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Monthly Monitoring Report

DECEMBER 2025

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

In the last month of 2025, December, Zimbabwe Peace Project documented a total of 86 human rights violations. The violations affected 1964 victims. Among the victims were 988 women and 976 men. 15 of the victims were persons with disabilities.

The human rights breaches included violations of rights to personal security, equality and non-discrimination particularly in government aid distribution and threats of violence and intimidation. Other civil and political rights such as restrictions on freedom of assembly and association and that of expression were recorded. Other violations included limitation of access to social services, unjustified arrest, and displacement among others. In the provincial statistics, more violations, 21, were recorded in Manicaland in the reporting month. Harare recorded 11 human rights violations while 10 were documented in Masvingo and 9 in Mashonaland Central. Other provinces recorded: Mashonaland East 7, Midlands and Matabeleland North both recorded 8, Matabeleland South 5 and Mashonaland West 4 while 3 were recorded in Bulawayo.

The Zimbabwe Republic Police topped the perpetrators' list accounting for 26.2% of the violations followed by the ruling party supporters who accounted for 20.2% of the violations and its party leaders standing at 17.6%. Local authorities accounted for 7.9% of the violations, traditional leaders 5.6%, artisanal miners 6.7% and other government agents 4.9% also contributed to the breaches of such human rights violations. Members of the Zimbabwe National Army accounted for 1.9% and 3% of the violations were perpetrated by school authorities while 6% were perpetrated by members with no known affiliations.

The Zimbabwe Peace Project acknowledges, in the section Towards Sustainable Peace in Zimbabwe, the efforts of the National Dialogue Conference convened by the Zimbabwe Heads of Christian Denominations (ZHOCD) in December, which highlighted inclusive, continuous dialogue as essential for national unity, reconciliation, and development. This report highlights in the 'Ten steps backwards' section, how the politicisation of food aid and government agricultural inputs continues, violating fundamental human rights and exacerbating food insecurity. Discriminatory distribution of aid not only denies vulnerable communities access to life-saving support but also deepens structural inequalities, heightens humanitarian suffering, and undermines prospects for social cohesion and sustainable peace.



