



**ZIMBABWE  
PEACE  
PROJECT**



# Monthly Monitoring Report

JANUARY 2025

[www.zimpeaceproject.com](http://www.zimpeaceproject.com)

## 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).

## Report Human Rights Violations



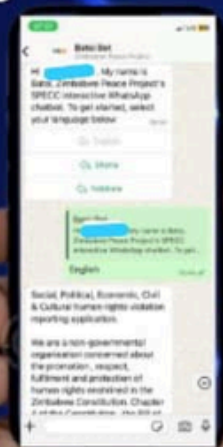
**WhatsApp Chatbot**  
**078 412 3456**

Save our number and send a Hi to start your report

**Call us**



**0774883417 0774883406**



# EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

In the month of January, the Zimbabwe Peace Project (ZPP) documented 119 human rights violations. The violations included threats of violence, assault, unfair distribution of aid and instances of degrading treatment. Violations against fundamental freedoms were also recorded, among them breaches of the rights to freedom of assembly and association, freedom of expression and restricted access to social services. There were unjustified arrests of victims by the police force as well as restricted access to information.

The violations affected 3161 people across the provinces, having a devastating impact on 1619 females and 1542 males, with 21 persons with disabilities also targeted. The perpetrators were predominantly affiliated with ZANU PF, making up 46% of the total, while Zimbabwe Republic Police members accounted for 16%. Other violators included local authorities (10.4%), CCC members (7.6%), artisanal miners (3.6%), traditional leaders (2.8%), war veterans (2%), and government security agents (2%). Notably, 9.6% of the perpetrators were not linked to any specific group or organization.

In the section 10 Steps Backwards, we highlight a report by the Zimbabwe Human Rights Association and the Observatory for the Protection of Human Rights Defenders that reveals how Zimbabweans' human rights and freedoms are under severe threat due to shrinking civic space and a clampdown on civil society organizations, which face surveillance, infiltration, and intimidation.

ZPP is closely monitoring the implications of the 2030 agenda on the Zimbabwean human rights situation. To this end, ZPP has started monitoring, documenting and reporting human rights violations that are perpetrated against victims on account of their real or perceived opposition/neutrality to the 2030 agenda. In January, ZPP recorded 8 cases of human rights violations which were linked to the 2030 agenda. The 8 cases affected a total of 97 victims, 54 of whom were men and 53 of whom were women. The majority of these cases were recorded in Masvingo and Midlands provinces. Cases of intra-party violence within Citizens Coalition for Change (CCC) were also recorded in January

ZPP recommends that the government of Zimbabwe strengthens institutional frameworks that promote and protect human rights and ensure that all citizens can enjoy their rights and freedoms without fear of persecution or intimidation.

