



# Monthly Monitoring Report

MAY 2025

## 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).

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# EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

In May 2025, the Zimbabwe Peace Project recorded a total of 83 human rights violations affecting 5,376 victims nationwide, a 10% decline from the violations recorded in May where 6,059 people were affected. These violations included breaches of personal security, acts of intimidation and harassment, assault, political discrimination in the distribution of government-sponsored food aid, restrictions on freedoms of expression, assembly, and association, as well as limited access to social services. Other incidents included unjustified arrests, unlawful evictions, malicious damage to property, inhuman and degrading treatment, and restricted access to information.

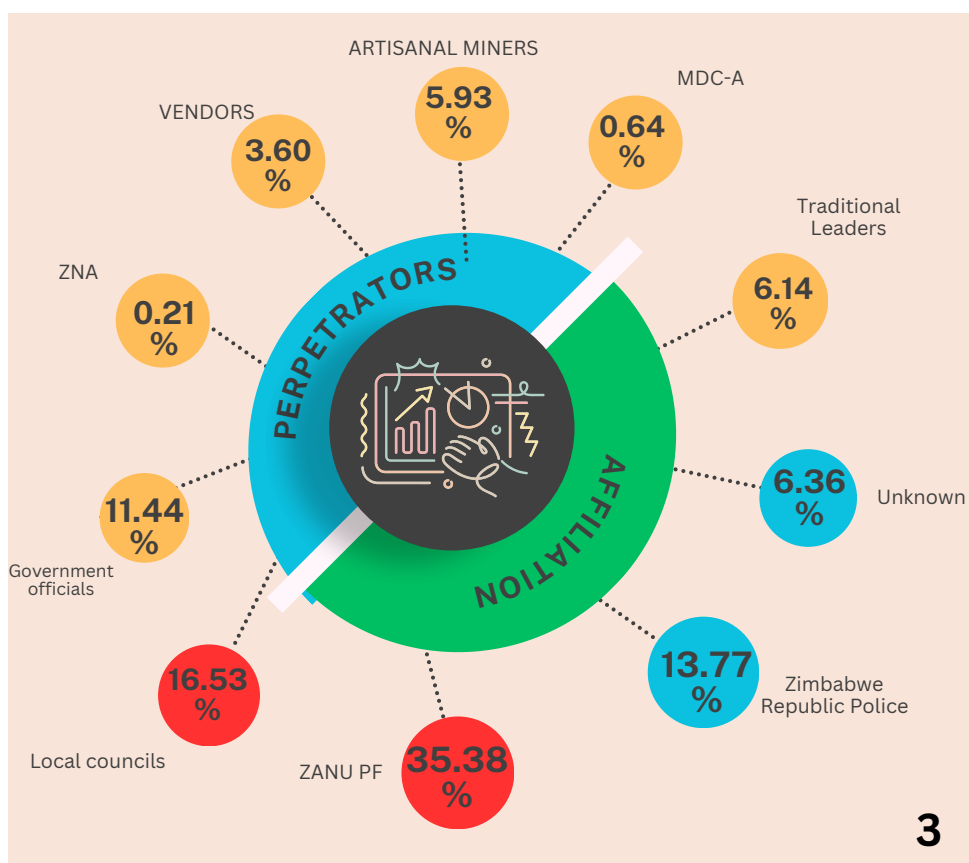
Of the total 5,376 people affected, 3,107 were females and 2,269 were males. Among the perpetrators, those affiliated with the ruling party, ZANU PF, accounted for 35.38%, followed by members of the Zimbabwe Republic Police (ZRP) at 13.77%. Other violators included local authorities (16.53%), government officials (11.44%), artisanal miners (5.93%), traditional leaders (6.14%), members of the MDC-Alliance (0.64%) and unaffiliated individuals (6.36%). Additional perpetrators involved members of the Zimbabwe National Army (0.21%) and vendors (3.6%). State security actors, particularly those mandated to protect the public, continue to feature prominently among perpetrators of human rights violations. However, ZPP welcomes and has embraced the opportunity to engage with the Zimbabwe Independent Complaints Commission (ZICC) through its goodwill ambassador to promote a rights-based, accountable approach in security operations. We are hopeful that other implicated institutions will be open to such engagements, paving the way for lasting solutions to end impunity and foster sustainable peace in Zimbabwe.

