



**ZIMBABWE
PEACE
PROJECT**

January 2016

Human Rights Violations

MONTHLY MONITORING REPORT

Zim Operates in State of Disaster

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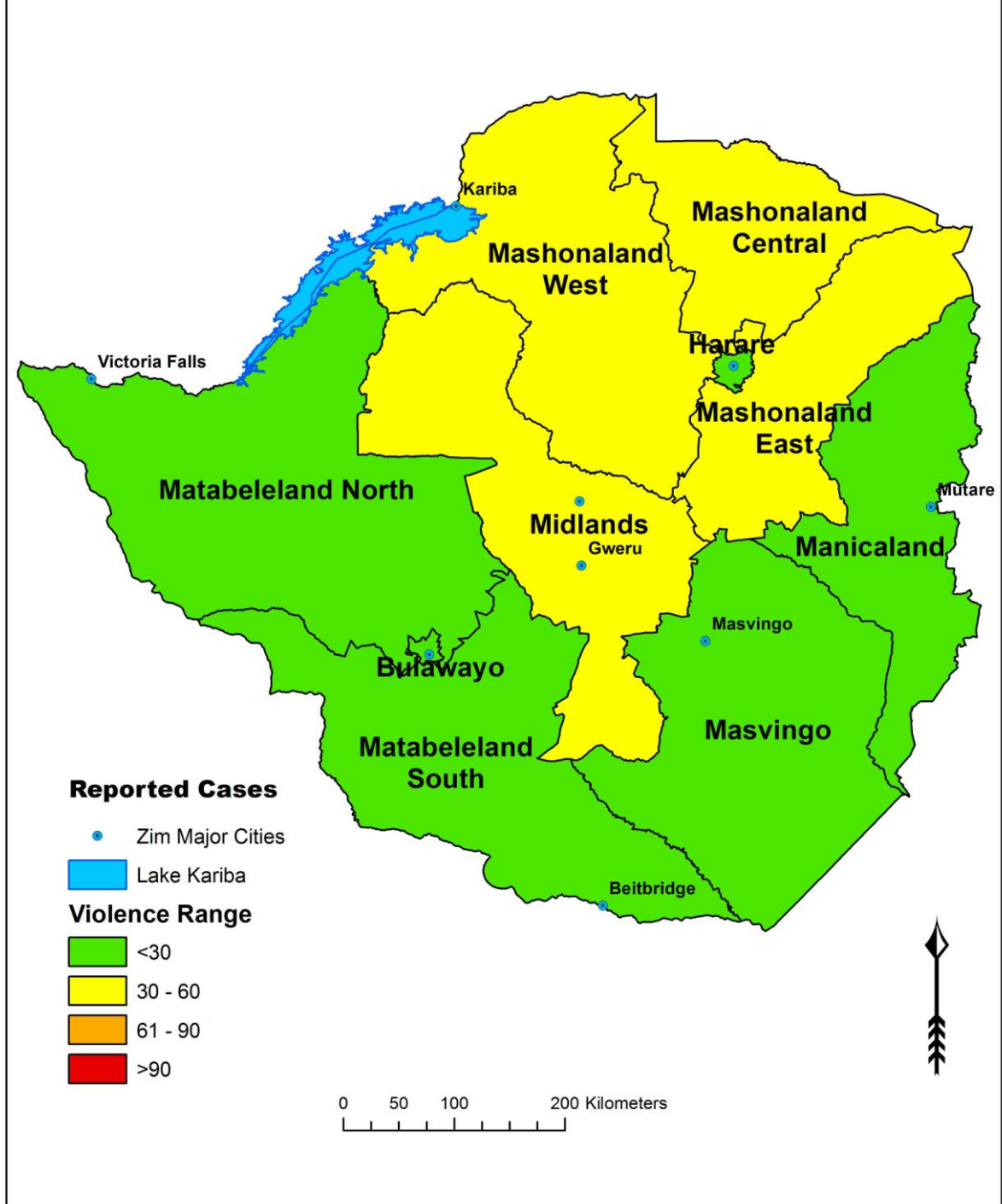
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THEMATIC OVERVIEW

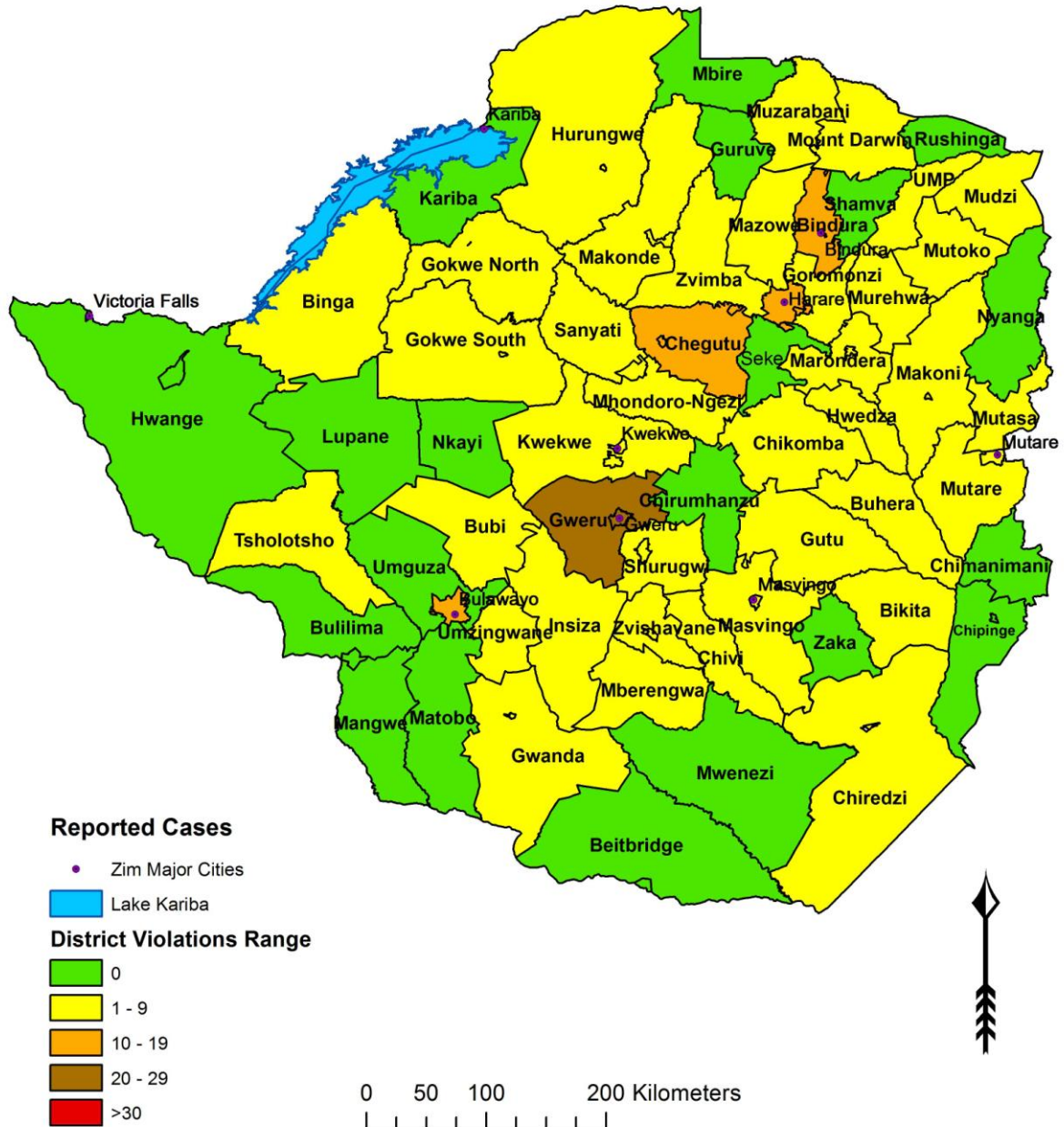
Theme: Zim Operates in State of Disaster

The declaration of State of Disaster on the 2015-2016 agricultural season brings with it some dynamics that if managed well could bring relief to the millions of Zimbabweans facing starvation.

January 2016 Provincial Violations Map



January 2016 District Violations Map



Executive Summary

ON 4 February 2016, Local Government Minister, Saviour Kasukuwere, acting on behalf of President Robert Mugabe, released a statement declaring the 2015-16 agricultural season a State of Disaster. This declaration set in motion a food mobilisation exercise which saw government making an appeal of US\$1.5 billion for assistance to enable it to provide for the food needs across the country. If managed well, the resource mobilisation efforts could result in food aid which could ease the plight of millions of Zimbabweans facing hunger induced by the El Nino drought.

