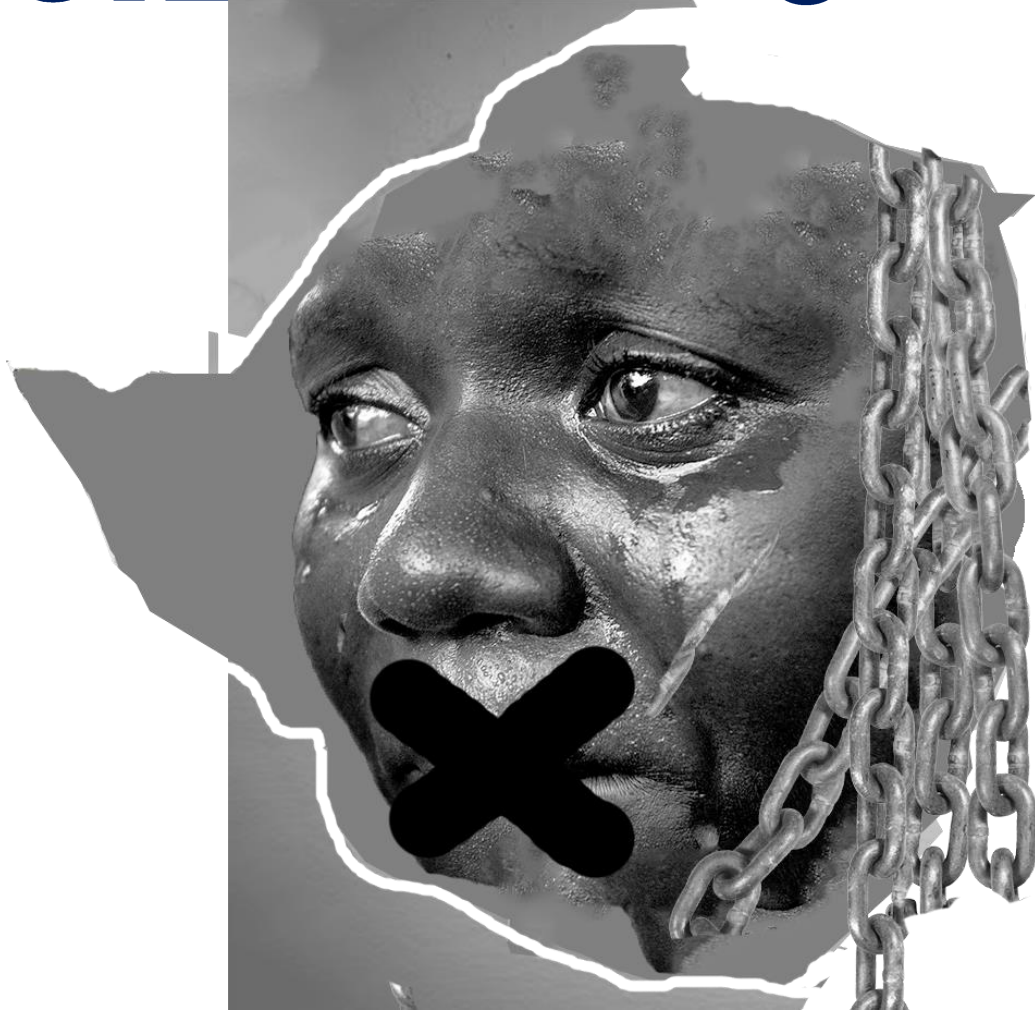


*Documenting how
Zimbabweans continue to
lose their voice in the face
of mounting repression*

SILENCED!



**THE ZIMBABWE PEACE PROJECT
MONTHLY
MONITORING
REPORT**



**ZIMBABWE
PEACE
PROJECT**

SEPTEMBER 2020

SILENCED!

THE ZIMBABWE
PEACE PROJECT
MONTHLY
MONITORING
REPORT
SEPT 2020

1.0 EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

In September, Zimbabwe turned the corner and joined, full time, the dark list of the world's repressive regimes, where citizens are reduced to nothing but subjects who are not part to deciding how the country is run in sharp contrast to the tenets of democracy and good governance.

As has been the case for the past six months, government continued to use Covid-19 as an excuse to stifle rights and

freedoms guaranteed by the supreme law, and as evidenced by the nature of human rights violations this month, the violations went a notch up, and were more than ever before, systematic and methodical. In the month of September, there were no more attempts to present a false face of democracy and this is evidenced by the following developments recorded in September, some of which had started earlier.

//

'in September the majority of Zimbabweans remained in poverty, with their disposal income remaining very low, and the food insecurity unabated.

//

1

THE growing feeling that judicial independence is being whittled down to such an extent that it is a weapon to persecute by prosecution, dissenting voices. The arbitrary/unlawful/political arrests, abductions, torture, harassment and intimidation that heightened in April, were widely used in May, June and July, and fine-tuned in August and September.

