

**MONTHLY  
MONITORING  
REPORT**

**APRIL 2020  
EDITION**



**ZIMBABWE  
PEACE  
PROJECT**





## 1.0 EXECUTIVE SUMMARY.

April 2020 started off on a note of national uncertainty.

The government of Zimbabwe had just declared a countrywide lockdown in an attempt to contain the spread of the Corona Virus of 2019.

Across the world, the highly contagious COVID19 pandemic was spreading like wildfire and while the Zimbabwean Government had initially taken a backseat approach, the death of the first person to be diagnosed with the disease, prominent journalist Zororo Makamba on 23 March, seemed like a wake up call.

Subsequently, government declared that the country would be on a strict lockdown for 21 days from March 30 to April 19.



**HARARE CITY CENTRE DURING THE FIRST WEEK OF THE LOCKDOWN.**

This meant that all businesses, except essential service providers, were to cease operations and that people were to stay at home.

There was no doubt the measures that government was to implement were to have human rights implications and the Zimbabwe Peace Project (ZPP), through its monitors continued to look out for any human rights violations that would occur during this period of uncertainty and anxiety.

As such, the right to personal liberty, the right to health, right to social protection, among others, were on the spotlight as government announced the intention to deploy the state security agents to enforce the lockdown.



**ARMY & POLICE ENFORCING THE LOCKDOWN**

While it was within their mandate, and a necessary move to have state security agents lead the enforcement of the lockdown to help contain the spread of the virus, it turned out, as ZPP had feared, to be the major source of human rights violations during the month of April.

Despite being deployed without proper protective clothing, the Zimbabwe Republic Police, the Municipal Police, and the army, unfortunately, proved once again, the need for security sector reforms, as they contributed to a combined 96,64 percent of all perpetrators during the month of April. Of the total number of violations recorded, harassment and intimidation topped the list with 130 incidents while 86 cases of assault were recorded.

**One of the cases is a very unfortunate incident where an eight year boy panicked and collapsed after he and his friends were reportedly intimidated by some army officers who were providing security during the First Lady's visit in Mudzi North in Mashonaland East. The boy died on admission to Kotwa hospital.**

Harare recorded the highest number of violations at 104, followed by Midlands, which had 52 cases. Worryingly, when the lockdown began, and people were supposed to adhere to strict social distancing, the situation was not made possible due to the unavailability of safe, potable, running water in several urban areas. Therefore, images of mostly women queuing for water at public water points dominated both the first and the second phases of the lockdown.

104

Cases in Harare

During the second phase of the lockdown, after the president announced two more weeks of restricted movement, local authorities, acting on a directive from government, began a process of demolishing informal sector workspaces, without adequate warning to those who operate in those spaces. The move further added misery to the already struggling informal sector operators, who had endured a good three weeks without operating, despite the nature of their work offering them hand to mouth income.

During this month, government also announced it would give out assistance to vulnerable households, and those in the informal sector whose businesses had been affected by the lockdown and this triggered a fresh wave of discrimination along partisan lines.

