



**ZIMBABWE
PEACE
PROJECT**

NOVEMBER

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MONTHLY MONITORING REPORT



ABOUT ZPP

The Zimbabwe Peace Project, ZPP, is a peace-promoting organisation that uses human rights lenses in peacebuilding, having established that the deprivation and abuse of human rights pose the greatest threat to peace in Zimbabwe.

The organisation was established in 2000 as a project of civil society and faith-based groups in response to the violence and human rights violations that characterised the political landscape of the time. These organisations were the Catholic Commission for Justice and Peace (CCJP), the Evangelical Fellowship of Zimbabwe (EFZ), the Zimbabwe Council of Churches, Zimbabwe Human Rights Association (ZIMRIGHTS), Zimbabwe Election Support Network (ZESN), Civic Education Network Trust (CIVNET), Counselling Services Unit (CSU), Zimbabwe Liberators Platform (ZLP) and Non-Violent Action and Strategies for Social Change (NOVASC). Over the years, the ZPP network of members has evolved as the network welcomed new member organisations while others have developed new thematic interests or have ceased to exist. Current member organisations are the Catholic Commission of Justice and Peace (CCJPZ), Evangelical Fellowship of Zimbabwe (EFZ), Zimbabwe Council of Churches (ZCC), Zimbabwe Human Rights Association (ZIMRIGHTS), Counselling Services Unit (CSU), Women and Law Southern Africa (WLSA), National Association for the Care of the Handicapped (NASCOH) and the Women's Coalition of Zimbabwe (WCoZ).



EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

In the reporting period, the Zimbabwe Peace Project documented a total of 141 human rights violations across the provinces. The violations affected a total of 1382 victims of which 458 were female and 924 were males, constituting 33.07% and 66.86% respectively.

The violations included threats of violence, politicisation and unfair practices in distribution of food aid and agricultural inputs, malicious damage to property, assault, restricted freedoms of assembly, association and expression as well as unlawful eviction. Other violations included inhuman treatment, restricted access to social services, looting/pillaging, unjustified arrests and sexual harassment.

The perpetrators of human rights violations were primarily affiliated with ZANU PF, accounting for 43.51% of the total violations. Other perpetrators included the Zimbabwe Republic Police (21.75%), Municipal Police (8.77%), and traditional leaders (3.16%). Additionally, 12.63% of perpetrators were unaffiliated, while smaller percentages were affiliated with the Citizens Coalition for Change (3.86%), state security agents (1.75%), religious leaders (2.46%), and local authorities (2.11%). ZPP always undertakes the naming of the perpetrators' affiliate institutions in so far as the violations were done with the perpetrators banking on the power or protection that they derive by virtue of them being a member of a particular institution.

A provincial breakdown of human rights violations in Zimbabwe reveals a need for demanding human rights accountability, with Manicaland Province recording the highest number of violations at 34. Other provinces also reported notable numbers, including Matabeleland South (24), Mashonaland West (18), Mashonaland Central (16), Harare (15), Midlands (11), Mashonaland East (10), and Masvingo (9). In contrast, Bulawayo and Matabeleland North recorded relatively low numbers, with 2 incidents reported in each province.

The Zimbabwe Peace Project notes with great concern the continued abuse of human rights in Zimbabwe particularly in the context of partisan distribution of food aid and the restrictions of freedoms such as access to social services, freedom of association and assembly and freedom of expression. Therefore ZPP calls for urgent action from the Zimbabwe Human Rights Commission, the police, and the relevant government departments, including the Department of Social Welfare to address these concerns and promote a culture of respect for human rights.

