



**ZIMBABWE
PEACE
PROJECT**



MONTHLY MONITORING REPORT

**FEBRUARY 2019
HUMAN RIGHTS VIOLATIONS**



Of resurrections

Introduction

February, “the month of love” witnessed Zimbabwe endeavouring to recover from the January protests and state retaliation and crackdown on alleged protestors and human rights defenders.

ZPP documented 196 human rights violations for February 2019. This is a marked decrease from the January 2019 figure of 668. Approximately 62% of the recorded violations for February were of harassment, intimidation and threats. In the urban centres, police together with the army and municipal police continued their crackdown on illegal vending sites destroying stalls and structures while confiscating goods. In Harare, soldiers also assaulted civilians in a door-to-door operation in Dzivarasekwa around 11pm on 7 February for unclear reasons. Assaults constituted 10% of the violations recorded, discrimination 9%, theft/looting 6% and abduction 3%. Harare province continued with the highest violations for February with 46, followed by Mashonaland Central with 34, Midlands 31 and Mashonaland East with 23. In Harare assaults by military personnel were noted, comedians and human rights defenders were arrested, and legislators threatened each other in Parliament.

February highlights

- **Political Parties dialogue** hosted by President Emmerson Mnangagwa saw leaders of some political parties at State house in an effort to devise a framework for a national dialogue aimed at bringing an end to the socio-economic woes the country is facing. The meeting was attended by 21 out of 23 political parties invited; MDC Alliance President Advocate Nelson Chamisa and National People’s Party (NPP) President Joyce Mujuru did not attend. Chamisa cited the absence of an impartial third party mediator to facilitate the process and felt that President Mnangagwa could not be the convener among the major reasons for not attending. He questioned the neutrality of the venue considering that the engagement was at State house.

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.





- **National Dialogue Prayer Breakfast** hosted by the Zimbabwe Council of Churches (ZCC) saw a cross section of stakeholders participating in a national prayer breakfast meeting in Harare. Led by the Church the prayer meeting sought to bring together leaders of political parties, civil society organizations and various stakeholders in a bid to agree on a broad based approach in addressing current pressing socio-economic and political issues affecting the nation. Although this engagement was well attended by a wide range of stakeholders in government, President Emmerson Mnangagwa did not attend and his speech was read by Defense Minister Oppah Muchinguri Kashiri. Practices displayed by both political leaders indicate that they have not drawn common interests and remain positional and resolute in how the dialogue should happen.
- **Monetary Policy Statement introduction** of the RTGS method of payment as a currency was received with mixed emotions from the business and citizens front.
- **August House Altercations:** There was use of inflammatory language and violation to the right to human dignity following verbal altercations recorded in parliament between Norton Legislator Themba Mliswa and Chegutu West legislator Dexter Nduna. The two legislators clashed in parliament resulting in Nduna during his rant mentioning that he had a killed a number of people some of whom he did not even know. This happened after Mliswa accused Nduna the former chairperson of the parliamentary portfolio committee on Transport of embezzling \$11 million from the Zimbabwe National Roads Administration (ZINARA). In response to being described as a thief by Mliswa, Nduna issued threats of unspecified action and that he would deal with Mliswa outside parliament.
- **By-elections here and there:** Matabeleland rural constituencies conducted by-elections for Ward Councillors in Matobo and Beitbridge. In the two by-elections Zanu PF won. Although the elections were conducted peacefully there was low voter turn – out.
- In Binga a Chief is reported to have advised village heads to ban community meetings by those perceived to be MDC-Alliance supporters. The chief has also resumed food aid distribution on partisan grounds. In Masvingo Province, some villagers met, for a discussion on general issues affecting the community with the main focus on child rights. The revival of terror bases or torture bases has been ongoing in Mazowe Central. These bases are surveillance platforms which have been introduced to target government critics, opposition activists and civil servants identified speaking against