2

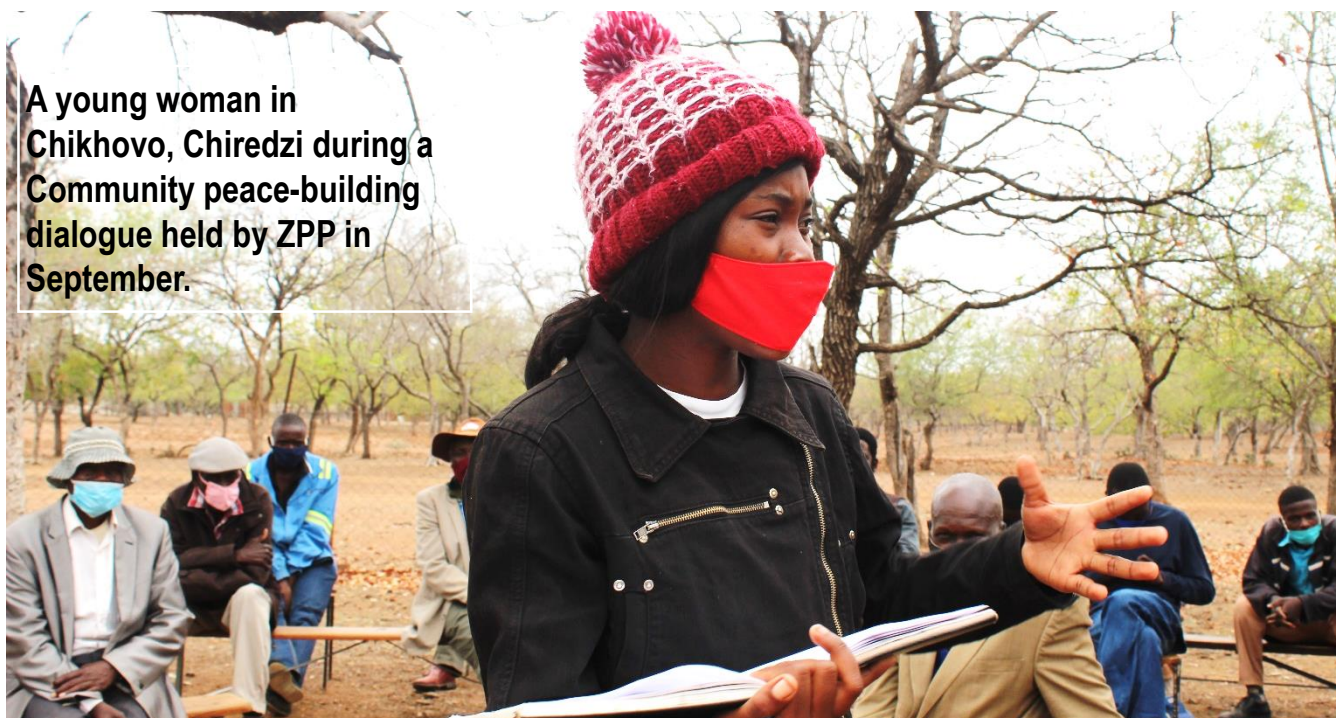
THE continued neglect of social services rendered the country's health, education and social welfare and services sectors completely incapacitated. More than ever before, access to healthcare, water, stable income, food security, and other social services was a critical human rights issue in the country. While the Zimbabwe dollar remained stable against the US dollar through the auction system, the majority of Zimbabweans remained in poverty, with their disposal income remaining very low, and the food insecurity unabated.

3

THE strengthening of the ruling Zanu PF community level intimidation of opposition political and human rights activists left communities much more scared of their own government. This is made worse by the continued presence of state security agents in the streets and villages, who, under the guise of enforcing Covid-19 regulations, flagrantly and with impunity suppressed basic rights. The instruments of repression remained well oiled, vigilant, and ready to strike.

4

WITH the Zimbabwean crisis having entered a stage where it became a concern for neighbouring countries, the regional body SADC, the African Union, the United Nations and the international community in general, the Government of Zimbabwe and ruling party has remained aloof, disregarding the growing calls for process facilitation to solve the crisis and get Zimbabwe back onto the path to democracy, good governance and economic prosperity. Zimbabweans were once again on their own, presided over by a government that is in the habit of preying on its citizens.



A young woman in Chikhovo, Chiredzi during a Community peace-building dialogue held by ZPP in September.



A man (in red) sits with a bottle of sanitizer next to him as he follows proceedings of a community dialogue hosted by ZPP in Mutasa District in September.

Evidence of these four key events in September is highlighted in this month's statistics of human rights violations, where the army, police, Zanu PF and municipal police contributed to a combined **74.9 percent** of human rights violations.

For seven successive months, state security agents remain the leading perpetrators of human rights violations.

Disaggregated, the police contributed the highest percentage at 31.03, followed by Zanu PF at 15.61 percent, the army at 13.83 percent and the municipal police at 10.87 percent, while unspecified state agents contributed to 3.56 percent. The MDC Alliance contributed 1.58 percent and MDC-T Khupe was in the same region at 1.19 percent attributable to the conflict between the two factions. The affiliation of 22.33

percent of the perpetrators was unknown.

