

#RRRV2023

FEBRUARY 2023

**ZIMBABWE PEACE PROJECT
MONTHLY MONITORING REPORT**

THE PERPETRATORS ARE KNOWN.

**BEYOND REPORTING,
WE MUST RESIST & REJECT VIOLENCE
IN ZIMBABWE.**



**ZIMBABWE
PEACE
PROJECT**

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SPECC

Mobile App



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

1 The RoundUP

February, the month of love proved not to be so concerning the human rights situation. Though February is a shorter month, ZPP recorded 241 human rights violations, a slight increase from 231 in January 2023. 56% of the violations were of threats, harassment, and intimidation, 15% of discrimination and 13% of assaults. ZPP identified 1 722 victims of human rights violations (75% male, 24% female, 0.5% male persons with disability and 0.3% female PWDs). The general citizens populated the highest percentage of victims, 90%, and Citizens Coalition for Change (CCC) supporters followed with 8%. Zanu PF party perpetrated the most violations (48%), followed by the Zimbabwe Republic Police (ZRP) at 17%. Midlands (38) and Mashonaland Central (33) provinces recorded the highest violations, whilst Matabeleland North (7) and South (12) and Bulawayo (12) had the lowest.

The human rights situation across the country was characterized by widespread cases of harassment and intimidation of citizens in general and opposition members, especially in their gatherings which were systematically banned by the police in suspiciously politically influenced decisions. Inter-party violence was also recorded in Gokwe North, Kadoma, Sanyati, and Mazowe. There was also notable coercing of people in communities to join Zanu PF. In most communities the party is using cell lists to intimidate and ensure everyone appears on it. In some communities known or suspected supporters of other parties are being grafted into leadership roles at the level of the cell. Those who are spurning these demands which, infringe on section 58 of the Constitution, are targeted with assaults and discrimination when it comes to the distribution of food and agricultural inputs. Political space continues to shrink for the opposition and many people are not free to assert their rights in their communities. Threats and intimidation cases were most prevalent in Murehwa, Uzumba Maramba Pfungwe, Mudzi, Gokwe Chireya, Kabuyuni, Gumunyu, Mkoba, Zvishavane Ngezi, Kambuzuma, Kuwadzana, Epworth Lupane, and Insiza, to name a few. Political intolerance is soaring, resulting in tensions that have the potential to breed more violence and electoral malpractices in the coming months.

Most rural and some urban communities are not boding well for election season expected in a few months as rising tensions are keeping citizens in constant fear. They are being forced to attend meetings on a daily basis in some communities largely convened by traditional leaders some of whom are advising villagers to don ruling party regalia for 'protection'. It is at these meetings and through door to door visits that villagers are coerced to have their names on the cell lists. In urban areas vending sites have become a target of the daily meetings where vendors seeking to maintain sources of livelihood are forced by officials of the ruling party to tow the line and religiously attend the meetings.

The targeting of markets and vending sites is hardly new to the Zimbabwe landscape. A few years back ruling party affiliated 'Mandimbandimba' wreaked havoc at bus termini fleecing owners of commuter omnibus. Now the ruling party through some shadowy affiliates, 'vendors4ED', are causing havoc in some urban areas demanding USD1 a day for vendors to use undesignated sites rejecting local authority designated sites. As election season heats up volatility and tensions will best describe the situation facing the electorate. Women, young women and women with disabilities are the most vulnerable, they are the majority in rural areas, they make the bulk of vendors in most urban areas.

The Monthly Monitoring Report (MMR) is a compilation of human rights violations painting a picture of the human rights situation in the country month on month. In addition to identifying offenders and victims, the report informs the public about the state of social, political, economic, civil, and cultural rights and is used to develop advocacy initiatives with the help of various stakeholders. ZPP launched the #RRRV2023 campaign ahead of the elections to mobilise citizens to Resist, Reject, and Report violence. The campaign seeks to contribute to the existence of a conducive environment for the harmonised elections. The campaign allows citizens in general to report cases they witness and experience which violate their political rights as provided in section 67. The campaign seeks also give citizens the opportunity to reject and resist prospective leaders who are violent. The campaign demonstrates to citizens that they wield a lot of power to ensure a conducive environment exists in the run up to the elections.



2 Major Highlights

On 1 February the government gazetted the new Police Amendment Bill. The Bill replaces the Police Amendment Bill HB2021 which lapsed in November 2021 at the end of the Fourth Session of the Ninth Parliament. Some of the provisions include the Commissioner-General of Police being appointed by the President in consultation with the minister responsible for police. The Bill seeks to align the tenure of the office of the Commissioner-General of Police with section 221 (2) of the Constitution and Section 223 (1) (a) of the Bill seeks to give him powers to appoint competent persons to hold posts or ranks in the police service. The proposed law will also align provisions relating to appointment, promotion, discharge, retirement and conditions of service of members of the police service with provisions of the Constitution. According to Veritas the newly gazetted Police Amendment Bill 2023 should undergo all normal stages of a new Bill before Parliament as certain provisions, if enacted, would have detrimental effects on effective policing and ultimately on national security. The Bill seeks to repeal Section 32 of the principal Act so that all trials, including those of commissioned officers, will be conducted by boards of officers.

On 7 February Hon Job Sikhala's lawyer Jeremiah Bhamu filed two applications before Harare magistrate Tafadzwa Miti for Sikhala to get treatment from his chosen medical practitioners, as it is within his rights to do so. Hon Sikhala wrote a letter from Chikurubi Maximum Security Prison expressing concern over his deteriorating health. He highlighted that he had been suffering from abdominal pain ever since his alleged poisoning. Hon Sikhala stated that the pain, from his left side, had been growing steadily over the weeks. Reports indicate that Hon Sikhala is being denied access to doctors of his own choice by prison authorities. On January 26, Sikhala was remanded in custody in absentia after the Zimbabwe Prisons and Correctional Services indicated that he was not well. Hon Sikhala who has been in pre-trial detention for more than 8 months made an application on 7 February for prison officers to return his blood pressure medication that had been confiscated by members of the Zimbabwe Prisons and Correctional Services (ZPCS). He was granted access to medical assistance and for the officers to return his blood pressure medication. Hon Sikhala has been denied bail a record 15 times after his arrest on 14 June 2022 and remains incarcerated. His situation exposes selective application of law as some politicians who have had a brush with the law have easily been granted bail. Even the perpetrators who flogged the elderly in Murehwa North have been granted bail.