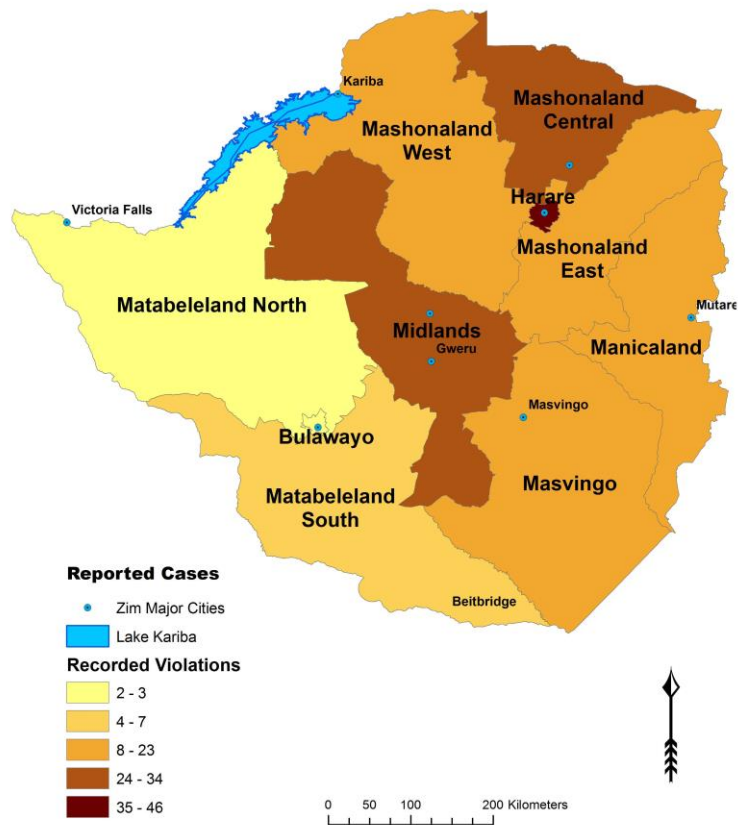
the ruling party. In a joint verification with the Zimbabwe Human Rights NGO forum in Mazowe Central Chiworo village, ZPP discovered a terror base at Nyachuru primary early childhood centre. In another collaboration ZPP conducted a joint verification with the Counselling Services Unit (CSU) in Mashonaland West in Makonde at Saint Rupert Mission Hospital to verify and respond to reported cases of sexual abuse (rape).

- Fuel queues have resurfaced in many cities and towns with commuter omnibus fares being hiked to either \$1.50 or \$2.00 a trip. The subsidized transport arrangement by the government through Zimbabwe United Public Commuter Organisation (ZUPCO) and other buses is slowly disappearing because of fuel shortages and other structural problems between the government and the operators.

