

Resist, Reject and Report Violence, #RRRV2023

DECEMBER 2022
ZIMBABWE PEACE PROJECT
MONTHLY MONITORING REPORT

RESTRICTIVE PVO AMENDMENT BILL SET TO PASS INTO LAW AHEAD OF THE 2023 ELECTIONS IN ZIMBABWE.



Mobile App



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

INSIDE

- 1** The RoundUP
- 2** Major Highlights
- 3** December 2022 Violations Data Log
- 4** Key Findings and Mitigation Measures
- 5** Towards a Zimbabwe for All
- 6** Special Focus
- 7** Provincial Outlook



1 The RoundUP



During December, ZPP recorded a total of 209 human rights violations, a notable decrease from November's 263. Distributed by Province and the number of cases, topping the violations was Harare with 36, Mashonaland Central with 32, Manicaland with 27, and the rest accounting for the difference. During the month, 1,842 victims were identified (1,354 male and 483 female, including 3 female PWDs and 2 male PWDs). Threats and intimidation cases were prevalent in December, with documented incidents recorded in Makoni South, Bikita East, Mt Darwin and Binga, to name a few. Preparations and garnering support for the 2023 elections resulted in citizens being threatened and harassed to support certain political parties.

Victims of human rights violations who are persons with disability decreased to 0.16% for women PWDs and 0.11% for men in the month. Most human rights cases were perpetrated by the Zanu PF party, responsible for 44.7% of the violations, followed by the Zimbabwe Republic Police (ZRP) at 28%. The general citizens populated the highest percentage of victims at 88%, and Citizens Coalition for Change (CCC) party supporters followed with 9%. Law enforcement agents and the ruling party continue to subject Zimbabwe's citizens to gross human rights violations.

The Monthly Monitoring Report is a compilation of human rights violations in Zimbabwe. The report exposes offenders, raises public awareness of social, political, economic, civil, and cultural rights, and resources advocacy campaigns among stakeholders. As Zimbabwe heads for the 2023 elections, ZPP rolled out the #RRRV2023 campaign to mobilise citizens to Resist, Reject, and Report politically-motivated violence. The campaign aims to create a peaceful election environment where the electorate can defend the vote and report violations while raising their attention and responsiveness to pressure duty bearers to account.

2

Major Highlights

On 16 December, the Minister of Justice, Legal and Parliamentary Affairs, Honourable Ziyambi, moved the third and final reading of the Private Voluntary Organisations (PVO) Amendment Bill [H. B. 10A, 22] at the National Assembly. The proposed amendment is posed to shrink civil society organisations' operating environment with provisions that allow unchecked interference on CSOs, their work and associated persons. The Bill, published in November 2021, restricts and suppresses the impactful work on advancing human rights, promoting public accountability and good governance in Zimbabwe. The Minister of Finance and Economic Development, Prof. Mthuli Ncube, estimated that grants would decrease from US\$776 million in 2022 to US\$352.8 million in 2023, a variance of US\$423.2 million. Once signed into law, provisions in the proposed amendment allow unrestricted powers to arrest targeted persons, freeze funds, and deregister organisations alleged to be anti-establishment.

On 14 December, Job Sikhala's wife was found guilty of reckless driving by Harare magistrate Evelyn Mashavakure. She was ordered to pay a ZWL\$30,000.00 fine for the offence or face a two months jail term, submit her driver's licence in seven days and be banned from driving for six months. Evelyn was previously arrested at a police checkpoint on 20 September for not observing road rules while going to Chikurubi Maximum Security Prison to visit her husband, Job Sikhala. Her arrests appear to be politically motivated. Minor offences ordinarily attract a fine.

