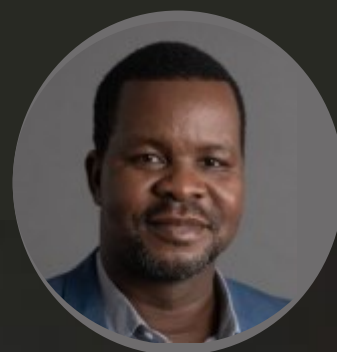


R.I.P DEWA
MAVHINGA



A N A T I O N I N
A G  N Y

THE ZIMBABWE PEACE PROJECT
MONTHLY MONITORING REPORT
DECEMBER 2021



ZIMBABWE
PEACE
PROJECT

Raining Bullets

Christmas Day of 2021 was generally rainy across Zimbabwe, but that may not have deterred many citizens from following the long-held tradition of celebrating the occasion.



Such callousness... Police enforcing a government COVID19 curfew in Chivhu unleashed dogs and Darlington Manjokota (28) was not so lucky. A police dog savaged his arm and he was admitted to Chivhu Hospital. He is still healing

For Zimbabwe, the day has ceased to be just about the birth of Christ; it has become an opportunity for people to travel to meet with family and friends to celebrate the end of the year. Despite the deep economic challenges the country is going through, Zimbabweans often save for this holiday in order to be part of the festivities.

It is therefore such a tragedy that on this day, five people die in circumstances that could have been avoided.

A soldier reportedly discharged his fire arm and killed five people as three other people sustained injuries at Wanganui Growth Point in Mhonorhogezi.

This is just one of the many cases where security forces have been implicated in public shootings, robberies, murder and other criminal activities, a trend that increased in December, raising alarm over the guarantee of security of ordinary citizens in the country.

While the Zimbabwe Defence Forces (ZDF) said it was concerned over the increased involvement of members of the army in criminal activities, the institution did not take responsibility of providing a concrete plan to deal with the issue, with Brigadier-General Augustine Chipwere only appealing to the public to report “rogue” soldiers. In the same vein, there was an increase in the prevalence of police brutality between 22 December 2021 and 2 January 2022 as police deployed to enforce COVID-19 regulations did so with contempt for the law.

It is therefore not a surprise that ZPP recorded four cases of killings, 30 cases of assault, and five cases of unlawful detention, most of which are attributable to the actions of the state security agents who seem to have become the law unto themselves.

In light of that, the Zimbabwe Republic Police (ZRP), contributed to nearly 40 percent of all human rights violations and the Zimbabwe National Army contributed to nearly two percent.

While the cases involving the army may be fewer, they are more severe as they resulted in unnecessary loss of life like in the Mhondoro-Ngezi case where a soldier shot down people during a bar brawl.

It is of great concern that of the four cases where people died, three of these cases involved state security agents while the other one involved an artisanal miner.

The Zimbabwe Peace Project (ZPP) has continued to call on state security agents to act professionally and on the State to ensure all perpetrators are brought to justice.

The State must also take preventive measures like

capacitating the disciplinary units of the army and the police, keeping a tight lock of armouries, and ensuring that soldiers do not roam around in public carrying weapons.

In addition to the state security agents playing an undesirable role in human rights abuses, the ruling Zanu PF party significantly contributed to the December 2021 statistics and was responsible for just over 47 percent of all violations.

This is mainly as a result of the party's internal provincial elections, held in the last two weeks of December, marred by violence, intimidation and harassment.

In one of the cases in Mhondoro-Ngezi a rival candidate opened fire and randomly shot at a vehicle of his opponent.

As the political fights happened, there was a surge in incidents involving artisanal miners and machete gangs, and in the month under review they contributed to about five percent of the violations.

Zimbabwe's socio-economic situation continued to deteriorate, with increased incidents of substance abuse

among the hopeless and jobless young persons making them even more vulnerable.

In light of the gloomy atmosphere, the ZPP believes 2022 should be a year where the government of Zimbabwe should reflect and be considerate to the citizens who have continued to bear the brunt of human rights abuses by the very arms of security that should protect them.

Government should be serious about tackling the rise in substance abuse, and must take into account that it is about young people not having available, accessible and equal opportunities to generate income. High level corruption, greed by those with access to national resources, a lack of a people-centred approach to the economy, politicisation of all sectors of the economy and lack of transparency have robbed a generation of opportunities, and the ZPP appeals to President Emmerson Mnangagwa to seriously look into the implications of his failure to deal with this issue on the future generations.

