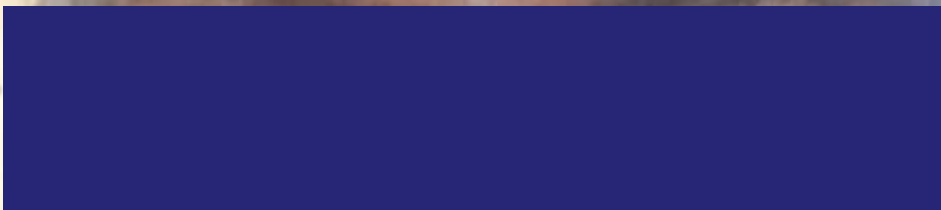




# ZIMBABWE PEACE PROJECT



**January 2024**  
**Monthly Monitoring Report**

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## About ZPP

Zimbabwe Peace Project was established in 2000 by a group of non-governmental and church organisations. Since inception ZPP has produced timely national monthly monitoring reports on violence and human rights violations which have been circulated with a wide audience. ZPP reports are packaged to meet the requirements of different audiences and users and are filled with accurate and verified information from our monitors throughout the country.



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# Executive Summary

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In January 2024, the Zimbabwe Peace Project recorded 154 human rights violations and abuses across the country's 10 provinces. 55.12% of the violations are attributable to the ruling party, ZANU PF. The Zimbabwe Republic Police (ZRP) and Municipal Police contributed 15.18% and 11.55% respectively. Members of the opposition party, Citizens Coalition for Change (CCC) contributed 8.25% of the violations while traditional leaders contributed 3.96%. 45.56% of the victims were women and males constituted a total of 54.45%. 0.3% of the female victims were people with disabilities and men with disabilities represented 0.5% of the male victims. Ordinary citizens were the majority of victims standing at 67%. The second largest group of victims were members of the CCC constituting 30.7% of the victims. Other political parties such as ZANU PF and the MDC-T also recorded victims representing 0.5% and 0.4% respectively.

Among the key violations were cases of intimidation, harassment and political violence. 25 cases of violation of the right to equality and non-discrimination on grounds of political affiliation were documented and verified in the reporting period. 6 Cases of assault were also recorded while other cases included theft of government sponsored aid meant for the public, torture, and malicious damage to property. Comparatively, Midlands province experienced the same number of violations in January, 28, to the cases recorded in December 2023. Mashonaland East recorded an increase from 13 to 20 cases while Harare experienced more violations from 12 cases to 18.

Notable events during the reporting period include the exit of the leader of opposition Nelson Chamisa from the Citizens Coalition for Change (CCC) a party he formed two years ago claiming that it had been hijacked by ZANU PF. In the same month, a former legislator and lawyer Job Sikhala was released from prison 595 days after his arrest in June 2022. Meanwhile, the Gukurahundi Outreach Committee has been accused of secrecy as it has not yet released the calendar for community public hearings regarding the matter. The media sensitization meeting schedule for Bulawayo was postponed to a later date.

The Zimbabwe Peace Project continues to monitor and document human rights violations across the country.