Provincially, Masvingo and Harare recorded the highest number of violations in May, with 13 violations each. Midlands followed closely with 12 violations, while Manicaland and Mashonaland West each documented 10. Mashonaland Central experienced a notable decline from 13 violations the previous month to 4 in May. Mashonaland East recorded 9 violations, and both Matabeleland North and South recorded 6 violations each.

In our examination of steps taken towards sustainable peace in Zimbabwe, we commend the Zimbabwe Human Rights Commission (ZHRC) for spotlighting urgent issues needing government action, among these were collapsing public services, shrinking civic space and restrictive conditions. The ZHRC made this presentation at the 83rd Ordinary Session of the African Commission on Human and Peoples' Rights (ACHPR), during which Zimbabwe presented its 16th Periodic Report (2019-2023), highlighting institutional and legislative reforms aimed

at protecting human rights defenders.

Persistent violations across multiple sectors underscore ongoing challenges to the realisation of sustainable peace and human rights protection. Addressing the root causes of these violations, especially politically motivated abuses and limitations on civic freedoms, is essential to creating a more inclusive and just society where all citizens can exercise their rights without fear. Continued monitoring, accountability, and genuine government commitment will be critical in advancing these goals.



## MAY VIOLATIONS



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## HARASSMENT AND INTIMIDATION

In May, the Zimbabwe Peace Project (ZPP) documented 16 violations classified under harassment and intimidation, many of which were politically motivated and targeted at individuals exercising their fundamental human rights. These violations affected 307 people (196 men and 111 women including 1 PWD). These acts constitute a clear violation of constitutionally protected rights to freedom of association, expression, and protection from inhuman and degrading treatment. In Nyanga South's Ward 15, a community leader working to promote the rights of persons with disabilities (PWDs) through a locally established organisation was systematically targeted by ZANU PF-affiliated individuals, including the local councillor, the party chairperson, and a war veteran. The victim, who partners with the Ministry of Social Welfare and the Ministry of Women Affairs, was accused of canvassing for political support and was coerced into either terminating his activities or including the perpetrators in his organisation. On 27 May, he was summoned by the ruling party leaders and threatened with abduction after asserting that PWDs could not participate in food-for-work programs due to their physical conditions. This intimidation is emblematic of broader repression, where civic initiatives, particularly those that empower marginalized groups are viewed through a partisan lens and violently curtailed.

In Harare Province, the home of two former Chitungwiza local leaders and CCC affiliates was bombed at midnight in Zengeza 3 Extension, Ward 12. Three explosive devices targeted the house, car, and tuckshop, severely damaging property and endangering 10 family members. Though only one person was physically injured, the psychological trauma and exposure to hazardous fumes from the explosion further underscore the severity of this politically motivated attack. The victim suspects ZANU PF members, and while the case has been reported to the police, the lack of visible arrests raises concerns about the state's commitment to protecting opposition-aligned individuals. Such incidents serve to entrench fear, limit political participation, and deter community activism, especially among political activists.

In the Midlands Province, in Chiwundura, eight ZANU PF-aligned youths confronted villagers and issued threats against those suspected of sympathizing with Nelson Chamisa's movement, ahead of an expected local political gathering. In Ward 10 of Murewa North, Chairman Peter Maliki openly declared that the ward was exclusive to ZANU PF supporters, threatening violence against anyone wearing Chamisa-branded attire, an outright attack on the right to political expression and participation.

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Human Rights Violations**



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## KEY VIOLATIONS

In UMP, Museka District, Mashonaland East Province, coercive tactics continued as the local ZANU PF branch chairperson Elias T. Svowa demanded villagers purchase party cards for \$3 under threat of being denied access to critical community services such as veterinary care and social aid. The targeting of pensioners with threats of retribution underscores the systemic use of party machinery to enforce political conformity and punish dissent.

