



# GAME ON!

## 2023 HARMONISED ELECTIONS



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A ZIMBABWE PEACE PROJECT  
MONTHLY MONITORING REPORT  
JUNE 2023

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DESIGN & GRAPHICS BY TAPIWA ZIVIRA

# THE ROUNDUP

**In the month of May ZPP recorded a total of 191 violations, a negligible decrease from 198 recorded in April. Most of the violations recorded were of civil, political and socio-economic rights. 61% of the violations were of threats, harassment, and intimidation, 14% of assaults and 12% of discrimination. ZPP identified 1 974 victims of human rights violations (52% male, 47% female, 0.3% male persons with disability and 0.2% female PWDs). General citizens populated the highest percentage of victims at 91%, and Citizens Coalition for Change (CCC) supporters followed with 8%. Zanu PF party perpetrated the most violations (68%), followed by the Zimbabwe Republic Police (ZRP) and the CCC at 8% respectively. Manicaland (34) and Mashonaland Central (27) provinces recorded the highest violations, whilst Matabeleland North (6) and South (7) and Bulawayo (8) had the lowest.**



The harmonised elections have been scheduled to take place on August 23. On May 31, President Emmerson Mnangagwa proclaimed the elections timeline, setting the nation in election mode. President Mnangagwa set October 2 as the date of the runoff election for the presidency if the need arises according to Statutory Instrument 85 of 2023. SI 85 set the nomination court for June 21. Prior to the proclamation, the Zimbabwe Electoral Commission (ZEC) invited the electorate to inspect the voters' roll for the 2023 harmonised elections. The inspection started on May 27 and was due to end May 31 before it was extended to June 1.

## THE ROUNDUP

It has come to the attention of ZPP that incidences of intimidation and violence allegedly committed by Forever Associates Zimbabwe (FAZ), a Zanu PF affiliate, regrettably marred the entire inspection process.

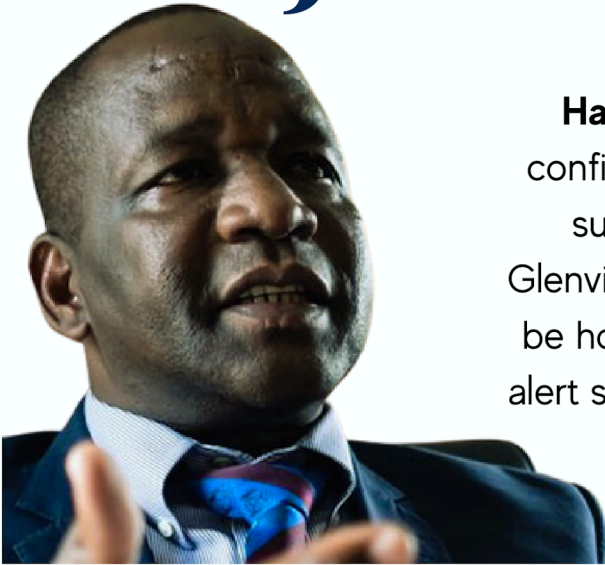
According to reports, FAZ seized the nationwide exercise to inspect the voters' roll and demand that everyone inspecting provide proof of membership in the ruling party. FAZ, which describes itself as a private nonprofit organisation registered as a Trust which encourages citizen engagement in political processes, had representatives stationed in some polling stations, particularly in rural areas, which led to some voters failing to check their voter registration information. According to reports, certain centres in the Midlands (Shurugwi) ceased inspections when the opposition Citizens Coalition for Change voiced its displeasure with the presence of FAZ members at the polling stations.

Police had to be called in at Sungano Motel polling station in Shurugwi North constituency because FAZ members would not leave the polling station. Aspiring CCC Shurugwi North Constituency candidate Bulle Madzitire said, "We discovered at various centres during our assessment of the inspection exercise that FAZ members were giving orders to the registered voters who had pitched up for inspection."

According to some reports, they were checking to see if the registered voter was listed in the Zanu PF cell record. Those who were aware that their names were not in the Zanu PF cell registers left the polling stations before inspecting the roll. Police are reported to have received reports of some of the instances and later ordered FAZ members to leave the polling stations.

The Monthly Monitoring Report (MMR) is a publication produced by the ZPP which documents all forms of human rights abuses including political and/or electoral violence in the country. The report creates awareness about social, political, economic, civic, and cultural rights. It is used as a tool to initiate advocacy efforts with different stakeholders. Prior to the elections, ZPP launched the #RRRV2023 campaign to encourage citizens to Resist, Reject, and Report violence. The campaign advocates for an environment conducive for free, fair and credible elections. The campaign is designed to allow voters to report violence they experience and witness while also raising awareness and responsiveness levels putting pressure on duty-bearers to be accountable for their actions.

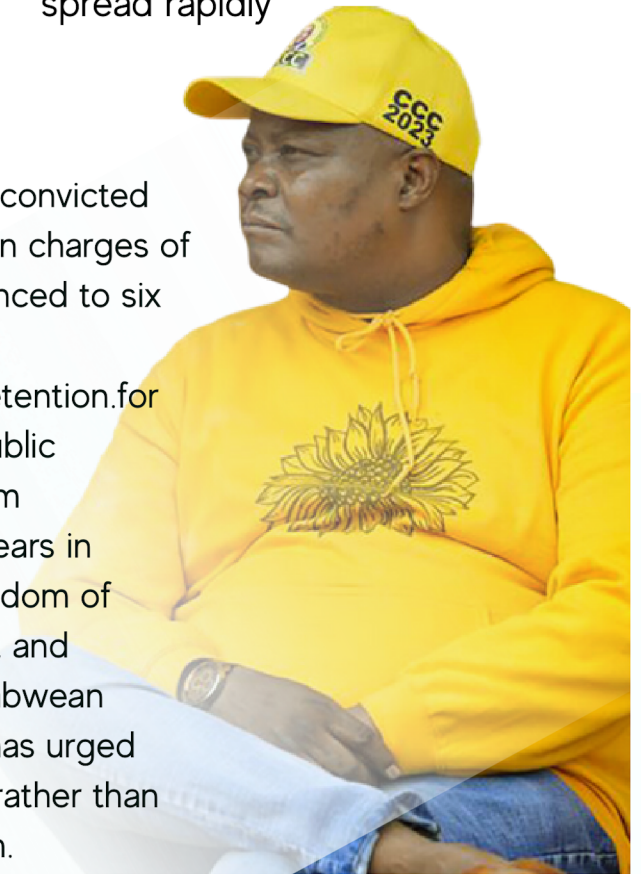
# MAJOR HIGHLIGHTS



**Harare** City Health Director Dr Prosper Chonzi confirmed a cholera outbreak in the capital, with 21 suspected cases recorded in Harare. Budiriro, Glenview and some parts of Harare were reported to be hotpots. Dr Chonzi further put residents on high alert saying the cholera outbreak had the potential to spread rapidly

