



**ZIMBABWE
PEACE
PROJECT**



MONTHLY MONITORING REPORT

JUNE 2019

HUMAN RIGHTS VIOLATIONS



As Fear Reigns

June has been a rather bleak month with many Zimbabweans even deeper in the quagmire of despair. The multi-currency regime was banned after ten years while the Zimbabwe dollar was reintroduced through a Statutory Instrument 142 of 2019 under the Reserve Bank of Zimbabwe (Legal Tender) Regulations 2019 on Monday the 24th of June.

The re-introduction of the Zimbabwean currency was needed in the general sense. However, what is mostly causing distress and panic among the citizenry is the fear that the currency re-introduction will lead to the 'looting' of peoples' foreign currency, as was the case when the bond note was introduced three years ago. It is also quite disconcerting that citizens just wake up to life changing news without notice, particularly having been psyched to the possibility of a new national currency by year end, according to the President's announcement. This had been buttressed by the Finance Minister saying it would take at least nine months.

Much has been said about the Zimbabwean dollar return as intended to stabilise the economy and ensure that ordinary folk are cushioned from spiralling price controls. However, what is apparent is that Zimbabweans have lost trust in the country's financial system and have no confidence in the local currency.

Indications in the month of June are that there is a marked increase in abductions and intimidation allegedly perpetrated by state security agents; a surge of 74, 4% cases from the month of May to June. Opposition Movement for Democratic Change (MDC) activists, labour union representatives from Amalgamated Rural Teachers Union of Zimbabwe (ARTUZ) and anyone suspected of planning protests against the worsening economic conditions that the country is facing have all been targeted. ARTUZ President Obert Masaraure was abducted from his home and tortured on the 6th of June by suspected State agents. The assailants, armed with rifles, broke into Masaraure's home at midnight, confiscated his wife's phone and force marched him to the bushes where he was beaten and interrogated. The perpetrators accused Masaraure of encouraging teachers to revolt against government.

Cases recorded during the month show that President Mnangagwa's government is getting increasingly intolerant of dissent. This could explain the 30% increase in violations from the Month of May to June from 157 to 204. Mashonaland Central proved to be the hotspot of intimidation and harassment violations accounting for 40% of cases followed by Harare at 14,





9% and Mashonaland East at 12,4% . Discrimination most likely around food and other aid distribution also keeps increasing; from 27 cases in May to 33 in the month of June. The increase could be as a result of the worsening economic situation that has led to an increase in the number of vulnerable families. Food aid meant for such families is unfortunately manipulated at distribution points.

Highlights

Food Aid distribution discrimination is still ongoing, and there seems to be no let-up in ensuring that food is not distributed in a partisan manner. As ZPP has consistently highlighted, food aid is used as a weapon to coerce people into supporting the ruling party and punishing those who side with the opposition.

This was starkly evidenced by an incident reported on 24 June in Hurungwe West, Mashuma Business Centre Ward 17, where Zanu PF provincial member for Hurungwe West Member Mutinha intimidated and threatened villagers who were not attending Zanu PF meetings. Mutinha allegedly forced villagers to convene at Mashuma Business Centre and threatened those suspected of absconding meetings by stating '*Hakuna dhongi richayamwa pamombe gore rino, uye masabhuku mose muri pano hakuna anofanira kupa machinja chikafu che welfare kana chauya nokuti tichatorera anenge apiwa asiri weZanu*'. (A donkey will not feed from a cow this year, all traditional leaders here present must not give any Social Welfare food to MDC supporters and we will take any food aid back from those who are not Zanu PF supporters.)

Such reports are a clear indication that the situation obtaining on the ground is contrary to the Minister of Public Service Labour and Social Welfare Sekesai Nzenza's denial in parliament that there was such practice.