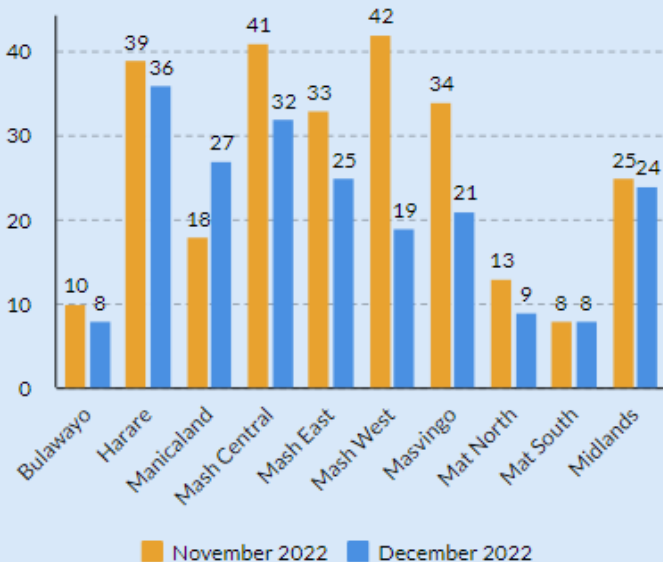
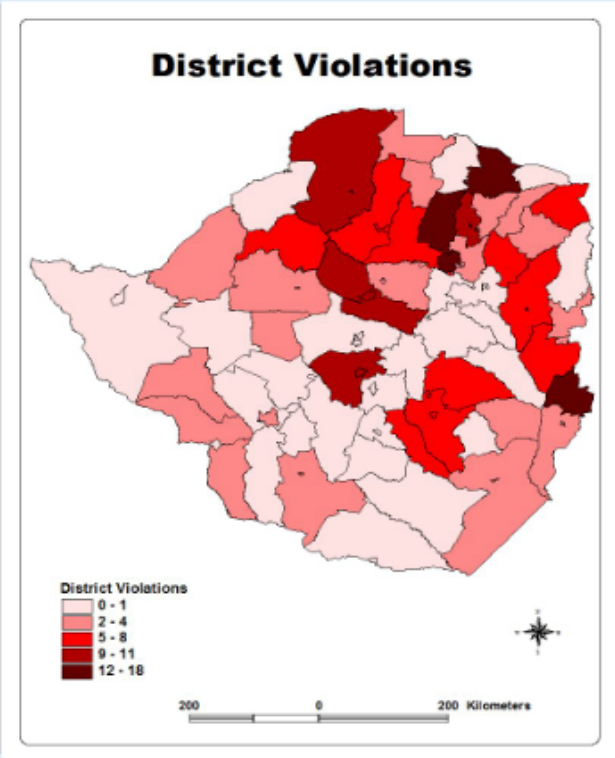
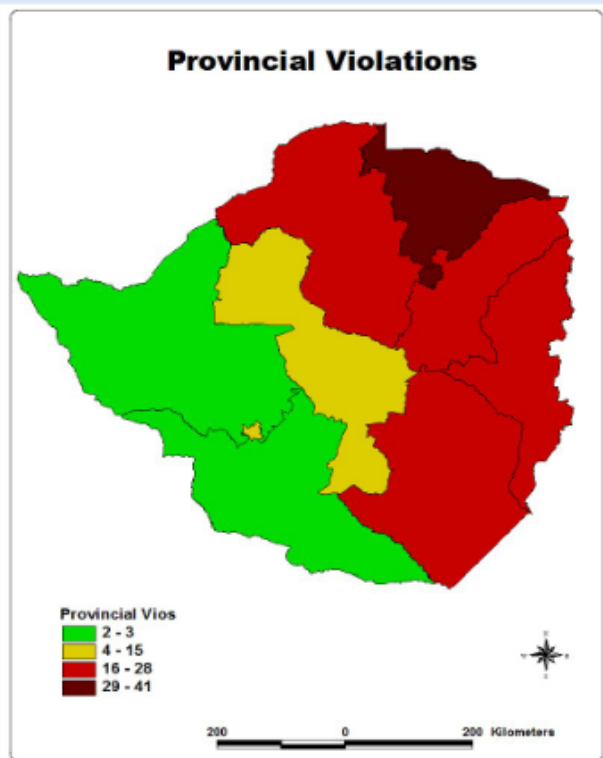
Zengesa East Member of Parliament Honourable Job Sikhala was denied bail at the Harare Magistrates court on Friday, 30 December 2022. He was arrested on 14 June 2022 in connection with violent incidents in Nyatsime following the death of a CCC party member Moreblessing Ali who was discovered dismembered in a well. Honourable Sikhala is in detention for more than 200 days, with the State delaying his right to a fair trial. The continued and unjustified denial of bail violates many provisions of Section 50 of the Constitution, among them, states that a person who has been arrested must be released unconditionally or on reasonable conditions pending a charge or trial unless there are compelling reasons justifying their continued detention.

