

It aint  
**ZIMBABWE  
(PVT) LTD**



**THE ZIMBABWE PEACE PROJECT  
MONTHLY MONITORING REPORT  
FEBRUARY 2022**



# It's not Zimbabwe (Pvt) Ltd

...the Preamble of the Constitution, Zimbabwe's supreme law, which no one is above, begins with the phrase, We the People of Zimbabwe.



**Suspected Zanu PF youths in Zengeza, Chitungwiza attacked CCC supporter Agatha Mujati with sharp objects on Sunday 28 February. Political violence prevents women from effectively participating in politics.**

Zimbabwe is for every Zimbabwean! It does not belong to a group of greedy, selfish and narcissist individuals who think everything, including the lives of all Zimbabweans, revolve around them.

This is why the Preamble of the Constitution, Zimbabwe's supreme law, which no one is above, begins with the phrase, We the People of Zimbabwe.

It goes on to state that, "We the people of Zimbabwe, united in our diversity by our common desire for freedom, justice and equality, and our heroic resistance to colonialism, racism and all forms of domination and oppression..."

This sums up the fact that Zimbabwe belongs to everyone, and as the Zimbabwe Peace Project (ZPP), we write to reaffirm that in the face of a social, economic and political situations where some individuals holding State power have acted in a manner that is not consistent with the Constitution, and have gone on to parade extreme disregard for the people whose welfare they are in charge of, this must stop.

This is happening as the country's political temperatures are at their peak, less than three weeks before critical by-elections that are happening after a series of depressing political developments.

And perhaps, the true colours and character of President Emmerson Mnangagwa's government and the ruling party are coming out once more. Like always, President Mnangagwa's party, Zanu PF takes a lead in human rights violations recorded this month at 41 percent, and the Zimbabwe Republic Police, which is under his command as the Commander in Chief of the Defence Forces, comes second after contributing to 37 percent of human rights violations recorded in February 2022.

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In all this, machete wielding gangs have resurfaced and this month, they contributed to nearly five percent of all human rights violations and the spotlight of their action, Kwekwe, is President Mnangagwa's home town. For the first time in a long time, Midlands, where Kwekwe is located, recorded a surge in human rights violations, buoyed by the resurgence of the machete gangs, most of whom are artisanal miners loyal to Zanu PF and certain political figures.

These are the same machete gangs that pounced on the opposition Citizens' Coalition for Change (CCC) rally that was being addressed by the party leader Nelson Chamisa in Kwekwe, killing two and injuring over a dozen others, a day after Vice President Constantino Chiwenga incited violence by claiming that CCC was a little Goliath that needed to be crushed with a stone. The incident has since become

one of the darkest of the increasing violent incidents in Zimbabwe's political landscape.

This month, ZPP recorded a significant increase in the profile and scope of the human rights violations recorded. So, while in January, ZPP recorded a total of 55 cases of human rights violations, the majority of them were of discrimination during aid processes, and in February, the organization recorded a total of 70 cases, with the majority of them being of political violence that left people injured or dead.

In all of this, the majority of the victims, about 89 percent, are ordinary Zimbabweans, with nine percent being CCC supporters.

It is unfortunate that Zimbabwean politics continues to be haunted by cases of violence that can be avoided if Zimbabweans were more tolerant.

We are also concerned by the continued partisan actions of

the police, whose mandate is to serve every Zimbabwean. ZPP noted the irony that police managed to send a considerable amount of equipment and human resources to stop a CCC rally in Gokwe, but failed to send enough manpower to protect the legally sanctioned CCC event in Kwekwe, which was invaded by the machete gangs. The Kwekwe incident happened as CCC activists had to fend off alleged Zanu PF supporters who petrol bombed a tent set up for a rally in St Mary's in Chitungwiza. Police have also contributed to human rights violations, CCC supporters were detained for holding a car rally whereas supporters of other political parties had car rallies and they were not arrested. Police have also deployed roadblocks in a bid to disrupt opposition political activists wishing to attend rallies of their parties.

With SPECC, a purely Zimbabwean Android App, you can report human rights violations in real time