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

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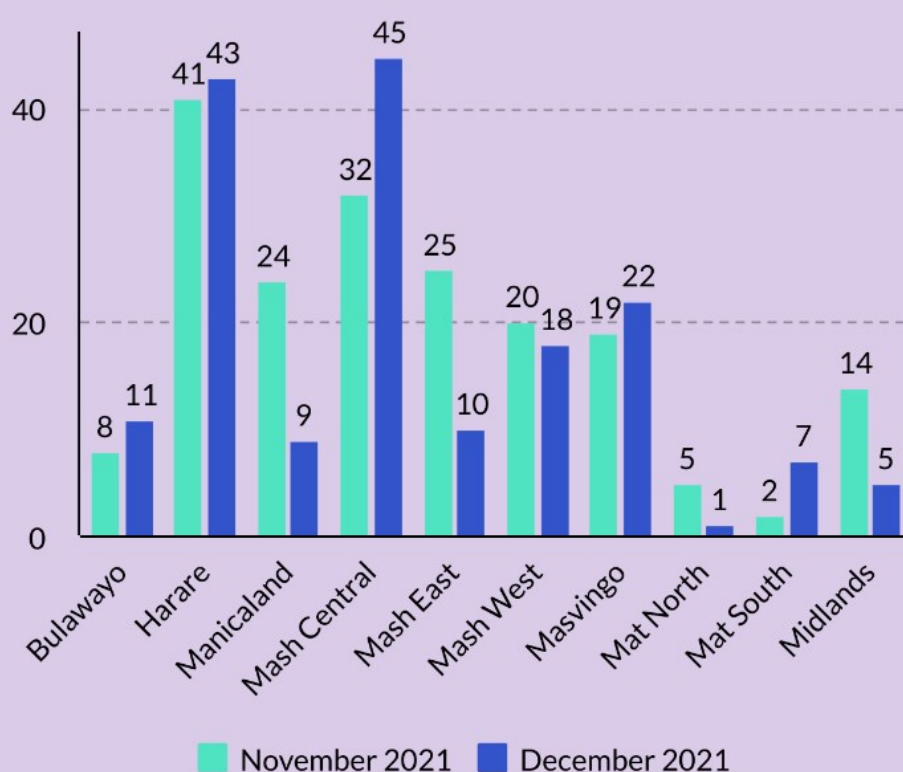
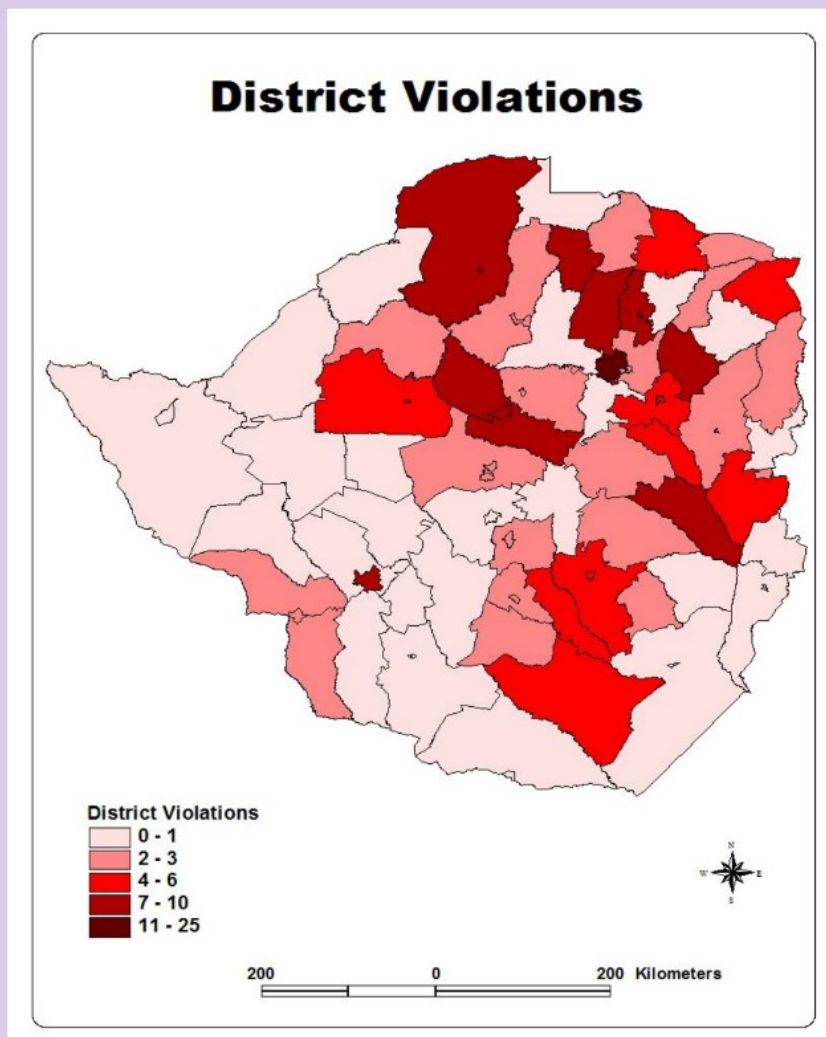
