

Politics Ruling the Law in Zimbabwe



**The Zimbabwe Peace Project
Monthly Monitoring Report**

August 2022



**ZIMBABWE
PEACE
PROJECT**

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The RoundUP

1

In August, ZPP monitored and documented 257 human rights violations, with 3,321 victims identified [2,334 Males and 987 Females, including 31 (14M/17F) PWDs]. The majority of human rights cases were perpetrated by the Zanu PF party, responsible for 51% of the violations, followed by the Zimbabwe Republic Police (ZRP) at 28%. The general citizens populated the highest percentage of victims, 89%, and Citizens Coalition for Change (CCC) supporters followed with 11%. Law enforcement agents and the ruling party have collectively subjected the citizens of Zimbabwe to gross human rights violations.

The report notes systematic campaigns by supporters of the Zanu PF party to threaten and intimidate opposition supporters, particularly in rural areas. In the recently concluded Housing and Population Census 2022, the rural population constitutes 61.4%, justifying the observed targeted intimidation campaigns ahead of the scheduled 2023 elections in Zimbabwe. Traditional leaders are challenged to be actors in mobilising support for Zanu PF against provisions of the Constitution Section 281 (2) (a and b) which sets out the conduct of traditional leaders, which among other, they are not supposed to be members of political parties and not supposed to act in a partisan manner when dealing with citizens under their jurisdiction. The threat of harassment, discrimination, and intimidation of opposition supporters demonstrates how traditional leaders are continually being coaxed to harvest fear. The ground is already being set for the 2023 elections.



The Zanu PF government evidently continues to manipulate the judiciary to repress and violate the rights of opposition party supporters. The case of two Zanu PF legislators Justice Mayor Wadyajena from Gokwe-Nembudziya and Dexter Nduna, Chegutu West, who are documented as perpetrators of many human rights violations, were easily granted bail, while members and supporters of the CCC party Job Sikhala, Godfrey Sithole, and 14 others, are still incarcerated and being denied bail for more than two months. The selective application of the law by the Zanu PF government poses a serious threat to democracy. Section 164 of the Constitution, states that the independence, impartiality, and effectiveness of the courts are central to the rule of law and democratic governance, and specifies that neither the State nor any institution or agency of the government at any level, and no other person, may interfere with the functioning of the courts.

While citizens are free to contribute to whatever they identify with, it becomes an issue when they are coerced with threats of violence. Most citizens are struggling to make ends meet and it is against humanity to force them to sacrifice the little they have for the commemorations of national events. The general public was forced to donate monetary and in-kind contributions to the Heroes Day celebrations in August. Threats to withhold government assistance were made to anyone who refused to participate or did so insufficiently.



ZPP documented numerous cases in August where the Zimbabwe Republic Police (ZRP) deliberately infringed on the liberties of citizens. The trend in the last few years and most of this year, August included, is that the ZRP continues to be accused of being responsible for the loss of life of citizens in their custody in most cases under unclear circumstances. The police seem not to be sensitive to issues relating to disability. ZPP recorded a case on the 20th of August whereby a man with a mental disability was taken to Harare Central Police Station where he unexpectedly died after being assaulted by the Military Presidential Guards Unit. This is against Section 219 of the Constitution, which expressly provides their mandate as that of impartiality, patriotism, and of a national character. The Constitution provides for law enforcement agents to act professionally and desist from using force that is disproportionate.

In addition, on 21 August the Zimbabwe Electoral Commission (ZEC) hiked by 1,900% election fees to be paid by presidential and parliamentary candidates seeking to contest in the 2023 harmonised elections. Fees for presidential election candidates were hiked to US\$20,000.00 up from the US\$1,000.00 that was paid in the 2018 elections. The initiative by ZEC is a clear violation of civil and political rights in Zimbabwe.

Major Highlights

On August 17, a Zanu PF member and legislator for Gokwe–Nembudziya Justice Mayor Wadyajena was arrested on fraud and money laundering allegations involving the Cotton Company of Zimbabwe payments illegally used to purchase trucks worth over USD\$5 million. Another Zanu PF member and legislator for Chegutu West Dexter Nduna was on August 24th arrested for leading and influencing a foiled land invasion of Risboro Farm in Chegutu, Mashonaland West. Both Wadyajena and Nduna were effortlessly granted bail not more than 2 days after their arrests. Members of the opposition party CCC Job Sikhala and Godfrey Sithole's application for removal from further remand was dismissed on the 22nd of August and they have now spent over 80 days in prison. Job Sikhala faces charges of inciting to cause public violence under the Criminal Law and Codification Act as a result of a speech he allegedly delivered following the discovery of the dismembered body of slain CCC activist, Moreblessing Ali. Ali's mutilated body was found in a well 18 days after she went missing. On 19 August, the High Court of Zimbabwe dismissed the bail appeal for 14 Nyatsime detainees, denying them the constitutional right to bail. The prompt release of Zanu PF-aligned individuals compared to the continued incarceration of members of the opposition CCC shows the partiality of the justice system.

Between the 5th–12th of August ZPP recorded several cases whereby villagers were forced to surrender their national identity documents (IDs) by village heads following an instruction allegedly issued by Zanu PF. Village heads conducted various community meetings where they made villagers surrender their identity cards or birth certificates. This is in direct contravention of Section 281 of the Constitution which states that traditional leaders must not be members of any political party or in any way participate in partisan politics and must not act in a partisan manner or further the interests of any political party or cause.

ZPP documented several cases where Zanu PF activists violently attacked Advocate Nelson Chamisa of the CCC during his visits to Mashonaland East. In another incident in Uzumba and Wedza, Zanu PF supporters, the majority of whom were said to be youths, confronted Chamisa before barricading and attacking Chamisa's vehicles. On 24 August in Chigwedere village Ward 5 in Wedza, Zanu PF supporters went on to stone Chamisa's vehicles. After the CCC Uzumba tour, elderly villagers and persons with disabilities were reportedly brutally assaulted by a Zanu PF Ward Councilor Fagio Zundayi Marowa, for attending a CCC rally held at Nhakiwa Business Centre. Meanwhile, in Seke, Zanu PF youths assaulted CCC members before vandalizing a CCC member's car by smashing car windows and pouring sand in the car engine. Reports indicate that more than 150 Zanu PF supporters blocked roads that the CCC leader intended to use during the tour.