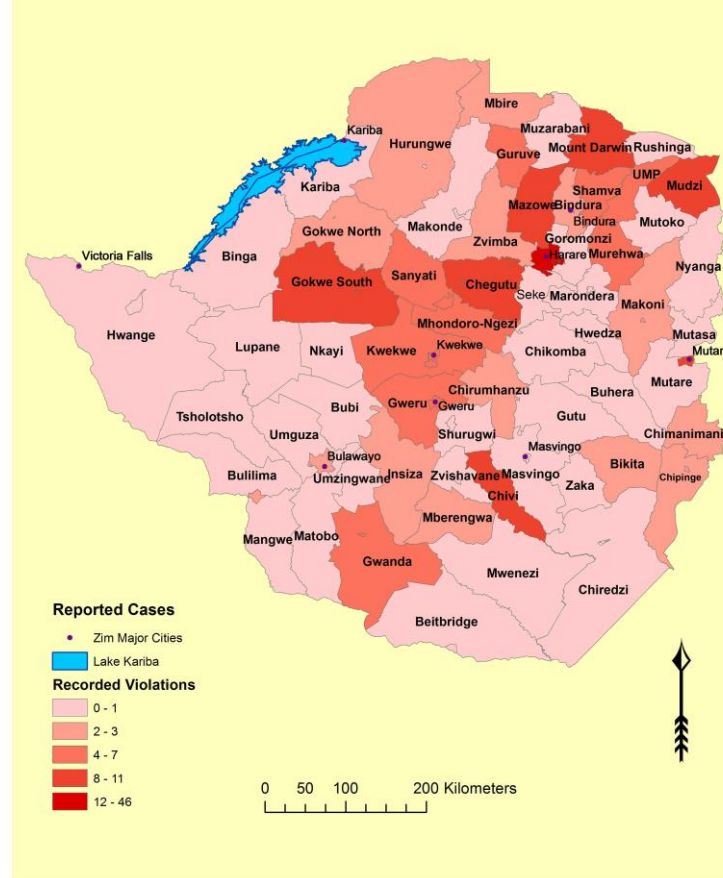


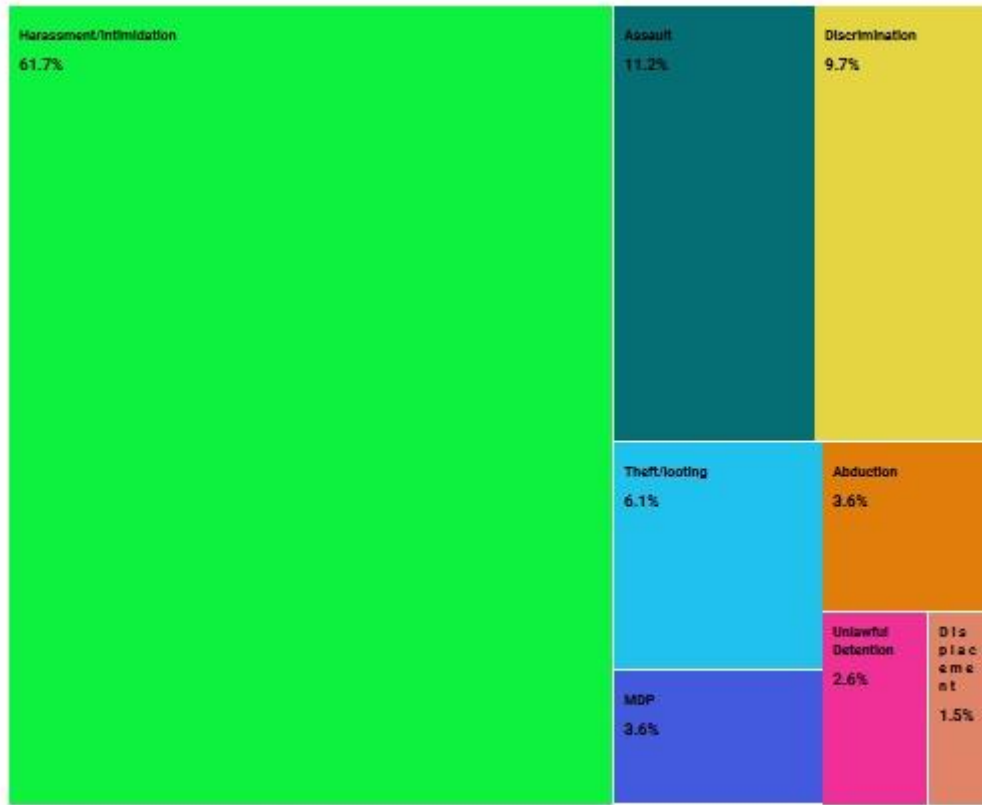
February Dashboard of Statistics

February 2019 Provincial Violations Map

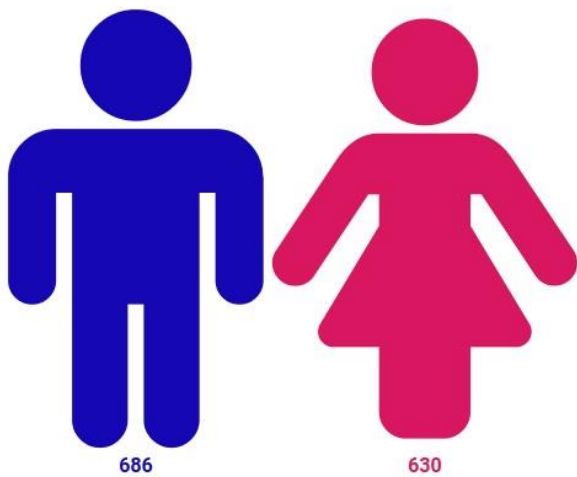


February 2019 District Violations Map



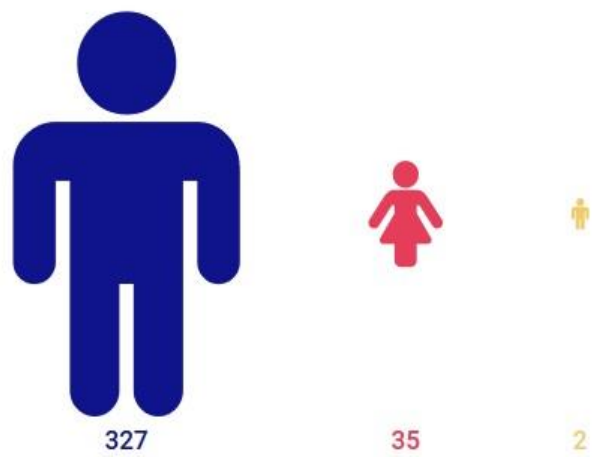


Map of February Violations



