

THE *Bumpy* ROAD AHEAD

THE ZIMBABWE PEACE PROJECT
MONTHLY MONITORING REPORT
JUNE 2022



ZIMBABWE
PEACE
PROJECT

MORE NO GO AREAS

This June, Zanu PF continued to shut down the space for the opposition in Mashonaland West, East, Central and Masvingo provinces and perhaps the most prominent case is when suspected Zanu PF youths allegedly backed by Energy minister and Muzarabani North legislator, Soda Zhemu, and Home Affairs minister Kazembe Kazembe attacked Citizens Coalition for Change (CCC) Vice President Tendai Biti as he was travelling from Muzarabani.

According to information ZPP gathered, the Zanu PF district chairperson Emmerson Raradza, Muzarabani South Legislator Tapera Saizi and Zhemu, with the assistance of Kazembe organized a group of party youths and mobilized resources to converge and attack Biti, who is also Harare East legislator.

It is alleged that Kazembe got information of Biti's visit to Muzarabani through the police channels which he superintends.

Kazembe allegedly went on to pass Biti's travel details to Saizi and Zhemu, who organised the attack.

With the plan finalised, it was shared with Raradza and Central Intelligence Office operative identified as Hamunyari Kasengezi, who then allegedly organised vehicles to ferry party youths from Muzarabani North's Wards 7, 8 and 9.

The youths were allegedly given beer and food to carry out the attack. The youths allegedly mounted a roadblock and when Biti's vehicle convoy arrived the youths sang and chanted Zanu PF songs and slogans as they stoned the motorcade, forcing Biti to make a u-turn back to Harare.

This is just one of the prominent cases where the operating space for the opposition is being constricted ahead of the 2023 elections and in the past three months, ZPP has recorded over 20 incidents where Zanu PF local leaders or traditional leaders have deliberately taken action meant to intimidate opposition supporters.

For example, in June, Zanu PF youths forced CCC supporters to abort a soccer tournament organised by the opposition. Zanu PF youths alleged that they had not been informed of the tournament and it could, therefore, not go ahead.

Even President Emmerson Mnangagwa seems to be part of the whole grand scheme to alienate the opposition because when he visited Murehwa in June in his capacity as the Head of State, to commission a Civil Registry office, he allegedly summoned traditional leaders and while addressing them, he said they were supposed to be seen to be actively leading the Zanu PF party local structures called cells.

According to the Constitution, traditional leaders are not supposed to support any political party and by addressing the traditional leaders in his Head of State capacity and 'urging them to support and lead Zanu PF structures,' President Mnangagwa not only abused his authority, but also acted in contravention Section 281 of the Constitution, which clearly states that traditional leaders must not be members of any political party or in any way participate in partisan politics and must not act in a partisan manner or further the interests of any political party or cause. President Mnangagwa is not alone in this, because his deputy, Vice President Constantino Guvheya Chiwenga, in May, while addressing an Africa Day eve meeting, told traditional leaders in Gwanda to mobilize for Zanu PF ahead for the 2023 general elections



. In the same month, Zanu PF Vice-President Kembo Mohadi also summoned Bulilima West traditional leaders to a meeting at Plumtree town offices, where he told them to mobilize and campaign for Zanu PF. Mohadi also held another meeting at Esikhoveni Institute where he said the same thing to traditional leaders.

The attempts to shut down space cascade down to the lower levels of Zanu PF leadership and in Mudzi and Murehwa North, Zanu PF councillors and legislators continued to force villagers to attend Zanu PF meetings.

A CCC supporter in Mudzi North received death threats after questioning a Zanu PF Ward Chairperson why he was forcing villagers to chant ruling party slogans. The ward chairperson is reported to have threatened villagers at a Ward Development Committee meeting, which is supposed to be apolitical and open to all villagers.

The cases are all over the country and in Nyanga North's Ward 2, while addressing a meeting at Avila Shopping Centre on 11 June 2022, the Zanu PF ward chairperson Paul Teta said the party was due to resume night vigils and establish camps where opposition supporters would be assaulted and tortured the same way the party did in 2008 when it launched an orgy of violence against opposition supporters following the then President Robert Mugabe's loss to opposition leader Morgan Tsvangirai.

Based on this and more human rights violations recorded in June 2022, Zanu PF once again was ahead of the pack, contributing to over 43 percent of all violations while the Zimbabwe Republic Police followed behind at 24.4 percent.