Men contributed to the most human rights violations at 88.98 percent compared to 8.46 percent women.

ZPP recorded five cases of killings, three cases of attempted murder and three cases of abduction.

In September, there were 23 cases of assault, 11 incidents of unlawful detention, two cases of torture and 81 cases of harassment and intimidation.

ZPP continues to note with great concern that the large number of the human rights violations recorded in September and prior to that are attributable to state affiliated agents and/or institutions, and this presents what is an apparent regression of Zimbabwe into a crisis.

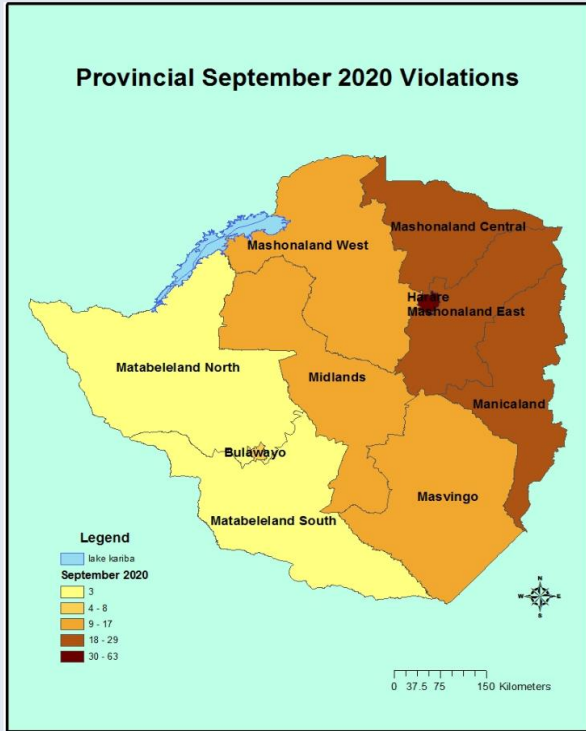
SILENCED!

Human Rights Violations Monthly Dashboard

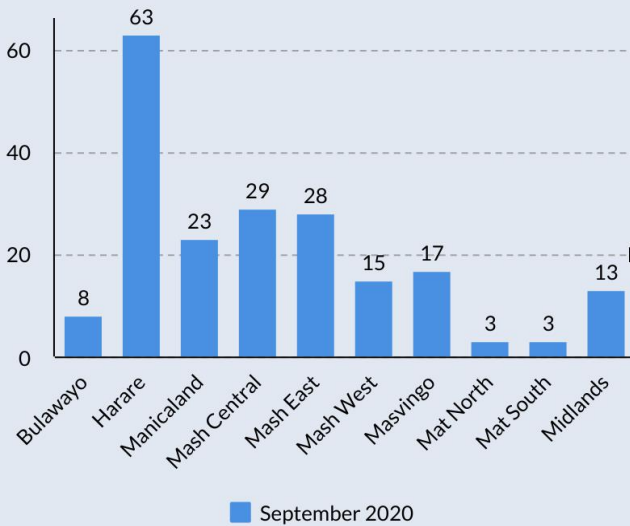
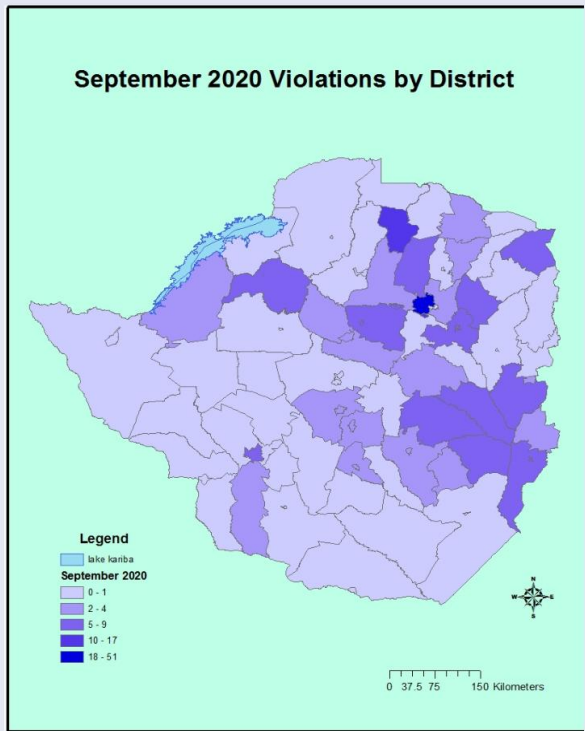
Zimbabwe Peace Project

