



ZIMBABWE
PEACE
PROJECT

Monthly Monitoring Report

JULY 2025

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

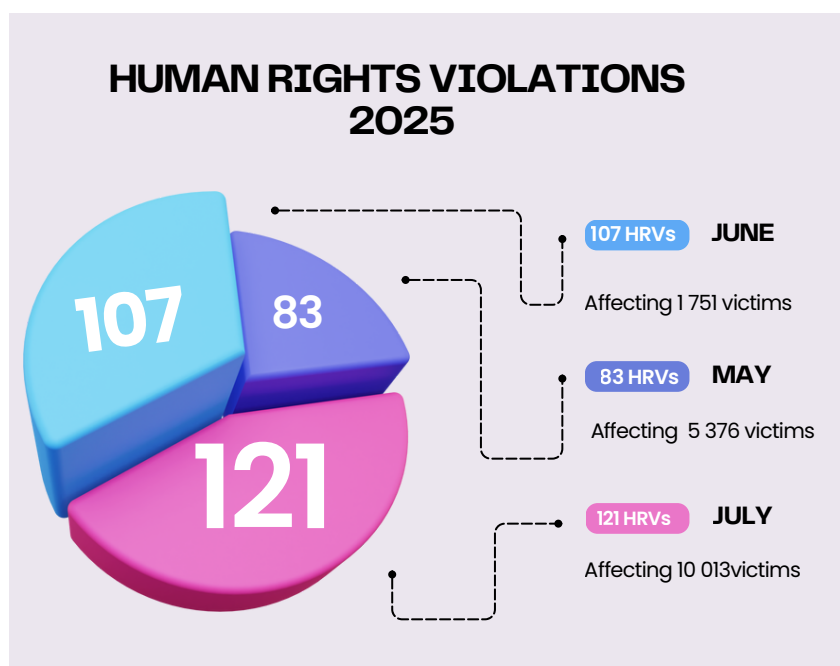
In July, the Zimbabwe Peace Project (ZPP) recorded a total of 121 human rights violations, reflecting persistent patterns of systemic abuse and repression in the country. These violations stemmed from acts of physical assault, harassment and intimidation, as well as discriminatory practices, particularly in the allocation of government-sponsored food aid and the conduct of politically motivated activities. A total of 10,013 individuals were directly affected, including 5,177 women, 4,836 men, and 41 persons with disabilities.

The documented violations infringed on a wide range of fundamental rights and freedoms. These include the right to personal security, equality and non-discrimination, freedoms of assembly and association, expression, and media freedom. Additionally, violations were recorded in relation to the right to access information, protection from degrading and inhuman treatment, and the right to shelter and property, as evidenced by cases of displacement, hate speech, malicious damage to property, and arbitrary arrests.

Analysis of the perpetrators revealed that the ZANU PF leadership, including individuals holding local, provincial, or national positions, accounted for the largest share at 22%, followed by ZANU PF supporters at 16.8%. Other responsible actors included local authorities (14.6%), members of the Zimbabwe Republic Police (12.7%), traditional leaders (12.1%), and school authorities (8.1%). Additional perpetrators were identified as artisanal miners (7.8%), government officials (1.2%), members of the Zimbabwe National Army (1.2%), and religious leaders (0.6%). Approximately 2.8% of the violations were perpetrated by individuals unaffiliated with any known institution or political group.

In the section Towards Sustainable Peace in Zimbabwe, this report briefly reflects on the potential of the Gukurahundi hearings to advance national peace, reconciliation, and healing, if the process is genuine, inclusive, transparent, and victim centered. Under the section Ten Steps Backwards, the report highlights a worrying and regressive trend: the emergence of forced contributions of grain and other resources from already struggling communities. This practice, implemented with little to no transparency or policy clarity, undermines trust in public institutions and poses serious risks to food security and the protection of fundamental human rights.

While the overall human rights landscape remains fragile, ZPP acknowledges and encourages emerging institutional steps taken by several stakeholders and relevant authorities toward fostering sustainable peace and accountability in Zimbabwe.



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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**Report
Human
Rights
Violations**

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THREATS OF VIOLENCE UNDERMINING HUMAN DIGNITY AND COMMUNITY'S SECURITY

In the month of July, the Zimbabwe Peace Project (ZPP) documented 24 violations related to threats of violence, reflecting a trend of political intimidation used to silence dissent and suppress fundamental freedoms. The violations affected 929 people (475 women, 454 men with 14 PWDs). These violations not only undermine the right to personal security but also threaten freedom of opinion, expression, and political participation, which are foundational to democratic engagement and human dignity.

In Mutoko South, Ward 26, a political gathering convened by Peter Dovi, a ruling party official, created an atmosphere of terror among local residents. During the meeting, held on 4 July 2025 at Hoyuyu Mangondo, attendees were threatened with beheading should they support Blessed Geza or any opposition party. Blessed Geza is a former ZANU PF leader popular for criticising the extension of President Mnangagwa's rule beyond 2028.. The assertion that the ward "belongs" to the ruling party sent a clear message that political diversity is not tolerated, further shrinking civic space in rural areas. A similar incident took place in Murewa North, Ward 8, at Maziyanike School, where ZANU PF local leader Wesley Munetsi openly declared that supporters of Blessed Geza should be expelled from the country. By suggesting that such individuals should "go and live in South Africa," the statement threatens not only their right to political opinion and participation but also their right to belong and reside in their own country without discrimination. The message targeted around 35 attendees, many of whom were left feeling unsafe in their own communities.