The main opposition, CCC, was implicated in nearly four percent of all violations and this stems mostly from the party youths' retaliation against attacks on its supporters by Zanu PF youths in Nyatsime.

In Nyatsime, CCC activist Moreblessing Ali was abducted then murdered and her body cut into pieces in one of the worst forms of suspected political brutality. After the discovery of Ali's mutilated body in a disused well Zanu PF went on to claim that Ali was their member although when she went missing not once did the local leadership of the party raise concern about her disappearance.

Her murder sparked intense political violence in the area (see next section)

In all the human rights violations, about 91 percent of victims are ordinary citizens while about seven percent are CCC supporters and 0.5 percent are Zanu PF supporters. There is a possibility that some citizens deliberately hide their political affiliation for fear of reprisals that come with being associated.

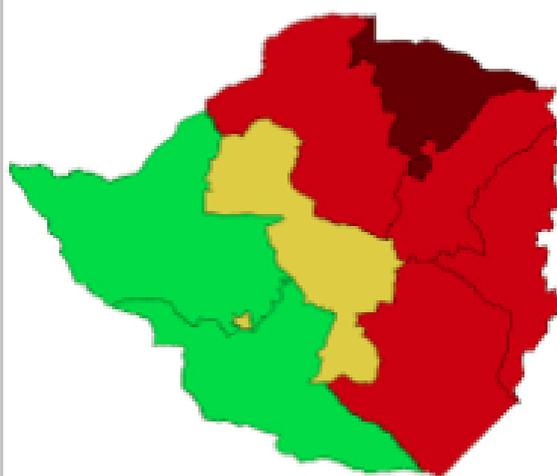
THE VIOLATIONS IN GRAPHICS

Human Rights Violations Monthly Dashboard

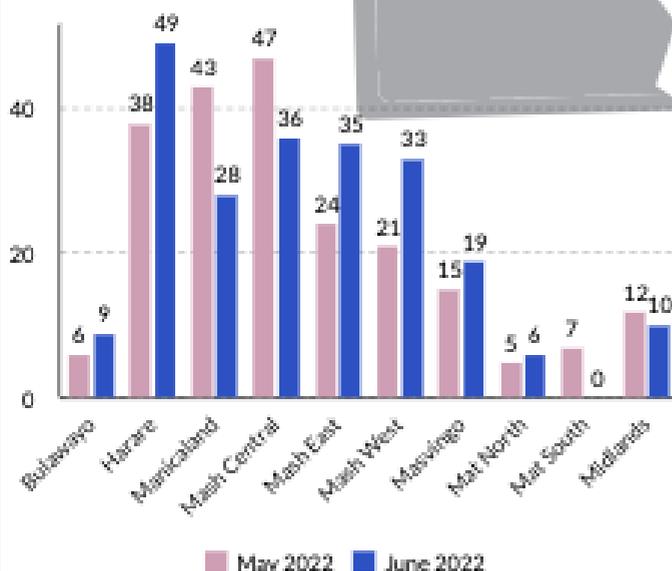
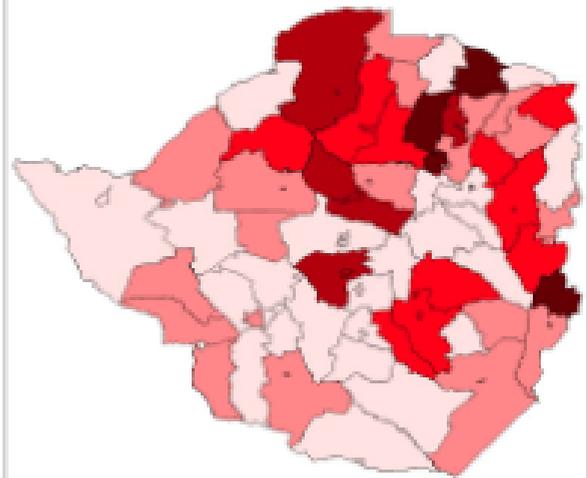
Zimbabwe Peace Project