Report time frame: September, 2020

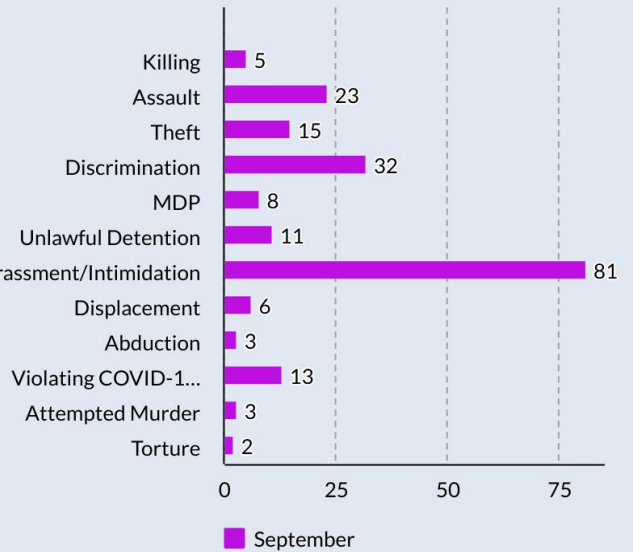
Provincial September 2020 Violations



September 2020 Violations by District

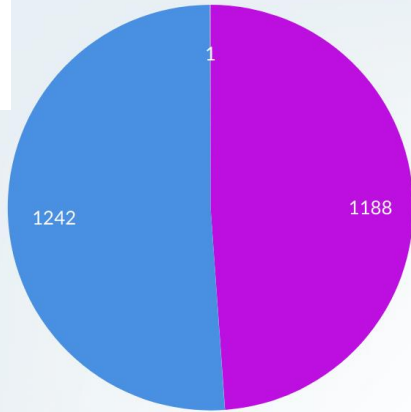


September Provincial Violations



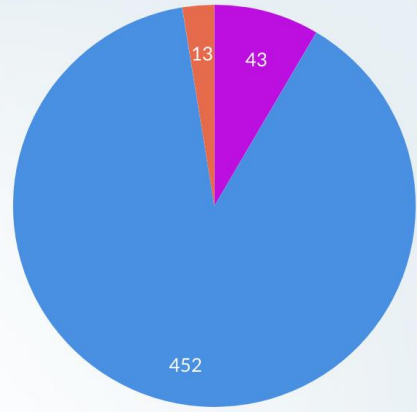
Types of Violations - September

SILENCED!
THE ZIMBABWE
PEACE PROJECT
MONTHLY
MONITORING
REPORT
SEPT 2020



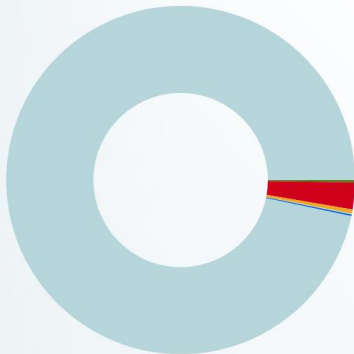
Female (48.87%) Male (51.09%)
 Female PWD (0.04%)

Gender of September Victims



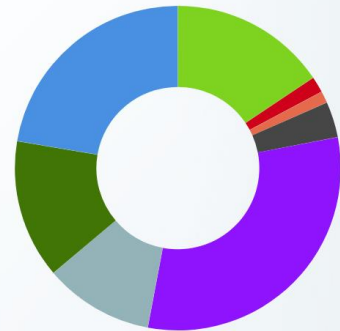
Female (8.46%) Male (88.98%)
 Unknown (2.56%)

Gender of September Perpetrators



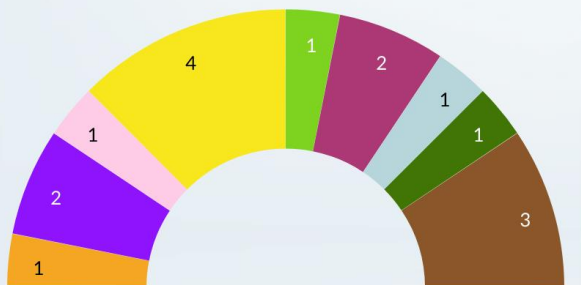
Zanu PF (0.21%) MDC Alliance (2.51%)
 MDC-T Khupe (0.37%) PF Zapu (0.04%)
 Mthwakazi (0.04%) ZNA (0.16%) Unknown (96.67%)

September Victims Affiliation



Zanu PF (15.61%) MDC Alliance (1.58%)
 MDC-T Khupe (1.19%) State Agents (3.56%)
 ZRP (31.03%) Municipal Police (10.87%)
 ZNA (13.83%) Unknown (22.33%)

September Perpetrators Affiliation



Harare (6.25%) Manicaland (12.5%)
 Mash Central (6.25%) Mash East (25%)
 Mash West (6.25%) Masvingo (12.5%) Mat North (6.25%)
 Mat South (6.25%) Midlands (18.75%)

September Food & Other Aid Violations



MDC Alliance (2) MDC-T (2) Mthwakazi (1)

September Intra Party Violence

WEAPONISATION OF THE LAW

At the time of writing this report, Joanna Mamombe, an MDC Alliance youth leader and Member of Parliament is in prison. She and two others, Cecilia Chimhiri and Netsai Marova were abducted and tortured by suspected state security agents in May 2020 after being arrested for leading a flash protest against hunger in Warren Park. Following this, the three were then charged with 'faking their own abduction'

This is despite the existence of a strong footprint of state security agents in their arrest, abduction and torture.

