



MONTHLY
M**NITORING**
REPORT

OCTOBER 2019



ZIMBABWE
PEACE
PROJECT

Who will protect citizens from their ‘supposed’ protectors?

The month of October brought not just scorching temperatures, but the searing heat may well be the signs of the hard and tough living conditions that Zimbabweans are enduring.

The situation in the country is proving to be ever more dire as people are facing a leadership that does not seem to care for its citizens, rightly reflected by the death of Hilton Tafadzwa Tamangani while in police custody on the 18th of October 2019.

Tamangani was one of 11 vendors arrested and assaulted by police on 12 October 2019 for allegedly inciting public violence. While awaiting the court to rule on his bail application, he was denied access to medical assistance by police despite repeated efforts by his lawyers from the Zimbabwe Lawyers for Human Rights (ZLHR) to plead with the State for him to get the much needed medical assistance. Tamangani died at Harare remand prison.

In a separate incident at Masawe Informal Settlement, located between Chishawasha and Umwinsidale area, police reportedly shot and killed 29 year old Bruce Luka on the 18th of October 2019. Luka was accused of rape by his partner whom he lived with and had an altercation with the investigating officer together with 3 other police officers from Highlands Police Station who had followed up on the case. One of the officers reportedly drew a pistol and shot Luka at close range killing him instantly. Luka’s family reportedly sought to understand the circumstances behind their loved one’s killing, but report that they were neither well received nor assisted by Highlands police, leading to their reporting the incident at Police General Headquarters (PGHQ). The case number is RRB421/19-0242703631.

The deaths of the two men are a distressing indication of how the second republic is retracing the same modus operandi of the late former President Robert Mugabe’s government. Recently the Zimbabwe Human Rights NGO Forum, of which ZPP is part, released the “State of Human Rights Report: Zimbabwe 2018”¹. The report reveals that 72% of human rights violations documented were perpetrated by the state. This figure indicates how vulnerable the Zimbabwean populace is, as they are being persecuted, and in the case of Tamangani and Luka; succumbed to injuries inflicted by the very people who should be protecting them. The perpetrator analysis of violations received during the course of the month indicate that uniformed forces were a major perpetrator. after Zanu PF. The Zimbabwe Republic Police (ZRP) stood at 22.29% followed

¹ <http://www.hrforumzim.org/news/2018sohrr/>

by the municipal police at 6.58% , Zimbabwe National Army (ZNA) and the Central Intelligence Office (CIO) stood at 3.18% and 0.64% respectively. These statistics reveal that ZRP is increasingly playing a prominent role in perpetuating human rights violations, a notable change from previous years where the CIO were leading.

Artisanal Mining terror groups continued wreaking havoc in Mashonaland West province, especially in Kadoma with machete attacks being reported almost every day. Mining gangs are fighting a brutal war against each other and citizens are often caught in the cross fire or in some instances targeted by these gangs. Between the months of August and October a total of 105 murder cases have been recorded in mining areas surrounding Kadoma while 221 cases of assault have been recorded. These figures indicate that there is a marked increase in lawlessness in the area and innocent citizens are also suffering at the hands of mining gangs. This is further exacerbated by the fact that the gangs seem to be enjoying impunity as most of them continue without being arrested.

Zimbabwe's economy is in a mess and there seems to be no clear indication as to what government has in store to curb the fast growing desperate situation. Economic challenges come with a myriad of problems such as failure by the state to provide critical services, leading to suffering and despair among citizens. This is aptly captured by the recent World Bank report² (2019) which revealed that 34% of Zimbabweans are living in extreme poverty. This is an increase from 29% recorded the previous year. Furthermore, a Cost of Living Expenses Report³ by Industrial Psychology Consultants (IPC) released during the course of the month indicates that Zimbabwe is the second most expensive country in the region. The report revealed that Zimbabwe scored 51.57 points behind Mauritius which was the highest at 52.44 points. IPC further notes that the consumer basket in the month of October was pegged at ZWL\$2601, making the lowest paid civil servant earning ZWL\$1023 a month incapacitated. Civil servants have since indicated that they can only afford to go to work twice a week.

All this comes against the back drop of continued price increases. The Zimbabwe Electricity Distribution Company (ZETDC) hiked electricity costs by 320% from 38.61 cents to 162.16 cents per kilowatt. Zimbabwe Energy Regulatory Authority (ZERA) recently announced fuel hikes with diesel prices moving from ZWL\$15.64 to ZWL\$17.47 and Petrol from ZWL\$14.97 to ZWL\$16.75. The price hikes, particularly

² <https://www.worldbank.org/en/country/zimbabwe/overview>

³ <http://ipcconsultants.com/ipc-cost-of-living-expenses-report-october-2019-free-download/>

on fuel, will most certainly lead to price increases of basic commodities spiralling out of control making the situation for ordinary citizens even more desperate.

