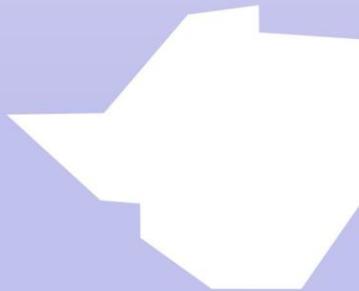




ZIMBABWE
PEACE
PROJECT



MONTHLY MONITORING REPORT





Not yet Uhuru

The month of April heralded 39 years since attaining independence. Sadly, this independence is not evident as Zimbabweans are living in a country with a biting economic environment characterised by sharp increases in prices, evictions, impunity of those in power and deprivation along political lines.

The most prominent violations, and sadly an annual occurrence, during the month of April were surrounding the Independence Day celebrations. People were forced into making donations towards Independence celebrations and in some instances

marshalled to go for the celebrations held throughout the country by various Zimbabwe African National Union Patriotic Front (Zanu PF) structures.

The economy has continued on a downward spiral as the Real Time Gross Settlement (RTGS) dollar rate keeps tumbling against the United States dollar (USD) both in the official and parallel market rates. This is further exacerbated by the fact that service providers have resorted to pegging their prices in USD which currency the majority of Zimbabweans do not even earn. Prices of basic commodities such as fuel, bread and cooking oil continue to rise beyond the reach of many.

There is a disquieting trend of the military's continued interference in civilian matters, particularly in perpetrating violations against civilians. ZPP notes that since November 2017 when the Zimbabwe National Army (ZNA) played a prominent role in the elevation of President Emmerson Mnangagwa to office, there has been a steady rise of human rights violations that the army is responsible for. This was most apparent when the force brutally stamped dissent in 1 August 2018 fatal shootings and January 2019 killings. ZPP also notes that the month was characterised by extensive evictions in some parts of the country with over 1200 families left homeless.

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.





Loss and destruction of property was prevalent as people's houses and property was destroyed in the evictions-where oftentimes victims were not given prior notice.

There was a slight decrease in violations recorded throughout the country from 212 recorded in March to 171 in April. The percentage of cases of discrimination for example decreased from 16.9% recorded in March to 5.3%; an 11.6% decrease. This decrease could be explained by the fact that there was a shift of focus as perpetrators concentrated on gathering donations for the Independence Day celebrations. This saw a 5.1% increase in cases of intimidation and harassment in April. Mashonaland Central and Mashonaland East provinces recorded the highest number of cases with 44 and 28 respectively. This was a drop from 56 violations recorded in March in Mashonaland Central and 23 cases reported in Mashonaland East. Intimidation and harassment presumably related to donations sought for Independence Day celebrations was the main contributor of violations followed by discrimination in the distribution of food aid.

On the other hand Matabeleland regions and Bulawayo as is usually the case, again recorded the least number of violations. Matabeleland South and Bulawayo recorded 2 violations each, while Matabeleland North had a single recorded case. These numbers reflect a further drop in violations from the 6 recorded in Bulawayo and 5 noted in Matabeleland North. However, Matabeleland South's two violations were an increase from the single case reported in the previous month. For both the high and low statistics recorded in the provinces, intimidation and harassment are the most prominent violations. The low number of cases recorded in these provinces could be because of historical experiences that unite the people. On the other hand the divisions in Mashonaland Central and Mashonaland East provinces are a result of political contestations that lead to conflict.

Zanu PF played a prominent role in the victimisation of Cyclone Idai survivors. For example, in Masvingo Province, Gutu North Ward 8, the committee set up by the ruling party to distribute aid to families affected by the cyclone have stopped doing so and instead are distributing aid to party members. The committee is led by ward councillor Tamson Chindedza of Zanu PF (52). Other members are one Gutuza (46), Farai Chenjerai (48) and Chiedza Mabhachi (56). The committee members gave victims wrong dates and by the time they gathered to receive the aid, they had already shared it among themselves.





