



**ZIMBABWE PEACE
PROJECT**

Monthly Monitoring Report

February 2024

Hotline



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Executive Summary

In February, the Zimbabwe Peace Project (ZPP) recorded 188 cases of human rights violations, an increase from 154 in the previous month. 22 of the cases included violations of the right to equality and non-discrimination. There were 12 cases of harassment and intimidation, 7 violations associated with displacement of people, 5 cases of assault, 4 cases involving theft, and 4 cases of malicious damage to property. Three cases of intra-party violence were recorded in the Citizens Coalition for Change (CCC).

The ruling party, ZANU PF, continued to top the list of perpetrators with 54.8%. The Zimbabwe Republic Police (ZRP) made up 8.36% of the perpetrators in February, while the municipal police made up 14%. Other perpetrators affiliated with parties such as the Citizens Coalition for Change (CCC) and the Mthwakazi also contributed to the recorded perpetrators, which stood at 7.3% and 0.3%, respectively. Sadly, traditional leaders were also perpetrators of human rights violations, contributing 5.7%.

There were 1833 victims of human rights violations in February, 48.9% of whom were women and 51.1% were men. 0.9% of the female victims were persons with disabilities, while men with disabilities constituted 0.7%.

In the provincial outlook, Masvingo province recorded the largest number of violations, standing at 34, up from 11 in January. Other provinces recorded high numbers of human rights violations such as Manicaland 31 and Mashonaland Central 29. Harare and Mashonaland East both recorded 21 human rights violations while 20 cases were recorded in Mashonaland West. In the Midlands, the cases dropped from 28 in January to 19 in the reporting month, while Bulawayo also recorded a lower number of cases, from 9 in the previous month to 6. Matabeleland South recorded the same number of 5 violations while Matabeleland North dropped from 6 last month to 2 in February.

ZPP continues to monitor and document human rights violations occurring across the country and strongly recommends that the Zimbabwe Human Rights Commission (ZHRC), the Zimbabwe Republic Police and all government institutions execute their constitutional mandate, to investigate and prosecute perpetrators and end impunity.