As this report and a few others before it have shown, partisan distribution of food aid is resulting in the marginalisation of many vulnerable groups of people. In its special feature on page 26, Zimbabwe Peace Project (ZPP) recommends minimum standards which government should consider in its distributions.

Zanu-PF has never been at its most vulnerable as both internal and external threats ravage the revolutionary movement, shaking it from its very core and rendering it a former shadow of its mighty self in the process.

While internal turmoil in its own belly - caused by the tension between the warring factions of Generation 40 (G40) which is believed to be rooting for First Lady Grace Mugabe, and Team Lacoste, whose members are determined to see Vice President Emmerson Mnangagwa take over from President Robert Mugabe when the time comes - is making the revolutionary party nauseous; external threat from former Vice President Mujuru's new political outfit, Zimbabwe People First (commonly referred to only as People First) are enough to make it dizzy.

ZPP Monthly Monitoring Report for January 2016 shows that in addition to factional spasms taking centre stage across the provinces; Zanu-PF is battling to exorcise the 'ghost' of ousted Mujuru, who, more than a year since she was kicked to the curb supposedly continues to enjoy support within the rank and file of the ruling party. As if that were not enough, with People First gaining traction on the ground, Zanu-PF is feeling the heat as more and more of its members are reportedly jumping ship to join the new party.

This report shows that witch-hunting in the provinces particularly in Mashonaland East and Mashonaland Central, among a few other areas, has seen political conflict rising where ruling party members suspected of aligning themselves with People First are being flushed out of the party and in some instances finding themselves victims of harassment, intimidation and discrimination. Suspicion is rife among fellow Zanu-PF members as some no longer trust their colleagues whom they accuse of dabbling in People First politics even as they continue to sup with them at ruling party tables.

Apparently so threatening to Zanu-PF is the emergence of People First that this month's report tells of repeated warnings the ruling party is meting out to its membership in meetings against the "folly" of joining People First lest they be left out of distributions for food aid and input assistance.

In more pronounced instances, in Hwedza a group of suspected state agents were deployed to the area in order to monitor People First movements and progress.

ZPP reports also indicate a coming together to collaborate between Progressive Democrats Party (PDP) and People First, with the former joining hands with the latter, something which PDP leader Tendai Biti confirmed to ZPP.

Exorcising Mujuru's 'ghost' is proving to be seizing the ruling party as seen by the report from Manicaland where Mutare City Council management was targeted wholesale allegedly on suspicion that they are 'gamatox' remnants. ('Gamatox' are those suspected to be sympathetic to Mujuru.)

As Zanu-PF stands itself ready to fend off the People First threat, the 'traditional enemy, the Movement for Democratic Change (MDC-T) is not forgotten as relentless discrimination against its members continues amidst partisan distribution of food aid and input. Against a backdrop of hard hitting El Nino drought which has resulted in three million facing starvation and scores of livestock dying, hunger is wreaking havoc in the country. With millions of people facing starvation there is more need for diligent and equitable distribution of food aid. Sadly this is not so in a number of areas across the country.

In order to ensure that discrimination against members of the opposition is maintained Zanu-PF leadership at local levels in a number of areas have taken to displacing and replacing gatekeepers in distributions of food aid and agricultural inputs. In a number of instances reported for January, opposition councillors as well as village heads who did not comply with partisan distribution of the aid were either pushed out of their positions or relieved of the distribution function of their duties. This was seen in Matabeleland, among a few other areas.

January saw a total of 208 reported politically motivated violations, a majority of which were allegedly perpetrated by Zanu-PF (82.3%).

For its part, the MDC-T was also accused of perpetrating violent acts including a report from Mukarakate Village in Murehwa South, where a member of the democratic movement defected to the Renewal Democrats of Zimbabwe (RDZ) had his house set on fire.

Violence continues to be traded from all quarters albeit with some parties being more violent than others. On this score, the political landscape remains grim.

On a brighter note, however, unlike what is usually documented in reports, action was recorded to have been taken in some instances of violence which were reported to the police in January. While a great many of reported cases do not record decisive and corrective actions being taken in instances of political violence, this month's report carries two incidences in Mashonaland Central where perpetrators of the violations were punished by the law. In one instance where a victim's maize crop was slashed on the grounds that he supported the opposition, the perpetrator was charged and fined by the police. In the second incident, a Zanu-PF supporter who had stolen a bag of fertilizer from an MDC-T supporter simply because he was from the opposition and so, according to the perpetrator, should not have received this state assistance, the matter was reported to the police and taken to court and the perpetrator was reportedly sentenced to time in jail.

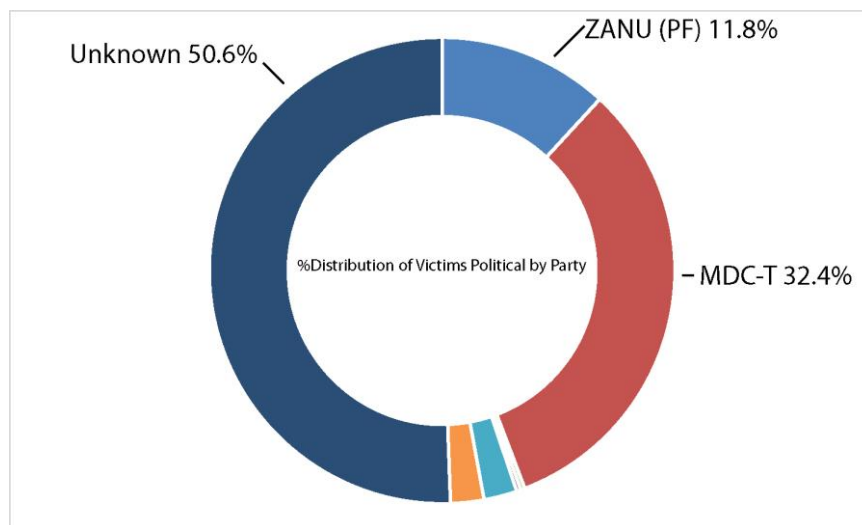
Though these sparks be bright, they are too few and far between, and so clearly the struggle for peace continues!

Data Gathering Methodology

Information contained herein is based on reports from ZPP long-term community based human rights monitors, who observe and record cases of human rights violations in the constituencies they reside. ZPP deploys a total of 420 community-based primary peace monitors (two per each of the 210 electoral constituencies of Zimbabwe). The monitors compile reports that are handed over to ZPP coordinators who man the different ZPP regional offices in the ten administrative provinces of Zimbabwe. Upon receipt and verifications of the reports from the monitors, the Regional Coordinators compile provincial monthly monitoring reports, which are then consolidated at the national office into the ZPP monthly monitoring reports published in retrospect.

