimbabwe Constitution must acknowledge the "Gukurahundi atrocities, Operation Murambatsvina and the June 2008 genocide". This did not go down well with the ZANU PF supporters who attacked the MDC-T member.

Over 600 people who had gathered for the consultation meeting were later chased away by the rowdy ZANU PF supporters leading to the meeting being abandoned.

From Chipinge South, headman Mwanamani Chuke of Chipike Village allegedly went around the community waving the national flag threatening villagers with eviction if ever they said anything to oppose the ZANU PF positions on the constitution.

In Headlands and at Reeb Growth Point, an MDC-T supporter was severely assaulted by a ZANU PF member after the former had criticised the ZANU PF Mbare Chimurenga Choir jingles that are currently being played on radio.

There has been an exponential increase in the number of politically motivated violations from the Mashonaland East province since May this year. This could be attributed to the current wave of political activities linked to the constitutional making process.

Of the violations recorded, the majority of the cases were from Chikomba, Goromonzi, Marondera, Mudzi and Mutoko districts. On August 11, 2010, an MDC-T supporter was heavily assaulted by soldiers for allegedly visiting his party's offices at Kotwa Growth Point. The soldiers' identities and where they are stationed were not immediately available.

An MDC-T supporter was stabbed with a knife by a ZANU PF member during the same week at Nyamuyaruka Township in Mudzi North. This was after a heated debate on what should be included in the country's new constitution.

In another case of revenge, a ZANU PF supporter was brutally assaulted by MDC-T youths at Zhuwao Village in Mudzi North as a pay-back for his role in the run up to the June 2008 presidential election run-off. In another related incident that transpired at Rapid Farm in Marondera East, an MDC –T supporter beat up a ZANU PF member after accusing him of masterminding his demise from the headman’s position in the area.

Mashonaland Central Province recorded a number of violations which were related to the constitution making process and these included malicious damage to property, assaults, displacements, harassments and intimidation. It has been noted that free debates at the COPAC outreach meetings are not allowed as this has been viewed by ZANU PF as giving in to the demands of the MDC-T.

In Mazowe West at Adura Farm, an MDC-T activist was assaulted by the village head because the victim’s husband is a well known MDC-T official. From Muzarabani South, an MDC-T activist was seriously assaulted by two ZANU PF youths after being spotted wearing his party T-shirt.

The province also witnessed cases of displacements where victims were chased away from their homes for belonging to the former opposition party, the MDC-T. An MDC-T activist was chased away from Glenara Farm in Mazowe South by ZANU PF officials after the victim was seen distributing MDC-T talking points before a COPAC outreach meeting in the area. The victim who was employed as a farm worker also lost his job.

From Masvingo Province the Constitution making process contributed to the majority cases of violations in terms of intimidation and harassments. Villagers were forced to attend the outreach meetings guided by ZANU PF’s preferred responses to the constitutional talking points.

It is also frightening to note that more and more reports continue to trickle in of villagers who are threatened with more violence compared to what happened in the period leading to the 2008 presidential election run-off.

Bikita, Chiredzi, Chibi and Gutu were the most volatile districts in the province.

Civil servants at Chivi Growth Point were forced to contribute towards the Heroes’ Day commemorations. Those who failed to attend the commemorations were labelled MDC-T supporters who do not respect the contributions made by war veterans during the liberation struggle. ZANU PF District Coordinating Committee chairperson Sanders Magwizi is also going around the Chivi North constituency threatening people for making “wrong” contributions at COPAC outreach meetings.

Masvingo district recorded a serious case of political violence between the ZANU PF leadership and MDC-T activists which ended up with others being dragged to court. The politicians were fighting for control of Ward 14 villagers under the Masvingo North constituency whom they wanted to coach on how to respond to questions from COPAC.

In Midlands Province there was a slight decrease in incidents of politically motivated human rights violations. There were 38 cases of assault recorded during the month under review as more people fail to tolerate other people’s views.

An MDC-T supporter was severely assaulted by two Zanu PF youths at Gokwe Centre for telling people that they should contribute freely during the constitutional outreach meetings. This did not go down well with the ZANU PF youths who beat up the victim.