The rights to freedom of expression and association continue to be some of the most violated human rights. In Shurugwi, a young man, Cuthbert Ngwenya, a Zanu PF district chairperson at Hwinya Village, was severely assaulted by suspected state security agents, and Zanu PF activists. The young man is accused of having expressed unpleasant views to Zanu PF second secretary Kembo Mohadi at a public meeting at Chachacha grounds in Shurugwi South. He was taken to Donga Police station where he was assaulted on his backside with switches and truncheons. The people who assaulted him included District Coordinating Committee (DCC) members, police officers and Mohadi's security details. In a similar case, on 14 August, at Pentagon in Epworth ward 2, a CCC activist Edwin Machokoto was brutally assaulted by a group of Zanu PF youths on his way to attend a CCC ward meeting. The perpetrators used an iron bar to attack Machokoto whom they accused of wearing opposition CCC party regalia. He sustained a broken leg and did not make a police report for fear of reprisals.



In Gokwe Gumunyu, ward 16, at Tchoda, there was a Zanu PF meeting called by Crispin Chiherenge who is reported to have issued threats of intentions to rape and impregnate women who were going to politically disagree with the ruling party. He ordered those gathered that all opposition CCC regalia, should be confiscated even if the owners have to walk naked. The same words were also uttered at another meeting at Nyamhara, in ward 14 the same day, which left villagers in great fear.

Persecution through prosecution continues against the bed-ridden Marry Mubaiwa, former wife of Vice President Constantino Chiwenga as she is still forced to appear in court in her condition. She is accused of trying to kill the vice-president and forging her marriage among several allegations. She was issued with a warrant of arrest for failing to get into court because of ill health and had to appear the next day in a wheelchair. This remains an inhuman treatment of an individual and a violation of their constitutional rights.

Key Findings & Recommendations

01

National IDs

During the month of August, ZPP recorded several cases whereby villagers were forced to surrender their national identity documents by village heads following an instruction allegedly issued by Zanu PF. Village heads conducted various community meetings where they made villagers surrender their identity cards or birth certificates which are believed to be used for voting manipulation. In line with this, ZPP recommends government to adopt the following interventions to ensure that traditional leaders do not abuse their powers:

- i) Constitutional education and awareness for traditional leaders and citizens. There is a need to conduct constitutional awareness and literacy sessions for citizens so that they are aware of their rights and will not be forced to submit their documents against their wishes.
- ii) The Zimbabwe Electoral Commission has a mandate to conduct and supervise voter education, and as such should carry out a campaign debunking the myths of the use of citizens' ID numbers as a means to track how they voted.

02

Artisanal Miners

In Muzvezve, Kadoma and Chegutu cases of artisanal miners' fights escalated during the reporting period. In line with this, ZPP recommends government to adopt the following interventions to ensure the reduction of artisanal miner related deaths:

- i) Deployment of more law enforcement personnel to investigate and contain violent scuffles.
- ii) Stricter sentences on artisanal miners who are arrested for violent behavior.

03

Traditional Leaders

Reports point to meetings held with traditional leaders where they were challenged to be actors in the mobilisation of support for Zanu PF against provisions of the Constitution. This is in direct contravention of Section 281 of the Constitution, which states that traditional leaders must not be members of any political party or in any way participate in partisan politics and must not act in a partisan manner or further the interests of any political party or cause. In line with this, ZPP recommends government to adopt the following interventions to ensure that traditional leaders do not abuse their powers:

i) Constitutional education and awareness for traditional leaders. Traditional leaders should be capacitated on their constitutional mandate so that they do not violate the rights of the citizens they lead, especially the right to political affiliation as enshrined in Section 68 of the Constitution.

ii) Constitutional awareness of citizens so that they are not easily subdued by traditional leaders and that they are able to hold their leaders to account.

04

Mobile national registration blitz

ZPP continued to record cases of traditional leaders requesting bribes to sign documents such as proof of residence so that citizens could attain national registration documents such as birth and death certificates. In Chiredzi, ZPP also recorded cases of government officials in the Registrar's department demanding bribes and sex in order to issue documents to community members. ZPP recommends government to adopt the following interventions to ensure that the national document registration blitz takes place transparently:

i) There is a need to conscientize government officials in the Registrar's department on the importance of ethics in carrying out their duties.

ii) The establishment of effective checks and balances to ensure transparency within the registration blitz process.



05

Partisan food distribution

During the month of August, ZPP recorded several cases of partisan distribution of food and agricultural inputs. While food security and nutrition are supposed to be guaranteed for all citizens regardless of affiliation the discrimination and denial for those viewed as politically incorrect go against values that guide such distributions nationally as well as humanitarian standards that guide the same. The Sphere humanitarian standards related to food security and nutrition are guided by the following principles; humanity, neutrality, impartiality and independence. ZPP recommends government to adopt the following interventions to ensure the reduction in cases of partisan distribution of food and agricultural inputs:

- i) Food and agricultural inputs distribution should be guided by the Sphere humanitarian standards of humanity, neutrality, impartiality and independence.
- ii) Food distribution not to be undertaken by political players such as chairpersons of political parties, but by government departments and representatives in a non-partisan manner.
- iii) The establishment of clear and effective reporting and feedback mechanisms for victims so that their plights are addressed.