On 21 February President Emmerson Mnangagwa gazetted the Zimbabwe Electoral Commission (ZEC) Delimitation Report which sets out the boundaries of wards and constituencies to be used in the upcoming harmonised elections. The gazetting of the report has sparked criticism as some argue that it was published outside the bounds of the law. According to constitutional law expert Professor Lovemore Madhuku, ZEC can only make two submissions, a preliminary report for onward submission to parliament to comment on and a final report after taking into consideration the comments by parliament. On 3 February, the Chairperson of ZEC presented what she said to journalists was her Commission's final Delimitation report to the President. This means the 14-day period expired on Friday 17 February. Government spokespersons later denied it was the final report, claiming it was only a draft. The government insisted then that President Mnangagwa had not received the final report. In parliament Hon Settlement Chikwinya asked the Minister of Justice, Legal and Parliamentary Affairs to clarify the dates on which the President received the ZEC final Delimitation report and when the Presidential proclamation would be gazetted to clarify conflicting statements by Government spokespersons. The Minister Hon Ziyambi Ziyambi refused to answer the question despite being pressed by MPs.

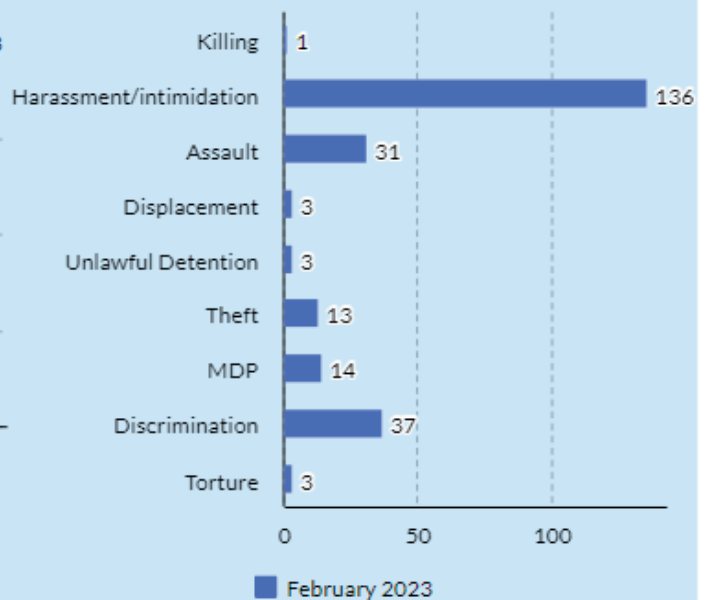
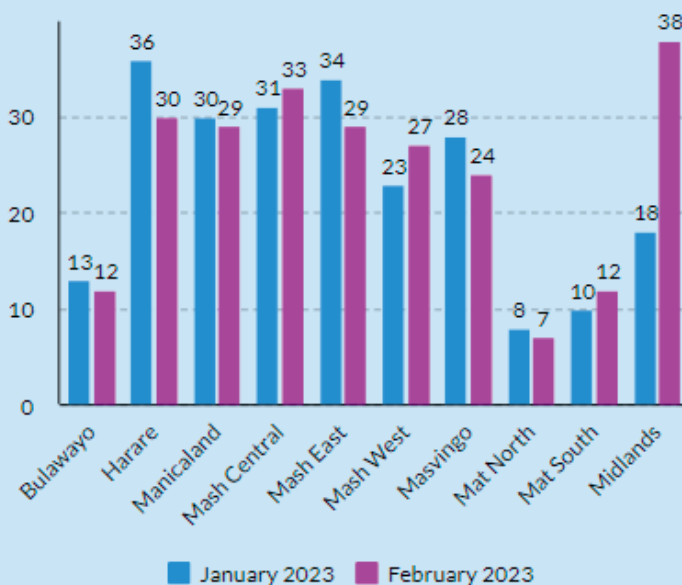
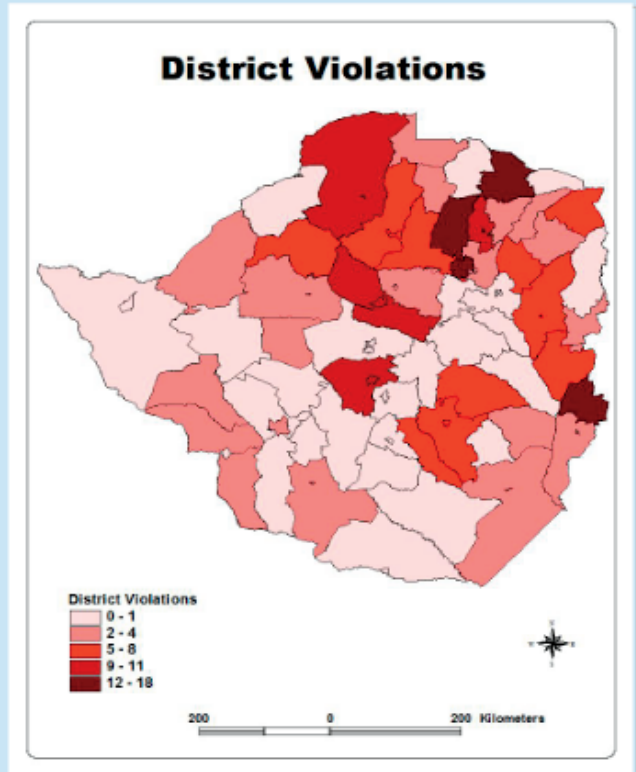
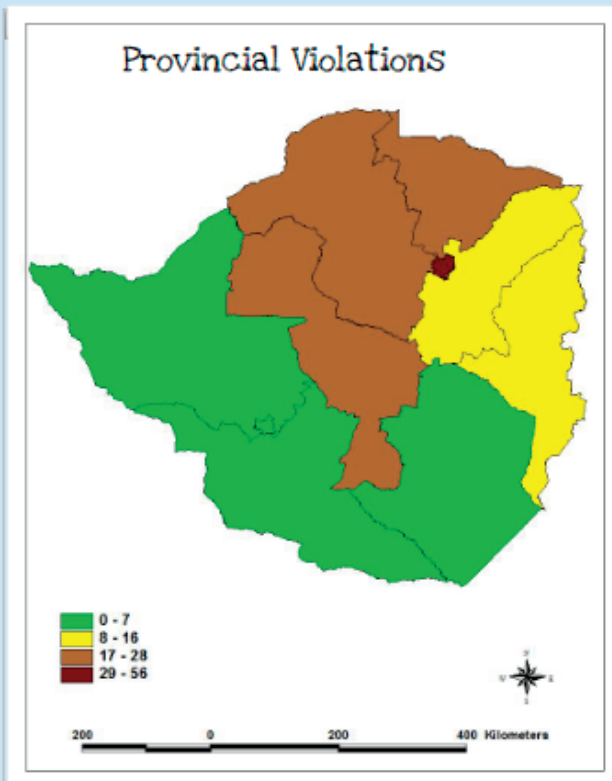