Following the horror incident, Mamombe was admitted in hospital, suffering from post-traumatic stress disorder, rendering her unable to attend a court hearing.

But the State, through Harare magistrate Bianca Makwande, decided to remand Mamombe in custody for two weeks pending examination of her mental health by two government doctors.

Mamombe joins part of the growing number of political and human rights activists who are victims of the capture of the judiciary by the ruling party.

These include MDC Alliance deputy chairperson Job Sikhala who was released from Chikurubi Maximum Security Prison after weeks of pre-trial detention and his bail bid being frustrated several times. Sikhala's ordeal is similar to that of journalist Hopewell Chin'ono, Transform Zimbabwe leader Jacob Ngarivhume, and MDC Alliance youth leader Godfrey Kurauone.

The four, who have all be charged with inciting violence, spent up to, between 30 and 45 days each in prison, and their ordeal, which includes ill-treatment, being transferred to the maximum section of the prison, delays in bail hearings and judgement, all point to a judiciary that has become a weapon to silence dissent.



PERSECUTED:
**Mamombe gets into
a prison truck as
she is being taken
to Chikurubi on
September 24**

"Institutions meant to enforce the rule of law and protect democracy and serve the people of Zimbabwe are unashamedly working to protect the Zanu-PF ideology of a one-party state
**Human rights activist,
Thandekile Moyo**



Currently, student activist and president of the Zimbabwe National Students Union (ZINASU), Takudzwa Ngadziore, is in prison.

On 10 September Zinasu, staged a peaceful demonstration outside Impala Car Rental offices, demanding justice for student and activist Tawanda Muchehiwa, a victim of abduction. The state responded by abducting, assaulting and jailing Ngadziore.

Zinasu's demonstration was to put pressure on Impala to release tracking details of the vehicle used in the abduction of Muchehiwa, hired from the company.

So far, Impala has not been forthcoming in assisting with the identification of the owner of the vehicle, a Ford Ranger that was used in abduction of Muchehiwa, and at some point Impala gave investigative reporters a fake name and a nonexistent address of the client, leading the reporters on a wild goose chase.

After being initially arrested over the 10 September demonstration, Ngadziore was released and on 18 September, he was abducted then arrested after holding a press conference close to Impala Car Rental offices.

His abductors, who also assaulted journalists and destroyed recording equipment, were captured on camera, but no arrests have been made. Instead, Ngadziore found himself in police custody, pointing to a long suspected collusion between 'abductors' and the police, as is the case in the abduction of Muchehiwa and others. On 1 September, Nickson Mpofu, 40, was abducted by suspected state security agents after posting on social media that he would expose ministers involved in a car rental scandal. Reports indicate that at 10 pm, Mpofu's home in Chitungwiza was raided and he was forcibly taken by five armed men who abducted, tortured and later dumped him near his home; a modus operandi many Zimbabweans identify with State security agents.

**WATCH
VIDEO**



[THE ABDUCTION OF TAKUDZWA NGADZIORE](#)



RESPECT THE CONSTITUTION

ZPP calls on government to respect the Constitution, which clearly outlines the separation of powers, in particular, the independence of the judiciary.

Similarly, on 14 September, members of the ZRP arrested nine ZINASU members outside the Harare Magistrate's Court. They were arrested for demanding the release of Takudzwa Ngadzire. These cases of arbitrary arrests highlight the State's commitment to disregarding rule of law, contrary to the President's speech at the General Assembly. Citizens are detained without due process and without the legal protections they are entitled to, as enshrined under Article 56 of the Zimbabwean Constitution.

In light of this, there is no shadow of doubt that the police, the courts and the entire justice system have become instruments of silencing voices that speak out against government's excesses the same government with the responsibility to ensure citizens enjoy Constitutionally guaranteed rights and freedoms. Regrettably, this month of September, the ZPP recorded five abductions,

and yet none of the abductors have been arrested and the situation is the same that months or even years later the cases remain unresolved. That there were 11 cases of unlawful detention also goes to show that police force continues to act unlawfully, with impunity.

WE RECOMMEND

ZPP calls on government to respect the Constitution, which clearly outlines the separation of powers, in particular, the independence of the judiciary. Zimbabwe is founded on democratic principles and these should be seen to be practiced, where the courts treat citizens fairly and accord them their rights, including the constitutionally protected right to personal freedom, right to bail, the right to demonstrate and petition, and the right to associate freely.



2.2 ZIMBABWEANS ON THEIR OWN?

For Zimbabwe, Covid-19 only further accelerated an economic and social crisis that was already on a cruise to the worst.