A ZANU PF supporter was beaten up by an MDC-T activist in Gweru's Mkoba 9. The two were seating next to each other during the Zimbabwe Defence Forces rehearsals at Mkoba Grounds where the MDC-T activist told the ZANU PF supporter that it was now time for the MDC-T since the coming in of the inclusive government. The MDC-T activist then stood up and started kicking the ZANU PF supporter chasing him out of the ground.

In Kwekwe, a self styled war veteran denied ZZZICOMP observers entry to COPAC outreach meetings at Amaveni Hall, Torwood hall, Mariyagu School, Kotamayi and Zibagwe schools. The highest incidents recorded were those of harassment and intimidation followed by assault.

Most of the violations that were recorded from Mashonaland West province were linked to the Heroes Day celebrations and the constitution making process. The majority of cases were recorded from Kariba, Kadoma, Zvimba, Mhondoro-Ngezi and Karoi districts.

MDC-T activists were denied an opportunity to freely celebrate Heroes' Day commemorations held at Nyamhunga Stadium in Kariba by ZANU PF supporters who were the first ones to arrive at the venue. The ZANU PF supporters chanted party slogans denigrating other political parties in the inclusive government despite calls from the country's leaders to embrace the spirit of oneness during the celebrations.

An MDC activist was chased away from his homestead by the village head from Mutorashanga in Zvimba North. The village head has been threatening to chase everyone who does not support ZANU PF. The victim was told to go and ask his party leaders to find him alternative accommodation.

August reports clearly show that people still do not tolerate other people's views in Harare Province and most parts of Chitungwiza resulting in a lot of harassment, intimidation and even threats of violence.

Three MDC-T female activists were harassed for supporting their party by five ZANU PF youths in Glenview South constituency at Glenview 3 shops.

Five police officers from Machipisa Police Station harassed fifteen MDC-T activists who are also members of the Tatenda Housing cooperative who had grouped to pay up their subscriptions at Zimbabwe Hall in Highfield. The fifteen were accused of attending a political party meeting without police clearance.

Matabeleland North and South provinces have recorded minimal cases of violations despite the enthusiasm that has been associated with the constitutional making process.

Matabeleland South province has remained low on the incidences of politically motivated human rights violations with a total of 5 cases of harassment and 3 cases of assault having been recorded throughout the month of August.

A ZAPU member was harassed and verbally insulted by 2 members from ZANU PF at a business centre in Mtshazo, Gwanda North constituency. The victim was at a bus stop on his way to Bulawayo for a ZAPU meeting where the perpetrators were waiting for him. He was told that he should not mislead people into believing that ZAPU can win an election.

In Bulawayo most cases reported were those of harassment and intimidation. During the period leading to the ZAPU congress in Bulawayo, two youths who are suspected to be members of the

recently revived party were chased from a meeting at Mahatshula suburb. The meeting was to select representatives to the ZAPU national congress.

It has however been noted that there has been a decline in the number of politically motivated violations in the province.

In Matabeleland North, there has been a low level of incidences of politically motivated human rights violations and noted cases included assault, harassment and intimidation, denial of medical assistance and discrimination.

From Hwange Central, an MDC-T activist struck a colleague from his party with a bottle on the left eye accusing him of being a sell-out in a case of intra-party political violence. The victim was accused of having travelled to Masvingo in the company of a District Coordinating Committee chairperson for ZANU PF.

ZANU PF MP for Nkayi North Sithembiso Nyoni reportedly forced everyone present at a prize giving ceremony at Gwelutshena to chant ZANU PF slogans. This was after a football tournament she had organised for primary and secondary schools in her constituency. Present at the meeting were villagers, teachers and school pupils from all the schools that participated in the tournament.