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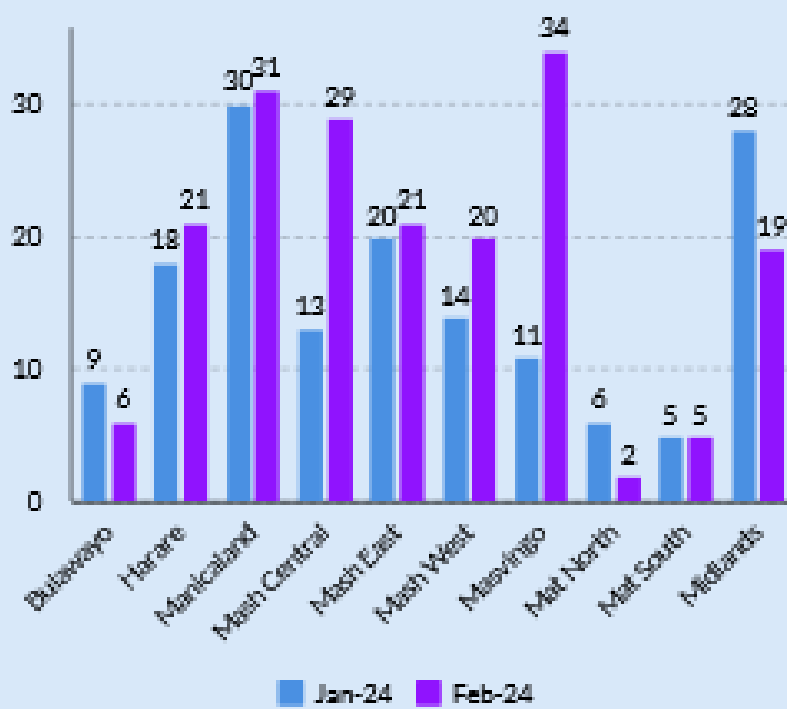
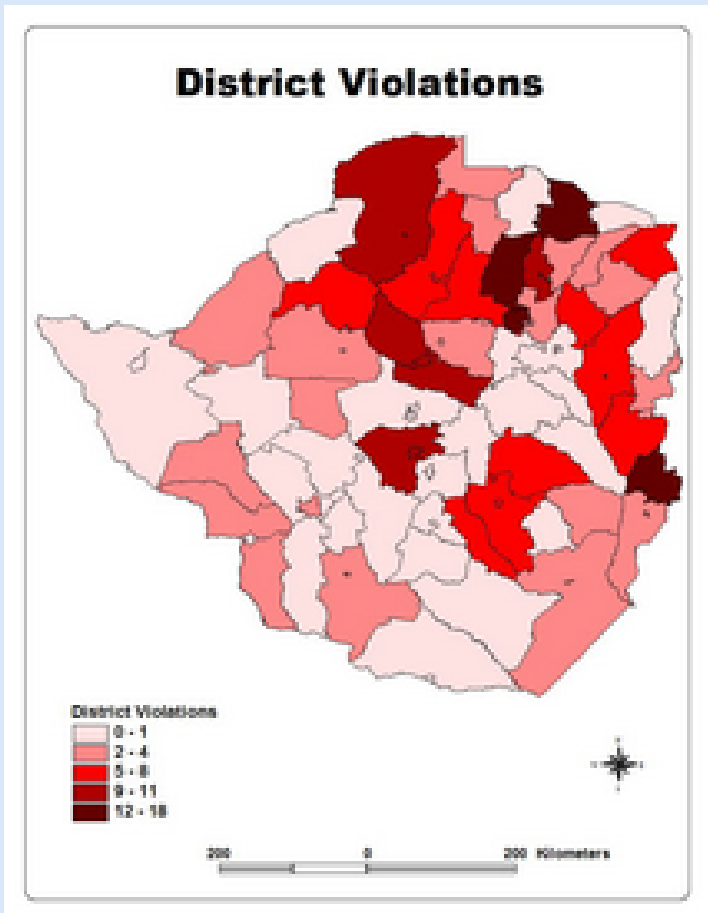
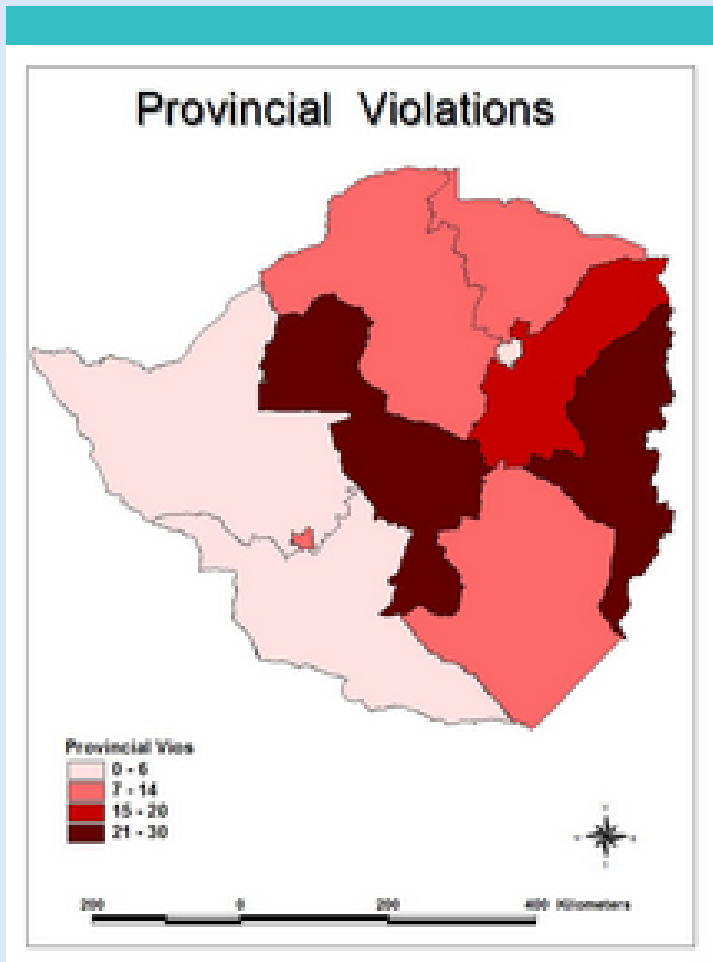
Report Social, Political, Economic,
Civil and Cultural violations in Zimbabwe.