Zimbabweans are suffering and going hungry. This is compounded by a leadership who from indications are prioritising power dynamics than addressing fundamental issues affecting citizens. A case in point is the doctors' strike. Junior doctors have been on strike since the 3rd of September 2019 and a solution to the impasse between the state and medical professionals does not seem imminent. Meanwhile, public hospitals are not providing needed health care leaving many people vulnerable and leading to unnecessary loss of life.

Moreover, there are reports that the ruling party, Zimbabwe African National Union Patriotic Front (Zanu PF) councillors are intimidating school teachers in their respective localities by threatening them with punitive measures if they fail to report for work. Headmasters are coerced into keeping a register of teacher attendance, something noted by teachers as an intimidation tactic.

The response by Minister of Justice, Legal and Parliamentary Affairs, Ziyambi Ziyambi to civil servants' citing incapacitation was that there is no legal basis for industrial action. What is puzzling is the ease with which the state swiftly dismisses symptoms of the problem and fails to deal with the root cause.

This was further elicited when Minister Ziyambi presented Zimbabwe's 11-15th combined report on human rights to the 65th Ordinary Session of the African Commission on Human and People's Rights (ACHPR) in Banjul, Gambia on the 26th of October 2019. Zimbabwe's human rights record was under review as the country had not submitted a report since 2007, therefore this submission was a combined report of the past 12 years. The wide ranging report, states among other issues that government believes junior doctors are not willing to engage with the government which happens to be the employer, and has since concluded doctors have been infiltrated by political elements; the #Shutdown January 2019 violence according to the government 'was caused by 'rogue' elements representing external forces with a regime change agenda'; and the recent spate of abductions have been suspiciously timed to coincide with notable international visitors to the country to taint the country's image.

There is a definite disjuncture between the suffering that Zimbabweans are experiencing and the prioritisation of what needs to be done. President Emmerson Mnangagwa recently pledged USD\$1 million for the Global Fund in Lyon, France, at a time when the country's junior doctors and civil servants are citing incapacitation. While it is fully accepted that Zimbabwe like other countries had to contribute but a

waiver could have been sought until the health sector challenges had been addressed. Additionally, government reportedly spent upwards of ZWL4 million to fund the anti-sanctions march on the 25th of October 2019. These two aspects are just but a few actions by a government that seems to lack informed decisions and is far removed from the issues affecting its citizens.

In October, intimidation and harassment were the most prominent violations with a total of 193 recorded cases. These are mostly related to the anti-sanctions march as people were coerced into joining the march. Discrimination mostly related to food and other aid distribution was the second leading violation with 36 cases. Mashonaland Central is the leading province in human rights violations with 46 cases recorded, followed by Harare with 34 violations while Manicaland and Masvingo both recorded 23 cases.

Case File Highlights

The increasingly repressive state of affairs in Zimbabwe was clearly evident during the course of the month, notably the swift and brutal manner with which state institutions suppress dissent. As has earlier been highlighted, two people lost their lives in October at the hands of police officers who, according to the constitution have a mandate to protect life and property. This heavy handed approach was also noted when police discovered 256 Anti-Riot and municipal police helmets on the 12th of October 2019 at Robinson House in Central Harare. Earlier, police had clashed with vendors the same day and some ran into the basement of Robinson House leading to the discovery of the helmets. The accusations and counter accusations emanating from that incident proved futile when it was discovered that they were legally purchased at ABC Auctions by Michael Chibwe who owns a security company. Following this incident, police barricaded Movement for Democratic Change (MDC) Headquarters Morgan Tsvangirai House on the 14 of October 2019, merely because Robinson House, where helmets were found, was close to MDC building.

When the MDC spoke about a likely demonstration on 24 October the eve of the anti sanctions march, the police also barricaded the area around the MDC headquarters. Police also set up roadblocks along major roads such as Bishop Gaul and Samora Machel Avenue, in Kuwadzana along Bulawayo road and along Chitungwiza Town highway. People were being searched and asked to produce national identity cards; failure to produce resulted in some citizens being harassed and forced to go and collect their IDs.

