

**Mobile App** 

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

## VIOLENCE UPSURGE AHEAD OF 2023 ELECTIONS

### **OCTOBER 2022** THE ZIMBABWE PEACE PROJECT MONTHLY MONITORING REPORT



Resist, Reject and Report Violence, #RRRV2023

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## THE ROUNDUP

ZPP recorded 255 human rights violations, a decrease from September's 257. Of these, 42 were in Harare, followed by 37 in Mashonaland East and 35 in Manicaland and Midlands. During the month, 3 546 victims were identified (2625 male and 921 female, including 15 PWDs). Assault cases were topical in October, with documented incidents increasing to 44 from 42 the previous month. Campaign activities for the October 22 by-elections were characterised by assaults of opposition leaders and supporters, making the elections and subsequent outcome unfair and less credible.

The percentage of victims decreased to 0.2% for female persons with disability and 0.23% for males in October. Most human rights cases were perpetrated by Zanu PF, responsible for 48% of the violations, followed by Zimbabwe Republic Police (ZRP) at 32%. The general citizens populated the highest percentage of victims, at 88%, and Citizens Coalition for Change (CCC) supporters followed at 15%. Law enforcement agents and the ruling party continue to subject Zimbabwe's citizens to gross human rights violations.

The MMR is a compilation of human rights violations in Zimbabwe. The report exposes perpetrators, informs the general public about the social, political, economic, civil, and cultural human rights situation, and informs the development of advocacy initiatives with various stakeholders. ZPP launched the #RRRV2023 campaign to create an active citizenry that Resists, Rejects, and Reports violence ahead of elections. The campaign seeks to achieve a peaceful electoral process where citizens are empowered to speak out and report when violated and increase their level of alertness and responsiveness to pressure duty bearers to be accountable.

# <sup>2</sup> MAJOR HIGHLIGHTS

On October 17, in Insiza, Filabusi, Matobo South, over 80 suspected Zanu PF youths disrupted a rally and attacked CCC members with knobkerries and Machetes in Ward 2. The victims were at a CCC party candidate Augustine Gumede's homestead ahead of the October 22 by-elections. The assailants broke the entrance door and destroyed the property. Hon. Jasmine Toffa and other CCC members suffered severe injuries and were admitted to a private hospital in Bulawayo. Hon Toffa sustained fractures on both wrists, trying to block more attacks on her face after she had been kicked in the forehead. She had to undergo surgery.

On October 16, in Matobo District, eight suspected Zanu PF youths attacked CCC members with knobkerries, logs, and whips during a CCC voter mobilisation campaign for the by-elections. The perpetrators discharged live ammunition to disperse the campaigners. Hon Kucaca Phulu, Nonhlanhla Mlotshwa, Mr. Tennyson Ndebele, and other CCC members sustained severe injuries. Elephant Ncube had a fractured arm and leg, Albert Ncube had a fractured arm and leg and broken ribs, Vuyani Fuyane suffered a head injury, and Xolisani Moyo sustained a deep cut on the forehead. Five Zanu PF branded vehicles, a Mazda (ACY3256), Toyota Hilux (AFX1433), and three unidentified cars blocked the passage of CCC supporters' entourage.

Unidentified Zanu PF activists forced four women who were part of the byelection mobilisation team to remove the CCC regalia they wore. They were only left with undergarments and bras. The women mentioned above were subjected to intimidation because they were campaigning for the CCC party. The Zanu PF win of five out of the six by-elections held in Buhera Ward 24, Mutare Ward 18, Takawira Ward 6, Guruve Ward 4, Insiza Ward 4, and Matobo Ward 2 is evidence of the extent of terror in communities.