In Lower Gwelo, in Midlands Province, a humiliating and threatening incident occurred at a village meeting where a man was singled out and ordered to chant a political slogan against his will. The village head, Mehluli Gumbo, publicly accused him of supporting the opposition and threatened him in front of fellow villagers. Upon the man's refusal to comply, the leader declared his intent to "deal with" him, leaving him in a state of constant fear and psychological distress. This act constituted both a violation of personal dignity and an abuse of traditional authority, used to coerce conformity and discourage political plurality. In Mutare North's Ward 10, community members faced intimidation and threats over a land dispute, after their agricultural fields were used as a truck route for mining-related road traffic without the landowners' consent. A delegation acting on behalf of Chief Marange forcibly intervened, threatening one family for publicly raising concerns about their land rights. The unauthorized use of the family fields, enforced by threats and delegations with no legitimate consent from the community, demonstrates how traditional and political power is being misused to suppress community voices, and prioritize elite interests.

These violations, whether through verbal threats, forced political compliance, or disregard for land rights, have a profound impact on individuals and communities. They erode trust in leadership, foster a culture of fear, and violate multiple rights enshrined in the Constitution of Zimbabwe and international human rights law, including the freedom of conscience, association, and security of the person.



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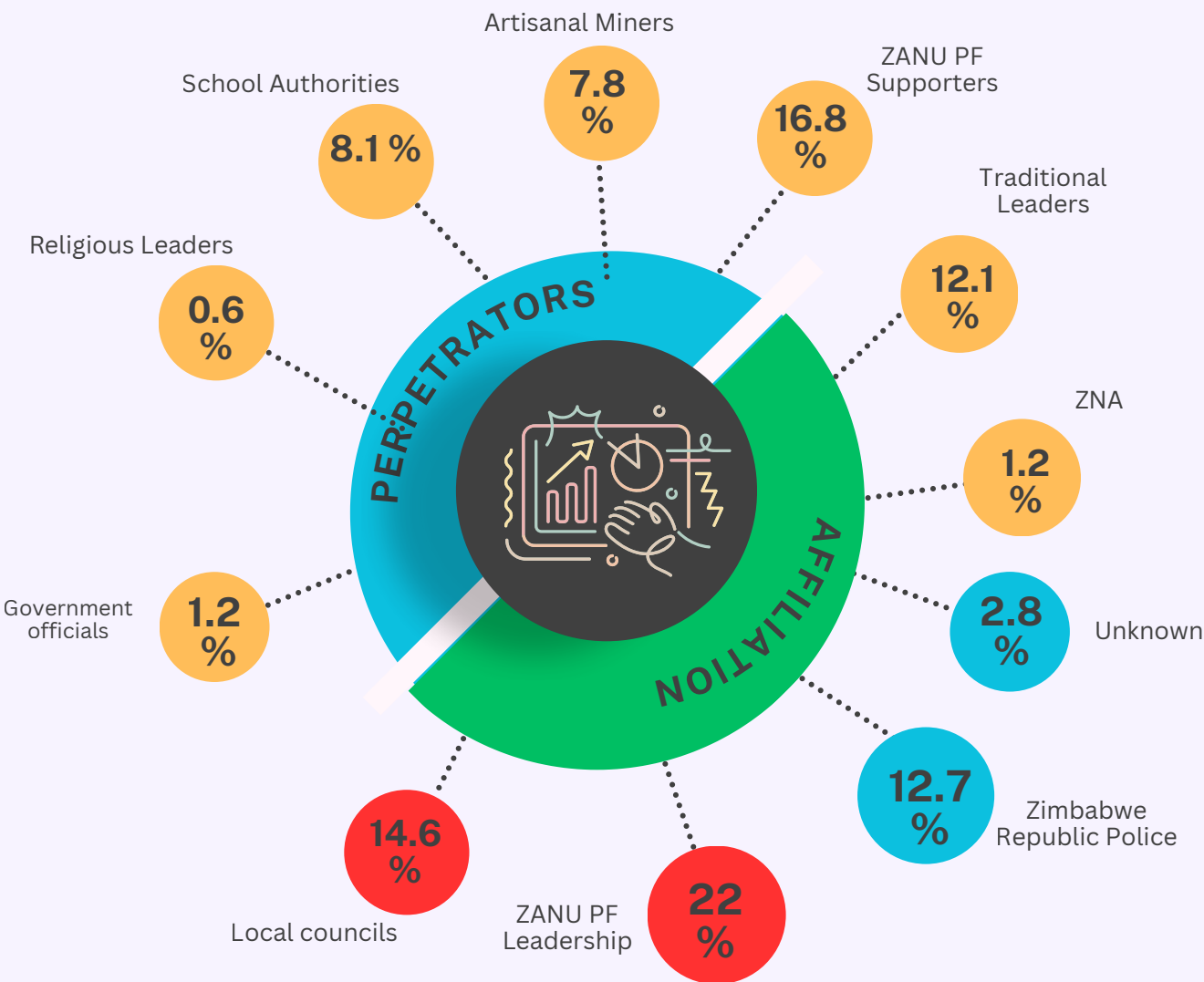
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RIGHT TO PERSONAL SECURITY

ZPP in July recorded six violations emanating from incidents of assault and one case of inhuman treatment linked to politically motivated violence. These incidents represent serious violations of the right to personal security, bodily integrity, and protection from cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment, as enshrined in the Constitution of Zimbabwe and international human rights treaties.