**On** 3 May, Harare Magistrate Marehwanazvo Gofa convicted Zengeza West legislator Job Sikhala of the CCC, on charges of obstructing the course of justice and he was sentenced to six months in prison with an option of US\$600 fine.

However, Hon Sikhala continues to be in pretrial detention for other active matters, including that of instigating public violence. Jacob Ngarivhume, the leader of Transform Zimbabwe, was convicted and sentenced to four years in prison for exercising his constitutional rights to freedom of assembly and association, the right to demonstrate, and petition, among other rights enshrined in the Zimbabwean Constitution. In a statement, the European Union has urged the judiciary to uphold citizens' fundamental rights rather than restrict them by imprisoning those who assert them.



**The** Zimbabwe Electoral Commission extended the voters' roll inspection exercise to June 1. This happened when the public raised several anomalies during the inspection of the roll. Some prospective voters claimed they could not locate their names on the voters' list, while others claimed they had been transferred from their wards of residence. After failing to locate his entry on the list of voters, Robert Chapman, leader of the Democratic Union of Zimbabwe (DUZ), raised red flags about flaws in ZEC's voter registration system. In response, ZEC stated that everyone who registered to vote would not be denied their right to vote since the electoral authority will correct any irregularities by the time of the elections. In Gokwe Nembudziya Ward 25 the electorate raised alarm about missing names alleging those with surnames from A to M were missing. Some reported that while their names appeared on the online short code, \*265#, they did not appear on the roll at their respective polling stations.



## MAJOR HIGHLIGHTS

**On 29 May,** ZRP anti-riot police Unit blocked CCC officials from speaking with journalists, minutes after the party’s four-member delegation led by Advocate Fadzayi Mahere (pictured above) presented their grievances at Zimbabwe Electoral Commission’s (ZEC) head office. A truckload of anti-riot officers descended at ZEC headquarters moments before the CCC delegation made its way out. Journalists who had spent close to two hours waiting to interview CCC leaders to get more information on their interaction with the election management body had their right to information violated.

Journalists continue to complain about attempts to block them from doing their jobs. Just as Mahere began her address, one of the officers ordered journalists to switch off their cameras, phones, and recording equipment citing that the CCC’s delegation should disperse from the property immediately.

“Our delegation from the elections directorate has engaged ZEC and delivered an urgent request to meet the Chief Elections Officer (CEO). “Our key demand has been for the voters’ roll to be given to us in an analysable, searchable format,” said Mahere before the anti-riot officers ‘escorted’ their vehicle out of its parking bay.

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**On 30 May,** Norton legislator Temba Mliswa was ejected from Parliament after accusing Zanu PF of killing thousands of people in the Midlands and Matabeleland provinces in the 1980s, Gukurahundi atrocities. Mliswa was debating the Patriotic Bill which human rights defenders have warned will threaten freedom of expression in Zimbabwe if passed into law. Acts which will be criminalised under the proposed law include private correspondence with foreign governments, false statements or any other conduct aimed at ‘undermining the country’.

Mliswa slammed the ruling Zanu PF party for its intentions to introduce a draconian law, describing the party as “deranged” for continuing with brutality witnessed during the Gukurahundi massacres. Mliswa said, Legislator Tatenda Mavetera who was acting Speaker on the day accused Mliswa of using offensive language against Zanu PF before ejecting him from parliament.

President Mnangagwa has been urged to initiate reforms that conform to the Commonwealth before the Southern African nation can be readmitted to the league.



## MAJOR HIGHLIGHTS

The president, who attended King Charles III's coronation in Britain on May 6, took advantage of the visit to meet Patricia Scotland, the secretary general of the Commonwealth.

At the height of the land reform programme, which was marked by violence against white commercial farmers, Zimbabwe, then led by the late Robert Mugabe, left the Commonwealth in 2003.

Zimbabwe must initiate political reforms, according to the Commonwealth, to be considered to rejoin the group of 56 primarily former British colonies. Scotland told journalists that they had spoken about Zimbabwe's request to rejoin the Commonwealth and reiterated the importance of Zimbabwe adhering to the principles of the league. Independence movements and struggles for self-rule in former British colonies gave rise to the Commonwealth and the organisation is guided by principles of advancing democracy, human rights, good governance, the rule of law, individual liberty, egalitarianism, free trade, multilateralism, and world peace.

Human rights violations, electoral fraud, and a disregard for the rule of law have brought Zimbabwe into the worldwide spotlight. These actions stain the group's ideals and continue to harm Harare's chances of being readmitted 20 years after leaving the organisation.

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Movement for Democratic Change (MDC) and CCC members were injured during violent skirmishes on May 3, 2023, over contested office space in Chinhoyi.

As Nelson Chamisa's team attempted to occupy the offices that were being utilised by the Douglas Mwonzora-led MDC, chaos broke out. In the melee that followed, a Harare-based MDC leader Soti Mukoyi is accused of firing rounds into the air to scare away CCC activists. According to reports, police officers were present during the MDC's violent altercation at the contested property in the Muzari area. Unknown numbers of people were injured in the incident, according to reports. In the commotion, CCC security guard Justin Munyaradzi reportedly suffered a fractured skull and had to be taken to the hospital by ambulance. ZPP implores political parties to reign in their supporters to promote peace prior, during and after elections. The systematic use of violence to settle political disputes is a great leap backwards from democracy and constitutionalism in Zimbabwe. Political parties should resolve their differences through dialogue to promote a violent free society for all.