Table 1: Analysis of Politically motivated Violations by Province

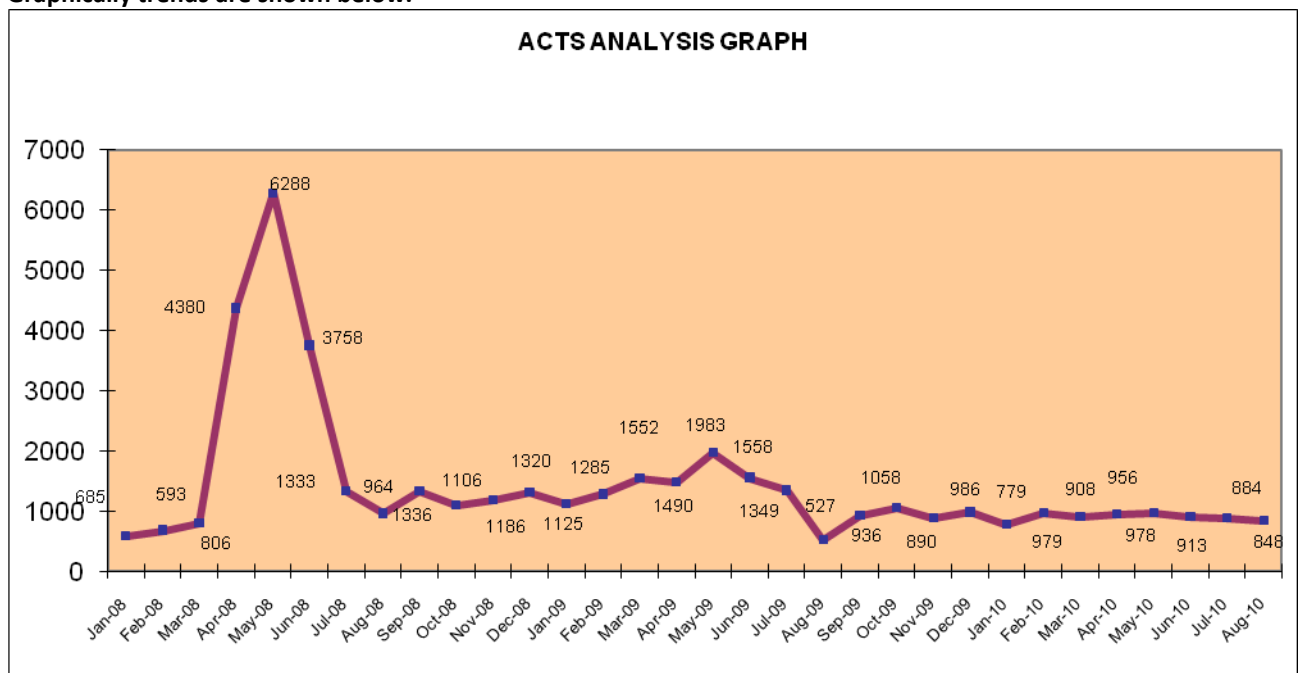
ACTS	Midlands	Bulawayo	Mat. South	Mat. North	Masvingo	Manicaland	Harare	Mash. East	Mash West	Mash Central	TOTAL
Murder	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Rape	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	3
Kidnapping/ Abduction	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Assault	38	2	2	2	13	43	8	38	4	5	155
Theft/Looting	5	1	0	0	3	3	2	26	0	2	42
Discrimination	10	2	0	2	18	36	1	3	0	14	86
MDP	4	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	0	0	6
Torture	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	2
Unlawful Detention	0	0	0	0	2	0	2	1	0	0	5
Harassment/ Intimidation	94	3	4	5	87	117	21	106	5	92	534
Displacement	1	1	0	0	5	0	0	5	1	3	15
Total	155	9	6	9	127	199	34	182	10	117	848

A cumulative violations toll as of August 2010 stands at 45 725 since 2008. See table below for details

Table 2: Cumulative Tables 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	0	0	0					216
Rape	61	69	1	0	5	0	1	6	4	3					150
Kidnapping/Abduction	511	147	2	5	5	7	4	1	13	0					695
Assault	4886	3296	165	196	161	156	186	169	154	155					9524
Theft/Looting	611	598	26	30	25	27	27	27	17	42					1430
Discrimination	366	1314	27	76	61	65	73	62	98	86					2228
MDP	1009	294	14	10	16	9	11	25	10	6					1404
Torture	452	157	3	3	2	3	4	7	3	2					636
Unlawful Detention	514	284	6	5	15	8	6	7	7	8					869
Harassment/Intimidation	12593	7865	490	628	589	651	641	587	558	534					25124
Displacement	2508	680	45	26	28	30	25	22	20	15					3399
Attempted Rape	23	3	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0					26
Attempted Murder	16	10	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0					24
Total	23755	14725	779	979	908	956	978	913	884	848					45725