#### **OCTOBER 2022**

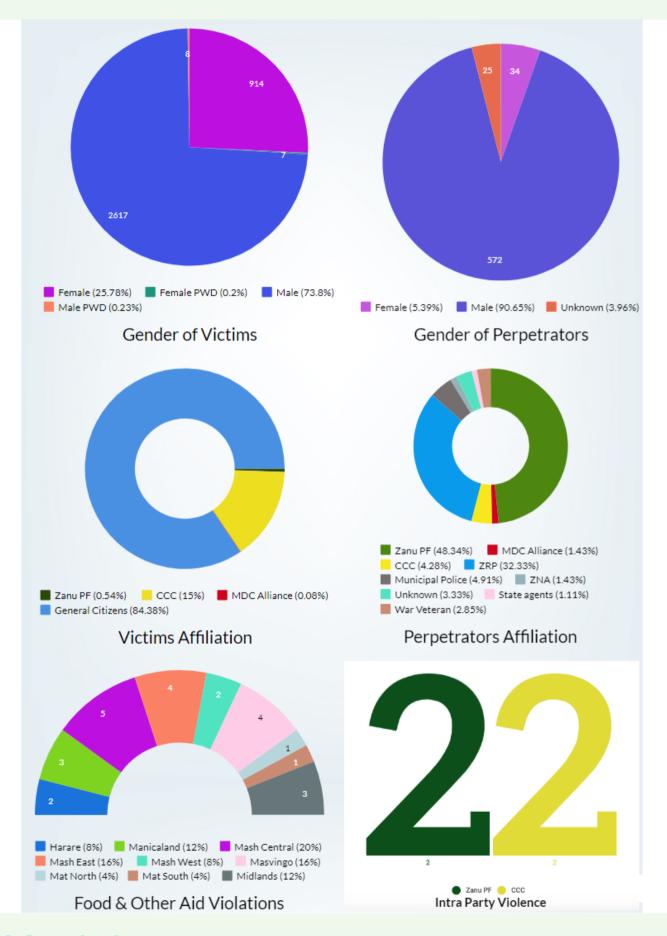
### 3 **OCTOBER VIOLATIONS DATA LOG**

Human Rights Violations Monthly Report time frame: October, 2022 Dashboard Zimbabwe Peace Project **Provincial Violations** icial Vior 3 - 7 8 - 23 24 - 42

**District Violations** District Vior 2 - 4 5 - 8 9 - 14 15 - 2



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## **4** Key Findings and Mitigation Measures

#### 4.1 Political and electoral-related violence

The violence reported around the October 22 by-elections in Matobo Ward 2 and Insiza Ward 4, resulting in CCC members sustaining severe injuries, confirms the political environment's toxicity in Zimbabwe. The details include inter-party and intra-party violence and threats to candidates and campaign teams. These violent incidents negatively affect the electorate's participation in democratic political processes, especially among vulnerable groups. Most citizens would rather not relive the violent elections of 2008, thus easily intimidated and pressured into supporting Zanu PF.

The gendered nature of the violence reported in an incident where four women were stripped of their clothing is one of the worrying barriers to women participating in politics and governance. Images of the violated half-naked women went viral on social media. The assault of women with booted feet makes more women apathetic to politics.

The growing suspicion that the perpetrators are coming from outside the area is worrying. The practice is not new. In years past, bussed perpetrators unleashed violence in territories where their identity is unknown. The Matabeleland South victims report that most assailants were men armed with guns, spoke Shona, and drove cars emblazoned Mashonaland Central.

ZPP recommends the adoption of the following interventions to ensure that the political and electoral environment is violent free;

4.1.1 More resources should be channelled toward supporting efforts to document admissible evidence and expose perpetrators of politically motivated violence.

4.1.2 Political parties should reign in their leaders and supporters to desist from perpetrating violence by putting in place sanctions against perpetrators.

4.1.3 Continue to pressure Chapter 12 Commissions to act on submitted reports on politically motivated violence.

These women who were part of the October 22 by-election mobilisation team, were forced to remove the CCC regalia they wore. They were only left with undergarments and bras.

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#### **4.2 Politicisation of the Education Sector**

In October, there was a noticeable rise in the politicisation of educational resources and the exploitation of children as political pawns. The organisers of the Teachers for ED (Economic Development) launch ordered some schools to avail buses to ferry teachers from different parts of the country to the venue at Harare International Conference Centre (HICC). The Ministry of Primary and Secondary Education assigned teachers to organise students in various regions of the nation to perform art at the anti-sanctions march on October 25. In Mwenezi District, each school was expected to contribute USD\$10 by October 18 to the Teachers for ED initiative. The forced mobilisation of students led to the loss of valuable class time, especially when many were writing their Ordinary and Advanced Level Public Examinations. The reported concern violates Section 75 of the Constitution, which states that Zimbabwe's citizens and permanent residents have the right to education. The education sector in Zimbabwe continues to deteriorate.

ZPP recommends the following interventions to ensure that the education sector is not politicised;

4.2.1 The Zimbabwean government should make sure that educational resources and school children are not utilized for political purposes.