In Epworth Ward 6, ahead of the August 2025 by-election, a young male, whose father is a former councilor convicted for criminal abuse of duty, was forcibly abducted and assaulted by individuals affiliated with the ruling political party. The perpetrators attacked him after a campaign rally, accused him of criticising the head of state, and left him abandoned at a quarry dam. This act constitutes both political persecution and torture, given the deliberate targeting, physical violence, and psychological harm inflicted. In Mazowe North, Ward 26, a woman and her child were brutally attacked in their home by Moses Phiri, a ruling party district youth Chairperson, who was in the company of 11 other perpetrators who claimed to be state security agents. The assailants accused the victims' husband of being a threat to the ruling party and claimed he stole devolution funds meant for supporting community development. The victim made a police report after one of the perpetrators threatened her with a gun. Despite the severity of the attack and its public nature, law enforcement officers failed to make any arrests, allegedly due to the political affiliation of the perpetrators. These violations have a profound and chilling effect on communities, reinforcing fear and discouraging participation in public life. They reflect a systematic abuse of political power to intimidate, punish, and silence dissent, with discriminatory and gendered dimensions, as seen in the assault of a mother and child.

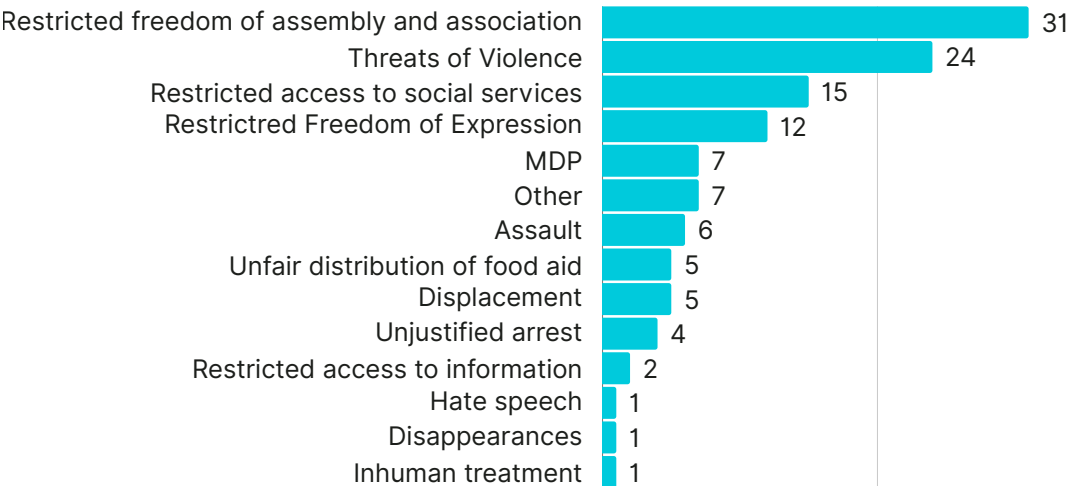


KEY VIOLATIONS

VIOLATIONS OF FREEDOM OF ASSEMBLY AND ASSOCIATION: SILENCING PARTICIPATION AND ERODING CIVIC SPACE

31 violations of the rights to freedom of assembly and association were documented. The freedoms are protected under Section 58 of the Constitution of Zimbabwe and internationally under the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (ICCPR), to which Zimbabwe is a state party . In Kuwadzana 5 and Kuwadzana 7, residents under the Green Valley Housing Cooperative were coerced into attending Sydney Gata national heroes' burial at the National Heroes Acre in Harare. Under the guise of defending their residential rights, community members were forcibly transported to the burial of a ruling party official. Many complied out of fear, not genuine allegiance, an indicator of invisible coercion and social control on the part of the ruling party activists identified as Pastor Musoro and Brain Muzembi. In Guruve North Constituency, village heads were actively compiling household registers and compelling village secretaries to gather personal information of villagers for submission to ruling party offices as part of the ZANU PF District and Cell Structures mobilisation drive. This forced enrollment into party structures, often without consent, violates not only the right to freedom of association but also the right to privacy and protection from political discrimination. In a separate incident of violation of freedom of assembly and association, a violent disruption of a book launch in Masvingo further highlighted the intolerance for alternative political narratives. A group of youth affiliated with the ruling party attacked the book launch of former legislator and opposition leader Job Sikhala, destroying property, assaulting guests, and intimidating authors and attendees, under the apparent protection of ruling party leaders. This reflects a culture of political intolerance, where politically affiliated violence is used to trump intellectual freedom and freedom of expression under the veil of partisan protection. In Kadoma, Mashonaland West, over 400 men gathered for a wellness conference focusing on prostate cancer and responsible leadership were abruptly dispersed by the Zimbabwe Republic Police under the guise of lack of proper sanitation facilities. Despite prior approval by the police, the event held at an established church venue was shut down midway, with a retrospective excuse of health concerns. The conference, organised by an opposition party Member of Parliament Gift Mambipiri, was non-political in nature, yet it was targeted, clearly indicating selective application of the law and political profiling. The disruption not only denied participants access to life-saving health information but also sent a chilling message to citizens seeking to gather peacefully for civic or developmental causes.