1964

988 women
976 men

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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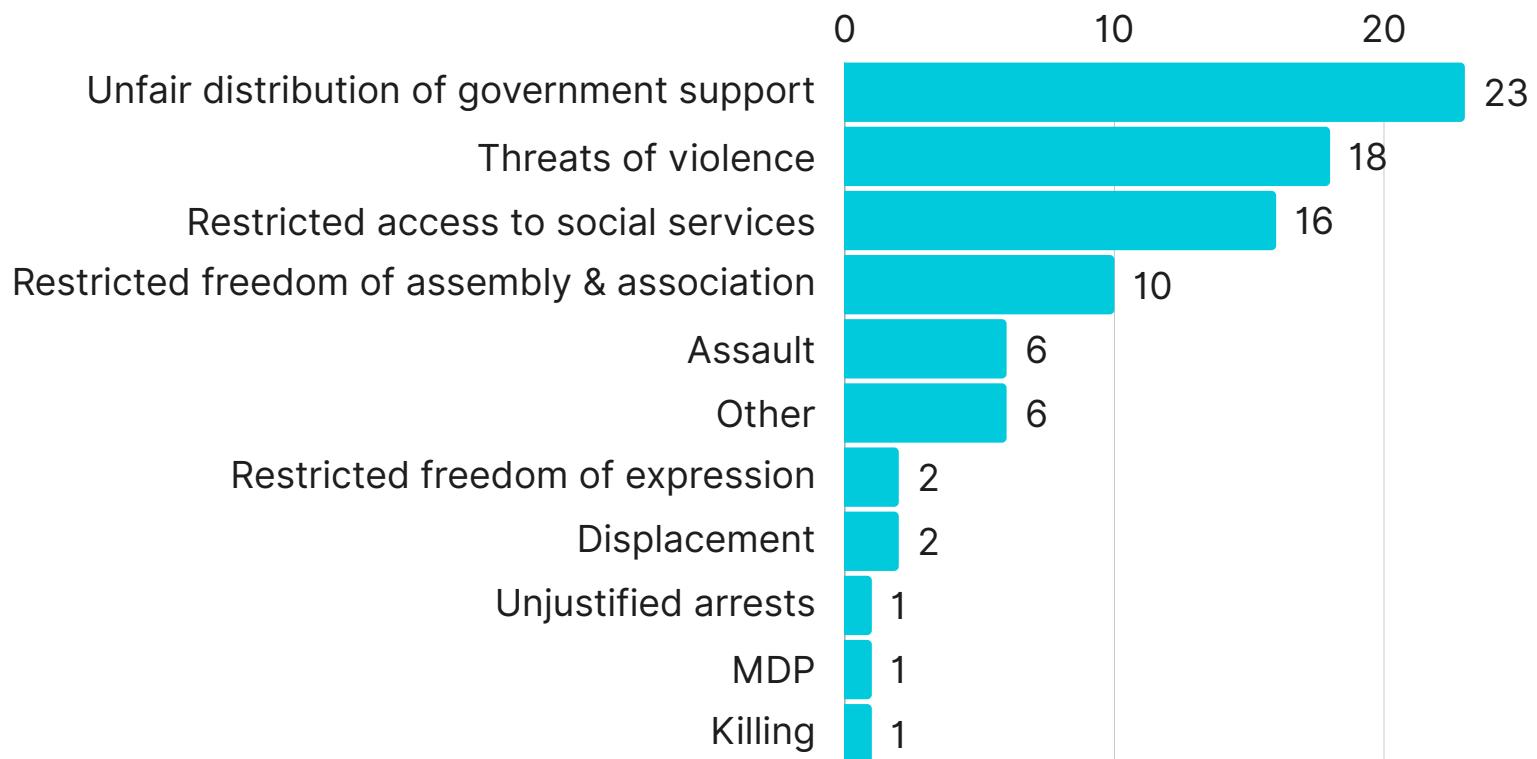
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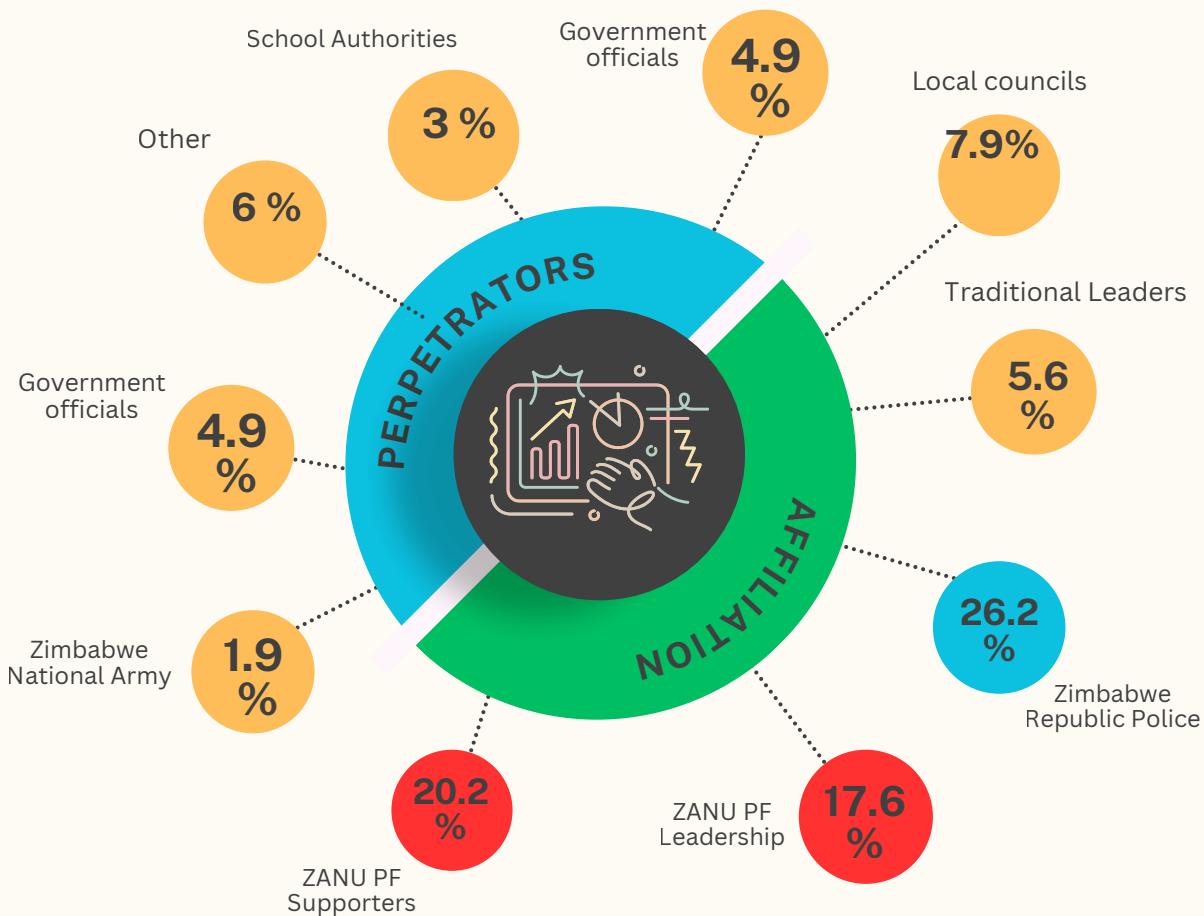
December Human Rights Violations