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ZIMBABWE PEACE PROJECT

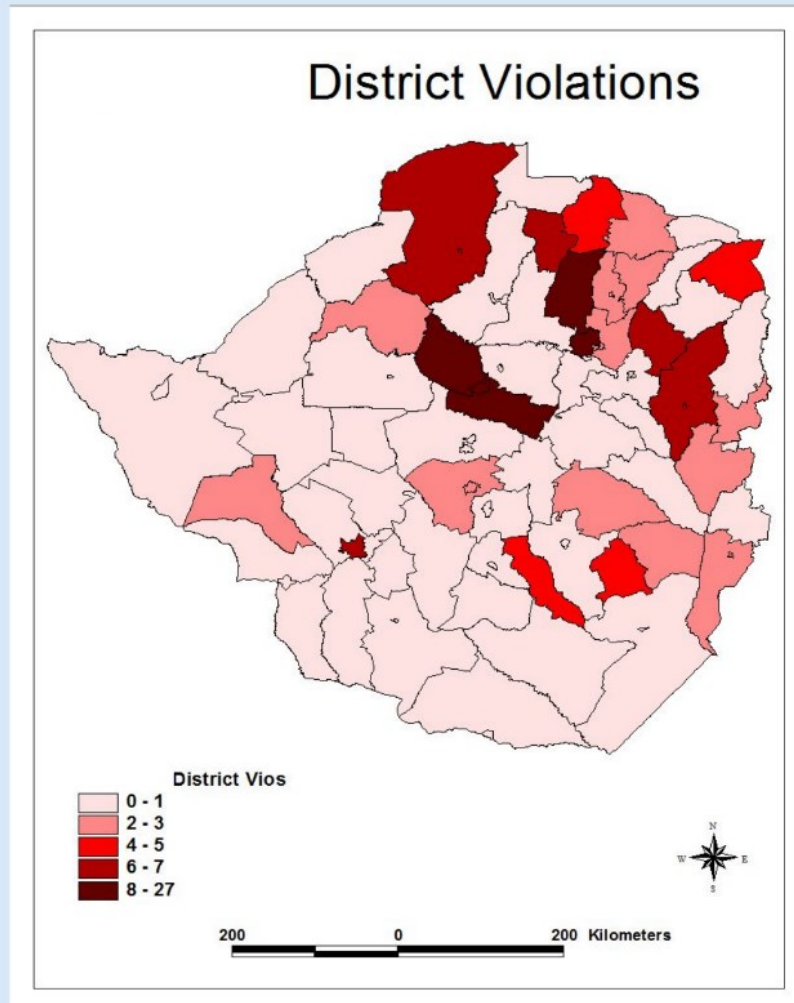
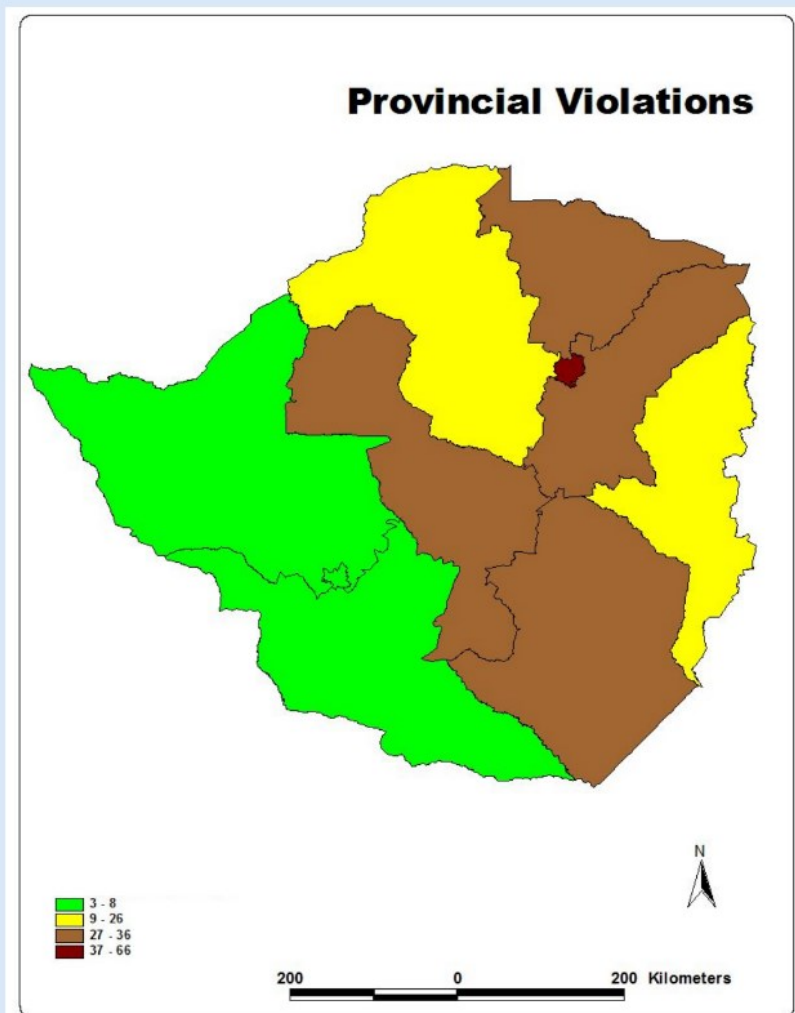
The logo for SPECC (South African Peace and Conflict Centre) features the letters 'S', 'P', 'E', and 'C' in green, yellow, red, and black respectively, followed by 'CC' in black.The Google Play logo, featuring the Google Play icon and the text 'GET IT ON Google Play'.