Highlights of the Month

- **Independence Day Celebrations:** Zimbabwe celebrated 39 years of independence and celebrations as per tradition were held throughout the country. Villagers from across the country were compelled to donate amounts ranging from RTGS\$2-RTGS\$5 per household by Zanu PF officials to finance Independence Day celebrations. Teachers were also forced to contribute these amounts and in Guruve North teachers at Chimanikire Primary School, Gwakwe Primary School, Chipangura Primary and Secondary Schools, Nyamuseve Secondary and Primary Schools were forced to contribute financially towards the Independence Day commemorations. On 14 and 15 April Zanu PF activists S. Mazhambe, Mike Kamuzonde (ward 5 Councillor) and village head Nhemachena compelled teachers to contribute RTGS \$2.00 per individual and they were threatened with loss of jobs if they failed to do so. In Gokwe Sesame Constituency Ward 12 kraal head Dickson (Pilate Marimbe 57) stated that residents must contribute \$5 per household, failure to do so would result in them being denied food aid. Despite people being force marched, in some instances, to attend the celebrations, the turnout was reportedly low in most provinces. For some of those who attended, they were deprived of food and refreshments regardless of making contributions towards the celebrations.
- **The Economy** that is on a downward trajectory is a cause of concern particularly as the Zimbabwean workforce has not received any meaningful salary increments. Prices of basic commodities have risen sharply for instance the price of bread has risen from RTGS \$2, 50 to RTGS \$3.25, petrol from RTGS 3.31 to 3.42 and diesel from RTGS \$3.11 to RTGS\$3.25. The continued pegging of prices against the USD is also proving challenging for the ordinary folk; for instance some landlords are pushing their tenants to pay rentals in foreign currency which they do not earn.
- **Intra-party violence** continued to plague the nomination process of Movement for Democratic Change (MDC) elective congress scheduled for 24-26 May 2019. Party members jostling for positions and targeting of aspirants who challenged preferred candidates was the prominent reason for these occurrences. Violence was reported during the MDC Harare youth congress held at Show grounds on 16 April 2019. Dennis Juru a nominee for the national youth chairperson position was assaulted by rival youths opposed to his candidature led by Harare West ward 16 Councillor Denford Ngadziore and Albert Chidakwa. They reportedly attacked Juru for





contesting against their preferred candidate; Stanley Manyenga. In Chinhoyi on 17 April at Chikonohono ward 6 a fist fight broke out during an MDC Provincial Congress held at the MDC Chinhoyi party offices. MDC Ward Councillor Mercy Mada (48) had a tussle with Chipo Chitiyo as the two are jostling for the Secretary General position in the women's wing. Slogans were chanted against Mada, whose son Tafadzwa Mada (27) retaliated by attacking her mother's rival. The matter was reported to the police leading to the arrest of Tafadzwa Mada.

- **Zanu PF's Cell restructuring exercise** is currently underway throughout the country. The existing cells of the party were conceived during former President Robert Mugabe's term in office, hence the need to restructure during the incumbent President Emmerson Mnangagwa's term so as to establish new structures. The process has however been characterised by intimidation as party members are conducting a door to door exercise and recording people's identity numbers as well as addresses. On 28 April at a Zanu PF meeting convened at Kuwadzana West suburbs around Karigamombe paddocks in ward 3, one of the party chairpersons identified as Mr Makusha encouraged other party chairpersons to force residents to join ruling party cell structures. He alleged that the ruling party cells in Kuwadzana did not have adequate numbers hence the need to recruit more people. There is generally a strong fear that this exercise will likely be used in future to distribute food to party supporters while others will be left out, and due to this fear a lot of residents have opted to join the party's cell structures.
- **Freedom of expression** is still under attack and it is sad to note that the sanctity of the Fourth Estate is not fully appreciated by the state apparatus. This was most evident on 4 April when 263 Chat journalist Lovejoy Jay Mtongwiza was attacked by the anti riot and municipal police officers for taking pictures during police vendor raids in the Central Business District (CBD). The journalist was pursued to their newsroom which was then besieged by the officers. A tear gas canister was then fired directly at him resulting in an injury. The case was reported at Harare Central police station under IR040399. In solidarity, fellow journalists marched in protest to Harare Town House and Central police station to register their displeasure at the unwarranted treatment of their colleagues by the police officers.