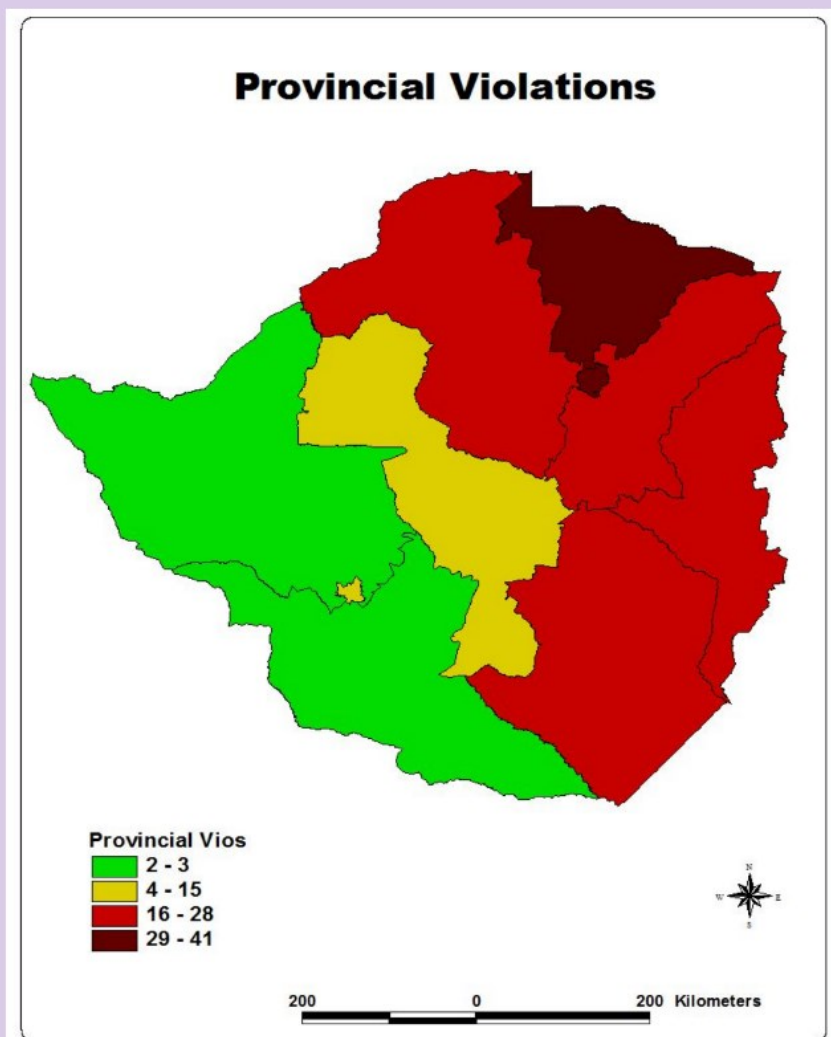
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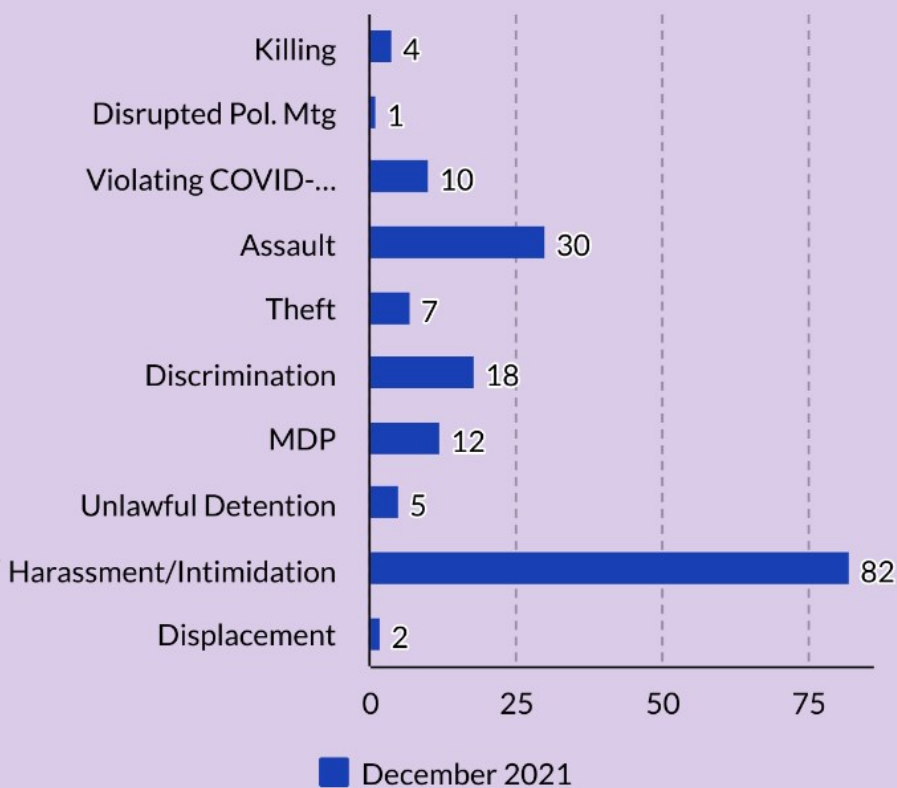
Human Rights Violations Monthly Dashboard