4.2.2 The Zimbabwe Human Rights Commission should engage the government on the welfare of teachers and the promotion of their rights which include not being forced to attend political rallies.

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#### 4.3 Politicisation of vending spaces

ZPP notes with concern the increase in cases of politicisation of vending spaces, particularly Mupedzanhamo Flea Market in Mbare. Mbare, a known industrial hub for informal traders, has since turned into a hotspot of political violence following the politicisation of vending spaces by Zanu PF and CCC youths.

ZPP offers the following recommendations so as to reduce the prevalence of violence in the area;

4.3.1 ZPP implores political parties to reign in their supporters to shun acts of violence and respect political rights and human rights to safeguard citizens ahead of the 2023 general elections.

4.3.2 The ZRP should carry out thorough and impartial investigations to ensure that perpetrators are held accountable for crimes committed.

4.3.3 The police should also desist from indiscriminately beating up people during political clashes. Citizens' personal security and freedom of assembly and association rights should not be violated.

#### 4.4 Hate Speech

ZPP recorded several incidents in which political bigwigs used hate speech during campaign rallies. The former Minister of State for National Security in the President's Office Owen 'Mudha' Ncube, while addressing a Zanu PF campaign rally in Mberengwa said, "You have been told that 2023 will be worse than 2008. We will not just leave you while you are selling out. Even during the liberation struggle, there were sell outs but they were dealt with". Notably, Ncube was fired as State Security minister in January this year for 'improper conduct' and fanning violence during Zanu PF's provincial elections. The increased use of hate speech puts the country at risk of another violent and bloody election. In the recently ended elections in Kenya, fearing a politically charged and violent election, the National Commission for Integration and Cohesion launched a National Plan against Hate language and listed banned words for their hateful implications. They also gave Facebook a 7-day ultimatum to comply with hate language regulation.

ZPP recommends the government adopts the following interventions to ban hate speech at political rallies or media spaces;

4.4.1 Political parties and players desist from the use of hate speech during campaigns and rallies.

4.4.2 Perpetrators of hate speech should be held accountable

4.4.3 The Zimbabwe Human Rights Commission, the National Peace and Reconciliation Commission and Zimbabwe Electoral Commission have a responsibility to bring sanity where hate language continues to be used as it is a violation of the Electoral Act.

### 5 TOWARDS A ZIMBABWE WHERE THERE IS PEACE, JUSTICE, DIGNITY AND DEVELOPMENT FOR ALL.

The Zimbabwe Peace Project engaged in a number of national advocacy initiatives. The organisation was represented at an Electoral Reform Audit and Delimitation Symposium organised by the Zimbabwe Election Support Network, Most Chapter 12 commissions were in attendance together with other stakeholders including CSO representative.

ZPP expressed concern about the human rights violations it had monitored and documented and recommended the following;

- The need for more engagement with the police as the institution responsible for the protection of life and property.
- For the Multi Party Liaison Committee to be operational all the time be there an election or not.
- The decentralisation of services of Chapter 12 Commissions to provincial and district levels to enable the expediting of complaints and investigations and alleviate the challenge of victims having to travel long distances to report human rights violations.



ZPP also produced and disseminated a fact sheet which highlighted irregularities and challenges faced by persons with disabilities (PWDs) in accessing medical healthcare services and facilities in government hospitals in Zimbabwe. The organisation is concerned that the decline in social services in the health sector has continued to infringe on the rights of persons with disabilities. Recommendations to the Ministry of Health and Child Care included ensuring that health services are designed to minimise physical and attitudinal barriers for PWDs and should access health care as provided in section 76 of the Zimbabwean Constitution.

The SPECC app, developed for citizens to report human rights violations in their communities, especially during this election season, is now available on App store for iOS in addition to being available on Android. Citizens have responsibility to influence the promotion, respect and fulfilment of their fundamental rights, speaking out when they are violated and putting pressure on duty bearers to be accountable.

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# <sup>6</sup> SPECIAL FOCUS

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

ZPP recorded 13 cases on violating human dignity and freedom from torture or cruel, inhumane or degrading treatment or punishment in Kuwadzana, Mberengwa North, Chimanimani East and Bikita East.