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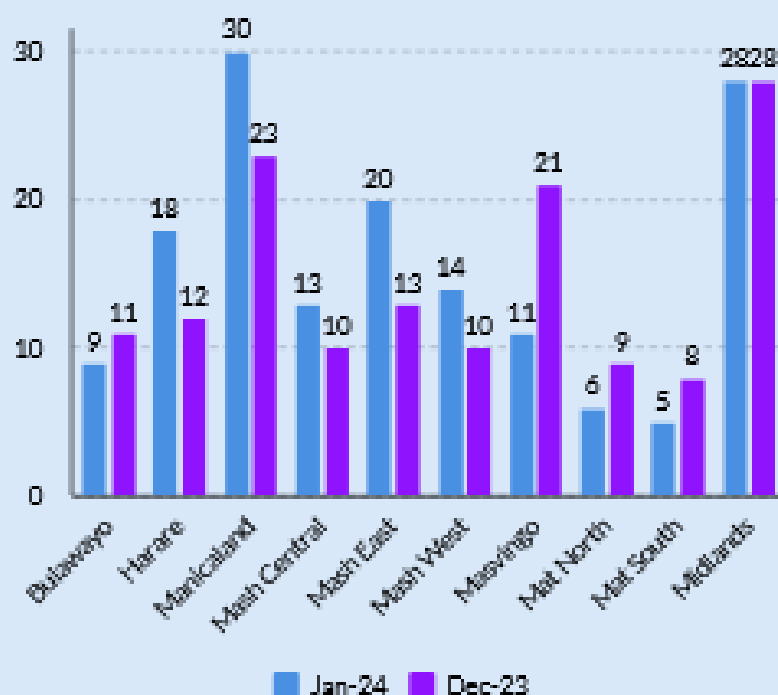
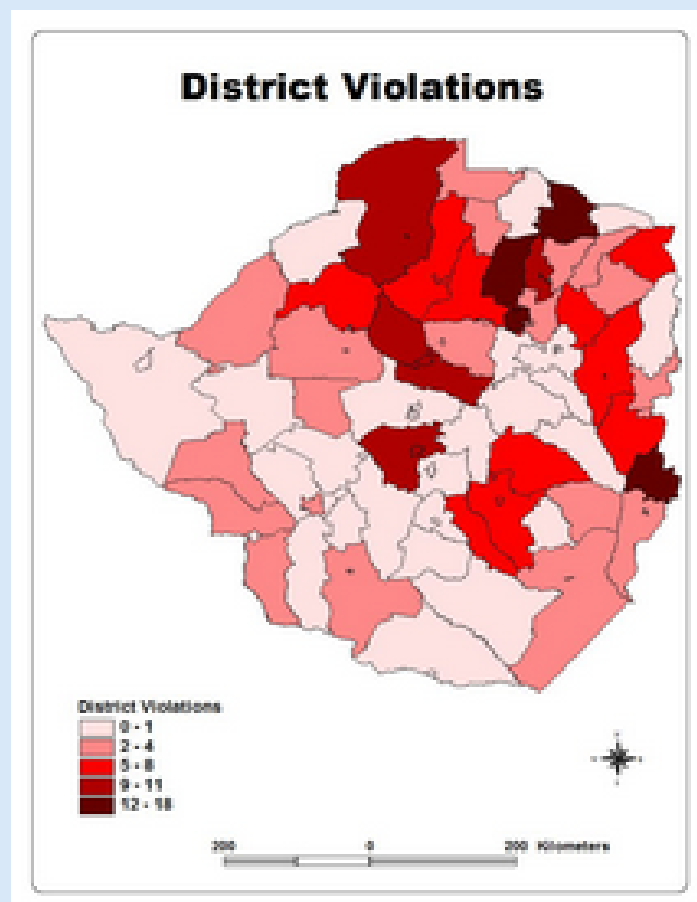
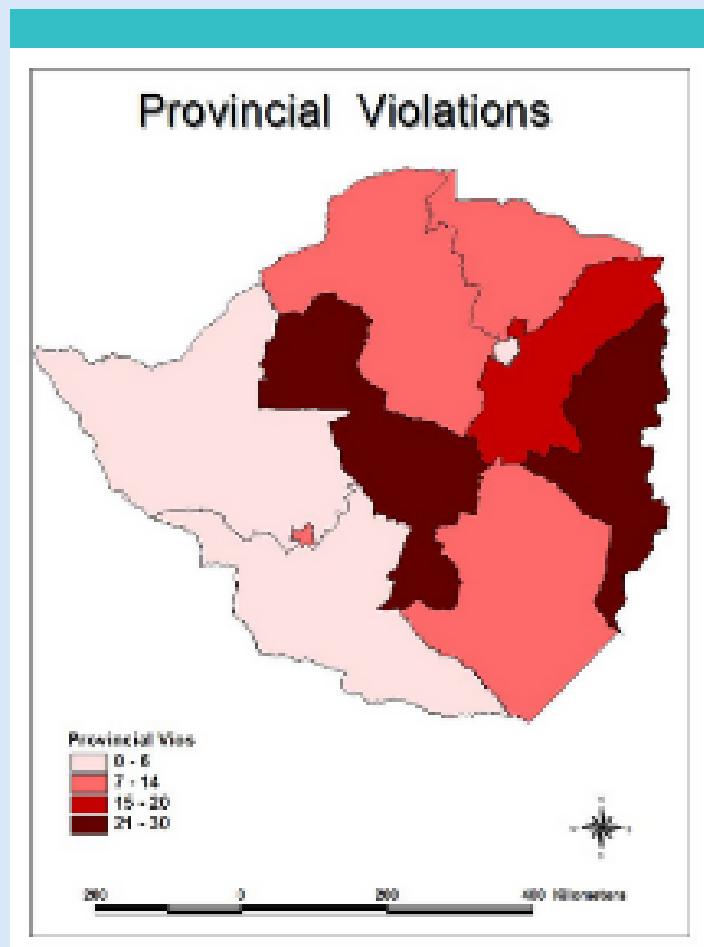
Report Social, Political, Economic,  
Civil and Cultural violations in Zimbabwe.