Zimbabwe Peace Project

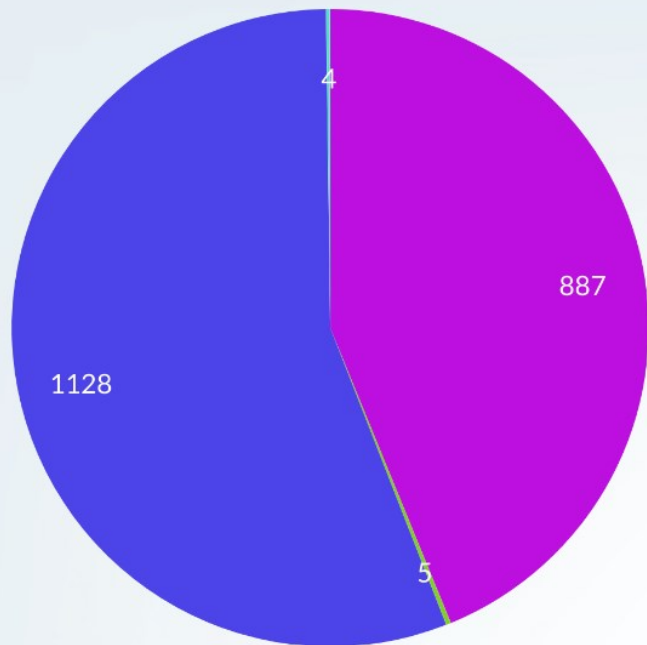
Report time frame: December, 2021



Provincial Violations

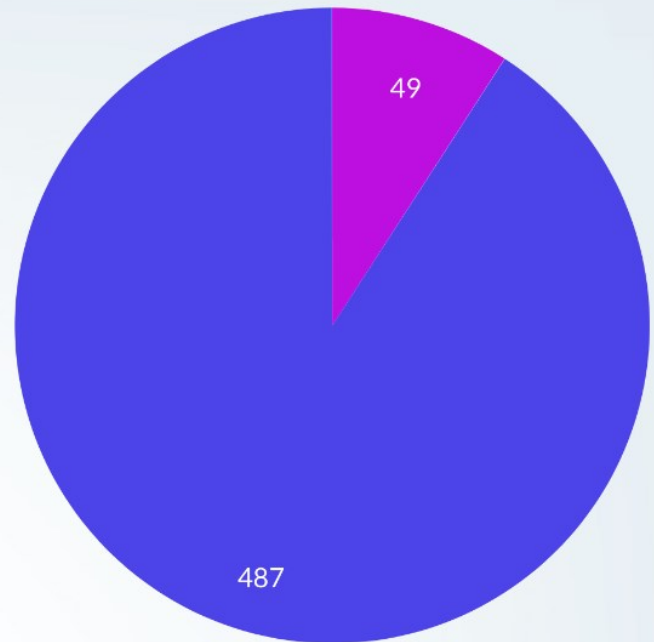


Types of Violations



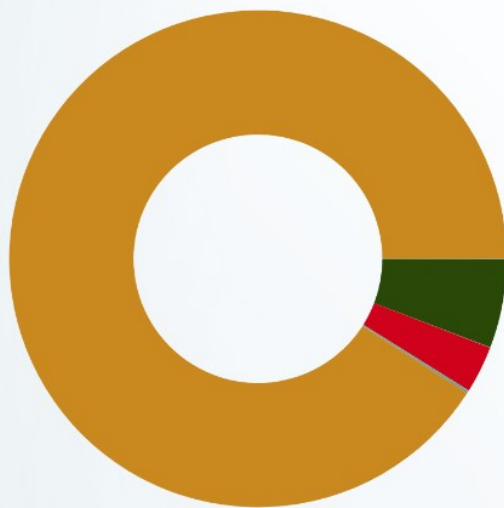
Female (43.82%) Female PWD (0.25%) Male (55.73%)
Male PWD (0.2%)

Gender of Victims



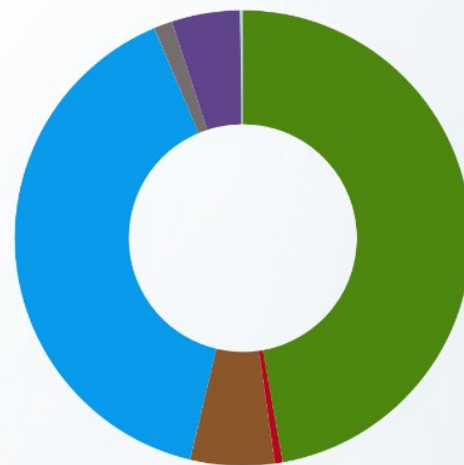
Female (9.14%) Male (90.86%)

Gender of Perpetrators



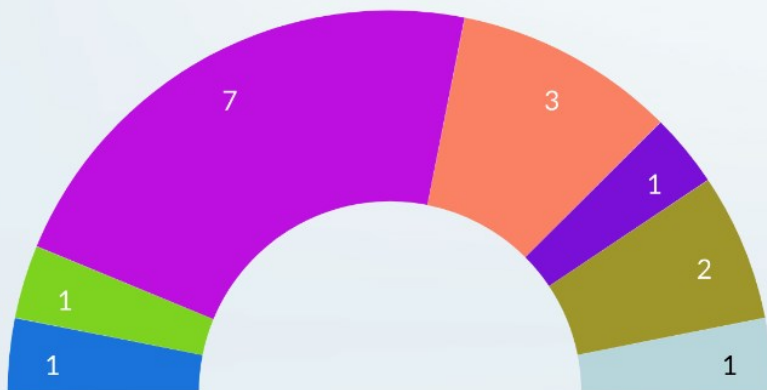
Zanu PF (5.83%) MDC Alliance (3.06%) ZAPU (0.05%)
Mthwakazi (0.05%) Machete Gangs (0.1%)
General Citizens (90.91%)

Victims Affiliation



Zanu PF (47.2%) MDC Alliance (0.56%)
Machete Gangs (5.97%) ZRP (39.93%)
ZNA (1.31%) Unknown (4.85%)
Mthwakazi (0.19%)