These violations are not isolated incidents; they reflect a systematic pattern of using fear, coercion, and the abuse of authority to stifle fundamental freedoms. ZPP urges law enforcement agencies to conduct impartial and thorough investigations into all reported incidents and ensure accountability.

## RIGHT TO PERSONAL SECURITY

In May, the Zimbabwe Peace Project documented 14 human rights violations affecting 37 (24 men and 13 women) people, reflecting a disturbing pattern of politically motivated violence and the continued use of excessive force by state actors, including members of the police and military. These violations constitute serious breaches of constitutionally protected rights, particularly the right to personal security, freedom of assembly, and freedom from torture and inhuman or degrading treatment. In Gutu Central, Ward 34, patients at Gutu rural health facility were denied essential medical treatment after nurses allegedly diverted medication for personal use. While the theft was appropriately reported, the response by law enforcement was unlawful, CID officers reportedly beat the nurses during interrogation, a clear case of police brutality that violates both domestic and international norms against torture. In Chitungwiza, four male members of the opposition Citizens Coalition for Change (CCC) were physically attacked by members of the MDC-A after attending a Workers' Day commemorations. The victims were accused of political betrayal and labeled as "sellouts," a blatant expression of political intolerance and suppression of political plurality. In Gwanda, Matabeleland South, a couple was assaulted by a community member of unknown affiliation for merely attending a meeting hosted by an opposition political party, while in Shamva, Mashonaland Central, a man was attacked by ZANU PF youths at a funeral after being accused of supporting the CCC, highlighting the erosion of safe civic spaces even in sacred communal contexts such as funerals. In another egregious case in Chimanimani, Manicaland Province, a woman and her son were severely beaten by Zimbabwe Republic Police officers under the allegation of causing a forest fire, further demonstrating the unchecked use of force by law enforcement. These incidents not only underscore the systematic abuse of power and politicisation of public institutions but also reflect a climate of fear and impunity that continues to silence ordinary citizens and undermine democratic participation. The repeated use of violence to settle political disputes and the failure to adhere to due process in law enforcement gravely threaten the enjoyment of basic human rights and dignity in Zimbabwe.



### POLITICAL DISCRIMINATION IN FOOD AID



The Zimbabwe Peace Project has observed the ongoing pattern of political discrimination and the deliberate manipulation of government-sponsored food aid as a tool for partisan control. Four violations affecting 149 (78 men and 71 women) people were documented in May. In Masvingo province, Councilor Vengai Muchini of Ward 21 in Bikita East Constituency declared on 7 May 2025 that he will remove community members from the list of food aid beneficiaries based on their perceived or actual political affiliation. The victims were either suspected of supporting opposition parties or were associated with former ZANU PF member Blessed Geza, a prominent critic of efforts to extend President Mnangagwa's term beyond 2030. Councilor Muchini, who oversees the food distribution process, insisted that only confirmed ZANU PF supporters would receive aid, and further declared that government department of Social Welfare officials would not be permitted to collect or review the beneficiary lists, effectively consolidating partisan control over what should be an impartial, life-saving intervention aimed at drought-affected households. This discriminatory practice directly violates the constitutional rights of citizens to equal treatment and non-discrimination (Section 56 of the Zimbabwean Constitution), as well as the right to food and social protection, which is fundamental to the dignity and survival of affected communities.

This pattern of exclusion was echoed in Chirumhanzu South, where 15 community members were deliberately denied wheat allocations by traditional leaders, intended as part of a three-month government relief program, solely on the basis of their political affiliations. These individuals, aligned with opposition movements, were systematically left out while all others received their rations, reportedly based on lists prepared and enforced by partisan traditional leaders. This entrenched trend of politicising humanitarian assistance not only deepens social divisions but also undermines the credibility of state institutions and violates the principles of equality, fairness, and the universality of aid in crisis contexts. It reinforces a climate of fear and marginalization, particularly in rural communities, where access to food aid is often a critical determinant of survival. These practices call for urgent intervention by oversight bodies such as the government department of Social Welfare to hold accountable those who subvert aid mechanisms for political gain, while ensuring protection and remedy for affected individuals.