In Chimanimani East, freelance journalist Sydney Saize was assaulted while on official duty. Saize was investigating an allegation that soldiers were sexually abusing female Cyclone Idai survivors in exchange for food aid at Chimanimani High School camp. ZPP understands that Saize arrived at the school and took pictures of the place, interviewed a few people before members of the military and National Service trained youths took him. They asked what he was doing, then he presented his journalist accreditation cards but they refused to recognise him and assaulted him before forcing him to take aid under camera in order to misrepresent him as a thief. Saize was detained at Chimanimani Police Station then later released.

- **Military brutality** against civilians is worryingly on a continued upward course as evidenced by the fact that Zimbabwe National Army (ZNA) accounted for 14% of violators of human rights. One such case occurred in Bindura North in Chiwaridzo, where two soldiers were murdered by a gang of assailants called “Mashurugwi¹”. The deceased were part of a group of four soldiers who were involved in an altercation over sex workers. The surviving two then returned with a group of soldiers who proceeded to conduct a door to door exercise in Chiwaridzo assaulting residents. They attacked residents in Ward 12 and patrons at a night club watching soccer were not spared. The army was also involved in a joint effort with the Zimbabwe Republic Police (ZRP) in evicting villagers in Ward 16 of Gokwe Mapfungautsi constituency from state owned farms at Sikombela and Chemagora areas and one owned by Silobela lawmaker Mthokozisi Mayoki Mpfu. Properties such as shops were damaged while some huts were burnt during the eviction process.
- **Widespread evictions** are still underway in some parts of the country and hundreds of families have lost valuable property as well as their livelihoods in the process. Although there is a land audit currently underway, in most instances it is not clear who is really in the wrong between the evicted and evictee. About 150-200 households were left homeless in Harare South ward 1 at the Dutch Poultry farm in Waterfalls. It is alleged that farm owner Victor Matepano hired police officers who demolished homes leaving families stranded. On 22 April villagers from three farms in Marondera East were evicted without High court orders namely Waterndale Farm, Chinatsa Farm and Kindle Farm Ward 6. Zanu PF activist Mrs Apolonia Muzerengi is alleged to be behind the evictions at Waterndale Farm and Chinatsa Farm whilst at

¹ Machete wielding gang of artisanal miners hailing from Midlands province





Kindle Farm evictions were led by a man only identified as Maurikira. Close to 100 families were left homeless.

- **The abduction and detention** of the Amalgamated Rural Teachers Association (ARTUZ) Robson Chere, Jess Drury, Precious Ndlovu and Munyaradzi Ndawana occurred during a meeting convened in Grey stone Park Harare. The teachers were taken by plain clothes state security agents who force marched them into two vehicles, one of them a white Toyota RAV 4 registration number ADL 7066. The teachers were interrogated for hours while Ndawana and Chere were assaulted. There was a public outcry on social media about the abduction resulting in the abductees being handed over to Zimbabwe Republic Police Law and Order and charged for violating section 37 of the Criminal Law (Codification and Reform) Act, then released the next day after the intervention of the Zimbabwe Lawyers for Human Rights.
- **Politicisation of food aid** is also a worrying trend this year, particularly taking into consideration that the country received less than normal rains and that agricultural output is paltry at best. Most people in both urban and rural areas are dependent on government for food aid. Sadly, issuing of food has been highly politicised in most instances. In Mberengwa West, Hardlife Zimi (34) a Zanu PF youth chairperson was denied a 50 kg of maize allocation by Nicholas "Pupurai" Mchibwa (47) who is also a Zanu PF supporter for having an opposition MDC supporter as a husband and she was told she would only receive the maize when her husband defects to Zanu PF. In ward 8 of Mazowe Central at Tenhedzi village, village head Naison Tenhedzi forced persons with disabilities to contribute \$1.50 for Independence Day commemorations in order to benefit a bag of maize from the Department of Social Welfare. In Murehwa North at Chamapango shopping centre Ward 16, perceived opposition MDC supporters were denied social welfare food aid by Zanu PF Ward Councillor Milton Mhan'arai Chinake (46). The Councillor told beneficiaries that the welfare maize grain, targeting elderly headed and other food insecure households will be given only to Zanu PF supporters.
- **The exhumation of the remains of** Gukurahundi victim Thembi Ngwenya (21 years at time of death in 1983) carried out by Ukuthula Trust in Tsholotsho and witnessed by the National Peace and Reconciliation Commission (NPRC) comes hot on the heels of the announcement by President Mnangagwa that Gukurahundi victims will be assisted by the state through Ministry of Home Affairs and Cultural Heritage in