Perpetrators Affiliation



Harare (6.25%) Manicaland (6.25%)
Mash Central (43.75%) Mash East (18.75%)
Mash West (6.25%) Masvingo (12.5%)
Midlands (6.25%)

Food & Other Aid Violations

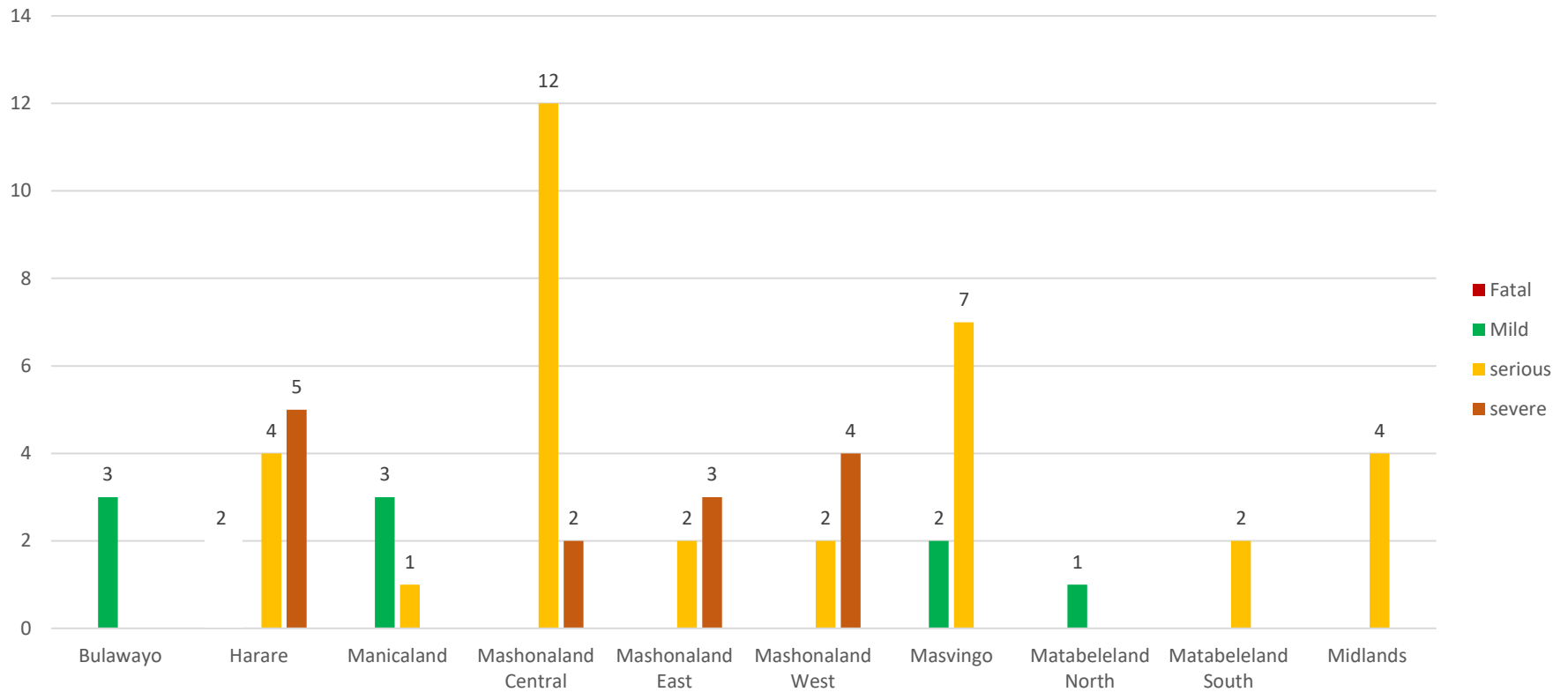


Zanu PF

Intra Party Violence

Using a highly sophisticated data analysis tool, ZPP maps the severity of the violations to give an indication of the political volatility of each province.

National Outlook



ZPP recorded more infractions in Harare and Mashonaland Central provinces. In Harare, there is a total of 22. The main highlight was the political activity in Zanu PF, where the party was holding its internal provincial chairperson elections.

The ruling party, which is supposed to be torchbearer for democratic and violence-free internal electoral processes, failed the test; its processes, held in the last week of December, were marred by violence, intimidation, harassment, allegations of rigging, vote-buying and manipulation and abuse of state resources.

There were high hopes that

Zanu PF would conduct free, fair, credible and peaceful provincial elections to set an example, and to give confidence to citizens of what to expect in the 2023 harmonised elections, but that did not happen.

Reports show that in some provinces there was widespread violence and this was prevalent in parts of Mashonaland West and Central provinces where some candidates were accused of ballot stuffing and fleeing with ballot papers.

There were a lot of irregularities across all provinces, and in some instances, there were squabbles over which ballot

papers to use while in some areas ballot papers and other relevant material was only delivered just before close of voting.

What transpired in the provincial elections is a red flag that the same basic election rules flagrantly ignored may also be flouted in 2023. This is largely because of the fact that Zanu PF has completely breached the lines between the state and the party. If it cannot follow its internal rules, then it is most likely they will do the same when it comes to national and supposed-to-be apolitical processes like national harmonised elections.