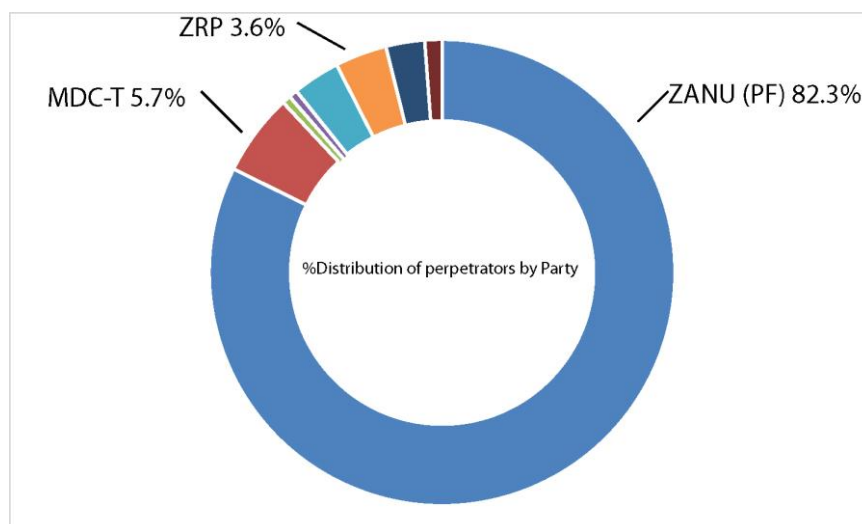
THE DASHBOARD – INCIDENTS’ STATISTICS AT A GLANCE

Analysis of Violence Victims by Party



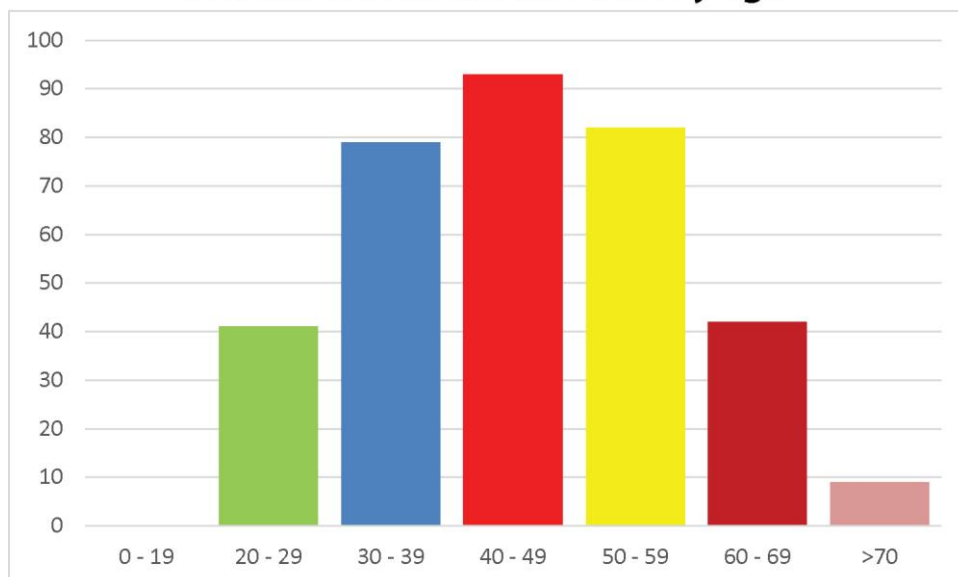
As the figure above shows, the political affiliation for a majority of political violence victims for January at 50.6% was unknown. *MDC-T had 32.4 percent of the victims from the reported incidences, while victims from Zanu-PF made up 11.8 percent of total incidences. These figures show similar proportions to December’ s statistics. The high percentage of “unknown” victims of violence can be interpreted to indicate the reluctance or fear by some Zanu PF members to openly declare that they were victims of violence perpetrated by their own party.

Analysis of Violence Perpetrators by Political Party



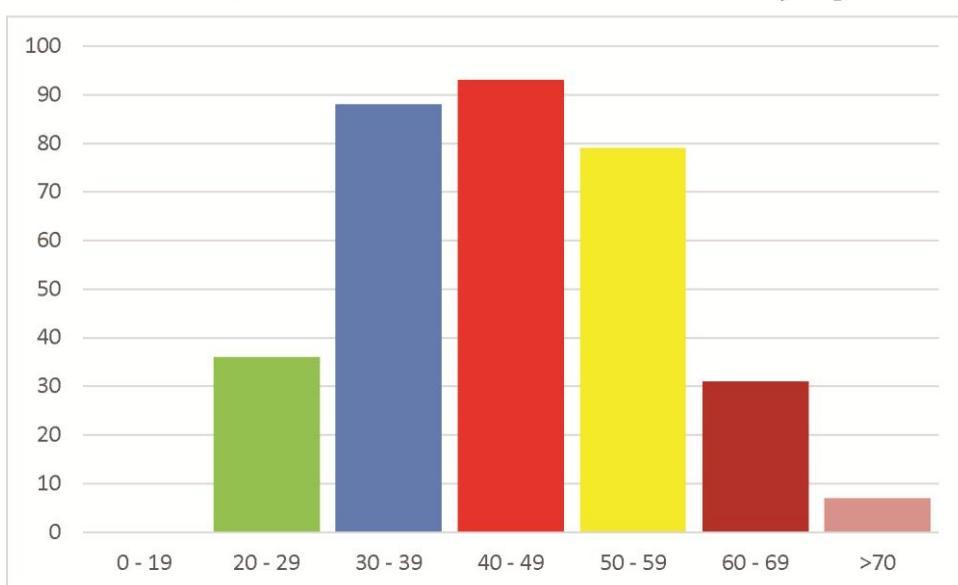
As the figure above shows, most of the perpetrators of political violence for January were from Zanu-PF at 82.3 % of the incidences. MDC-T had 5.7 % of the perpetrators, while ZRP also had incidences they perpetrated at 3.6%. These figures show a slight decrease for Zanu-PF from December which stood at 85% and a very slight increase for MDC-T which had 5% in December.

Victims of Political Violence by age



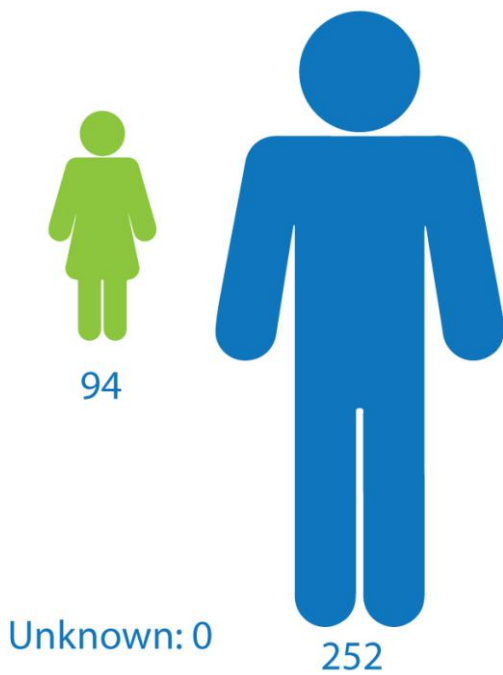
Victims of violence for January were mainly in the 40-49 years age group; while the 50-59 years age group came second followed by the 30 -39. Like the other months, over 70 years age group had the least number of victims for January.

Perpetrators of Political Violence by age



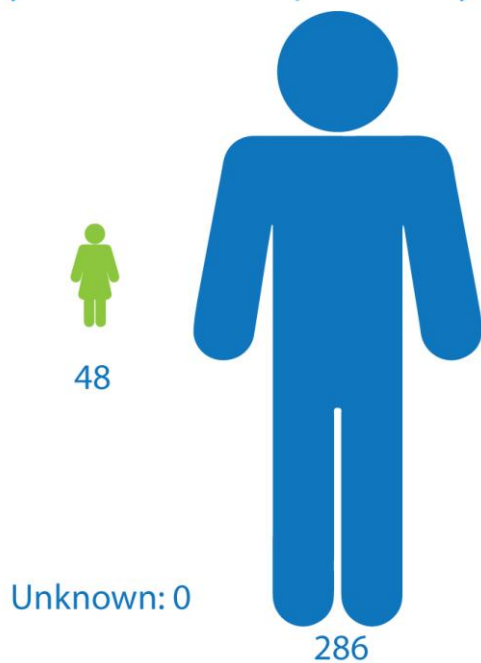
The highest number of perpetrators was found in the 40 – 49 years age group, followed by the 30-39 years age group. The 50-59 years age was next followed by those from 20 – 29 years of age. Very few were above 69 years of age. This trend is generally consistent with that of other months.

Analysis of Violence Victims by Gender



Like previous months, January showed the number of male victims of violence being more than that of women. Male victims were 252 slightly down from last month's 260; while female victims were 94 a considerable decrease from last month's 142.

Analysis of Violence Perpetrators by Gender



The number of male perpetrators of violence for January at 286 is minimally less than that of 290 last month. Women stood at a fraction of that at 48 for January; notably this figure was more than double the figure for women perpetrators in December which stood at 22. This shows that men were more likely to perpetrate violence than women; and that there was an increase in women perpetrating violence.

Distribution of Violations by Party across Provinces

PROVINCE	MDC-T	ZANU-PF	TOTAL
Bulawayo	1	4	5
Harare	1	1	2
Manicaland	0	3	3
Mash. Central	0	1	1
Mash. East	0	5	5
Mash. West	2	4	6
Masvingo	0	1	1
Mat. North	0	0	0
Mat. South	0	1	1
Midlands	0	0	0

Mashonaland West had the largest number of violations at 6, with most of them (4) perpetrated by Zanu-PF. Mashonaland East and Bulawayo tied at 5 violations each. Midlands had no recorded violations for the month of January neither did Matabeleland North. **In figure below** January showed the most common type of violence being intimidation and harassment at 140 out of 208.