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RAMPANT DISCRIMINATION IN FOOD AID AND AGRICULTURAL INPUTS DISTRIBUTION

The distribution of aid in Zimbabwe has been marred by rampant discrimination, with the majority of cases being politically motivated. The ruling ZANU PF party's overbearing influence in districts and wards has largely resulted in the unfair allocation of aid, with those perceived to be opposition supporters being denied assistance. In November 2024, ZPP documented 27 violations related to unfair distribution of government sponsored food aid and agricultural inputs. These violations affected a total of 146 (85 women and 61 men) people. Discrimination has taken various forms, including the theft of aid using beneficiaries' names, discriminatory practices during the registration process, and biased distribution based on political affiliation. In Gokwe central, about 7 households were denied food aid after they were not found in the ZANU PF cell group register. Mike Gwasha of ZANU PF instructed the victims to leave the distribution gathering citing that the "presidential scheme was meant for those supporting ZANU PF and the president." In some instances, aid has been withheld from individuals who had not paid the mandatory transport fees, further exacerbating the situation. 35 households in Zhombe, Midlands Province were denied aid because they had failed to pay US\$6 demanded by ZANU PF Ward chairperson Mr Albert Dube and an Agritex field officer Mrs S Dungeni Phiri, as transport and administration fees.

In some instances, unfair distribution of rations left many individuals and families struggling to survive. A striking example of this unfair distribution can be seen in Mhandarume, Chimanimani West where 50 kg of compound D fertilizer was shared among three farmers. In the same constituency, in Murazvu B village, 20kg of maize was shared among 63 farmers (meaning 0.3kg per farmer) while 15 farmers shared a litre of herbicide (0.06 liters per person). Meanwhile war veterans in the same ward received a 50kg allocation per farmer. This blatant disparity highlights the politicization of aid distribution, where those with connections to the ruling party are favored over others. Furthermore, the grossly inadequate distribution of resources, especially in the period where the country is hit by persisting droughts, may have severe consequences for those affected further perpetuating the denial of the right to adequate food as provided for in Section 77 of the Constitution of Zimbabwe. The persistence of political discrimination in aid distribution not only undermines the principles of fairness and equality but also perpetuates the marginalization of already vulnerable populations. It is essential that the government, through relevant departments such as the Social Welfare and Ministry of Agriculture, take immediate action to address these injustices and ensure that aid is distributed based on need, rather than political affiliation.



RESTRICTED FREEDOMS OF EXPRESSION, ASSOCIATION AND ASSEMBLY.

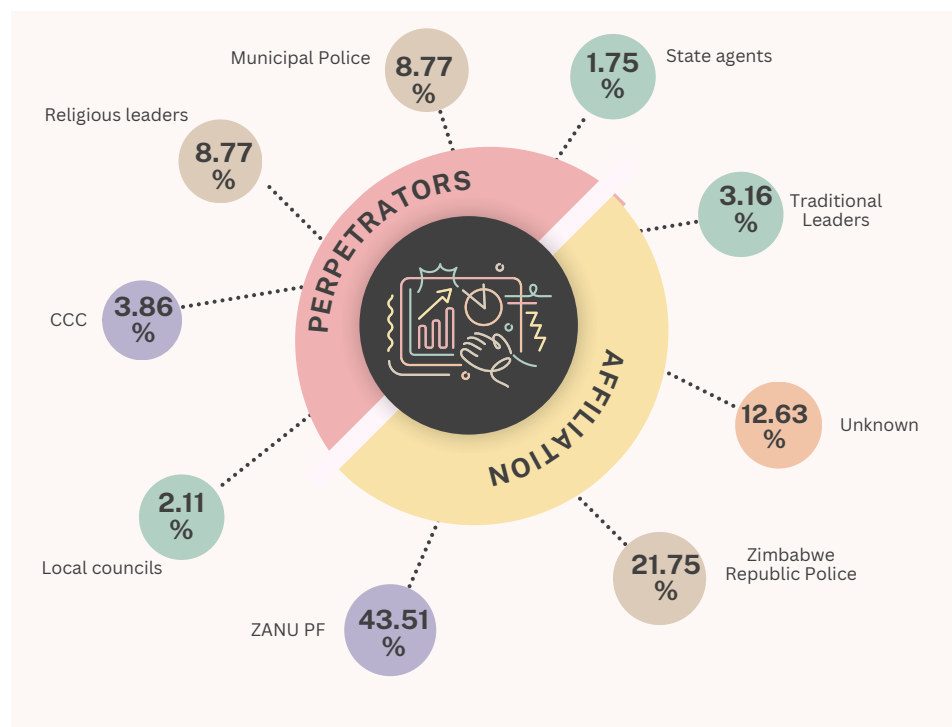
In November, the Zimbabwe Peace Project (ZPP) documented a total of 34 restrictions of freedoms of expression, association, and assembly, The restrictions, 9 violations of freedom of assembly, 14 violations of freedom of expression, and 11 violations of access to social services, highlight concerns about the erosion of fundamental freedoms in Zimbabwe.