IN COLD BLOOD

In the month of December, members of the state security killed seven people in three of the four fatal incidents.

In the month of December, members of the state security killed seven people in three of the four fatal incidents.

In Gweru, a soldier shot and killed a man who had strayed into a cantonment area while, two soldiers allegedly shot dead a man in a US\$40 000 robbery heist that occurred in Hatfield, Harare and in Mhondoro-Ngezi, a soldier accused by members of the public of being in a sexual relationship with a minor, opened fire into a crowd, killing five and injuring three.

On December 26, five police officers allegedly assaulted a Budiro man to death. Percy Dick (31), was going for a routine medical check-up in the company of his children when the police stopped his vehicle and a dispute arose. Police officers then allegedly assaulted Dick, who succumbed to the injuries sustained.

On Christmas eve, at Mbalabala Growth Point in Insiza, soldiers reportedly beat up people and vandalized revellers' cars indiscriminately following a bar brawl.

These are just a few of the incidents involving state security agents who took the law into their own hands in December, and it appears the cases continue to increase unabated.

Police brutality was also

prevalent as the force battles to maintain order after the relaxation of lockdown regulations. It was reported that on the eve of the New year, police officers beat up Gladys Dube and others who had been waiting for transport to go home. It is said that Gladys and others were waiting for transport around 9.30pm way past the curfew. Instead of arresting them, it is said the police officers highlighted that they were drunk and assaulted them. Another case of assault was reported at 6th Avenue rank where Sijabuliso Moyo (31yrs) and company were manhandled by ZRP officers. It is said that Moyo and company were caught not wearing masks and instead of them being arrested, police officers assaulted them.

ZPP is gravely concerned about the Zimbabwe Defence Forces' lukewarm response to this issue, which the ZPP believes is of great national concern.

So far, the Zimbabwe Defence Forces has only issued a statement in which Brigadier General Augustine Chipwere, simply expressed regret over the incidents and promised, 'the ZDF will help all surviving dependents in accordance with the regulations in such incidents.' Without proffering what proactive preventive measures

the institution will take, Chipwere makes remarks that insinuate that all the unarmed victims of the shootings were to blame. According to The Herald, a ZDF member who was on patrol on Christmas Eve in the quarters of the air force base Josiah Tungamirai in Gweru shot and killed Painos Zihesu Dzvetsvera, who later succumbed to his injuries.

Chipwere, while blaming the victim, said the death could have been prevented "if the late Dzvetsvera had observed and followed the signs in the roost area and instructions from the patrol."

In the Mhondoro-Ngezi incident, where a soldier killed five people on Christmas Day at Wanganui Shops in Mhondoro-Ngezi, Chipwere said investigations suggest Lance Corporal Monga had a misunderstanding with a civilian, Brian Mutero, in the shops, which resulted in a mob attack on Monga.

Monga reportedly fired three warning shots in the air and Chipwere, again blaming the victims, said 'despite the warning shots, the crowd kept pushing towards him. He then fired his gun into the crowd, killing four people on the spot and injuring four others, one of whom later died at a local clinic'

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The Constitution of Zimbabwe safeguards the sanctity of human life and dignity.

It is therefore of great concern that the ZDF seeks to justify the killing of unarmed citizens by state security agents who could have otherwise utilised the many avenues of dealing with situations.

It is clear that in the Mhondoro-Ngezi incident, the soldier had breached the army guidelines relating to the handling of firearms when he ventured into a public space with a fully armed and loaded gun.

The incident is a sad reminder of the August 1, 2018 killings, when soldiers disproportionate force fatally shot at fleeing protesters in Harare, killing six and injuring dozens.

It also shows why there is an urgent need for the implementation of the Motlanthe Commission of Inquiry recommendations for reform in the state security sector.

The ZPP recommends that the ZDF implement the Motlanthe Commission of Inquiry on crowd handling and discipline by members of state security agents.

ZPP further asks that the ZDF institutes an inquiry into the recent spates of robberies and shootings involving members of state security agents and there should be an audit of firearms, and the promulgation of measures to ensure the security of firearms.

In Chivhu, police unleashed dogs on a woman in August 2021. She is still recovering, and five months later, the perpetrators have not been brought to book

LITTLE EFFORT

The Zimbabwe United Passenger Company (ZUPCO) took delivery of 90 Golden Dragon buses which added to the parastatal's fleet but still none of the buses are disability friendly.

According to Zimbabwe's regulations, the State owned ZUPCO is the sole public transporter following the banning of private transport operators nearly two years ago. It is sad to note that government continues to ignore the need to create a public transport system that is modelled to meet the

needs of persons with disabilities.

This is not just limited to public transport as in many sectors of the community and the economy, persons with disability still face discrimination.

ZPP has continued to record cases where persons with disability are denied aid and this goes to show why government needs to streamline its efforts to ensure all sectors of the Zimbabwean society are disability friendly.

The government's National

Disability Framework should be a living document and government can take into account the efforts by non-state players such as the ZPP, who continue to research, advocate and bring to light issues faced by persons with disability on a daily basis.

ZPP has facilitated interface platforms for persons with disabilities and the Ministry of Transport to ensure that persons with disabilities access public transport easily but the situation has not improved.