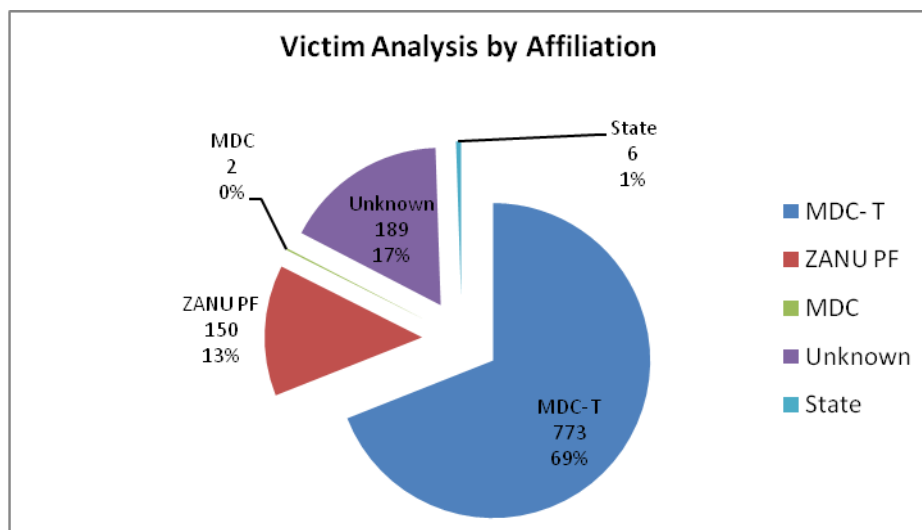
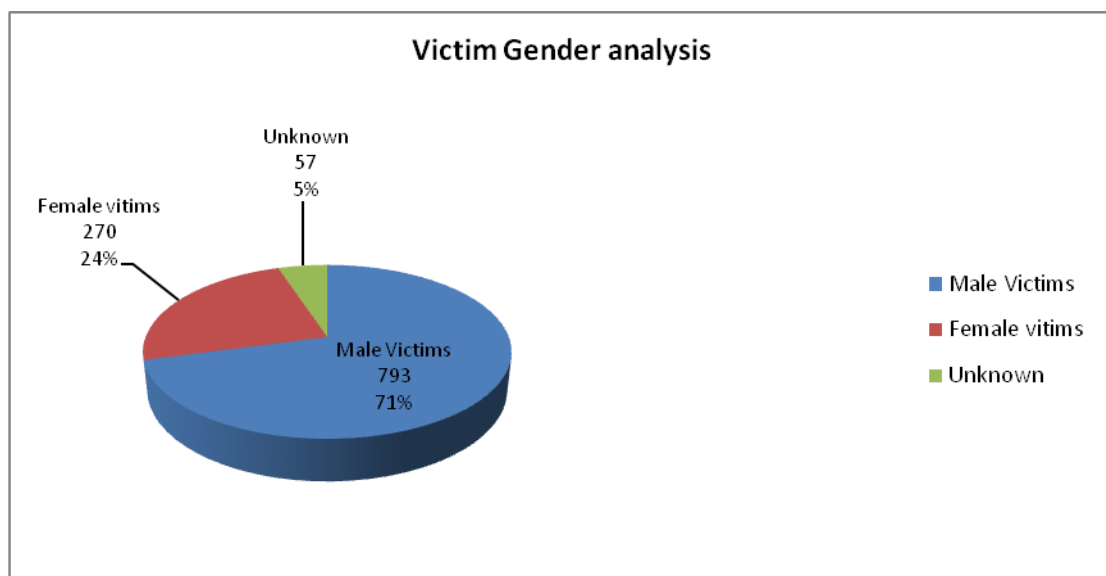
Graphically trends are shown below.