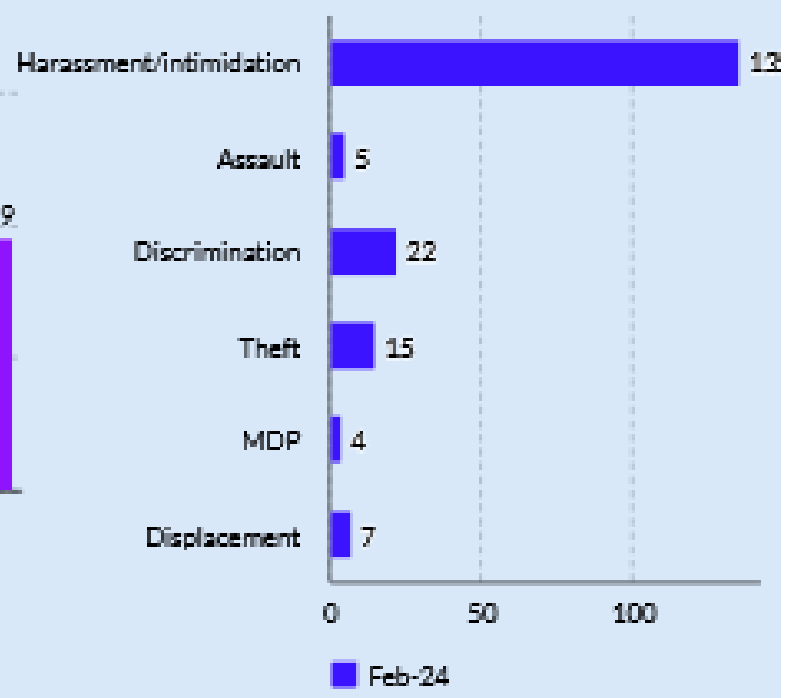
Human Rights Violations Monthly Dashboard