06

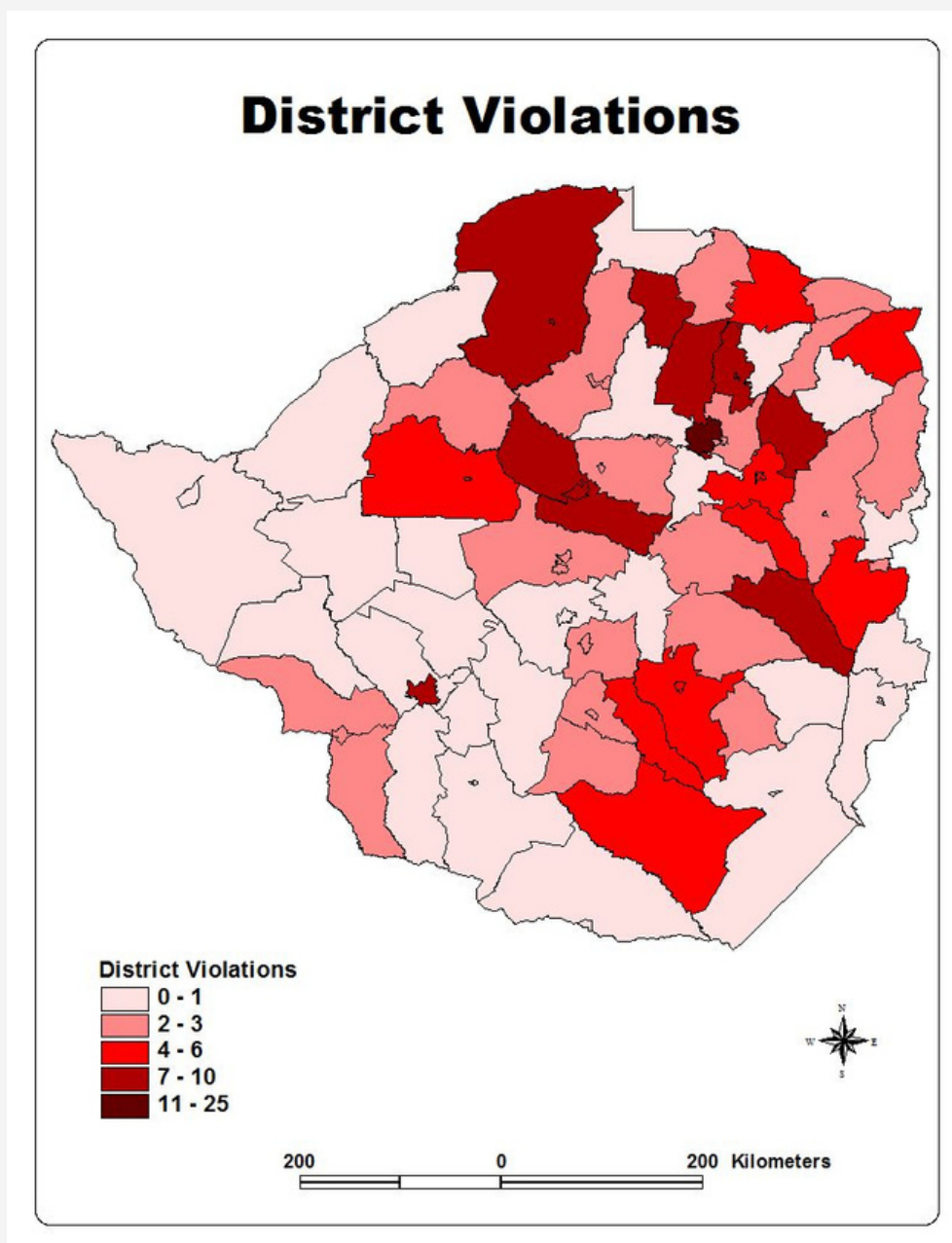
PWDs

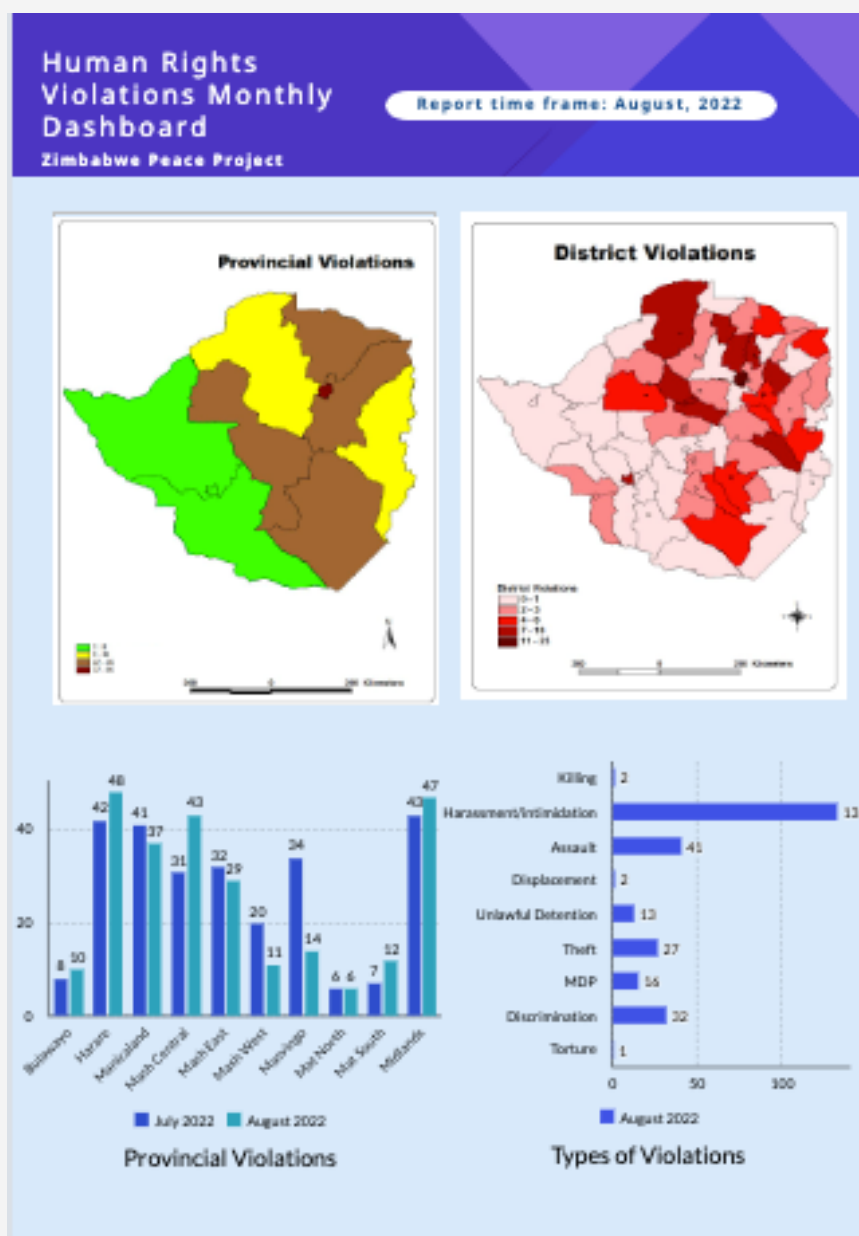
During the month of August, ZPP alarmingly recorded a case of assault of persons with disabilities on 22 August, at Nhakiwa Ward 14 in Uzumba. A Zanu PF Ward Councilor assaulted elderly villagers and persons with disabilities who had attended a meeting conducted by the CCC president. The vulnerable villagers were accused of being CCC members after attending the meeting. The death of a man with a mental disability while in police custody in Harare is gravely concerning. ZPP is concerned with the violation of PWDs' civil and political rights. ZPP recommends government to adopt the following interventions to ensure the reduction in cases of violation of PWDs' civil and political rights:

- i) Ensure that reasonable accommodation for persons with disabilities is carried out for community and political meetings.
- ii) Chapter 12 Commissions such as the Zimbabwe Human Rights Commission together with government and political players should invest in the sensitization of traditional leaders on how to ensure that the rights of PWDs are respected.