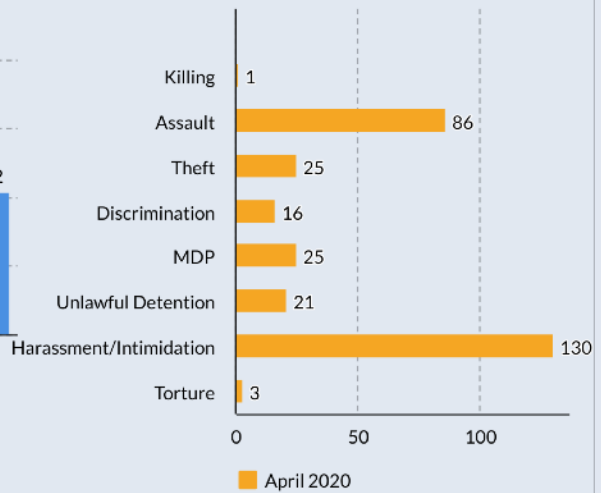
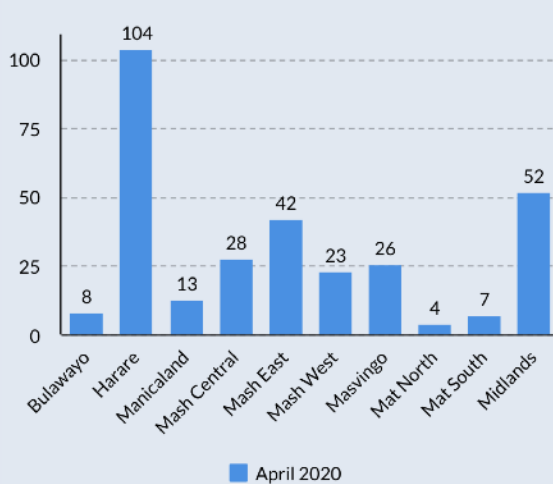
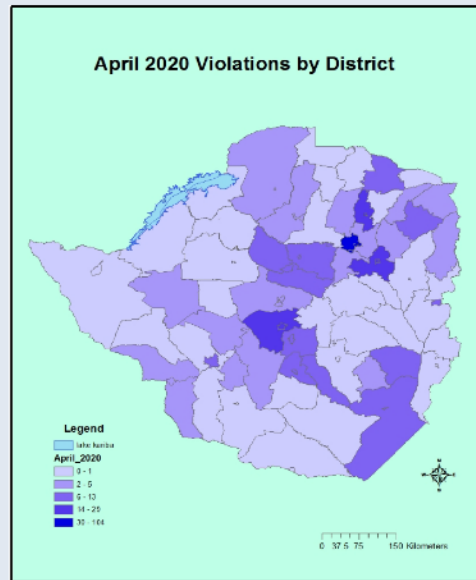
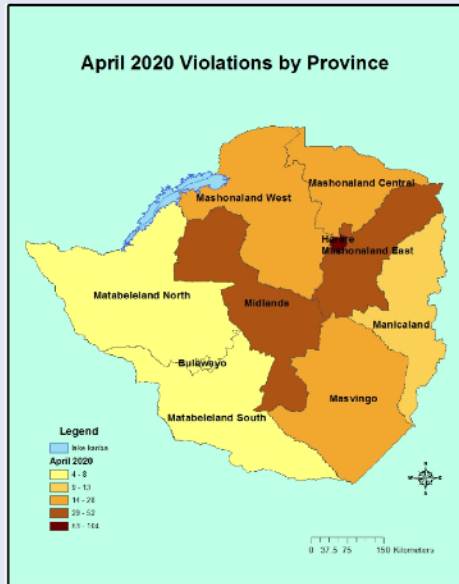
Manicaland, Mashonaland East and Masvingo provinces each recorded 25 percent of food and other aid violations. Harare, Matabeleland North and Midlands all share 8.33 percent of the violations