Each of these incidents represents more than a technical breach of constitutional rights, they reflect a systematic erosion of democratic freedoms. These rights are foundational to democratic participation, enabling individuals and communities to express collective will, access information, and participate freely in political, cultural, and civic life.



DENIAL AND POLITICISATION OF ACCESS TO SOCIAL SERVICES: UNDERMINING SOCIAL AND ECONOMIC RIGHTS

In July, the Zimbabwe Peace Project (ZPP) documented 15 violations of the right to access social services, reflecting how public goods and government-supported programs are increasingly being used as tools of political control and discrimination. These practices directly contravene Sections 56, 75 and 77 of the Constitution of Zimbabwe, which guarantee every citizen the rights to equality and non-discrimination; education; food, and agricultural resources without discrimination or political bias. In Wedza South, Ward 13, small-scale farmers who received government agricultural inputs for the 2024/2025 farming season were instructed to surrender 10kg of their maize grain to the Grain Marketing Board (GMB) without explanation. The directive, reportedly issued by the local councilor, was enforced without providing any legal or procedural justification. This demand not only violates the right to food and the freedom to benefit from public agricultural support but also undermines trust in public institutions by introducing coercive and opaque practices. Similar incidents were also recorded across the country in various constituencies such as Buhera North, Nyanga South and Hwedza South among others.

In Mutasa Central, Ward 14, a woman was denied access to a government-provided transport service meant to take community members to a meeting at the District Centre. Despite her name appearing on the official list of potential beneficiaries of food aid, she was removed by a local political coordinator based on her perceived political affiliation with the opposition. She was further humiliated and silenced when told not to ask "silly questions." This act of exclusion and verbal intimidation demonstrates the ongoing weaponization of basic services, where access to state-facilitated programs is denied to those seen as politically non-compliant. These incidents represent a broader pattern of rights violations where citizens' access to social services is manipulated based on political loyalty, rather than need or entitlement. The politicisation of inputs, food aid, and public services entrenches poverty, deepens inequality, and violates the principles of non-discrimination and equal protection before the law. Such practices not only harm the individuals directly affected but erode the legitimacy and integrity of public programs, leaving communities vulnerable and marginalized.

FORCED DISPLACEMENT AND POLITICAL EVICTIONS

Zimbabwe Peace Project (ZPP) recorded five cases of forced displacement, revealing a pattern of politically motivated evictions and land-related abuses that directly violate the right to adequate housing, freedom from arbitrary eviction, and security of tenure. In Masvingo West, Ward 33, 40 individuals perceived to be aligned with the opposition were systematically evicted from houses belonging to King Mine. The local chairperson of the ruling party identified as Lydia Chimbare Sigauke facilitated these evictions, authorising known party loyalists to occupy the vacated low-density housing units. This form of politically sanctioned displacement is deeply discriminatory and represents a gross abuse of power, where political affiliation is used as a basis for denying citizens their right to shelter and security of person. Many of the victims were left with no alternative accommodation, instilling fear in communities and discouraging political participation. In Nyachityu Village, Ward 10, Mutare North, a land invasion is currently unfolding involving Holy Ghost College, a Roman Catholic institution established in 2000. Without any formal communication or documentation, the college is forcibly taking over land that has long been occupied and cultivated by the local community. Three families, comprising over 20 individuals, including 12 women are under imminent threat. Vulnerable members, including widows, are particularly distressed by the ongoing land seizure. In the same case, a victim's family farmland has been used without consent for road access by the college. These displacements are not isolated incidents but part of a wider erosion of land and housing rights, where political and institutional actors override community consent and legal protections. They expose significant gaps in legal recourse, tenure security, and institutional accountability, especially for marginalized and rural populations. Without urgent legal and policy interventions, more families face the risk of dispossession, homelessness, and long-term economic and psychological harm.

TOWARDS SUSTAINABLE PEACE IN ZIMBABWE

Gukurahundi hearings: a path to healing?

By mid-July, the government announced that the Gukurahundi Hearings team had reached over 170 Gukurahundi survivors through its outreach and engagement processes. The process marks an important step forward in Zimbabwe's long-overdue journey toward national healing. Led by traditional leaders, the initiative seeks to offer survivors a dignified platform to recount their experiences and express their needs. Under normal circumstances, such platforms signal a readiness to initiate important transitional justice processes and contemplations of reparations.

ZPP, in its June report, expressed concern about the manner in which these hearings are being conducted and still hopes that adjustments will be made to this process to ensure that the principles of inclusivity, fairness, and sincerity are upheld.

Notwithstanding the mentioned concerns, the growing participation, particularly by women survivors of gender-based violence, affirms the importance of giving voice to those who endured the worst abuses, and points to a process that, if executed with integrity, can help mend social fractures and reaffirm the dignity of all victims. However, success must be measured not merely by numbers, but by transparency, consistency, and visible action. We urge the Government and Chiefs' Council to go the extra mile, including outreach to survivors who remain in isolated areas, clear communication of outcomes, and swift implementation of agreed reparations. If carried out with genuine accountability, these hearings can set a new standard for national truth-seeking and peacebuilding in Zimbabwe.