December 2022

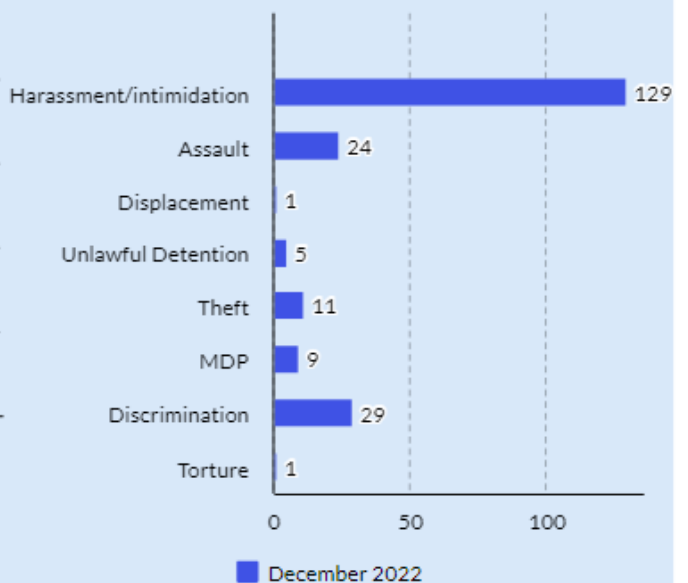
3 December violations data log

Human Rights
Violations Monthly
Dashboard
Zimbabwe Peace Project

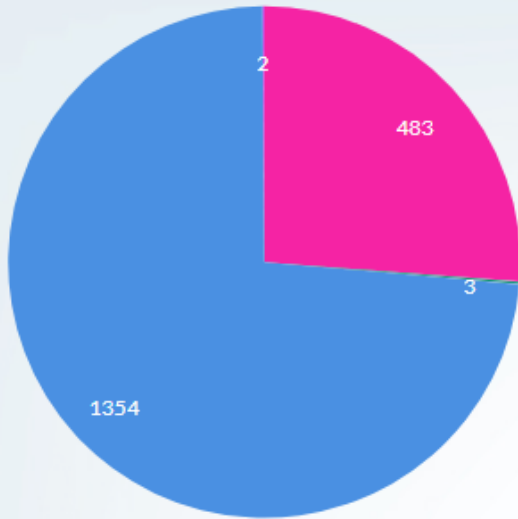
Report time frame: December, 2022



Provincial Violations

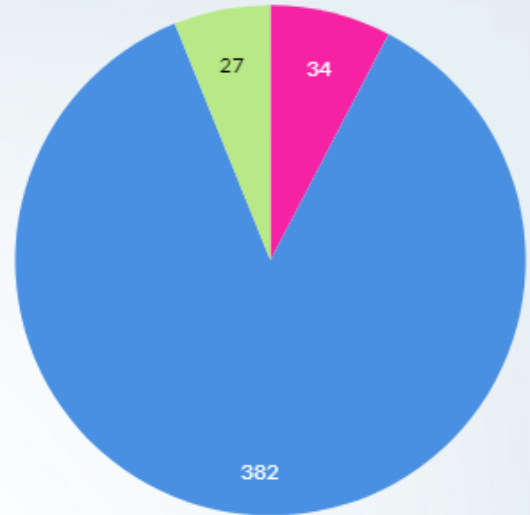


Types of Violations



Female (26.22%) Female PWD (0.16%) Male (73.51%) Male PWD (0.11%)

Gender of Victims



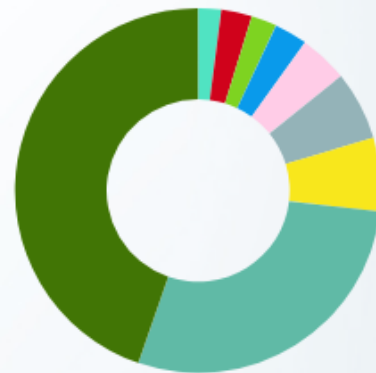
Female (7.67%) Male (86.23%) Unknown (6.09%)

Gender of Perpetrators



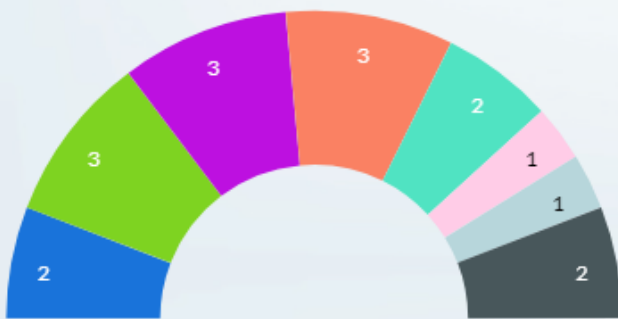
Zanu PF (0.92%) CCC (9.83%) MDC Alliance (0.76%) Mthwakazi (0.22%) General Citizens (88.27%)