3 February violations data log

Human Rights Violations Monthly Dashboard

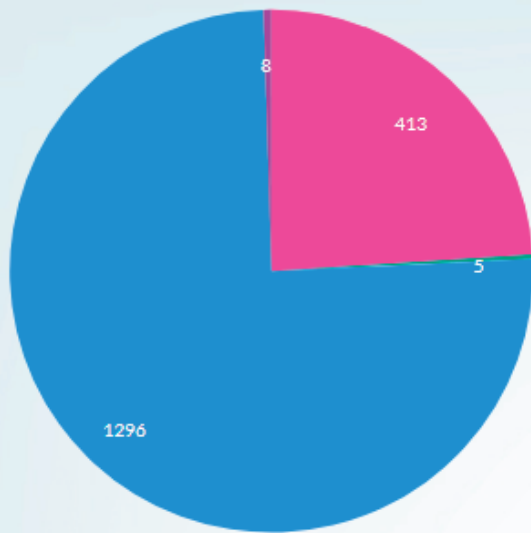
Zimbabwe Peace Project

Report time frame: February, 2023



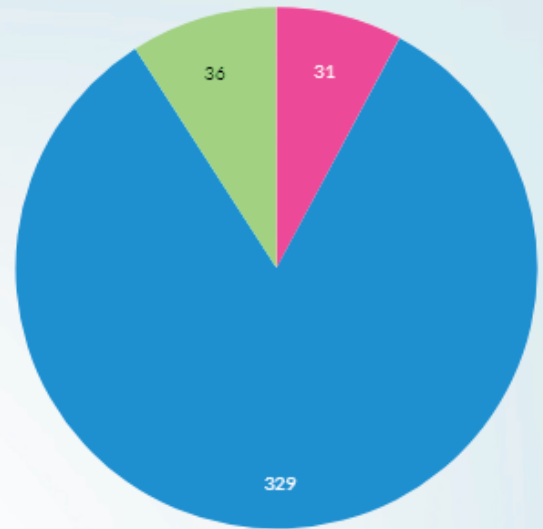
Provincial Violations

Types of Violations



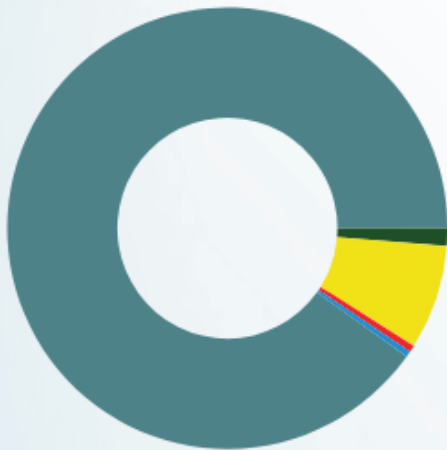
Female (23.98%) Female PWD (0.29%) Male (75.26%) Male PWD (0.46%)

Gender of Victims



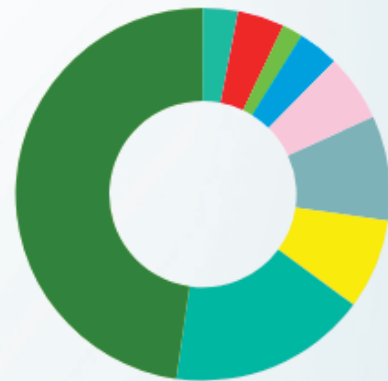
Female (7.83%) Male (83.08%) Unknown (9.09%)

Gender of Perpetrators



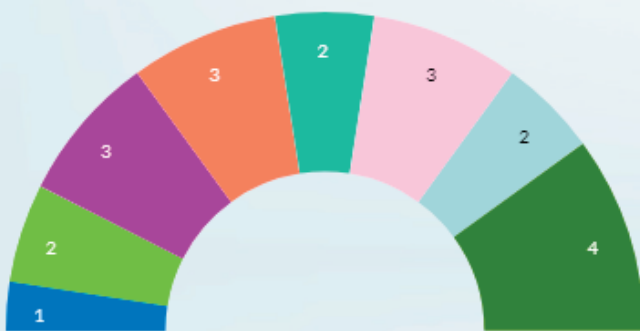
Zanu PF (1.3%) CCC (7.65%) MDC Alliance (0.49%) Mthwakazi (0.43%) General Citizens (90.13%)