The disregard of such constitutional fundamental freedoms is evident in various ways, including forced attendance at party meetings and mandatory allegiance to access food aid. The Zimbabwean Constitution, specifically Section 20, guarantees freedom of expression and assembly. However, in practice, these rights are often curtailed. For instance, traditional leaders in rural areas are over exercising their power often coercing community members to attend political meetings and compelling them to become members. In some instances, members are forced to attend and chant party slogans and if they fail to comply they are denied the much needed food aid and other government sponsored support for their survival hence many comply grudgingly. In Chikanga-Dangamvura, residents were coerced into attending a ZANU PF meeting at Magada Business Centre to register for government food aid. A committee of 5 ZANU PF activists, led by Tererai Razerera, conducted the outreach program, which saw about 45 people attend, many against their will. During the meeting, attendees were forced to sing and chant ruling party slogans before registering for aid.

This incident highlights the politicization of food aid distribution in Zimbabwe, where vulnerable populations are being manipulated and coerced into supporting the ruling party. This not only undermines the rights to freedom of expression and association but also creates a culture of fear and coercion.

An incident at St Patrick's Clinic in Chiwundura ward 11, where three unidentified ZANU PF activists denied a victim access to the clinic, has serious implications for freedom of expression in Zimbabwe. By intimidating the victim and linking his alleged mobilization against President Emmerson Mnangagwa's Third Term bid to his access to medical facilities, the perpetrators are effectively silencing dissenting voices and stifling free speech. This incident is a clear violation of Section 61 of the Zimbabwean Constitution, which guarantees freedom of expression, including the freedom to seek, receive, and communicate ideas and information. It creates a culture of self-censorship, where people are reluctant to express their opinions or participate in public discourse for fear of reprisal. Ultimately, this incident underscores the need for the Zimbabwean government to take concrete steps to protect freedom of expression and prevent such incidents of intimidation and harassment.

The restrictions on freedoms of expression, association, and assembly in Zimbabwe are a pressing concern. The government's actions undermine the exercise of these fundamental rights, creating a culture of fear and coercion. It is essential to address these restrictions and promote a more inclusive and democratic society in Zimbabwe.



Towards sustainable peace in Zimbabwe

The Zimbabwe Peace Project commends the Zimbabwe Republic Police and the institutions of justice in making efforts to curb corruption and theft of government sponsored food aid. The recent arrest of ZANU PF Member of Parliament Wiriranai Muchemwa and local Councilor Knowledge Chipundu for allegedly stealing 40 tonnes of mealie meal valued at US\$12,000 is a commendable act of justice, and a disturbing reminder of the pervasive corruption and theft of government-sponsored food aid in Zimbabwe. The mealie meal was meant to assist vulnerable communities affected by food insecurity, but instead, the two allegedly sold 20 tonnes of it for personal gain, generating US\$10,000. Unfortunately, this incident is not isolated. There have been numerous reports of government officials and individuals associated with the ruling party misappropriating food aid and other resources meant for vulnerable populations. This has led to widespread concerns about the misuse of resources and the politicization of food aid distribution.