Victims Affiliation



State agents (2.03%) MDC Alliance (2.71%) War Veteran (2.26%) ZNA (2.93%) Unknown (4.29%) Municipal Police (6.09%) CCC (6.55%) ZRP (28.44%) Zanu PF (44.7%)

Perpetrators Affiliation



Manicaland (11.76%) Mash Central (17.65%) Mash East (17.65%) Mash West (17.65%) Masvingo (11.76%) Mat North (5.88%) Mat South (5.88%) Midlands (11.76%)

Food & Other Aid Violations



4 Zanu PF 1 MDC-T
Intra Party Violence

4 Key Findings and Mitigation Measures

4.1 Mis-prioritized Budgeting

The government approved a loan facility for legislators and the executive, with Ministers getting US\$500,000, Deputy Ministers US\$350,000 and Members of Parliament US\$40,000 to buy a residential stand. Close to US\$ 40 million is required to fund the facility. The loan scheme is inappropriate in an economy failing to support fundamentals, including providing quality healthcare, food security, primary education and jobs. The 2023 Budget Statement, read by the Minister of Finance and Economic Development, Prof. Mthuli Ncube, acknowledges allocation deficits in the health and education sectors, among other essential services. In 2022, Development Partners supported the health sector financing gap, with the Zimbabwe government receiving a total of US\$408.3 million. The 2023 National Budget provides ZWL\$2 billion for procuring ambulances, utility vehicles and other essential medical equipment. The allocation is 2.5% of the loan facility for the legislators and the executive. A Value Added Tax (VAT) upward adjustment from 14.5% to 15% to grow fiscal space contradicts and renders it a luxury, approving a loan facility from the already strained public purse. The Zimbabwe Hospital Doctors Association (ZHDA), in their letter to the Parirenyatwa Hospital Chief Executive Officer (CEO), highlighted the deteriorating conditions at the healthcare facility. There are no consumables, including yellow cannulas, syringes, sterile gloves, betadine, cotton wool strapping, catheters and urine bags. Buildings are falling apart, and many with leaking roofs. According to Zimbabwe's Health Services Board, more than 4,000 government healthcare workers have left the country since 2021, mainly for the United Kingdom (UK), leaving the system drastically understaffed.

ZPP recommends the adoption of the following interventions to ensure justifiable budget allocations towards strengthening citizens' health care:

4.1.1 The government should ensure that adequate financial resources are available for strengthening public health services, as per the African Charter on Human and People's Rights, of which Zimbabwe is a signatory.

4.1.2 Government should prioritize citizens' healthcare needs ahead of other non-essential expenditure.



4.2 Threats to Journalists

Alert journalists have constantly exposed irregular and unlawful practices. Perpetrators have, on several counts, threatened journalists with violence and confiscation or destruction of equipment. On December 18, activists and security personnel for an opposition political party, the Movement for Democratic Change, led by Douglas Mwonozora, threatened journalists covering the party congress in Harare. Journalists from Heart and Soul, the Open Party ZW, and VOA were instructed to stop filming and threatened with beatings and equipment seizure if they continued filming an intra-party violence incident. On December 22, journalists were barred from taking pictures of police violently dispersing a Gukurahundi commemoration protest in the second capital - Bulawayo, on Unity Day. Journalists were threatened with arrest if they continued taking pictures.

ZPP recommends the adoption of the following interventions to protect journalists from threats and intimidation in doing their work:

4.2.1 The Ministry of Information, Publicity and Broadcasting Services, Zimbabwe Republic Police and the Zimbabwe Media Commission, among other stakeholders, continuously spread the message of peace and non-violence and guarantee a conducive environment for journalists to undertake their professional duties without hindrance.

4.2.2 Political party supporters, security details and leaders should respect the role of journalists in promoting the exercise and enjoyment of fundamental rights by an informed citizenry.