ASSAULT ON THE RIGHT TO PERSONAL SECURITY

In incidents documented in December 2025, at least six serious violations of constitutionally protected human rights in Zimbabwe were breached, with the right to personal security, as enshrined in Section 52 of the Constitution, being the most prominently violated. In Manicaland Province, Rusape (Makoni South), a female victim was physically assaulted during a food aid distribution after being denied assistance on the basis of her perceived support for an opposition political party, violating not only the victim's right to personal security but also the rights to equality and freedom from discrimination. In Bindura, Mashonaland Central, a shoe vendor in Chipadze, was brutally assaulted by police officers resulting in loss of sight. The victim had failed to deliver the money in a routine extortion scheme in which police demanded nightly payments from vendors to allow them to operate. The victim was pursued, harassed, and violently beaten by officers, including being struck in the face with a baton until his eye popped out.

Some of the incidents involved the excessive use of force and indiscriminate attacks on civilians by state security agents, particularly the Zimbabwe Republic Police and the National Army. In Shurugwi, Midlands Province, five artisanal miners were assaulted by members of the national army at a site where alleged gold deposits had been discovered, violating their rights to personal security. In Harare Province, police officers in Chitungwiza's St Mary's suburb assaulted vendors at a shopping centre for selling foodstuffs in public places, injuring five people and infringing their rights to personal security, dignity, and livelihood. Similarly, in Epworth Ward 3, riot police indiscriminately beat civilians found in public spaces after 7 p.m., including at shopping centres, bars, and vending sites. Comparable incidents were also recorded in Silobela Constituency, Midlands Province, where police assaulted civilians around 10 p.m. and subjected some to degrading treatment by forcing them to roll on the ground. Such cases illustrate a wide pattern of violations affecting multiple constitutional rights, including personal security, dignity, equality, freedom from discrimination, and protection from violence.



THREATS OF VIOLENCE

In December, at least 18 documented cases of intimidation, threats of violence, and harassment exposed serious violations of citizens' civil and political rights. In Masvingo Province, two journalists from The Mirror were threatened and intimidated by members of the Zimbabwe Republic Police while attempting to document an alleged case of land displacement involving a provincial minister in Masvingo Urban, violating the rights to freedom of expression, access to information, media freedom, and personal security, and creating a chilling effect on independent journalism. In Mashonaland West Province, Sanyati District (Katsuro Village, Ward 18), village heads and community members were threatened by a ZANU PF Mwena District Coordinator and were warned of punishment and blacklisting for failing to attend Zunde Ramambo activities at Chief Hozheri's farming land. The threats by party leaders amounted to coercion and intimidation, undermining political rights, freedom of association, and the right to participate in public affairs without fear, while also blurring the line between voluntary government programmes and compulsory party activities. In Mutasa Central Constituency, a female youth leader was threatened and publicly humiliated by the sitting Member of Parliament and his security personnel after she shared humanitarian aid information with a relative from the same village, who is also a member of the ruling party and was willing to assist vulnerable families. The incident illustrates the politicisation of humanitarian assistance and the misuse of authority, resulting in violations of the rights to human dignity, equality, freedom from intimidation, and protection from abuse of power. Such cases demonstrate how threats and harassment are employed to suppress dissent, enforce political loyalty, and control access to aid, ultimately shrinking civic space and undermining fundamental rights.