(Find attached with the MMR, a fact sheet on food aid discrimination)

Vulture Tendencies by Traditional leaders have further hardened the situation for villagers in some parts of the country. In Gokwe-Chireya Ward 5 village heads compelled villagers to share the United States Dollars (USD) they were given by World Food Programme (WFP) on the 23rd of June. WFP disbursed cash to selected households headed by orphans and the elderly for their upkeep. Village heads told those beneficiaries to bring the money to them so that it would be shared with others who are not on the WFP beneficiaries' lists. Three





villagers were subsequently disowned by their village heads, their names erased from village books and banished from the village when they refused to hand over their money.

In Mudzi South traditional leaders are forcing villagers to contribute to their upkeep while those who refuse are labelled opposition supporters. Fonias Chingwena from Tizora village Ward 2 is reportedly intimidating villagers into submitting money and food stuffs meant to assist Chief Goronga.

Threats of civil unrest are looming ever largely in the country. On the 12th of June MDC Youth Assembly through its President Obey Sithole issued a stern threat that their party has resolved to take a confrontational approach in protesting the worsening economic situation in the country. These sentiments echo those of the party's president; Nelson Chamisa who had expressed that they will be rolling out mass protests against the government. The statement was then followed by that of the Zanu PF Youth League who said that they would crush any petitioning and demonstrations against government.

These statements of the youths are creating a fertile ground for possible confrontation. This is already apparent in a number of violation reports showing that ruling party leaders are blatantly threatening people whom they perceive are protesting against government. On 23 June during a Zanu PF feedback meeting at St Hughes Business Centre in Gokwe Kana Ward 1, District Secretary Nobert Simutwe indicated the party's top leadership had given a green light to crush opposition supporters sabotaging government efforts.

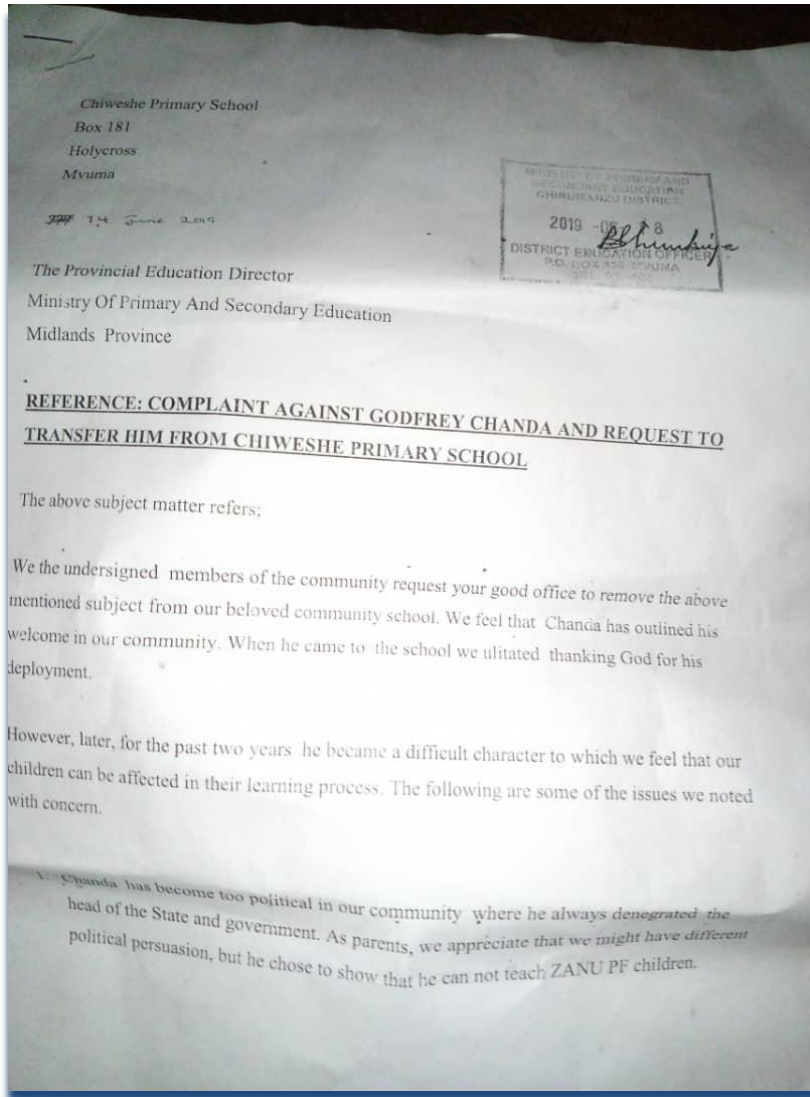
Abductions and Intimidation violations are on the increase. It is sad to note that the Mnangagwa administration has resorted to the same tricks of ruling through harvesting of fear the same way former President Robert Mugabe's government did to ensure consent and stamp dissent from its citizens. ARTUZ representatives in Harare (Obert Masaraure), Gweru (Godfrey Chanda) and Masvingo (Lawrence Mapengo) have been victimised by state security agents for advocating for a strike protesting poor salaries for teachers. The union representatives are accused of being a destabilising force against the government.