These cases include the denial of bail for the fifth time of CCC MPs Job Sikhala and Godfrey Sithole on 6 October, a move reinforcing the notion that the judiciary and the law have been weaponised. The two, together with 14 others, have spent more than 120 days in custody after their arrest at the funeral wake of murdered CCC activist Moreblessing Ali. On 8 October, a Zimbabwean Journalist Godwin Mangudya was assaulted by members of the Central Intelligence Organisation and Zanu PF activists in Kuwadzana, Harare, while covering the party's central committee elections. On 27 October, Zanu PF youths assaulted Victor Baipai in ward 15 of Chimanimani East.

Article 2 of the Declaration on the Protection of all Persons from Being Subjected to Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment of 1975 states that any act of torture or other cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment is an offence to human dignity. It violates the human rights and fundamental freedoms proclaimed in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights.



#### **Freedoms of Association and Movement**

In October, ZPP recorded 52 cases on the violation of freedoms of association and movement in different areas, including Nyanga North, Chimanimani East and Chirumhanzu South.

These cases include the politicisation of agricultural seed in Nyanga North, which only gave grain to people with the ruling Zanu PF party membership card selling at USD\$3.00. In Chimanimani East, ward 15, a state security agent identified as Dembo intimidated a human rights defender due to his involvement in the Zimbabwe Elections Support Network (ZESN) activities and regular appearance in shirts bearing the ZESN logo. In Chirumanzu South, ward 6, Zanu PF members identified as Jaya and Danger moved around during the night, intimidating, assaulting and harassing CCC supporters and other villagers ahead of the 22 October by-elections. This led to the injury of some, and one was rushed to the hospital for medical attention.

The Constitution guarantees freedom of assembly and association under Section 21. Every Zimbabwean has the right to assemble freely and associate with other persons and in particular, to form or belong to political parties or trade unions or other associations for the protection of his interests. This is also supported by the African Charter on Human and Peoples' Rights Articles' 10 and 11.



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#### Media and Freedom of expression

ZPP recorded 3 cases on violating the right to media and expression perpetrated mainly by the ruling party. These cases were recorded within Harare in Kuwadzana, Mbare and Harare Central constituencies. The violation of the freedom of expression violates the rights of journalists to operate freely and disseminate information. Hence the violation to expression and freedom of media also infringes the right to access information as enshrined in Section 62 of the constitution. The violation of freedom of the media negatively affects journalistic practice.

The cases include the assault of journalist Godwin Mangudya by CIO members and Zanu PF activists in Kuwadzana, Harare, while covering the party's central committee elections. On 10 October, two journalists from Alpha Media Holdings' HSTV were assaulted by the police in Mbare when they witnessed and filmed the police assaulting vendors while dispersing them. Newsday and TheNewsHawks journalists were also denied accreditation to cover the Zanu PF 7th National Elective Congress convened at the Harare International Conference Centre between 26 and 29 October.

The right to expression and media freedom remains essential under Section 61 of the Constitution. The right to freedom of expression is further protected in article 19 of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (ICCPR) which provides for the right of individuals to hold opinions without interference and the right to freedom of expression which includes freedom to seek, receive and impart information and ideas of all kinds. Article 9 of the African Charter on Human and People's Rights (African Charter) protects the right to freedom of expression.



#### Food and Water Security

During October, ZPP recorded 4 cases of violation of access to food and water in Mudzi North, Chivi North and Goromonzi South.

On 14 October in Chijaka Village 10 in Mudzi North near Nyamuyaruka Business Centre, a Zanu PF-aligned village head Douglas Masamba violated villagers' right to clean portable borehole water by personalising a local community borehole. Musamba removes the borehole handle and replaces it when he wants to fetch water. In Chivi North, on 25 October, in Ward 6, Maramba village, a CCC supporter was denied food aid by Admire Chamisa, the Maramba village Chikusa head.

The right to safe and clean drinking water and sanitation is a human right that is essential for the full enjoyment of life and all human rights. It entitles everyone to access sufficient, safe, acceptable, physically accessible, and affordable water for personal and domestic use. In 2015, the United Nations. of which Zimbabwe is a state member, adopted the Sustainable Development Goals, which are a universal call to improve the lives and prospects of everyone everywhere. SDGs 2 and 6 are about all institutions committed to achieving food security and ensuring availability and sustainable management of water, respectively.