VICTIM ANALYSIS BY GENDER AND ASSOCIATION

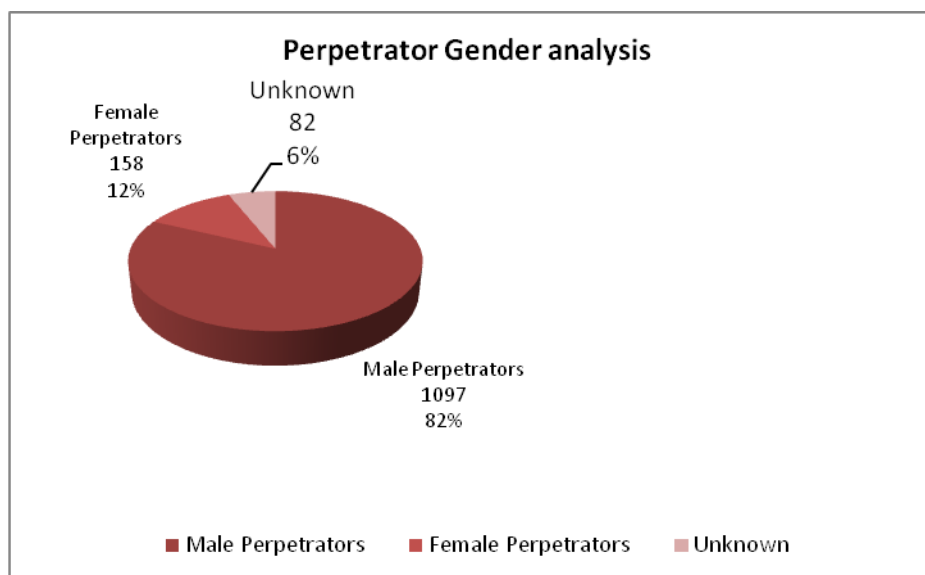
During the period under review males contributed the highest number of victims with 793 people having had their rights violated representing 71% compared to their female counterparts (270) accounting for 24% of the victims.

The victim toll for the month was 1 120 showing a slight decrease from July's 1 141. The MDC-T supporters had their rights violated more than their counterparts from the other political parties. There were 773 MDC-T supporters who had their rights violated up from 697 recorded during the month of July. Zanu PF had 150 of its supporters who had their rights violated representing 13% of the victims.



Male and Female Perpetrator Analysis and Charts

The perpetrators analysis by gender show that males were the chief culprits representing 82% of the violators of human rights compared to their female counterparts who constitute only 12%. During the month of August 1 097 males were recorded as perpetrators while only 158 were females believed to have caused human rights violations throughout the country.



HINDRANCES TO CIVIL SOCIETY WORK

The period under review witnessed no major threats to human rights defenders by the State but the continued harassments of grassroots monitors has continued to pose serious challenges to civil society work across the country.

A Harare magistrate on 17 August, 2010 relaxed bail conditions for the director of the Centre for Research and Development Farai Maguwu, who is facing charges of publishing false information prejudicial to the State over the operations at Chiyadzwa diamond fields.

Maguwu is now supposed to report once every Monday at the Mutare Central Police Station instead of reporting to the police on a daily basis.

His travel restrictions were also lifted. Maguwu's stringent bail conditions were not allowing him to travel a radius of more than 40km outside Mutare. He is expected back in court on the 23rd of September.

FOOD & OTHER FORMS OF AID RELATED VIOLATIONS

There were a total of 200 food and other forms of aid related human rights violations that were recorded during the period review where people could not access aid from the different sources across the country. Most of the cases were related to the rights to education and the right to health as most victims were denied life saving drugs such as anti-retroviral drugs (ARVs).

Manicaland Province witnessed the number of violations where in most cases traditional leaders have been noted as the main perpetrators. Headman Munyarari from Mutare South demanded village levies from two widows under his jurisdiction before they could be registered under the programme to assist the elderly and the most vulnerable groups.

Community health workers based at Tamunesa Village in Nyanga South declined to assist a ZANU PF supporter who is now terminally ill claiming that the victim harassed them in the run-up to the June 2008 presidential run-off.

From Mashonaland East an MDC-T activist was denied access to donations from a Faith Based Organisation (FBO) after some rowdy ZANU PF youth torched his fowl-runs at Chimbwanda School just a few days before an inspection. The FBO officials were supposed to inspect the fowl-runs to ascertain whether the beneficiary met the requirements to qualify for assistance for the poultry project.

The Midlands province had the majority of cases where people were denied food relief for failure to produce political party cards and for failing to chant party slogans.