UNFAIR DISTRIBUTION OF FOOD AND AGRICULTURAL INPUT AID



During the reporting month, 23 violations related to unfair and discriminatory food and agricultural input distribution were documented. In Mashonaland East Province, Goromonzi North, a female beneficiary was arbitrarily removed from the government inputs list for failing to pay a previously imposed 10kg maize contribution, despite such schemes being intended as social support rather than exclusionary mechanisms. In Masvingo Province's Gutu District, Ward 38, a councillor distributed one bag of fertilizer to be shared among five non-ruling party members, while ruling party supporters each received a full bag, affecting at least 20 community members and demonstrating overt political discrimination. Similarly, in Shurugwi Ward 23, Midlands Province, a woman was denied food aid solely because she did not attend ruling party meetings, directly violating here freedom of assembly and association as well as principles of neutrality and equal access to assistance. In Gokwe Kabuyuni, government inputs were allocated exclusively to senior ruling party members and traditional leaders, following directives from the ruling party's district leadership that excluded ordinary farmers, including those under the Pfumvudza programme, leaving many unable to plant despite early rains. Further concerns arose in Makoni District, where inputs are consistently being delivered and distributed late at night as well as only a few individuals per village. The remaining supplies were allegedly sold by an agricultural extension officer in full view of police officers and later stored at local shops. These practices not only undermine transparency and accountability but also endanger lives, as evidenced by previous incidents of violence during midnight distributions.