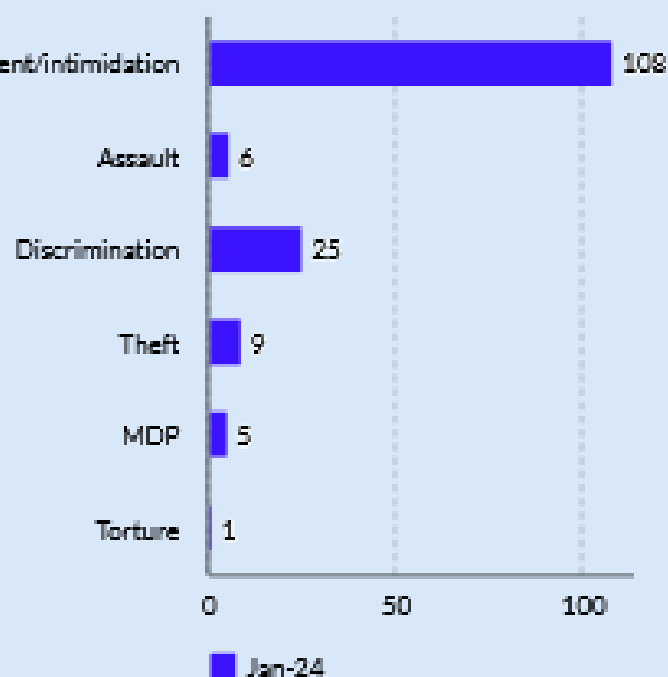
# Human Rights Violations Monthly Dashboard

Zimbabwe Peace Project

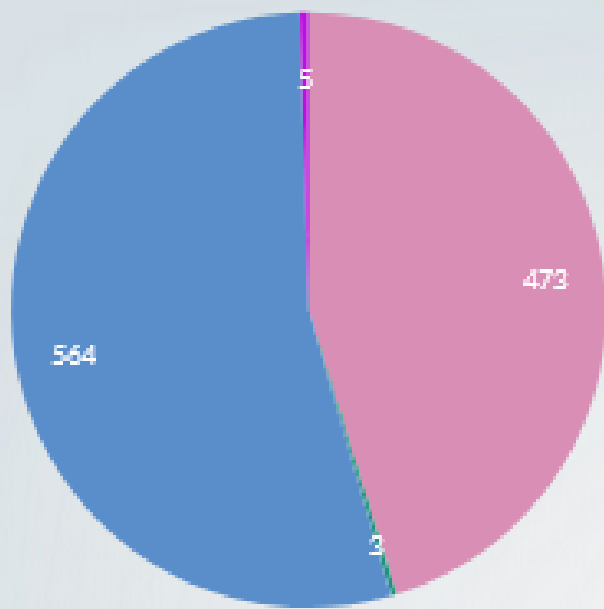
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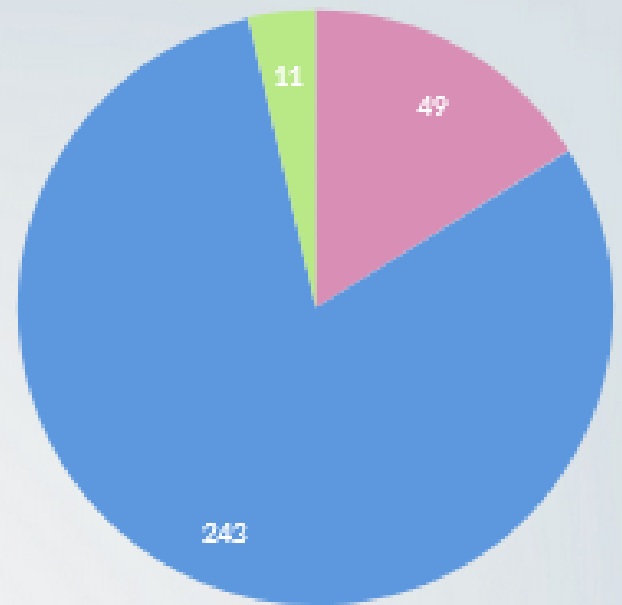
Provincial Violations