Whilst Zimbabwe Peace Project commends the Zimbabwe Republic Police and other state institutions for their efforts to curb corruption and theft of government-sponsored food aid, more needs to be done to address the root causes of these problems and ensure that those responsible are held accountable. The government and the police must work harder to prevent the theft and misappropriation of food aid and other resources. This requires strengthening institutions, improving transparency and accountability, and ensuring that those responsible for corruption and theft are prosecuted and punished accordingly. Only then can Zimbabwe ensure that resources meant for vulnerable populations are used for their intended purpose.



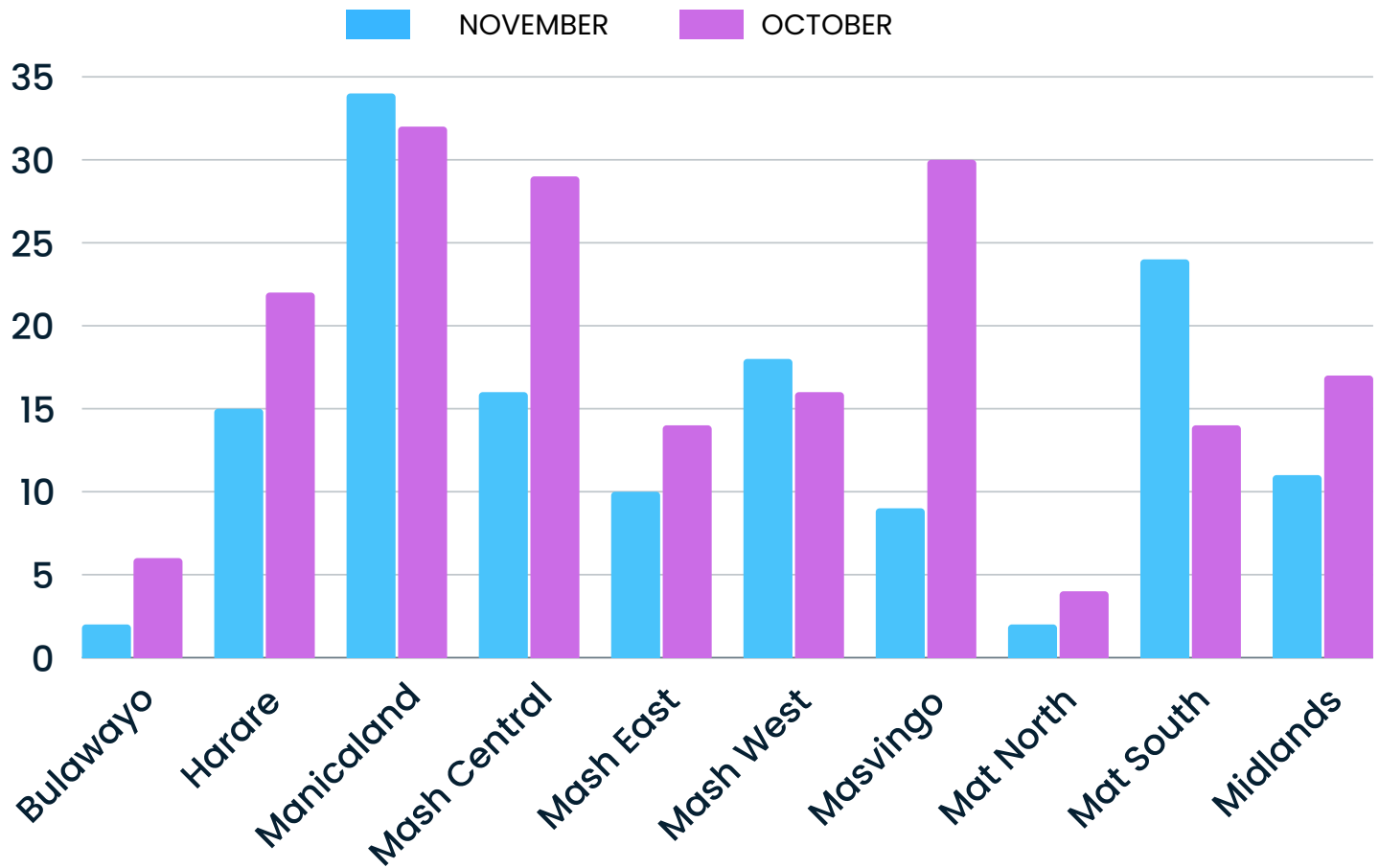
...10 Steps backwards

...as heavy taxation and budget gaps furthering inequalities

Zimbabwe's 2025 National Budget has sparked intense debate, with many criticizing its failure to address poverty and inequality. Despite the government's claims that the budget will drive economic recovery and resilience, a closer look reveals systemic shortcomings that exacerbate these issues. The budget relies heavily on regressive taxation, which disproportionately burdens low-income citizens. Value Added Tax (VAT) and other consumption-based taxes have been increased, despite the fact that rising inflation and stagnant wages are eroding purchasing power for ordinary households. Furthermore, the budget underscores Zimbabwe's chronic underinvestment in critical social sectors, such as health and education. The country is performing below its potential in guaranteeing basic economic and social rights, with only 69.1% of what is possible achieved in providing decent living standards.

The budget also fails to address systemic issues driving inequality, such as corruption and inefficient bureaucracy. Women and youth remain excluded from formal employment sectors, perpetuating cycles of poverty and dependence. To address Zimbabwe's socio-economic challenges, a human rights-centered approach is crucial. This involves prioritizing progressive taxation, shifting the burden from consumption taxes to wealth and corporate taxes, to reduce poverty and inequality. Additionally, increasing social spending in health, education, and social protection is essential to promote human dignity and address the needs of vulnerable populations. Finally, strengthening transparency and accountability mechanisms will ensure allocated funds reach intended beneficiaries, preventing corruption and mismanagement of resources.





Matabeleland North