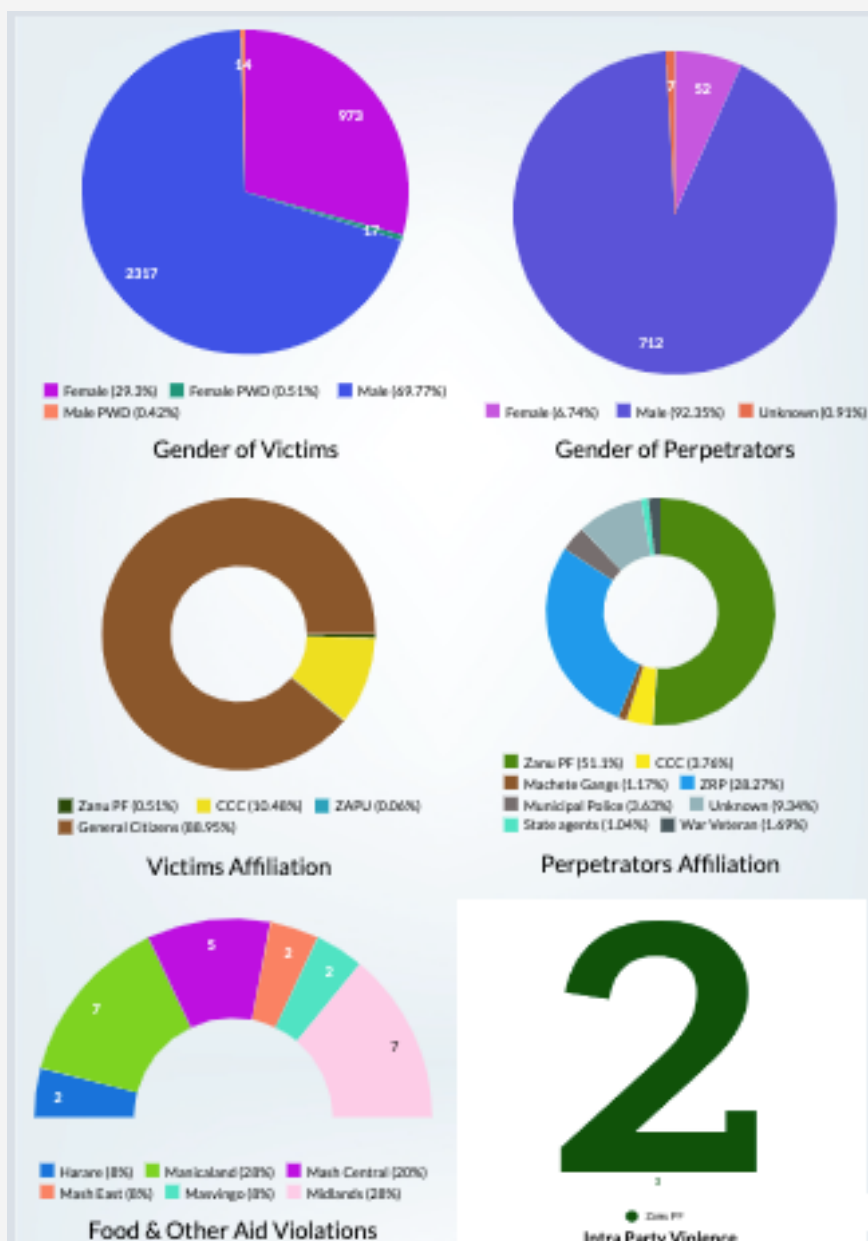
Human Rights Violations in August

ZPP recorded a total of 257 human rights violations, a decrease from July's 274. Of these, 48 were in Harare followed by 47 in Midlands and 43 in Mashonaland Central. Harare province recorded a number of inter-party fights between Zanu PF and CCC, as well as battles between the police and vendors.





Zanu PF topped the list of human rights violators by contributing 51.1% of all perpetrators of human rights violations, followed by the Zimbabwe Republic Police at 28.3%, Zimbabwe National Army at 4.1%, just above CCC at 3.8%, and municipal police at 3.6%. Municipal police were involved in the demolition of informal traders' structures conducted during the month. The continued swell in the Zanu PF contribution to perpetrating human rights violations can be attributed to the increase in the party campaign activities in preparation for the 2023 elections, where citizens are coerced to attend party meetings, instructed on whom they should elect, even against their will.



The general citizens make up most of the victims of the August human rights violations at over 89%. August saw an increase in the proportion of CCC victims, who are at 10.5%, as compared to 6.1% in July. CCC supporters suffered the brunt of the recorded assaults and intimidations during the month, as their campaign activities were thwarted by Zanu PF supporters. Persons with disabilities were assaulted, together with the elderly in Uzumba, Mashonaland East for attending a CCC rally. The contribution of persons with disability victims increased to 0.5% for women PWDs and 0.4% for men.

01

Human Dignity and Freedom from Torture or Cruel, Inhumane, or Degrading Treatment or Punishment

On 22 August at Nhakiwa Business Centre Ward 14 in Uzumba. It is alleged that Zanu PF Ward Councilor, Fagio Zondayi Marowa brutally assaulted elderly villagers and PWDs who had attended a meeting convened by CCC President Advocate Nelson Chamisa. The vulnerable villagers were accused of being CCC members after attending a meeting that Advocate Nelson Chamisa addressed.

On 14 August at Pentagon in Epworth ward 2. Citizen Coalition for Change activist Edwin Machokoto was brutally assaulted by a group of Zanu PF youths. They used an iron bar to attack Machokoto whom they accused of wearing opposition CCC party regalia. He sustained a broken leg following the attack and the victim did not make a police report for fear of reprisals.

A case of murder was reported in St Marys Chitungwiza on 17 August 2022. It is alleged that 3 ZRP officers beat Alick Macheso's bodyguard, Tawanda Zvinowanda to death. Reports indicate that at first they accused him of robbery, but later changed the charges alleging that he was armed with a machete. The officers stormed Zvinowanda's home and assaulted him in front of his family before taking him to Unit L cemetery where they further tortured him. They later took him to Makoni police station where he died the following morning.

It is alleged that members of the Military Presidential Guard Unit were responsible for the murder of a 35 year old man at the Zimbabwe State House. Levy Musendo of Mukafose who was on mental therapy died under unclear circumstances at or near State House in Harare. On 20 August, Levy's father, Job Musendo, received a phone call from an unidentified police officer at Harare Central Police Station, informing him that his son had been arrested and detained. He was advised that his son had been taken to Parirenyatwa Group of Hospitals for medical attention as he had some severe injuries and was bleeding profusely from the nose and mouth. On 24 August at around 4 pm, they were led into the office of Chief Superintendent Moyo, who broke the news of their son's death.

02

Freedoms of Association and Movement

On August 1, villagers in Guruve North ward 5 were intimidated by Zanu PF supporters at Chipangura secondary school. Reports indicate that about 7 Zanu PF activists led by Mr Kanzira Kamuzonde, called for a ruling party meeting disguised as an agricultural extension meeting. When people had gathered, they were told that Zanu PF had finished compiling lists of opposition supporters in the community for election purposes. He went on to state that they would not hesitate to use any means necessary when dealing with opposition activities in Guruve.