Types of Violations



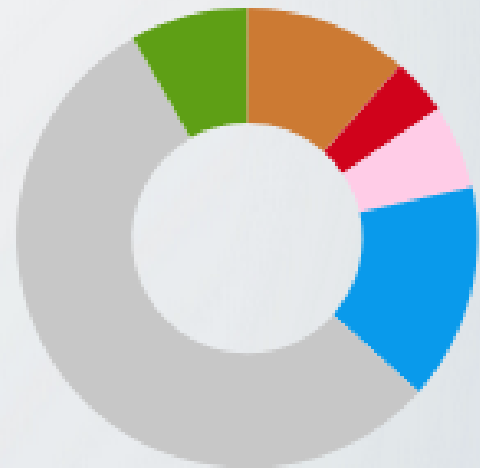
Gender of Victims



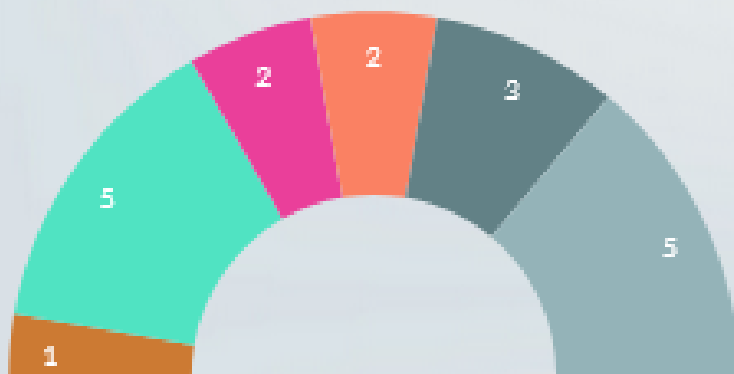
Gender of Perpetrators



Victims Affiliation



Perpetrators Affiliation



Food & Other Aid Violations

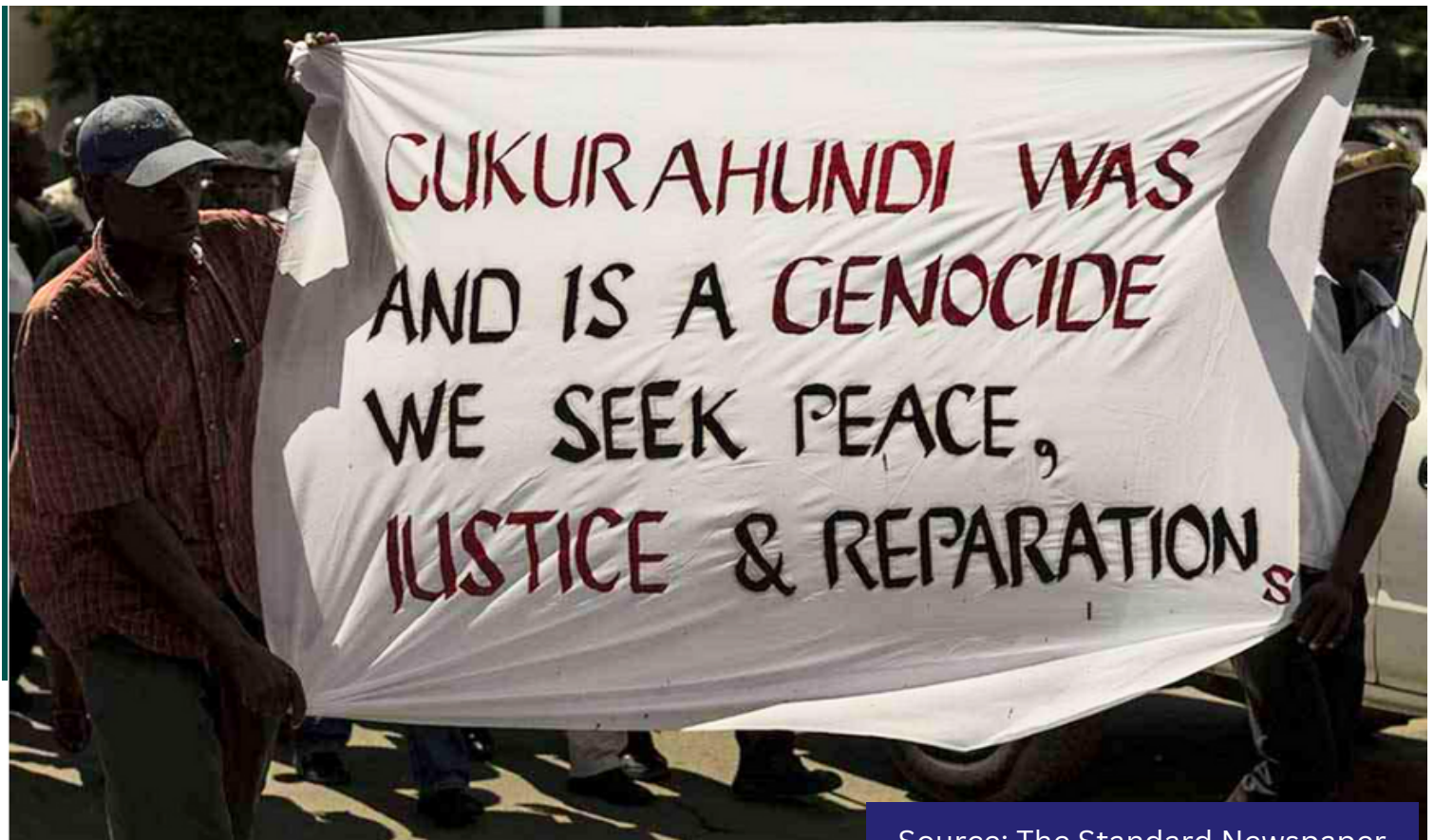


Intra Party Violence



## Major Highlights

### Gukurahundi Community Outreach Programme



Source: The Standard Newspaper

40 years after the Gukurahundi massacres in the Matabeleland and Midlands Provinces, Zimbabwe still suffers from the memories of these heinous attacks. President Mnangagwa said that the Gukurahundi Community Outreach Programme is a show of “collective resilience and determination to confront our history with courage and compassion”. While the President claimed that the government is ‘ensuring transparency and accountability in this process’ the manuals and processes to be used to engage victims and the community have not been publicly shared. The process has been criticised in the media for lacking transparency and not being victim-centred. The sidelining of the National Peace and Reconciliation Commission (NPRC), which has a constitutional mandate to deal with the issue and the extension of this mandate to traditional leaders has raised concerns over the impartiality of the process and the possibility of

undue interference in the process. Whereas the NPRC has a clear constitutional mandate spelt out in Section 252 to deal with Gukurahundi, traditional leaders have no such mandate, let alone formally and clearly defined Terms of Reference. This