Report time frame: February, 2024

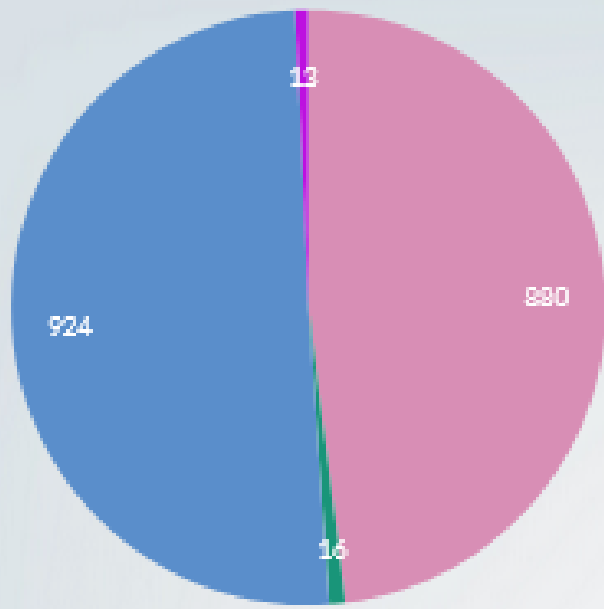
Zimbabwe Peace Project



Provincial Violations

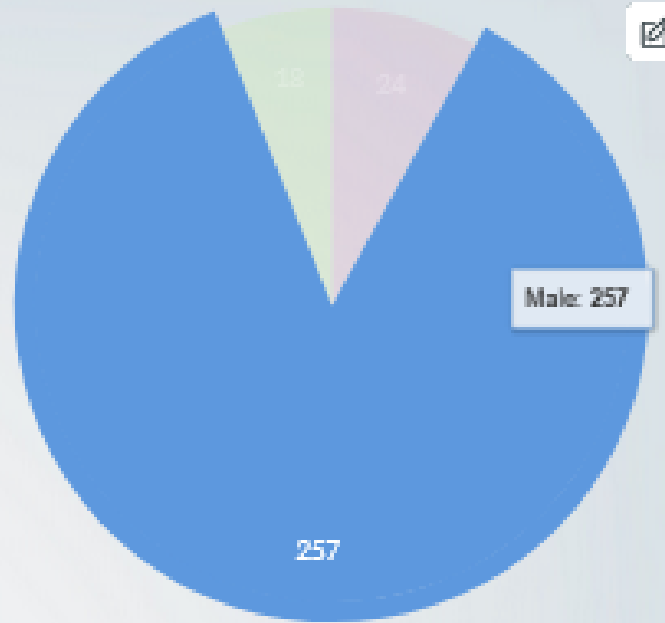


Types of Violations



Female (48.01%) Female PWD (0.87%) Male (50.41%)
Male PWD (0.71%)

Gender of Victims



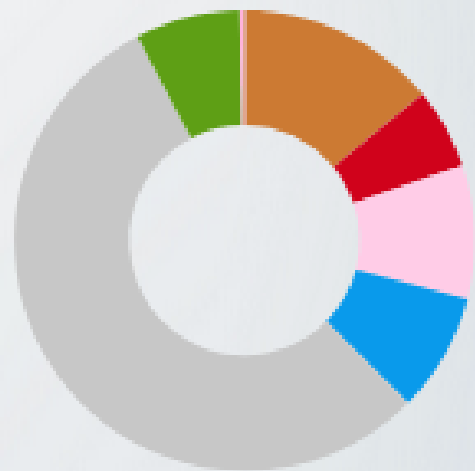
Female (8.03%) Male (85.95%) Unknown (6.02%)

Gender of Perpetrators



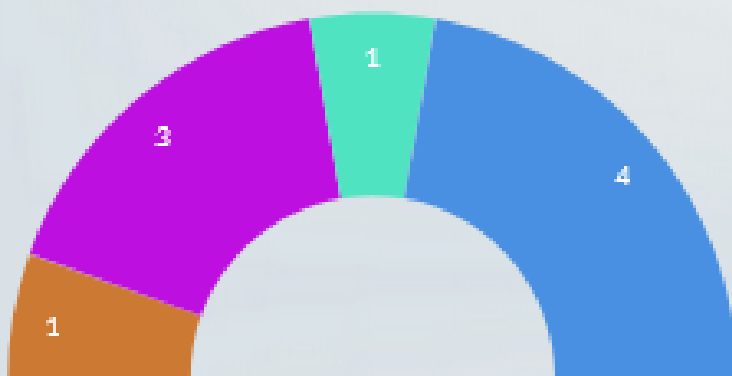
ZANU PF (0.49%) CCC (5.62%)
General Citizens (93.13%) Traditional Leaders (0.76%)

Victims Affiliation



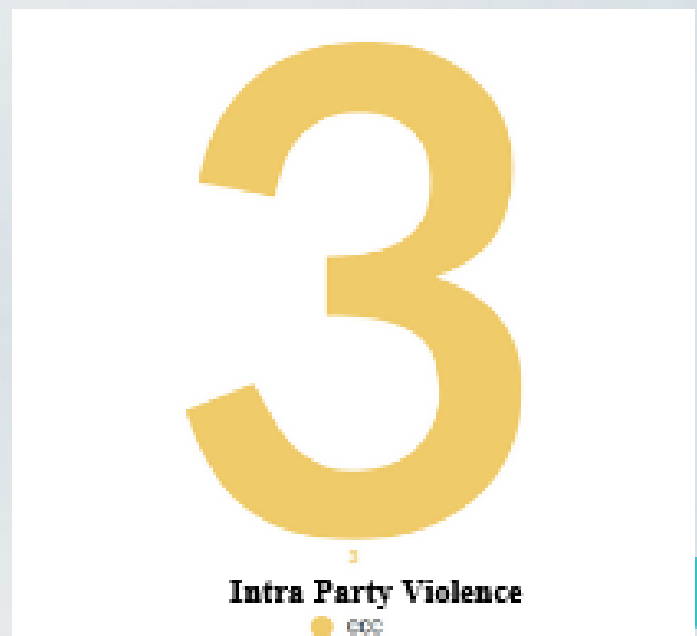
Municipal police (14.05%) Traditional Leaders (5.69%)
Unknown (9.36%) ZRP (8.36%) ZANU PF (54.85%)
CCC (7.36%) Mthwakazi (0.33%)