Report time frame: June, 2022

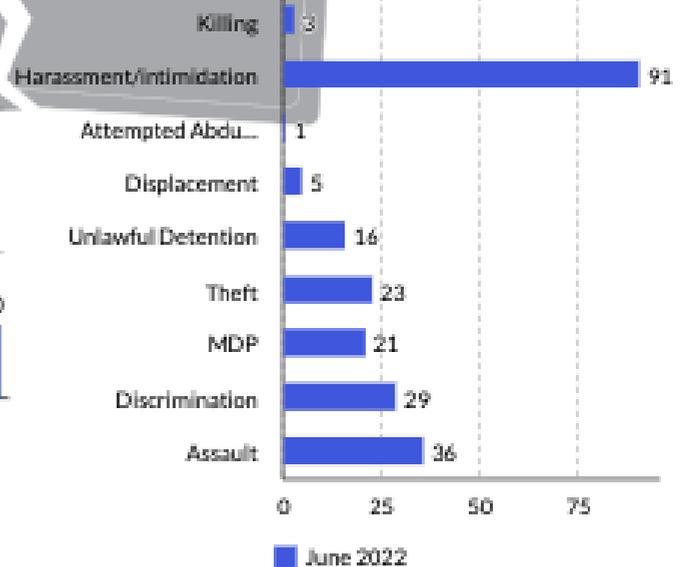
Provincial Violations



District Violations

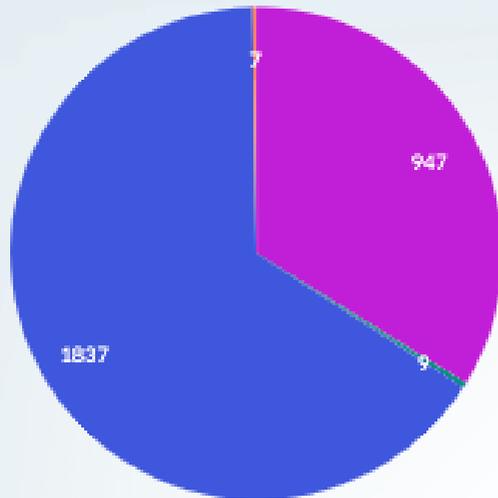


Provincial Violations

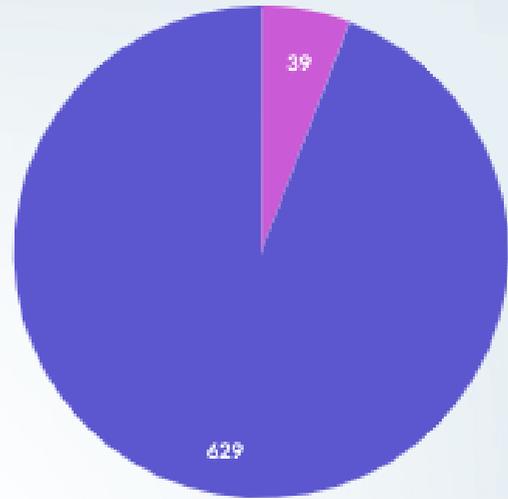


Types of Violations

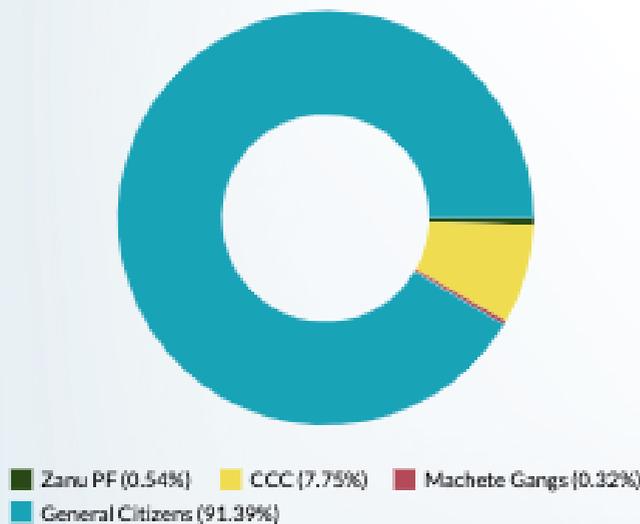
THE VIOLATIONS IN GRAPHICS



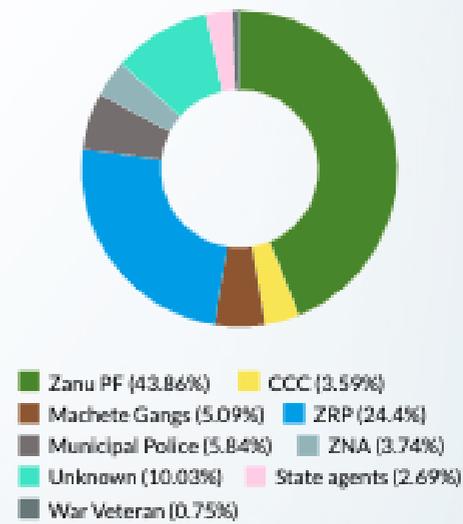
Gender of Victims



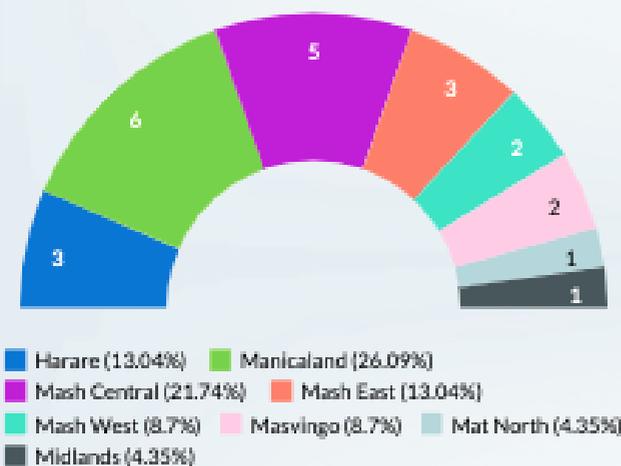
Gender of Perpetrators



Victims Affiliation



Perpetrators Affiliation



Food & Other Aid Violations



Intra Party Violence

SPECIAL
FOCUS

THE LAW & JUSTICE SYSTEM AS WEAPONS

The State continued to weaponise the law to target opposition and civil society individuals. On 6 June anti-riot police besieged the offices of the Zimbabwe Divine Destiny (ZDD) and arrested Bishops and church members who were gathered in prayer under the theme, “The Zimbabwe We Want Campaign.” Bishop Ancelimo Magaya of the ZDD and at least 36 worshippers were arrested by the police who claimed that their gathering was political.

They were arrested at the Dutch Reformed Church building in central Harare where they intended to launch ‘The Zimbabwe We Want’ campaign. The irony of all this is the fact that in Manicaland the President was addressing an even larger gathering of the Apostolic church where he declared that ...”Zimbabwe is open for business and it is also open for religion.”

Following that, police, arrested Amalgamated Rural Teachers Union of Zimbabwe (ARTUZ) and Crisis in Zimbabwe Coalition Spokesperson, Obert Masaraure on a ‘charge of murder’ related to a death by suicide which happened in 2016 incident. An inquest into the matter, had already ruled out foul play. The labour rights activist endured a week in detention and as has become the norm, had his bail denied several times.

Police also arrested four Institute for Young Women’s Development (IYWD) staff members for holding a meeting with their members.