4.3 The politicisation of the right to protest

On 22 December, at Joshua Nkomo Statue, members of the Zimbabwe Republic Police and Central Intelligence Organization arrested three activists during a Gukurahundi commemoration march. The event organised by Ibhetshu LikaZulu, a National Transitional Justice Working Group (NTJWG) stakeholder operating in Matabeleland and Midlands provinces, was meant to remember victims of Gukurahundi. During the peaceful march to the main venue at Stanley Square, Makhokhoba suburb, the state security stopped the event and arrested three pro-peace advocates, namely Thamsanqa Ncube, Melusi Nyathi and Samkeliso Nyathi. The targeted victims were arrested shortly after making their speeches and presentations and were detained at Bulawayo Central Police. The arrests follow the African Commission on Human and People's Rights' call on the government to allow public protests. The call came after Women of Zimbabwe Arise (WOZA) reported the government to the human rights body following the arrests of its members during demonstrations.

ZPP recommends the adoption of the following interventions:

4.3.1 The government and the National Peace and Reconciliation Commission are to take adequate actions regarding providing sincere platforms for addressing Gukurahundi.

4.3.2 The ZRP and other security agencies protect the right to protest and demonstrate, as enshrined in the constitution, and stop the unlawful arrests of peace advocates, activists and human rights defenders.





SCAN ME 

4.4 Elite Cohesion

On 11 December, Ministry of Energy and Power Development Permanent Secretary Gloria Magombo stated that top government officials would be getting home solar energy systems in a project managed by the Public Service Commission (PSC). The government is installing solar panels at the homes of at least 100 top government officials, including service chiefs, cabinet ministers, senior government officials, commissioners, and army generals, so they will not endure the effects of the rolling power cuts. Zimbabwe is currently facing a power crisis that escalated at the end of November 2022 when the Zambezi River Authority ordered Zimbabwe's Kariba South power station to shut down due to dangerously low water levels. Most parts of the country get power at night as the local power utility, the Zimbabwe Electricity Transmission and Distribution Company (ZETDC), is trying to manage a power crisis. In an interview, Zanu PF spokesperson Christopher Mutsvangwa said Mugabe's mismanagement of the country was to blame for the current energy crisis. He said the power crisis that the nation is currently facing is a product of years of neglect and mismanagement by Mugabe and the G40s. Mutsvangwa served in the party and government under Mugabe's nearly 40-year rule.

ZPP recommends the following interventions:

4.4.1 The government should not misuse taxpayers' money to fund the lifestyles of politicians and government officials. The issue of electricity affects everyone, and all citizens are equal according to the supreme law of the land; thus, senior public servants should bear the same challenges every other citizen faces.

4.4.2 The government should invest in rehabilitating power-generating projects, including restoring Hwange Thermal Power Station.

4.5 Corruption

December 9, International Anti-Corruption Day, was observed under the theme; Uniting the World against Corruption. Zimbabwe is the 157 least corrupt nation out of 180 countries, according to the 2021 Corruption Perceptions Index reported by Transparency International. The Corruption Perceptions Index ranks countries and territories based on how corrupt their public sector is perceived to be. The Economic Governance Watch 10-2022 on Illicit Financial Flows, published on December 16 by Veritas, categorises drivers of IFFs into political and economic. Political drivers are prevalent in Zimbabwe, whereby powerful politicians use state resources to reward patronage. Another addition to the businessperson Kuda Tagwirei's vast empire, which is arguably bankrolled by government programmes such as the command agriculture scheme, is the acquisition of a controlling stake in cement company Lafarge through his proxy Obey Chimuka. Tagwirei is allegedly a close ally of President Mnangagwa.

ZPP recommends the following interventions:

4.5.1 Strengthening of institutions fighting against corruption to improve their capabilities to deter, detect and expose all forms of corruption in Zimbabwe.

4.5.2 Expose the government's questionable sincerity in the fight against corruption by constantly bringing up the long pending reported cases.

**UNCAC AT 20:
UNITING THE WORLD
AGAINST CORRUPTION**



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

ZPP joined the world in commemorating International Human Rights Day, observed annually on 10 December. The commemoration event held in Chiredzi South Ward 7, under the theme, "Dignity, Freedom and Justice for all", invited duty bearers, including traditional leaders, councillors, teachers, police and village health workers. A total of 73 community members, 33 men and 40 women, including 7 PWDs were present. Stakeholders present were encouraged to act and contribute to the documentation of human rights abuse cases. The event aimed to commemorate International Human Rights Day and share knowledge about fundamental human rights and their significance in promoting and upholding peace and co-existence. Another objective of the event was for participants and stakeholders to get together and discuss how important it is to promote freedom, dignity and justice in Chiredzi through artistic performances, including plays, talk shows, poems, and sports. The sports tournaments, held on the day, became a unifier for many as politicians from different parties and citizens came together to cheer soccer teams without any violence and conflicts noted. Stakeholders discussed various practical methods to reduce violence and inequality in the communities during the plenary session. The community members and leaders present vowed to refrain from all acts of violence throughout the election cycle.