Protection of citizens' rights is under threat as noted on 20 October 2019 when anti-riot police assaulted Alpha Media Holdings (AMH) journalist Ruvimbo Muchenje during running battles between police and vendors in Harare CBD. Muchenje was attacked while trying to get transport to Graniteside along Julius Nyerere Avenue; when they noticed her camera one police officer reportedly shouted, "There is a photo journalist, deal with her" and 4 male officers descended on the victim with baton sticks. Muchenje sustained serious injuries in the altercation.

Meanwhile, MDC Harare West Ward 16 Councillor Denford Ngadziore, Makomborero Haruzivishe and John Matoratora were assaulted by anti-riot police officers deployed at Rotten Row Magistrates Courts on 21 October 2019. Ngadziore and team were assaulted for demonstrating in solidarity with 10 vendors (previously 11 before Tamangani lost his life) who were arrested by police for vending on 12 October 2019 and charged with inciting public violence. The anti-riot officers reportedly assaulted the trio including Ngadziore with baton sticks before apprehending and arresting them on unspecified charges. They were taken to Harare Central Police Station.

The state repression is also highlighted by the fear of victims to reveal their political affiliation. 94.65% of victims of cases recorded in October 2019 were not comfortable with sharing information about their political persuasion. This is a major shift from the past where victims of human right violations would readily provide such information.

The anti-sanctions march brought about a number of human rights violations as previously highlighted. In a number of reported cases, people, including school children, were forced to attend the anti-sanctions marches and told that failure to do so would result in retribution such as losing jobs (teachers), losing stands or farms, deprivation of needed aid and shops or business premises would be burnt to the ground.

In Beitbridge West Constituency at Dulivadzimu Township, Beitbridge Members of Parliament Albert Nguluvhe and Ruth Mavhungu Maboyi allegedly forced school children to march against sanctions. In Lupane West Constituency at Somhlolo stadium, Zanu PF member identified as John Mabikwa Khumalo instructed school children to march and recite party slogans, emphasising that sanctions equally affected school children. Both these incidences occurred on the 25th of October 2019.

In Seke, civil servants whose ministries are housed at the District Administrator's Office were forced to participate in the anti-sanctions campaign. On 23 October 2019, the Assistant District Administrator Mr Samunda announced that civil servants should participate in the march and an attendance register would be

used to take note of those who do not turn up for the event. On the same day at Rapid Farm in Ward 2 of Marondera East, Obert Mashonganyika and 4 other Zanu PF youths forced villagers to take part in the march which was to be held in Marondera Central. Mashonganyika, together with his colleagues, threatened villagers with eviction from the farm if they did not participate. He reiterated that Zanu PF fought for villagers to acquire land during the fast track land reform hence they were obliged to participate in the anti-sanctions campaign. A similar threat was also issued by Chimanimani East Member of Parliament Joshua Sacco who said villagers in resettlement areas of Ward 1 and 7 should safeguard farms they were given by Zanu PF by taking part in the anti-sanctions march which was held at Nhedziwa Growth Point in Ward 4. Civil servants and school children in that Ward as well as in neighbouring Wards were also obligated to join the march.

Anticipated Retribution for the poor attendance of the anti-sanctions march from across the country is anticipated following indications made by disgruntled ruling party members. In Gweru, following a poorly attended anti-sanctions march, Zanu PF provincial members have tasked their grassroots structures to investigate the reason for the poor attendance. However, it seems some have already concluded that there was sabotage by some of the members of the party who seem not impressed by the current state of affairs in the country. In Mutare, the anti-sanctions march was also poorly attended, something that did not augur well with former Zanu PF Councillor Cecilia Gambe who ordered party youths to chase away vendors who were selling their wares instead of attending the march. Vendors reportedly closed their businesses and opted to go to their respective homes than join the march.

Zimbabwe's 11-15th Human Rights report presented to the 65th Ordinary Session of the African Commission on Human and People's Rights (ACHPR) in Banjul, Gambia did much to give insight into government's narrative on the human rights situation obtaining in the country. The report, which was a combined report covering more than 10 years, was submitted by the state without consulting or affording other stakeholders such as Civic Society Organisations the opportunity to participate in the process as is expected. When the Commissioners wanted to know the stakeholders who participated in the preparation of the report the government listed the National Association of Non Governmental Organisations (NANGO), the Zimbabwe Women Lawyers Association (ZWLA) and the Zimbabwe Lawyers for Human Rights (ZLHR). Both NANGO and ZLHR dispute having been consulted or participated in the preparation of the report.