At the time of writing, opposition legislators Job Sikhala and Godfrey Kurauone and 11 other activists are still in detention, having been denied bail after being charged with inciting violence in Nyatsime, where CCC activist Ali was murdered in a suspected politically motivated case.

Following the discovery of Ali’s mutilated body, the police has gone on to arrest the two legislators and 11 CCC activists, leaving out known Zanu PF activists who publicly incited Zanu PF supporters to bar CCC supporters. The person suspected of murdering Ali Pious Jamba has been arrested and has since appeared in court.

Of great concern is that among the 11 CCC activists, three are victims of arson after their houses were burned down by suspected Zanu PF supporters in the orgy of violence that occurred in the area as tempers flared over Ali’s murder. The surprising bit is that those responsible for malicious damage to property of CCC members have not been arrested revealing selective application of the law.

In June alone, ZPP recorded 16 cases of unlawful detention as the law enforcement and justice systems are increasingly being used as weapons to silence government critics and civil society actors.

In light of the continued use of the law to silence opposition actors, ZPP makes the following observations and recommendations.

- The police have a mandate to conduct themselves in a fair and lawful manner, and should enforce the law regardless of political affiliation. In a fair society, we should be seeing the Zanu PF Councillor, Masimbi Masimbi who publicly incited Zanu PF supporters to bar CCC members from mourning Ali, and the Zanu PF activists who torched CCC activists’ houses, being arrested. Not only does fairness promote transparency and confidence in the police force, it also helps end of impunity. As it stands, it appears Zanu PF supporters can break the law and walk scot-free in the face of considerable evidence of breaking the law and violating the rights of others.