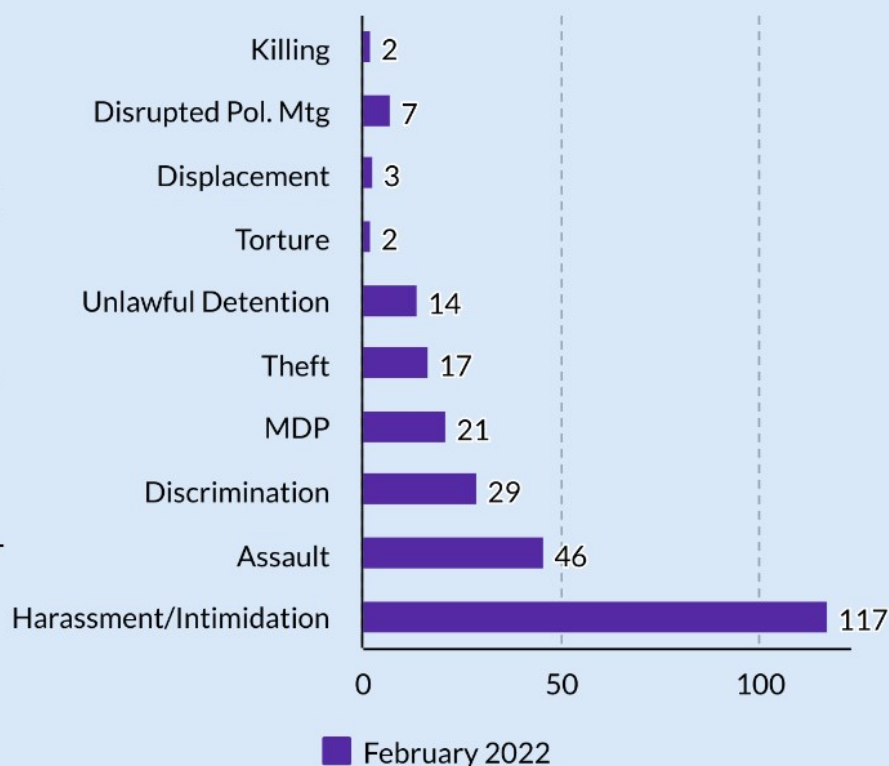
## Human Rights Violations Monthly Dashboard