### ARBITRARY EVICTIONS



In Ruwa, Mashonaland East Province, a grave human rights crisis has unfolded following the forced eviction of approximately 4,000 individuals from Cloverdale Farm, land owned by former Cabinet Minister and ZANU PF political figure, Petronella Kagonye. The evictions were arbitrary and unlawful, lacking due legal process and essential safeguards. Victims, many of whom had lived on the land for years and built permanent structures, were rendered homeless without adequate notice, relocation assistance, or compensation, thereby violating their constitutional rights to shelter, dignity, and protection from inhuman and degrading treatment. The stands had originally been allocated by suspected ZANU PF-linked land barons, raising serious concerns about the role of political actors in land misappropriation and the systemic failure of the state to regulate and protect citizens from such abuses. During the demolitions, members of the Zimbabwe Republic Police reportedly used excessive force, leading to multiple injuries, destruction of property, and a further erosion of trust between the community and law enforcement. Families, including children, have been left sleeping by the roadside, exposed to extreme weather conditions, hunger, and health risks, in a situation that clearly amounts to a gross violation of their economic and social rights.

The Zimbabwe Peace Project (ZPP) strongly condemns this forced eviction and urges the government to uphold its obligations under the Constitution of Zimbabwe, including Sections 74 and 81, which guarantee protection from arbitrary eviction and the rights of children, respectively. ZPP further suggests that the government must uphold consistency in land governance by ensuring that it does not tacitly permit or ignore illegal settlements, only to later condemn and forcibly remove occupants. It is important to acknowledge that while the affected individuals may have occupied privately owned land unlawfully, the state bears responsibility for preventing such settlements from taking root in the first place. Responsible governance requires proactive enforcement of land policies and the protection of citizens from displacement that results from state inaction or complicity.

# TOWARDS SUSTAINABLE PEACE IN ZIMBABWE

Institutions such as the Zimbabwe Independent Complaints Commission, , the Zimbabwe Gender Commission, and the Zimbabwe Human Rights Commission are increasingly demonstrating a welcome openness to engagement, a promising move towards a culture of accountability and collaboration. This openness lays critical groundwork for building sustainable peace, as it reflects a growing willingness by independent and state institutions to listen, investigate, and act on human rights concerns.

ZPP commends these Commissions, , for their efforts to investigate violations, engage with stakeholders, and signal their intention to bring attention to human rights issues. These steps are vital in breaking the silence around abuse and setting the tone for institutional responsibility based on evidence based advocacy work.

ZPP further notes however that, to make a lasting impact, these institutions must go further, by consulting widely, not only on high-profile or publicly reported cases but also on underreported and marginalized issues. A human rights approach that genuinely addresses impunity must center the voices of human rights defenders, victims, and communities who often go unheard. Only through inclusive engagement and comprehensive investigations can these bodies foster trust, accountability, and the structural change needed to end impunity and promote lasting peace.

## 10 STEPS BACKWARDS

### **ACHPR 83rd Ordinary Session report on Zimbabwe focusing on human rights defenders and related issues**



Zimbabwe's participation in the 83rd Ordinary Session of the African Commission on Human and Peoples' Rights (ACHPR) and its presentation of the 16th Periodic Report signaled a constructive willingness to engage with continental accountability platforms, a gesture that, in itself, reflects some recognition of the value of dialogue on human rights.

However, the substance of the presentation fell short in critical areas. While the government highlighted legislative and institutional reforms and asserted that existing constitutional protections sufficiently safeguard human rights defenders, the report conspicuously downplayed persistent and credible reports of harassment, arbitrary arrests, and intimidation of journalists, activists, and defenders. By dismissing well-documented allegations of abductions and enforced disappearances, including the unresolved case of journalist Itai Dzamara, as exaggerated or staged, the government missed a key opportunity to confront impunity and build public trust.