lack of clearly defined mandates and Terms of Reference for traditional leaders, together with the veil of secrecy in which the process is envisioned to take place, has eroded public confidence in its ability to provide reconciliation, justice and healing to victims. This lack of confidence is echoed in the sentiments of former Speaker of Parliament, Lovemore Moyo who suggested that the process should follow the model of Rwanda and South Africa. The budget for the process has also not been made public.

## Implications of Chamisa's withdrawal from the CCC to the Human Rights Situation in Zimbabwe



Nelson Chamisa | Source: NewZimbabwe.com

On the 24th of January 2024, Mr Nelson Chamisa, the leader of opposition announced his withdrawal from his party Citizens Coalition for Change (CCC). Chamisa's resignation comes after massive recalls by the party's self-claimed interim-Secretary General, Sengenzu Tshabangu. Chamisa accused Tshabangu of hijacking the party 'at the behest of ZANU PF' which suggests a downslope towards a one-party state. The recalls of members of parliament and local authorities led to a series of by-elections with the latest held on the 3rd of February 2024. In his 84-point notice of withdrawal from CCC, Chamisa called "all citizens to rally behind fresh politics, new politics and genuine fresh and credible leaders who want to serve and not to be served". The ambiguous nature of Nelson Chamisa's political moves and the uncertainty of his next steps after withdrawing from CCC has put the state repressive machinery