Victims Affiliation



State agents (3.03%) MDC Alliance (4.04%) War Veteran (1.77%) ZNA (3.54%) Unknown (5.81%) Municipal Police (9.09%) CCC (7.83%) ZRP (17.17%) Zanu PF (47.73%)

Perpetrators Affiliation



Harare (5%) Manicaland (10%) Mash Central (15%) Mash East (15%) Mash West (10%) Masvingo (15%) Mat South (10%) Midlands (20%)

Food & Other Aid Violations



Zanu PF

Intra Party Violence

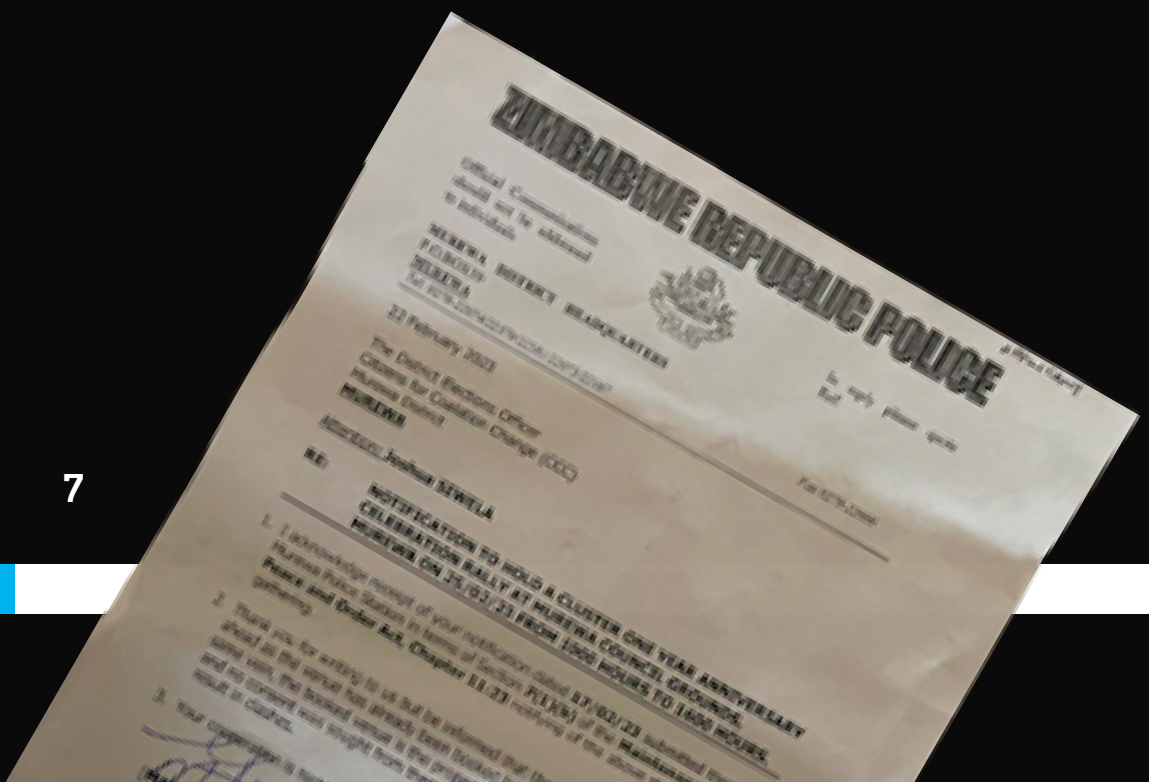
4 Key Findings and Mitigation Measures

Partisan policing by the Zimbabwe Republic Police (ZRP)

The ZRP has resorted to using of the Maintenance of Peace and Order Act to scuttle opposition party gatherings. On 12 February, the ZRP did not clear the opposition CCC to hold a rally at Nhakiwa Business Centre in Uzumba citing that the notification did not fully comply with the requirements of the law in particular Section 7 (1) (b) of the Maintenance of Peace and Order Act (MOPA) which governs notices of public meetings. On 25 February the ZRP blocked another CCC cluster one-year anniversary celebration rally in Murehwa and Umzingwane. Other intended rallies that were not cleared by the police include rallies scheduled for Ambassador ward 3 Kariba Constituency, Chin'ai business centre in Ward 15 in Gutu Central Constituency and Rowa Grounds in Mutare. In the run-up to the 26 March 2022 by-elections, the ZRP blocked several CCC rallies citing various reasons including the unavailability of the venues and shortage of manpower to cover events. 68 CCC rallies have been effectively banned by the ZRP since the party was launched. CCC councillor for Ward 7 in Masvingo, Richard Musekiwa was arrested for convening a meeting at his house in Rujeko on February 18 and charged with contravening the MOPA Act. MOPA came into effect in November 2019 to replace the repealed POSA which was used to clamp down on opposition supporters under the reign of the late President Robert Mugabe. The UN Special Rapporteur on Freedom of peaceful assembly and association in 2019 noted that MOPA is not conducive to free and unhindered exercise of the right to freedom of peaceful assembly, negatively affecting the exercise of the rights to freedom of association and expression.

Recommendations

1. Regional human rights activists and defenders are urged to continue with advocacy initiatives to impress on States to respect constitutional rights in the face of rising intolerance to dissenting voices.
2. The Zimbabwe Human Rights Commission should expeditiously investigate cases of partisan policing and train the police on impartial policing without fear or favour.