The repeal of repressive laws such as AIPPA and the introduction of the Freedom of Information Act in 2020 were noted, but without meaningful improvements in the safety and freedom of defenders, these measures remain largely symbolic. Administrative gestures, such as issuing press jackets to journalists, are insufficient in the face of systemic violations.

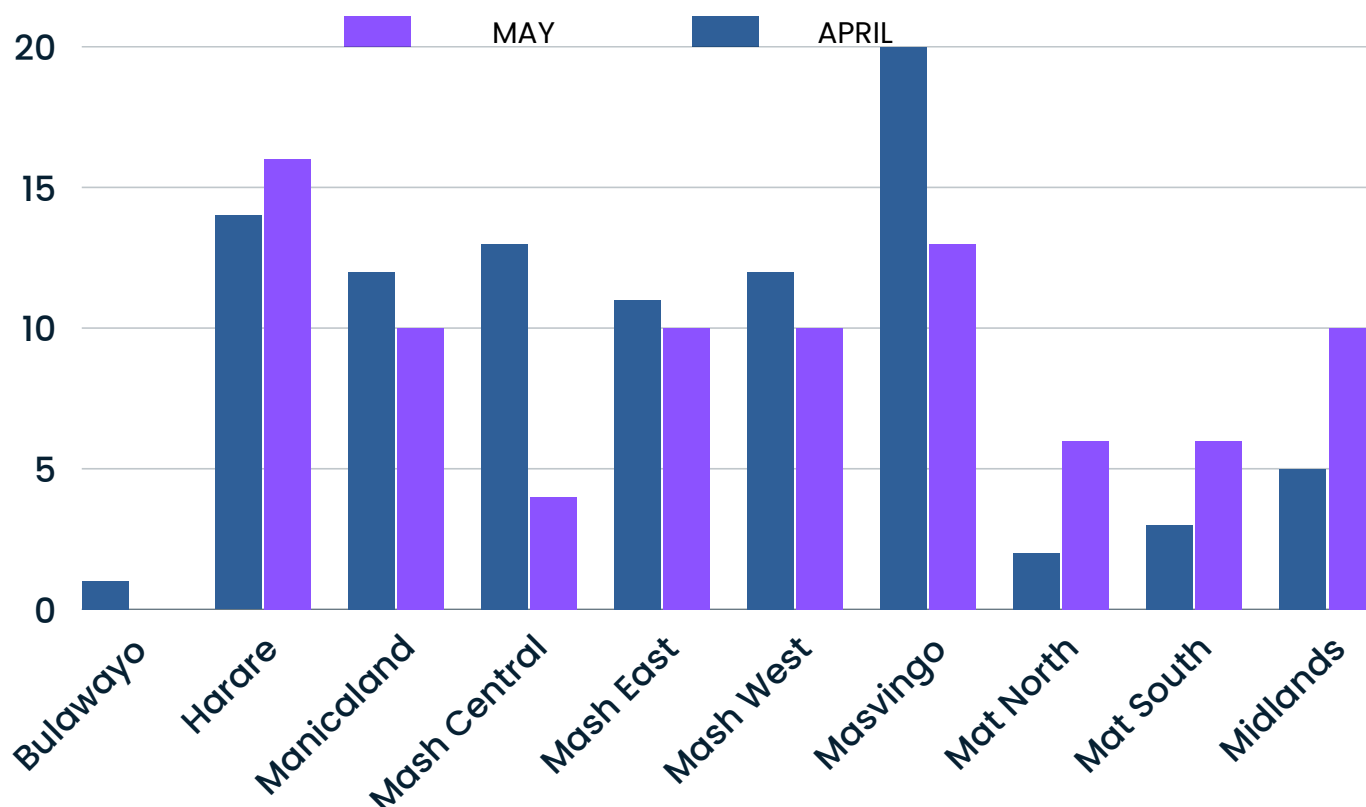
Efforts to promote gender equality and address gender-based violence were highlighted, yet concerns remain around enforcement gaps and the lived realities of vulnerable groups. Commissioners also pointed to the need for stronger protections against the human rights impacts of environmental disasters, such as recent floods.