From Harare, an MDC-T activist was denied food at the Greendale Nursery School from an FBO based in Harare for allegedly not attending ZANU PF meetings by five ZANU PF members.

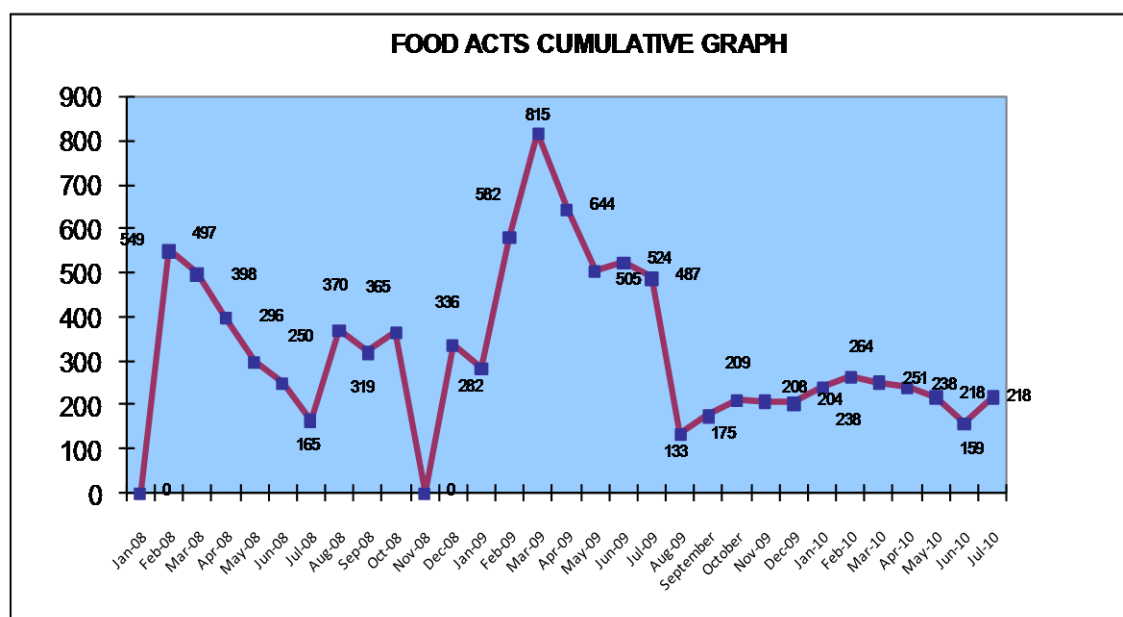
Another MDC-T activist was denied food aid from a local NGO that deals with people living with HIV and AIDS by ZANU PF members who were the food distributors at Lusaka Crèche in Highfield for supporting his party.

Some suspected ZANU PF supporters attacked a female MDC-T activist in Bulawayo's Luveve constituency after they found her selling maize meal at her house. The victim was accused of being a sellout and the perpetrators took away 80kgs of maize meal.

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	77	0	82	159
370	487	July	105	1	112	218
319	132	August	93	0	107	200
365	175	September				
376	209	October				
930	208	November				
336	204	December				
4851	4767	TOTAL	3868	281	7255	11404

Food Acts Cumulative Graph



EMERGING ISSUES & WAY FORWARD

Constitutional outreach meetings have continued in a heavily polarized environment where participants cannot freely express themselves for fear of retributive violence. ZPP has noticed serious challenges at the meetings in the form of sloganeering at meetings, grouping of people under a headman or the traditional leaders and open political threats at the beginning of meetings.

Verbal threats, harassments, intimidation, presence of state security agents at outreach meetings, perceptions that recording equipment will be used to identify individuals making contributions, among others were recorded from the country's eight provinces where outreach meetings were underway during the month of August.

Cases in which ZANU PF local leaderships in various provinces resort to using opening prayer sessions to covertly discourage participants from expressing personal views during outreach consultations continue to be reported, with indications that this malpractice is spreading to other provinces.

Reports of incidents in which venues were changed by the local political leadership without notice as well as ferrying of people from other wards in a bid to neutralize views of other parties is highly deplorable as it leads to a recycling of already said views and at the same time robbing locals of the once-in-life opportunity to express their views on how they and the future generation should be governed.