On 6 August, Zanu PF convened a meeting with war veterans in Guruve North ward 16 at Guruve centre. The meeting was addressed by Guruve district war veterans' chairperson Bernard Mondo who reportedly coerced people to chant Zanu PF slogans and vote for Zanu PF in 2023.

In Rimuka Ward 3 in Kadoma Central, it is alleged that First lady, Mai Auxillia Mhangagwa, held a rally at Rimuka Stadium where residents, the majority of whom were vendors, were forced to attend the rally. Zanu PF provincial leaders and the National Army providing security reportedly forced residents to attend the rally.

Intimidation was reported on 19 August in Guruve North ward 5. Zanu PF Youth chairperson Victoria Chipangura, reportedly went around the ward recording names of young people and threatening to unleash violence in 2023. She warned that young people found missing on the Zanu PF youth database will be punished.

In Hurungwe West, Hon Mary Mliswa threatened and forced villagers to attend her meeting. Through local traditional leaders, Hon Mliswa reportedly coerced villagers to attend her meeting. She threatened villagers with denial of presidential inputs if they did not attend the meeting. Villagers were encouraged to vote for Zanu PF candidates in the 2023 elections or face violence.

On 14 August at Pentagon in Epworth ward 2, a CCC activist, Edwin Machokoto, was brutally assaulted by a group of Zanu PF youths on his way to attend a CCC ward meeting. Reports indicate that the perpetrators used an iron bar to attack Machokoto whom they accused of wearing opposition CCC party regalia. He sustained a broken leg following the attack and did not make a police report for fear of victimisation.

Zanu PF youths allegedly put-up illegal roadblocks and barricades in Wedza and Seke and started attacking cars suspected of being linked to Nelson Chamisa on 24 August. On the same day a Mercedes Benz belonging to a CCC supporter was stoned and had its windows smashed and two supporters sustained serious injuries. In Gutu West a group of about 20 to 25 Zanu PF youths are alleged to have toy-toyed around the homesteads of suspected CCC members with the intention of instilling fear.

A case of political intolerance was recorded in Mtuya village of Dete. It was noted that Jealousy Mpofu of MDC-T threatened to organize thugs to beat up supporters of the newly formed CCC party led by Nelson Chamisa.

In Bulilima West constituency Ward 14, it was reported that a Zanu PF activist identified as Mnyamana forced citizens to attend their campaign meetings ahead of the by-elections. It is said that Mnyamana warned citizens that those who failed to attend the Zanu PF meetings would be considered opposition supporters and hence they will be dealt with.

In Ward 14, a suspected Mthwakazi Republic Party member went around tearing posters belonging to candidates from Zanu PF and Citizen Coalition for Change ahead of the by-election.

ZPP recorded a case of electoral malpractice in the northern part of Gokwe ahead of the slated by-elections. Zanu PF campaigns were characterized by vote buying, threats, intimidation and use of traditional leaders to coerce people to vote for Zanu PF. Their opposition CCC gatherings were disrupted by Zanu PF.

On 4 August in Matobo North, at Nathisa village, it was reported that a Zanu PF activist only identified as Xolani Sibanda, threatened to invite the youth militia to the community to beat up Citizen Coalition for Change members. Sibanda told the community that the new party should be stopped from holding meetings because they are guilty of 'subversion' messages.

Themhani Mthimkhulu, a Citizen Coalition for Change member, threatened to beat up those that fail to vote for them in the upcoming by-elections during a grass root campaign exercise.

At eHlathini turn off in Sizinda, Bulawayo South constituency, it was reported that Adam Mtshayisa of an unknown political party intimidated a PF Zapu political party supporter. It was reported that Mtshayisa intimidated Mhlanga who was wearing PF Zapu regalia and passed a remark that members of PF Zapu deserve to be beaten for disrespecting the government.

In Mudzi a Zanu PF Councilor, Jesinau Liver, threatened a pregnant woman married to a CCC member to burn all the regalia in her home or face unspecified action.

In Murehwa, during a village meeting, a Zanu PF Branch Chairperson issued death threats to a CCC member.

In ward 15 at Lupane centre it was noted that members of the Central Intelligence Organization (CIO) were recording individuals who are part of the CCC party. Individuals were called to the police station for questioning as they are gathering information about the campaign programmes of the CCC.

During the protests convened by some Bulawayo residents and business community over parking fees, it was reported that Sam Dlamini insulted David Moyo who was one of the demonstrators for wearing Zanu PF regalia. Dlamini made remarks to the effect that all the problems affecting Bulawayo and the country are attributed to Zanu PF.

On 16 August, it was reported that Qhubani Mlotshwa of an unknown political affiliation was going around telling people not to vote Zanu PF or CCC as they are Shona led parties. It is said that Mlotshwa made remarks to the effect that a lot of migrants from South Africa were coming back to vote and hence they are prepared to fight anyone who votes otherwise.

In Bulilima West Constituency in ward 16 a group of Zanu PF activists led by Richman Moyo moved around forcing citizens to join their party. It is alleged that the door-to-door campaign was targeting known CCC members as they would visit each homestead using their cell group list. Verified facts suggest that Moyo remarked that all those that fail to join Zanu PF will be dealt with in the fullness of time.

On 21 August at Chezia high school in Gokwe Sasame, it was reported that Zanu PF's top officials led by Zanu PF vice president and second secretary Kembo Mohadi were encouraging traditional leaders to harass and intimidate those who support the opposition CCC.

In Gokwe Kana, ward 1 on 24 August, in the Tafara district branch area, it was reported that Christopher Matambo was continuously threatening opposition supporters, saying that Zanu PF was going to abduct them one way or the other to prevent any electoral defeat.

In Bikita South, ward 1, at Gawa clinic, it was reported that only a few people were able to seek treatment due to the clinic's pharmacy being empty. People were being referred to Mashoko mission hospital.


03

Food and Water Security

Most cities in the country have been without running water for months or they have had sporadic access. Many people in cities are having to rely on open wells and boreholes, while those without the means rely on community boreholes. Such unsanitary conditions are a health hazard not just in the case of disease outbreaks but climate change advocates have spoken against the risk of too many boreholes. Water access points are becoming politically charged and known opposition political figures are being denied access to water. CCC supporters had to pay \$2 for a 20-litre bucket of water in Kadoma Central's Rimuka neighbourhood ward 5. Regardless of their political standing, every individual has a right to obtain clean and safe water.