Of note in the presentation was the assertion that abductions that have been happening in the country seem ‘timed’ so that they happen when there are international visitors or notable events in the country, leading to a negative image being portrayed. Minister Ziyambi cited the case of Doctor Peter Magombeyi who he said was abducted at the time the UN Special Rapporteur on the Freedom of Peaceful Assembly and Association Clément Nyaletsossi Voule was in the country. He further noted that Samantha Kureya, Obert Masaraure and Johane Mundoza abductions were all timed so as to have the best impact in tarnishing the country’s image.

Government defended its actions especially relating to its reaction to the August 1, 2018 shooting of 6 civilians and the violence surrounding the January 2019 #Shutdown protest. Government indicated that the force used to curb the August violence was intended to protect people from vandals and loss of property. Furthermore, the state highlighted that the January 2019 violence was “pre-planned, master minded and sponsored by external forces, local civic society and NGOs”. Women and children were apparently used as shields by the said institutions as they incited citizens to protest in order to please their handlers at the expense of innocent lives.

Food and other Aid Distribution violations are still being reported despite government assurances that this will stop. In August 2019 Minister of Local Government, Public Works and National Housing July Moyo who is also the chairperson of the Cabinet Committee on Environment, Disaster Prevention and Management assured Zimbabwe that the local leadership who include Councillors and Village Heads would not be directly involved in the distribution of aid to avoid issues of partisan distribution.

However, the situation on the ground indicates that this assurance was a damp squib as villagers are still being deprived. It is particularly worth noting that in the Presidential Input Distribution Scheme that is well underway, people are being excluded from the list of beneficiaries on the basis of their political affiliation. On 18 October 2019 in Ward 11, Guruve South at Mupinyuri Primary School, Zanu PF Councillor Samuel Machumi reportedly ordered village secretaries to compile a farming inputs database excluding perceived MDC supporters. Machumi stated that all MDC supporters should denounce their party first for them to benefit from government aid.

A similar message was reiterated in Gokwe Gumunyu on 19 October 2019 by Ward 14 Councillor Stewart Mbulawa, who is also the Council Chairperson for Gokwe North. Mbulawa called a meeting at the Ward Centre for purposes of listing beneficiaries of the Presidential Inputs Scheme whose inputs were awaiting

distribution in the ward. 14 Village Heads in attendance were instructed to register beneficiaries, but that they should start by listing Zanu PF members.

In some instances, beneficiaries were removed from the list based on their political affiliation. These incidents were noted in Mashonaland West at Sengwe Business Centre on 7 October 2019, Mashonaland East at Zvichemo Business Centre on 10 October 2019, Mashonaland East in Murehwa North on 18 October 2019 at Zaranyika Primary School, on the 11th of October 2019 at Furamera Primary School in Marondera West, the 23rd of October 2019 at Goso Village in Murehwa North and again at Revazvawaona Village Ward 7 on the 20th of October 2019 also in Murehwa North.

Villagers are still being subjected to various forms of abuses to force them into paying funds supposedly to facilitate transportation of their food from the Grain Marketing Board (GMB) to their village. In a number of instances it is apparent that these corrupt activities are proliferating as indicated by an incident in Buhera West Ward 5 where Village Head Gilford Chibvongodze, forced villagers in Manjengwa village to pay for transport for 37 bags of maize but they in fact eventually received only 30 bags. In Nyanga North at Mangezi Primary in Ward 2 on 22 October 2019, Department of Social Welfare distributed maize but many people had to share a single bag of maize when the officials stated that a bag which ordinarily contains 50 kg, was packed with extra kilograms.

The deprivation was noted to have taken a new twist in that Zanu PF members are now receiving text messages highlighting the days of collection of various government aid in order to side-line MDC supporters.

The artisanal mining gang wars are continuing at an alarming rate, especially in Kadoma. Cases of artisanal miners assaulting citizens keep escalating and are reportedly occurring on a daily basis. The mining syndicates operating in that area, named after their respective gang leaders, are called the Brown, Adrian, Bernard, Stan and George Chipasure gangs. The gangs are assaulting, harassing and degrading ordinary citizens and at times robbing them around Kadoma city. Deputy Mayor for Kadoma Tendai Kokera confirmed that assaults and fights are reported daily in Macheke. She also pointed out that artisanal mining syndicates were responsible for most of the reported cases. Kokera said, “Residents are usually caught in the crossfire between artisanal miners fights or residents are robbed by desperate miners who use Machetes to assault them.’

Rumwe Business Centre in Rimuka is reportedly the epicentre of these cases having recording the highest number of such violations. An official at Kadoma hospital provided the following statistics for victims from

the months of August to October: 105 murders in mining areas, 221 cases of assaults at mines, 24 murders in the community and 87 cases of assault in the community. These statistics indicate a serious problem that needs to be addressed as a matter of urgency to preserve lives.