- While the CCC leadership has publicly denounced violence, which is a welcome move, we believe they should do more to ensure that their supporters are not drawn into retaliating. This is because such a scenario can only breed more violence. The leadership should also desist from irresponsible utterances.

ROAD TO 2023

AS NOTED IN THE GRAPH,
HARARE PROVINCE HAS
THE HIGHEST NUMBER OF
POLITICALLY MOTIVATED
HUMAN RIGHTS
VIOLATIONS WITH A TOTAL
OF 22 POLITICALLY
MOTIVATED VIOLATIONS,
15 OF WHICH ARE SERIOUS
AND FIVE ARE SEVERE,

In this section, we analyse the trends of politically motivated human rights violations across the country.

This is part of the ZPP campaign to have citizens resist, reject and report violence ahead of the 2023 election.

The campaign, #RRRV2023 is specifically designed as an early warning system of political violence with the view that relevant agents can adopt preventive measures.

This is because ZPP has noted how community members are used to mete out violence against each and the moment they unite against violence, peaceful contestation is likely to prevail. So, the #RRRV2023 campaign, separates politically motivated human rights violations from all the other forms of violations, and using a highly sophisticated data analysis tool, ZPP maps the severity of the violations to give an indication of the political volatility of each province.

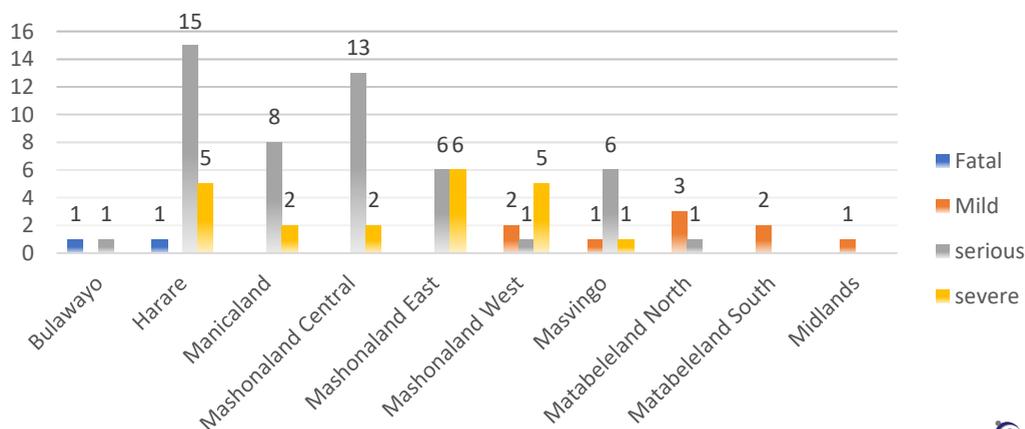
As noted in the graph, Harare province has the highest number of politically motivated human rights violations with a total of 22 politically motivated violations, 15 of which are serious and five are severe, and there is one fatality. The province took over from Mashonaland Central which had the highest of 17 political motivated human rights violations in May. Following Harare is Mashonaland Central, which has 15 politically motivated human rights violations. While tracking the number of incidences is important ZPP also takes time to analyse the environment which has become toxic and also volatile which is ripe ground for the perpetration of more human rights abuses and the organisations believes as the country inches towards 2023 many of the incidents are also going to be gross.

It is interesting to note that in all the provinces, there were pronounced incidents of political activity by Zanu PF and CCC, with supporters of CCC being the majority of the victims.

The prevalence of politically motivated violence in Harare is a result of the violence that occurred in Nyatsime and Chitungwiza following the brutal murder of CCC activist Ali while in Mashonaland Central, Manicaland and Mashonaland East, it is a result of the earlier mentioned systematic efforts by Zanu PF to shut down space for the opposition, well ahead of the official campaigning period for the 2023 elections.

See Provincial outlook below.

Using a highly sophisticated data analysis tool, ZPP maps the severity of the violations to give an indication of the political volatility of each province.



MASH EAST

ZANU PF COUNCILLOR DAVID KUFAKWEMBA TOLD A CCC ACTIVIST TO VACATE THE WARD AS SHE WAS ACCUSED OF SPREADING AND DISTRIBUTING CCC MATERIAL.