Perpetrators Affiliation



Manicaland (11.11%) Mash Central (33.33%)
Mash West (11.11%) Masvingo (44.44%)

Food & Other Aid Violations



Major Highlights

Forced, Unjust and Illegal Evictions

During the reporting period, ZPP recorded 7 cases of government-sanctioned evictions of people from their land from Masvingo, Manicaland and Matabeleland among other provinces. The evictions were carried out under the pretext of dealing with land barons (3700 of whom were arrested according to the government) and illegal settlements. However, the operation had a disproportionate impact on the rights of the evicted citizens. Thousands of citizens had their rights to occupy and use land, shelter, food, water, health and education flagrantly violated during the operation. In some instances, the evictions targeted opposition strongholds, such as in the case of evictions from Village 15B of Mushandike,

Masvingo Province where 300 families were evicted from their land. The heavy-handedness of the state in dealing with the so-called illegal settlers is unjustified in light of the fact that all the settlements that were affected had been condoned by the government itself in one way or the other. Some of the “illegal settlers” were allocated land by members of the political party that is in government as a way of soliciting for their support during elections. Even if a settlement is illegal, the government is still obliged to follow due process. It is grossly unfair for the government to evict people when it is complicit in allowing the same people to settle on the same land.

On the 13th of March 2024, the Minister of Justice, Legal and Parliamentary Affairs, Ziyambi Ziyambi said about the evictions: “If anybody has been occupying land for over 20 years, technically we cannot go there without violating that particular individual’s rights and say we are demolishing. The law does not allow us to do that.” The High Court of Zimbabwe in *Peter Makani v Epworth Local Board HH*



550-14 ruled that “The land in question is an informal settlement at which desperate home seekers have helped themselves to land and erected unapproved houses.... Illegal settlements are sprouting all over the place with indecent abandon under the watch of local authorities charged with the responsibility of superintending urban settlements, who have been generally complicit in the whole issue. Having allowed these illegal settlements to take root, at the expense not only of the settlers but also of organized urban planning and public health, local authorities are now waking up and, by force and power, demolishing the structures without regard to the law and human dignity” In *Dusabe v Harare City 2016 ZWHHC*, the High Court ruled that informal settlers do not need to be evicted. They need to be relocated. Before any decision to relocate them is made, authorities must pay due regard to “the historical and policy context relevant to the occupation; the period and circumstances under which the land was occupied; the response of the City and other government respondents to the occupation; the hardship to be suffered as a consequence of the eviction order; the alternative of an upgrade of the informal settlement without evicting its residents; and lastly, the availability of alternative accommodation”

The statement by the Minister of Justice, Legal and Parliamentary Affairs, read in conjunction with the two High Court rulings cited above makes it unequivocally clear that the evictions witnessed during the reporting period were not only unjust and illegal, but violated government policy as well.

ZANU PF gains majority in parliament after a series of by-elections

On February 3, the Zimbabwe Electoral Commission (ZEC) held by-elections in six constituencies. The by-elections were meant to fill in vacant posts following the recalls by Citizens Coalition for Change (CCC) Interim Secretary General Sengezo Tshabangu. The recalled Members of Parliament are Amos Chibaya—Mkoba North, Gift Siziba—Pelandaba-Tshabalala, Willard Madzimbamuto—Seke, Oliver Mutasa—Zvimba East, Admore Chivero—Chegutu West, and Stephen Chagwiza—Goromonzi South. In the by-elections, ZANU PF won all six (6) electoral constituencies, increasing the party's number of elected seats in parliament to 150 elective National Assembly seats out of the 210 there, thereby surpassing the two-thirds majority (which is 140 seats). ZPP recorded incidents of vote-buying in Chegutu West, violence in Seke, intimidation, and harassment of citizens, resulting in a low turnout of voters and pointing towards disenfranchisement and voter apathy. Incidents of violence, among other notable electoral malpractices, continued to pose a major challenge for women, youth, and persons with disabilities to participate actively in political and