While the government's willingness to engage with the ACHPR is acknowledged, real progress depends on translating commitments into action, through transparency, accountability, and the political will to confront uncomfortable truths. The forthcoming concluding observations from the Commission should be treated not as criticism to be deflected, but as a roadmap toward genuine reform and the protection of fundamental rights for all.

You can watch the presentation sessions here: <https://youtube.com/live/etoqMiXaOcY?si=EY4BqXvpafX2mIOf>  
<https://youtube.com/live/etoqMiXaOcY?si=PbkHPvAyTBzyTudW>



# PROVINCIAL OUTLOOK



## Mashonaland East

In Mashonaland East, 10 human rights violations were documented. The violations include systemic political intimidation, abuse of public institutions, and denial of basic social services. Patients at local clinics are being charged \$1 security fees per visit without receiving treatment, only basic checks such as blood pressure and temperature before being referred elsewhere or told to buy their own medication, including essentials like paracetamol. In UMP's Museka District, villagers were coerced to pay \$3 for the ZANU PF party cards failure to do were threatened with exclusion from state aid and essential services like cattle dipping. Elderly pensioners were especially targeted, with intimidation tactics including the use of party-linked "security" enforcers. Additionally, an estimated troubling report of massive eviction where 4,000 people were forcibly evicted from land and the associated reports of police brutality, and property destruction. In Murewa, traditional leaders also issued threats of violence against residents. These violations underscore a disturbing pattern of politically motivated repression, exploitation of vulnerable groups, and the erosion of fundamental rights in the province.

## Mashonaland West

In Mashonaland West, 10 human rights violations were documented in May, affecting 64 victims (19 men and 45 women including 1 PWD). This reveals a troubling pattern of political violence and the misuse of public resources. In Zvimba, a ZANU PF supporter's house was reportedly burned down by Zanu PF members for supporting the current MP, reflecting intra-party violence and intolerance. In Makonde, mining activities near healthcare facilities led to structural damage to hospital buildings, endangering the right to health. Additionally, a victim in the same district was assaulted by a ZANU PF supporter after allegedly criticising the president, raising concerns about the suppression of freedom of expression. At a ward meeting in Nyamhunga Primary School, Councillor Morgan Masehwe (ZANU PF) failed to provide a clear explanation regarding the misuse of food aid funds, leaving villagers suspicious and uninformed, an indication of accountability deficits in the distribution of food aid. This volatile and lawless environment underscores the need for urgent intervention to protect citizens' rights, ensure transparent governance, and prevent further violence.

## Matabeleland South

In Matabeleland South, six human rights violations were documented. The violations affected 11 (8 men and 3 women) people, reflecting a troubling mix of violence, mismanagement of aid, and disputes over natural resources. In Gwanda, an elderly woman was attacked by two men shortly after receiving food aid with the intention of dispossessing her of the aid. In Gwanda, a traditional leader was implicated in the misuse of cement donated for hospital construction, raising concerns about abuse of authority and misappropriation of resources meant for essential public services. Additionally, a violent conflict erupted among artisanal miners over control of a gold mine, resulting in the mine owner being struck with an axe, an alarming indication of lawlessness and lack of effective regulation in the mining sector. These incidents underscore weak community protections, poor accountability in aid and resource management, and ongoing threats to the safety and dignity of vulnerable citizens.

## Mashonaland Central

In Mashonaland Central, four human rights violations were documented, highlighting the intersection of political intolerance and systemic failure in health service delivery. In Shamva, a victim was attacked at a funeral by suspected ZANU PF supporters for allegedly supporting the opposition Citizens Coalition for Change (CCC), illustrating ongoing politically motivated violence and the suppression of freedom of association. In Mt Darwin, a district hospital, one of the region's key referral centers, was found to be critically under-resourced, with no available medicines and patients routinely being instructed to purchase drugs from private pharmacies. This has led to patients being turned away, representing a clear violation of the right to health. Patients are also burdened with high user fees (USD 6 for consultations and USD 5 per day for admissions), forcing many to seek care at Karanda Mission Hospital, approximately 20 km away. These violations demonstrate both the neglect of essential public services and the dangers faced by citizens due to politically charged environments.