Distribution of violence by type across provinces

ACTS	Midlands	Byo	Mat. South	Mat. North	Masvingo	Manicaland	Harare	Mash. East	Mash. West	Mash. Central	TOTAL
Murder	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
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	2	0	0	0	0	0	4	0	0	2	8
Theft/looting	3	0	1	0	0	0	0	5	3	1	13
Discrimination	5	2	2	4	2	2	0	4	5	8	34
MDP	1	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	2	1	6
Torture	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Unlawful Detention	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Intimidation /harassment	31	9	2	4	10	12	7	23	25	17	140
Displacement	0	0	0	0	2	0	0	1	0	2	5
Attempted Murder	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Attempted Rape	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Banned Political Party Mtg	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Disrupted Political Mtg	0	1	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	2
Total	42	12	5	8	14	15	12	34	35	31	208

Provincial Summaries

Bulawayo

Zimbabwe People First (People First) was visible on the ground setting up structures and recruiting members. Peoples Democratic Party (PDP) was also observed on the ground and was telling supporters that they were merging with People First, a development which PDP leader, Tendai Biti confirmed when ZPP called him. The Movement for Democratic Change (MDC-T) intra-party conflict continued with the ongoing stand-off between supporters of Senator Matson Hlalo and Deputy Mayor Gift Banda unabated. Hlalo could not be reached for comment, but Banda confirmed ill-will existed, though he claimed he was on the receiving end of it.

Infighting in Zanu-PF also continued between supporters of Vice President Emmerson Mnangagwa (Team Lacoste) and those aligned to The First Lady (Generation 40 [G40]).

Highlights:

- On 15 January 2016, two MDC-T members verbally insulted one another and almost exchanged blows at Glengarry Shopping Centre in Bulawayo East. The two were accusing each other of belonging to opposing camps. They were later restrained by a fellow party member.
- On 30 January 2016, in a case of intra-party conflict within Zanu-PF, a war veterans meeting for wards 10 and 11 in Entumbane/Emakhandeni scheduled to be addressed by war veterans Minister, Chris Mutsvangwa, was abandoned after reports that the meeting had not been sanctioned by party leadership.
- On 31 January 2016, a meeting held at the war vets offices in Entumbane was abandoned midway amid chaos as members started accusing each other of spying for the various party factions. As physical fights became imminent chairperson only named as Ncube stopped the meeting and promised to uproot factionalism.

Harare

Political parties were busy setting up structures in the communities. From 10 -15 January 2016, Zanu- PF were restructuring their cell structures in wards 3, 4, 11 and 12. The process was conducted by the provincial chairperson and his executives. On the other hand, MDC-T had structure auditing on 26 January 2016, in Waterfalls at the community hall.

Highlights:

- On 30 January 2016, there was violence in Glen View Ward 31 during a Zanu-PF restructuring meeting. Youth leaders allegedly booted out the ward chairperson and his son from the party. This followed violence that disrupted ward elections to elect the Zanu-PF youth leadership. The two aspiring candidates fought over the

process of conducting the election. The case was reported to the police but no arrests were made.

Manicaland

Manicaland has been battling to remove the last remnants of the ‘gamatox’ mainly in the administrative structures of government and quasi government departments. (‘Gamatox’ refers to Zanu-PF members aligned to former Vice President, Joice Mujuru, who was ousted from party for allegedly plotting against President Robert Mugabe.) Manicaland Provincial Affairs Minister, Mandi Chimene and Local Government Minister, Saviour Kasukuwere, are allegedly conducting ‘cleansing ceremonies’ in the city of Mutare all in an effort to get rid of ‘gamatox’ remnants and replace them with Kasukuwere loyalists who are better placed to push the G40 agenda.

On the other hand, People First seem to be gaining ground in the province with known Zanu-PF and MDC-T members jumping ship and jostling for a place in the new party.

The state through the village heads seem determined to curtail freedom of assembly and expression of opposition party members as the clock ticks towards the 2018 general elections.

Highlights:

- On 23 January 2016, at Kambarami Village in Mutare North Ward 5, MDC-T members wore their party regalia at a funeral of their party member Simon Tirarami. The village head, Innocent Kambarami was allegedly infuriated on seeing the regalia and reportedly dragged the victims – John Mukwandi, Simon Zvedi and Norest Mupfumbi (not their real names) to the headman’s court over the matter. The same happened on 9 January 2016 at Maoko Village Ward 11 Mutare North when an army officer allegedly threatened Tapiwa Zondo (not real name) of MDC-T and others at a funeral of their colleague putting on party regalia. The officer allegedly threatened Zondo with physical harm for allowing his party members to behave as they did.
- On 20 January 2016, more than 100 protesters led by Esau Mupfumi, Zanu-PF MP Chikanga, demonstrated against city Management and the Town Clerk Obert Muzawazi at Civic Centre Mutare. They accused them of being corrupt. However they did not substantiate the claims. It is believed the victims are suspected ‘gamatox’ and their bashing is as a result of factional politics. The Town Clerk has since resigned from the job. When ZPP spoke to Mupfumi to confirm the demonstrations and whether or not he provided buses for them, he was reluctant to commit himself one way or the other, saying only that, “I don’t know,” before blasting the ZPP for working for “whites”. Efforts to reach Muzavazi and other city managers were not fruitful by the time of going to print.

- On 18 January 2016, in a case aimed at barring the opposition from carrying out its activities, Violet Nyabeza, shadow councillor for Zanu-PF, disturbed an MDC-T meeting in Ward 14 Mutasa Central. On the day in question, the MDC-T called for a meeting to discuss developmental projects for the ward. Nyabeza allegedly also called for a meeting at the same time and same venue all in a suspected attempt to scuttle the MDC-T meeting. In the end none of the two meetings took place.

It must be noted that Mutasa Central remains a problem child for Zanu-PF as it is the only constituency in the whole of Manicaland that still has an opposition MP-Trevor Saruwaka.

- On 16 January 2016, in Makoni South Ward 23 Zumbani Village, the village head and Zanu-PF member allegedly verbally threatened Joseph Nhau (not real name) of MDC-T, accusing him of not attending Zanu-PF meetings. The village head told the victim that he would not consider him for assistance in the event of food aid programmes in the village.

Mashonaland Central

The period under review made it evident that Zanu-PF was feeling the pressure as more of its supporters were reportedly defecting to People First. Reports received from the province indicate that at most meetings, Zanu-PF leadership were warning people not to join People First or support any other political party. Food continued to be used as a tool for people to remain loyal to the ruling party as people are threatened that if they do not support Zanu-PF they would not benefit from food and fertiliser distribution.

Highlights:

- On 3 January 2016, MP for Rushinga District, Hon. Wonder Mashange, visited Ward 11 and held a meeting with the youths from wards 1-25. It is alleged that he told the youths that he did not want People First supporters in his constituency. He allegedly told people not to vote for People First and MDC-T. However, Mashange denied saying this when ZPP called him. Although he confirmed the meeting he said his main message to the youths was that they should have a sense of ownership and assist government in its endeavours.
- On 10 January 2016, at Majome Village, Ward 17 in Mazowe Central, Robert Dundu (not real name) of MDC-T had his maize slashed by Michael Kapiza of Zanu-PF for supporting the opposition. Dundu reported the case to the police and Kapiza was made to pay a fine.
- On 13 January 2016, Ganyo aged 48, the district chairperson of Zanu-PF for Bindura North was allegedly forced to resign after it was discovered that he was associating with People First co-ordinator for Bindura North.

- On 14 January 2016, Simon Gundu (not real name) was displaced from a tuckshop he was renting in Gweshe Village, Ward 17 for supporting the MDC-T by a Zanu-PF local chairperson, Chikukwa Kazembe.
- On 17 January 2016, Noah Vambe of Zanu-PF was allegedly caught stealing a bag of fertiliser from an MDC-T supporter at the victim's house in Gunguwo Village, Ward 33 in Mazowe Central. He was taken to the police and the matter was brought before the courts where he was sentenced to three months in jail. It is alleged that Vambe said he stole because the MDC-T supporter received the fertiliser from Zanu-PF.
- On 20 January 2016, residents of Rujeko Township, Ward 33 were forced to participate in Zanu-PF committees and structures whether they liked it or not. They were insulted and threatened by the local party leadership and the people agreed because of fear.
- On 24 January 2016, Oliver Mavhangira aged 36 and Rodrick Jacha aged 34 both Zanu-PF youths, allegedly harassed Brian Hunda (not real name) quizzing him on why he did not write a resignation letter notifying Zanu-PF that he was going to join People First. The incident occurred at Progress Shopping Centre, Ward 12 in Bindura North. Mavhangira is the Zanu-PF chairperson for Ward 12, Gushungo Branch.
- On 28 January 2016, in Chigwiza Village, Ward 10 in Mazowe Central, Zanu PF chairperson for Ward 10, one Alexander Chigwada called for a meeting to form cells in Badzarigere and Chigwiza villages. He allegedly told people to support only Zanu-PF so that when food and fertiliser is delivered they would benefit. He threatened all those who supported any other opposition party that they were going to be dealt with.