CHILDREN AND WOMEN  
QUEUEING FOR WATER  
IN HARARE  
IMAGE BY DW.COM

# Human Rights Violations Monthly Dashboard

Zimbabwe Peace Project

Report time frame: April, 2020

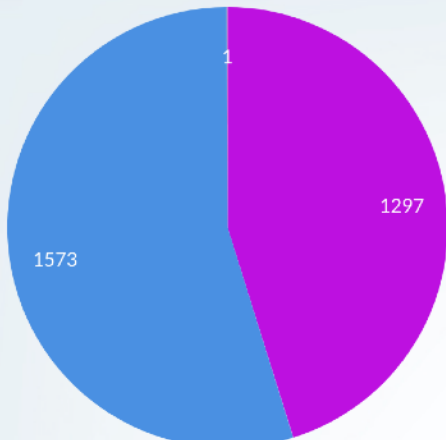


REPORT HUMAN RIGHTS VIOLATIONS TO +263 77 488 3406 +263 77 488 3417



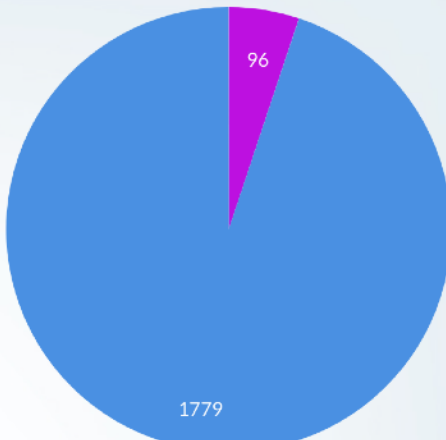
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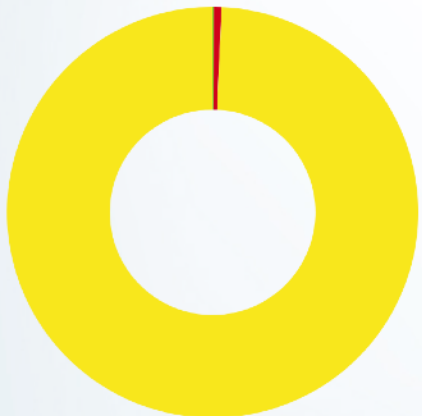
Female (45.18%) Male (54.79%) Male PWD (0.03%)

Gender of April Victims



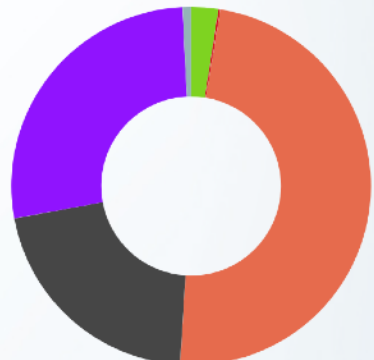
Female (5.12%) Male (94.88%)

Gender of April Perpetrators



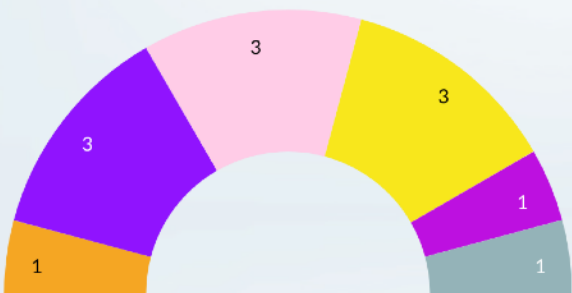
Zanu PF (0.1%) MDC (0.59%) Unknown (99.3%)

April Victims Affiliations



Zanu PF (2.45%) MDC (0.16%) ZRP (48.37%) Municipal Police (21.12%) ZNA (27.15%) Unknown (0.75%)

April Perpetrators Affiliations



Harare (8.33%) Manicaland (25%) Mash East (25%) Masvingo (25%) Mat North (8.33%) Midlands (8.33%)

April Food & Other Aid Violations





## 2.0 OVERALL ANALYSIS

It was clear from the beginning of the lockdown on March 30 that government had made the announcement to lock down the country without any plan on how to deal with the social impact on citizens, and with over 85 percent of Zimbabweans in the informal sector, the levels of social vulnerability were to go up.

This is also because the country's economy was already struggling, with inflation hovering above 700 percent and over eight million people in dire need of food aid.

COVID19, and the lockdown, therefore presented a huge challenge to government, and was also an opportunity for the same government to prove its ability to provide social protection and other rights as enshrined in Chapter 4 of the Constitution.

The month of April, was as a result, a key month in the human rights record of Zimbabwe, as for the first time, socio-economic rights were under scrutiny more than ever before.

During the beginning of the lockdown, government's lack of preparedness was exposed when none of the hospitals countrywide had the capacity to deal with COVID19 patients.

**Years of neglect have left health institutions derelict and collapsed, and with healthcare workers earning a pittance, and suffering from low morale, the risk was at its highest as COVID19 cases began to rise across the world.**

Wilkins Hospital in Harare, which had closed for renovations during the last week of March with funding from the Chinese government, reopened on 8 April with a reported capacity to handle 60 patients at a time.

The hospital's derelict nature had been exposed after Zororo Makamba was admitted there and succumbed to COVID19.

However, even with a capacity to handle 60 patients, Wilkins was, at the time, the only institution capable of handling COVID19 patients countrywide.

As noted in Bulawayo, citizens in the region complained that the state had side-lined the region by failing to equip any local hospital with necessary knowledge and equipment ahead of the COVID 19 pandemic.

Minister July Moyo did not make the situation any better when he suggested that any COVID 19 patients would have to be taken to Harare.