Politicisation of vending spaces

On 23 February, Bulawayo City Council (BCC) embarked on a blitz to remove vendors from various undesignated sites along Fifth Avenue and Fife Street. Three people were injured after BCC Police fired rubber bullets to disperse a crowd which had gathered to demonstrate against an operation targeting illegal vendors. The clash resulted in Thabani Nyoni falling into a pothole and sustaining an injury while trying to run away with his goods. One of the other victims was injured when he was pushed and trampled upon. The injured were taken to United Bulawayo Hospitals for treatment. An hour after the Municipality Police removed vendors, a Zanu PF Youth leader for Nehanda District, identified as Josiah addressed the vendors and advised them to return to their vending sites. According to CiteZW, there are 40 empty bays in the city centre and 10 000 empty bays in various shopping centres city wide where a vending licence costs US\$23 per year and monthly rental is US\$11. For the undesignated sites vendors pay US\$1 a day to Zanu PF youths. These sites are without toilets and other sanitary facilities essential for hygienic environments. In Harare, Zanu PF affiliate 'Vendors 4ED' have clashed with Harare City Council (HCC), amid reports that the former was illegally allocating trading spaces to its members in the city under cover of the ruling party. Harare ward 16 councillor and Small and Medium Enterprise Committee chairperson, Denford Ngadzire, stated that it is the mandate of the City of Harare through its relevant department to allocate trading places. Vendors 4ED national chairperson Samora Chisvo claimed his group was only holding awareness campaigns with vendors. It seems there are underlying reasons why there is tension between local authorities and the ruling party when it comes to vending sites. As the elections are fast approaching it is suspected the ruling party intends to expand its support base by targeting vendors and threatening them with loss of vending sites if they do not vote for Zanu PF and if Zanu PF loses the targeted urban constituencies.

Recommendations

1. Local governments are urged initiate engagements with vendors to understand why they are spurning available vending sites with facilities.
2. Civil society actors should capacitate vendors on their political rights as enshrined in the constitution so that their rights are not violated by political activists.



Delimitation Report Crisis

According to analysis done by legal experts and election watchdogs the recently proclaimed ZEC Delimitation report is viewed as being laden with constitutional irregularities and anomalies. According to Veritas, the wrong part of the report was published due to the wrong formula used for variations in voter numbers hence the Delimitation report may be unconstitutional. Veritas argues that the use of the wrong formula to calculate voter variations, cannot be corrected quickly in the short time available before the elections and according to the Constitution, this year's election will have to be held under the old 2008 delimitation since the report is not error-free. According to section 161(2) of the Constitution, the proclamation of the election day will have to be no earlier than 20 August as the polling day for the election is supposed to be six months after publication of the report. Veritas stated that among other breaches in handling the proclamation of the Delimitation report, Section 161(11) of the Constitution lays down that the President must publish a proclamation in the Gazette declaring the names and boundaries of the wards and constituencies as finally determined by the Commission within 14 days after receiving the report. The President did publish the report, but he left out the most important part, the one that sets out electoral boundaries. This creates a seed for political disputes after the announcement of election results.

Recommendations

1. ZEC is urged to engage its stakeholders to ensure there is better understanding of the situation around the Delimitation process so as to instil confidence in the Commission.

Misprioritized Spending

On 9 February, the Minister of Primary and Secondary Education, Evelyn Ndlovu, told Parliament that the ministry did not have money to implement free education as it was not allocated enough money in the 2023 budget. She stated that the ministry had hoped to provide free education, but it was allocated US\$6,3 million which is not enough for the exercise. In 2020, President Mnangagwa signed into law the Education Amendment Act which compels the State to provide free basic education in line with provisions of section 27 of the Constitution. Section 27 states that “the state must take all practical measures to promote free compulsory basic education for children”. Minister Ndlovu mentioned that the Act must be respected, but it was difficult to implement with dry coffers. For years, the government has been promising free basic education ,but has failed to implement the policy. The 2022 global study by World Remit ranked Zimbabwe’s education as one of the most expensive and six times more than the total average income of an average family which resulted in thousands of school dropouts. In parliament Hon Josiah Sithole raised the perennial problem of schoolchildren enrolled under the Basic Education Assistance Module (BEAM) programme not attending school because most schools want to see proof of payment, which the parents are not able to provide. In response the Minister of Public Service, Labour and Social Welfare said the BEAM programme has 1 800 000 learners registered on it and the government was pushing for the funds to be transferred to the schools, so the learners continue to learn.

Recommendations

1. The Ministry of Finance and Economic Development must allocate more resources to the Ministry of Primary and Secondary in line with the Dakar Framework that calls for the allocation of over 20% of total budget to education.
2. The Ministry of Primary and Secondary Education (MoPSE) must enforce policies that respect the rights of learners to education. Learners are not responsible for school fees and payment plans should be worked out with parents and avoid the turning away of learners from school.

Government Passing Unconstitutional Laws

On 1 February the Zimbabwe Industrial National Coordinating Council (ZINCC) issued a statement that the Health Services Amendment Act and the Criminal Law (Codification and Reform Amendment Bill) violate the Constitution of Zimbabwe and International Labour Organization (ILO) conventions that the country has ratified. This follows an ILO fact-finding mission to Zimbabwe last year following numerous reports on labour violations. The conventions include Convention 87 (freedom of association and protection of the right to organise) and Convention 98 (the right to organise and collective bargaining). The Health Services Amendment Act states that strikes in the public health sector must not go beyond 72 hours as they are described as an essential service. If unions fail to adhere to this limited time, the organisers will be fined and sentenced to three years in prison according to a government gazette of the Criminal Law Codification and Reform Amendment Bill. Joseph Tanyanyiwa, the chairperson of ZINCC stated that workers' rights are human rights that should neither be constrained nor compromised and freedom of expression should not be criminalised. He said the organisation was imploring the government to urgently amend or repeal the laws which instil fear in trade unions and their members through weakening the workers' struggle for better working conditions. According to independent sources, Zimbabwe currently has the highest level of unemployment in the world and Zimbabwean workers, whose average salaries are US \$62 per month, are finding it difficult to make ends meet.