Zimbabwe Peace Project

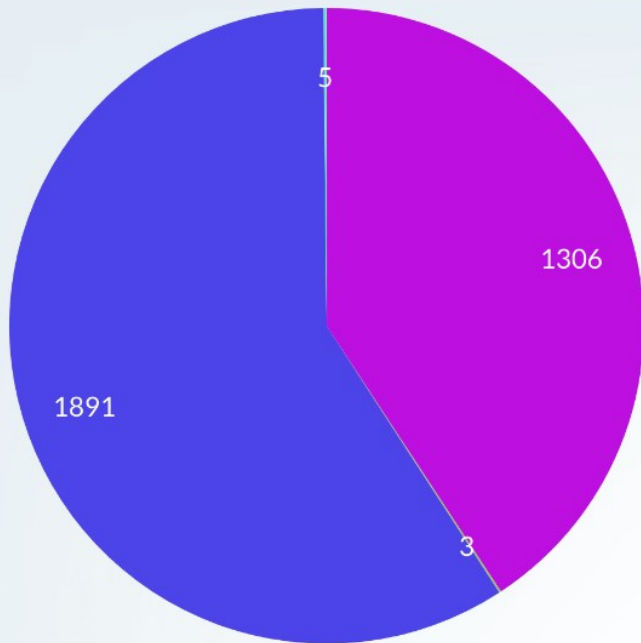
Report time frame: February, 2022



Provincial Violations

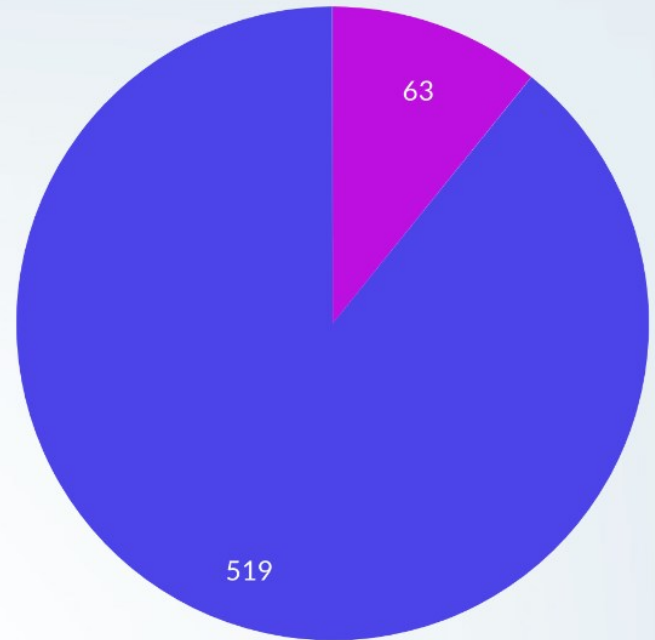


Types of Violations



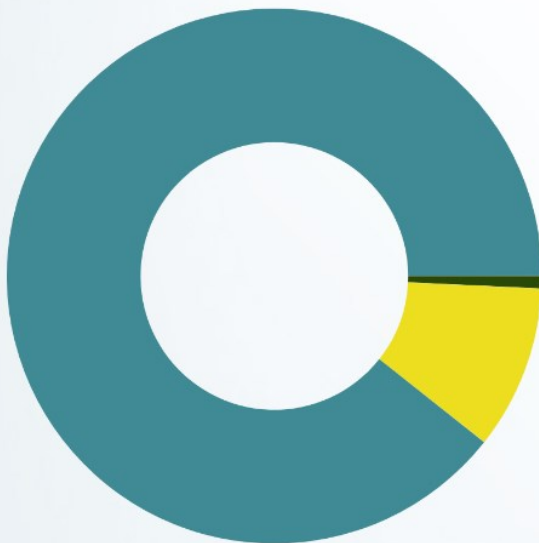
Female (40.75%) Female PWD (0.09%) Male (59%)  
Male PWD (0.16%)

**Gender of Victims**



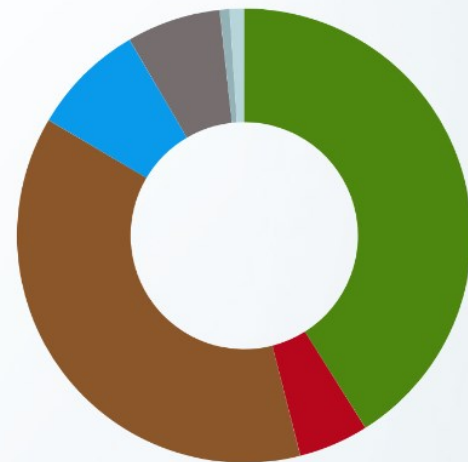
Female (10.82%) Male (89.18%)

**Gender of Perpetrators**



Zanu PF (0.75%) CCC (9.92%)  
General Citizens (89.33%)

**Victims Affiliation**



Zanu PF (41.07%) Machete Gangs (4.98%)  
ZRP (37.46%) Municipal Police (8.08%)  
Unknown (6.7%) Mthwakazi (0.69%)  
State agents (1.03%)

**Perpetrators Affiliation**



Harare (5.13%) Manicaland (15.38%)  
Mash Central (20.51%) Mash East (10.26%)  
Mash West (7.69%) Masvingo (23.08%)  
Mat North (2.56%) Mat South (5.13%)  
Midlands (10.26%)

**Food & Other Aid Violations**



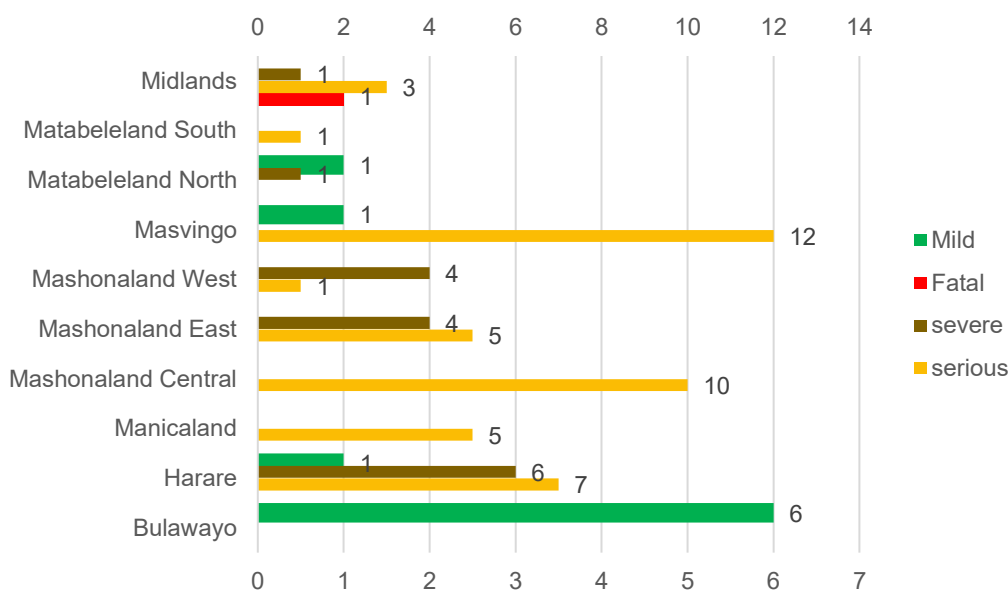
Zanu PF  
**Intra Party Violence**

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.