In March, Zimbabwe's inflation was hovering above 700 percent and only receded in the month of September, and for the first time in two years, prices remained generally stable for those with the means but out of the reach of the vulnerable sinking in poverty.

Zimbabwe's story goes beyond the one month price stability. Already, by the time price increases slowed down, the majority of Zimbabweans had reached a stage where they could not afford the basics due to the fact that the two year hyper-inflation had eroded the value of the local currency, which many, including civil servants, earn.

For example, a teacher in Zimbabwe earns an average of less than US\$50, which is just but a poverty wage.

It must be noted that civil servants' salaries are a benchmark for many other industries, so it can be safely concluded that the generality of Zimbabweans employed in various sectors earn less than US\$100 worth of salaries.

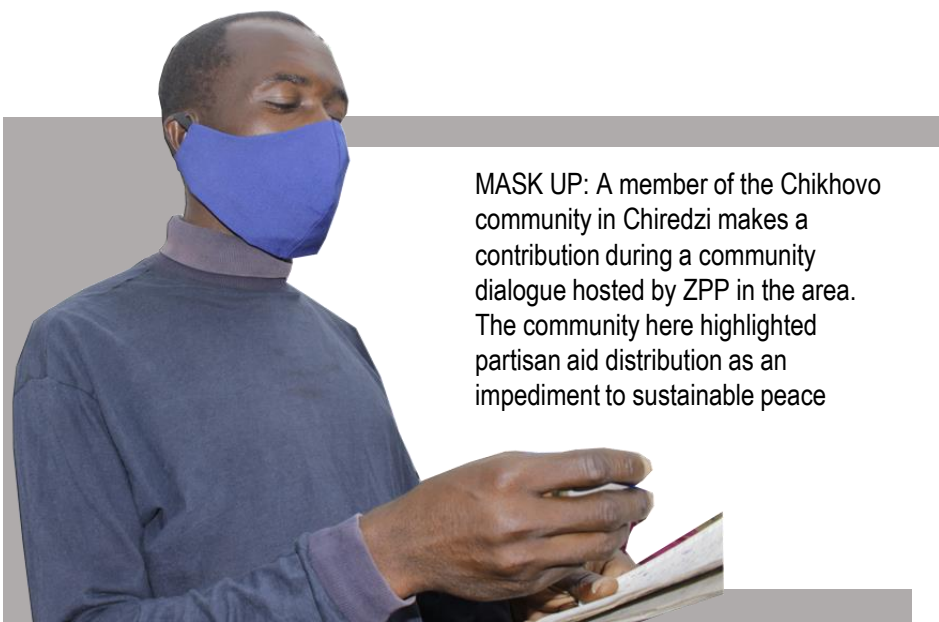
This has left many vulnerable, considering that according to the Zimbabwe Congress of Trade Unions, which is planning a general strike, less than 20 percent of Zimbabweans are employed in the informal sector.

This leaves about 80 percent in the informal sector, where they not only rely on the formally employed, but have also had their operations hugely affected by the Covid-19 restrictions imposed by government since April.

Due to the skewed nature of the economy, and the elitist policies of the Finance ministry, which has condemned government workers to poverty wages for two years now, the gap between the few rich and the poor millions has grown wider.

CASE FILE: PARTISAN AID

One example is that on 16 September villagers in Murehwa North in Goso Village Ward 14 convened to receive government inputs under the Pfumvunza program. The inputs were distributed at the homestead of the local councillor Shadreck Chimuteka, of Zanu PF. MDC activists and other opposition party supporters were not invited to be part of the programme. In some parts of Murehwa North and West, some councilors and agricultural extension officers are demanding that beneficiaries pay up to US\$2.00 for them to receive the inputs



MASK UP: A member of the Chikhovo community in Chiredzi makes a contribution during a community dialogue hosted by ZPP in the area. The community here highlighted partisan aid distribution as an impediment to sustainable peace

GOVERNMENT has come up with half-hearted attempts to provide relief, but these fall far short of giving a semblance of dignity to the hard pressed Zimbabweans.

For example, the subsidized mealie-meal has never been adequately available, leaving people having to spend hours on queues to just get a 10 kg bag, if at all they get it.

Another example is the public transport scheme, where government has engaged private transporters to join their subsidized transport scheme through the state owned Zupco.

Government bungling, allegations of corruption and general ineptness have contributed to the current public transport crisis in Zimbabwe.

While government has continued to promise to provide relief to those whose economic activities were affected by Covid-19 and the vulnerable. This has been all talk as the only formally announced assistance was a ZWL350 (about US\$3.50) token the Finance minister announced would be transferred to vulnerable people

While government has continued to parrot its shadowy agricultural support scheme, Pfumvudza, as a panacea to food insecurity, the programme, just like the ones before it, has been conducted in a non-transparent and partisan manner.