## MAJOR HIGHLIGHTS

**Despite the most recent wave of speculative parallel market-induced inflationary dynamics and lopsided preference for foreign currency transactions, the government stated that it will not budge from its policy to mainstream the use of the local currency because it has had a positive effect on the economy.**



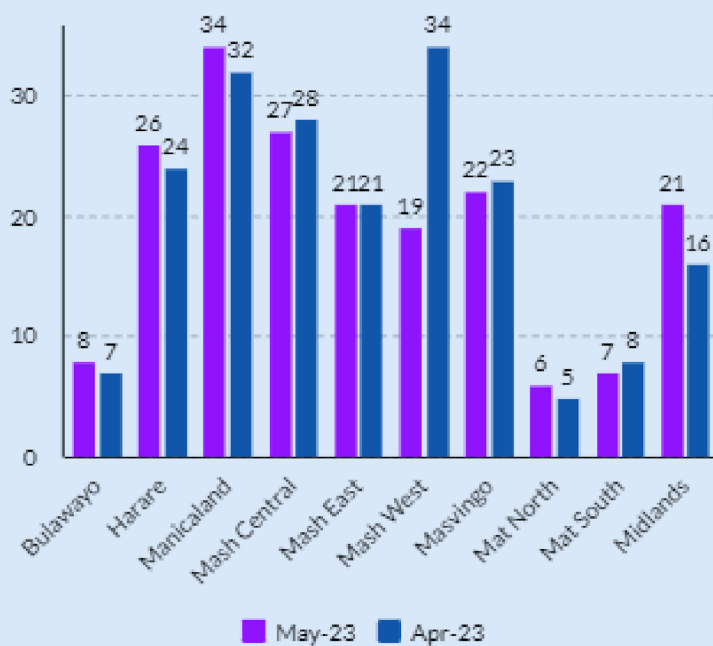
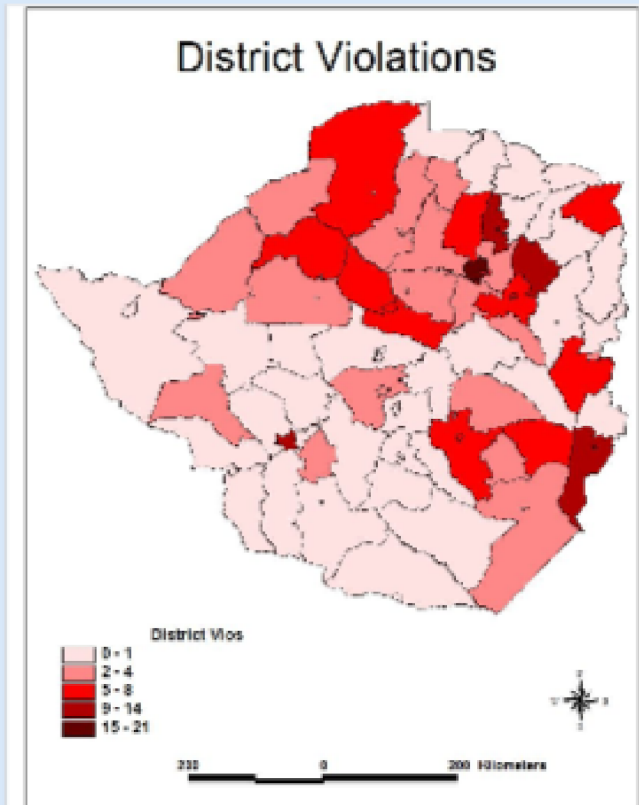
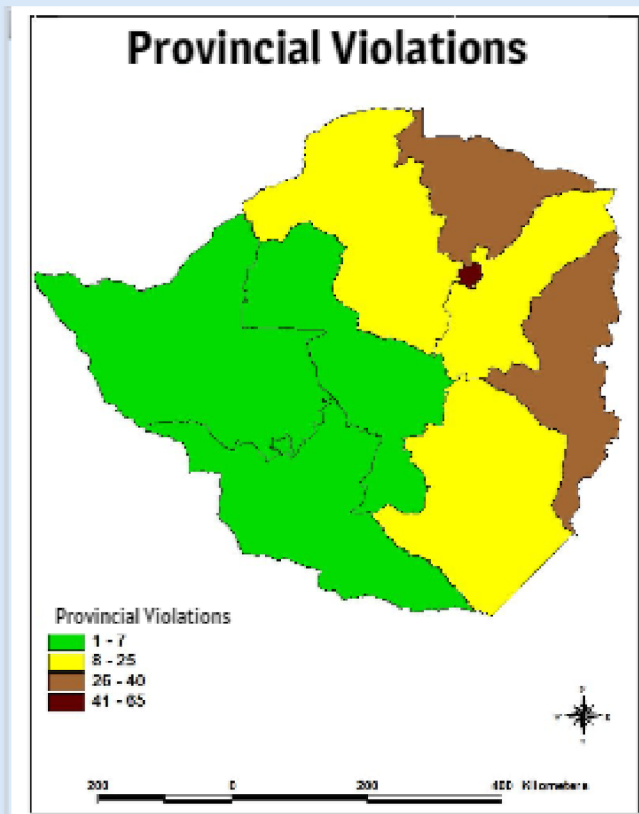
Professor Mthuli Ncube, the Minister of Finance and Economic Development, claimed that further measures will be introduced to protect and preserve the Zimbabwean currency by eliminating economic saboteurs.

His comments were made at a time when the local currency's value was rapidly declining against the US dollar, which was further provoking significant customer dissatisfaction and forcing many business owners and service providers to only accept payments in foreign currency. "Currency manipulators and economic saboteurs will always be lurking about looking for opportunities and loopholes to profiteer, but authorities will also be always ready to institute measures to insulate the transacting public", Minister Ncube said this after a Cabinet briefing on 30 May and in the wake of Treasury announcing a raft of interventions to maintain macro-economic stability and retain the buying power of the Zimbabwe dollar.