Litmus test

What awaits as Zimbabwe is due to conduct by elections on March 26, ahead of a major election in 2023

President Emmerson Mnangagwa has proclaimed March 26 as the date for by elections to fill vacancies for 105 local council and 28 national assembly seats.

This means there is just three months for the registration, nomination, campaigning and the actual voting to take place.

ZPP wishes to register its points of concern, and to make a call on government and all political players to ensure the by elections are conducted in free, fair and credible manner. These by elections by all means, are a test of what the national presidential, parliamentary and council elections will be in 2023.

As we look back, we note that State sponsored electoral violence targeting opposition party members prior to elections has remains a recurring phenomenon.

New challenges to campaigning rights towards elections have emerged, such as deploying uniformed forces to disrupt opposition gatherings, hate speech, discrimination and physical violence.

In previous years, the opposition political parties had not been able to establish themselves or expand their operation in order to capture the hearts of the rural populace where the majority of

the electorate resides.

The hegemonic ruling party system has given rise to the cultivation of executive tyranny and negation of constitutional principles. State security agents are being used to pursue a partisan agenda, which compromises their constitutional responsibility to protect the rights of all citizens. Zimbabwe Republic Police (ZRP) have been on a spree disrupting Movement for Democratic Change Alliance (MDC Alliance) gatherings, campaigning and community dialogues.

State agents have applied the law selectively in favor of the ruling party. ZRP riot, dismissed MDC Alliance president Nelson Chamisa's Christmas charity event on the 20th of December this month, in Highfield. This left disgruntled elderly people complaining about the way the ruling party is blocking the party president's efforts to help the people the government is not able to help. In the month of November, most of MDC Alliance campaigns were disrupted.

In the November report, Zimbabwe Peace Project (ZPP) recorded 54.13% rights violations perpetrated by the ruling party Zanu PF, ZRP in second place with 26,03% rights abuses.

ZPP is appealing to the government of Zimbabwe to ensure that uniformed forces play a neutral role, ensure that

people have freedom of participation as enshrined in the constitution. ZRP should cease politically motivated arrests of journalists, opposition party members and human rights activists.

Perpetrators of rights abuses are left untouched whilst the government of Zimbabwe continuously tries to silence dissent and close the space for Civil Society Organisations (CSOs) and the pattern is blatant. The use of legislation to justify the irrelevance of CSOs in Zimbabwe has become the order of the day. The recent introduction of the PVO Amendment Bill is one of the numerous examples that the government of Zimbabwe uses legislation to muzzle CSOs. The Bill attempts to stop CSOs from community and other interventions on the pretext that CSOs are involved in politics.

The impact of the Bill includes infringement of citizens' political and civic rights by the vague and broad reference to political lobbying. The PVO Amendment Bill has a bearing on how CSOs will operate and hinder them from performing their watch dog role. The halting of political lobbying implies that citizens will not be able to realise the fulfilment of not only political and civil rights but also social, economic and cultural since human rights are indivisible.

HARARE

The province recorded in an increase in crimes committed by suspected law enforcement agents particularly members of the Zimbabwe National Army (ZNA) and police officers. In one of the cases, police in Harare arrested members of army in connection with an armed robbery and murder that occurred in Hatfield suburb on 24 December. The two army suspects reportedly robbed US\$40 000 from the Hatfield house and also shot dead Elvis Chijaka and wounded Brian Chijaka. According to the Police, the suspects, armed with the standard army issue AK47 rifles, wore balaclavas and killed Elvis as he responded to a call by his sister during the robbery. In another case involving state security agents, five police officers in Harare's Budiriro suburb publicly assaulted and killed a man in front of his children on 26 December.

Percy Dick (31) had left home for a routine medical check-up when police officers blocked his vehicle and a dispute arose resulting in the police assaulting Percy. According to witnesses, a police officer grabbed Percy by the privates and pulled him until his eyes turned white.

MASHONALAND WEST

In Mashonaland West, six people lost their lives in two separate incidents. A soldier deployed in Mhondoro-Ngezi shot and killed five civilians when he was confronted for sexually abusing young girls. He reportedly discharged his fire arm and killed five people as three other people sustained injuries.

In another incident a business man was killed by a suspected artisanal miner who then robbed him before stabbing him to death. He was found in a pool of blood and the assailants got away with an unknown amount of USD and groceries worth thousands of USD.

Mashonaland West recorded numerous cases of intra-party violence, as the Zanu PF party had its provincial election the process was marred by violence. In Mhondoro-Ngezi a rival candidate opened fire and randomly shot at the vehicle of his opponent. Although there were no casualties, the incident traumatised people who had come to cast their votes.

BULAWAYO

The month witnessed the birth of a new political party, the Freedom Party. It is a party that is said to have been formed by regional leaders across political lines, civic society, cultural custodians and opinion leaders. The party is said to be an exclusive Matabeleland party representing all ethnic groups.

Zanu PF continued with its campaigns. In Ward 13, one Siphosami Dube (35yrs) of Zanu PF was going around forcing households to register into Zanu PF cell structures. Moyo reportedly said those that failed to register as Zanu PF members would never receive food aid.

Suspected Zanu PF activists disrupted an Annual General Meeting of the Crisis in Zimbabwe Coalition. The meeting was an elective gathering to elect a new board executive.