10 STEPS BACKWARDS

Coercion in the Name of Aid: How Forced Contributions Are Deepening Hunger and Violating Rights

Across Zimbabwe's provinces, a deepening pattern of coerced contributions of maize, fertiliser, or money under the guise of gratitude for government agricultural inputs is emerging, violating fundamental human rights and worsening food insecurity for already burdened communities. In almost every province, Mashonaland West, Manicaland, Midlands, and Mashonaland Central, among others, villagers are being forced to surrender grain or cash to local leaders, traditional authorities, or party structures, despite receiving these inputs as part of state-sanctioned support. These practices are neither voluntary nor transparent; they are imposed through intimidation, threats of exclusion from future aid, or denial of access to government programs, thereby violating citizens' right to food, property, and non-discrimination.

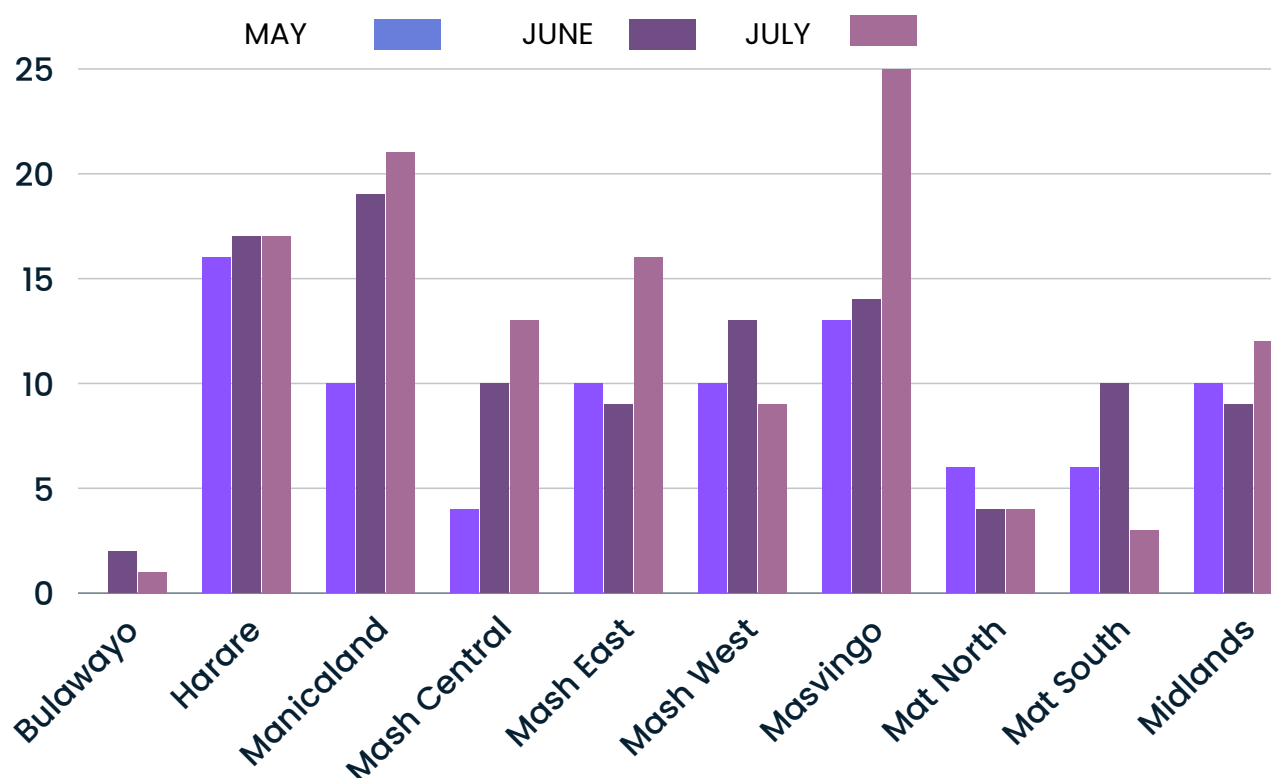
In Mashonaland West, Padzarandora Village in Zvimba West, villagers were told to surrender 10kg of maize to the Grain Marketing Board (GMB), regardless of whether they harvested anything during the agricultural season. Village heads did not question the order, and many households, already food insecure, were coerced into complying. Similarly, in Mutare North's Heimat Village, residents were forced to donate grain even if they never received any agricultural inputs in the first place. These forced contributions are often framed as patriotic gestures or requirements to "thank the government," but in reality, they are unofficial, exploitative levies that disproportionately affect the poor.

In Mashonaland Central, residents of Bindura South's Ward 12 were also made to pay 10kg of maize per household, while in Gutu South, villagers were coerced into surrendering two gallons of maize under the pretext that the grain would be stored at the GMB and returned in times of disaster. However, no legal framework or clear accountability mechanism has been communicated to the beneficiaries, leaving significant room for misappropriation, elite capture, and corruption. Without clear policies and transparent oversight, these "contributions" risk becoming informal taxation systems that exploit rural populations and undermine trust in both government and local leadership.

In some cases, coercion extends to monetary contributions. In Guruve North, households were forced to pay USD \$1 per family for a warehouse that turned out to benefit only ruling party affiliates. Similarly, in Mwenezi and Mutasa, villagers were pressured to pay \$1 towards agricultural shows or risk exclusion from future farming inputs. These forced payments, particularly in cash-strapped rural communities, violate the right to economic freedom and participation in development without discrimination.