electoral processes. The ZPP noted incidents of intimidation of voters during the February 3 elections, such as the case in Ruwa, Goromonzi South Constituency. A ZANU PF affiliate group, Forever Associate Zimbabwe (FAZ), and some unidentified ruling party supporters allegedly stormed the polling station, intimidating voters, observers, and polling officials at the Ruwa Country Club polling station. They reportedly demanded that the presiding officer provide a list of every voter who had cast a ballot that day. In Chegutu Constituency, a civil servant (a female teacher) said that most teachers in Chegutu were subjected to food aid denial on the basis that they worked and were better able to fend for their families. She further recommended that the government ensure that non-political players such as NGOs be given the mandate to distribute government aid for purposes of accountability and transparency during distributions. In Matabeleland, Pelandaba-Tshabalala, and Mkoba North in the Midlands, there were no incidents reported; however, intimidation was rife during the electoral processes.

Intra-party political violence in CCC factions

Following the exit of Nelson Chamisa as the leader of the Citizens Coalition for Change (CCC) in January, cases of intra-party political violence were witnessed within CCC. In February, ZPP recorded 3 cases of intra-party violence within the CCC party. In Bulawayo province, a CCC activist Albert Mhlanga assaulted a fellow member of the party following a heated argument about recalls and the role of Sengezo Tshabangu in the party. Mhlanga further threatened the victim with death saying he was prepared to do whatever was necessary to see the victim eliminated. In ward 2 of Bubi District, in Matabeleland North, Sibangani Dube and Jethro Ndiweni, both members of the CCC, engaged in a physical fight over the imposition of candidates and the differences on new party structures. In the fight, Dube sustained a knee injury. In another case recorded in the Midlands Province, Silvesta Munyoro of the CCC assaulted a male victim of the same party accusing the victim of attending a meeting with members of the Tshabangu affiliated faction. The victim sustained injuries and the matter was reported to the police. On 2 March, intra party violence also erupted in Nyatsime on Saturday, March 2, during the funeral proceedings of Moreblessing Ali, a Citizens Coalition for Change (CCC) activist who was murdered by a ZANU PF member, Pius Jamba Mukandi in June 2022. Supporters who declared their allegiance to Nelson Chamisa refused to be addressed by Job Sikhala, whom they labeled a "sellout" resulting in some activists throwing missiles at Job Sikhala and shouting obscenities. Job Sikhala had been asked to address mourners by Ali's family. The incident was reported to the police, and the family of Ali issued a statement condemning the disruptions and promised to take legal action.

Key Human Rights Violations

Political rights violations

ZPP recorded 18 cases of violations of political rights. The cases included intimidation where citizens were threatened with evictions and death, for their political choices. Section 67 of the Zimbabwean Constitution outlines the provisions for political rights including the right to make political choices freely (1b). These entitlements (in Section 67) ensure that citizens have the freedom to express their opinions, vote in elections, and engage in political activities without any undue influence. In Hurungwe West, Chief Nyamhunga (Borniface Chinehasha) forced a new village head to denounce the opposition party CCC in the full glare of villagers and ordered him to surrender party regalia. The Chief was recorded issuing a stern warning to villagers noting that only ruling party members can be installed as village heads. Section 281 (2a) states that traditional leaders must not be members of any political party or in any way participate in partisan politics. The abuse of power by traditional leaders further the violation of people's political rights as well as their freedom of assembly and association (Section 58). Besides the use of force, violence and unspecified threats, violations of political rights have also been perpetuated through manipulation of food aid to coerce desperate citizens to vote for or support ZANU PF. In Masunda Village, Chivi North, a widow was deprived of her monthly rations she relies on for survival. ZANU PF officials identified as Jeniffer Pedzisai and Simangele Rukato denied the victim aid, accusing her of abandoning the ruling party for the new movement led by Nelson Chamisa.