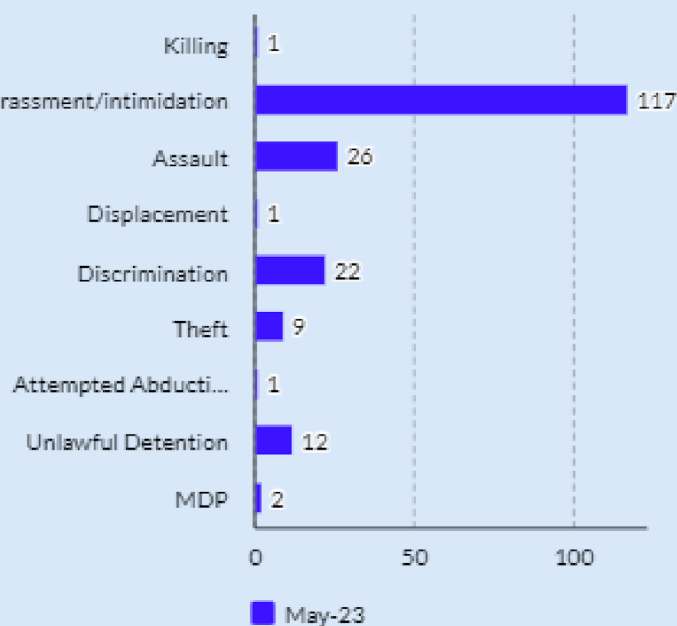
# Human Rights Violations Monthly Dashboard

Report time frame: May, 2023

Zimbabwe Peace Project

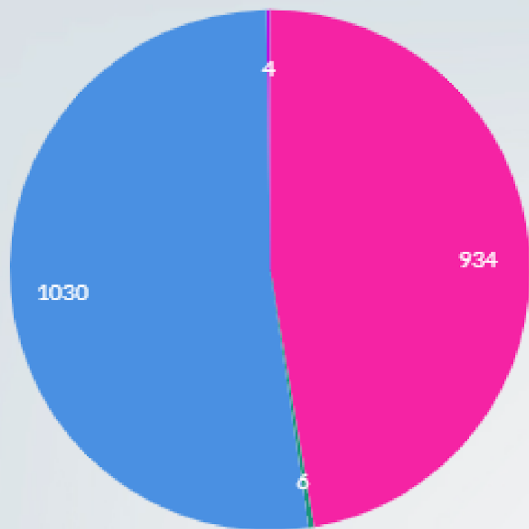


Provincial Violations



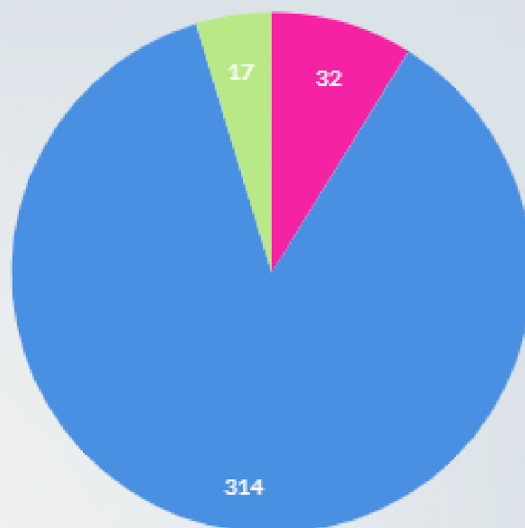
Types of Violations





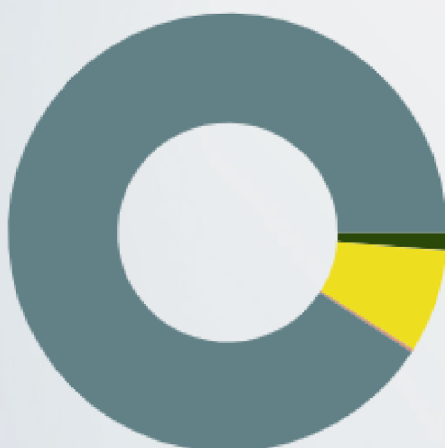
Female (47.32%) Female PWD (0.3%) Male (52.18%) Male PWD (0.2%)

Gender of Victims



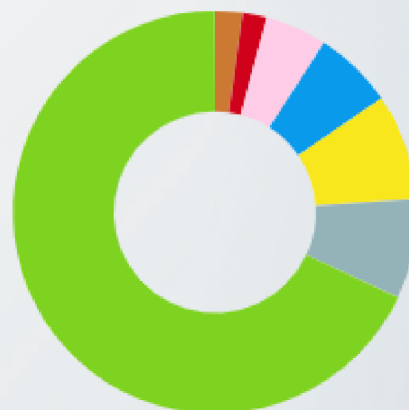
Female (8.82%) Male (86.5%) Unknown (4.68%)

Gender of Perpetrators



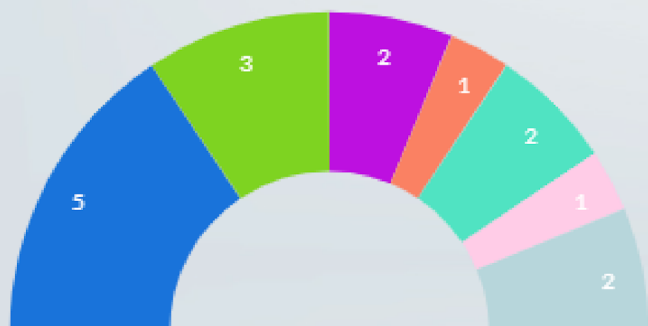
Zanu PF (1.32%) CCC (7.65%) MDC Alliance (0.05%) Machete Gangs (0.15%) General Citizens (90.83%)

Victims Affiliation



State agents (2.2%) War Veteran (1.93%) Unknown (4.96%) Municipal Police (6.34%) CCC (8.54%) ZRP (7.99%) Zanu PF (68.04%)

Perpetrators Affiliation



Manicaland (31.25%) Mash Central (18.75%) Mash East (12.5%) Mash West (6.25%) Masvingo (12.5%) Mat South (6.25%) Midlands (12.5%)

Food & Other Aid Violations



Zanu PF  
Intra Party Violence

# KEY FINDINGS & MITIGATION MEASURES

## Is ZEC prepared for the elections?

**The Zimbabwe Electoral Commission (ZEC) continues to spurn requests to avail an electronic version of the voters' roll. The CCC argued that the voters' roll must be accessible prior to proclamation. "We are concerned at the failure by ZEC to commence the process at several stations for what they term 'logistical challenges", particularly given that they have a constitutional obligation to ensure the election is free, fair, credible and verifiable, said CCC.**

Anomalies have been picked up on the voters' roll across several provinces and these have been drawn to the attention of ZEC. Several CCC members including sitting MPs such as Welshman Ncube alleged their names were not appearing on the voters' roll while some opposition members alleged ZEC had only pitched up tents but did not turn out to serve the registered voters.