#### **Right to Health**

During the month, ZPP recorded 4 cases of violation of the right to health in Buhera West, Bikita South and Mberengwa East constituencies. The violation of the right to health includes the denial of the right to access healthcare institutions such as clinics and hospitals. It also consists of denying access to health-related services, including medicines. Health services must provide goods and facilities to all without discrimination, and all services, goods and facilities must be available, accessible, acceptable and of good quality.

Of particular significance reported the neglect of patients at Buhera hospital by nurses on 19 October in Buhera West Ward 14. By mid-morning tea break on the particular day, no single patient had been attended to. There was a crisis at Mashoko hospital, ward 1, Bikita South, as only one anaesthetist and two doctors were operating at the hospital. Four clinics, including Gawa, Mukanga, Odzi and Ngorima feed Mashoko hospital, which has made it difficult for people in the area. In Mberengwa East, ward 6, on 5 October, a 78-year-old man from Goromondo village was denied medical attention for failing to pay the clinic's US\$1.00 card fee.

The right to health is recognized as a human right in the 1966 International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights. Zimbabwe is a signatory, and state party to the African Charter on Human and People's Rights, wherein article 16 provides for the right to health. The right to health is also enshrined in the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women. The right to health is protected under Section 76 of the Constitution of Zimbabwe. The government must put in place policies, laws and resources for the right to basic health care to be enjoyed in Zimbabwe

# PROVINCIAL OUTLOOK

#### Harare

The human rights situation in Harare continued to deteriorate ahead of the 2023 general elections. During the Zanu PF central committee elections, Godwin Mangudya, a journalist, was allegedly assaulted by members of the Central Intelligence Organisation (CIO) and Zanu PF activists in Kuwadzana suburb while covering the process. This was despite Mangudya formally identifying himself and producing his Zimbabwe Media Commission press card. On 14 October suspected Zanu PF youths reportedly attacked CCC President Nelson Chamisa's motorcade in Chitungwiza North after he visited families of the Nyatsime detained. The unidentified youths reportedly barricaded roads attacking Chamisa's convoy with stones. A CCC activist sustained serious injuries in the process and was rushed to hospital.

#### **Bulawayo**

In preparation of the Zanu PF Elective Conference, party members in Bulawayo sought to increase the membership of the party. Zanu PF members implemented their campaigns targeting citizens and vendors whilst violating the rights of individuals. In Nkulumane constituency, it was reported that a Zanu PF activist identified as Zenzo Dube went door to door intimidating citizens to either vote for his party or risk being beaten in the forth-coming election. He was registering people in the party cell group book. In a similar incident, on 10 October a Zanu PF activist identified as Kuda Chamboko also went around forcing vendors to buy new party cards or risk losing their stands near Unity Village. Most vendors are reported to have bought new cards fearing that they would have their stands expropriated. The local authority cited that there were difficulties in controlling vendors at undesignated areas who have Zanu PF membership.

#### Manicaland

During the month of October there was a worrying trend of serving army personnel who were directly involved in politics and favouring the ruling Zanu PF party within the province. On 27 October a case of political violence was recorded in Chimanimani East where Victor Baipai, an aspiring local authority candidate for the 2023 elections under the CCC party was assaulted on 27 October 2022. The Zanu PF Secretary for the DCC Majiri and a member identified Mushonga respectively assaulted the victim who sustained injuries on his right eye. He was attended at Chimanimani hospital. The case was reported to the police (RRB Number 4921172).

#### Masvingo

Cases of partisan distribution of government sponsored aid were rampant in the province during the month. Most of the reported cases implicated Zanu PF members who were high-jacking the distributions so that they could sideline perceived and known opposition members. On 14 October in Bikita East Ward 16 during a presidential input distribution program Paradzai Ndovoyo (MP's representative), Sheila Chisiiwa (Zanu PF chairperson), Chigumisirwa (headman) and Steven Gavhureyi (Zanu PF) politicised the process. Chisiiwa reportedly announced that those who were not in Zanu PF cell structures were not going to receive the inputs, even if their names were appearing on the beneficiaries list. In Tivabarire village, 72 names were called out, but only 21 villagers who were Zanu PF members benefitted. Those who had received more than the allocated share of fertiliser ended up selling to others for US\$15.00 per 50kg.