In Matabeleland North, the Zimbabwe National Water Authority (ZNSWA) has been disconnecting water meters for residents with outstanding arrears, sparking concerns over administrative justice. This issue has affected around 45 households who had their water meters disconnected in Lupane West alone. The disconnections have been carried out door-to-door, with some residents expressing frustration that even those owing minimal amounts were affected. Furthermore, residents have been required to pay a \$10 USD reconnection fee after settling their outstanding balances. Residents have also reported difficulties in engaging with ZNSWA to address service delivery issues, including water challenges exacerbated by electricity load shedding. The lack of engagement and the abrupt disconnections have raised concerns about the right to administrative justice and the need for more transparent and accountable processes.

Harare

In Harare Province, 15 human rights violations were documented, including violations related to social services. Harare Province witnessed a decline in social service-related violations in November, with 15 cases documented compared to 22 in October. However, the reported incidents were severe and impactful. In Ward 5, Ridgeview Belvedere, the City of Harare carried out an arbitrary demolition of approximately 30 houses, rendering 30 households homeless. The City claimed that the houses were constructed on unsanctioned land. Furthermore, the province struggled with poor service delivery, which hindered residents' access to a clean and safe environment. Notably, areas like Ridgeview and Kuwadzana lacked access to clean water, exacerbating the challenges faced by the local population. There were incidents of intimidation ahead of the SADC Extraordinary summit in areas such as Mt Pleasant where heavy deployments of anti-riot police officers patrolled the areas.

Midlands

In Midlands Province, 11 human rights violations were documented, down from 17 in the previous month. Violations included intimidation, prejudice, unfair practices and politicisation of food aid and agricultural inputs. Several incidents of intimidation included the harassment of known political activists by ZANU PF enthusiasts who are fixated on promoting the 'ED2030' campaign seeking to extend President Mnangagwa's rule beyond 2028. The incidents were reported in Chiwundura and Kwekwe among other areas. In Chiwundura, ZANU PF activists Calvin Mhondiwa, Forbes Choto and Adam Dhliwayo threatened a male victim belonging to a group supporting former CCC Leader Nelson Chamisa, allegedly for campaigning against the ongoing 'Mnangagwa beyond 2028' movement promising to deal with the victim violently and extending such treatment to anyone against the campaign. Violations of the freedom of association were also reported during food aid and agricultural inputs distributions, where ruling party officials gathered community members for party meetings before food distributions and also compelled stranded beneficiaries to participate in chanting party slogans. In Gokwe South, about 8 people were denied food aid because their names were not appearing in the ruling party's cell structures. This widespread political discrimination furthers the impact of drought and food insecurity of community members while perpetuating the disregard of political rights.