This victimisation has degenerated to such a state that Chanda is being hounded out of his job by the community together with headmaster Wapwanyika Blazio Mawire of Chiweshe Primary School where he teaches. Chanda received a signed and stamped letter addressed to the Provincial Education Director on the 14th of June appealing for the removal of the teacher





from the school. The letter listed 9 different reasons why he must be removed, “Chanda has recently been too political.....has shown that he cannot teach Zanu PF children”. (See letter below):



ZPP further noted that intimidation is also targeted at opposition political party members or anyone who dares to criticise the current state of economic instability and difficulty. On 4 June in Gutu North Wards 8, 12 33, 34, and 37 it was reported that unidentified members of the Central Investigation Department and the army went into suspected MDC supporters’ houses and harassed them at night in connection with planned MDC demonstrations to protest against the country’s deteriorating economic conditions.





In Mazowe Central at Tsungubvi old clinic in Glendale Ward 17 Zanu PF chairperson Jonathan Kudangirwa, Cain Mota and other party activists reportedly convened a residents meeting on the 7th of June, threatening to deal with petitioners. Kudangirwa and his colleagues warned residents not to participate in mass demonstrations. They alleged that the ruling party had acquired enough ammunition to deal with petitioners. They were quoted that *pfuti tinadzo dzokupfura ma penzi* (We have enough guns to shoot fools). They also warned that those who will participate in demonstrations will live to regret it.

Looming Conflict is highly likely as indicated by recorded incidences of intra-party violence in the ruling party. So serious are these conflicts that they often degenerate into violent confrontations. On the 21st of June in Mutoko South at Kushinga Shopping Centre Ward 26, Zanu PF supporters were engaged in a violent tussle which led to some members suffering serious injuries. Mutoko South Provincial Coordinator Mrs Unnah Munganjo and four other party members were assaulted by Zanu PF supporters who accused them of supporting the local Member of Parliament Honourable Herbet Shumbamhini. The Legislator was accused of corruption and abuse of public office and Munganjo and other victimised members were accused of failing to attend to the matter which resulted in their assault.

Also noteworthy are accusations levelled against high profile individuals in the ruling party as well as government by Zanu PF Youth League President Lewis Mathuthu. Mathuthu singled out former First Lady Grace Mugabe and gave her a two-week ultimatum to keep one farm and surrender 15 others she allegedly owns. President Mnangagwa revealed during a live radio interview on Capitalk FM on the 14th of June that the ongoing land audit revealed that the former First Lady owned 16 farms. Mathuthu threatened to have the youths invade the farms and have them divided into 10 hectares for youths if the former First Lady does not respond timeously to the ultimatum.