TOWARDS SUSTAINABLE PEACE IN ZIMBABWE

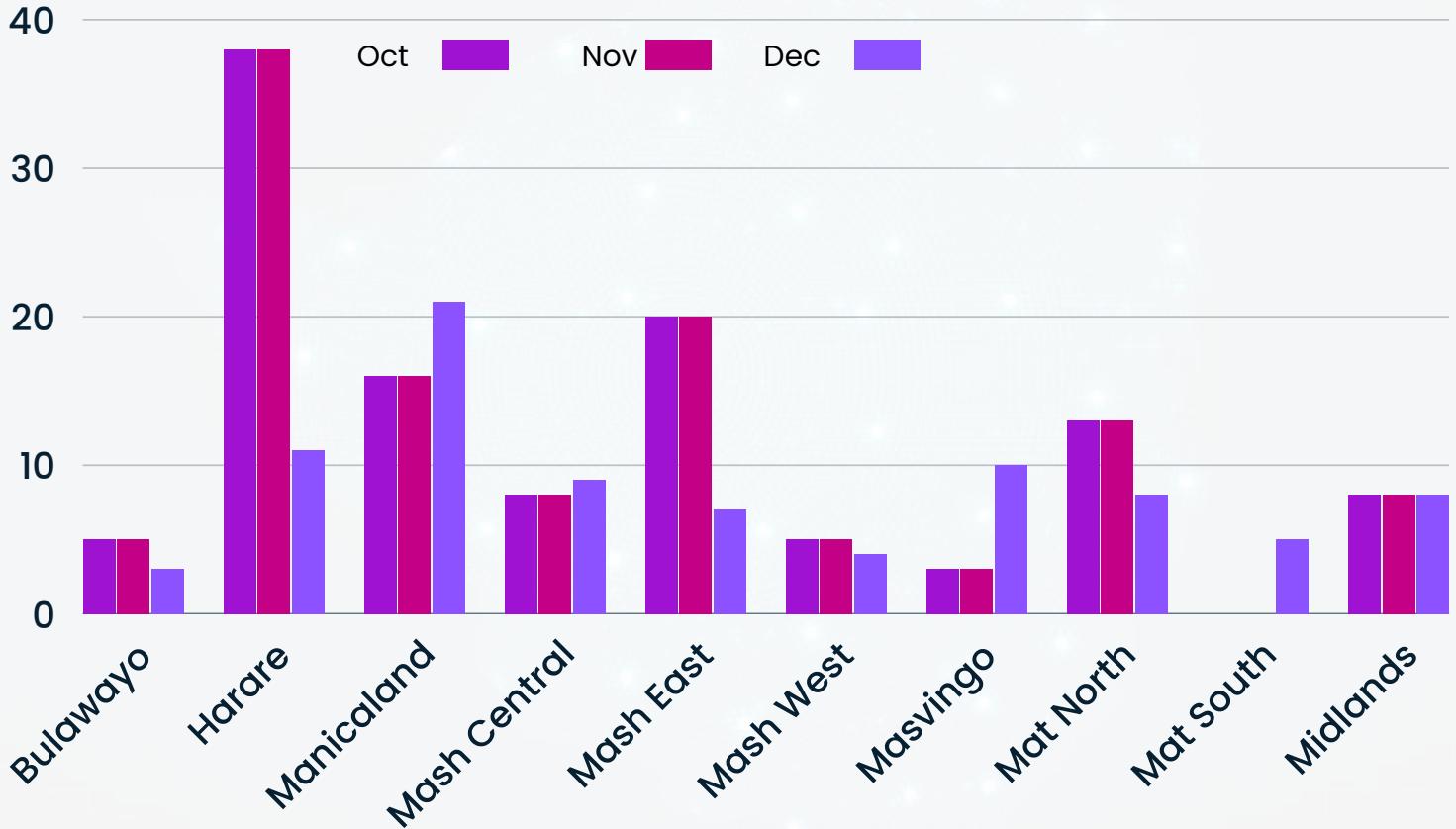


The Zimbabwe Peace Project acknowledges the efforts in the National Dialogue Conference convened by the Zimbabwe Heads of Christian Denominations in December which underscored the centrality of inclusive, continuous national dialogue as a pathway to unity, reconciliation, and development. Building on the long-standing vision of "The Zimbabwe We Want," the conference brought together state institutions, independent commissions, faith-based actors, and international partners to reflect on past challenges and renew collective commitment to dialogue-driven solutions. Discussions acknowledged that political polarisation and social divisions remain major obstacles to peace, while affirming that respect for human rights, equality, and non-discrimination is foundational to national cohesion. This is consistent with the findings of ZPP from its human rights monitoring, documentation and reporting across the country. The emphasis on dialogue must be ongoing based on citizenry, and grounded in accountability, justice, and mutual respect. The conference further recognised collaborative efforts to strengthen governance, combat corruption, promote gender equality, and improve conditions within correctional facilities through engagement between national institutions and international partners. The endorsement and handover of the new dialogue framework to Office of the President and Cabinet (OPC), the Zimbabwe Human Rights Commission (ZHRC), and other key stakeholders symbolised shared responsibility among all stakeholders to translate dialogue into action and advance sustainable peace in Zimbabwe.

10 STEPS BACKWARDS

As Zimbabwe faces a deepening food insecurity crisis, the continued politicisation of food aid and government agricultural inputs constitutes a serious violation of fundamental human rights with far-reaching humanitarian consequences. The right to food, equality, human dignity, and non-discrimination is increasingly undermined as access to life-sustaining assistance is conditioned on political compliance or forced contributions. ZPP documented 23 violations related to unfair food aid distribution, with some of the most severe cases involving the exclusion of vulnerable households for failing to meet coercive grain contribution demands, effectively criminalising poverty and exposing families to hunger and deprivation. This politicisation not only denies immediate access to food but also infringes on other interconnected rights, including the rights to health, livelihood, personal security, and freedom from political coercion. According to the Famine Early Warning Systems Network, Zimbabwe is projected to experience worsening food insecurity, with poor households in Matabeleland North and South, Masvingo, Manicaland, Midlands, and northern Mashonaland expected to face critical food shortages during the peak lean season from December to March. In this context, discriminatory aid practices risk accelerating humanitarian suffering and entrenching structural vulnerability.

PROVINCIAL OUTLOOK



Mashonaland East

The province recorded seven human rights violations in December, with the most serious relating to violations of human dignity, shelter, and equality. In Goromonzi, victims evicted from Cloverdale Farm, linked to a former government minister Petronella Kagonye, were temporarily housed at a ruling party office in Goromonzi and are now facing renewed threats of eviction by the Civil Protection Unit without proper resettlement plans. These families are living in inhumane conditions marked by overcrowding, insecurity, school dropouts, and reported sexual abuse, causing widespread fear and anxiety. In addition, several cases reflected unfair and discriminatory distribution of agricultural inputs across the province. In Goromonzi North and Mutoko South, beneficiaries were arbitrarily excluded, subjected to unequal allocations, or charged inconsistent fees, often along political or economic lines, undermining the rights to equality, non-discrimination, food, and livelihoods. The violations point to a broader pattern of abuse of authority, lack of transparency, and systemic neglect of vulnerable communities' basic rights.