Violations of the Right to Food

The effects of the El Niño-induced drought, coupled with the gross politicisation of food aid, will make it difficult for some Zimbabweans to access food. The latest figures by the World Food Programme (WFP) show that about 5.3 million Zimbabweans are this year facing food insecurity. The seriousness of the food security situation is aggravated by a pattern of unfair distributions of food aid in several communities. In February, ZPP recorded 12 cases of unfair food aid and agricultural inputs distributions. The majority of the victims were deprived on the basis of their affiliation to the opposition political parties. ZANU PF officials and village heads are largely the perpetrators manipulating food aid and violating victims of their right to food. In ward 17 of Zaka Central, in Masvingo Province, two supposed beneficiaries of aid were denied their rations of sorghum seeds and fertilizer by Hodha Pfuwai, a ZANU PF Ward Chairperson on the basis that they were polling agents for the CCC in the August 2023 elections. In a similar trend, in Mashonaland West, at Mashuma Business Centre in Hurungwe, about 10 community members perceived to be members of the opposition parties were turned away from the distribution of food aid brought by Hurungwe West Member of Parliament Chinjai Kambuzuma. Kambuzuma is reported to have said that the aid was only for those who voted for the ruling party and each beneficiary received a 5kg bag of mealie meal.

- The Zimbabwe Peace Project recommends that government-sponsored food aid and agricultural inputs must be distributed by government officials and not political party members to avoid the politicisation of aid and the unjust discrimination of beneficiaries.
- ZPP further recommends that the police should investigate and arrest all perpetrators reported to be abusing publicly funded aid for personal gain or for political mileage.
- ZPP recommends that the government, through all its institutions, must promote the rule of law, including prosecution and punishment of perpetrators of political violence to uphold citizens' rights and freedoms.
- ZPP further recommends that the police and Zimbabwe Human Rights Commission should investigate all cases of violations against arbitrary evictions where victims were un-procedurally evicted from their homes or had their homes demolished without notice or consultation.
- ZPP recommends that political parties make deliberate efforts to prevent internal political violence and find amicable ways of resolving internal differences.
- ZPP urges all members of the public to report human rights violations and abuses to any nearest police stations or make us of the ZPP Hotlines 0774883417; 0774883406



RECOMMENDATIONS





Provincial Highlights

Matebeleland South

Intimidation and violation of the right to freedom of assembly and association constituted the majority of recorded cases in the province. In ward 2 of Beitbridge West, ZANU PF activists identified as Amon Shoko and Chuchu Munemo threatened to unleash violence against members of the opposition party CCC, unless they join the ruling party. Shoko and Munemo were recorded saying that anyone found wearing regalia belonging to Nelson Chamisa shall be beaten. In ward 3 of Insiza South constituency, a ZANU PF activist Midress Khumalo intimidated citizens calling them to register as members under her party's cell group or else face evictions from their homes. Khumalo was also reported to be forcing business operators to join ZANU PF or have their operators' licenses revoked.

Manicaland

In Manicaland, incidents associated with civil, political and socio-economic rights violations were recorded. In Chipinge Central, there were evictions, targeting villagers in Chipinge areas such as Mandere, Misty View and Boskrof. The victims were reportedly given verbal notices to vacate land on allegations that they were settled illegally. In Muwidzembe village, Nyanga North, reports indicate that Chief Saunyama suspended headman Bhobho Mautsi on allegations that he was seen attending a CCC meeting. Mautsi was replaced by a ZANU PF activist identified as Landmine Madongonda.

Mashonaland Central

In Mashonaland, three cases of intimidation and a violation of the right to education were recorded. ZPP also recorded cases of abuse of government sponsored aid. In Mt Darwin West, a village head, Mr Chakoneka was accused of forging a beneficiary's signature and collecting their farming inputs distributed under the Pfumvudza Scheme. In a case of violation of a right to education, Mvurwi Primary School head Mr Mubaira assigned a church associate to turn away pupils for not paying tuition fees. Reports indicate that Mr Mutizirwa is not a member of the School Development Committee (SDC) or associated with the school but is a member of the head's church. The incident was reported on 16 February 2024.