The Economic Turmoil the country is facing has not done much to ease the sense of impending doom that is stalking citizens. Various sector labour unions representatives such as university lecturers, bankers, health sector, and teachers threatened industrial action stating that they are no longer capacitated to go to work and effectively perform their duties. Meanwhile, service providers' demand for USD for payments while the RTGS currency was losing value on a daily basis led to the daily escalation of prices. In response to these





challenges, government banned the multi-currency regime and reintroduced the Zimbabwe dollar.

The re-introduction of the Zimbabwe dollar was a surprise move by the Reserve Bank of Zimbabwe (RBZ) which, sadly, was declared without proper consultations and follow through on possible implications of the multi-currency ban. As expected, this vacuum in information led to suppositions, speculation and as a result people started panic buying, prices for goods have further shot up while depositors rushed to the banks to withdraw foreign currency from their Nostro Accounts. One example of escalated prices is that of Physicians who publicised that they are charging \$1800 for consultation, an amount that is at least threefold an ordinary teacher's monthly salary.

Currently shops are emptying at an alarming rate. Government has been heavy handed in pursuing and arresting 'illegal' foreign currency dealers roaming most streets while threatening service providers and traders charging in foreign currency with undisclosed sanctions. Price controls have already been mooted, and what quickly comes to mind is the resultant hyperinflation and shortages experienced in 2008. It waits to be seen what other developments will unfold due to the introduction of the Statutory Instrument 142 of 2019.

An impending health disaster is one of the many areas where the economic challenges that the country is facing is particularly felt. In previous health hot spots of Glen View in Harare, ZPP noted that service delivery is further worsening and there is a likelihood of the recurrence of Typhoid and Cholera outbreaks. Raw sewages have been flowing unattended for weeks in Glenview South Ward 32 despite residents making numerous reports at various council offices. ZPP has a documented case of a 12-year-old victim who has since abandoned school because of vomiting and diarrhoea and is failing to get treatment from the local clinic that does not have the requisite medication.

In Seke villagers are failing to access clean water as local authorities are failing to service boreholes. The few working boreholes are contaminated with iron oxide thus villagers have resorted to walking long distances in search for water. Health institutions in the locality, like Nyembanzvere clinic, and other local institutions are running dry-further increasing the risk of uncontained disease outbreaks.





On 17 June in Bikita East Ward 21, Police officers at Chikuku Police Station refused to help robbery victims citing that they did not have guns and ammunition to fight robbers. Six men armed with machetes, steel bars and knives attacked and severely assaulted a couple from the area robbing them of RTGS \$180. The victims' son drove to Chikuku police station to make a report but police officers refused to move, stating that they had neither guns nor ammunition to fight robbers. They also refused to provide a police report so that the victims could access medical assistance from the hospital.