Victims by Gender

● Male ● Female



Perpetrators by Gender

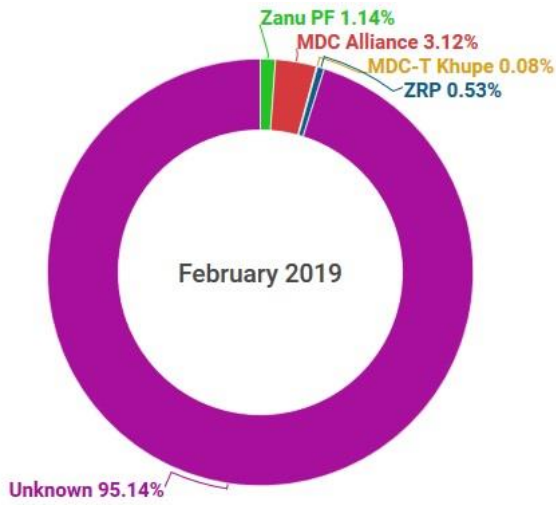
● Male ● Female ● Unknown



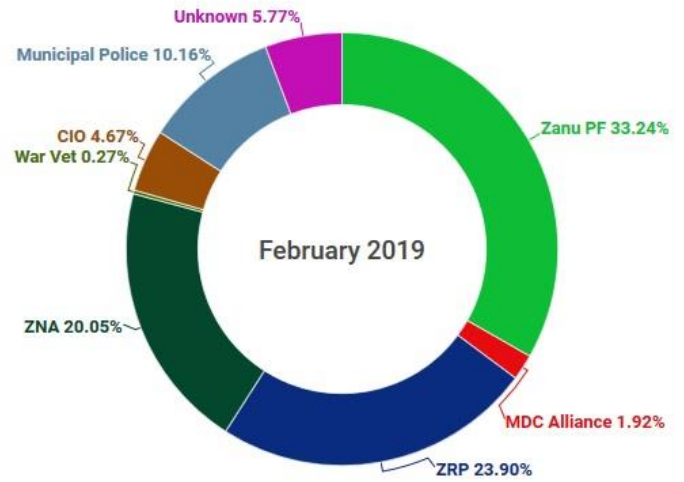


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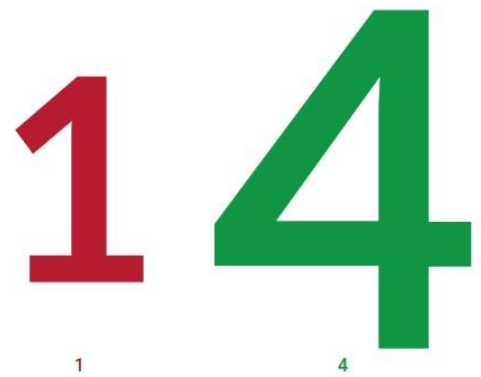
Victims by Affiliation