*Zimbabweans
no longer
afford dignity.
And it is a key
human rights
issue.*



WE RECOMMEND

Pensioners, and the vulnerable communities that need social protection continue to suffer in abject poverty. The ordinary worker has been reduced to being a beggar. Zimbabweans no longer afford dignity. And it is a key human rights issue. In addition to this, the country's health institutions have remained neglected and incapacitated. Throughout the month, ZPP has documented stories of people who had to watch their relatives die because health institutions did not have capacity to treat them while some had to watch their

relatives breathe their last as they sought to get corona virus testing demanded by some institutions before admission. Government has the obligation to provide social protection to all citizens and the ZPP continues to call on the administration to reconsider its approach to the economic and social issues affecting Zimbabwe, and to realise that economic development only happens if government is prepared to invest in the social protection of the very valuable human resources.



More than ever before, Zimbabweans are afraid of the police, army and the ruling party.

The state security agents, who have maintained a presence in the streets and villages, under the guise of enforcing Covid-19 regulations, have continued to suppress basic rights.

A sense of fear has continued to linger in the communities and throughout the month, ZPP recorded cases of harassment and intimidation and assaults perpetrated by state security agents and ruling party activists.

In one incident in Glendale, Mazowe South, Zanu PF youths led by one Quash Banda

torched property belonging to an MDC Alliance activist.

Banda led a group of ruling party youths and burned the victim's house and banana garden, and property, including clothes, kitchen utensils and a bed, worth US\$1000, was lost.

Reports indicate that this is not the first time the ruling party youths in the area have attacked opposition political activists.

"They do not get arrested because even the police are afraid of them because of the political influence they have" said a witness. The systematic nature of the impunity is evidenced by the fact that these incidents happen across the country.

WE RECOMMEND

In light of these, ZPP recommends that government should ensure that state security agents conduct themselves in a professional manner. The Constitution guarantees the right to life, and even where people are suspected to committing a crime, the Constitution clearly provides the procedures of arrest, detention and trial.

In addition, Zanu PF leaders should instill a culture of political tolerance within their cadres. It is of great concern though that, many times, the leaders are the ones who incite their supporters to be intolerant of opposition politics. They must be reminded that as a multi-party democracy, Zimbabwe allows opposition politics and Zanu PF as an institution should be subservient to the Constitution, which provides for freedom of association.

...even where people are suspected to committing a crime, the Constitution clearly provides the procedures of arrest, detention and trial...

SILENCED!

**THE ZIMBABWE
PEACE PROJECT
MONTHLY
MONITORING
REPORT
SEPT 2020**

#PEOPLESPEAK



This month, ZPP launched #THEVODCAST, a series of community voices audio/visual broadcasts that are flighted on ZPP social media platforms. Through #THEVODCAST, ZPP goes far & wide and #PEOPLESPEAK out on key human rights issues in Zimbabwe

CHIREDZI: EACH HAS A ROLE TOWARDS PEACE

There was an unfettered spirit of unity on 29 September when the Zimbabwe Peace Project hosted a dialogue in Chilonga, Chiredzi South.

Part of the dialogue were key community leaders that included village heads, councillors, representatives from the police, health, education, other local based organisations and women and men from the surrounding villages. The platform provided a rare space for community members to air their challenges, and get immediate feedback from the various office holders present. Key among the issues discussed was the troubling trend of increased cases of child marriages. A representative from the police expressed commitment that they will work more closely with the community members, health officials and traditional leaders in reducing child marriages through awareness

raising and collaborative efforts.

Traditional leaders were on spotlight as they were cited as having a key role in facilitating access to communities." Traditional leaders have great influence on their communities and they must use that to influence positive change towards ending child marriages, among other social ills, " said one community member.

Above all, the community members resolved that they needed to set aside their cultural and political differences to work towards the betterment of their society. ZPP heard stories of how village heads, community members, the police and health officials have collaborated to rescue children trapped in child marriages following ZPP's past awareness campaigns in the area.

WATCH VIDEOS



[#PeopleSpeak:
Voices from Mutasa](#)



[#PeopleSpeak:
Voices from Mutoko](#)



[#PeopleSpeak: Peace
in Zimbabwe](#)

MUTOKO: IDLE CHILDREN IN GOLD RUSH, CHILD MARRIAGES



Young people in Mutoko, idle for a long time due to the Covid-19 restrictions, unemployment and general poverty, have resorted to substance abuse, while a considerable number of young girls have gotten into child marriages and boys have joined the illegal gold rush. This came out at a community dialogue hosted by ZPP at Chindenga School in September

Substance abuse

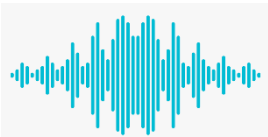
The local young people at the dialogue highlighted with concern the involvement of their counterparts in drug and alcohol abuse. This is mainly because the young people are idle; most of them are not employed and also for the school going age, the schools are closed because of the COVID 19

pandemic. This problem has been exacerbated by an increase in shebeens established by local villagers where most of the boys spend their time. This challenge has contributed to moral decadence among youths who no longer respect their parents and the elderly; most of them are leaving home to embark on illegal gold panning to get more money for drugs.