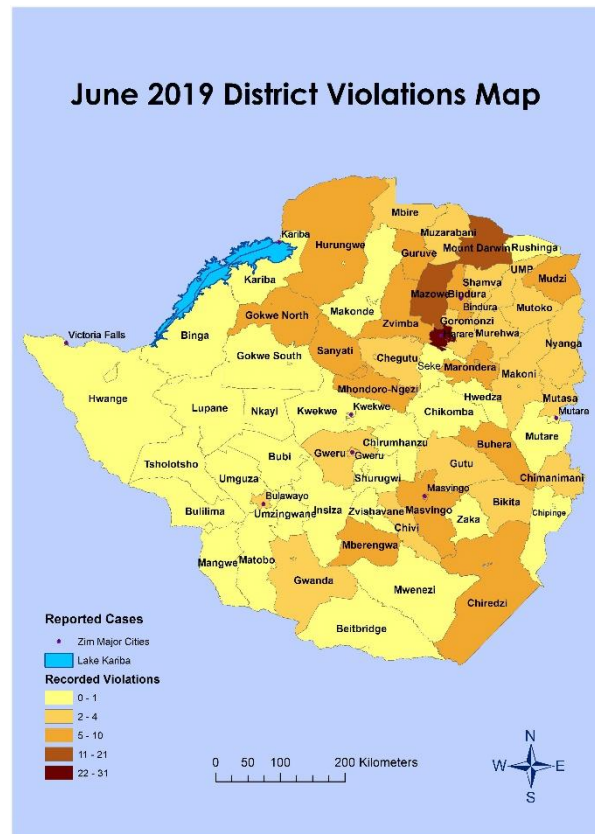
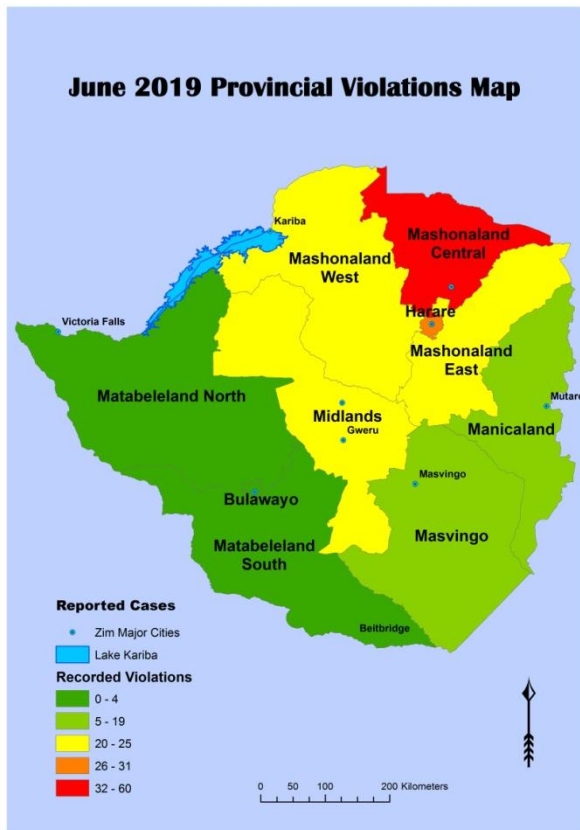


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Dashboard of Statistics



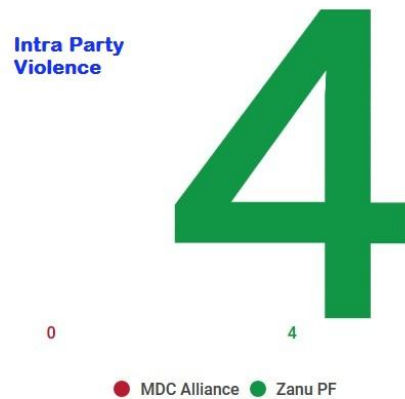
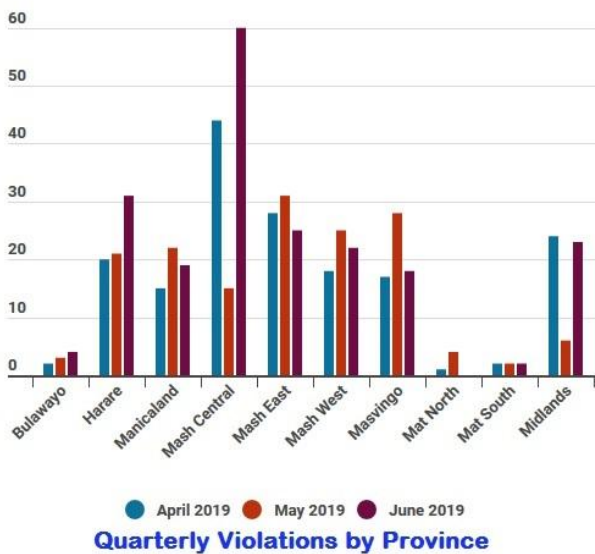
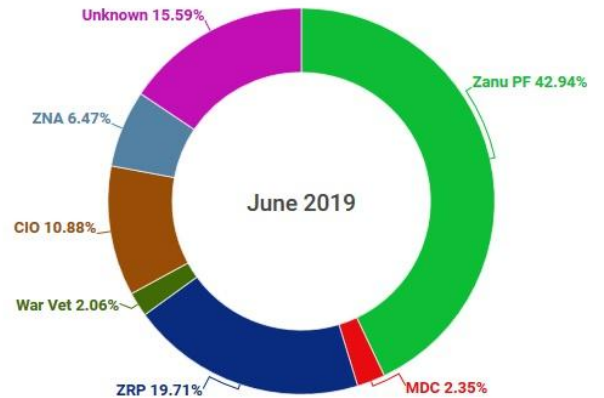
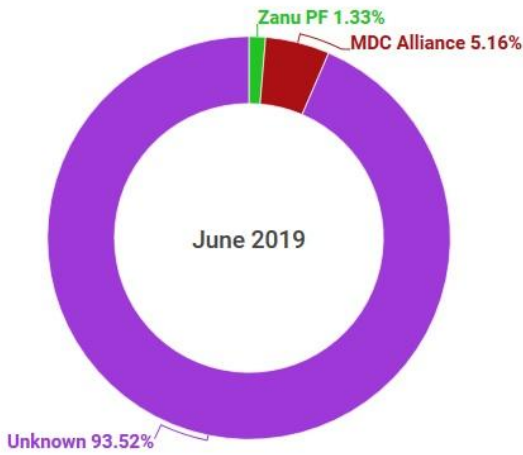
Distribution of violence by type across provinces