Harare

In Harare Province, 11 human rights violations were recorded, with the most serious involving restrictions on civic space, political intimidation, and the use of excessive force by law enforcement. In Epworth North Ward 5, police denied Kushinga Epworth Residents Trust permission to hold a public meeting on the 2026 council budget consultations, citing lack of registration as a PVO, despite its status as a community trust. This constituted a violation of the rights to freedom of assembly, association, and civic participation, particularly when contrasted with the continued clearance-free meetings held by the ruling party aligned organisations. In Kuwadzana Paddocks, a meeting presented as a cooperative gathering was converted into a ruling party political meeting, where residents were openly threatened with loss of residential stands should the party lose future elections, affecting over 120 people and violating political rights, security of tenure, and freedom from intimidation. Additionally, similar patterns of abuse were observed across Epworth, where riot police conducted evening operations involving assaults on civilians, destruction of vendors' property, and forced dispersal in public spaces.

PROVINCIAL OUTLOOK

Manicaland

The province recorded the highest number of human rights violations in December, with 21 violations documented, reflecting a slight decrease from 27 in the previous month but indicating persistent and serious concerns. The most significant violations related to the politicised and unfair distribution of food and agricultural inputs, threats to personal security, and restricted access to social and economic rights. In Chipinge South, Ward 30 under Chief Mahenye, government farming inputs were distributed exclusively through ruling party structures after the legally mandated farmers' committee was sidelined, resulting in discrimination, corruption, and unequal access to support. A similar pattern was recorded in Dangamvura Constituency, where a farmer was denied seeds, fertiliser, and pesticides solely on the basis of not being a ruling party member. In Rusape, Makoni South, a woman was assaulted during a food aid distribution after being excluded for perceived opposition affiliation, highlighting the intersection of political discrimination and violations of personal security. The province also recorded serious socio-economic rights violations in Buhera South Ward 33, where approximately 250 people face eviction from council land they had occupied with the approval of traditional leaders, placing their rights to housing, security of tenure, and dignity at risk. Collectively, these cases reflect a broader trend of politicisation of public resources, abuse of authority, and growing insecurity for vulnerable communities.

Bulawayo

In December, three human rights violations were documented in Bulawayo, with the most serious affecting socio-economic rights and political freedoms. Residents in several areas continued to experience prolonged lack of access to clean water and irregular refuse collection, undermining the rights to health, dignity, and a safe environment. In the context of the Nkulumane parliamentary by-election, following the death of Hon Desire Moyo, a Member of Parliament, an independent candidate reported systematic destruction of campaign materials by suspected ruling party activists. The tearing down of posters and campaign materials constituted political intimidation and interference with the electoral process, violating the rights to political participation, freedom of expression, and equality in electoral competition. Although the election ultimately proceeded and was won by the ruling party, the reported acts contributed to a climate of fear and unfair political contestation.

Mashonaland West

Mashonaland West Province recorded four human rights violations in December, involving political interference, intimidation, and discrimination. In Chegutu East Ward 16, political interference by ruling party actors forced the headmaster of Dombwe Secondary School to resign after being labelled as aligned to an internal ruling party faction, creating fear and undermining his rights and freedom from political persecution. In Sanyati District, Katsuro Village (Ward 18), village heads and community members were threatened with punishment and blacklisting by a ruling party district official for failing to attend Zunde Ramambo and party activities, amounting to coercion and violations of political rights, freedom of association, and participation in public affairs. Similar incidents of verbal harassment and discrimination against perceived opposition supporters were reported in other parts of the province, particularly around public spaces and input distribution points.

PROVINCIAL OUTLOOK

Mashonaland Central

Mashonaland Central Province recorded nine human rights violations in December, with the most serious involving loss of life, excessive use of force, and political intimidation. In Chipadze, Bindura, a street vendor was violently assaulted by police officers after failing to deliver an extorted payment collected from other vendors. He was pursued, harassed, and beaten with a baton, resulting in the loss of sight in one eye. Officers ignored his pleas for help, threatened him not to report the incident, and claimed they could evade accountability. In Guruve, the loss of life involving multiple victims, including women and children, were recorded in grave circumstances. The suspected murderer, Anymore Zvitsa was arrested and arraigned for at least 15 murders. These killings raise serious concerns in the protection of the right to life.

In Mazowe West and Bindura, cases of abuse of authority were recorded, including extortion and brutal assault by police. Notably, a vendor in Chipadze was severely beaten by police over extortion demands, resulting in permanent loss of sight, followed by threats to prevent him from reporting the case, violating rights to personal security, access to justice, and freedom from torture and intimidation. The province also recorded politicised and exclusionary distribution of agricultural inputs in Shamva North and other areas, where beneficiaries were denied assistance or charged multiple unlawful fees, undermining equality, food security, and livelihoods. Additionally, in Muzarabani, failure to investigate a police killing and threats of violence by ruling party youths against perceived opposition supporters further demonstrate a pattern of impunity, political coercion, and systemic disregard for fundamental rights.