On 20 August 2022, in Chimanimàni East, ward 15 councilor Panganai Chirongera told more than 200 people at a pfumvudza inputs meeting at Ngangu Football Ground that they were supposed to vote for the Zanu PF leader President Emmerson Mnangagwa in the elections in 2023. This was because they were getting agricultural inputs, and only Zanu PF structures were responsible for the pfumvudza beneficiary list. Pfumvudza is a crop production intensification approach which was introduced by the government in the 2020–21 farming season to ensure the efficient use of inputs and labour on a small area of land. Under the programme government funds maize and fertiliser inputs to farmers.

On 6 August in Mazowe South at Rukeko shopping centre in ward 33, Zanu PF Councillor Mitchel Kasere called for a ward meeting to register people under the pfumvudza presidential farming inputs scheme. Kasere discriminated against opposition CCC supporters and recorded names and ID numbers of known ruling party supporters only. Opposition supporters were not allowed to register. A CCC activist and other opposition party supporters were discriminated against because of their political affiliation.



On 24 August 2020, in Silobela, Mabalawa village ward 24 people were forced to attend a Zanu PF meeting by their village heads. Andrew Nyoka, a Zanu PF district chairperson, Kenneth Moyo, Annie Chihota, Zanu PF district chairperson and Felunah Magwazimbiza informed villagers that those who do not support the ruling Zanu PF would be denied food aid. Opposition supporters were removed from the list for not attending Zanu PF cell structure meetings.

On 7 August in Rimuka suburb ward 5 in Kadoma Central, it is alleged that, Zanu PF Ward Chairperson only identified as Boss Machokoto denied CCC members access to water from a local borehole. He requested two US dollars from CCC members and community members with no Zanu PF party membership cards. The borehole was reportedly drilled by a Non-Governmental Organization to assist residents without reliable water sources.

Bulawayo City Council disconnected water for Mathious Moyo at Entumbane Section C for failing to pay the accrued debt. Instead of disconnecting water supply for Moyo council could have allowed Moyo to arrange a payment plan. Access to water remains a right that every citizen is entitled to.

On 22 August Zanu PF Councilors Peter Chinyoka and Ester Kondo reportedly distributed maize and sugar beans to the elderly in a partisan manner in ward 15, Mazowe West at Dandamera community hall. Reports confirm that the duo denied Beauty Njerekano and Ester Kondo who did not receive the aid because they are CCC supporters.

04

Livelihood and Social Security

On 19 August it was reported that a Zanu PF activist identified as Kuda Chamboko was going around forcing vendors to buy new party cards or risk losing their stands near Unity village. Vendors are said to have brought new cards fearing that they would have their stands seized.

In Ward 6 Chipinge Central district it was reported that Zanu PF officials were moving from house to house demanding identification document numbers from people who had since registered as voters and in return they would be given food aid. This might have been classified as vote buying and the purposes of collecting the ID numbers was still not well explained but could be a ploy to create a myth that there was something that could be done with the ID numbers in the polls. The Zimbabwe Electoral Commission has been consulted about this in the past and they have dispelled the thinking that anything can be done with ID numbers.

In Chipinge, ZPP recorded cases where people's rights to dignity were violated. There were running battles between vendors and the security forces teaming up with the municipal police. Sporadic arrests of vendors by the police were being noted and many were released upon paying bribes.

On 13 August 2022, in Chimanimani East, ward 13, Matsiya village, Ishmael Chimukono commonly known as Tsangamidzi who is a Zanu PF branch chairperson reportedly called for a pfumvudza meeting to list would be pfumvudza beneficiaries from that area. The meeting was planned to use aid in the pfumvudza scheme to try and force people to vote for the party in exchange for the inputs.

In Muzvezve, Kadoma and Chegutu cases of artisanal miners' fights escalated during the reporting period. On 22 August a violent fight was reported at Mzansi night club. A mining syndicate led by a young miner only identified as Anele attacked a 34 year old man Kahwe with a machete. Reports indicate that, although Kahwe dodged death by a whisker, he was hospitalized at Kadoma Hospital.



In August, ZPP also recorded cases where citizens were forced to contribute in cash and in kind toward the Heroes' Day commemorations. Zanu PF officials demanded contributions in the form of mealie meal and cooking oil towards the commemoration. Those who denied or failed to make contributions were threatened with denial of government inputs.

On 22 August 2022, in Mwenezi East, at Neshuro, there was an event where the Rural District Council was allocating people flea market stands. They started with those who had their flea market stands demolished during the lockdowns. Four unidentified members of the ruling Zanu PF party youths disrupted the process ordering the person who was calling out names to call out Zanu PF members first, so that only Zanu PF members would benefit.

In Topo Village Ward 18 in Mudzi South on 5 August it is alleged that villagers were forced by Zanu PF-aligned village heads to contribute USD\$1 each toward the Heroes' Day commemorations. Some of the Village heads were Smart Kamupaundi and Stanford Makona. They stated that the money would be channeled towards transporting guests and securing refreshments for the commemoration.

On 15 August in Marondera Central at Durawall vending area, it is alleged that the Zanu PF District Chairperson was forcing vendors to attend political meetings and gatherings. Those who were not attending Zanu PF meetings were threatened with eviction from their vending stalls.

Harare

The province recorded violations associated with socio-economic rights and civil political rights. The activities of Zanu PF-affiliated land barons in Harare left some residents in Budiro 4 homeless. On 17 August, a joint operation of municipal and anti-riot police officers demolished houses registered under Madzibaba Enock Housing Cooperative. About 20 to 30 households in Budiro 4 were displaced. Intolerance appeared to have reached alarming levels in relation to political parties ahead of the 2023 general election. In Epworth, Citizen Coalition for Change supporters were targeted by Zanu PF activists which pointed to the shrinking of democratic space for opposition political parties ahead of the 2023 general elections. About 14 unidentified Zanu PF youths besieged a victim's house in Epworth accusing the family of supporting the CCC. Although the family disputed the allegations, they were assaulted by the youths. The victim sustained serious internal injuries following the attack.

Water challenges persisted in Harare violating citizens' rights to a clean, safe environment. The Harare City Council shut down Morton Jeffrey Water Processing plant resulting in water problems city-wide. In Glenview North, Chitungwiza, Mufakose and Kuwadzana suburbs residents spent weeks without water which triggered violence at water points. In a statement, Harare Mayor Jacob Mafume said the water shutdown was due to a shortage of chemicals from the country's sole supplier of municipal water chemicals, Zimbabwe Phosphates Industries.

Right to Personal Security

On 14 August at Pentagon in Epworth ward 2, a CCC activist was brutally assaulted by a group of Zanu PF youths led by a person only identified as Edmore. The perpetrators used an iron bar to attack Machokoto whom they accused of wearing opposition CCC party regalia. ZPP interviewed the victim who lamented that he was attacked on his way to attend a CCC ward meeting. The victim sustained a broken leg and failed to make a police report for fear of reprisals. He stated, "Tinotya ku repota nekuti tinosungwa" meaning we fear to report because we get arrested.