Beyond the legal and ethical violations, the human cost is grave. These exploitative demands strip already food-insecure households of their minimal harvests, push them deeper into hunger, and erode the social contract between citizens and duty-bearers. Instead of supporting resilience, such coercive practices undermine livelihoods, intensify poverty, and fuel mistrust in government initiatives. If left unaddressed, these unclear and coercive practices will not only deepen food insecurity and inequality, but also corrode the very legitimacy of public service delivery.

PROVINCIAL OUTLOOK



Harare

In Harare province, 17 human rights violations spanning a broad spectrum of civil, political, and socio-economic rights were documented. The violations affected 1274 people (829 women, 445 men including 2 PWDs). These violations reflect an entrenched pattern of state-instigated repression, politically motivated violence, and systemic socio-economic exclusion, particularly affecting informal traders, opposition supporters, and vulnerable communities. A significant number of violations were linked to forced evictions and destruction of livelihoods. In multiple areas including Parktown, Kuwadzana, and Epworth, the Harare City Council, with support from the Zimbabwe Republic Police (ZRP), carried out demolitions of vending stalls, tuck-shops, and informal trading structures. These operations were executed without adequate notice, and in many cases, vendors lost goods and equipment without compensation. In Kuwadzana, tear gas used to disperse protesting vendors affected school children at Kuwadzana 2 Council Primary School, raising serious concerns over the disproportionate use of force. The right to personal security and protection from inhuman treatment was also severely violated in a politically motivated attack in Epworth. Following a campaign rally, a young man was abducted, severely beaten, and dumped at a quarry dam by individuals affiliated with the ruling party. Further compounding the violations were politically orchestrated displacements in Epworth, where eight homes belonging to opposition supporters were demolished following a campaign rally addressed by ruling party leaders. Additionally, violations of freedom of assembly and association were documented when residents in Kuwadzana were reportedly coerced into attending a national heroes' burial. These incidents collectively demonstrate how basic rights are suppressed through political violence, state-sanctioned demolitions, and targeted intimidation. The cumulative effect is the deepening of fear, exclusion, and loss of livelihoods for already vulnerable populations.

Bulawayo

Two human rights violations were documented, affecting 30 individuals (13 women and 17 men) in Bulawayo. In an incident in Bulawayo, a mental health activist and eight others were unjustly arrested for peacefully protesting against unfair handling of a court case. In Bulawayo, Old Luveve, several pupils were denied their right to education when they were denied access to their mid-term examinations on July 21 because they had not paid a US\$25 bus levy, despite having paid their school fees in full. This practice directly contravened existing ministry directives, which prohibits penalising learners over unpaid levies. This incident highlights ongoing violations of the right to education and the vulnerability of children to unjust administrative decisions, which undermine equal access to learning and educational outcomes. The case highlights how administrative negligence is undermining fundamental rights guaranteed under Zimbabwe's Constitution, including the right to education without discrimination.

Mashonaland Central

In Mashonaland Central Province, 10 human rights violations were recorded. 335 victims (153 women, 182 men including 1 PWD) across multiple constituencies were affected, with citizens particularly in Bindura South and Guruve North constituencies, being subjected to forced contributions under threat of exclusion from essential government programs. In Bindura South, residents of Ward 12 were compelled to pay a 10ZIG fee for Heroes Day commemorations, with village heads warning that non-compliance would lead to disqualification from receiving government agricultural inputs during the farming season or food aid in the event of drought. These contributions were demanded without transparency, accountability, or consent, violating the right to freely access public services without political or financial coercion. Similarly, in Guruve North, households across several wards were forced to contribute US\$1 per household towards development projects in Ward 19 under false pretenses with village heads collecting the money and misrepresenting its use, using it for construction of a storage warehouse for inputs, an act constituting fraud and a breach of the right to economic justice. In a particularly grave violation, a woman and her child were assaulted at their home in Mandindindi Farm by a group of 11 individuals linked to the ruling party. The region also experienced violations of the right to education, as learners at Nyachuru Primary School, a Salvation Army institution, were turned away due to unpaid fees, contrary to national education policies that emphasize universal access. Collectively, these incidents underscore a pattern of rights violations where access to education, food, land, and public participation is undermined by coercion, exclusion, and abuse of authority.

Mashonaland East

9 human rights violations were documented in Mashonaland East Province, affecting 348 people (153 women and 195 men). The reported cases illustrate a continuing trend of politically motivated intimidation, forced evictions, discriminatory access to public services, and violations of socio-economic rights. A particularly concerning case involves threats of forced displacement of villagers in Murewa North Constituency to make way for a large-scale mining operation. In this community, villagers, who rely entirely on subsistence farming, have received no communication regarding compensation or relocation. In another violation, villagers in Mutoko South Ward 26 were subjected to explicit death threats for expressing political preferences. Statements made during this gathering conveyed the idea that the ward “belongs” to the ruling party, effectively threatening those holding alternative political beliefs. The other violations documented include politically motivated discrimination in aid distribution. These cases reveal politicisation of state resources, marginalisation of vulnerable populations, and the weaponisation of public services for political control. From threats of eviction to denial of medical treatment, these violations show how communities in Mashonaland East are being systematically denied their basic rights, undermining trust in public institutions and entrenching fear and exclusion.