ACTS	Midlands	Byo	Mat. South	Mat. North	Masvingo	Manicaland	Harare	Mash. East	Mash. West	Mash. Central	TOTAL
Rape/Sexual Harassment	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	1
Kidnapping/abduction	1	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	0	0	3
Assault	1	0	0	0	2	2	2	1	1	4	13
Theft/looting	4	1	0	0	0	2	1	4	0	4	16
Discrimination	3	1	0	0	2	4	3	3	3	14	33
MDP	0	0	0	0	0	0	4	1	1	1	7
Unlawful Detention	1	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	2	0	4
Intimidation /harassment	11	2	2	0	12	10	18	15	14	37	121
Displacement	1	0	0	0	1	0	1	0	1	0	4
Attempted Abduction	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
Disrupted Political Mtg	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	1
Total	23	4	2	0	18	19	31	25	22	60	204



Food and Other Aid Violations







Analysis

ZPP notes with increased concern how Zimbabwe is slowly sinking into another era of despair and despondency. The economic situation is getting desperate as prices escalate while rolling power cuts and water shortages have worsened the living conditions of many.

The recent re-introduction of the Zimbabwe dollar brings about a curious dynamic as explained by our resident economist, “The fundamentals are not yet ripe for the country to have its own currency due to persistent budget and trade deficits. The country is set for a return to hyperinflation and this would bring shortages of goods causing further harm to the population. The introduction of the Zimbabwe dollar will not help alleviate people’s financial challenges because as we speak service providers have hiked prices in multiples of what they perceive to be the currency depreciation while some suppliers of critical services are still demanding hard currency. A case in point is that of health care service providers who are demanding hard currency to access critical medical services. The heavy handedness on the part of the authorities through hounding alleged currency foreign dealers and anyone buying and selling goods and services in foreign currency is of particular concern.”

The recent threats peddled by Zanu PF and MDC youths is not what the country needs at the moment. All political parties should preach peace and most importantly practice it. Petitioning and peaceful demonstrations are clearly provided for in Section 59 of the Zimbabwe constitution; therefore any citizen of Zimbabwe has the right to express their displeasure which must never be perceived as a threat to the state. ZPP maintains that the most reasonable and obvious way to deal with people’s concerns is to address them.