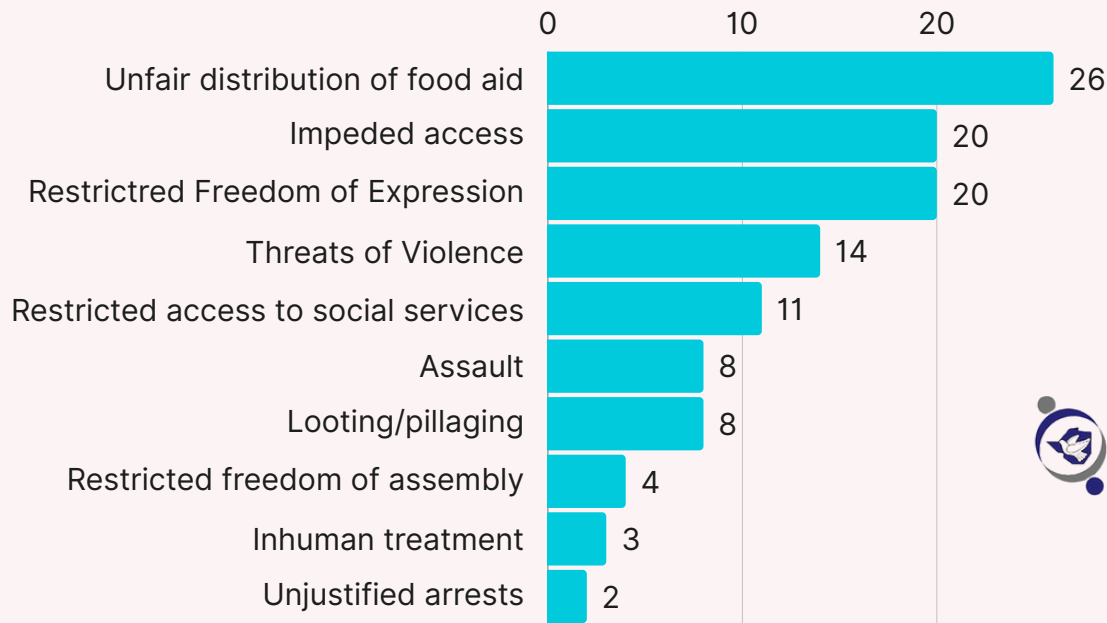
## Contents

Key human rights violations.....	4
Towards Sustainable Peace in Zimbabwe .....	7
10 Steps backward.....	7
Provincial Outlook.....	8

Scan to visit website



# JANUARY VIOLATIONS



## POLITICAL DISCRIMINATION AND UNFAIR PRACTICES IN FOOD AID WORSENING FOOD INSECURITY

The distribution of food aid in Zimbabwe has been marred by politicization, coercion, and human rights violations, undermining the principles of humanity, impartiality, neutrality, and independence. In January, ZPP documented 26 violations of unfair food aid distribution, affecting 1135 people (628 women, 507 men). Traditional leaders and ruling party officials have been at the forefront of this discriminatory practice. In Gokwe North, Chief Chireya has been openly supporting the ruling party, making political remarks during food aid distributions as well as corruptly using government sponsored aid to pay his workers as their salaries. In an incident in Mudzi north, Mashonaland East Province, a male victim was actually assaulted in front of the public at the instigation of Village Head Tseko who refused to explain to the victim why he had been denied food aid despite his name being on the list. As he sought an explanation, including asking to inspect the list, the victim was beaten by three men Pupa, Edwin, and Nyamuyeruzza, Pupa being the village head's relative. In Mashonaland West, aid meant for the elderly was given to 20 young women, members of the ruling party who had initially gathered for an entrepreneurship training under the party's banner. 20 women and 12 men were excluded from the distributions while the beneficiaries received 2kgs of rice each. The neglect of the elderly over young party women, disregards the



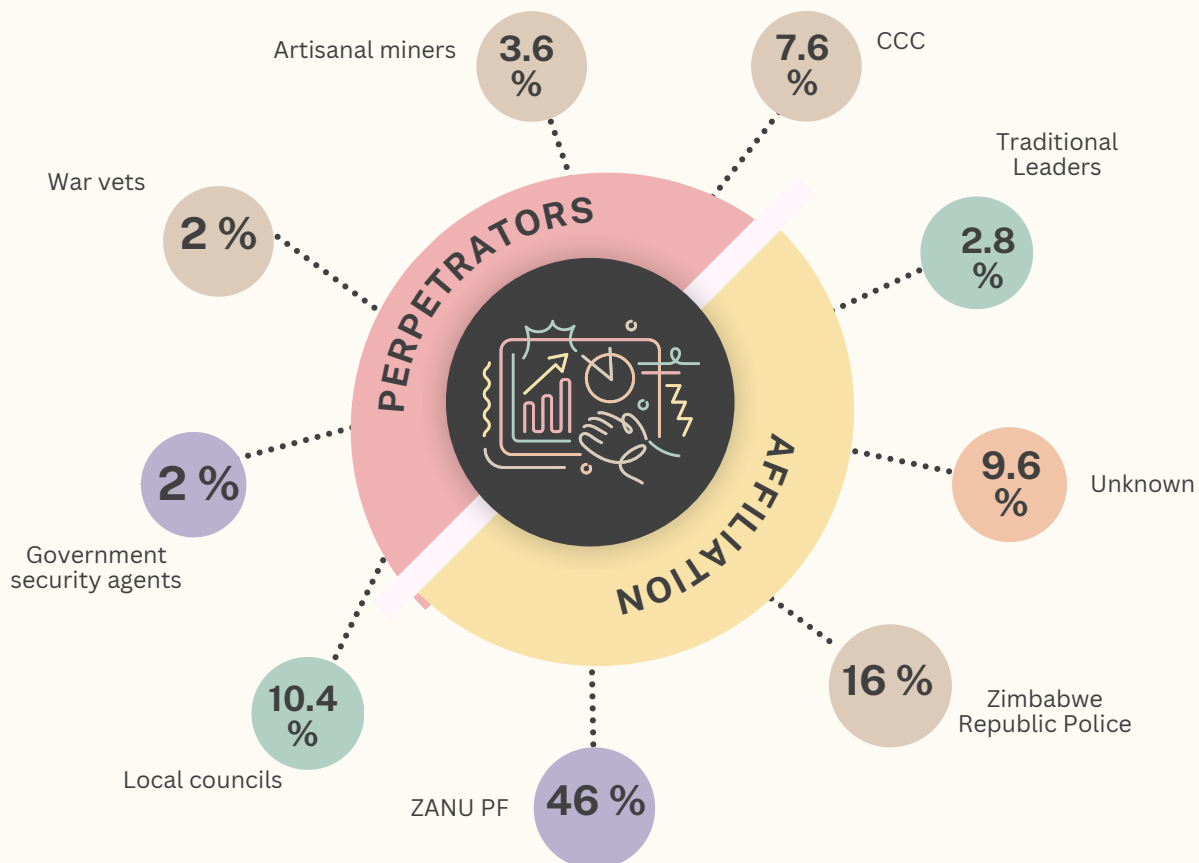
state's responsibilities to 'provide facilities and food' for elderly persons who are in need as stated in Section 21 of the Constitution of Zimbabwe. This neglect disregards the state's constitutional responsibilities to provide for elderly persons in need. With over 6 million people requiring urgent support due to acute food insecurity, Zimbabwe's food insecurity situation is dire, exacerbated by factors like high food prices, cash shortages, and worsening market conditions.