Bulawayo

The month under review was shaped by various episodes most likely to impact the electoral landscape as the 2023 elections loom. Firstly, political intolerance continues to divide the citizens. In Sizinda, Bulawayo South constituency, a citizen was intimidated for wearing PF Zapu regalia. He was told that members of PF Zapu deserve to be beaten for disrespecting the government. The failure of citizens to tolerate each other's political views results in conflict and violence. A similar case emanating from political intolerance was also recorded during the protests organised by some Bulawayo residents and the business community against parking fees. It was reported that Sam Dlamini insulted David Moyo who was one of the demonstrators for wearing Zanu PF regalia. Verified facts suggest that Dlamini made remarks that all the problems affecting Bulawayo and the country in general, were attributed to Zanu PF. This was said using unprintable words and insults. While it is true that the citizens had gone to protest with a similar aim, it appeared that Dlamini identified Moyo not as a demonstrator, but as the source of the problem they were demonstrating against. According to Dlamini, it is not plausible for a Zanu PF member to demonstrate when they are the authors of problems the country is facing. It should be noted that everyone remains entitled to their rights and every citizen has the right to freedom of assembly and association.

Earlier this month, it was reported by ZimEye that Zanu PF affiliated vendors in Bulawayo claimed they were forced to take matters into their own hands when they allocated themselves vending bays along Fifth Avenue in the city. This happened because the Bulawayo City Council (BCC) was using nepotism in the process of allocation. On the other hand, the local authority responded by stating that it had become difficult to control illegal vendors as they hid under the shadows of Zanu PF. The council is reported to have threatened to deal with illegal vendors by arresting them and such interventions have led to widespread human rights abuses. The BCC threatened to engage the military to deal with illegal vendors to drive them out of the CBD. Utterances of such nature often bring back memories of abuses perpetrated by the army, especially during the month of August. In a similar case on 19 August, it was reported that a Zanu PF activist, Kuda Chamboko went around forcing vendors to buy new party cards or risk losing their stands near Unity village. Vendors are said to have brought new cards fearing that they would have their stands repossessed.



Police brutality continued to be recorded in the province under the cover of enforcement of the law. One case of such a nature was recorded where a man who tried to resist arrest was ultimately beaten by police officers. This was after the cabinet announcement on the easing of wearing facemasks. This happened at a time when many citizens were still not aware of the easing of the regulation relating to facemasks. However, instead of police officers enforcing the arrest according to the law, they used unwarranted force to deal with the issue.

The economic problems and challenges faced by citizens have impacted their socio-economic livelihoods. The BCC has disconnected water for some citizens who have failed to pay their water bills on time. Many citizens are now victims of water cuts and policy inconsistency as they are charged in both RTGS and USD which makes it hard for them to clear the debt. A violation of the right to water was recorded at Entumbane Section C numbers as it was noted that Bulawayo City Council disconnected water for a household for failing to pay the accrued debt.

Manicaland

In Manicaland province, during the month of August, political campaigns intensified. It was notable that the two visible parties were the opposition CCC and the ruling party Zanu PF. Zanu PF activists reportedly adopted an aggressive approach to the campaign, a strategy to coerce people to vote for their party in the 2023 elections. In ward 6, Chipinge Central district, they were moving from house to house demanding national identification document numbers from people who registered as voters, and in return, one would be given food aid. This can be classified as vote buying and the purposes of the ID numbers were still not well explained, but the common view of citizens is fear these will be used in the electoral process to their disadvantage. Some residents had since raised a red flag over this conduct. The demand for IDs is not new the same demands were made in the run-up to the 2018 elections. This continues to be a worrying trend as it has multiple effects on residents which includes instilling fear in exercising rights related to their political choices as well as compromising their voting and political rights so that they access food aid.

Midlands

In the month of August 2022, the ruling Zanu PF party continued threatening and intimidating citizens all over the Gokwe North district. In Gokwe Gumunyu, ward 16, at Tchoda, there was a Zanu PF meeting convened by Crispin Chiherenge. He allegedly told the gathered villagers that starting October through to November 2022, people who supported the opposition CCC were going to be assaulted. He also stated that female CCC supporters would be subjected to rape and impregnated. He then ordered those gathered to confiscate CCC regalia from those found wearing it. The same words were uttered again at another meeting at Nyamhara, in ward 14 the same day which left villagers in great fear.

Masvingo

In Masvingo province, cases of violation of political rights as well as the people's right to personal security continued being recorded during the month of August 2022 with the political environment heating up. The opposition CCC members were on the receiving end of the majority of violations recorded during the month under review. This was noted in Gutu West in a case where about 20 to 25 Zanu PF youths allegedly toy-toyed around the homesteads of the CCC members with the aim of instilling fear in them. They blocked entrances to homesteads of targeted individuals for close to 1 hour 30 minutes, singing and dancing, chanting slogans such as 'mupanduki chera mwena nguva yakwana' loosely translated means 'sellouts, dig holes and hide the time has come.' Some of the identified youths included Jotham Chamba, Timoth Maramba, Tafadzwa Maramba, Patson Makumbe, Nokhthula Shumba, Kudakwashe Mahachi, Nyasha Mahachi and Vengai Hungwe. The CCC members are now living in fear for their lives as the Zanu PF youths used insulting slogans and threats. On 23 August 2022 a police report was reportedly made at ZRP Gutu. The victims were identified as Ephraim Morudo CCC district vice chairperson for Gutu West, Joseph Munyikwa CCC shadow councilor ward 7 and Cuthbert Manzvanda. The incidents happened in broad daylight and the police allegedly did not act in any way.

Mashonaland Central

In Mashonaland Central, Zanu PF was forcing villagers to surrender their national documents (birth certificates and identity cards) to traditional leaders. It remained a mystery as to why traditional leaders were assigned to withhold citizens' national registration documents. The ruling party organised various ward meetings where citizens were threatened with violence if Zanu PF loses the 2023 general elections. In these meetings, citizens were reminded of the 2008 post-election atrocities which characterised the killing of more than 200 opposition supporters. Traditional leaders particularly village heads, kraal heads, and village secretaries in some communities were compiling lists of opposition party supporters ahead of the 2023 elections. The ruling party's 2023 campaign drive is characterised by gross intimidation and harassment of citizens in communities. Perceived opposition supporters were threatened with unspecified action resulting in many people living in fear. The province also recorded cases where citizens were forced to contribute in cash and kind in the form of mealie meal and cooking oil towards the Heroes' Day commemorations. Defaulters were threatened with denial of government aid. In addition to all these dilemmas, cases of intimidation and harassment of citizens were on the rise in Mashonaland Central. In August ZPP recorded 16 cases of harassment and intimidation, an increase from 12 cases recorded in July. These cases were linked to traditional leaders violating the freedoms of assembly and association of political opponents and ordinary citizens.