The continued economic decline has given rise to a myriad of violation of rights. Most tragic is that children are bearing the brunt of these economic challenges. At Mbofana School in Midlands Province a total of 6 pupils were married off in this term alone, a situation stemming largely from economic hardships that their parents are facing. There are also many reports of children in that area dropping out of school and moving to urban areas to do manual labour. In Nyanga South Ward 19, school children are reportedly dropping out of school due to the worsening economic crisis affecting the country. There are reported cases where members of certain churches are marrying off their daughters to elderly men in return for food to feed their families. In some instances, children have resorted to join the scramble for gold and diamonds in areas such as Penhalonga, Musanditeera, Sheba and Premea.

The Water Crisis is continuing with most urban inhabitants failing to access the precious liquid as water cuts are severe while there are also limited alternative sources available. There are also a number of conflicts at water points as evidenced by the case of Zanu PF youths who have politicised a borehole drilled in Glenview South during the by –election campaigns in September 2019. The youths led by their ring leader only identified as Kulombo have ensured that only residents with party membership cards get access to water from the borehole located between 4th and 5th Crescent in Glenview 1. Kulombo and his colleagues have consistently removed the pump handle to restrict residents who do not have party membership cards from accessing water.

Furthermore, the water crisis has continued to pose a serious risk for women and girls as they are often forced to transverse long distances at odd hours to fetch water. On 21 October in Masvingo Urban Ward 6, a 14 year old girl was reportedly raped when coming from a borehole at around 0300 hours as the water crisis persists in the area. The unidentified man reportedly held a knife to her throat so that she does not scream. The case was reported at Chesvingo Police base.

Despite the deteriorating economic situation ZPP has noted cases of intimidation whereby people are victimised for stating that the ruling party is responsible for the shambolic state of the economy. On 17 October 2019 an MDC activist was harassed and intimidated by a soldier in Mudzi South at Nyamuyaruka Business Centre Ward 10. Paddington Chikonyora a Zimbabwe National Army Officer heard the victim

and his friends discussing the prevailing economic situation. The victim reportedly highlighted that the Zanu PF government had failed and was responsible for the demise of the economy and that people should vote wisely in the next election. Chikonyora then ordered the victim to chant Zanu PF slogans as punishment for what he had said.

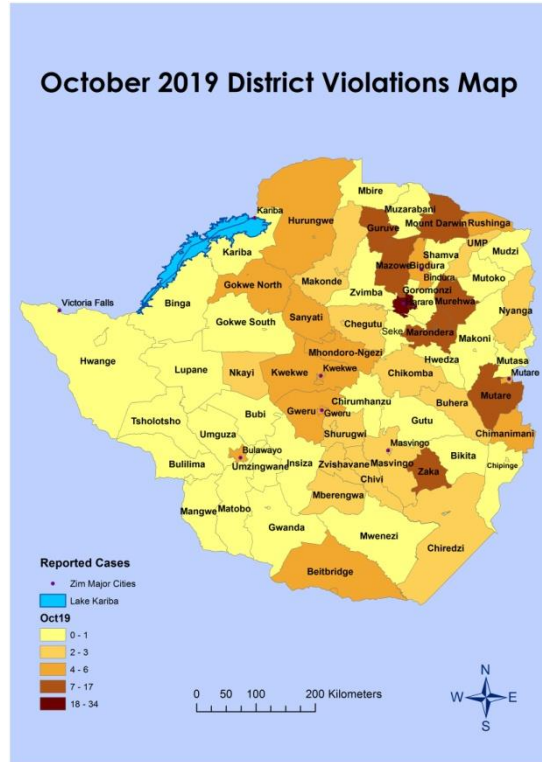
Zanu PF Youth chairperson Godfrey Munemo in Ward 24 of Mt Darwin South at Nyawanza village overheard one villager on 18 October 2019 in a conversation with his colleagues, complaining about continued price increases of basic commodities. He stated that the situation was because of one person but did not mention a specific name. In response Munemo threatened to assault the victim, accusing him of being a traitor and promised to make his life in the village difficult.

On 10 October 2019, Zanu PF Ward Coordinator Kudzai Charairo complained of high prices to a shopkeeper at Chireya Business Center in Gokwe Chireya. Charairo allegedly threatened the shop keeper stating that he must reduce the prices, despite being shown the wholesale prices of the basic commodities. Onlookers reportedly told Charairo that the ruling party was responsible for the economic decay and high cost of living prevailing in the country. Charairo refuted this stating that the high cost of living was actually a result of opposition supporters like the shop keeper who are sabotaging the efforts of government.