# National Outlook

This is the fifth instalment of ZPP’s feature as part of its campaign to 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. It is also designed to create active citizen participation in resisting, rejecting and reporting acts of political violence. This is because ZPP has noted how community members are used to mete out violence against each other and the moment they unite against violence, peaceful contestation is likely to prevail.

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 in the graph above, there is marginal increase in the number of politically motivated human rights violations to a total of 70, from the 55 recorded in January. The majority of the violations recorded are serious and severe and this means, there were more cases of assault and threats to citizens’ lives. Notably, Harare was a hotspot of political violence, and

recorded a total of 14, followed by Masvingo, which had 13 and while Midlands had 5 cases, it is the only province with a fatality. The fatality is from the unfortunate incident where suspected Zanu PF machete gangs descended on a CCC rally in Kwekwe, killing two and injuring dozens others. The incident has become one of the most unfortunate episodes

in the recent history of Zimbabwe and the attempts by the ruling party to shake off responsibility are of great concern as it shows insincerity, and inability to take responsibility. We also take note of the fact that more of the politically motivated human rights violations targeted the newly formed CCC. (See Provincial Highlights for more details)



# Kwekwe: machete gangs & political violence

“If Zanu PF ever loses, expect us to chop your arms off. We will not get arrested since the police belong to us the Zanu PF people”

As another sun rises and shines onto the streets of Kwekwe its golden rays mask the dark bloody encounters that have become part of life in this mining town.

This is a town that is supposed to show wealth and status owing to its strategic positioning above goldfields, but it has instead become a place of bloodletting, conflict and pain.

Hometown to President Mnangagwa, former State Security minister Owen Ncube among other politicians, Kwekwe is place where gold tunnels can be found just but anywhere.

It is also a place of explosive political contestation between the main political parties, Zanu PF and the Citizens Coalition for Change and for years the Movement for Democratic Change. In the last election, the Kwekwe Central parliamentary seat was won by the now late National People's First (NPF) Party candidate Masango Matambanadzo.

Matambanadzo was formerly Zanu PF and belonged to the G40 faction loyal to former president, the late Robert Mugabe and he was part of the former Zanu PF officials who formed the NPF in 2018.

Another factor that has made Kwekwe a place of contestation is what is believed to be President Mnangagwa's tight control of the mining activities in the area. He would prefer for Zanu PF to win the parliamentary seat in the town as this would assert his control even more.

This is where things get a little violent and we provide the context.

Beyond Kwekwe, artisanal miners are an important component of Zimbabwe's politics of patronage which Zanu PF has perfected over the years.

The idea is to create a vulnerable community that can be exploited and artisanal miners are just the perfect constituency for that and this is one of the reasons why upon assuming power, President Mnangagwa liberalized artisanal miners and relaxed the licence requirements.

What this meant was that the majority of unemployed young people could now easily find their way into the tunnels to extract the precious gold. But of course, it came at a price.

The fact that most young people are unemployed

creates a willing demographic that will do whatever to get a meal on the table. All the suspects arrested following the Kwekwe incident were listed as unemployed and some were also listed as having no identity documents.

As artisanal mining continued to spread, so did the ruling party officials tighten their control of the miners in order to get the most out of the proceeds.

Several Zanu PF politicians have been fingered as the hands behind artisanal miners, and in some cases machete gangs that terrorise people in and outside the mines. The President Mnangagwa's sons have been accused of taking over control of a number of mining sites across the country.

Though violence in gold mining areas apparently diminished in 2020 due to COVID-19 restrictions, the trend has flared up again now that operating space has opened up and more importantly, Zimbabwe is heading to yet another election.

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For Zanu PF, it is clear that the target is not the March 26 by-election but instead, it is the 2023 harmonised elections, and the time is now to intimidate people and create an atmosphere of fear such that by the time elections are held in 2023, many people will not be as free to express themselves.

Artisanal miners are not just used against Zanu PF's political rivals, but Zanu PF politicians also wield their connections to artisanal miners to advance their position in the ever-shifting Zanu PF structures and it is largely plausible that the attack on CCC supporters attending a rally in Kwekwe on Sunday 28 February could have been an act manifesting ever fermenting factional fights in Zanu PF. Information at hand suggests that the suspects were arrested at a lodge owned by ousted Owen Ncube.

Artisanal miners are also used to

beef up the numbers attending Zanu PF rallies or to cast votes for the ruling party in opposition strongholds, in return for tacitly allowing miners to grab valuable mining assets.

Looking ahead to Zimbabwe's 2023 election, the resurgence of machete gangs, most of whom are artisanal miners, pose a genuine concern to the safety of citizens who might want to exercise their political rights. The ruling Zanu PF could use machete miners as an instrument to retain power in targeted areas.