Recommendation

1. Adoption of constitutionalism as a culture to prevent the rampant passing of laws that are unconstitutional.



5 Towards A Zimbabwe where there is Peace, Justice, Dignity and Development for All.

ZPP joined the rest of the nation in celebrating the Robert Mugabe National Youth Day which is celebrated annually on 21 February. The theme for this year is "Alleviating substance and drug abuse " which has affected most of the youth with a disturbing prevalence rate of 57% being recorded. High unemployment rates in the country, coupled with poverty and despair, have resulted in increasing numbers of youthful citizens turning to drugs. Commonly used substances among the youth include glue, Broncleer, mangemba, cane spirit, marijuana, codeine and crystal meth. ZPP joins other CSOs in imploring the government to amend the Dangerous Drugs Act and Criminal Codification Act which does not classify drugs such as crystal meth as illegal substances. A scourge in drug and substance abuse by the youth coupled with an economy with high unemployment rates breeds young perpetrators who are gullible to being manipulated with meagre payments in return to assault, harass and intimidate citizens or those who hold different voices to the status quo. They are often coerced and incentivized by politicians into taking drugs to boost their courage to engage in criminal activities. They are mobilised into perpetrating acts of violence to further the interests of the paying politicians in election and other special events. Drug and substance abuse threatens the existence of youths as responsible citizens which limits their full participation in democratic electoral processes hence there is need for urgent intervention by communities, CSOs and government at large.

On 9 February the United Nations Special Rapporteur on Freedom of Peaceful Assembly and Association, Clement Nyaletsossi Voule, together with other experts urged President Mnangagwa not to sign the Private Voluntary Organisations (PVO) Amendment Bill into law warning that the legislation in its current form would severely restrict civic space and the right to freedom of association in the country. He expressed disappointment over the bill being approved by the National Assembly. The UN experts submitted an analysis of the bill to the government in 2021, concluding that it was incompatible with Zimbabwe's international human rights obligations, in particular the right to freedom of association and expression. The experts expressed deep concern that the oversight function in the PVO Amendment Bill for civil society organisations provides for disproportionate and discretionary powers to the newly established Office of the Registrar of PVOs, without independence from the executive. Mr Voule stated that the bill must be revised in consultation with civil society organisations and in line with international law. The PVO Amendment Bill has faced strong opposition, especially from civil society organisations and the international community as in its current state, the PVO Bill is ill-informed and is a short sighted political manoeuvre with no long term benefits for the country. The Bill was published in November 2021 and is unconstitutional as it violates various fundamental rights and freedoms including freedom of association. If signed into law by the president, the bill will give the government unrestricted power to deregister, target and attack civic groups who hold the government to account.



ZPP strives to support a peaceful electoral process where voters can resist and reject political orders inciting violence in the upcoming 2023 harmonised elections. ZPP developed a mobile application - SPECC, to report Social, Political, Economic, Civil, and Cultural violations. The application provides citizens with a platform to report violations with an anonymous option. The App is available on Google Play and Apple stores, and WhatsApp Chabot called Batsi or Mncedisi. The verified reports are documented in the Monthly Monitoring Report, and the victims are assisted with accessing service providers for legal or medical support. All this is intended to create an active citizenry that resists, rejects and reports violence.



Batsi or Mncedisi on

+263 784 123 456

6 Special Focus

In the month of February, the special focus area zoomed on equality and non-discrimination, political rights, freedom of assembly and association and personal security. In a democracy, citizens have the right to freely express their opinions, the right to vote, form political parties & take part in political activities. As such, the protection of these rights is fundamental.

Freedom of Assembly and Association

In the month of February, ZPP recorded a total of 32 cases related to freedom of assembly and association. Mashonaland East and Midlands provinces had nine violations each, the highest number, and Mashonaland Central had the lowest being one violation.

A case of intimidation and harassment was reported in Arongani Village Ward 16 in Mudzi South on February 20. It is alleged that a Zanu PF aligned traditional leader Stanley Zinhu forced villagers to convene before a Zanu PF Chairperson Memory Kachungwamira forcing villagers to sing revolutionary songs and denounce opposition parties. Kachungwamira went on to intimidate, harass and threaten an activist. Reports indicate that Kachungwamira said, "hatidi kumurega ari mupenyu, panguva yatiri kupinda yema elections", the Zanu PF committee present at the meeting agreed that the activist should be evicted from the ward and his relatives should not benefit from government handouts such as inputs. In Bikita, it was reported that on 9 February, Bikita Police unduly impounded a truck that was ferrying and assisting CCC members to register to vote, at Nyika Growth Point in Bikita West. These 59 CCC members were from Bikita East and were left stranded after registering to vote. Verified facts indicated that a lorry belonging to a CCC aspiring candidate for Bikita East which had been used to ferry people for a long time to register to vote. It was impounded for unclear reasons but suspected to have been political as the selective application of the law continues unabated. The 59 were also said to have been detained after demanding the release of the vehicle and released the following day on 10 February.

According to Section 58 of the Constitution, every Zimbabwean has the right not to assemble or associate with others nor be compelled to belong to an association or to attend a meeting or gathering. The African Charter on Human and Peoples' Rights, Article 10 states that, "every individual shall have the right to assemble freely with others." In addition, Article 11 states that, "every individual shall have the right to freedom of movement." The right to freedom of association is guaranteed under Articles 12(3), 27(2) and 28 of the African Charter on Democracy, Elections and Governance.

Right to administrative justice

ZPP recorded 12 cases where the citizens' right to administrative justice were violated. Mashonaland East and Mashonaland Central had 3 cases each and Manicaland recorded the lowest with 1 case.

An example can be seen through a case that was reported on 16 February to the effect that pregnant women were sleeping on the floor and being asked to bring their own blankets at the United Bulawayo Hospitals (UBH). "The infrastructure is dilapidated with the floors having potholes. The buildings are crowded; you will find women being asked to sleep on the floor because the beds are full. They end up being asked to bring their own blankets from home,"

Section 68 of the Constitution provides that every Zimbabwean has a right to administrative conduct that is lawful, prompt, efficient, reasonable, proportionate, impartial and both substantively and procedurally fair.