Mashonaland East

Like the rest of the provinces in the Mashonaland region, the emergence of the People First party seemed to be causing Zanu-PF sleepless nights. At Zanu-PF meetings people were told not to associate with people suspected of supporting People First. Also notable is the rate at which former Zanu-PF members who were ousted from the party were joining People First.

In other development, people associated with the opposition continue to be discriminated against at food distribution points for being non-Zanu-PF supporters. It is alleged that village heads are instructed not to include people from the opposition on their lists of beneficiaries of government aid.

Highlights:

- On 2 January 2016, a former MDC-T councillor was taken to an office at Nyamuyaruka Business Centre by one, Chinditi, where he was asked to give

reports of all the MDC-T activities in the area. He was threatened with disappearance if he did not comply.

- On 3 January 2016, at a funeral of an MDC-T member in Marondera West, Ward 14 MDC-T supporters wearing their party regalia and chanting slogans got into an altercation with a relative who was wearing Zanu-PF regalia. The two sides exchanged harsh words until the intervention of some elders who calmed the situation.
- On 6 January 2016, a businesswoman at Kotwa Business Centre was approached by Gilbert Makazvo and John Karima who allegedly requested for US\$25 for the 21st February Movement celebrations. When the businesswoman said she did not have the money, Makazvo allegedly accused her of supporting the MDC-T.
- On 11 January 2016, state agents allegedly came to Hwedza Inn in Ward 15 asking where the People First meeting was being held. The state agents are said to have been informed that People First was going to hold a meeting at the Inn on the day. They reportedly took the booking register at the Inn but failed to get information they wanted. They waited at the Inn until 10pm. It is reported that people are now living in fear.
- On 13 January 2016, about 20-30 people believed to be soldiers in civilian clothing reportedly moved in to stay at Hwedza Growth Point, Ward 15 with their household property. It is feared that the soldiers are on assignment to find people linked to People First. They have since started looking for accommodation in the community.
- On 16 January Simon Sandati (not real name) of the MDC-T was served with an eviction order after his niece, Sharon Sireti of Zanu-PF, allegedly sold his house in Marondera Central on allegations that he was an MDC-T supporter.
- On the night of 20 January 2016, it is alleged that Martin Zunza (not real name), a former MDC-T member in Mukarakate Village, Ward 8 in Murehwa South, who defected to the Renewal Democrats of Zimbabwe (RDZ), had his house set on fire. RDZ leader, Elton Mangoma, confirmed the incident to ZPP.
- On 20 January 2016, some war veterans in Magauze Village, Ward 8 in Mudzi West were allegedly forcing people to buy Zanu-PF membership cards at US\$3 each. At the same meeting people were also threatened with unspecified action if they talked to one, George Katsande, a former Zanu-PF provincial commissar who was ousted from the party on allegations of being aligned to People First. People were told that if they talked to him they will be labelled ‘gamatox’.
- The Zanu-PF leadership in Ward 30, Murehwa Centre allegedly issued an instruction that all village heads and secretaries were going to be given forms that were going to be used to form cells in the area. Those who refused to be in cells

were threatened with violence similar to the 2008 terror. Village heads and secretaries were also implored to ensure that non-Zanu-PF supporters did not benefit from any state assistance and that lists were going to be compiled by the Zanu-PF youth officer.

Mashonaland West

The province saw People First party building structures in different constituencies. The province also saw food continue being used as a campaign tool especially by the candidate for the Mhondoro-Mubaira National Assembly by-elections scheduled for March.

Highlights:

- On 4 January 2016, in Kadoma Central a Zanu-PF member and an MDC-T councillor had a disagreement over people employed by the council. The Zanu-PF member wanted to employ supporters of his party so he is moving around disturbing workers claiming that it should be Zanu-PF supporters doing that work.
- On 14 January 2016, Stewart Kamudyariwa of the MDC-T allegedly insulted Tinashe Mhashu (not real name) of Zanu-PF for failing to pay school fees for his child. Kamudyariwa asked Mhashu how it was possible for him to fail to pay school fees for his child when he was a member of the ruling party. He accused him of raising thieves by failing to send his child to school. The incident occurred at 176 Dombwe Farm.
- On 19 January 2016, (around the time when ghastly rumours were circulating that the President has passed on) Yousouf Tsikai arrived at Xaba Bottle Store at Dombwe Township, Ward 17 and allegedly started insulting Zanu-PF members for supporting a 'dead' person. It is reported that the Zanu-PF members at the bottle store just left without saying a word.
- From 8 – 18 January in 2016, a voter registration exercise was conducted in Mhondoro-Mubaira constituency in preparation for by-elections slated for 5 March 2016, to replace recalled MP, Sylvester Nguni. People were forced to register to vote. They were told that if they did not register to vote they were not going to benefit from food distributions. Village heads were instructed to tell people that they should bring their voter registration slips at distribution points. No registration slip, no food, it was communicated.
- On 18 January 2016, in Kebvunde Township in Magunje, Karoi, Chief Nematombo refused to have Samuel Zaburoni become a village headman because he is a member of MDC-T. They had an argument for a long time until Zaburoni took his case to the district administrator's offices in Karoi. After narrating his case to the district administrator he was told that they only acted on what they are informed by the chief. Zaburoni was humiliated by the chief and currently the village does not have a village head.

- On 21 January 2016, in Mhondoro-Ngezi, Muchemwa Village, Ward 5, Alice Nhondo (not real name) a war collaborator expressed interest to be chairperson for People First. Synodia Chigarakara, a fellow war collaborator and Zanu-PF member, asked Nhondo why she wanted to join People First when they belonged to Zanu-PF. Chigarakara then threatened to remove Nhondo's name from the war collaborators' list.
- On 22 January 2016, there was a star rally at Mubaira Growth Point for the Zanu-PF candidate, George Gangarahwe. People were ferried from all the wards and were threatened with denial of food aid if they did not register to vote.
- On 23 January 2016, Zanu-PF youths and other supporters in Chegutu Ward 6 went to independent candidates' houses after the by-election results announcement and started singing revolutionary songs and insulting the losing candidates using vulgar words.

Masvingo

Farm disturbances have been taking place in Masvingo without any restraint from the government. The disturbances have seen three white farmers losing their land without any due process being followed. New "owners" reportedly descended on the farms claiming they were now the rightful owners at Crest Farm owned by Yvonne Goddard, Stopover and Clipsham Number 2 Farms owned by the Deidricks family. Crest is located 10km from Masvingo town along the Zvishavane Road; while Clipsham Number 2 is 4km from Masvingo town along the Beitbridge Highway. Stopover Farm is 8km from town along the Great Zimbabwe Road.

The dry conditions prevailing in the country has hit Masvingo the hardest. While the province is drought prone, the 2015/16 agricultural season has been the worst with the people surviving on wild fruits. Cattle are dying in large numbers due to the unavailability of pasture. Hopefully, the government and developmental agencies will chip in to avert mass starvation.

Highlights:

- On 17 January 2016, at Nyamakwe Business Centre Chivi Central, a meeting was addressed by Chivi district administrator, Bernard Hamadziripi, and Ward 16 councillor Munashe Pwanyai. The address was targeted at 38 village heads including Gwenyaya and Makoni village heads who were instructed to remember not to leave out Zanu-PF supporters in their selection of vulnerable people earmarked for food assistance. The DA and councillor made the call despite the fact that they are state employees who should not be partisan in their dealings with the public.
- On 20 January 2016, there was an attempt to displace Crest Farm in Masvingo West Yvonne Goddard, the farm owner. The perpetrator has allegedly since dispatched tractors to the farm for land preparation. The gates leading to the farm

are locked with two Zanu-PF youths manning the gates in case of ‘strangers’ attempting to access the farm. In a related matter, on 14 January 2016 there were attempts to take over Stopover and Clipsham Number 2 Farms owned by the Deidricks family. While Commercial Farmers’ Union director, Henry Olivier, confirmed to ZPP that there had been disturbances at Crest Farm and that Goddard was, however, still at the farm; he could neither confirm nor deny the same for Stopover and Clipsham Number 2 farms as he said the CFU had been having challenges communicating with the owners.