While artisanal miners have no collective rights under the law it is regrettable they will be rendered vulnerable to abuse for political gain during election time.

Gang violence flourishes around gold mines and the rule of law is either weak or simply does not exist as law enforcement agents are either incapacitated, or fear the political consequences of taking decisive action.

This is why then the 16 people were arrested after attacking the CCC rally in Kwekwe, 11 were released the following day without proper explanation from the police. The young people who ply the mines as artisanal miners tell of gross acts violence that is common in the mines. Some videos have been leaked where severe torture is used to command control.

ZPP recommends the following measures to end gang violence and ensure that Zimbabweans enjoy their right to freedom of assembly and association.

Government should revise the country's Mines and Minerals Act to give artisanal mining cooperatives legal standing, and adequately fund the ministry of mines unit responsible for the artisanal mining sector

Parliament should resume its enquiry into gold-related violence and should look into the role of politicians connected to the ruling party.



**In Harare, unknown assailants broke into the house of CCC Vice President Tendai Biti and attacked the security guard. Pic [twitter.com](https://twitter.com)**



## Harare

### *City of kakistocracy*

The levels of Zanu PF and government's political intolerance of opposition political parties – especially the newly formed Citizens' Coalition for Change reached alarming levels in February.

The party, in collusion with the police, sought to stifle campaigns by the CCC and used the same old tricks of arbitrary arrests, harassment, intimidation, among others.

The first major incident was the setting up of tight roadblocks along roads leading to Machipisa Shopping Centre in Highfields, where CCC leader Nelson Chamisa was due to hold a rally on February 20 to launch the party's campaign for the March 26 by-elections.

Chamisa was due to address his first gathering after making a clean break from the MDC brand and introducing a new party name and fresh colours and branding and this made the Highfields rally a test ground for his support.

This happened as 13 CCC activists had been arrested two days earlier for simply being in a vehicle, wearing their party regalia, singing and driving around Harare city centre, in what has been termed a car rally.

On Valentine's Day, armed police officers arrested and briefly detained CCC vice-president Tendai Biti and his aide, Emmanuel Gumbo, and took them to Harare Central Police Station's Law and Order Section where they were released without charge. The police allegedly arrested Biti because members of the public had cheered him at Letombo Shops in Msasa.

As if the police action against CCC people was not enough, Zanu PF activists also mounted a systematic attack on CCC supporters and in some cases, anyone wearing the party's yellow colours.

On 16 February, Zanu PF youths led by one Nyamuzihwa assaulted an CCC activist Bright Majoni, a vendor at Makoni Shopping Centre in Chitungwiza town near Harare. Majoni's crime was wearing his CCC party regalia.

On 18 February 2022, DJ Vaneldo a known CCC supporter in Highfields and his family, suffered injuries after Zanu PF supporters attacked them at their home.

On the other hand, ZPP recorded a number of cases where people in and around Harare had been forced to attend the Zanu PF rally held in Epworth on 12 February. ZPP has audio recordings of vendors and other informal traders who had received all sorts of threats to their trade if they failed to attend the rally, where dozens of State-owned ZUPCO buses and school buses hauled people from many parts of the country.

In addition, police officers and soldiers who were part of the security teams at the Zanu PF Epworth rally, assaulted people who attempted to leave the venue before the end of the rally.

Harare was one of the hotspots of politically motivated human rights violations and this was largely due to the fact that it is the stronghold of the CCC, as revealed by the record crowd that attended the CCC rally in Highfields.

This popularity increases the cases of police or Zanu PF activists clamping down on CCC supporters. On the other hand, Zanu PF is

claiming to be making inroads into Harare and hopes to win all the seats in the by-elections and this is putting pressure on the ruling party, which, as history has shown, easily resorts to violence.

As a result of this high contestation, Harare recorded 14 cases of politically motivated human rights violations.

## Midlands

### *Machetes and spears*

In addition to the machete violence targeting CCC supporters at a rally in Kwekwe, the Midlands Province, witnessed several cases of politicization and looting of government aid.

For example, in Ward 18 of Shurugwi South constituency, a truckload of fertilizer was delivered at Musasa Primary and when people had gathered to receive the inputs, it was discovered that at least 10 beneficiaries from each village had been removed from the list, and the fertilizer was, as ZPP discovered through its networks, diverted by the Ward councillor only identified as Kapeta and a government field officer, Ruth Ndana.

The two allegedly abused their influence in Zanu PF and government to loot an unspecified amount of fertilisers.

In Kwekwe and Gweru, while Zanu PF campaigned freely, the CCC's attempts to hold car rallies were suppressed mostly by the police. In Kwekwe Central as well, a car belonging to CCC aspiring candidate Judith Tobaiwa was attacked by suspected Zanu PF supporters, and to this date no arrests have been made.