The Zimbabwe Electoral Commission (ZEC) came under intense scrutiny after registered voters and the opposition identified several anomalies during the voters' roll inspection exercise in May. The voters' roll inspection commenced on 27 May scheduled to conclude on 31 May. However, the process which initially got off to a slow start lifted the lid on a litany of discrepancies just three months before the 2023 harmonised elections. Former Education minister David Coltart and his wife's names were not appearing on the voters' roll in a move that is likely to put the credibility of the whole 2023 electoral process into doubt. After days of following up on the matter former minister Coltart then tweeted that his name was on a different list not at his polling station.

Seven Civic Society Organizations (CSOs) have petitioned the Zimbabwe Electoral Commission (ZEC), demanding an immediate revision of the exorbitant candidate nomination fees. The nomination fees, according to Statutory Instrument 144 of 2022, currently stand at US\$20,000 for presidential candidates, payable in cash or at the prevailing official rate equivalent and candidates for Parliament must pay US\$1,000, while Proportional Representation party lists for Parliament and Provincial Councils are required to pay US\$100. The CSOs argue that the current fees pose a significant barrier to political participation, particularly for marginalized groups such as young people, women, and persons with disabilities.

### **Recommendations**

CSOs must continue to advocate for stiffer penalties for violation of SADC guidelines on elections, to incentivise member States to fully comply.

## KEY FINDINGS & MITIGATION MEASURES

### FAZ interference in electoral & political processes

The activities of FAZ in electoral and political processes around the country will have a significant bearing on the 2023 elections. It is more likely that citizens will be intimidated and harassed at polling stations around the country in the forthcoming elections. In March, the road to the Zanu PF primary elections was marred by incidences of voter intimidation and harassment particularly in rural areas where FAZ members were rolling out door-to-door campaigns, technology-based messaging while monitoring all stages of the electoral process.

There was systematic demand of a voter's personal information and details of their membership and being on the cell list before participating in the voting process. The same perpetrators also hijacked electoral processes in the ZEC voter inspection exercise held countrywide. It is worrying to note that the interference of FAZ in electoral, civic and political processes violates citizens' rights to freedom of assembly and association including their fundamental political rights.

Most importantly, Section 67(3) of the Constitution states that every Zimbabwean citizen has the right to "make political choices freely." This includes the right "(a) to form, to join, to participate and in the activities of a political party or organisation of their choice; (b) to campaign freely and peacefully for a political party or cause; (c) to participate in peaceful political activity; and (d) 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."

Furthermore, the constitutional provision on political rights section 67(3) states that "every Zimbabwean citizen who is of or over 18 years of age has the right – (a) to vote in all elections and referendums to which this Constitution or any other law applies, and to do so in secret; and (b) to stand for election for public office and, if elected, to hold such office." ZPP implores the Zimbabwe Republic Police and the ZEC to intervene and halt the activities of FAZ to protect the rights of citizens ahead of the 2023 harmonised elections.

What is more concerning about FAZ, is that they say they are a Trust and from information gleaned on their website, it appears they are a Trust for the benefit of Zanu PF and first secretary of Zanu PF. While Zanu PF is mentioned several times on the website the candidate they seem to be rallying behind and focusing on is just first secretary of Zanu PF Emmerson Mnangagwa. On the strategies that they propose to utilise for the elections they list intrusive door to door campaigns and from the description these activities are likely to threaten the security and safety of the electorate rendering them unable to freely exercise their political rights. The fact that there are numerous reports of FAZ members being in the vicinity of inspection centres and demanding information from people is cause for concern.

#### Recommendations

- The Zimbabwe Republic Police must enforce law without favour to safeguard the rights of citizens during the electoral period.
- ZEC is implored to investigate the role that has been played by FAZ so far which if left uncontrolled might affect the freeness, fairness and credibility of the August 23 elections

## KEY FINDINGS & MITIGATION MEASURES

### Presidential Pardon, for whose benefit?

A public uproar has erupted following the release of prisoners who fell within the categories stated by the government gazette on presidential amnesty. The president pardoned 4279 prisoners comprising 4166 men and 104 women drawn from the country's 47 prisons. On May 12, 2023, President Mnangangwa gazetted Clemency Order No. 1 of 2023, which called for the release of nearly 8000 prisoners. The aim of the Pardon was to decongest the jail population.

Meya Khanyezi, a spokesperson for Zimbabwe Prisons and Correctional Services, noted on May 18, 2023 that although Zimbabwe's prisons have a 17,000-capacity, they currently house more than 20,000 convicts.

The Clemency Order indicates that the Presidential Pardon targets female prisoners, juveniles, prisoners aged 60 years and above, disabled prisoners and other conditions. However, it clearly states that the President should not pardon prisoners who were previously released on amnesty, serving a sentence imposed by Court Martial, with a record of escaping from lawful custody, convicted of committing murder, treason, rape or any sexual offence, carjacking, robbery, public violence among other convictions. Videos of rapists celebrating their freedom went viral with shocking revelations that some had served less than a year of their term. Following this, some Zimbabweans have demanded that the decision be reversed as it puts women in danger and where minors are concerned.

One Brighton Mrewa wrote, the amnesty to rapists raises significant legal concerns and questions the adherence to international human rights standards. While the issue of prison overcrowding is a legitimate concern, it is crucial to prioritise the rights and safety of survivors and ensure that justice is served.