ZPP recorded a case on the right to administrative justice in Guruve North at Muzambia farm under Chief Bepura's jurisdiction. Reports indicate that villagers at the farm were forced to surrender their national identity documents by village heads following an instruction allegedly issued by Zanu PF. It is said that from 5–12 August village heads conducted various community meetings where they made villagers surrender their identity cards. They reportedly informed villagers to adhere to the request citing that the initiative was an instruction from Zanu PF. Many people surrendered their IDs out of fear. However, it remains a mystery as to why traditional leaders were assigned to withhold citizens' documents.



Mashonaland East

Mashonaland East was a political hotspot during the month of August, because of the significant number of political violence and political intolerance cases recorded. The political hostility and tension was a pointer that the country is heading towards violent polls in 2023. In Uzumba and Wedza the CCC President Advocate Nelson Chamisa was violently attacked by Zanu PF supporters. In Wedza, the CCC President's motorcade managed to speed off at a barricaded road where it was partially stoned by Zanu PF youths. Meanwhile, in Seke Zanu PF youths assaulted CCC members before vandalizing a CCC member's car. Reports indicate that Zanu PF supporters became extremely violent and smashed car windows before pouring sand in the car engine. This is an indicator of tensions and the extent of the volatility in communities especially rural ones. If these cases are not dealt with swiftly, violence will continue unabated and eventually affect the freeness of the environment leading up to the election. In Uzumba, a Zanu PF Councilor reportedly assaulted elderly persons and persons with disabilities for attending a CCC rally convened by Advocate Nelson Chamisa at Nhakiwa Business Centre. In Murehwa and Mudzi Districts ZPP recorded a number of cases, which were of threats, intimidation and harassment. CCC supporters across Mashonaland East were targeted, and some were forced to burn their CCC regalia, while others were assaulted and in some instances told to denounce their political affiliation.

Mashonaland West

In Mashonaland West, the most common human rights abuses recorded in the month of August were the violation of the rights to personal security, freedom of assembly and association and violent artisanal miners' conflicts. The main perpetrators in the violations were individuals aligned to the ruling Zanu PF and officers from the Zimbabwe National Army. In a sad event, a poorly attended rally organized by First Lady Amai Auxilia Mnangagwa in Kadoma, saw vendors and citizens being frog-marched, bused, and assaulted to attend the rally. Reports indicate that scores of people were assaulted as army officers forced people to attend the rally. In Hurungwe West, Hon Mary Mliswa used the same modus operandi of using traditional leaders to force villagers to attend her meeting. During the meeting, Hon Mliswa instructed villagers to vote for Zanu PF candidates in the 2023 elections or face unspecified action. She reiterated that opposition sympathizers and activists were not going to benefit from government-funded pfumvudza inputs.

In Muzvezve, Kadoma and Chegutu cases of artisanal miners' fights escalated during the reporting period. On 22 August a violent fight was reported at Mzansi Night Club, a mining syndicate led by a young miner only identified as Anele attacked a man with a machete. Reports indicate that the man dodged death by a whisker and was hospitalized at Kadoma Hospital. Citizens in these mining towns are normally caught in between crossfires of artisanal miners' fights. Police officers are reportedly failing to contain the fights as they attend to crime scenes hours after reports would have been made.

Matabeleland North

Matabeleland North Province continued to record violations of political rights and personal security. Zanu PF went around the province requesting citizens to join and ultimately vote for the party. The ruling party members underscored that there was a need for citizens to be part of the Zanu PF structures so as to fully benefit from mining, tourism and agricultural development projects. In Nkenyane area of Bubi constituency, it was reported that Zanu PF activists led by Gift Moyo went around forcing small scale miners to go and register as voters at a local Zanu PF office so that they appear on the cell group list. Moyo threatened the miners with eviction and revocation of their claim licenses in the event they fail to register in cell groups. This is a clear politicization of access to resources.

Zanu PF has exhibited the intention to acquire two constituencies of Binga to complete their influence in the province. During his visit to Bulawayo Kraal, Vice President Constantino Chiwenga underscored the need to develop the irrigation scheme in the area. His address emphasized that Binga would be fully developed when they all vote for Zanu PF starting from the local authority. It is clear that Zanu PF intends to win the two constituencies in Binga by any means necessary. During the visit, VP Chiwenga instructed all traditional leaders to vote for Zanu PF and not opposition parties. All were tasked to mobilize and work closely with war veterans in the district to campaign for the party. This was the second time Chiwenga and Mohadi instructed traditional leaders to campaign and ultimately vote for Zanu PF. Constitutionally, traditional leaders are supposed to be apolitical and are not supposed to participate in political activities.

In a case of political intolerance that was recorded in Mtuya village of Dete, Jealousy Mpofu of the MDC-T threatened to organize thugs to beat supporters of the newly formed Citizen Coalition for Change led by Nelson Chamisa.

Matabeleland South

In the month under review, the province recorded human rights violations of political intolerance as there are by-elections expected in Bulilima West constituency. This has resulted in the perpetration of various human rights violations in the area which has seen a lot of citizens abused during the campaigns. It was reported that a Zanu PF activist only identified as Mnyamana forced citizens to attend their campaign meetings ahead of the by-elections. Mnyamana warned citizens that those who failed to attend the Zanu PF meetings would be considered opposition supporters and hence would be dealt with. Out of fear citizens attended the meetings fearing for their safety and life. In ward 14, a suspected member of the Mthwakazi Republic Party identified as Bernard Dube went around tearing posters belonging to the candidates from Zanu PF and Citizen Coalition for Change ahead of the by-election.

A case of intimidation was recorded, where Themhani Mthimkhulu of CCC threatened to beat up those that fail to vote for his party in the upcoming by-elections. It is said that Mthimkhulu said this during a grassroots campaign exercise and was said to be threatening citizens with unspecified action if they fail to vote for his party. At ward 16 it was noted that a group of Zanu PF members led by Richman Moyo was moving around forcing citizens to join the party. It is alleged that the door to door campaign was targeting known CCC members as it is said they would visit each homestead using the cell group list. Verified facts suggest that Moyo remarked that all those that fail to join Zanu PF will be dealt with in the fullness of time.

At Nathisa village of Matobo North, it was reported that a Zanu PF activist only identified as Xolani Sibanda threatened to invite the youth militia into the community to beat up CCC members. Sibanda told the community that the new party should be stopped from holding meetings as it says things that are laden with messages of 'subversion'. Sibanda vowed to beat up all known CCC members with the help of the militia.



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