SILENCED BY FEAR: THE EFFECTS OF THREATS OF VIOLENCE

Threats of violence, including intimidation, reprisals, and coercion are serious human rights violations that foster an environment conducive to further abuses. In January, the Zimbabwe Peace Project (ZPP) documented 14 violations of harassment and intimidation affecting 72 (48 men and 24 women) people, with some cases involving explicit threats of physical harm and others lacking specificity. A disturbing incident in Chiwundura, Midlands Province, saw ZANU PF youths Milton Zumbika and Owen Chitaka confront a former CCC ward leader, warning him against organizing political activities in support of Nelson Chamisa, with the ominous threat of repercussions against his family. Such threats can evoke fear, trauma, and historically, have led to severe violence, particularly in rural areas, thereby hindering victims' enjoyment of political rights and fundamental freedoms. Furthermore, intimidation and coercion have been employed to force citizens to attend ruling party events, as witnessed in ward 25 of Goromonzi South, where five CCC activists were compelled to chant ruling party slogans.

In ward 6 of Gokwe Central, a male vendor and member of the CCC was threatened by a member of the state security for his public declarations against the ruling party's intentions to extend the President's tenure in office beyond 2028. The victim was threatened with arrest and eviction from a Crafts market, where he earns his living by selling wares. These incidents constitute blatant human rights violations, including infringement on political rights, freedom of association, and assembly. Such violations are exacerbated by the police force's inaction, as evident in the Chiwundura case, where the victims' reports yielded no consequences for the perpetrators or their party.

ZPP therefore recommends that the Zimbabwe Republic Police should respect all citizens and to promote human rights accountability, must act on all reports, especially those that will protect citizens against any harm. Protecting perpetrators because of their political affiliation must be shunned and impunity must be combated.





## ZANU PF'S PROPOSED 2030 BID RAISING CONCERNS OVER COERCIVE TACTICS

The controversy surrounding calls by some ZANU PF members to extend President Emmerson Mnangagwa's rule to 2030, has sparked intense debate and intimidation in Zimbabwe. ZPP documented 8 cases of human rights violations which were linked to the 2030 agenda. These violations include threats of violence, intimidation, and harassment. These violations affected 97 people (54 men, 43 women). The violations infringe on citizens' political rights and freedom of expression and have severe implications for their physical and mental health and wellbeing.

The violations were perpetrated mainly by ZANU PF members, traditional leaders and war veterans. Efforts to push for the 2030 agenda and counter-efforts to push back the agenda have created a tense political atmosphere which is characterized by fear of the repeat of the 2017 events. In rural areas, citizens who are deemed to be opposing the agenda and those that do not demonstrate overt support for it have been harassed, intimidated, excluded from food aid, and threatened with violence and other unspecified consequences. In Masvingo West constituency, Ward 33 Councillor Lydia Sigauke has been using her influence to coerce mine workers into attending ZANU PF meetings and supporting the "ED2030" agenda. Lydia Sigauke has also been using her influence as the mine worker in charge of housing to threaten mine workers with evictions should they fail to attend ZANU PF meetings. Zimbabwe's constitution limits the presidential office to two five-year terms, and Mnangagwa's second term expires in 2028. Extending his rule would require constitutional changes, which could undermine the country's democratic foundations. ZPP encourages members of the community to report such threats and for the Zimbabwe Republic Police to act on such reports without protecting the perpetrators, for it is such acts that may perpetuate the gross impunity.