Bulawayo

In Bulawayo, the highlights in human rights concerns related to social services, access to water being a major concern. The water situation in Bulawayo Province remains a pressing concern, infringing on citizens' fundamental rights to health and a clean, safe environment. Prolonged water shortages have become a harsh reality, with many residents going without running tap water for weeks or even months. The crisis has affected thousands of people, with approximately 2000 individuals in Cowdray Park alone struggling to access this essential resource. The City's water rationing programme, implemented due to low water levels in major dams, has only exacerbated the situation. This ongoing water crisis poses significant risks to public health, exacerbating the vulnerability of affected communities. Urgent action is necessary to address this critical issue and ensure that citizens' basic human rights are protected.

Matabeleland South

An increase in human rights violations has been reported in Matabeleland South, with 24 incidents documented, from the 14 cases recorded last month. Violations of Freedom of Assembly and Association were documented in a controversial process in Matobo South on the politicization of traditional leaders. ZANU PF Ward 3 Councillor, Mr. Fredrick Siwella, forcefully mobilized village heads and local traditional leaders to attend a ruling party ideology orientation in Harare. This incident may have violated the Traditional Leaders Act, which prohibits traditional leaders from engaging in partisan politics. Approximately 35 village heads under Chief Nyangazonke were affected by Siwella's actions. Unfair practices in food aid distribution was also recorded across the province. Some unfair practices in the administration of government-sponsored food aid were reported in areas such as Gwanda South. Several beneficiaries were disadvantaged when their names were omitted from the beneficiaries list due to their failure to contribute transport and administration fees. This has exacerbated food insecurity crises in the region.

Masvingo

9 human rights violations were documented in Masvingo, a significant drop from 30 violations in October.. Government aid distribution in the province has been marred by unfairness and discrimination. In some instances, individuals have been denied aid without clear reasons, while others with connections to the ruling party have benefited. For example, in Ward 10, Zaka North, a resident's allocation of agricultural supplies was confiscated by a Kraal head's wife Perlagia Mhike for no specified reasons, while in Masvingo North ward 14, a visually impaired resident was denied food aid by a ZANU PF chairperson. Such incidents highlight the need for transparency and accountability in aid distribution to ensure that assistance reaches those who need it most.

Mashonaland Central

Mashonaland Central recorded 16 human rights abuses, which largely include the distribution and administration of government sponsored food aid and agricultural inputs. The politicisation of food aid in the province, as with others, have devastating effects on communities, particularly during droughts. Food aid has been used as a tool for political manipulation, with ruling party supporters often receiving preferential treatment leading to widespread hunger and malnutrition among vulnerable populations, exacerbating the humanitarian crisis. A recent example illustrates this point. In Mt Darwin South ward 26, a 2 kg bag of maize seed was distributed to each beneficiary household. However, a female victim was denied aid by a ZANU PF youth committee member, who claimed she was ineligible due to her support for an independent MP candidate. This incident highlights the blatant politicization of food aid, where individuals are punished for their political affiliations perpetuating hunger and malnutrition and exacerbating social and economic inequalities.