Political Rights

ZPP recorded a total of 30 cases in which the political rights of citizens were violated. Midlands recorded 7 cases, being the highest number, Mashonaland Central recorded 3 cases and Matabeleland South had the lowest number with 2 cases.

A case on the violation of political rights was reported on February 15, in Dombwe Village Ward 17 in Chegutu East. It is alleged that some villagers are being forced to change voting constituencies before the elections or face eviction. Zanu PF members are reportedly forcing some villagers into changing constituencies. Villagers are being forced to vote for Zanu PF candidates in the coming election or face evictions from farms they got under the Zanu PF ticket. In another case, Intimidation was reported in ward 7 of Mt Darwin West on 25 February. Zanu PF Chairperson Kurai Madzonga told traditional leaders during a Zanu PF meeting to start compiling lists of opposition supporters in their villages. He told village heads and secretaries to send the lists to Zanu PF district offices citing that traitors will be punished after elections.

Section 67 of the Zimbabwean Constitution states that every Zimbabwean citizen has the right to form, to join and to participate in the activities of a political party or organisation of their choice, to participate, individually or collectively, in gatherings or groups or in any other manner, in peaceful activities to influence, challenge or support the policies of the Government or any political or whatever cause.

Equality and non-discrimination

ZPP recorded 8 cases related to equality and non-discrimination. Mashonaland East recorded the highest number with 3 cases, Manicaland, Midlands and Mashonaland Central had 1 case each.

A case of discrimination was reported in Guruve South at Kapiri shopping centre on 5 February. It is said that during a community distribution of Pfumvudza farming inputs, Zanu PF Kubatanamasimba District Chairperson James Janga ordered the distribution committee not to allocate a bag of Ammonium Nitrate (AN) fertiliser to a CCC activist for supporting the opposition. The distribution was reportedly halted and resumed after Gora and other opposition supporters had been turned away.

Section 56 of the Constitution states that every Zimbabwean has the right not to be treated in an unfair and discriminatory manner on such grounds as their nationality, race, colour, tribe, language, class or political affiliation among others. According to Article 2 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights (UDHR), the right to equal treatment requires that all persons be treated equally before the law, without discrimination. This is supported by Articles 2 and 3 of the ACHPR.

Right to personal security

ZPP recorded 6 cases related to the violation of the right to personal security. Mashonaland West recorded 3 cases and Midlands, Bulawayo and Mashonaland Central had 1 case each.

On 22 February a case of intra-party violence and right to personal security was reported at Mubhanana Pre-School Rimuka Ward 5 in Kadoma Central. It is alleged that a violent fight ensued between Zanu PF members over the chairperson position. Garikai Mutemwa and his group assaulted Happyson Gupo who wanted to be the chairperson. Nine Zanu PF activists were severely injured in the scuffle that ensued. Six women supporters sustained serious injuries resulting in them being hospitalised at Kadoma Hospital. No arrest was reported however the persons involved were summoned to a disciplinary committee hearing.

Section 52 of the Constitution states that every Zimbabwean has the right to bodily and psychological integrity, which includes the right to freedom from all forms of violence from public or private sources. Articles 3 and 5 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights recognise that every person has the right to personal liberty and security, and this is supported by Article 6 of the ACHPR.

7 Provincial Outlook

Mashonaland Central

The Zanu PF Cell restructuring exercise in Mashonaland Central was characterised by intimidation and harassment of villagers in communities. In Mt Darwin North, villagers were being advised to join ruling party cell structures to be safe from punishment after elections. In Bindura Zanu PF activists went door to door promising people government aid if they vote for the ruling party in the elections. The campaign ground is not level as Citizens Coalition for Change activities are perennially blocked by ruling party activists and traditional leaders. Police in Mbire did not clear a CCC inter-district campaign meeting. It is alleged that Officer in Charge at Mbire police station told CCC district coordinator Mrs Bacilia Majaya that their application to hold the meeting was not cleared citing unclear reasons as to why they could not proceed with the event. The meeting which was targeting mobilisation of villagers in upper and lower Guruve areas was eventually postponed.

Harare

Intimidation was widespread in Harare province. In Epworth from Overspill to Makomo home industrial areas, Zanu PF conducted a cell restructuring exercise intimidating residents to join the ruling party or face discrimination from benefitting from government aid. The cell exercise which was implemented under the banner, "Simukai Tiverengane " loosely translated to mean 'let's account for everyone' saw people being made to submit their personal details (ID numbers, phone numbers and addresses. On 2 February in Glenview South ward 32, Zanu PF activists Donald Chimatira, Mrs Hombarume, Collins Chitepo, Ms Florence Masami and Ms Portia Madawu went door to door on a cell restructuring exercise recording residents' personal details including their previous polling stations which left residents in fear of intentions of such exercises. The activists promised people government facilitated project funds if they joined groups such as widows for economic development, young women for economic development and vendors for economic development.



SCAN ME 

Manicaland

In Manicaland Province, the situation was characterised by harassment, intimidation, coercing villagers to attend Zanu PF meetings as well as partisan distribution of aid. In Chipinge East, ward 18, people were being forced to attend a Zanu PF political meeting every Wednesday by Chiororo Kenya the village head, and Samuel Mudhabha who is the aspiring ward 18 councillor in the 2023 elections under the ruling Zanu PF party ticket. People were reportedly being intimidated to vote for Zanu PF in the upcoming 2023 elections. In Buhera West, ward 14, Murambinda Growth Point, at Murambinda B primary, it was reported that there was a Zanu PF rally that was addressed by the First Lady, Auxilia Mnangagwa. It was said that people around the area were forced to attend the rally. Zanu PF members also ordered almost all the businesses at the growth point to close and attend the rally.