Traditional leaders have continued to abuse their positions in society and are increasingly pushing for one political party agenda. ZPP reiterates its calls on the traditional leaders to exercise their leadership duties judiciously without fear, bias or favour.

The art of manipulating traditional leaders was introduced during the colonial era where chiefs were moulded to have all their subjects respecting certain political policies.

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 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 – August 2010

PROVINCE	TYPE OF VIOLATIONS/ACTIVITY(IES)		TROUBLE ZONES
	COMMON ACTS (VIOLATIONS)	CAUSES	
MANICALAND	- Harassment/Intimidations, unspecified Threats, hate language, forced meetings on constitution, denial of right to participate in constitution making process - Assaults - Discrimination – distribution of food & other forms of aid	- Political intolerance - Differing views on constitution: People Driven process vs. Kariba Draft, NCA Draft - Wearing political party regalia, T/shirts from civil society organisations - Constitutional outreach meetings	Chipinge, Nyanga, Headlands
MASHONALAND EAST	- Harassments/intimidation - death, violence & unspecified Threats, hate language forced meetings on constitution, denial of right to participate in constitution making process) - Discrimination (food and other forms of aid distributions) - Assault	- Political intolerance - Differing views on constitution: People driven process vs. Kariba Draft, NCA Draft - Wearing political party regalia, T/shirts from civil society organisations - Constitutional outreach meetings	Mudzi, , Marondera, Goromonzi, Chikomba and Mutoko districts
MIDLANDS	- 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 - Wearing political party regalia, T/shirts from civil society organisations - Partisan distribution of food & other forms of aid - COPAC consultative process,	Gokwe , Chirumanzu Zibagwe, Redcliff and Kwekwe,
MASVINGO	- Harassment/Intimidation – (death, violence & unspecified Threats, hate language, forced meetings on constitution, denial of right to participate in constitution making process) - Assault	- Political intolerance - Scramble for stakes in the run-up to the Constitutional consultative outreach – Kariba Draft vs. People driven process - Participation in civil service strike (teachers)	Masvingo District, Chivi Districts
HARARE	Harassment/intimidation – (death, violence & unspecified Threats, hate language, forced meetings on constitution, denial of	- Political intolerance - Differing views on constitution: People driven process vs.	Chitungwiza, Highfield, Glenview, Epworth and Budiriro

	right to participate in constitution making process) Assaults	Kariba Draft, NCA Draft - Wearing political party regalia, T/shirts from civil society organisations - Preparation of COPAC consultative process, campaigns for referendum and 2011 harmonised elections	
MASHONALAND CENTRAL	- Harassment/intimidation – (death, violence & unspecified Threats, hate language, forced meetings on constitution, denial of right to participate in constitution making process) - Assaults	- Political intolerance - Differing views on constitution: People driven process vs. Kariba Draft, NCA Draft - Wearing political party regalia, T/shirts from civil society organisations - Campaign for Kariba Draft	Mazowe South, West & North, Muzarabani South
MASHONALAND WEST	- Harassment & intimidation – (death, violence & unspecified Threats, hate language, forced meetings on constitution, denial of right to participate in constitution making process) - Assaults	- Political intolerance - Differing views on constitution: People driven process vs. Kariba Draft, NCA Draft - COPAC consultative process,	Kadoma, Zvimba North, Kariba
BULAWAYO	Harassment & intimidation although on minimal levels. Bulawayo is relatively calm	Political intolerance	Bulawayo East, Luveve
MATEBELELAND NORTH	- Harassment & Intimidation (death, violence & unspecified Threats, hate language, forced meetings on constitution, denial of right to participate in constitution making process) - Intra party violence (MDC-T, ZAPU) - Discrimination	- Political intolerance - Differing views on constitution People Drive process vs. Kariba Draft, NCA Draft - Partisan distribution of food & other forms of aid	Hwange Central Nkayi North,
MATEBELELAND SOUTH	- Harassment & intimidation - Assault - Intra party violence (ZAPU)	- Political intolerance - Differing views on constitution: People drive process vs. Kariba Draft, NCA Draft - COPAC outreach meetings	Gwanda North