Lawyers and rights groups say those convicted of rape should not have been released as their offences are classified as "specified," a category of offences not meant to qualify for presidential pardons, according to a government clemency order issued to implement the pardons. The ZPP is concerned the rape victims would have to see the perpetrators again. As a result, the survivors may experience further trauma or risk further abuse.

### Recommendations

The president and the state are urged to revisit the provisions of the clemency order and ensure rapists are returned to prison until they demonstrate they have been rehabilitated



## KEY FINDINGS & MITIGATION MEASURES

# **Towards A Zimbabwe where there is Peace, Justice, Dignity and Development for All**

Zimbabwe Peace Project joins the rest of the country in commemorating Workers Day and stands in solidarity with workers who dedicate their efforts to keep the wheels of government, industry, commerce and civil society turning through provision of labour. This year's theme 'Respecting Diversity through Joint Social Action' is unique for Zimbabwe as it comes almost two weeks after celebrating its Independence. True independence requires economic emancipation, but this has not been realised as seen by the strikes and protests that have been staged by nurses, doctors and teachers in the past year due to poor remuneration. ZPP notes with concern the hardships facing workers and their families due to the prevailing economic conditions and the low remuneration of government employees which can barely meet the high cost of goods and services.

According to Section 65 of the Constitution every person has the right to fair and safe labour practices and standards and to be paid a fair and reasonable wage. Teachers and health personnel have engaged the government over their remuneration and working conditions in the past year and their concerns have not been satisfactorily resolved. So key is the economy that President Mnangagwa mentioned it several times in his independence speech. However, corruption, poor prioritization and the lack of pro-poor policies have left many workers vulnerable and in need of social protection. ZPP notes with concern reports that some Chinese mining firms in Zimbabwe have allegedly been repeatedly physically victimising workers whenever they have spoken out against poor remuneration and abuse. What is more worrisome is that the government continues to turn a blind eye and has not taken any action to address these reports.

Since the beginning of the year, ZPP has reported cases in which schoolteachers in Matabeleland have been forced to attend Zanu PF workshops organised under the 'Teachers4ED' banner. The workshops are reportedly facilitated by army officers and Zanu PF officials. Schools in Insiza district, Matabeleland South were reportedly forced to each second two teachers while it was also made compulsory for school heads and their deputies to attend. Subsequently a workshop took place at Pangani Training Centre in Filabusi between 14 and 15 April and schools were forced to pay an attendance fee of US\$25 per teacher while those with 'Teachers 4ED' identification cards were given free passage.

# SPECIAL FOCUS

**In the month of May the special focus centred on equality and non-discrimination, political rights, freedom of assembly and association, personal security and right to administrative justice.**

## Civil & Political Rights

ZPP recorded 18 cases in which the political rights of citizens were violated. Masvingo recorded 5 cases, Mashonaland Central, Manicaland and Matabeleland North recorded a case each.

On 30 May a case of violation of political rights was reported at Chemhanza Primary School in Wedza North. It is alleged that during the voters' roll inspection, FAZ members violated villagers' political rights by forcing them to surrender their details. Reports indicate that a FAZ team operating about 50 metres from the ZEC Chemhanza Primary School Polling Station forced villagers to provide personal voting information villagers would have received from the voters' roll. The process left many villagers in fear as they were forced to provide voting information and details.

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

## Freedom of Assembly & Association

In the month of May, ZPP recorded a total of 21 cases related to freedom of assembly and association. Manicaland and Mashonaland East recorded 5 cases each.

On 14 May a case on intimidation and threats of eviction was reported in Masenda Village Ward 4 in Mudzi West. It is alleged that, a group of Zanu PF activists led by Trymore Mutero pounced on a CCC member's house singing revolutionary songs threatening to evict him from the village. The victim was accused of conducting door to door campaigns for the CCC party in a Zanu PF 'strong' ward. He was accused of being a sell-out that should not see the light of day and should be evicted before the August 2023 elections. He was warned not to report the incident to the police but rather reform and join the ruling Zanu PF party.

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

## Right to Education

In the month of May, ZPP recorded a total of 5 cases. Mashonaland Central recorded 3 cases and Manicaland 2 cases. Pupils at Mt Darwin Primary School had their right to education violated by the school authorities. On 8 May all pupils with outstanding tuition fees and levies were denied access to classrooms at the instruction of the school head and the school development committee (SDC). 1 Pupils from grade 1 to 7 were affected.

The United Nations (UN) Agenda 2030 sustainable development goal number 4 (four) advocates for inclusive and equitable quality education which promotes lifelong learning opportunities for all and is in line with the national legislative framework in Zimbabwe. Section 75 of the Zimbabwe Constitution says, 'every citizen and permanent resident of Zimbabwe has a right to – (a) basic State-funded education, including adult basic education'.

## Right to Personal Security

ZPP recorded 5 cases related to the violation of the right to personal security. Matabeleland North and Bulawayo recorded 2 cases each. A case on the right to personal security was reported at Rushwaya Mine ward 11 in Mhangura on 15 May. It is alleged that the mine owner and Zanu PF members only identified as Boss Rushwaya assaulted some artisanal miners in unclear circumstances. Reports indicate that Boss Rushwaya used his political muscle to assault, harass and intimidate the artisanal miners. Three artisanal miners were assaulted after they were accused of stealing gold ore from Boss Rushwaya. The three artisanal miners sustained serious injuries. However, the incident was not reported to the police.

At Bhinisi Growth Point in Umguza constituency, it was reported that members of Citizens Coalition for Change (CCC) were assaulted by suspected Zanu PF members. Verified facts state that the CCC supporters had gone to Bhinisi to mobilise for votes. Those who were assaulted include Jabulani Hadebe and Promise Mkhwananzi among others.