# TOWARDS SUSTAINABLE PEACE IN ZIMBABWE

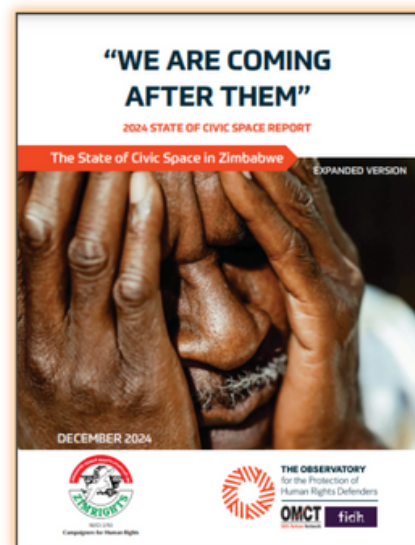


The church, under the banner of the Zimbabwe Heads of Christian Denominations (ZHOCD), has taken a bold stance of penning a letter to the president expressing their concerns about the “recent pronouncements by some Members of Parliament and Political activists urging him to extend his term of office beyond 2028.” In the same letter, the church urged the citizens to exercise agency in defending the constitution by pushing back the agenda through peaceful means. It also urged parliamentarians to use their oversight role of keeping the Executive in check and avoiding the abuse of power and tempering with the constitution. ZPP considers the action taken by the church as a timely and positive intervention towards sustainable peace in Zimbabwe. This is so because the 2030 agenda, if it succeeds, will not only reverse the 2013 constitutional and democratic gains, but also leave Zimbabweans deeply divided. The referendum needed to amend the constitution to pave way for the 2030 agenda will keep Zimbabwe in a perpetual election mode. Human rights violations will surge during the referendums, as is always the case during politically tense environments. The church sternly encouraged the President to adhere to the constitutional term limits, and to support a peaceful transition of power in the year 2028 following free, fair and credible elections. By urging the President to uphold the constitutional two-term presidential limit, the church is promoting constitutionalism, a course that will lead to sustainable peace and stability in Zimbabwe. The ZHOCD's statement is a call to action, to respect the constitution and warns that extending his rule beyond 2028 could “irretrievably erode public trust in the electoral processes in Zimbabwe.”