On 22 December, the country commemorated the 35th National Unity Day. Every year on this day, Zimbabwe celebrates the signing of the Unity Accord between Zanu PF and PF Zapu in 1987 to end political disturbances in the Matabeleland and Midlands regions. Under the guise of the second republic, the government is preaching a message of peace whilst doing the opposite. ZPP video documented victims' accounts of what transpired in Matobo Rural District Ward 2 and Insiza Rural District Ward 4 when women got stripped naked by Zanu PF youths during mobilization campaigns for by-elections in the two wards. Political intolerance continues to be one of the major barriers towards uniting Zimbabweans due to the increasing polarization around political differences. Political parties should sanction supporters guilty of being intolerant and perpetrating political violence. Unity can only be realized when Zimbabweans embrace their political, cultural and religious diversities.



ZPP held International Human Rights Day Commemorations in Chiredzi South, ward 7; under the theme "Dignity, Freedom and Justice for All"

6 Special Focus

Equality and Non-Discrimination

ZPP documented 11 instances in which CCC supporters and other opposition members were denied access to Pfumvudza inputs and food aid due to their political affiliation. These cases were recorded in different parts of the country, including Mhondoro Ngezi, Muzarabani North and Zvimba West. On 17 December in Chipinge East, ward 17, villagers from Gangadhlovu village were denied agricultural inputs by Zanu PF supporters led by Douglas Dhundu and Lizzy Jumburu. On 4 December in Silobela, Mabulawa area ward 24, villagers were allegedly denied inputs in the form of maize seed as they were not found in Zanu PF cell registers by village head Abednico Maphosa who was working together with Stanford Moyo. Chapter I of The African Charter on Human and People's Rights (ACHPR) outlines in Articles 1 to 26 the human and people's rights to express an opinion, associate, freely assemble, and have equal access to public services of one's country, among others.



Right to personal security

ZPP recorded 8 cases in areas including Harare Central, Chiwundura and Kadoma Central, which violated the right to personal security. On 17 December at Rumwe Shopping Centre in Kadoma Central, a group of artisanal miners assaulted and robbed citizens of their money, cell phones and groceries. On 16 December, three people believed to be CCC members were allegedly assaulted by unidentified but suspected Zanu PF youths at Mabodza Business Centre in Chiwundura, ward 5. This followed a decision by Zanu PF to aggressively expand its mobilisation in Chiwundura in a bid to reclaim the parliamentary seat after winning the by-election in Gweru Senga suburb ward 5. According to Articles 3 and 5 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights (UDHR), every person has the right to personal liberty and security. This is supported by Article 6 of the African Charter on Human and Peoples Rights. The right to bodily and psychological integrity, which includes the right to be free from all types of violence from public or private sources, is guaranteed under Section 52 of the Zimbabwean Constitution.



Freedom of Assembly and Association

ZPP recorded 3 cases which violated the right to freedom assemble and association. Villagers in different communities, including Chegutu West, Hurungwe East and Umguza, were coerced to join political party meetings against their will. On 22 December at Heany Junction, Umguza ward 2, the village head, Teresa Nyathi, went around forcing villagers to attend a Zanu PF Christmas party at koMkhula area adjacent to Imbizo Barracks warning them they would risk being beaten up by soldiers at the nearby barrack if they did not attend. On 23 December, Magunje Ward 10 Hurungwe East Zanu PF officials forced villagers to go and register to vote during a village development meeting. The freedom of association is guaranteed under Articles 12(3), 27(2) and 28 of the African Charter on Democracy, Elections and Governance. Every Zimbabwean has the freedom to assemble and associate with others under Section 58 of the Constitution. Still, no Zimbabwean should be forced to assemble and associate with others, to be a member of an association, or to attend a meeting or gathering.