Child marriages

The Mutoko community is lamenting the prevalence of child marriages, a challenge which has stayed for a long time in the area. Community members revealed that young girls are being taken as brides and some parents consent to such marriages. The community has called for the arrest of perpetrators of child marriages including the groom and the parents who would have consented to the marriage.

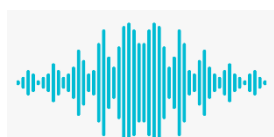
LISTEN TO AUDIO



**[#PeopleSpeak:
Right to education &
inequalities in
Zimbabwe](#)**



**[#PeopleSpeak:
Inside Zimbabwe's
horror prisons](#)**



**[#PeopleSpeak:
Reflections on the
right to education](#)**

INCLUSIVITY

NOT AN

OPTION



A large retail corporate, TM Pick n Pay, in Masvingo, barred a woman with albinism from getting into the shop because she refused to be sanitised as the chemical in sanitizers affects her skin.

The woman, Agnes Guronhe went on to request to be given water and soap to wash her hands but this was not entertained.

"I politely asked that I be given water and soap to wash my hands because my skin seriously reacts to sanitizers but the people manning the entrance said there was no water at the shop and they then denied me entry," she said.

In addition to denying entry, the staff at the shop went on to ridiculously suggest that she list down the grocery items she wanted to

purchase so that a staff member would do it for me while she waited outside.

This is a very unfortunate incident of discrimination and stigmatising persons with disability perpetrated by a large corporate that should be leading in disability inclusion as part of its core policy.

ZPP condemns the actions by TM n Pick n Pay and asks that beyond apologising to Guronhe, they should publicly commit to train their staff on inclusion of all citizens who regularly use their outlets. ZPP appeals to business organisations, corporates and outlets to learn from the incident at Pick n Pay to be proactive in ensuring that all their staff who interact with the public are familiar with disability inclusion.

SILENCED!

**THE ZIMBABWE
PEACE PROJECT
MONTHLY
MONITORING
REPORT
SEPT 2020**

#PEOPLESPEAK



A MOMENT OF SILENCE



In September, there were some very gruesome murders. The murder of 7-year old Tapiwa Makore of Murehwa still remains one of the worst abuse of the right to life. Makore died in pain, even after his death, the fact that his body was mutilated and his body parts were picked by dogs, stands out as one of the worst assault on children's rights and the right to life. See below the details of Makore's death

It was also in September when two soldiers were shot in Chivhu, leaving one dead. What followed was a crack operation by the army and the police, during which two people were allegedly brutally killed. In an unacceptable, gruesome manner, police paraded their bodies in Chivhu town in violation of the Constitution.

Two soldiers allegedly opened fire on two villagers in Chisuma near Victoria Falls killing both on the spot. ZPP remains concerned about these incidents as they are an indictment on the right to life. Government should ensure the safety of persons is guaranteed.

A YOUNG LIFE ROBBED

Tapiwa Makore was allegedly murdered in cold blood by his uncle Tapiwa Makore Senior (57) in cahoots with his herdsman, Tafadzwa Shamba. Makore allegedly pinned the boy to the ground while Shamba used a knife to cut off the head, arms, and limbs. The remains were packed into two different bags with limbs and arms in one pack.

Makore carried the pack which had limbs

and arms, while Shamba carried a pack containing the abdomen and head.

The abdomen was dumped near one Mr Summer Murwira's homestead, but Shamba took the other parts to Makore's homestead. On the same day, Mr Murwira discovered the abdomen which was being eaten by his dogs.

It is alleged that on the same day, Shamba removed his blood-stained pair of trousers and placed them in Makore's kitchen hut.

CONCLUSIONS & RECOMMENDATIONS

Zimbabwe is in a crisis, a man-made one, that which needs a collective solution, and it starts with the political will of those in power in order for that to happen.

Zanu PF and government's discomfort with the attempts by South Africa through government and the governing party to facilitate solution-oriented dialogue, and the continued denials of a crisis only show that there is still a long way to go before Zimbabwe reaches a point where all, including those in government, realise that the only solution is inclusive and broad based dialogue that will emphasise the role of the victim.

In light of that, ZPP recommends that government and Zanu PF should take their head out of the sand, smell the crisis, unlock the door to inclusive and broad-based dialogue. This is not only good for the hard-pressed citizens who have been victims of the political polarization, and the economic meltdown, but also for the ruling party. There is an urgent need for a social contract to solve the social disconnect in the country.

It is not enough for government at every turn to make reference to the Political Actors Dialogue (POLAD), the reason why citizens are clamouring for something else is the fact that POLAD is not working.

Dialogue enables Zimbabweans to find each other and collectively solve all the other results of the current logjam.

ZPP also recommends that government respects the independence of institutions as this is important in restoring confidence and trust in the justice system.



@zppINFO



fb.com/
zpp.INFO



+263774883417
+263774883406



zimpeaceproject.com