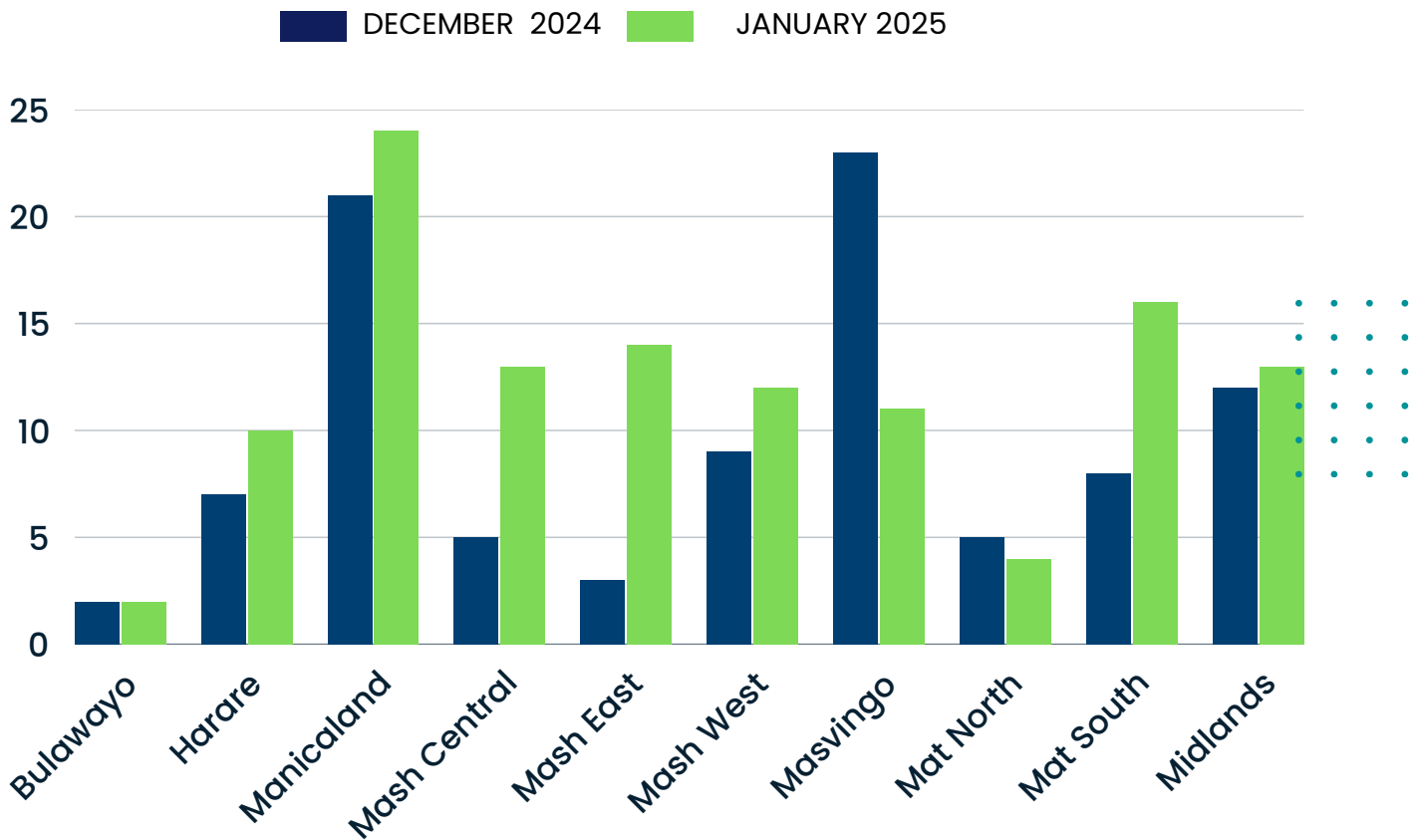
## 10 STEPS BACKWARDS

### ...as clampdown on CSOs shrinks civic space

Human rights and freedoms of Zimbabweans continue to be under severe threat due to escalating political tensions. A recent survey by the by ZimRights and the Observatory for the Protection of Human Rights Defenders show that of the 67 Civil Society Organisations (CSOs) surveyed, nearly all reported operating with significant restrictions, including surveillance, infiltration by state agents, and intimidation. The proposed Private Voluntary Organisations (PVO) Bill poses a significant threat to civic space, allowing law enforcement to interfere with civil society operations and deregister CSOs deemed to have changed their mandate. This proposed legislation risks undermining freedom of association and expression, directly impacting the work of non-governmental organisations and human rights defenders. The report's key concerns include the restrictive laws such the proposed PVO Bill which, if passed into law, will classify legitimate human rights activities as unlawful, leaving room for broad and subjective interpretation. The report further notes surveillance and intimidation as key concerns as 94% of national-level organisations reported facing surveillance, infiltration by state agents, material destruction, and intimidation of staff and members. Low public trust was also highlighted as only 51% of Zimbabweans expressed trust in key public institutions and leaders, highlighting a significant trust deficit. These concerns underscore the need for urgent attention for all Zimbabweans to protect the rights and freedoms of Zimbabweans. You can read the full report [here](#).



# PROVINCIAL OUTLOOK



## Mashonaland Central

In Mashonaland Central, 13 human rights violations were documented, against 5 in the previous month. The violations included intimidation and harassment, denial of the right to education, particularly the sending away of students on the BEAM scheme due to no payment of fees. In several villages, village meetings have been politicised. At one village meeting in Mazowe South, a female victim was threatened with unspecified action for not evidently supporting the '2030 anenge achipo.' Humiliated in front of other villagers, the victim was sent away and is now fearing eviction in the village. Such acts instill a culture of fear among villagers as some political activists are considered to wield a lot of power hence disregarding people's political rights and fundamental freedoms.

## Midlands

In Midlands Province, 13 human rights violations were documented in January alone. These incidents involve intimidation and harassment by political activists and state security agents, creating a climate of fear and repression. The ruling ZANU PF party's provincial members have issued ominous warnings, threatening "painful action" against those involved in opposing the possible extension of the presidential term limit. This has sparked concerns about the potential for the erosion of democratic principles leading to a chilling effect, where individuals are reluctant to express dissenting views or participate in opposition activities. Intra-party conflicts within the opposition CCC have also contributed to the tensions, with members threatening each other with violence. The rise in political tensions has put a host of fundamental freedoms under threat, including freedom of expression, assembly, and association.