## Mashonaland Central

### *We can kill and get away with it*

The majority of the human rights violations recorded in Mashonaland Central involved the discrimination of those who do not support Zanu PF from aid processes.

This is because in Mashonaland Central, there is only one by-election in March.

What ZPP can conclude is that the ruling party, using its control in government is creating an uneven environment ahead of the 2023 harmonized elections.

By denying aid to people who do not support Zanu PF, the goal is to abuse the people's vulnerability for political gain, which is unfortunate and against the law.

In addition, to politicising aid, Zanu PF politicians in Mashonaland Central held meetings where they issued threats to villagers who did not support the party.

Some of the cases of politicization of aid and intimidation include those in Chihoko and Kandigi villages, where people were summoned to attend a Zanu PF meeting at Chihoko primary school in Mt Darwin East ward 14.

Zanu PF District members Mike Murasira, Rivert Dhidhimu, Bhebhai Mujeri and a veteran of Zimbabwe's liberation struggle, Samson Hundi made intimidatory remarks to the villagers and gave everyone a week to surrender their membership to the opposition CCC.

"We are giving you up to Wednesday (next week) to come and surrender so that you can be spared, when we start dealing with sellouts," said Murasira, "we can kill and get away with it because

sellouts do not deserve to live. Some of you can be abducted and your relatives will not find you forever."

Mujeri added "Do not force us to do the unthinkable, let us all rally behind our tried and tested, the one and only Cde Emmerson Mnangagwa so that there won't be any bloodshed"

Hundi concluded the meeting by saying, "go and tell everyone that there is no opposition in Mt Darwin."

At Vonabo Famin in Glendale, Mazowe South constituency, Zanu PF district chairperson John Saidi forced villagers to attend a meeting where he threatened to evict from the farm compound all those who did not show allegiance to the ruling party.

CCC supporters who spoke to ZPP said they were forced to sing and chant Zanu PF songs and slogans and they had to do so for fear of reprisals.

In another case, on 2 February, at an occasion to hand out fertilizers at Muonwe Township in Bindura South, first preference was given Zanu PF district members and ruling party supporters, while CCC supporters were denied access.

Zanu PF district chairperson Abraham Mhembere who was in charge of the distribution told the victims to go and benefit from the CCC.

ZPP believes that in order for the electoral playing field to be even, Zanu PF should not abuse its incumbency for political gain.

## Bulawayo

### *Targeting the informals*

There were fewer people registering to vote and this was largely

attributed to the fact that the Registrar's General department has in the past couple of years, struggled to issue national registration documents, a situation that will likely disenfranchise many first-time voters.

Zanu PF continued with its intimidatory methods and this time they were targeting vendors.

For example, on 7 February, a Zanu PF activist identified as Kuda Chamboko went around Mkambo Market forcing vendors to buy new Zanu PF cards or risk losing their stands at the market.

In another case, a Zanu PF activist, Japhet Dube, led party youths to force informal traders to attend a Zanu PF rally addressed by disgraced former Vice President Kembo Mohadi.

Political intolerance remained high and in one incident, at Mountain View Shops three Mthwakazi Republic Party (MRP) youths led by Marvel Sithole defaced posters of Zanu PF and CCC candidates for the March 26 by-elections. It is said that the trio went on a rampage to deface the campaign posters citing that they were not fit for anything.

At KoZitha, suspected MRP activists assaulted and tore the clothes of a CCC member for wearing the CCC yellow colours, accusing him of supporting 'a Shona-led political party'.

The tension over the MDC-T Vice President Thokozani Khupe's intention to rejoin the CCC, following her fallout with MDC-T leader Douglas Mwonzora, escalated, leading to a tribal outburst on and offline.

The tension in the CCC over Khupe is likely to result in political violence.



## Matabeleland North

### *Intra-party confrontations*

Intra-party violence rocked the province in February when Zanu PF youths in Binga North allegedly burnt to ashes a branded Zanu PF Women's League vehicle allocated to Veronica Munkuli. The youths accuse Munkuli of being against the appointment of the current shadow MP Kudakwashe. While the matter was reported to the police, no arrests had been made at the time of writing this report.

Harassment and intimidation of opposition supporters continued and Chief Saba was at it again, in Siansundu when he threatened to expel all opposition political party supporters from his area, if they continued to defy his calls for everyone to join the ruling party. Saba made the threats during community meetings where he further asked community members to be on the lookout for and report to him anyone who wore any clothes with the yellow colour that the CCC has adopted since its formation in January.

## Masvingo

### *Vote buying*

In Masvingo Province, in a case of vote buying in contravention of the Electoral Act, Zanu PF candidate for Bikita East by-election Court Zevezai who is also a businessperson, brought more than 800 bags of fertilizer which he distributed at three centers in the ward. People got the fertilizer after pledging to vote for him in the March 26 by-election.