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

# SPECIAL FOCUS

**CCC activist Jabulani Hadebe was assaulted by Zanu PF supporters at Bhinisi in Umguza Matabeleland North**



## Right to Administrative Justice

In the month of May, ZPP recorded a case of right to administrative justice in Mutare Central. It was reported that a humanitarian-aid-based organization Mercy Corps was instructed to stop doing their work of giving its beneficiaries money at the end of May 2023. It was alleged that this was done by the Mutare Central Zanu PF MP aspiring candidate Esau Mupfumi after he had a meeting at Sakubva Beit hall with Mercy Corps representatives on 7 May 2023 where he allegedly instructed them to stop giving money to the less privileged in Mutare Central. He also allegedly instructed Mercy Corps to channel those funds through him if they wanted to continue. Mupfumi allegedly wanted to use those funds for sprucing up his campaign but was denied access by the organisation. It is unfortunate as those who would otherwise benefit were left starving. Section 68 of the Constitution stipulates that every Zimbabwean has a right to administrative conduct that is lawful, prompt, efficient, reasonable, proportionate, impartial and both substantively and procedurally fair.

## Administrative Rights

ZPP recorded a total of 7 cases of right to administrative justice during April. Mashonaland Central province recorded the highest number of cases, followed by Manicaland and Mashonaland East.

On 18 April during the Independence Day commemorations, most vendors, shop owners and flea market traders in Mt Darwin town were forced to close their businesses and attend the commemorations. They were reportedly told that it was a directive from the top. It is further said that they were threatened with withdrawal of their operating licences, if they defied the ruling party orders. It is alleged that those who attended the commemorations were given chicken and chips boxes, of which some of the food was stale resulting in several people suffering from running stomachs. Villagers at Murenga village ward 24 were forced to contribute a dollar per household towards the Independence Day commemorations. Similar incidents were reported in Hurungwe West, Mutare North, Bindura South and Guruve North amongst others.

Section 71 of the Constitution stipulates that every person has the right, in any part of Zimbabwe, to acquire, hold, occupy, use, transfer, hypothecate, lease or dispose of all forms of property, either individually or in association with others.

## Equality & Non-discrimination

ZPP recorded 3 cases related to equality and non-discrimination in Manicaland, Mashonaland West and Matabeleland South. Partisan distribution of food was reported in ward 19, Nyanga South. It was reported that on 7 March 2023 at Sedze Business Center government inputs distribution which included fertilisers was hijacked by Zanu PF officials and distributed to Zanu PF members only, leaving out villagers who were not from the party including CCC members. The distribution was led by the Zanu PF ward chairperson identified as Nyahokwe, the secretary Ester Masheru and an unidentified Agritex officer. After the distribution, it was alleged that 12 bags of fertiliser remained, which were shared among the 3. This is a trend happening in many parts of the province and across the country. It is regarded a crime to belong to any political party other than Zanu PF. Many people are forced to join the party to benefit from government aid.

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

# PROVINCIAL OUTLOOK

## Mashonaland Central

The province recorded cases associated with civil political and socio-economic rights. A group of Zanu PF activists claiming to be Forever Associates Zimbabwe (FAZ) in Mazowe West at Jumbo Mine threatened to beat up people affiliated to the Citizen Coalition for Change. Reports indicate that the youths were instilling fear in people suspected to be CCC party supporters therefore, wearing of yellow colours in the area was being perceived as association with the opposition CCC. In Bindura North, CCC aspiring councillor Carlos Tokyo was tracked by suspected state security agents who threatened to burn his vehicle claiming that the vehicle was unwanted in Bindura. It is alleged that Tokyo was being followed by a Toyota Hilux (AFG6930) and the suspects tried to block his passage unsuccessfully before threatening to torch the vehicle saying it was unwelcome in Bindura. Cases where pupils were turned away from school were recorded in Mt Darwin East (Sosera Primary), Mt Darwin South (Mt Darwin Primary School) and Bindura North at the Salvation Army Primary School. Pupils were denied access to classes for not paying tuition fees.

## Harare

Cases on the right to freedom of assembly and association were reported in Harare ahead of the 2023 general elections. Members of the United Zimbabwe Alliance (UZA) were violently assaulted in Chitungwiza North on 11 May 2023 by suspected Zanu PF youths. UZA reported that its party members, who were peacefully engaging citizens ahead of the elections, were attacked and left for dead. It is alleged that the youths who were driving a black Honda fit, attacked UZA party leaders using unknown weapons. A party member allegedly had his ear cut with a pliers. Other reports state that among the suspected Zanu PF members, one said to be an aspiring MP candidate, attempted to abduct five UZA members. The suspect hijacked an UZA party vehicle and drove party members an estimated 11 km out of Chitungwiza in an abduction attempt. The perpetrators also robbed UZA members of their cash, cell phones and other personal items. On 15 May, 7 parents of students at Prince Edward High School in Harare were arrested by the police and charged with disorderly conduct. The parents were arrested at the school for staging a protest against poor learning conditions at the school. On 17 May the police arrested four University of Zimbabwe (UZ) students for staging a protest over the continued incarceration of opposition CCC lawmaker, Job Sikhala. Benjamin Watadza, Emmanuel Chitima, Comfort Mpopu and Lionel Madamombe were arrested in Harare Central Business District (CBD) and charged with criminal nuisance. The students were accused of allegedly painting "Free Job Sikhala" graffiti on government buildings and a church in Harare. The accused persons appeared in court represented by Zimbabwe Human Rights NGO Forum lawyer, Darlington Marange and were denied bail.

## Manicaland

Cases of politically motivated harassment and intimidation of citizens were recorded in Manicaland. In Buhera North, ward 10, in Karimba village, it was reported that the Zanu PF party chairperson Aleck Zvinavashe addressed villagers, and, in his speech, he indicated that during the impending 2023 elections, those villagers whom the party did not trust and was not sure of their allegiance were going to be assisted voters to make sure that they would have voted for Zanu PF. In another case, Mubhoyi a Zanu PF member in ward 15 of Chimanimani East who has a shop that Mr Machimwase was renting and happened to be one of the Citizens Coalition for Change nominees for the Ward 15 council candidates, threatened to evict him from the shop if he did not withdraw his candidature to contest the 2023 harmonised elections on an opposition ticket. He allegedly said he could not allow a 'sellout' to use his shop.