The unrest in Zanu PF was evident during the recent District Coordinating Committee (DCC) elections for Waterfalls district. A delegation led by Mashonaland West Zanu PF Provincial Chairperson Ziyambi was reportedly sent to conduct the elections but was chased away by Zanu PF supporters in Harare South constituency. Supporters cited that they were not comfortable having thieves conducting the election. Ballot papers were also destroyed in the process resulting in the elections being postponed.

Zanu PF intra party disturbances were also reported during a Ward meeting convened on 12 October 2019 at 1100hrs to prepare for the party's upcoming DCC elections in Mabvuku Tafara at Old Tafara shops. About 80 party activists consisting of women, youth and men clashed, accusing the party's ward leadership of planning to rig the elections. The meeting reportedly ended in mayhem as participants were shouting obscenities at each other.

Dashboard of Statistics

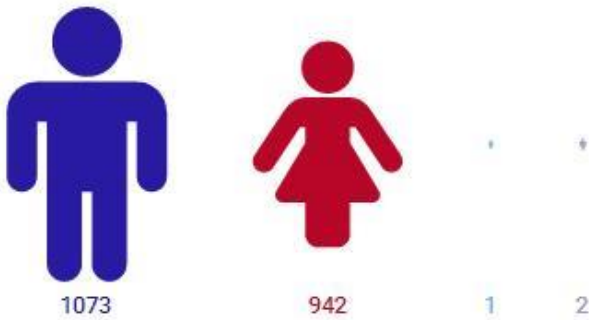


Distribution of violence by type across provinces

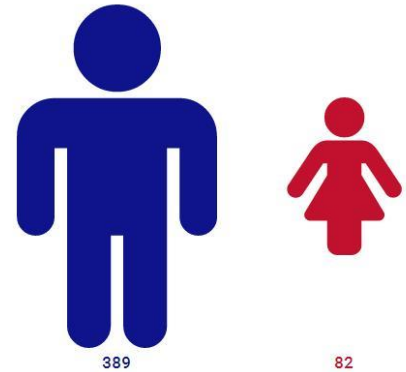
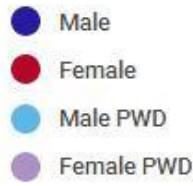
ACTS	Midlands	Byo	Mat. South	Mat. North	Masvingo	Manicaland	Harare	Mash. East	Mash. West	Mash. Central	TOTAL
Killing	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	0	0	0	2
Rape/Sexual Harassment	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Kidnapping/abduction	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Assault	1	0	0	0	0	0	8	0	0	0	9
Theft/looting	2	0	0	0	1	5	1	2	2	9	22
Discrimination	4	2	2	1	5	4	1	5	4	8	36
MDP	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	1
Torture	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	1
Unlawful Detention	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	0	0	0	2
Intimidation /harassment	10	4	4	3	13	13	19	16	8	29	119
Displacement	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Attempted Murder	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Attempted Abduction	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
Banned Political Party Mtg	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Disrupted Political Mtg	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Total	18	6	6	4	19	23	34	23	14	46	193