The affirmations of such later forced the government to help equip Ekusileni Hospital and set Thorn grove Clinic as an isolation centre.

The two hospitals are reported to be functioning after stakeholders, mainly private players stepped in to fill the void left by government's slow reaction to the issue.

# 96.6%

Perpetrators are  
Police  
Army  
Municipal Police

So, it is on this basis of government's inability to provide adequate healthcare, and the social vulnerability brought about by the lockdown, as well as the shortages of mealie meal that the human rights agenda of the month of April is formed.

Central to this is the State's reactive methods in dealing with the COVID19 crisis, the shortages, and the apparent heavy-handedness of the security forces deployed to deal with the lockdown, and the resurgence of food and other aid discrimination.

The State's aggressive and indiscriminate response to citizens attempting to access scarce basic commodities, mainly mealie-meal and water can help explain why the political affiliation of 99.3 percent of the victims of harassment and assault is neither Zanu PF, MDC or any political party.

It also explains the random and the trigger-happy nature of the state security agents, as they, without any consideration for human decency and dignity, beat up and harassed people in the name of enforcing the lockdown.

This is further substantiated by the fact that of all the perpetrators, 96.64 percent are the combination of the Zimbabwe Republic Police, the Municipal Police, and the Zimbabwe National Army, and these are the institutions that have been on the frontline of enforcing the lockdown.

More evidence of the State security's capacity to violate human rights is elaborated in the nature of violations, as harassment/ intimidation and assault top the list at 130 and 86 respectively.

It took a High Court order issued on 14 April to remind the police and the army that their mandate was not to beat up citizens.

Following an application by Lucia Masvondo of Karoi, represented by the Zimbabwe Lawyers for Human Rights (ZLHR), the High Court barred the police from beating up people and subjecting them to inhumane treatment when enforcing lockdown measures.

The order came at a time when there was an upsurge in reports of military and police brutality against civilians accused of ignoring the stay-at-home order across the country.

Masvondo had been assaulted by security forces and bitten by dogs as she cooked on an open fire outside her house in the evening.

These cases were widespread, and even though armed with the High Court order, citizens

continued to be harassed, intimidated and assaulted by State Security forces.

One example is in Mutoko, where police and army officers assaulted and intimidated villagers whom they accused of failing to adhere to the national lockdown regulations.

Villagers were treated in inhuman and degrading manner as they were forced to roll or chant revolutionary songs when they were found at shopping centres.

In another case that was reported in Marondera, residents who were caught at shopping centres were told to slap each other.

Subjecting citizens to such degrading treatment is not consistent with state security agents' mandate to conduct themselves in a professional manner in accordance with the Constitution.

## 2.1 AID POLITICISATION & POLICY DISCORD

In addition to being subjected to harassment, citizens who found themselves socially vulnerable and unable to feed themselves or their families, faced discrimination from getting any form of aid.

In Manicaland Province Zanu PF members, seized the opportunity to punish those perceived and known to be opposition supporters through politicisation of government food programmes.

These incidences were recorded in Mutare Central and Dangamvura/Chikanga constituencies.

During the first week of the lockdown, government announced it would disburse ZWL600 million to a million vulnerable households and the money (about ZWL200 per family) was to be disbursed through the Department of Social Welfare, which was to assess vulnerability and compile a list of deserving families.

However, Finance Minister Mthuli Ncube turned around and announced that that he had used a 'sophisticated algorithm system' to determine who should benefit from the funds.

Mthuli's algorithms statements effectively trashed statements by Public Service, Labour and Social Welfare deputy minister Lovemore Matuke, who in an interview with a local daily on April 15, said disbursements would be done under his ministry.

Matuke claimed that 800 000 beneficiaries who will get support "were identified through the Econet platform", while only 200 000 were identified by the Ministry of Social Welfare.

These discrepancies seemed to confirm the confusion that surrounded the disbursements and cast doubts on whether the money was there in the first place.

A small survey by the ZPP confirmed that a couple of individuals had received varied amounts of money. In Matabeleland, some people received ZWL180.00 via Ecocash mobile money platform.

Some were not happy at how the ruling party was interfering with the process and in Beitbridge he local MP announced that more Zanu PF supporters were supposed to receive the disbursements.