Matabeleland South

A total of 10 human rights violations were documented across parts of Matabeleland South, affecting 27 people (18 women and 9 men). In one incident in Umzingwane, a male victim was seriously assaulted by an artisanal miner using an axe. The victim sustained serious injuries, however despite a police report being made, no arrest has been made. Other violations related to the use of force by members of the Zimbabwe Republic Police where they forcefully confiscated wares of vendors even after they had collected fines. Contextually in the province, Gukurahundi community hearings have been ongoing. In Matobo South during the Gukurahundi hearings chaired by Chief Nyangazonke, 16 community members, mostly women, gave testimony, with many women recounting experiences of abuses during the 1980s massacres. The hearings highlight the gendered brutality of the historical atrocities and the long-standing silence surrounding such violations. Survivors were reportedly asked to state what kind of redress they wished for. While the process appeared more neutral than previous sessions, free of political regalia or slogans, there remains deep uncertainty about whether these public testimonies will lead to meaningful reparations, justice, or state accountability. The emotional toll and vulnerability of victims who continue to wait for redress decades later are stark reminders of the persistent failure to guarantee justice for historical human rights violations.

Midlands

In July 2025, a total of nine human rights violations were recorded in the Midlands Province, affecting 511 individuals (246 women and 265 men) across various communities, particularly in Vungu and Gokwe districts. The violations reflect a continued erosion of civil and political rights, as well as economic injustices linked to partisan manipulation of public resources and services. A particular incident occurred at Lower Gweru Mission Business Centre, where a village head publicly humiliated a villager during a community meeting by ordering him to chant a ruling party slogan as punishment for allegedly supporting the opposition. The villager, who refused to comply, was threatened with retaliation, instilling fear and creating an environment of political intimidation. This act directly violates the rights to dignity, freedom of conscience, and political association. Other widespread violations included the coercion of households in Ward 8 in Vungu District to surrender portions of their grain harvests to the Grain Marketing Board through village heads in exchange for previously received agricultural inputs, regardless of whether families had harvested enough to feed themselves. This practice, enforced by village heads, reflects a distortion of aid distribution mechanisms and violates the right to food and economic security. At the same time, political interference in development aid was rampant, with ruling party officials and councillors reportedly using partisan loyalty as a condition for accessing public goods. Additionally, at an inter-district council meeting in Chirumanzu South on 24 Jul, ZANU PF leaders instructed local institutions, including schools and health centres, not to accept support or donations from individuals unaffiliated with the party, effectively politicising access to social services. This directive undermines the principles of neutrality in service delivery and infringes on the right to education and healthcare. Collectively, these violations blend coercion, economic exploitation, and exclusion from development opportunities, undermining democratic participation and entrenching fear among ordinary citizens.

Matabeleland North

In Matabeleland North, four human rights violations were documented in July, underscoring systemic neglect in public service delivery and the impact on vulnerable populations affecting 147 people (84 women, 63 men including 5 PWDs). At AMR Primary School in Lupane West, the head has repeatedly sent pupils home over unpaid fees, despite government policy stating that no child should be denied access to education for financial reasons. Many of the affected learners come from remote areas like Jotsholo and St Lukes and rely on arranged transport, making their premature dismissal both logistically unsafe and academically disruptive. This practice violates the right to education and further entrenches inequality. In the healthcare sector, Nkayi District Hospital in Ward 29 is grappling with a severe shortage of essential medicines. Patients, including the elderly and mothers with young children, are being told to buy basic drugs from private pharmacies. One mother brought her two-year-old child with chest problems to the hospital and was simply told to buy paracetamol, exposing the inaccessibility of public healthcare for the poor. These incidents represent a deeper failure by public institutions to uphold the rights to education and health and reflect a broader crisis of governance and public accountability in rural Zimbabwe.



Report
Human Rights Violations

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Manicaland

In Manicaland Province, 19 human rights violations were recorded involving widespread political discrimination, coerced contributions, abuse of traditional authority, and corporate-led displacement, all of which severely undermined economic and civil rights across multiple communities affecting 851 people (449 women, 402 men including 2 PWDs). One of the most alarming incidents occurred in Ward 13 of Dangamvura Constituency, where food aid distribution at Feruka Primary School was conducted in a blatantly partisan manner. Despite announcements that the aid, comprising mealie meal, beans, and cooking oil, was intended for all ward residents, those without ruling party membership cards were excluded, in a process overseen by ZANU PF officials. In a similarly gross abuse of power, Chief Marange sent a delegation of 15 individuals to threaten a local family for resisting the unauthorised use of their farmland by trucks servicing infrastructure works. The family was intimidated and told to surrender access to their land, with no due process or compensation, reflecting the ongoing erosion of land rights in the province. Across multiple wards, residents were coerced into donating 10 kilograms of maize or traditional grains as a supposed token of appreciation for government agricultural inputs, with village heads, party activists, and traditional leaders enforcing compliance under threat of exclusion from future programmes. In Mutare North's Heimat Village, even individuals who had not received government inputs were pressured to contribute grain, exposing the exploitative and arbitrary nature of the scheme. These violations collectively illustrate how political and economic elites, in collusion with traditional authorities and corporations, are exploiting communities by denying them food, land, and equal access to public resources based on partisan affiliation or corporate interests.