on high alert, heightening possibilities of the proliferation of human rights violations. Partisan distribution of food aid and inputs and intimidation of opposition political party supporters are likely to increase as a result. The ZANU PF government is also likely to accelerate its assault on the opposition in a bid to decimate it, further shrinking democratic space for both opposition and civil society operations. Chamisa's withdrawal from CCC may also result in an increase in intra-party violence as rivals jostle to fill the vacancy he left. His withdrawal, in addition to the recalls, has resulted in continued electioneering which leads to a neglect of service provision in local authorities. Consequently, leading to the infringement on the people's rights to service delivery as politicians spend more time on political campaigns and infighting.

### Job Sikhala's detention: weaponisation of the law and judicial harassment

In a long fight for delayed justice, former Member of Parliament for Seke and officer of the law Job Sikhala was released from prison after an incarceration of over 595 days. Job Sikhala was arrested on the 14th of June 2022 in Chitungwiza on charges of inciting public violence following protests over the murder of Moreblessing Ali, a CCC supporter. Ali's mutilated body had been found on June 11, 2022. Sikhala's several applications for bail while awaiting trial were denied, extending his detention at Chikurubi Maximum Prison where his family and legal representatives were occasionally denied access. The denial of more than 10 bail applications, where the law and the facts required that bail be granted, suggests a wanton disregard for the right to not to be detained without trial as enshrined in Section 49 (1) of the Constitution of Zimbabwe. On January 30 Job Sikhala and his co-accused Godfrey Sithole were sentenced to two years in prison and the sentences were wholly suspended for five years. In the context of the 2022 Electoral Amendment Bill currently before parliament, Job Sikhala faces a risk of being denied a chance to run for any public office. The bill would prevent people convicted of some offences, including dishonesty, misinformation, and involvement in public violence, from being nominated for election. The ruling party has been accused of weaponizing the law and judicial harassment to deter the work of human rights defenders and opposition political party activists and supporters.



# Key Human Rights Violations



## Intimidation and Political Violence

ZPP recorded 15 cases where victims were threatened with violence and 7 cases of politically motivated violence in the month of January. The cases recorded include inter-party violence where 2 ZANU PF youths engaged in a physical fight with members of a member of CCC in Nyanga North after an altercation over the 2023 elections results, resulting in the CCC member sustaining mouth injuries. Cases of inter-party violence were also recorded in Harare where some members of the MDC Alliance were assaulted by suspected CCC members at the Morgan Richard Tsvangirai House in the CBD. The majority of the victims who were either threatened with violence or unspecified action are members of opposition parties like the CCC. The cases of intimidation and harassment have escalated, from 10 in December 2023 to 15 in January 2024, especially after the opposition party leader Nelson Chamisa quit the party. In Glenora, Harare, ZANU PF youths led by a political commissar identified as Mr Kodza conducted a community outreach programme advising residents of a process called “operation show us your national identity card” which in its nature intimidated the community members with many living in fear. In Zvimba North, a female victim who was deployed as a CCC polling election agent during the 23 August 2023 harmonised elections is living in fear following threats to eliminate her. She was threatened by ZANU PF activist Martin Kativhu. Intimidation, with threats of violence or other harmful actions, hinder the enjoyment of citizens’ political rights and other fundamental freedoms such as freedom of expression and freedom of assembly and association.



## Violation on the right to adequate food

In January, ZANU PF distributed food aid and government-sponsored agricultural inputs in a partisan manner. The Pfumvudza/Intwasa programme, has been largely politicised, disproportionately affecting households with members of opposition political parties. More than 45 victims in areas like Mt Darwin and Chikanga Dangamvura went home empty-handed after being denied farming inputs allocated under the Pfumvudza scheme on the grounds of their affiliation to the opposition parties. In a similar fashion, several CCC members were not included on the beneficiaries lists for bean rations being given to households in Chimanimani. Section 77(b) of the Constitution of Zimbabwe states that every person has the right to sufficient food, and the politicisation of publicly sponsored food aid denies citizens their right to sufficient food. These practices are meant to compel victims to participate in the ruling party’s political activities further violating their political rights under Section 67 of the Constitution of Zimbabwe). Further in Chimanimani West, ZANU PF leadership including Joseph Tuto gave out 1 kg to 2 kgs of beans to each recipient while those in charge of distribution received at least 40 kgs each.