In Mwenezi East and Gutu North, the right to freedom of assembly was under the spotlight and at Masaswe Centre, a Zanu PF chairperson Tavonga Maparanga, Councillor Takura Mudavose, and an Agricultural Extension officer Edington Shamhuyashe Mapuranga presided over a government fertilizer distribution process, where Maparanga allegedly ordered

people to chant Zanu PF slogans and misrepresented to the beneficiaries that the fertilizer was from the Zanu PF party and not government.

He added that the fertilizer was to be distributed according to one's level of commitment to Zanu PF and this would be determined by attending the party's meetings. In Gutu opposition CCC members had their meeting disrupted by village head security aides who ordered the CCC members to disperse and never convene an opposition meeting in the area.

## Mashonaland East

### *No more yellow*

There was a general increase in cases of intimidation and politicization of aid and individuals who showed support for the newly formed opposition CCC were targeted.

While in the past, wearing anything with the colour red during election time was not the safest thing to do, as it was associated with the MDC formations, it appears the colour yellow is the new red. Fresh from rejoining Zanu PF, former war veterans leader and terror architect Jabulani Sibanda convened a meeting in Murehwa with war veterans and Zanu PF supporters and ordered them to contribute money that would be used to fund the Zanu PF youths to disrupt CCC campaigns in the province.

In Mudzi, Zanu PF activists have effectively barred villagers from wearing yellow and those that do so face threats, harassment and assault while in Murehwa, Zanu PF activists are reportedly barring CCC members from mobilizing and engaging with supporters.

In one of the cases at Masenda Village in Mudzi a Zanu PF Ward secretary, Elizabeth Jiru, threatened to kill a CCC member who was conducting door to door campaigns. Jiru also threatened to

burn the houses of CCC supporters.

These threats cannot be taken lightly as during the heat of previous election periods, opposition supporters have been killed and some have had their houses burnt down.

In Mudzi South in Makaha area, Mapombo Ward, Chinese gold mining companies are allegedly grabbing villagers' land and turning it into dump sites. This is being done without any consultation with the affected. About ten villagers have been affected.

## Mashonaland West

Zanu PF activists and artisanal miners contributed to 12 of the total 17 human rights violations reported in Mashonaland West while traditional leaders forced villagers to attend Zanu PF meetings.

As the country prepares for elections, artisanal mining syndicates are on a resurgence and because of their association with Zanu PF, there is a chance they will be used for terror in the run up to the 2023 elections and so far, this month, they were engaged in acts of intimidating opposition supporters especially in Kadoma and Muzveve areas.

In Muzveve, Zanu PF youths, most of whom are artisanal miners, went on a door to door campaign forcing villagers to join Zanu PF structures and threatened those intending to vote for the opposition with eviction from their farms.

In another case, in Rimuka, Kadoma, Zanu PF supporters led by Denford Gwezuva popularly known as Bambo, went around the area defacing CCC campaign posters. Zanu PF aspiring councillor Mavata is allegedly behind the violence..

## **Matabeleland South**

### *More intimidation*

The intimidation of villagers and the politicization of aid continued and in one case at Sun Yet Sen a Zanu PF activist Muziwakhe Mlalazi threatened to invite the Zanu PF aligned National Youth Service (NYS) militia to the community to beat up CCC supporters.

He further said that CCC should not be allowed to hold any meeting in the area.

This case was similar to the one recorded at Coleen Bawn, in Gwanda Central where a group of four unidentified people assaulted a CCC supporter for wearing the party's regalia.

In another case, on 25 February, at Sanzukwi a Zanu PF activist Amos Dube denied food aid to an MRP member. After turning away the MRP member, Dube later misrepresented to those who had benefitted that the

food, which was from the government's Department of Social Welfare, was from the Zanu PF party and therefore anyone who supported other political parties was supposed to receive aid from that party.

## **Manicaland**

### *Looting of inputs*

In Manicaland Province, just as in Mashonaland Central, politicization of aid dominated the list of human rights violations in the province, with the most cases happening in Buhera and Nyanga districts, where only two House of Assembly seats - Dangamvura/Chikanga and Mutasa South. - are being contested.

One example is in Zvinavashe village 7 and Mtaurwa village 9, where Zanu PF local leadership tampered with the list of households supposed to benefit

from inputs and while the government employees, that is, the Agricultural Extension officers, noted the omission of some names, they referred to village secretaries who indicated they had included anyone.

It was only discovered that perceived opposition supporters were the ones omitted after Zanu PF local leaders hijacked the process.

There was a similar case at Baron Downs Farm in Nyanga South, where farm inputs were allegedly looted by Agricultural Extension Officers Caroline Mandikonza and Joseph Nzara and a Zanu PF area chairperson Slay Mhandu.