Despite the reports of corruption and discord in the disbursement of the funds, the fact still remains that ZWL180.00, which is equivalent to about US\$5.00, is not enough to support a household for even a day.

The money is just enough to buy six loaves of bread, or a kilogramme of meat

Once again, government failed on transparency and accountability.



Forwarded  
You have received \$180.00 from MINISTRY OF LABOUR AND SOCIAL WELFARE HARARE. [REDACTED] 020-04-18 12:10 12:19

**ZWL180.00  
CAN BUY SIX  
LOAVES OF BREAD**



## 3.0.CASE FILES

- **Mudzi North, Mashonaland East:** A little compassion and a human face would have not resulted in a death. In a sad incident an eight year boy collapsed after he was reportedly intimidated by some army officers who were providing security during the First Lady's visit in Mudzi North. The young boy collapsed and was pronounced dead on admission at Kotwa Hospital.

- **Mutasa South, Manicaland:** On 21 April, it was reported that the Mutasa South legislator was arrested for distributing mealie. Regai Tsunga the Member of Parliament for Mutasa South Constituency and member of MDC Alliance was arrested by the police in Palmerston low density suburb ward 11 Mutare Central. This was against the background of extreme stress and hunger during the coronavirus lockdown which had led to starvation as many people were failing to make ends meet. The legislator was then charged for contravening Statutory Instrument 83/2020 in a suspected political motivated arrest as other legislators had been doing similar programmes in their areas and were not arrested.

- **Nyameni Ward 8, Marondera, Mashonaland East:** On 13 April during the lockdown, it was reported that, an MDC Ward Councillor was assaulted by a police officer in Marondera in Nyameni. It is alleged that, Councillor Dzvuke (41) sustained injuries after he was assaulted as he was distributing sanitizers at a borehole. It was recorded that the Ward Councillor was explaining to the army of his duties as a Ward Councillor when a police officer assaulted him. The police said to Dzvuke, "vanhu veMDC magara munonetsa" translated to "MDC members are problematic"). It took army personnel to intervene and stop the police officer from assaulting Dzvuke. He sustained bruises during the assault.

- **Kuwadzana Paddocks Ward 9 and 10: Harare:** Zanu PF political commissar Mr. Guta of Kuwadzana constituency went around Kuwadzana paddocks telling perceived Zanu PF supporters to register their names with ruling party chairperson Mr. Mukazika to get government food assistance under the COVID19 State fund. On 1 April 2020, Guta toured ward 9 and 10 encouraging devoted ruling party members to check if their names still existed under the party's cell structures at branch level. Most residents who do not participate in ruling party programs were not included in the process.

## VOICES ON COVID19

During the entire month of April, the country was under lockdown, and communities went through uniquely peculiar experiences. ZPP was in constant touch with the communities throughout the month to understand true, lived experiences. This is because it is from such experiences that comes out the reality of the situation, far from the offices. Here is some of the feedback that came from the communities. Here, they express their fears, expectations and experiences.

### GOD FOR US ALL

Mwari ndiye muridzi wevanhu hakusi kungwara kwedu ngatiisei zvese kumusiki vakashaya neCovid 19 havaida; Charles paGokwe Centre.

*TRANSLATION: Everyone belongs to God. No-one is too clever, so let us leave everything to God and pay tribute to those who died of COVID19 - Charles from Gokwe Centre*

### LET'S BE PATIENT

Mugwele gopaladza mizi nebunji banu bedzimu ayibekeleni tigadzane zwibanana kopinda ...ndiba Talent kaByo KuMganwini Island makhelwane wonkulu uwo Mamlilo.

*TRANSLATION: This disease is killing people, people should be patient and stay in their houses. From Mai Take kuBulawayo pa Island in Emganwini*

### WE'RE HUNGRY

Thina indlala sikhona lapha ekhaya sekunzima besiphila ngokuthengisa njengoba sihlala sisezindlini imali ayisekho lamasela ayasihlupha kakhulu. ngu Alice eCowdry Park

*TRANSLATION: We are now suffering from hunger here. We were surviving on selling wares (vending), but now that we are bound to our homes there is no more money ... Alice from Cowdry Park (Bulawayo)*

### DIFFICULT TIMES

Mina nginguna Manu eGwabalanda ,mmmmh ngalumkhuhlane usifake ebunzimeni shuwa mina ngiyathengisa eflaemarket ,kodwa sokuyikuwa lokhu ,imali iyaphela siyidla everyday impilo yethu isiguqukile besijayele ukuzisebenzela thina manje sitshona sihlezi and izinto sezidula over.