### RECOMMENDATIONS

- ZPP recommends that political parties must take punitive measures on their political agents who violate other citizen’s political rights and fundamental freedoms.
- ZPP strongly urges members of the public to report to the police any acts of abuse and human rights violations they experience or witness as well as taking collective action to advocate against such abuses.
- ZPP urges the law enforcement agencies to investigate and take decisive action against perpetrators of violence to foster a culture of peace and political tolerance.
- ZPP recommends that the government investigates and ensure that all government sponsored inputs and food aid are equally and non-discriminately distributed to authentic beneficiaries
- The government must investigate all cases of theft and fraud involving government aid and perpetrators must be prosecuted.





# Provincial Outlook

## Matabeleland South

The province recorded a shrinking of operating space for Civil Society Organizations (CSOs) as the local District Development Coordinator identified as Mr. Jusa barred all CSOs from operating in the district. In Filabusi Centre of Insiza South, it was reported that members of Forever Associate of Zimbabwe (FAZ) identified as Comfort Zvandasara and Sindiso Siwela were threatening to punish election observers and opposition agents from accusing them of pushing for regime change. They made it clear that they were monitoring anyone who had been an observer. The same intolerance was witnessed at ward 5 Zezani village of Beitbridge West it was reported that Darlington Muleya of ZANU PF was going around intimidating villagers that they should support ZANU PF, or risk being beaten. Muleya further stated that everyone in the village or ward must join the ruling party and appear in the cell group exercise record to live and survive while accessing government amenities. In Gwanda District, an estimated 300 villagers were evicted from their homes in Nyandeni village on 19 January. The villagers were ferried to an unidentified camp in two haulage trucks, where they are being processed by the police while awaiting court trials. They are being accused of illegally occupying state land. Meanwhile, the villagers have not been allocated any proper housing, and the accommodation facilities are limited at the camp.

## Bulawayo

There was increased political intolerance in the province following factional fights within the Citizens Coalition for Change party. The period preceding by-elections was characterized by assaults, hate speech, and electoral malpractices. In Phelandaba-Tshabalala, Gilbert Mangena assaulted a victim, who blamed Nelson Chamisa for sidelining senior party members and accommodating newcomers. The victim was assaulted for suggesting that Chamisa never listened to anyone. A victim who is a member of the Sengezo Tshabangu faction was nearly beaten up by members of the public for leading a division within the party. Ndabazinhle Maseko, was seen tearing up posters for Joseph Tshuma, a ZANU PF candidate in the February 3 by-elections. Tearing of campaign material for an opponent violates the Electoral Act and practice.

## Matabeleland North

In Matabeleland North Province, ZANU PF has been accused of threatening citizens' political rights and freedom of assembly and association. An activist, Reeds Dube, allegedly told citizens that anyone wearing CCC regalia would be beaten up and removed from the food aid beneficiary list. Dube also allegedly told the gathering that anyone supporting Nelson Chamisa would be removed from the food aid beneficiary list. In Mvundlana ward 13, seven people led by Ntandoyenkosi Mlotshwa of an unknown political persuasion forced a victim to remove his ZANU PF regalia, citing the party's tarnishing of the country's image. The victim was stripped of his dignity and forced to walk kilometers without wearing his t-shirt and fearing for his life.

## Midlands

ZPP recorded violations of rights to freedom of association, political rights, and access to adequate food. ZANU PF chairman Nhlanhla Dube deprived two female victims of their allocation in the presidential input program. In Nemangwe a kraal head was recalled from his duty based on allegations that he was campaigning for Nelson Chamisa. Masara Mafukidzanwa a ZANU PF councilor announced the recall saying the victim was a sellout. In Charandura ward 8, William Gondo told villagers that opposition parties, including the Citizen Coalition for Change, were no longer eligible for food aid. Gondo remarked that they could complain to police officers or anyone about their deprivation, but nothing would be done.