Masvingo

Masvingo Province recorded 10 human rights violations in December relating to discriminatory distribution of agricultural inputs and intimidation of the media among others. In several wards, including Masvingo South Ward 12 and Gutu North Ward 38, local leaders and councillors manipulated beneficiary lists, imposed unlawful fees, and favoured ruling party supporters, resulting in widespread exclusion of vulnerable households who could not pay or lacked political affiliation. In some cases, families were forced to share a single bag of fertilizer while others received full allocations, undermining the rights to equality, non-discrimination, food, and livelihoods. These practices were carried out under the authority of traditional leaders and councillors, reflecting abuse of power and lack of accountability. In addition, in Masvingo Urban, journalists from The Mirror were threatened and intimidated by police while documenting alleged land displacement involving a senior official, violating freedoms of expression, media, and access to information. These cases highlight entrenched patterns of politicisation, corruption, and repression that continue to erode socio-economic rights and civic freedoms in the province.

Midlands

In December, eight human rights violations were recorded in Midlands Province, including the use of excessive force, politicised access to assistance, forced evictions, and denial of basic services. In Shurugwi, five artisanal miners were assaulted by members of the national army at a gold mining site, constituting a grave violation of the right to personal security. The province also recorded discriminatory practices in food and input distribution, including the denial of aid to individuals for failing to attend ruling party meetings such as in Shurugwi Ward 23, and the exclusion of ordinary farmers from government programmes in favour of politically connected leaders, undermining equality and non-discrimination. Additionally, residents linked to Zimasco communities in Shurugwi reported threats of eviction, inflated rentals, and abuse of authority allegedly involving politically connected actors, placing the rights to housing, dignity, and security of tenure at risk. In Chiwundura, prolonged shortages of essential medicines at a local clinic left patients unable to access healthcare, resulting in severe health complications and highlighting violations of the right to health.

PROVINCIAL OUTLOOK

Matabeleland North

Matabeleland North Province recorded eight human rights violations in December, involving political discrimination, violence, and exclusion from state-supported programmes. In Binga North and Tsholotsho North, government agricultural and empowerment programmes were implemented in a partisan manner, with opposition supporters excluded from fertiliser, seed, and poultry distribution schemes, undermining the rights to equality, non-discrimination, food, and livelihoods. One distribution point recorded violence and intimidation when women perceived to support the opposition challenged unaffordable costs attached to a poultry empowerment programme, highlighting the lack of neutrality in development initiatives. The province also recorded politically motivated discrimination in access to education support, where a student faced exclusion from a state-funded scholarship due to perceived opposition affiliation, violating the right to education and freedom from political persecution. Similar patterns of political vetting and intimidation were reported in other sectors, including recruitment into state institutions.

Matabeleland South

Matabeleland South Province recorded five human rights violations in December, with the most serious relating to environmental harm and its impact on community well-being. In Gwanda District, operations at the Gwanda Lithium Mine have caused severe dust pollution and extensive road damage, adversely affecting surrounding communities, including children. These conditions raise concerns about violations of the rights to health, a clean and safe environment, and human dignity. Community leaders, councillors, and traditional authorities formally raised these concerns during a full council meeting, citing a lack of transparency and accountability by the mining company. The calls for urgent government intervention reflect broader grievances shared by affected residents. Similar environmental and governance concerns were reported in other areas of the province, indicating a recurring pattern of extractive activities proceeding without adequate safeguards or meaningful community consultation.

Conclusion

The findings of this report demonstrate that while Zimbabwe has frameworks and platforms aimed at promoting peace, dialogue, and human rights, lived realities for many citizens remain characterised by insecurity, exclusion, and inequality. Persistent politicisation of state resources, excessive use of force, discrimination, and impunity continue to erode public trust and civic space. Sustainable peace cannot be realised in the absence of accountability, respect for human rights, and equitable access to basic services. Addressing food insecurity, protecting civil and political freedoms, and depoliticising humanitarian assistance are urgent priorities. Meaningful progress will require genuine political will, strengthened institutions, inclusive dialogue translated into action, and a people-centred approach that places human dignity, equality, and justice at the core of national development efforts.



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