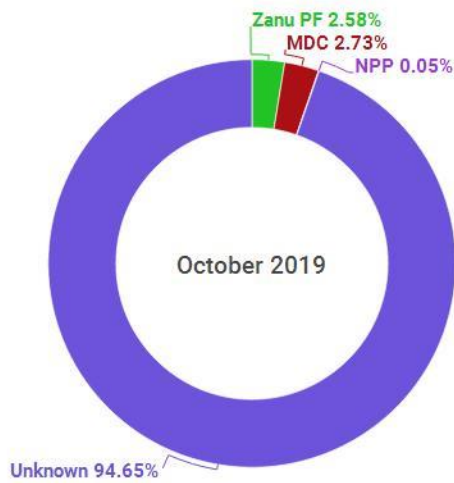
Food and Other Aid Violations



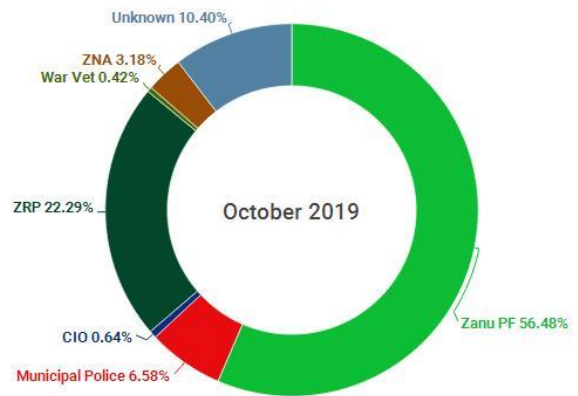
Victims by Gender



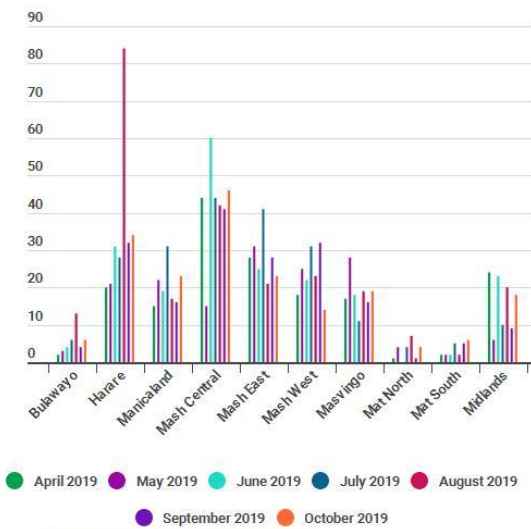
Perpetrators by Gender



Victims by Affiliation



Perpetrators by Affiliation



Violations Across Provinces



Intra party Violence

Overall Analysis

At the rate that the socio-economic situation is deteriorating and the political environment becoming more repressive the cries of the citizens will only get louder unless something is done to salvage the situation. The fact that the police who are supposed to be defenders of human rights and are mandated by the Constitution to protect life and property continue to violate the rights of the same citizens, is cause for concern. Instead of being the harbinger of peace, Zimbabwean police are now a tool for effective repression and suppression of people's rights despite the ongoing narrative that they are being transformed into a service that is undergoing necessary training including issues of human rights.

Running battles between police and vendors and the brutal assaults by police led to the death of Tamangani. By and large the general wanton use of violence in policing should be condemned with the contempt it deserves. Section 50 of the Zimbabwe Constitution states that any arrested person 'Must be treated humanely and with respect for their inherent dignity', furthermore, Subsection 5 (d) highlights that 'a detained person must be subjected to conditions of detention that are consistent with human dignity, including the opportunity for.....medical treatment'.

This due process should have been followed and the rule of law observed to avoid loss of life as in the case of Tamangani and Luka. When the very people who are supposed to protect citizens are the biggest persecutors; who will protect citizens from their supposed protectors?

It was quite disheartening to hear government's narrative of the human rights situation in the country while presenting its report to the 65th ACHPR. The belief by the state that abductions are 'timed' for negative impact on the image of the country are unfortunate. The bigger question however, in the issue of abductions is the argument that they are fake and also that they are being perpetrated by a 'third force'. How can they be fake but still have responsibility attributed to the 'third force'?

The procedure at the ACHPR is that the state in preparation of its report should involve all stakeholders and ensure that all participate, but for the combined report submitted by government CSOs are concerned they were never consulted and did not participate; only to be shocked when the African Commission uploaded the report on its website. This 'omission' on the part of government eventually had CSOs approaching the African Commission for the submission of a shadow report even as it was out of time.

Additionally, it is sad to note how the state diminishes the agency of Zimbabweans by inferring that the #Shutdown January 2019 demonstrations were due to people being incited by a few elements who had

ulterior motives. This narrative ignores the simple fact that Zimbabweans were irate over the drastic fuel price increase of 130% which was announced by President Mnangagwa. Therefore their reaction was a mere organic process from the President's announcement. While not condoning acts of violence that accompany demonstrations and protests it is important to state that the Constitution in section 59 allows citizens to demonstrate and petition. ZPP has recorded numerous cases of violations perpetrated by state security agents against children and women who did not participate in the demonstrations but were hounded from their homes, beaten and arrested.

This heavy handed approach by the state in dealing with matters was highlighted by Freedom of Expression and Access to Information in Africa Commissioner, Lawrence Mute who questioned why the state would "use a blanket to kill a bee?" with respect to the shutting down of the internet during the January demonstrations.

The continued deprivation of food and other aid for other citizens despite repeated assurances by government is a sure sign that the matter needs to be addressed with urgency. The abounding cases that ZPP has reported on deprivation due to party affiliation are an indication that there is no change on the ground and the state must move swiftly to address the matter.