Mashonaland East

Mashonaland East documented 10 human rights violations highlighting the widespread politicisation and maladministration of food aid and disregard of human rights. The distribution of food aid in the province has been compromised by the overbearing influence of the ruling ZANU PF party. This has resulted in the politicisation of aid, with access to food assistance often conditional upon an individual's political affiliation. ZANU PF officials control beneficiary selection, distribute aid through party structures, and intimidate or coerce those perceived as opposing the party. This has led to the exclusion of vulnerable populations, perpetuation of poverty and hunger, and undermining of democratic principles. In Ward 7 of Seke, ZANU PF convened a meeting to discuss the distribution of government sponsored inputs. The meeting was marred by allegations of partisanship, with agricultural extension workers barred from attending due to suspected opposition sympathies. The meeting, chaired by ZANU PF Councillor Simbarashe Ngarande, reportedly resolved to allocate aid exclusively to perceived ruling party members, raising concerns about the politicisation of humanitarian assistance.

Mashonaland West

18 violations were documented in Mashonaland West. The distribution of government aid in the province particularly raised concerns about the exclusion of people with disabilities highlighting the systemic challenges faced by people with disabilities in accessing essential services, including humanitarian aid. The lack of inclusivity and accessibility in aid distribution processes can exacerbate the vulnerability of people with disabilities, further marginalizing them from their communities. A corruption case was reported in Mashonaland West's Zvimba North involving a syndicate that looted maize seed inputs from the Grain Marketing Board (GMB). The group, consisting of Cornelius Zamachecha, an ARES officer, staff from Raffingora GMB Depot, Gerald Musikavanhu, the ZANU PF Mafuta District youth chairperson, and local Chief reportedly created a fictitious database of input recipients. They then received a delivery of inputs meant for 55 beneficiaries, which they shared among themselves, excluding the intended recipients. This incident highlights the need for transparency and accountability in the distribution of government aid. ZPP recommends that the Zimbabwe Republic Police investigate such cases and bring perpetrators to book.

Manicaland

In Manicaland Province, 34 human rights violations were documented and they were largely related to the maladministration of food aid and agricultural inputs. In Chipinge Central, ZANU PF activists looted fertilizer intended for distribution in ward 6, selling it to their supporters for \$1 US per 50 kg bag. In Buhera West, ZANU PF activists denied a victim farming inputs for unspecified reasons while in Chikanga-Dangamvura, people were forced to attend a ruling party meeting to register for food aid, with many attending against their will. Despite the inadequacies of the aid in some instances and the frustrations of forced participation in political activities, partisan distribution of aid has restricted the freedoms of expression, association, and assembly, as people are forced to attend ruling party meetings and support the party to receive aid. The actions of ZANU PF activists have created a culture of fear and intimidation, with many people afraid to speak out against the partisan distribution of aid. In Kagweda village Mutasa District in Manicaland, ZANU PF ward 14 Youth Chairperson Zvinaiye Maunga threatened to unleash violence on anyone opposing the call for President Mnangagwa to extend his rule beyond 2028, call he has dismissed himself as unconstitutional.

Concluding Note

The threats of violence and partisan distribution of food aid in Zimbabwe are deeply concerning and warrant immediate attention from relevant authorities.

To address these concerns, the following steps are recommended:

1. Zimbabwe Human Rights Commission (ZHRC): The ZHRC should conduct thorough investigations into the reports of violence and partisan distribution of food aid. The Commission should also provide recommendations to the government to address these concerns and ensure accountability.
2. Zimbabwe Republic Police (ZRP): The ZRP should take concrete steps to prevent and investigate incidents of violence, particularly those related to the ED 2030 campaign. The police must also ensure that perpetrators are held accountable and that victims receive adequate protection.
3. Department of Social Welfare: The Department of Social Welfare should ensure that food aid is distributed in a transparent, fair, and non-partisan manner. The department should establish clear guidelines and monitoring mechanisms to prevent the politicization of aid distribution.

Ultimately, addressing the threats of violence and partisan distribution of food aid in Zimbabwe requires a concerted effort from all stakeholders, including the government, civil society, and the international community. It is essential to promote a culture of tolerance, accountability, and respect for human rights to ensure that all Zimbabweans can live without fear of violence or discrimination.

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