On 7 June a case on intimidation and harassment was reported at Muzezuru Primary School, Ward 11 in Mudzi North. It is alleged that during a ward development meeting, Zanu PF Chairperson Rocky Maneto (47) changed the agenda of the meeting before forcing villagers to chant Zanu PF slogans and coercing villagers to sing revolutionary/Chimurenga songs. The change in the program did not go down well with CCC supporters who tried to engage Maneto. But Maneto went on to state that Zanu PF leaders had all the powers to do whatever they wanted. Maneto further threatened three CCC supporters with death, he said “tichakurayai sembwa (we will kill you like you are dogs)”

MASH WEST

In Mhangura villagers received messages from branch cell leaders to attend meetings or risk being evicted from their farms. The political environment continue to deteriorate as Zanu PF continue to use force on villagers. In Mhondoro Ngezi Zanu PF legislator Hon Tavengwa Mukuhlani, intimidated and harassed villagers who had questioned him on the developments he had made during his tenure in office. Hon Mukuhlani failed to respond and resorted to using abusive language to coil the voices of the people.

MIDLANDS

In the Midlands Region, as it was with other provinces, political activities were marred by threats and intimidation largely targeting the opposition CCC members contributing to the many abuses that made the provincial highlights of the month.

In Gweru, Mkoba, it was noted that on 19 June, after a feedback meeting by the area’s legislator Amos Chibaya (CCC), a number of their supporters clad in yellow regalia were confronted by Zanu PF youths at Mkoba 18 shopping centre. It was noted that the Zanu PF youths firstly threatened the CCC members saying they were in the wrong party and they (ZanuPF) did not recognize Chibaya as a legislator of the area. The issue is reported to have escalated leading to about six CCC members being assaulted in the process albeit not having sustained visible injuries but violence in any manner must be condemned. The case was not clear if it was reported to the police as the CCC have said in the past, it was of no use to report cases of political violence against Zanu PF as the police are accused of being complicit and powerless to act against Zanu PF.

HARARE

Chitungwiza was the epicentre of violence in the month of June 2022. ZPP documented more than 10 violations which were politically motivated following the discovery of missing Citizen Coalition for Change activist Ali's body in a disused well in Nyatsime Beatrice area. The death of Ali triggered emotions and the deliberate delay by the police to accelerate investigations and arrest the perpetrator resulted in political clashes between Zanu PF and the CCC party. Tensions started when Zanu PF Chairperson for Nyatsime George Murambatsvina made false claims that Ali was a ruling party member before barring opposition supporters from wearing party regalia and gathering for the funeral in Nyatsime. This did not go down well with Ali's family lawyer Job Sikhala and other CCC activists who were bereaved by the tragic, and painful death of their party member. On 12 June Zanu PF officials reportedly stormed the funeral in Nyatsime and demanded that mourners leave the place and go to St Mary's instead (at her parent's home). The following day on 13 June CCC activists from Epworth were attacked by Zanu PF youths. Reports indicate that the CCC activists led by former Epworth Legislator Ethridge Kureva were attacked with stones, whips and sjamboks as they disembarked from a vehicle. same day Zanu PF supporters reportedly abducted at least 20 opposition members and chased away her relatives after hijacking funeral proceedings. In retaliation, CCC organised a mass memorial service in Nyatsime and in the melee of angry ruling and opposition CCC youths the home of Murambatsvina (Zanu PF Nyatsime chairperson) was burnt. Properties at Chibanguza shopping centre were also destroyed by angry youths who demanded justice for Ali. Zanu PF activists also mobilised themselves burning the homes and properties of CCC activists Precious Jeche, Audius Mukoma in Nyatsime, to name just a few. The wave of violence persisted and police officers responded with arrests of suspects associated with the violence.

MASH CENTRAL

The political environment remained tense in Mashonaland Central Province. Zanu PF was at it again. The situation reached worrying levels as the Zanu PF unleashed party youths in communities ahead of the National Cell Day. The exercise resulted in gross intimidation, harassment and discrimination of villagers and perceived opposition supporters. The party deployed youths and forcefully assigned village heads to threaten villagers and opposition supporters to immediately join Zanu PF or face violent evictions before 2023. Chiefs were advised to work with the state security agents and Zanu PF's leadership to identify opposition supporters in communities. The ruling party conducted regular meetings in Muzarabani, Guruve and Mt Darwin districts. These meetings were used as platforms to instil fear on opposition supporters specifically the Citizens Coalition for Change (CCC). In messages disseminated in some of the meetings, citizens were reminded of the 2008 bloody elections and warned that history can repeat itself in the upcoming 2023 elections. In Bindura district healthcare workers on industrial action were beaten indiscriminately by the police for joining a nationwide strike by health workers protesting over salaries and poor working conditions. On 22 June anti-riot police officers reportedly stormed Bindura General Hospital and wantonly assaulted nurses for demanding a decent living wage. The incident happened when most public hospitals nationwide discharged patients and closed wards as the strike entered day four with no solution in sight.