## Mashonaland West

In Mashonaland West 12 human rights violations were documented. The violations were largely pertaining to the unfair distribution and maladministration of food aid and agricultural inputs. However other violations of rights such as the right to water and denial of education were documented. Schools like Alaska Primary denied access to education to school pupils due to non-payment of bus levy. In Magunje constituency ward 23, fertilizers were not fairly distributed. FAZ members were reported taking the remaining fertilizers, selling them for \$15 per bag. Other incidents were also recorded where aid was either looted or unfairly distributed among community leaders leaving many villagers disgruntled and anguishing.

## Harare

Harare province has witnessed a surge in human rights violations, with 10 documented violations, including unfair distribution of food aid, assault, and threats of violence. A disturbing incident occurred at Tashinga primary school in Tafara, where approximately 250 people, mostly women and men aged 40-70, were denied seed maize and fertilizer due to their suspected affiliation with the opposition CCC party and non-attendance at ZANU PF meetings. Furthermore, intra-party violence erupted between CCC factions, resulting in the assault of Councillor Blessing Duma and Mr Priston Mwabaya. The incident escalated when the Epworth Member of Parliament brandished a firearm, intimidating supporters. The victim sustained minor injuries, and two days later, a significant police presence was deployed, with six truckloads of armed Support Unit police mobilised. These incidents underscore the deteriorating human rights situation in Harare province, marked by partisan violence, intimidation, and denial of basic rights.

## Mashonaland East

In Mashonaland East, 14 violations were reported. The police in Murehwa District were reported using excessive force in dispersing informal traders and pirates from their places of operation. More than 30 informal traders were briefly detained and were later released. There were incidents of forced attendance to political meetings and ZANU PF youths coerced villagers and business operators to attend a ZANU PF rally in Murehwa. There were incidents of unfair aid distribution as well as assault on citizens.



## Manicaland

Manicaland recorded the highest number of violations, 24. In January, Zimbabwean schools reopened on January 14, but many institutions in the province defied the statutory instrument prohibiting schools from turning away students over unpaid fees. Some schools, like Mashonjowa High School, demanded extra fees, such as \$10 for additional lessons, while others, like Chakohwa School, required full payment for access to education. This undermines the right to education enshrined in Zimbabwe's Constitution. Furthermore, food aid and fertilizer distribution were marred by politicization. ZANU PF leaders hijacked fertilizer distribution in Chipinge urban ward 5, prioritizing their members over others. In one incident, ZANU PF leaders looted fertilizer, distributing one bag per three people to non-party members, while party members received one bag each.

## Conclusion

The continued disregard of human rights in Zimbabwe demands immediate attention and action. The documented violations are a stark reminder that there is a need for all sectors to uphold human rights and make perpetrators accountable. The government must ensure that institutions responsible for promoting and protecting human rights are independent, effective, and accessible to all. This will ensure that perpetrators of human rights violations will be investigated, prosecuted, and punished accordingly. Victims and their families must receive adequate compensation and support. Regarding civic space and freedom of expression, the government must respect and protect the rights to freedom of assembly, association, and expression. Civil society organizations must be allowed to operate freely, without surveillance, infiltration, or intimidation. Ultimately, the government of Zimbabwe must prioritize the protection and promotion of human rights, ensuring that all citizens can enjoy their rights and freedoms without fear of persecution or intimidation. The Zimbabwe Peace Project (ZPP) is closely tracking the escalating political tensions surrounding the 2030 agenda, which may lead to a surge in human rights abuses by political actors as well as security institutions. Additionally, ZPP is monitoring the impact of the US foreign aid freeze on Zimbabwe, with concerns that it may exacerbate major human rights violations, particularly in the areas of civil and political rights, as well as health rights.

## Masvingo

Masvingo province recorded 11 human rights violations in January, a significant drop from 23 in December 2024. The violations included unfair distribution of food aid. Other violations included a disregard of the right to equality and non-discrimination. In one case, a young female student was denied the right to access education as councillor Tapiwa Ngorima of Mwenzi North, ward 6 removed the victim's name from a CAMFED scholarship's beneficiary list because her mother does not attend ZANU PF meetings.

## Report

# Human Rights Violations



**WhatsApp Chatbot**  
**078 412 3456**

Save our number and send a Hi to start your report