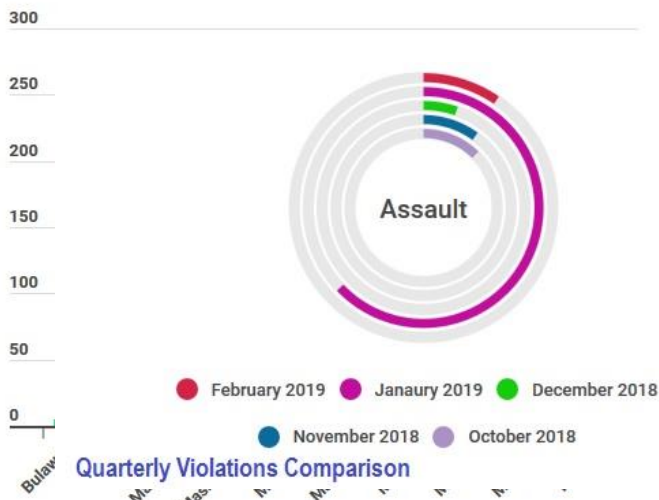
Perpetrators by Affiliation



Food & Other Aid Violations



Intra Party Violence



Quarterly Violations Comparison

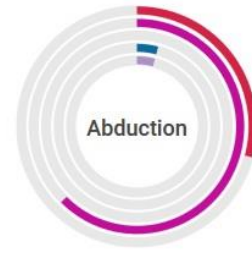
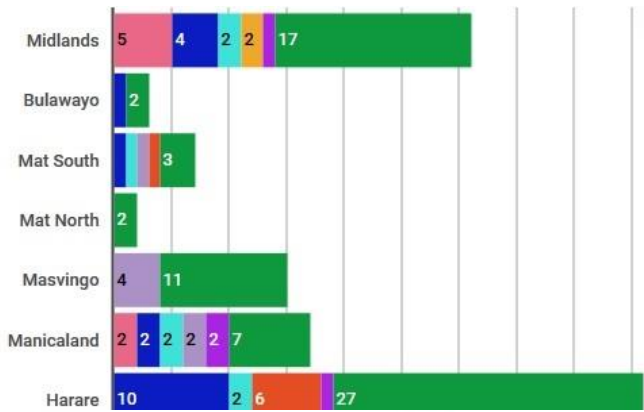
Provincial Quarterly Violations Review





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February 2019 HUMAN RIGHTS VIOLATIONS



February 2019 January 2019 December 2018
November 2018 October 2018

Quarterly Violations Comparison



Kidna February 2019 January 2019 December 2018
November 2018 October 2018

Quarterly Violations Comparison
Violation type by Province



February 2019 January 2019 December 2018
November 2018 October 2018

Quarterly Violations Comparison





Analysis

In the month of February ZPP recorded fewer violations and these were attributed to the sudden lull in military led retribution which saw many citizens assaulted, harassed and at worst psychologically traumatized, leaving indelible scars of fear. Zanu PF activists whose names have been withheld also carried out the military led retribution with the aim of disciplining protestors alleged to be a progeny of MDC Alliance members. This follows the utterances of the President at rallies to conduct witch hunts and crackdowns on CSOs and activists. A number of members in the opposition MDC Alliance were still in hiding, fearing attacks and charges that maybe laid on them. Following the utterances of the President, Non-governmental organizations have been forced by circumstances to cancel some of their programming, as a result; the operating space has become volatile and unsafe for most programming. The MDC Alliance party is set to hold its congress in May 2019, with a view of resolving internal legitimacy as there has been a lot of talk about the constitutionality of Nelson Chamisa's leadership of the party. Factionalism has reared its ugly head especially in Bulawayo province where members are either demonstrating their support of either Chamisa or Douglas Mwonzora. The latter has been accused of being used by Zanu PF against Chamisa. Such, traits of factionalism were witnessed in the upcoming by election in ward 28 where there were 2 candidates positioned for the same council seat, the by-election is set for the end of March 2019. Pressure groups like Mthwakazi continue to lobby and challenge the Independent Commissions to act on human rights violations accusing them of failure to bring to book culprits of these violations.





Media watch love-hate relationship of Government and CSOs

Pre-election 2018

6th February 2018 when President Mnangagwa met with the British Prime Minister for Africa, Harriet Baldwin on her first official visit to Africa- he said, ' I also want to thank the UK for its 5 million investment today in Zimbabwe's Civil Society Organisations. These NGOs play a vital role in strengthening our people's ability to participate in democracy. They promote dialogue, tolerance and respect-all vital ingredients to a free society.



Post- election 2018-19

12 December 2018 –Mnangagwa threatens to de-register NGOs dabbling in politics.
26 December 2018- NGO's plot to force GNU exposed
12 February 2019- Mnangagwa whips NGOs into line
18 February 2019- We have evidence that NGOS funded protests.

ZPP calls for the following:

- An immediate end to the use of excessive force by the security agents in crowd control. More humane and dignified mechanisms should be the standard as opposed to the use of live ammunition. Soldiers, whose mandate is clearly defined by the Constitution and other enabling Legislation, should be withdrawn from the public and return to the barracks.
- All stakeholders to the crisis facing the country should immediately engage in dialogue with the hope of ending the economic crisis and provide solutions to give relief to the suffering citizens.
- Civil liberties and rights as enshrined in the Constitution, including the rights to assembly, demonstration and petition and association, should be respected.





- Citizens are implored to always exercise restraint and use peaceful means whenever they are protesting. They should also realise that their rights should not be enjoyed to the detriment of others.

ZPP is concerned about the continued blame game targeting Civic Society Organisations that have been described as regime change agents by the government, in the aftermath of the violent protests as this tarnishes the role and efforts made by CSOs in supporting engagements towards building lasting peace in Zimbabwe.

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 and Toll free number 080 80199