## Masvingo

In Masvingo, FAZ was reported to have been seriously threatening villagers. Among the target victims mapped were villagers that participated in the voters' roll inspection exercise. In Bikita South, ward 1, it was reported that Zanu PF aspiring Bikita South candidate Energy Mutodi held a meeting appreciating ruling party supporters for voting for him during the ruling party primary elections. It is during this meeting, that Universita Mukwena intimidated villagers in his address. He reportedly threatened to unleash violence. On 29 May, at Gawa polling station, in Bikita South, Gamuchira Kumwe a FAZ member was present monitoring people who were inspecting their names on the voters' roll. As the process continued, he was compiling names of villagers who had finished inspecting their names on the voters' roll, a move that has since instilled fear in many villagers ahead of the 2023 elections.



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## Midlands

In the Midlands Region, cases of traditional leaders, as well as FAZ members threatening villagers and coercing them to join Zanu PF, were recorded. It was reported that Givemore Chuma the aspiring CCC MP and Pedzisai Muvunde the ward 27 Councillor and CCC member in Gokwe Chireya were reportedly not able to freely campaign in the area because of fear and intimidation from the ruling Zanu PF party leaders. It is sad that, Chiefs, headmen and village heads were banning CCC gatherings. Chief Chireya born Henry Chidzivo, headman Bonus Mdimuranwa, Chindoma, and Joseph Matashu were Zanu PF members forcing and intimidating people to join ruling party structures. They were calling for 'no more opposition operations' in their area. In Gokwe Sengwa, ward 22, it was reported that the opposition CCC members were being intimidated during village gatherings convened by village heads. It was said that in these meetings, villagers were told to join ruling party cell structures and openly declare their support for Zanu PF.

## Mashonaland East

In Mashonaland East Province citizens had their political rights violated during the voters' roll inspection exercise. The increase in human rights violations within the province was because of the desire by Zanu PF candidates to cling to power. In most rural communities Zanu PF members harassed and intimidated opposition supporters particularly CCC supporters and activists. On 10 May around 12 mid-day a case of intimidation and harassment was reported at Zihute Hall ward 30 in Murehwa North. It is alleged that during a Zanu PF meeting, Zanu PF Provincial Chairperson Daniel Garwe harassed and intimidated villagers before giving Zanu PF youths authority to beat up CCC activists and to disrupt CCC party activities. On 28 May a case on the violation of political rights was reported at Chemhanza Primary School in Wedza North. It is alleged that during the voters' roll inspection, FAZ violated villagers' political rights by forcing villagers to surrender their personal details. Reports indicate that a FAZ team operating about 50 metres from the ZEC Chemhanza Primary School polling station forced villagers to provide their personal voting information after inspecting the voters' roll. The process reportedly left many villagers living in fear.

## Mashonaland West

The political environment in Mashonaland West continued to shrink during the reporting month of May. As the nation braces for elections, the environment was not conducive for free, fair and credible elections. During the voters' roll inspection processes, Zanu PF members violated citizens' political rights as they forced people to surrender their voting personal details. On 28 May a case on political rights, intimidation and harassment was reported at Kutama Day High School ward 6 in Zvimba South. It is alleged that, the voters' inspection exercises at Mapfumo, Rothwell farm extension, Kutama Day High School stations did not go well as villagers were intimidated by FAZ. The turn-out had a slow pace as FAZ members reportedly forced villagers to provide their personal details. A FAZ representative identified as Miss Tsungai Masanga reportedly took statistics and details of villagers who were checking their names on the voters' roll. The development was the driving factor for many people not to participate in the verification exercise because for fear of being targeted by the perpetrators.

## Bulawayo

The month of May witnessed an increase in human rights violations. This was due to the voter inspection processes where several citizens discovered their names were missing from the voters' roll. At ZEC offices, it was noted that Nobert Nyoni of Citizens Coalition for Change publicly intimidated people who were awaiting to inspect their names on the voters' roll. It is said that Nyoni began to insult citizens saying that they were cowards and deserved to be beaten if they allowed Zanu PF and ZEC for letting their names vanish from the voters' roll. Nyoni made remarks that Zimbabwean citizens are cowards and needed to rise and fight. This is said to have frightened citizens.

Moreso, a Zanu PF parallel organization known as Forever Association Zimbabwe was noted as the major perpetrator of intimidation. It was noted that a member of FAZ, identified as Martin was registering citizens in the Zanu PF cell group list. It was noted that when a citizen came through especially the youth and requested to inspect the voters' roll, Martin requested that they produce their ID cards and register under Zanu PF. This is against the electoral act.

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## Matabeleland North

At Bhinisi Growth Point of Umguza constituency, it was reported that members of Citizens Coalition for Change were assaulted by suspected Zanu PF members. Verified facts state that the CCC supporters had gone to Bhinisi to canvass for votes. Those that were assaulted include Jabulani Hadebe and Promise Mkhwananzi among others.

## Matabeleland South

Zanu PF parallel organization known as Forever Association Zimbabwe was noted as the major perpetrator of intimidation. At Umzingwane Rural District Council, it was noted that a member of Forever Association Zimbabwe identified as Headland Ncube was intimidating citizens who had gone to inspect their names on the voters' roll. It is said that Ncube instructed all those that were inspecting their names on the voters' roll to register in his book called FAZ record book. Allegedly, Ncube made remarks that those that fail to register under FAZ will be dealt with. Also, it was reported that a member of Forever Association Zimbabwe member identified as Solo, intimidated opposition supporters to register their names under Zanu PF cell group or else risk being beaten. It is said that Solo who was wearing a red cap warned that those that fail to register under their cell groups risks being beaten in the fourth coming elections. Verified facts are that Solo was seated at the gate where citizens were getting in to inspect their names in the voters' roll.

## IMAGESTORY



House reduced to ashes in Glenview 7 ward 31 following an electrical fault (House number 7456 6th Circle Glenview 7. There was no council water due to constant water cuts by the City Council and the house was reduced to ashes

# IMAGESTORY



**FAZ members stationed at ZEC Windsors Park Office in Bulawayo during the Voter Inspection Exercise in Bulawayo.**

**Credit Zimlive Pictures**