## Harare

In January 2024, several violations were recorded including a case of the violation of the right to freedom of assembly and association in St Marys Chitungwiza, an intimidation case in Glenora, a violent clash of political activists in Harare CBD. In St Marys Chitungwiza, political activists affiliated with Chamisa were dismissed by anti-riot police officers, while in Glenora, ZANU PF youths conducted a community outreach program advising residents to show their national identity card, which they claimed was part of the ruling party cell restructuring exercise. In Harare CBD, 20 suspected CCC members led by Brilliant Chitute and Godfrey Nzou Tula stormed opposition party offices and assaulted four security personnel, resulting in an altercation and injuries. In Glenview South ward 32, residents accused the Harare City Council of poor service delivery, as raw sewage continued to flow unattended, contaminating water sources and exposing citizens to the risk of diseases, an infringement of their rights to a clean, safe environment.

## Manicaland

ZPP recorded cases of intimidation including in Mutasa Central Ward 15 where ZANU PF Councilor Edgar Danha threatened opposition political activists. The Zimbabwe Republic Police (ZRP) descended on street vendors in Mutare Central, confiscating their wares and physically assaulting victims, including women. Mutare City Municipal police raided vendors in Chikanga Phase 2 and vandalized their structures without a court order. Mount Dangare Primary School in Mutare South is facing prolonged water challenges that have been met with reluctance for resolve by the City Council and ZINWA officials. This is threatening students' right to education and their right to access portable water.

## Mashonaland West

ZANU PF youths, including Gilbert Gombe, Vincent Munyoro, and William Chikambi, assaulted CCC supporters in Seke on 16 January, accusing them of campaigning ahead of the by-elections. Arbitrary evictions occurred at Tamar farm in Goromonzi North, displacing 10 households who were accused of working on other farms after their contractual hours of work. The farm owner, Mr Mautsa evicted the households without settling arrears owed to some of the victims. A violation against the right to education was recorded at Beatrice Primary School in Chikomba West ward 13 where pupils were turned away from school for not paying tuition fees. Intimidation was reported during a community development meeting in Mudzi West at Nyagupe village, where ZANU PF chairperson Jesina Liver politicized the meeting, accusing some villagers of aligning with Chamisa. Villagers in Goromonzi South were coerced and landowners were threatened with losing their plots if they didn't participate in ZANU PF's mobilization efforts ahead of the February by-elections. Citizens were openly told to support Mr. Zhanda and ZANU PF.

## Mashonaland East

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## Masvingo

The ruling ZANU PF party topped the list of human rights violations in the province depriving opposition party members of farming inputs and government aid. The party sought to coerce citizens to join the ruling party. In Mwenezi East ward 5, a ZANU PF activist identified as Shamhuyashe, was collecting names for a seedling program. However, new councilor David Masvina instructed Shamhuyashe to exclude those who supported CCC from the list. A well-known opposition supporter was deliberately omitted from the list. In Masvingo Urban, ZANU PF councilor Sengerai Manyanga insulted CCC councilors, calling them sellouts and dogs. In Charamba village, a villager was denied agricultural inputs for Pfumvudza on the grounds of being an opposition supporter. In Masvingo West, ZANU PF activist, Thomas Mhlanga, forced citizens to attend a gathering at King Mine threatening that only those who attended would receive maize seed.

## Mashonaland Central

Mvurwi Primary School in Mazowe North ward 2 has been accused of violating learners rights to education, with pupils being turned away from classes for non-payment of tuition fees. In Mazowe South, ZANU PF District Chairperson Mr Dutiro denied a female villager farming inputs sponsored under the Pfumvudza agricultural scheme, citing her as an opposition CCC supporter. The Mazowe Rural District Council demolished informal structures at Tsungubvi Centre, leaving many stranded, affecting livelihoods. Tsungubvi Primary School instructed parents to pay USD 75 cash and purchase certain books before full enrollment, causing some parents to fail to get placement for their children. In Mazowe West, a male victim was brutally assaulted and tortured for trespassing at the Jumbo Mine. Villagers in Mt Darwin East were forced to sing and chant ruling party slogans before receiving sorghum inputs. Village head Majinetai Jongwe chastised a victim for not chanting slogans.

### *Demolitions at Tsungubvi Business Centre*