## Matabeleland North

In Matabeleland North, six violations were recorded impacting 721 (350 men and 371 women) victims. The violations highlight systemic service delivery failures and direct acts of violence. A woman was assaulted by a soldier in Lupane, reflecting continued abuse of power by members of the security forces. At Lupaka Rural Health Centre, which serves five wards, Tshongogwe, Matshiya, Lusulu, Lupaka, and part of St. Paul's critical shortages were reported. Patients with non-communicable diseases could not access medication due to stockouts, forcing many to travel long distances to buy from pharmacies, often unaffordable for rural communities. The clinic's dire lack of medical staff and essential equipment, such as having only one blood pressure and one blood sugar machine, has resulted in long queues and delayed treatment. In a particularly discriminatory practice, pregnant women were required to bring firewood before receiving maternity care. The facility can only accommodate 15 women for delivery at a time, severely limiting maternal healthcare access. Meanwhile, residents of Binga endured severe water shortages after a ZINWA pump breakdown on May 6. Though water was temporarily restored, another failure occurred, exacerbating the crisis. Despite assurances from ZINWA, the unresolved and recurring breakdowns disrupted daily life and raised urgent concerns over the state's ability to guarantee basic rights to water and health.



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## Masvingo

In Masvingo, 13 human rights violations affecting 722 (359 men and 363 women including 28 PWDs) victims were documented in May, reflecting a troubling pattern of discrimination, neglect of basic services, and abuse of authority. At Boora Secondary School, students were denied access to education by the headmistress and School Development Committee members due to non-payment of fees, violating the right to education and exacerbating inequality among economically vulnerable families. In the health sector, the right to health was severely compromised at Gutu Rural Hospital, where nurses allegedly stole medication, resulting in patients being denied essential treatment. This theft, followed by violent interrogation of the nurses, highlighted both systemic corruption and violations of due process and protection from inhuman treatment. Further, patients at the same hospital were discharged without medications for critical conditions such as hypertension and sexually transmitted infections, while the mortuary remained non-functional and the hospital kitchen lacked food, forcing patients to bring their own supplies, a clear denial of the right to health and dignity.

In Mwenezi North, ward 6, the elderly were neglected, as evidenced by the case of 87-year-old Gogo Sibanda, who was denied free medical care at Sarahuro Clinic. Her experience of inadequate care and delayed meals constitutes a violation of the right to health and humane treatment for older persons. In a case of political discrimination, the MP for Bikita South openly declared that wards 4, 28, and 29 would be excluded from development programs such as Constituency Development Funds and devolution projects because they did not vote for him. This public exclusion violates the principles of non-discrimination, equality before the law, and the right to development. Together, these cases paint a grim picture of service delivery failures, political retribution, and neglect of vulnerable groups, undermining citizens' dignity, safety, and access to basic rights.

## Midlands

In Midlands Province, 12 human rights violations affecting 140 (74 men and 66 women) people were documented, highlighting political discrimination and systemic exclusion. At Chinyenyetu High School in Gokwe Nembudziya, students from Form One to Form Four were turned away for non-payment of school fees, a violation of their right to education. On 29 April 2025, during a Social Welfare wheat distribution meant to cover three months, 15 opposition-affiliated individuals were deliberately excluded, with the biased beneficiary list compiled by traditional leaders. Additionally, at a local business centre, three ZANU PF youths harassed and threatened five patrons for allegedly supporting Vice President Chiwenga. The incident underscores deepening political intolerance and factionalism that threaten peaceful coexistence and freedom of opinion in the province.