Mashonaland East

The Goromonzi Rural District Council (GRDC) reportedly demolished vendors' wares and informal trader properties at Goromonzi turn off in Ward 25, Goromonzi South. It is said that a council bulldozer escorted by municipal and anti-riot police officers destroyed vendors' stalls and wares in full view of community members. The officers were spotted confiscating vendor's wares inclusive of tomatoes, vegetables and fresh fruits. Vendors who confronted the riot police officers were reportedly assaulted and detained by the police. Villagers and farm owners in Murehwa North are facing evictions as Murewa Rural District Council (MRDC) plans to take over some land for urban planning. A ZANU PF activist Daniel Garwe and Mr Chinguware from the District Development Coordinator's office reportedly threatened village heads not to resist the council's plans to develop the areas into urban settlements. However there was no outline of due processes to be taken and how the villagers will be compensated. The meeting was held at Zihute Hall in Murehwa East.

Harare

In Highfield West and East areas, unidentified ZANU PF youths intentionally misled community members calling them to attend a residential stands distribution meeting which was to be addressed by party officials. However upon gathering, the masses were ferried to the City Sports Centre under the pretense of a change of venue, only to find out that they were to attend a church service held by Pastor Passion Java. The citizens were forced to attend the service, disrespecting their freedoms of assembly and association as well as freedom of religion as enshrined in the Constitution of Zimbabwe in Sections 58 and 60 (1b). Intimidation was reported in Epworth South on 17 February 2024. ZANU PF activists led by Kudakwashe Mutungagore and other district leaders reportedly conducted a cell restructuring exercise, collecting residents personal information against their will. The exercise which was reportedly conducted under the slogan, "Simukai Tiverengani" (Stand up, let's count each other), was characterized by intimidation and harassment. Citizens were forced to join ruling party cell structures.

Midlands

In Midlands Province, ZPP recorded cases of assaults, partisan distribution of food and intimidation. Traditional leaders, including Chief Chireya and village heads in Gokwe North were reported to be forcing citizens to contribute money towards the building of a ZRP post. The village heads were further recorded threatening to remove all beneficiaries who fail to pay the amount from the list of food aid beneficiaries. Similarly in Ward 7 of Mataruse village, Mberengwa East, it was reported that village heads also forced villagers to pay US\$1 each towards the salary of a security guard at the clinic. The call was followed by threats that those that fail to pay shall be denied access to healthcare at the clinic. At Samabwa Village in Zhombe, a victim of an unknown political party was assaulted for denouncing ZANU PF by Eddies Ncube. It is said that the victim denounced the ruling party citing high levels of corruption committed by its members. Ncube and Thomas Moyo then dragged the victim to a hidden place and beat him with logs. The victim sustained injuries on his back and reported the case to the police.

Masvingo

In Masvingo, there were cases of partisan distributions of food aid, forced attendance of citizens at ZANU PF meetings, intimidation and threats of evictions. In 5 cases of food aid distribution, members of the opposition political parties were deprived of food aid and agricultural inputs on the basis of their party affiliation. In Zaka North, members of the public were forced to attend a ZANU PF meeting and chant party slogans. The forced attendance was coordinated by seven youths led by Tinashe Manyanga who acted on the command of ZANU PF ward Chairperson Sai Pirato. The act violated the citizens' freedom of assembly and association as well as their political rights. At Kings Mine community, in the Mashava area, a ZANU PF activist identified as Lydia Chimbare reportedly addressed the community, compelling everyone to participate in any activity that the first lady Auxilia Mnangagwa initiated in the community. Chimbare further threatened that those not active risk being evicted from the mine houses. In a similar fashion, ZANU PF activist Jason Nyandoro threatened non-party members with evictions from Neshuro, Mugari and Marufu resettlements if they continue to align themselves to Nelson Chamisa. Nyandoro later forced villagers to buy ZANU PF membership cards for US\$2 each.