Political Rights

ZPP documented 12 cases which violated citizens' political rights. These violations transpired in different areas, including Mutoko South, Muzarabani North and Chegutu East. On 30 December, Chief Banabus Ngezi at Peak-stone Farnham Clinic ward 13 in Chegutu East convened a meeting and assigned village heads to stop CCC activities and meetings in their areas. On 26 December in Bulilima West Constituency, Plumtree town, Simiso Ndimande of Mthwakazi Republic Party went around town in the company of six party members canvassing to be voted for in the 2023 elections. While campaigning, Ndimande made remarks that citizens should not vote for candidates with non-Ndebele surnames. Section 67 of the Zimbabwean Constitution states that every Zimbabwean citizen has the right to form, join and participate in the activities of a political party or organisation of their choice, to participate, individually or collectively, in gatherings or groups or in any other manner, in peaceful activities to influence, challenge or support the policies of the Government or any political or whatever cause.



ZPP held International Human Rights Day Commemorations in Chiredzi South, ward 7; under the theme "Dignity, Freedom and Justice for All"

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7 Provincial Outlook

Harare

The MDC Congress held at the City Sports Centre in Harare to endorse Senator Douglas Mwonzora as the party's 2023 presidential candidate was marred by violence targeting political opponents. Fellow members assaulted MDC Chitungwiza organising member Silas Zakeu for calling the leadership a Zanu PF project. Zakeu was brutally assaulted, in particular for giving interviews to journalists claiming that Zanu PF had bought the MDC party leadership. In other reports, the police's bias towards Zanu PF reached worrying stages ahead of the 2023 general elections. The Zimbabwe Republic Police (ZRP) barred the opposition CCC from holding its two end-of-year celebration rallies scheduled for 17 December in Chitungwiza and Budiriro. Reports indicate that the police did not give any reasons for banning the rallies in two letters addressed to the party. On Twitter, CCC leader Nelson Chamisa said the ruling Zanu PF party was behind the ban.

Bulawayo

During the Unity Day holiday at Joshua Nkomo Statue, the Zimbabwe Republic Police and Central Intelligence Organization arrested three activists during the Gukurahundi commemoration. Ibhetshu likaZulu organised the event to remember Gukurahundi victims. During the peaceful march to the main venue at Stanley Square Makhokhoba suburb, it was reported that state security stopped the event and arrested Thamsanqa Ncube, Melusi Nyathi and Samkeliso Nyathi. The activists were arrested shortly after presenting their speeches and presentations and detained at Bulawayo Central Police. In ward 13, Delani Moyo of an unknown political party forced Thokozani Phuthi to remove his party regalia of the Mthwakazi Republic Party. It is said that Moyo told Phuthi to remove the regalia citing that the latter was misguided to support a party that is intolerant and tribal. Ironically, Moyo was intolerant of Phuthi's political party.

Manicaland

In Manicaland Province, threats to personal security, political rights and freedom of assembly and association were noted as major highlights. On 10 December 2022, it was reported that there was a crew of Zanu PF men on motorbikes which moved around Makoni South and intimidated villagers in wards 17, 18 and ward 23 at around noon at Changadzo market. The meetings were organised and chaired by Cephas Makurumidze, a war veteran from Chingono village. The other organisers were four men from Chimanimani, Buhera, Nyanga and Chipinge districts. They asked community members why they always voted for the opposition in the wards mentioned above and that they should vote for the ruling Zanu PF party or risk victimisation. They had used the meeting to lure people into bringing IDs to receive food aid, but instead, the IDs were for registering them in Zanu PF registers.

Midlands

Political violence involving Zanu PF and the CCC continued to be recorded in the province. Three suspected CCC members were allegedly assaulted by unidentified but suspected Zanu PF youths at Mabodza Business Centre in Chiwundura, ward 5, on 16 December 2022. After winning a by-election in Gweru Senga suburb ward 5, the Zanu PF party expanded its 'aggressive' mobilization in Chiwundura to reclaim the parliamentary seat. Cases of partisan distribution of aid were rampant in the Midlands province. These were done along political lines where the ruling Zanu PF took charge of the distributions and sidelined known and suspected opposition CCC members in the processes. A case in point, on 4 December 2022, in Silobela, it was reported that villagers not found in the Zanu PF cell registers were denied maize seed at the distribution of farming inputs in ward 24, Mabulawa area.