#### Midlands

Cases of political violence in Chirumhanzu South, Takawira and ward 6 were on the increase in the run-up to the 22 October 2022 by-elections in Midland's province. On 16 October 2022, Zanu PF members allegedly moved around during the night intimidating, assaulting and harassing CCC supporters and other villagers. One CCC member was badly injured and was rushed to the hospital as a result of the assault. The perpetrators were identified as Jaya and Danger, two Zanu PF members from Ward 6. In a similar case on 3 October in Gumunyu, Gokwe North ward 12, a CCC supporter was threatened whilst playing a game of pool at a local shopping centre. The victim was threatened with shooting if he continued discussing politics.

#### Mashonaland Central

As Zanu PF supporters pressured citizens into supporting the ruling party in the general elections expected in 2023, the political atmosphere was hostile. Zanu PF won the local authority by-election in Guruve North ward 4, which was marked by vote-buying, intimidation, and harassment of opposition supporters. Prior to the by-election, on October 16, Zanu PF youths under the leadership of Conwell Kufara interrupted a CCC campaign in Guruve North by blocking the campaign team that was delivering campaign posters. In violation of Chapter 15 of the Constitution, which forbids traditional leaders from engaging in partisan politics, the habit of politicking from village chiefs persisted. During a Zanu PF meeting on October 12, former vice president Kembo Mohadi addressed village leaders in the Guruve District. Several traditional leaders swore allegiance to Zanu PF ahead of the 2023 elections, and the majority of village heads were dressed in party attire.

#### Mashonaland East

Human rights violations were on the rise during the month of October in the province which made the environment very volatile. Murehwa and Mudzi were the provincial hotspots with cases of intimidation and harassment against CCC supporters going up. On 25 October a pastor was threatened, harassed and intimidated by Zanu PF activists at Wedza Business Centre in Ward 14 Wedza North. The man was labelled a CCC member for singing the popular hymn "Jesu inumber 1" and pointing his index finger in the sky during the anti-sanctions march. He was accused by Zanu PF youth only identified as Karenga of portraying a CCC hand symbol and harassed the pastor threatening him with nonspecific action. The political situation in Mashonaland Province has the potential to brew serious inter-party fights as the country braces for harmonised elections next year.

#### **Mashonaland West**

October was a difficult month politically and socially for citizens within the province. The operating environment for opposition parties in Hurungwe and other areas across the province continued to shrink as Zanu PF reportedly fielded terror groups as gate keepers. Artisanal miners were also used to terrorise individuals suspected to be opposition members. In Chegutu and Kadoma a terror group popularly known as team Barca reportedly terrorised citizens while in Hurungwe there is the FAZ (Zvidhoma) organized terror group. Learners across Mashonaland West were turned away from schools over tuition and levy arrears. On 12 October at Mupawose Primary School Ward 1 in Muzvezve the headmaster and the School Development Committee Chairperson Mr Sengu turned away pupils over non-payment of tuition and levies top-ups of 10 800 RTGS and USD \$12 building fund. Prior to turning away pupils, the school head and parents held a meeting over the tuition and levy top ups which ended prematurely as the two parties failed to agree.

#### Matabeleland North

In Tsholotsho South, at Siyangaya village, a Zanu PF activist identified as Solani Dube intimidated community members to vote for Zanu PF and those that fail to participate in the forthcoming activities of the party would be dealt with and removed in the farming input scheme. Dube intimidated the villagers whilst wearing his Zanu PF party regalia and carrying cell group books. Zanu PF continued to use intimidation to campaign. The levels of political intolerance and hate speech were also on the rise with Frank Mudimba of MDC-T from Ward 9 threatening to organise thugs to beat up supporters of the newly formed CCC led by Nelson Chamisa.

#### **Matabeleland South**

Thepolitically motivated violence in Matobo and Insiza dominated the electoral landscape ahead of the by-elections in the province. The violence with hate speech was perpetrated by suspected Zanu PF supporters in a bid to block the CCC party from campaigning. On 16 October 8 suspected Zanu PF youths allegedly attacked CCC members in ward 2, Matobo district during a voter mobilisation campaign with knobkerries, logs and whips as reported in our statement[1]. On 17 October, over 80 Zanu PF youths disrupted a rally and attacked CCC activists in ward 4 of Insiza in Filabusi ahead of the by-election. The assailants used machetes and knobkerries to attack the CCC supporters. Among some of the victims who sustained injuries is Hon. Jasmine Toffa who was admitted at a private hospital together with a few others.

[1] https://twitter.com/zppINFO/status/1582012219612889088?t=GB8sAf0vd8VgCmFycc-yGg&s=19



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