Unconfirmed reports allege that these farms are being taken because the owners are allies with ousted ‘gamatox’ former Energy Minister, Dzikamai Mavhaire.

Matabeleland North

Incidents of discrimination in food distribution and harassment and intimidation of political opponents made up most of the violations. Food was being used as a political tool to control communities. The right to health was heavily compromised as a result of gross shortage of medicines in health institutions.

This was tragically exposed in Sipepa area of Tsholotsho where a school boy was bitten by a cobra at night and was rushed to Sipepa Hospital. There the boy was only given paracetamol because there was no anti venom serum. He died the following morning. It appears the ruling ‘elite’ found new ways of denying their rivals and perceived opposition members the right to food. This they did by ensuring that during registration process they write their party colleagues top of the lists so that in case of food running out their people would have benefited and rivals lose out.

Some relief food was reportedly also seen being sold in shops especially in Nkayi.

Highlights:

- On 16 January 2016, three Zanu-PF ward co-ordinators led by one, Starzia Muleya allegedly threatened to beat up Cynthia Zunga (not real name) accusing her of having defected to MDC-T. They had found her at Siyansundu Business Centre getting food packs from MDC-T members who were giving their members under their party’s Red Bag programme. They said she should refuse food from MDC-T but she told them she had now joined that party. They then insulted her and promised they would deal with her in unspecified ways.
- In the first week of January, an MDC-T councillor of Ward 16 in Bubi was allegedly ordered by Odiwel Ngwenya, a Zanu-PF VIDCO secretary to stop working as a councillor. This was allegedly on instruction from Zanu-PF women’s league chairperson Nothani Ngwenya. She was barred from participating in all food distribution programmes which were then taken over by Zanu-PF activists. She took the matter up with the district administrator’s office but nothing was done to solve the issue. The councillor had compiled a dossier on corruption in

food distribution in the area. She reported theft of food by Zanu-PF officials in Dabula West Village, Dabengwa West Village and Mathole as well as Dabengwa East villages.

- On 30 January 2016, village head and chairperson of area village heads in 5 villages in Ward 16 Bubi, Dabengwa East, Dabengwa West, Dabula West, Mathole and Dabula East, Izon Mhlanga was allegedly barred from participating in food distribution by Robert Mhlanga ostensibly acting on behalf of war vets in the area. Victim was accused of giving food to everyone yet only Zanu-PF members were supposed to benefit according to them.
- Hwange East No violations of civil and political rights noted but rampant hunger and health issues affecting mostly women and children. Lots of pupils dropping out of school and getting into early marriages.

Matabeleland South

Not much inter party disturbances were recorded in the province except in cases of food distribution where Zanu-PF activists were allegedly discriminating against members of the opposition.

Highlights:

- On 30 January 2016, in a case of discrimination and corruption, Zanu-PF ward members in Mtshazo area of Gwanda North barred elected councillor Kelan Ndlovu of MDC party led by Welshman Ncube, from distribution of social welfare food. They had their own list of beneficiaries which was done in a partisan manner. Normally food is distributed by councillors and village heads.

Midlands

Political intolerance towards opposition party members was the order of the day during the month of January with several such people failing to access economic means due to their questionable political background. Others were dethroned from leadership positions for airing views synonymous with the opposition.

Tension in Zanu-PF continued mainly between the G40 and Team Lacoste as each faction tried to outdo the other in the fight to succeed President Mugabe. Vice President Emmerson Mnangagwa has deep roots in the Midlands and it is widely believed that the province could be his launch pad in the event he formally declares his intention to bid for the presidency.

On the other hand, People First has caused shock waves mainly in the opposition party MDC-T where a number of prominent members have jumped ship to find shelter in the new party.

Highlights:

- On 3 January 2016, Simba Tapera, Zanu-PF chairperson, allegedly denied Alec Simo (not real name), of MDC-T, access to fertiliser at Kusuwe Business Centre Gokwe Sesame, after he failed to say out the name of the district party political commissar. On the day in question, the government had availed inputs through the Presidential Input Scheme. When it was the turn for the victim to receive his lot, Tapera asked him to chant Zanu-PF party slogans and say who the party's political commissar is at district level. The victim failed to do as asked and thus failed to get the 50kg bag of fertilizer.
- On 5 January 2016, at Nemamwe Business Centre Gokwe Sesame Ward 11, Clemence Majaje, Zanu-PF chairperson, allegedly dethroned the sitting village head, Regius Nyongo, on the grounds that he is sympathetic to the MDC-T. On the day, Majaje called for a meeting at Nemamwe Centre and in the presence of everyone said that the victim is no longer village head. He asked the villagers to come up with another village head who is within the Zanu-PF party ranks. However, it is important to note that the removal of village heads is the prerogative of the state through the Local Government Ministry and cannot be unilaterally done by any individual or party.
- On 31 January 2016, at Maodza Village Chiundura, Stephen Chauke of Zanu-PF allegedly verbally harassed and threatened with physical harm Job Nhoru (not real name) of MDC-T for his support of and affiliation to the opposition. The two met in the village where the Chauke reportedly accused the victim of being a traitor and sell-out.
- On 27 January 2016, in Masowe Village Gokwe Nembudziya, Onismo Mupini of Zanu-PF allegedly asked Neliwe Zinde (not real name) a member of MDC-T to surrender her late husband's party regalia. Zinde's husband was a staunch MDC-T supporter who passed away in December 2015. It is alleged that Mupini went to the victim's homestead and demanded that she surrender her husband's party regalia and affiliation cards which were still in the woman's custody. The woman complied due to fear.

FOOD AND OTHER VIOLATIONS

Mashonaland Central

- On 11 January 2017, there was a meeting for seed and fertiliser distribution at Old Zunguze Clinic in Ward 17, Rushinga at 2pm. Mike Murima the branch chairperson for Ward 17 was responsible for the distribution. He gave fertilisers to Zanu-PF supporters only. Several people were denied the inputs. The reason for denial was that they were not Zanu-PF members.
- On 21 January 2016, at a food distribution exercise at Nyamuti in Karanda Ward 14 in Mt Darwin East, Chipango, a Zanu-PF shadow councillor, argued with an MDC-T councillor saying that they did not work with MDC-T. They almost fought and were restrained by people.
- On 22 January 2016, at Chomagara Village in Mt Darwin South Lameck Gumbeze, aged 55, allegedly denied Daniel Chigogo, aged 35, of Chamagora Village food aid. He accused Daniel of being an MDC-T party member who should not benefit from government programmes.
- On 23 January 2016, at around 1100hrs, Peter Chinyoka, the Ward 15 councillor, called for a meeting at Dandamera Community Hall in Mazowe West. In that meeting he told the people that he wanted names of under privileged children who sat for A' levels. However he went on to say that children whose parents do not support Zanu-PF should not waste their time applying for presidential scholarship because they were not eligible.
- On 26 January 2016, in Muzarabani South, there are people who were chased from a meeting in Ward 9 by councillor Alison Chiwashira. The meeting was to choose beneficiaries for food to be distributed by government. They were MDC-T supporters accused of causing chaos.

Mashonaland East

- On 11 January 2016, Zanu-PF youths at Donzwe Primary School in Ward 12, Mudzi South allegedly wanted to beat up some village heads as well as a member of the Zanu-PF executive committee for including on the list of beneficiaries for fertiliser members of the opposition. The youths wanted to distribute 18 bags of fertiliser that had been received from the government. The village heads had compiled lists of beneficiaries but the youths wanted only Zanu PF supporters to benefit.
- On 12 January 2016, some cash assistance made possible by an international non-governmental organisation for people with disabilities was distributed at

Nyazvihunda Village, Ward 8 in Mudzi West. Donald Shope (not real name) was identified as a beneficiary by the community but was allegedly denied access to the money by Luckman Chimukiko, a Zanu- PF youth officer, for not attending Zanu-PF meetings. His name was struck off from the list in front of the people.

- On 19 January 2016, at Mhangura Primary School there was a meeting where a church wanted to build the school for the community. The Zanu-PF councillor for Ward 25, Chisero, allegedly refused the assistance claiming the church was planning to take the school. He told them that the government was going to complete the project yet it has been more than 5 years with no progress being made. It is reported that parents approached the church and requested them to take over the project.
- On 21 January 2016, at Nyanzou Business Centre in Karamba Ward, Maramba Pfungwe, an MDC-T supporter was denied access to receive maize and soya beans from government by Zanu-PF councillor, Pedzisai Makoma. The councillor told him he was not supposed to benefit since he was not a member of Zanu-PF.