MATABELELAND NORTH

The most striking human rights violations recorded in the province emanated from the recently ended Zanu PF provincial elections.

In Hwange central constituency at Madumanisa village where Willard Muleya and Laison Ncube threatened to cause chaos if their preferred Zanu PF provincial Chairperson Richard Moyo lost. The level of intimidation by Zanu PF officials targeting supporters of other political parties remained high. For example, at Siyangaya

village, a Zanu PF activist only identified as Mandla Lifa, told people at a local shopping centre that if they did not participate in the forthcoming activities of the party, they would be removed from future aid distribution schemes. The same incident happened at Khatshana village of Lupane West, where another Zanu PF activist, Tryphine Khumalo told villagers to register under her party cell group or risk being removed from the food aid distribution list. She said Zanu PF was 'never' going to lose the 2023 election and when that happens, all other political parties would be assimilated into Zanu PF. The month also witnessed different organizations engaging the communities on the PVO Amendment Bill that the government intends to enact. In Binga ward 7, one of the participants said,

This is not the first time that the Zanu PF led government is trying to enact such a law. They have tried it before and it failed. It is just a ploy to silence them. Fine say those organizations are banned, who is going to educate us, inform us and help us? As far as I know here in Binga there are no radio stations, frequency is poor and there is poor network connectivity."

MATABELELAND SOUTH

In Matabeleland South, ZPP recorded political clashes driven by tribalism. On Christmas eve, police at Gwanda Central attended to an incident of public violence where a Mthwakazi Republic Party (MRP) supporter accused 'Shona' politicians of being behind the country's economic nosedive. Police continued to use crude methods to enforce the COVID-19 restrictions. For example, at Bulilima West, police officers randomly assaulted citizens accused of breaching the COVID-19 lockdown restrictions.

MASVINGO

Masvingo Province was a hype of political activities and once again, Zanu PF politicians abused their authority by bringing in the police into factional fights.

There were marked incidents resulting from factional squabbles in Zanu PF in Chivi, Gutu and Masvingo Urban.

In Chivi, the party's District Coordinating Committee elections, previously postponed six times due to violence, continued at Masunda South School, and MP Ephraim Gwanongodza, brought in the police. There were disagreements over the type of ballot paper to be used and once again, the elections did not take off.

The partisan distribution of aid continued in the province. In Gutu North, ward 8, the councillor, Lazarus Hute and his Zanu PF committee allegedly distributed 10kg bags each of maize seed and fertilizers to Zanu PF supporters only. The Councillor and his committee then allocated themselves four bags of fertilizers each.

MIDLANDS

In the Midlands province, intimidation of opponents by Zanu PF members remained high. In Gokwe North, Chireya, Zaranyika village, Tendai Marovanidze, reportedly moved around the area intimidating people claiming to be a party informer sent to communicate the information about those engaging in opposition political activity. Marovanidze would reportedly record videos, audios or take pictures as part of evidence.

MASHONALAND EAST

There was an increase in cases of intimidation and inequality and discrimination and the political space for opposition activism continued to narrow.

Zanu PF activists reportedly blocked members of the newly formed party United Zimbabwe Alliance from mobilising supporters.

On 20 December, in Chikomba West at High-view shops about 100 villagers convened to receive government funded inputs. It is alleged that, the distribution was done on partisan lines and beneficiaries were only those that had signed up for the Zanu PF cells. There was a stampede when an angry crowd of people who had been denied access to the inputs stormed the truck carrying the inputs and police had to be called in.

MANICALAND

In Manicaland like the other province, there was significant political activity within the Zanu PF party, which was holding its internal elections for provincial chairpersons countrywide.

The factional fights resulted in some violent confrontations pitting supporters from rival factions and in one incident, a Zanu PF member destroyed a house belonging to another member in Buhera North ward 9, Chitanda village.

The victim, who is visually impaired, was accused by supporters of sitting Buhera North MP William Mutomba, of belonging to Mutomba's prospective challenger for the 2023 elections, Phillip Guyo. The Zanu PF squabbles also extended to the food aid distribution and at Gaza

Township, Ward 10, Buhera North, some beneficiaries' names were missing from the distribution list, and the Agricultural Extension officer responsible for the distribution was accused of taking sides in the Zanu PF factional wars. This indicates how Zanu PF has completely hijacked the aid distribution processes and usurped the role of government officials who are supposed to serve everyone regardless of political affiliation.

MASHONALAND CENTRAL

Mashonaland Central province remained a political hotspot of human rights violations. The province continued to record clashes during the Zanu PF Provincial Committee elections and an increase in cases of partisan distribution of Pfumvudza presidential inputs meant to boost Zimbabwe food's security. In some other communities villagers complained that the government failed to avail farming inputs on time for them to cultivate early before the farming season. This year the inputs distributed by the government were reportedly not enough for everyone to benefit hence many people had to buy inputs on their own. In Bindura north in some wards 5 people had to share a bag of fertilizer and a 10kg of maize seed. The inputs were not enough to cater for all beneficiaries. In Mazowe South in some wards, people who had prepared their land anticipating to receive pfumvunza farming inputs did not benefit. The duty bearers responsible for compiling names told them that they registered late for the program.