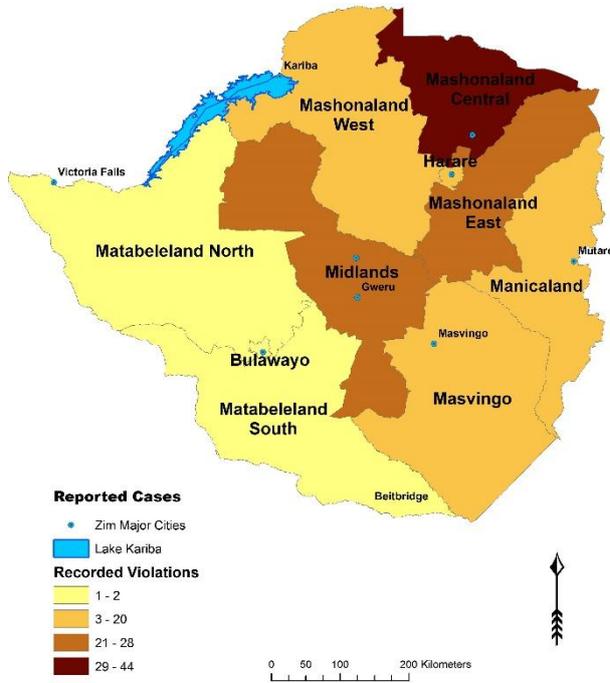
obtaining identity documents and death certificates. The exhumation process has particularly been a contentious matter as some feel there is no framework and policy informing the process. The most glaring vacuum in the process is the missing Chihambakwe and Dumbutshena Commission of Inquiry reports which could have been helpful in informing exhumation processes through the recommendations contained therein. The implementation of exhumation processes must be preceded by an extensive consultation so that it is known how the victims' families feel and if they accede to the processes. Consultation, consensus and due process should be central if these processes are to yield healing.