Mashonaland West

- On 4 January 2016, in Karoi one of the people overseeing inputs distribution allegedly arranged for bags of 50 kg bags of fertilisers to be repacked in smaller quantities of a bucket each. When that was done some of the fertiliser was then sold in hardware shops by the manager in question for suspected personal gain.
- On 8 January 2016, Nixon Mandere, Zanu-PF councillor for Ward 23 in Hurungwe Central called a meeting for people to register for food at Mukamba Point. On arrival people were told that it was a Zanu-PF meeting and were made to chant Zanu-PF slogans. The meeting was to form Zanu-PF branch cells and people were forced into positions. Those who refused had their names written down. Councillor Nixon was accompanied by Concillia Mudimu the district chairperson who allegedly told people that those in cells were going to be given first preference when food distribution starts.
- On 13 January 2016, Michael Marecha, Zanu-PF councillor is said have collected money from villagers in Ward 17 claiming it was for transporting their maize from the GMB. He is said to have collected money amounting to approximately US \$600 but the money was diverted to pay debts at his farm. On 16 January 2016 a delivery of maize was made to Ward 17 and people were asked again to pay US\$2 each for transport. The community asked why they had to pay for the second time and were told that the money they had contributed would pay for another batch which will be delivered at a later date.
- On 16 January 2016, in Ward 6 Pfu-pajena in Chegutu West people were informed that there was food distribution from the social welfare but the distribution turned into a rally. After the rally people were asked to produce their voter registration

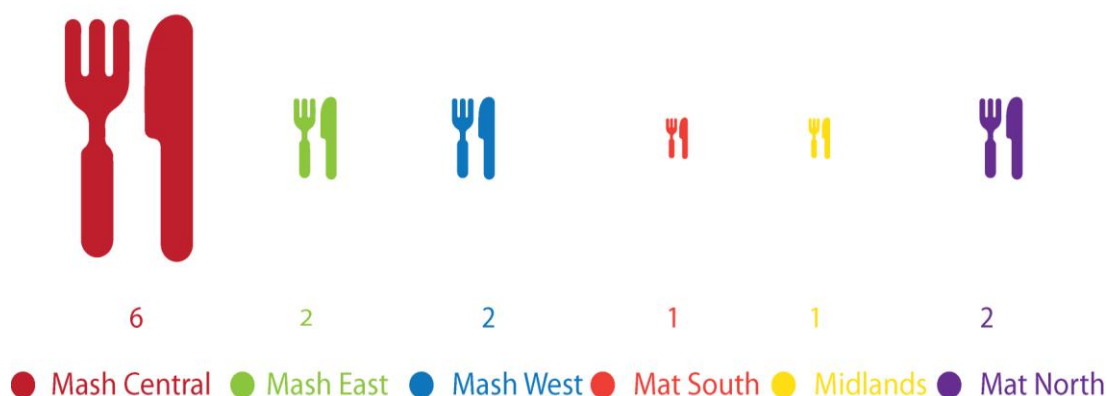
slips. Those without voter registration slips were told that they were not going to benefit. At least one MDC-T supporter was reportedly denied food in that process.

- On 27 January 2016, in Ward 1 of Zvimba West constituency where a fundraising exercise was carried out for the less advantaged people in the ward. People were asked to bring US\$1, 25 per household through their village heads as transport and empty bag cost. Instead they were put into pairs to get a 50kg bag of maize which they had to share into 25kgs per household. Those who did not manage to pay the \$1.25 failed to benefit.

Matabeleland South

- On 26 January 2016, Zanu-PF ward officials in Umzingwane distributed twenty-litre buckets to party members only at Mawabeni Centre saying these were for party members only. About a hundred buckets were given but most people believed these were from social welfare and was supposed to benefit all. Source of the items was not confirmed.

Summary of Food Violations by Province



Mashonaland Central had the largest number of food distribution violations at 6, with Mashonaland East, Mashonaland West and Matabeleland North with two cases each. Mashonaland provinces continue to lead in food violations.

RURAL FAMILIES BEARING BRUNT OF DROUGHT

ON 4 February 2016, Local Government Minister, Saviour Kasukuwere, acting on behalf of President Robert Mugabe, released a statement declaring the 2015-16 agricultural season a State of Disaster. This declaration set in motion a food mobilisation exercise which saw government making an appeal of US\$1.5 billion for assistance to enable it to provide for the food needs across the country.

Three million people in Zimbabwe face hunger as a result of the El-Nino-induced drought which has hit the Southern African region. Compounding the drought effects on Zimbabwe is the perennial under production of the agricultural sector due to, among other causes, the well documented uncertainties and challenges around the land reform programme to ensure or at the very least maintain production levels obtaining prior to it. The economic meltdown has had unrelenting dire effects on agriculture and other sectors. All these dynamics have seen Zimbabwe under-producing since the turn of the millennium and the country importing grain yearly, and other crops and products, from neighbouring countries and from sources as far afield as the East, the Americas, for example.

Against this background, this year's El Nino phenomenon, which experts say is the worst in 18 years has, in addition to rendering three million people food insecure, has also caused a total of 16,681 (recorded) livestock deaths.

Section 27 of the Civil Protection Act (Chapter 10:06) Subsection (1) provides that if at any time it appears to the President that a disaster is of such a nature and extent that extraordinary measures are necessary to assist and protect the persons affected or likely to be affected by the said situation in any area of the country, the President may, in such a manner as he considers fit, declare that, with effect from a date specified by him, a state of the disaster exists within an area specified by him in the declaration.

By declaring 2015-16 agricultural season a national disaster, the President as head of government acknowledged the magnitude of the problem and set the stage for mobilisation of resources to alleviate food shortages. The declaration also enables the tasks of ensuring and supervising the programme of effective delivery of relief supplies for people and livestock as well as emergency irrigation programmes.

Further, the declaration seeks to nurture government linkages with the private sector, development partners and non-governmental organisations (NGOs) to ensure a well-coordinated response to minimise distress and suffering caused by food scarcity.

According to government records, the order of severity of food insecurity across the country is as follows: Matabeleland North 43 percent, Midlands 33 percent, Masvingo 32 percent, Mashonaland West 30, Matabeleland South 28 percent, Manicaland 27 percent,

Mashonaland Central 25 percent, and Mashonaland East 22 percent (Herald February 10, 2016).

Informal snap surveys by Zimbabwe Peace Project have shown that most families in the rural areas are surviving on one meal a day, with many of them having to come up with resourcefully desperate means to feed their families. For relish some families in various areas are eating some types of grass, blackjack leaves, different type of tubers, wild roots as well as sapping out the liquid of some wild fruits and cooking them.

Regular fruits such as mangoes and others that are commonly found are also making up, not the dessert or snack, but the staple of many people in the rural areas in these drought stricken times.

With many families finding they have to offload and sell their starving cattle, goats and other livestock before they die of hunger, some people are finding cheap meat from these beasts which are being sold off for a song.

Reports say cattle are being sold for as little as US\$50 in several areas; with goats fetching as little as US\$10 or US\$15.

In areas like Binga and others where fish are easier to get, this is being sold in exchange for staples like maize.

While what families in the rural areas are able to find is too little compared to the needs currently, from its snap survey of rural areas around the country, ZPP put together the following as what an average family of six would need to survive.

	ITEM	AVERAGE COST (US\$)
1.	50kg of mealie meal	\$23 - \$25
2.	5 litres cooking oil	\$7,50
3.	2kg salt	\$1
4.	10kg sugar	\$8 - \$10
5.	3kgs matemba	\$8
6.	2x packs matches	\$1
7.	2 packs candles	\$1.50
8.	3 bars Laundry soap	\$3
9.	A scotch-cart of firewood	\$25 (optional because some families do not buy they gather from nearby farms)
	TOTAL	\$82 (\$57 without buying firewood)

**Findings from an informal snap survey. Prices are based on loose averages.*

In areas where firewood has dried out, or where the Environmental Management Agency (EMA) is most active, villagers have to raise an average of US\$25 to buy firewood. Relatively fewer reports indicated use of paraffin, with many saying that was actually a luxury which most could not afford.

Reports indicate that in some areas, some shop-owners have in the past few months increased prices of their foodstuffs to take advantage of the scarcity and hunger.

ZPP was also able to establish with some degree of certainty that quite a number of donors and UN agencies through their implementing agencies are in all earnest assisting vulnerable families needing immediate food aid.