Mashonaland West

A total of 13 human rights violations were documented in Mashonaland West, affecting 597 individuals (119 women, 478 men including 9 PWDs), with violations ranging from forced evictions, coerced economic contributions, to the repression of peaceful assembly. One of the most alarming incidents occurred in Kadoma, where over 400 men attending a wellness conference were forcibly dispersed by the Zimbabwe Republic Police despite prior clearance for the event. The police cited inadequate sanitation facilities as justification for the shutdown, even though the gathering was held at a church venue that regularly accommodates larger congregations. The event, organised by an opposition Member of Parliament, was non-political in nature, and its disruption illustrates the selective enforcement of public order laws, blatant political profiling, and the violation of citizens' rights to peaceful assembly, access to health information, and freedom of association. In another violation in Kariba Urban Ward 2, five cabins built by residents on formally allocated stands were demolished without notice by local council authorities. Across parts of Zvimba West, particularly in Padzarandora Village, villagers were forced to contribute 10kg of maize to the Grain Marketing Board (GMB) as a repayment for receiving agricultural inputs under government schemes. These demands were issued following meetings between traditional leaders and authorities, with no regard for the prevailing food insecurity. This practice represents a coerced economic obligation, disproportionately affecting already struggling rural households and violating the right to food and fair access to public support. These cases reveal a troubling trend of rights violations in the province, where citizens face exclusion, intimidation, and deprivation of services or protections based on political alignment or socio-economic status. The weaponisation of traditional leadership, uneven application of the law, and use of state institutions to suppress civic space all point to systemic governance failures. The Zimbabwe Peace Project calls for urgent reforms to ensure that housing, food aid, and civic gatherings are protected from politicisation, and that all citizens enjoy equal treatment, legal protection, and access to basic services without fear of reprisal or discrimination.

Masvingo

A total of 14 human rights violations were documented across parts of Masvingo Province, affecting 5893 people (3113 women, 2780 men including 14 PWDs) in areas such as Mwenezi, Chiredzi, Zaka, Bikita, and Gutu. These violations highlight a pattern of politically driven exclusion from government-sponsored food aid, forced contributions, intimidation, and the weaponisation of basic services for political loyalty. In Mwenezi North's Village 4, under Kraalhead Chitemere, villagers were threatened with removal from the village and exclusion from future donor programs after they collectively refused to participate in a politically linked food-for-work initiative that had not been consulted on or fairly explained. The villagers, who initially objected peacefully, were fined US\$10 each by traditional leadership, and when they resisted, they were told they would lose their place in the community and future aid, demonstrating a clear violation of the rights to freedom of association, protection from forced labour, and access to humanitarian aid without discrimination. In a similarly coercive practice, households in Mwenezi were forced to pay compulsory fees for an agricultural show and Heroes' Day celebrations under threat of being denied access to farming inputs. In Mwenezi East, a school development issue escalated when children were made to fetch water and perform construction tasks for a school under construction, duties originally meant for parents, disrupting learning and raising concerns over child labour and the right to education. Parents who resisted were met with threats of violence by the school head. In Bikita South, a ZANU PF chairperson reportedly evicted individuals suspected of opposition affiliation from King Mine housing, reallocating their homes to ruling party supporters, an egregious act of political discrimination and forced displacement. Meanwhile, in Chiredzi East, political mobilisers linked to the ruling party, calling themselves "Varakashi for ED," threatened villagers with future aid exclusion and violence should they refuse to attend campaign roadshows, illustrating the continued use of intimidation to secure political attendance and control. At Zibwowa Rural Health Clinic in Zaka South, members of a health committee were harassed and intimidated by local ruling party leaders and traditional authorities for allegedly not being politically aligned, with threats made to replace them with ZANU PF loyalists, interfering in the neutral operation of health services and violating principles of community representation. Finally, in Gutu South, villagers were coerced into handing over maize by village heads and paying US\$5 in return for promises of land title deeds, with little transparency or due process, raising significant concerns around land rights, forced payments, and abuse of public trust. Across all these incidents, a common thread emerges: political power being leveraged to control access to services, punish dissent, and enforce conformity, often with the complicity of local authorities and in violation of constitutional rights to participation, shelter, education, and freedom from coercion.

Conclusion

In July, the human rights situation in Zimbabwe remained deeply concerning, as widespread violations continued to undermine the dignity, agency, and security of citizens across all provinces. The data reveals a pattern of politically motivated intimidation, coercion, restricted freedoms, and forced contributions that not only infringe upon basic rights but also erode public trust in governance and deepen food insecurity. Of particular concern is the tolerated practice of demanding grain, money, or allegiance in exchange for access to government support, a policy gap that risks institutionalizing extortion and further marginalizing already vulnerable populations. While the commencement of the Gukurahundi hearings signals a positive step towards reconciliation and healing, it must be underpinned by transparency, genuine victim-centered engagement, reparative follow-through and truth-telling particularly on the part of the perpetrators. The stark contrast between the promise of healing and the reality of regression in rights protection highlights the urgent need for the government to align its actions with its constitutional and international human rights obligations. Only through consistent accountability, inclusive policy reform, and respect for civic freedoms can Zimbabwe begin to restore public confidence, promote justice, and achieve lasting peace. Civil society and community-based organizations remain key actors in demanding and monitoring this change.