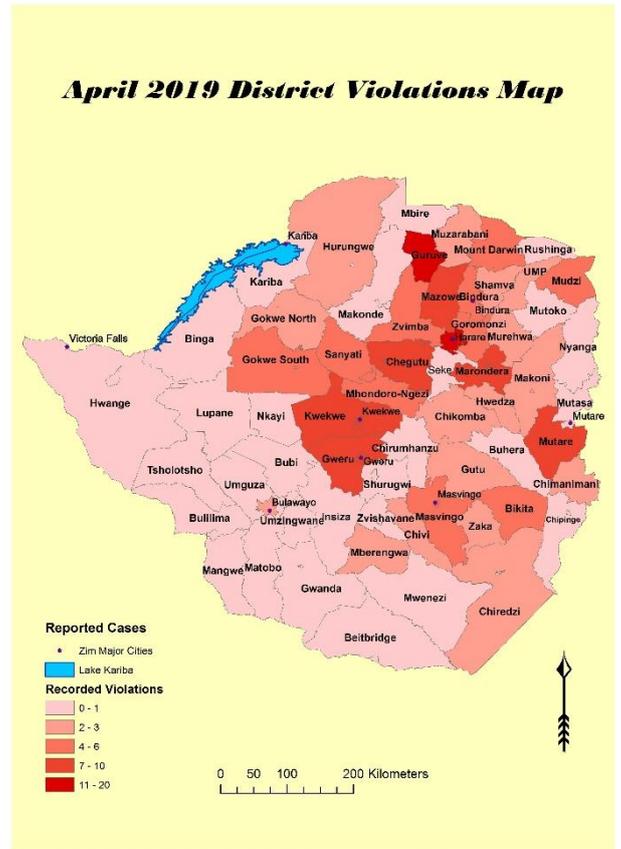


April Dashboard of Statistics

April 2019 Provincial Violations Map

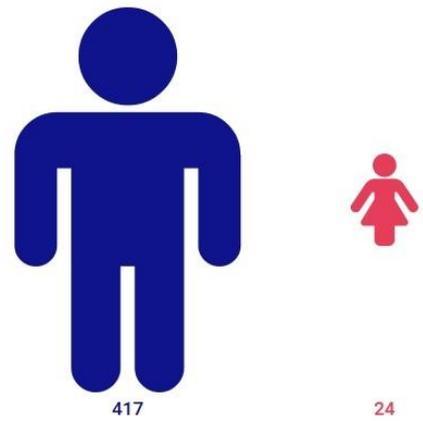


April 2019 District Violations Map



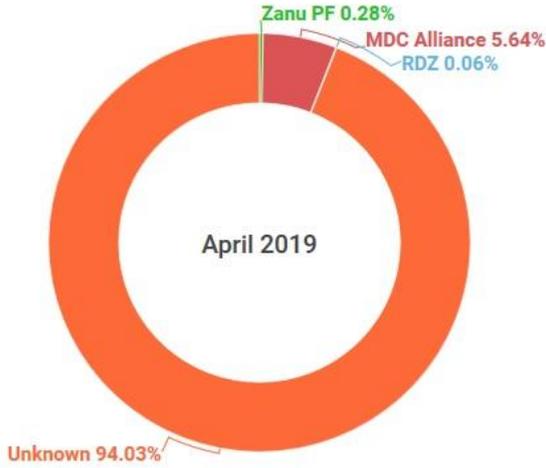
Victims by Gender

- Male
- Female
- Unknown

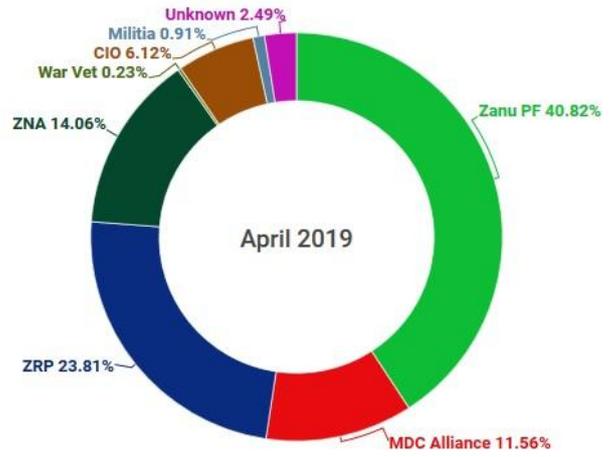


Male Female
Perpetrators by Gender

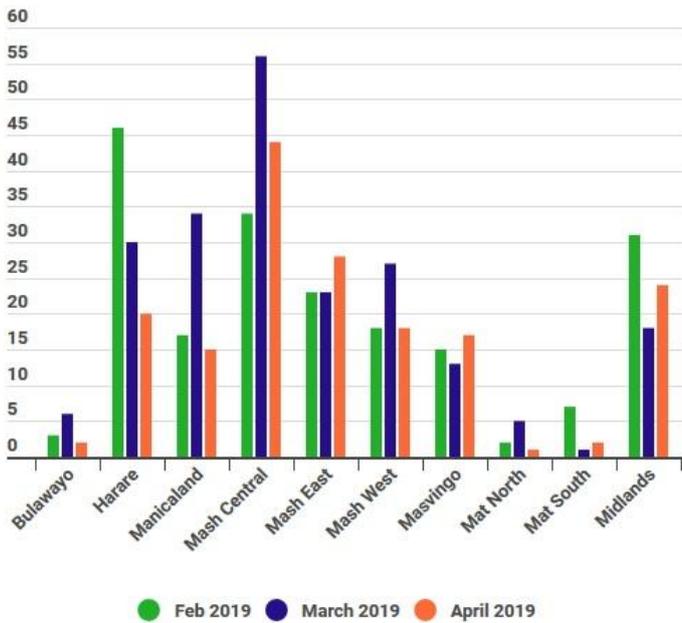




Victims by Affiliation



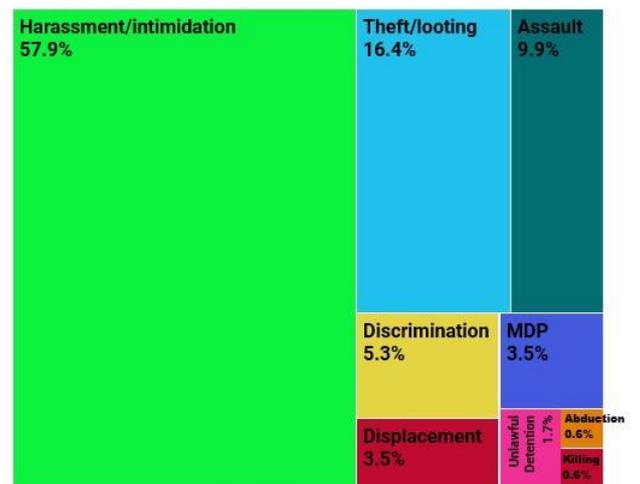
Perpetrators by Affiliation



Provincial Violations Trend



Food and Other Aid Violations



Violations by Type





Analysis.