*TRANSLATION: From Manu in Gwabalanda . This disease has brought great difficulties. I sell goods at a flea market, but that is now being destroyed because we are now spending the money daily. This has changed our lives, we were used to working for ourselves, but now spend the day sitting and goods are now so very expensive.*

### COVID19 NOT A JOKE

Imi ndili imi Annacletar Ngwenya ndiliku Mganwini ndobona kungati bugwele gogu akutozana gwawobulaya sibili, kati ngono tikazama tebedzela zwatinobudziwa nebezwiwedlela kan'ompela nahulumente tingakunda. Ngobe kana imi ndobvuma abatoleba beligele koga banozama nezila dzose kuti bangagulapa tjini. Ngono tikadelela topalala.

*TRANSLATION: My name is Annacleta Ngwenya, am in eMganwini. This disease is not a joke, it kills, but if we follow what health experts and the government tell us it can spare us. They know, they are learned and they research on how this disease can be cured. If we don't listen we will perish*

### GIVE FOOD TO THE PEOPLE

Ndinonzi Phillemon Magabaza. Lockdown ikapera vanhu ngatishande, asi tombomira kushanyirana kana kufamba town to town. No buses. No private-cars. Asi chikafu nezvimwe ngazviende kuvanhu.

*TRANSLATION: My name is Philemon Magabaza. When the lockdown ends, we should work hard but for now let us not visit each other or travel from one town to another. No buses. No private cars. But food must get to the people)*

### IMPROVE TESTING

Government should send Medical Practitioners to borders to Test COVID19 on both immigrants & emigrants and those with COVID19 should be denied entry and government should not continue extending the Lockdown further because in Zimbabwe we are living on hand to mouth. Anon

### PEOPLE ADHERING

Charles Natsakulaya kuno kuMbire District ndiripa Chidodo Border, vanhu vakutambira kugarden panzvimbo yekuswera kudoro.

*TRANSLATION: Charles Natsakulaya from Mbire District at Chidodo Border Post. Here, people are spending time in the garden and not chasing after beer)*





## 4.0 Conclusion and Recommendations

In light of the human rights violations that have resulted from the lockdown during the month of April, ZPP recommends the following:

- State Security forces should conduct themselves in a professional manner and discharge their mandate in accordance with the Constitution and abide by the High Court order.
- Government should provide adequate social protection to all vulnerable citizens and this should be done within the principles of transparency and accountability so that all deserving citizens get what is due to them.
- Government and local authorities should provide service in the form of clean and potable water to all communities.
- Government should do more to inform all citizens of all the developments in its quest to combat COVID19. It is only through adequate information and awareness raising that communities can be part of the fight against COVID19
- Government should establish more testing and containment centres for COVID19. This will eliminate unnecessary deaths and transmissions as people have to travel to major cities where there are COVID19 health centres.

### ABOUT THE ZIMBABWE PEACE PROJECT

*The organisation was founded in 2000 by church-based and human rights organisations.*

*The current members of ZPP are Evangelical Fellowship of Zimbabwe (EFZ), Zimbabwe Council of Churches (ZCC), Catholic Commission for Justice and Peace in Zimbabwe (CCJPZ), Counselling Services Unit (CSU), Zimbabwe Human Rights Association (ZimRights), Civic Education Network Trust (CIVNET), Women's Coalition of Zimbabwe (WCoZ), National Association for the Care of the Handicapped (NASCOH) and Women and Law in Southern Africa (WLSA).*

*ZPP was established with the objective of monitoring, documenting and building peace and promoting the peaceful resolution of disputes and conflicts. The Zimbabwe Peace Project seeks to foster dialogue and political tolerance through non-partisan peace monitoring activities, mainly through monitors who document the violations of rights in the provinces.*