Masvingo

The intimidation and victimisation of villagers for their lack of interest in being part of the Zanu PF cell structures was a worrying record. On 4 December, in Bikita East wards 16 and 17 at a Shambanevhu gathering, legislator Johnson Madhuku, indicated that those not found on the lists of Zanu PF supporters were never going to get any food and other aid in the future. Zanu PF party is using this strategy ahead of the 2023 elections in Gutu district. In Gutu North, ward 8, at Goma Primary, the head and the SDC chairperson were allegedly victimised by the Zanu PF legislator Yeukai Simbanegavi. She accused the two of looking for donors to assist the school, which was viewed as undermining her authority as the MP. The legislator ordered that the teachers at the school be excluded from getting any farm inputs in the area.

Mashonaland Central

The province recorded cases of intimidation and harassment of citizens ahead of the 2023 general elections. Village meetings and other social gatherings were politicised by Zanu PF leaders who used them as campaign spaces. In Mt Darwin West, Zanu PF district leaders convened a meeting at Chihoko community centre ward 36 on 12 December. The district leaders, including Samson Hundi (war veteran), Mike Murasira and Mrs Manjoro, threatened to unleash violence on all opposition supporters in Mt Darwin. Mr Hundi warned villagers that Zanu PF had a good list of all opposition members ready to deal with accordingly. He further warned them that those members of the CCC and those who once attended a CCC meeting should denounce their membership before tragic events happen in 2023. "We are not afraid to kill because people died for this country".

Mashonaland East

In December, Mashonaland East recorded a significant number of human rights abuses compared to Mashonaland West. Cases of assault, intimidation, harassment and partisan aid distribution characterised the province. CCC supporters were barred from participating in and attending their party meetings. The magnitude and level of political intolerance by Zanu PF supporters signal a violent election in 2023. On 25 December, a violent scuffle ensued at Chirasavana Business Centre Ward 27 in Chikomba East. It is alleged that Malvern Zumba was brutally assaulted by a Zanu PF activist Lovemore Mutizwa. Mutizwa, who had visited from Harare, confronted Zumba accusing him of being an opposition member. Mutizwa reportedly used hate language and assaulted Zumba with fists, bottles and stones, sustaining injury to his forehead. The matter was reported at Sadza Police Station. However, no arrests have been made.

Mashonaland West

December was relatively peaceful in Mashonaland West, recording very few human rights abuses. The few reported were on partisan food distribution, intimidation, harassment and artisanal miners who robbed citizens. Individuals aligned with the ruling party were the perpetrators of most of the violations. In most cases, they denied CCC members farming inputs. On 16 December at Gatsi Shopping Centre Ward 12 in Chegutu West, residents were forced to convene by Zanu PF DCC officials. The Zanu PF youth chairperson, identified as Godfrey "Gode", denied opposition party supporters farming inputs. Reports indicate that, before the distribution, residents were forced to chant Zanu PF slogans and sing revolutionary songs. On 7 December in Zvimba West at Kawondera Primary school, ward 9, a Zanu PF-aligned village head identified as Sabhuku Kanzou denied a CCC supporter farming inputs. Reports indicate that cases of partisan aid distribution perpetrated by village heads have become rampant.

Matabeleland North

On 17 December, during the food aid registration exercise, it was reported that a Zanu PF activist identified as Wilbeng Munkuli intimidated community members. It is said that Munkuli threatened not to register beneficiaries aligned with opposition parties. Verified facts indicate that Munkuli prioritised registering those appearing in the Zanu PF cell group records. Others were told to appear in the cell group records to benefit from the social services scheme. In ward 2, it was reported that the village head, Teresa Nyathi, was forcing villagers to attend a Zanu PF Christmas party at the koMkhulu area adjacent to Imbizo Barracks. It is said that Nyathi was forcing citizens to attend the party. Allegedly, Nyathi warned them to attend or else they risked being beaten up by soldiers at the nearby barrack.



Matabeleland South

On 16 December, Liberty Nyoni of CCC intimidated two men and warned them that the party was prepared to beat up people who would not defend their votes against Zanu PF. Nyoni further made remarks that they will deploy the same tactics that Zanu PF uses to win elections. In Plumtree town, Simiso Ndimande of the Mthwakazi Republic Party was going around town in the company of his six party members canvassing to be voted in 2023. It was reported that while campaigning, Ndimande said that citizens should not vote for candidates with non-Ndebele surnames. He further commented that Zanu PF and CCC members deserved to be beaten to vote 'wisely' at all costs. In Tuta village, a Zanu PF activist identified as Mafanisa warned community members that going forward into 2023, food aid will be distributed using cell group exercise records. Mafanisa made these remarks during a food aid distribution that non-Zanu PF members should be fed by their parties, and only Zanu PF members benefit from it.

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