This is particularly more urgent given the shambolic health and service delivery state whereby people cannot access the most basic of services. It is disconcerting that the re-occurrence of the Glen View health crisis is imminent given that the disease outbreak has occurred time and time again. This is further exacerbated by lack of access to medication from public health institutions. It is most tragic that our government sees it fit to spend huge amounts of money on armoury (as reported in the Zimbabwe Independent 7 June) yet public health institutions have effectively run out of medication. Policing has been affected as officers do not have ammunition to fight crime. In this instance, it is becoming apparent how misplaced government priorities are.





On 26 June the world commemorated the International Day in Support of Victims of Torture. This day is particularly painful for those who endured torture and abductions especially in 2008. Zimbabwe has a sad history of abductions and torture. To this day human rights activists such as Itai Dzamara and Paul Chizuze have never been heard from or seen again after they disappeared in 2015 and 2012 respectively. It is against this background that we note with extreme concern that Zimbabwe is slowly cascading back to the use of this inhumane and degrading treatment of citizens. A clear sign for commitment to a better environment is for government to become a signatory of the Convention Against Torture and other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment (UNCAT) which has been in effect since 1987.

ZPP noted with interest the recent ‘naming and shaming’ by Zanu PF youth league of high-ranking party officials whom they accused of corruption. Subsequently on the 26th of June the ruling party then established a Commission of Inquiry into allegations levelled against the named officials. These events are intriguing, to say the least, considering that government (and conversely ruling party members) have a poor history of decisively dealing with corruption. One may easily recall that in 2018 President Mnangagwa publicised a list of over 100 people accused of externalising foreign currency, yet to this day no single arrest has been made against any of the accused. ZPP will be monitoring this new development with keen interest as we believe this would be a litmus test on the Mnangagwa administration’s dealings with corruption-especially on one of their own.

Watchlist

The deteriorating economic situation in the country is most certainly an area of concern and may likely be a trigger for volatile reactions from citizens. Pupils from some schools in the capital have taken to the streets, protesting poor services in their respective schools which can easily be linked to the country’s deteriorating economy. Statutory Instrument 142 of 2019 has also brought about adverse changes which we will continue to monitor.

Abductions and intimidations that are growing at an alarming rate are also an issue that needs close monitoring. Zimbabwe’s history in this regard is rather poor and we are keen on ensuring that the situation does not degenerate to alarming levels such as experienced in 2008. Therefore, ZPP will be actively working with key stakeholders to ensure that these violations are timely reported and where possible, acted upon to preserve lives.





Threats of aggressively confronting the government (MDC Youth Assembly) together with those of retaliatory responses (Zanu PF) make for a tense and possibly a volatile confrontation between the ruling party and the opposition. Utterances that politicians make always tend to have an adverse effect on their supporters. Therefore, these threats and counter threats may breed a toxic ground for conflict therefore ZPP will closely follow unfolding events.

ZPP calls for:

- A speedy and genuine intervention by government to show that the Mnangagwa administration genuinely seeks to preserve peace in the country. Threats of violence by the ruling party and /or by the opposition should be sternly discouraged.
- Zimbabweans must enjoy their civil liberties. If they want to complain about the

current economic conditions (Freedom of Expression) or demonstrate (Freedom to Petition and demonstrate) they must freely do so as that is well within their rights. Ruling with fear should be history left in the Mugabe era and must not be allowed to ever fester in Zimbabwe.

- A genuine intervention in addressing economic challenges in the country. Living conditions of people continue to deteriorate at alarming levels and government must show its sincerity by addressing this speedily. Zimbabweans deserve better.

ABOUT ZPP

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), Zimbabwe Lawyers for Human Rights (ZLHR) and Women's Coalition of Zimbabwe (WCoZ).

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. The monitors, who at full complement stand at 420, constitute the core pool of volunteers, supported by four Regional Coordinators. The Regional Coordinators relate with the national office headed by the National Director and programme officers in various units.

If you are concerned about acts of violence in your community ZPP encourages you to get in touch on WhatsApp numbers: +263 774 883 406 and +263 774 883 417