Masvingo

In Masvingo Province, villagers were reportedly being forced to purchase Zanu PF membership cards. Village heads were being victimised for allowing opposition political parties to campaign in their areas. Most villagers perceived to be aligned to the opposition reported rampant harassment and intimidation. Samuel Janga who is a Zanu PF ward 20 chairperson, Zaka East was forcing villagers to purchase Zanu PF membership party cards being sold for US\$1.00. In Masvingo Central, Lawrence Matyenyika, the Mhande village head was summoned, heavily interrogated, and harassed by one E Makombo and the ward 15 councillor identified as Madzima (all Zanu PF members). This was for allegedly letting CCC supporters converge in the village doing door-to-door campaigns. In Bikita South, ward 1, it was reported that the situation obtaining in the area was tense with politically motivated intimidation and harassment being the order of the day. It was said that at every gathering Zanu PF through its local members uttered intimidated words to the villagers. People were now living in fear.

Midlands

Zanu PF cell restructuring process was characterised by intimidation and forcing villagers to be part of the process or be targeted. Inter-party violence was recorded in the province. It was reported that at a CCC rally at Mutora Business Centre, at the Nembudziya Government primary grounds, in Gokwe Nembudziya hundreds of CCC supporters had gathered anticipating to hear their leader speak. A group of Zanu PF supporters led by a Zanu PF chairperson for the area Temba Motsi, a secretary for production Shylet Hatina, and one Mai Manhire invaded the CCC gathering. They allegedly told CCC supporters gathered to stop their meeting as they wanted to play football on the grounds. The CCC members were ordered to disperse. This is reported to have then angered the CCC supporters and violent clashes broke out resulting in some people sustaining injuries.

Mashonaland East

The month of February was a bitter period for opposition supporters across the Mashonaland East Province. Everyone aligned to the ruling party, including traditional leaders and the police service which should be apolitical became Zanu PF torch bearers. The message was made clear that, CCC activists were unwelcome in most rural parts of Mashonaland East. CCC activities and gatherings were barred and banned across Mashonaland East. On 25 February a case on freedom of association and assembly was reported at Murehwa Council Grounds in Marehwa. Zimbabwe Republic Police (ZRP) barred the CCC party from holding its rally. Reports indicates that, the CCC notified the Police of its plans to hold a cluster one-year anniversary celebration rally. The CCC party was given a late excuse to the effect that, the ground they intended to use had been booked for a national event.

Mashonaland West

Mashonaland West Province was a hostile area for opposition activism during the month of February. The targeting of opposition supporters continued unabated. Human rights abuses and political violence escalated to worrisome levels. A strong desire to perpetrate violence by the new and various Zanu PF affiliate groups grew in most rural Mashonaland West communities. On 27 February a violent clash between ZRP police and Zanu PF District Coordinating Committee (DCC) members was reported. The Zanu PF members wanted to demonstrate against the arrest of Mushika-shika operators and the conduct of the police towards vendors. To contain the demonstration, the police used a heavy hand and assaulted the Zanu PF demonstrators. Five DCC members sustained serious injuries. Zanu PF DCC members wanted to protect and safeguard their political interests in Kadoma urban by becoming the voice of the vendors and illegal Mushika Shika operators however, they became victims of police brutality. The constitution provides for the right to demonstrate and petition according to section 59 of the Constitution.

Bulawayo

The province witnessed a spate of human right violations between the Bulawayo City Council (BCC) and the 'illegal' vendors selling from undesignated sites. In the early hours of 23 February, the local authority through its Bulawayo Municipality Police embarked on a blitz to drive out an influx of undesignated vendors operating in the city. It is said that the blitz was met with resistance as the said illegal vendors retaliated and refusing to vacate the area. Bulawayo Municipal Police fired rubber bullets as defence which resulted in the injury of Prosper Munemo, and Concilia Dube. Thabani Nyoni sustained injuries in a stampede. Furthermore, Zanu PF took advantage of the situation through its Youth Leader Nehanda district, Josiah who later instructed vendors to return to their 'illegal' operation sites. This was only on condition that those that return to their illegal sites join Zanu PF and participate fully in any party activity.

Matabeleland North

Zanu PF was noted as the major perpetrators as they unleashed their campaign machinations on the citizens. Citizens were reportedly being forced to purchase Zanu PF membership cards and forced to partake in the activities of the ruling party. This was done through intimidation and harassment. At Nkayi South in ward 29, it was reported that Zanu PF activists only identified as Sipho Naka and Freedom Sibanda forced citizens to attend a meeting where every village member was to register under the Zanu PF cell group record. In Tsholotsho South ward 22, Zanu PF Women's League led by Loveness Nkomo were reportedly forcing other women at Fusini to join the ruling party. Women are said to have been promised loans and farming inputs as soon as they register with the ruling party. During the National Youth Day celebrations which were convened at Lupane State University, it was reported that a Zanu PF activist identified as Samson Dube forced Thulani Ndabambi to remove a yellow t-shirt that he was putting on. It is said that Dube dragged Ndabambi from the queue and instructed him to remove the yellow t-shirt.

Matabeleland South

Villagers were reportedly being forced to purchase Zanu PF membership cards, while other village heads were being victimised if they fail to attend Zanu PF meetings. At Msizini ward 3, it was reported that the village head who is also the Zanu PF activist identified as Salius Moyo told other village heads and citizens to attend the ruling party meetings. Moyo warned other village heads, Sabhukus and villagers that they risk losing out on social amenities from the government especially those that are not active in the activities of the party. In terms of campaigns, CCC space to reach out to villagers appears to be shrinking at a very fast pace. This is so as Zanu PF barred the CCC's gathering at Masabeni village. It is said the ruling party members told the gathered to return to their homes after taking down their names for unknown reasons. A CCC member was threatened with assault if found convening another meeting of similar nature.



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