MASVINGO

In Masvingo, the ruling Zanu PF party was resorting to using traditional leaders to coerce people to vote for Zanu PF. Zanu PF Vice President Kembo Mohadi held nationwide meetings with traditional leaders and in Masvingo, he told them to be part of the Zanu PF structures. In Zaka Central, ward 8, on 19 June 2022, Mohadi, who is no longer a government official, convened a meeting with village heads, headmen, chiefs, government workers as well as Zanu PF supporters. Mohadi is alleged to have told the gathered traditional leaders that they were not supposed to allow anyone under their jurisdiction to support CCC in the 2023 elections. He then said that, if they did not do that, they risked their areas experiencing what happened in 2008.

BULAWAYO

MACHETE GANGS
KILL CCC ACTIVIST

Political tensions continue to rise in the province. As the month began political intolerance among parties continued to be recorded. This has been recorded during door-to-door campaigns and through social events. In one of the cases recorded in Nkulumane suburb, Fanuel Ndlovu of Mthwakazi Liberation Party(MLP) assaulted a citizen after the latter professed that the only deal in town is Nelson Chamisa and other opposition parties are a mere progeny of Zanu-PF. This comes at a time when Mnangagwa has castigated MLP members as 'nonsensical beings' in the just ended political rally in Gweru. In Lobengula, a machete gang killed CCC member Langelihle Zonda Dube. It is said that the machete gang stormed his house and demanded money, gold and other accessories. The gang allegedly murdered him and accused him of being a CCC member who deserved to lose his life.

MAT NORTH

STATE SECURITY
AGENTS UNLEASHED

In Binga North, at ward 9 in Siansundu it was reported that a Zanu PF activist identified as Lumumo Munkuli warned opposition members that they risk being beaten if found carrying out political activities. Munkuli said that he is prepared to deal with members of the new party led by Nelson Chamisa. He further warned that community members should monitor any individual found wearing yellow regalia so as to send their name to him for disciplinary action.

The state has also unleashed its machinery towards members of the opposition. It was reported that three unidentified individuals suspected to be state security agents intimidated a CCC supporter John Kasirori*. It is said that the trio came into contact with Kasirori and warned him to remove his party t-shirt or risk being beaten and arrested. It has become routine at Lupane Centre for state agents to go around intimidating those who wear CCC regalia.

MANICALAND

In Manicaland, the majority of the recorded were resulted from the threats that made by Zanu PF members and officials directed at citizens who did not attend the party's meetings, or those who did not take part in Zanu PF cell restructuring exercise. In one incident in Mutare North, Ward 11, on 10 June 2022, a Zanu PF activist identified as Ngoni Machiri residing in Muoko village, allegedly threatened to unleash violence against Muoko villagers who supported CCC. Machiri was said to have been accusing CCC supporters of not attending Zanu PF cell meetings.

In Headlands, Noel Rusamu Mabika who is the Zanu PF chairperson for Ward 32, Headlands, allegedly threatened vendors with unspecified action when the 2023 elections campaigns commence. Their crime being supporters of CCC.

MAT SOUTH

In Silozwana village of Matobo North it was reported that a Zanu PF activist only identified as Martin Sibindi intimidated villagers that they shall be monitored if they vote CCC. It is said that Sibindi made these remarks during a community meeting where he was encouraging people to register to vote. While encouraging people to register to vote, it is said that Sibindi warned that a mechanism has been drawn up to monitor those that might vote for MDC Alliance and other parties. He said they shall be punished severely.

At Stanmore, it was also reported that a Mthwakazi activist only identified as Mihla Khumalo got assaulted by a gang of CCC members, after he was found tearing their party posters. Ndlovu was found at shops tearing up the regalia of the CCC and it is said that she was speaking ill of the party. While tearing the regalia, it is said that CCC members caught him in action and began to assault him with open palms. The matter was reported to the police.