The economic challenges currently obtaining in the country are a cause of concern as there does not seem to be an end in sight. The dialogue which was set to take place and herald an end to these challenges has not yielded any meaningful traction and this is likely going to implode and lead to mass protests and civil disobedience if not addressed as a matter of urgency.

Financial challenges that Zimbabweans are currently facing are further compounded by a ruling party which harasses and compels people to provide the little they have for independence celebrations. Most rural dwellers live well below the poverty datum line and for the very people who they are dependent on to victimise and deprive them of food aid because of their political persuasions is worryingly callous.

On the other hand, Cyclone Idai aid is being looted by the powers that be at the expense of the beneficiaries who desperately need this help. Zanu PF officials tasked with distributing this aid have shared the food among themselves resulting in the urgent needs of the victims not being addressed as was stated by the President during his site visit of Chimanimani after the Cyclone Idai disaster. ZPP hopes that perpetrators will be brought to book as there is much that still needs to be done for the disaster struck areas and progress can only be made if people sincerely perform their designated duties.

Soldiers' involvement in civilian matters such as evictions from farms is a cause of concern. This is further compounded by the extra judicial violence meted out on citizens in retaliation for the death of their colleagues. Presently, civilians' relationship with the army is fraught with fear and suspicion as a result of shootings and violence meted on them during the August 1 2018 shooting and January 14-22 violence. In any democratic society, the army is used against a nation's enemies and not its citizens. The fact that in Zimbabwe they are being ostensibly used in targeting civilians is truly an issue that needs immediate remedying.

The abduction of ARTUZ teachers is a barbaric act which ZPP believed had passed with the first republic. This disturbingly reminds ZPP of the 2008 abductions which were wide spread and people held for long periods of time without charges for their perceived crimes. ZPP hopes the second republic will do much to ensure this ghost of the past is totally eradicated and lay a foundation for a more progressive and democratic society. ZPP calls for a total end to abductions and enforced disappearances.





This society can also well be realised if rights of journalists are respected and able to carry out their duties without victimisation. This further extends to the civil society which was brought under the spotlight when Home Affairs Minister Cain Mathema, on 29 April alleged that some organisations are grooming the public in acts of protests so that they can overthrow the government. ZPP trusts that government realises the importance of the oversight role played by the civil society and paves way for a more progressive and organic relationship that is not shrouded in suspicion and antagonism.

Watchlist

The continued decline of the economy and escalation of prices will likely yield a frustrated and disgruntled citizenry. If not addressed, the situation may lead to a volatile environment culminating in strikes, stay aways and protests.

The National Peace and Reconciliation Commission (NPRC) outreach meetings currently underway are also worthy of note. Furthermore, exhumations already taking place without a clear policy framework is an issue that ZPP will keep under review.

Zanu PF cell restructuring processes currently underway in the country are also a matter to note, considering that the initial process has already perpetuated fear. ZPP hopes that going forward, the Zanu PF restructuring will happen in a peaceful manner that will instil confidence and not breed fear.

The running battles sporadically taking place in Midlands between artisanal miners and illegal gold panners are a cause of concern particularly considering that the situation seems to continue unabated. The lawlessness, if allowed to perpetuate will spread and affect ordinary citizens caught up in these battles. ZPP will continue to monitor this area.

ZPP will also closely monitor the MDC elective congress scheduled for the 24-26th of May 2019 and hope that the process will be peaceful.

ZPP Recommends

- The stoppage of continued politicisation of food aid and allow people to exercise their political rights without fear of deprivation.
- Political parties must provide a model for peace through how they conduct their elections and other processes in the party so that the same temperature prevails in





national elections. They must be protagonists in spreading a culture of peace and tolerance.

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