## Bulawayo

In Bulawayo province, significant human rights violations stem from systemic barriers to education and basic services. A significant number of minors are out of school due to the inability of parents to afford numerous school fees and levies, compounded by the flawed and biased BEAM (Basic Education Assistance Module) selection process that fails to adequately support vulnerable children. This neglect forces children into street vending, exposing them to severe violations such as child labor, prostitution, and drug abuse, undermining their safety and development. Additionally, limited access to safe water and sanitation, particularly in areas like Nguboyenja, disproportionately impacts women with disabilities, who face long queues and heightened risks of abuse and health problems. These conditions reflect a broader failure to uphold children's right to education, protection, and the right to adequate living standards, including water and sanitation.

## Manicaland

In Manicaland, 10 human rights violations affecting 143 (74 men and 69 women) people were documented. Notably in Makoni district, traditional leaders have been illicitly selling food aid intended for vulnerable persons with disabilities (PWD), denying them critical support. In Chimanimani, a mother and her son were assaulted by the Zimbabwe Republic Police (ZRP) under accusations of starting a forest fire, highlighting abuses of power. Furthermore, a Councillor, district ruling party Chairperson, and a war veteran have been intimidating a PWD-led organization that assists disabled people, wrongly accusing it of political activity and threatening its leader with abduction after he spoke out against forcing PWDs into unsuitable “food for work” programs. This intimidation, linked to ZANU PF political interests, undermines the rights of PWDs to organize and receive social support. In other villages, village residents face extortion, being coerced to pay \$1 per household to ruling party-backed groups under threat of exclusion from agricultural inputs. These violations severely impact the rights to social protection, freedom from abuse, and access to essential resources, fueling fear and disenfranchisement among vulnerable communities.

## Harare

In Harare Province, 16 human rights violations were documented. 220 (105 men and 115 women) people were affected.. In addition to service delivery related human right violations, other violations include politically motivated violence and unlawful police conduct. In Chitungwiza, a well-known opposition supporter was wrongfully accused of attending a political gathering when they had actually participated in a local Workers' Day celebration; this individual was assaulted by police at night, detained, further beaten in custody, and charged with unlawful conduct. In Chitungwiza, a former local authority elected official, aligned with the opposition party CCC, faced repeated abduction attempts by suspected ZANU PF operatives, who arrived in three Fortuner vehicles with multiple occupants at her home in Zengeza. Despite their efforts on three separate occasions, the victim escaped, but the intimidation has caused severe distress. The police have not arrested any suspects, and the victim's family believes the attackers are linked to the ruling party. These incidents underscore serious violations of the rights to personal security, freedom from torture and harassment, and political participation.

## Conclusion

The human rights violations documented in May 2025 continue to undermine efforts to build sustainable peace and uphold fundamental rights in Zimbabwe. While the Zimbabwe Peace Project (ZPP) recorded a 10% decline in reported violations compared to April, with victims dropping from 6,059 to 5,376, this modest decrease, though welcome, does not signal a resolution. Instead, the trend reflects the persistence of violations, many of which remain unreported due to fear, intimidation, or deliberate concealment. This raises serious concerns about silent suffering in communities and underscores the urgent need for robust interventions.

ZPP emphasizes that the cases documented represent only those verified; many more likely go unreported as victims shy away from seeking justice or are unaware of available reporting channels. This reinforces the need for all stakeholders such as the government and independent commissions, civil society, and community leaders, to intensify engagement and awareness campaigns. These efforts must empower citizens to understand their rights, access protection mechanisms, and report violations safely and confidently.

Moreover, the government and political actors must fully uphold their constitutional and international human rights obligations. This includes guaranteeing the right to free and fearless participation in public life and ending the politicisation of essential services, particularly access to food aid and social protection, which continues to fuel discrimination and exclusion.

The ongoing pattern of violations highlights the need for coordinated, urgent action. Strengthening accountability mechanisms, safeguarding human rights defenders, and demonstrating genuine political will to depoliticise service delivery are essential to advancing peace, justice, and human rights for all.