Sadly though, it is note that leaders are taking matters of political expediency as priority than in addressing concerns of a suffering citizenry. On Wednesday the 23rd of October 2019 Parliamentarians were debating President Mnangagwa's State of the Nation Address (SONA), when MDC Proportional Representation MP Jasmine Toffa asked a supplementary question to Minister of Public Service, Labor and Social Welfare Sekai Nzenza on why the vulnerable such as the elderly, and/or infirm were forced to pay transport fees for their aid. Before Minister Nzenza could respond, Minister Ziyambi interjected and stated that opposition party MPs must not expect answers from Ministers appointed by President Mnangagwa as they do not recognise the president. The situation degenerated into chaos and the pertinent question of beneficiaries being forced to pay transport fees was eventually not addressed.

It is rather disappointing to note how political battle lines are taking precedence over prioritising issues of national importance; in this instance addressing problems related to food and other aid distribution. ZPP hopes that the distinct fissures that exist between the mainline parties are addressed as a matter of urgency so that the leaders coalesce in fighting for the common man, than against each other.

In the same vein, it was also interesting to note Minister Nzenza's comments in Chikomba East Constituency on 29th of October 2019 where she reportedly stated that party leaders should refrain from involvement in food distribution so that aid is given to the needy in a fair and transparent manner. This is a refreshing acknowledgement of the problem that ZPP and other stakeholders have continually maintained exists. Previously the Minister had repeatedly denied that partisan distribution of aid was taking place. ZPP hopes that this is a genuine turn around by the Minister and not a move to hoodwink the Special Rapporteur on the Right to Food who is due to visit Zimbabwe in November 2019.

It is also imperative at this juncture, for the state to clearly make stringent and concerted efforts in addressing the shrinking economic climate in order to alleviate the suffering of Zimbabweans. It is of great concern that children are bearing the brunt of these economic hardships as they are dropping out of school to get married at a tender age while others are resorting to illegal mining and working as house help. Other vulnerable groups are also at great risk as the economy takes a nose dive and the socio economic environment fails to address and allow them to enjoy rights that are guaranteed by the constitution.

On the other hand the strike by junior doctors citing incapacitation should not be seen as a challenge to the leadership, but should clearly indicate to them that there are fundamental economic issues that need to be addressed urgently. This is further shown through the continued running battles between vendors and Municipal police in urban areas, indicating that the situation is dire and people are doing all they can to earn a living. However, the default to intimidatory tactics as have been applied by the powers that be will not yield any positive and meaningful change. Instead it will do much in slotting a deeper wedge between different parties, possibly creating a fertile ground for civil unrest. This needs to be addressed as a matter of urgency.

ZPP noted with concern the continued use of intimidatory tactics to coerce people into attending the anti-sanctions marches held across the country. It was even more worrying in instances where children were also forced to chant slogans and take part in the marches. Many relevant stakeholders take note that our Constitution in Section 81 (h) determines that children should 'not be compelled to take part in any political activity'. It is important that children's rights are respected and that they are protected from this abuse of being roped into political activities.

Watch List

Life after the anti-sanctions march: Zimbabweans are moving on with their lives after the anti-sanctions march. The low turnout at the march may result in human rights violations. Some citizens particularly those in rural areas may be victims of partisan food and other aid distribution if they did not attend the anti-sanctions march. This retaliation could also be targeted to people within the ruling party itself as there are already suspicions that the march was sabotaged from within the party.

Economic: Ordinary citizens continue to face tough economic conditions as the cost of living continues to rise. The launch of new bank notes which is scheduled for November brings with it fears that inflation will increase, further making it difficult for people to fend for themselves. This may result in demonstrations as citizens struggle to cope.

The continuation of the deadlock between doctors and their employer will continue to compromise the health sector. Average citizens will still fail to access basic healthcare as most government hospitals are only open for emergencies.

The country has not received any significant rainfall for farmers to start the 2019-2020 cropping season. This exposes low income households to abuse as they continue to rely heavily on food aid which is continually being given along partisan lines.

UN Special Rapporteur on the Right to Food: The Rapporteur will be in the country from 18-28 November 2019 to analyse and assess the progressive realisation of the right to food. Considering the varied reports that ZPP has recorded of food and other aid distribution, the organisation keenly awaits this process and hopes that the real nature of violations related to food aid distribution will be uncovered and addressed.

ZPP Calls for:

- A speedy retraining and rebranding of the police as recommended by the Motlanthe Commission Report, to ensure that they are availed with all provisions related to the respect and protection of Human Rights.
- The state to uphold its promise of ensuring that local duty bearers do not get involved in distributing food and other aid to avoid deprivation through discrimination on party lines.
- The state to address the deplorable economic conditions prevailing in the country so that people's dignity and sense of security is restored.

- Local authorities to provide residents with clean water and ensure that alternative water sources are not monopolised.

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), 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.