Examples of food packages as found out by ZPP in the informal surveys consist of 50 kg maize; three litres cooking oil, three kg peas, from some donors. While others give packages of 30 kg mealie-meal, 5kg beans and 5 litres cooking oil. Both these are monthly packages. Some NGOs targeting children give out packages consisting of 10 kg sorghum; 6 kg porridge mix and 2kg peas and these packs are given at two months intervals.

However, needless to point out more needs to be done for families facing starvation.

The following is recommended:

The modalities of food assistance must respect the fundamental humanitarian principles of Humanity, impartiality, neutrality and independence. Decisions on the allocation of humanitarian food assistance should be strictly needs based. Funding should be allocated in an objective manner, according to these principles, to improve the food consumption of those in greatest need, without bias or prejudice.

Basic principles

ZPP and its cooperating partners subscribe food distribution in Zimbabwe must be based on a platform of ethical principles that derive from international humanitarian law:

- The right to life with dignity and the duty not to withhold or frustrate the provision of life saving assistance;
- The obligation of states and other parties to agree to the provision of humanitarian and impartial assistance when the civilian population lacks essential supplies;
- Relief not to bring unintended advantage to one or more parties nor to further any partisan position;
- The management and distribution of food and other relief to be based purely on criteria of need and not on partisan grounds, and without adverse distinction of any kind;
- Respect for community values of solidarity, dignity and peace and of community culture.

Minimum Standards for Food Distribution

Key Considerations: That distribution of food aid be Responsive, Transparent, Equitable and Appropriate

- Recipients of food aid are identified and targeted based on need by means of an assessment carried out through consultation with stakeholders including the beneficiaries
- Registration of households receiving aid should be formalised, transparent and all inclusive paying particular attention to vulnerability. Women who head families or are single; as well as children from child-headed families should be allowed to register in their own right.
- Selection of distribution agents should be based on their impartiality, capacity and accountability. May include local elders, local NGOs or other institutions .e.g. Agritex, and churches who may then form locally elected relief committees at ward or village level
- Efficient and equitable distribution methods in consultation with stakeholders including the various recipient groups
- Recipients are well informed in advance of quantity and quality of food rations.
- Points of distribution be close and accessible to recipients of the food aid (as much as is possible).
- Information dissemination related to issues should be widespread and above board. Recipients should be informed of: quantity and type of rations; distribution plan including day, time, location and frequency as well as any deviation to the plan that may be necessary.
- Supervision and guarding of distributions

- Politics not to be a factor in the food aid distribution. At no point should political affiliation be asked for or used as criterion.
- That there be no chanting of slogans, no requests for party membership cards at food registration or distribution gatherings
- Performance and effectiveness of food aid programmes should be monitored and evaluated

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ANNEXURE 1. DEFINITIONS OF HUMAN RIGHTS VIOLATIONS.

TERM	DEFINITION
MURDER	Unlawful and intentional killing of another person
SEXUAL ASSAULT:	It is knowingly causing another person to engage in an unwanted sexual act by force or threat.
A) RAPE	Is whereby a male person has sexual intercourse or anal intercourse with female person without the consent of the latter
B) AGGRAVATED SEXUAL ASSAULT	INDECENT Is whereby a person including a female commits a sexual act involving the penetration of any part of the victim's body, other than a male person having sexual intercourse or anal intercourse with a female person, without the consent of the victim, including active and passive oral sex and anal sex between two individuals of any gender.
ASSAULT	Is whereby a person commits an assault upon another person intending to cause that other person bodily harm.
A) FALANGA (FOOT WHIPPING)	Is a form of corporal punishment whereby the soles of the feet are beaten with an object such as a cane, or rod, a piece of wood, or a whip. The victim may be immobilized before the application of the beating by tying, securing the feet in leg irons, locking the legs into an elevated position or hanging upside down.
B) SUBMERSION/SUFFOCATION (WATER BOARDING)	A form of assault whereby water is forced into the victim's breathing passages so as to simulate drowning.
C) BEATING	Is any form of physical assault including hitting of a person with or without an object such as a stick, belt, whip, barbed wire, log or any other object including bare hands. It also includes the kicking or head-butting of a person; and includes stabbing, shooting and forced consumption (forcing a person or overeat or eat something poisonous or their own excreta.)
D) OTHER ASSAULT	

TORTURE	Any act by which severe pain or suffering, whether physical or mental, is intentionally inflicted on a person by or instigation of public official or other person acting in an official capacity for purposes of obtaining from the victim or a third person information or a confession , punishing him/her for an act s/he or a third person has committed or is suspected of having committed, or intimidating or coercing him/her or a third person, or for any reason based on discrimination of any kind
THREAT	It is whereby a person threaten to commit a crime, including but not limited to murder, rape, aggravated indecent assault, unlawful detention , theft, malicious damage to property thereby inspiring in the person on whom she/he communicates the threat of a reasonable fear or belief that he or she will commit the crime.
HARASSMENT/INTIMIDATION	Unlawfully subjecting one to pressure, insult of threat with intent to cause him/her to suffer anxiety discomfort and/or the feeling of insecurity.
MOVEMENT VIOLATIONS	
KIDNAPPING/UNLAWFUL DETENTION	Is whereby a person deprives another person of his freedom of bodily movement without lawful justification and/or authority (based on section 93 of the Criminal code Act)
A) ABDUCTION	The taking away of a person using intimidation , open force of violence
B) UNLAWFUL ARREST	Is the arrest of a person by another person (usually a police officer), whereby the latter's position generally authorizes him/her to arrest the other person, but not in this particular case. Essentially, it is a form of abuse of power on the part of the police officer
	Depriving a person of his or her freedom of bodily movement without lawful justification and/or authority.
C) UNLAWFUL DETENTION	
D) FORCED DISPLACEMENT	Internal displacement of persons or groups of persons "...who have been forced or obliged to flee or leave their homes or places or habitual residence, in particular as a result of or in order to avoid the effects or armed conflict, situations of generalized violence, violations of human rights or natural or human made disasters, and who have not crossed an internally recognized border"
PROPERTY RIGHTS	

THEFT	Is whereby a person takes property from another person “knowing” that the other person is entitled to own, possess or control this very property.
ROBBERY	Is whereby a person steals, borrows or uses the property of another person without authority, thereby intentionally using violence or the threat of immediate violence to induce the person who has lawful control over the property to relinquish his/her control over it.
STOCK THEFT	Is whereby a person takes livestock from another person knowing that the other person is entitled to own, and possess or control this very property.
MALICIOUS DAMAGE TO PROPERTY	Is whereby a person knowing that the other person is entitled to own, possess or control any property, damages or destroys that very property (Note: MDP to communal/household property should only be chosen for one family member: the victim or head of household in that order)
A) DESTRUCTION OF HOME	Is a form of malicious damage to property, it occurs when a home is burnt to the ground or otherwise made inhabitable in such a manner as the only option toward the making the home habitable is to completely rebuild it.
B) OTHER TYPES OF MDP	Please describe briefly the alleged conduct.

ZIMBABWE PEACE PROJECT BACKGROUND & INFORMATION

The Zimbabwe Peace Project (ZPP) was conceived shortly after 2000 by a group of Churches and NGOs working or interested in human rights and peace-building initiatives, and was to become a vehicle for civic interventions in a time of political crisis. In particular ZPP sought to monitor and document incidents of human rights violations and politically motivated breaches of the peace e.g. violence.

Today, ZPP's co-operating member organizations include, Zimbabwe Council of Churches (ZCC), Catholic Commission for Justice & Peace in Zimbabwe (CCJPZ), Evangelical fellowship of Zimbabwe (EFZ) Zimbabwe Election Support Network (ZESN), Counselling Services Unit (CSU), Zimbabwe Civic Education Trust (ZIMCET), Zimbabwe Lawyers for Human Rights (ZLHR), Zimbabwe Human Rights Association (ZIMRIGHTS), Civic Education Network Trust (CIVNET), Women's Coalition of Zimbabwe (WCoZ) and Habakkuk Trust.

VISION

A Zimbabwe where there is Peace, Justice, Dignity and Development for all.

MISSION

To work for sustainable peace through monitoring, documentation, advocacy and community peace building interventions with our members and partners

Advancing Sustainable Peace in Zimbabwe

FOR COMMENTS AND FURTHER DETAILS CONTACT

Zimbabwe Peace Project

ZPP Chairperson: +263 77 259 5398 ZPP

National Director: +26377 227 6543 +263 (04) 747719, 2930180/2

zppinfo@gmail.com, zppinfo@myzpp.com

www.zimpeaceproject.com

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