

"It's hard to hold a candle
In the cold November rain
We've been through this such a long long time
Just tryin' to kill the pain, ooh yeah."
*Excerpt from the song,
November Rain by Guns and Roses*



November AGAIN!

THE ZIMBABWE PEACE PROJECT
MONTHLY MONITORING REPORT
NOVEMBER 2021



November again!

The month of November has become significant in that it is the anniversary of President Mnangagwa's assumption of a coup propelled establishment, and with each year, Zimbabwe's human rights situation assumes a new low



Such callousness...

Police enforcing a government COVID19 curfew in Chivhu unleashed dogs and Darlington Manjokota (28) was not so lucky. A police dog savaged his arm and he was admitted to Chivhu Hospital. He is still healing

In his love song, Stand by Me, British singer-songwriter Henry Olusegun Adeola Samuel, known professionally as Seal, sings, “When the night has come, and the land is dark and the moon is the only, light we'll see, no I won't, be afraid. Just as long, as you stand....

Just as Seal placed high hopes on his lover, Zimbabweans welcomed the coming in of President Emmerson Mnangagwa into power in 2017 with high hopes that even though it was through a military coup, there was a chance for him to stand by Zimbabweans when it got dark. Four years later, we write a totally different story, and each November, the Zimbabwe Peace Project (ZPP) has recorded an increasing desire by those in power to entrench themselves using all but democratic means.

The means include - at the highest and lowest levels - the use of state security agents to suppress dissent, interference in the affairs of the judiciary, weaponization of the law, politicization of aid, state-party conflation, and enactment of Draconian laws like the recently gazetted Private Voluntary Organisations Amendment Bill. It is an all-out assault on the right of citizens to enjoy their constitutionally guaranteed entitlements!

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To show this trend, in November 2020, the Zimbabwe Republic Police (ZRP), Zanu PF, the Zimbabwe National Army (ZNA), war veterans, and municipal police, contributed a combined 63.26 percent of all human rights violations. This November, the ZRP, ZNA, Zanu PF, war veterans and other state agents contribute to a staggering nearly 86 percent of all violations and this is a cause for concern considering that the police and the army have a mandate to protect, and not violate citizens. It points to the presence of a police state, where the law and law enforcement agents are used to protect the interests of the few in positions of authority. For the third month Zanu PF leads the list, having contributed to about 54 percent of all the violations and the ZRP follows

at 26 percent. Zanu PF, being the ruling party, wields influence in government institutions, including those responsible for state security. So, by having the ruling party and the police leading the list of human rights violators, it is apparent the human rights situation in Zimbabwe has deteriorated to levels where citizens are on their own. The main opposition MDC Alliance contributed to just below four percent of all violations and one case of intra party violence against Zanu PF's 10 cases. Just as in November 2020, there was a significant use of aid as a political tool as government rolled out its Pfumvudza inputs scheme. ZPP notes that apart from the widespread decline in the volumes of inputs government distributed, there was more discrimination of those

believed to be supporters and sympathisers of the opposition and Zanu PF once again used its influence in central and local government to influence the distribution. For example, on 9 November in Zvimba West in Kanyemba Village Ward 12, suspected Zanu PF activists torched a house belonging to a woman believed to be an opposition political supporter to spite her for receiving Pfumvudza inputs.

During the distribution of inputs, Zanu PF activists reportedly threatened the victim, claiming that she was not entitled to government inputs because she did not support the ruling party. It did not take days before suspected arsonists burned her houses, and in the process, she lost farming inputs, clothing and other property.

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Torched: A woman in Zvimba lost her two houses and property in a suspected politically motivated arson. (See Executive Summary for details)

CONTINUED FROM PREVIOUS PAGE. The politicization of inputs has continued to happen for a long time and ZPP has continued to keep the issue alive, and has always expressed concern over how Zanu PF officials and activists hijack the process which should be conducted by government employees and other non partisan stakeholders.

Recently, the politicization of Pfumvudza inputs was a subject of discussion in Parliament.

Norton MP Temba Mliswa claimed the Grain Marketing Board (GMB) officers, charged with the responsibility to stock and distribute the inputs, were living in fear of releasing the agriculture inputs after being ordered by Zanu PF members to issue the inputs to farmers without the ruling party officials' consent.

"Zanu PF officials are now giving instructions to GMB officers not to release inputs. Inputs are being politicised," Mliswa said.

In response, Justice and Parliamentary Affairs Minister Ziyambi Ziyambi, who is also the leader of Government Business in Parliament, said

"No Zanu PF officials should be involved in the distribution of inputs. There is no go-between in this scheme."

His statements are in stark contrast to the situation on the ground, where ZPP has recorded 24 cases of discrimination of opposition supporters during the distribution of Pfumvudza inputs countrywide.

Ironically, President Mnangagwa officially launched the Pfumvudza programme in Gokwe, at a Zanu PF party event, and the message, although not verbal, was clear, this was a programme for Zanu PF supporters.

A report in the Herald confirmed the partisan nature of the programme with a colorful piece that had the following lines:

"On a grey and calm day, with rains on the horizons, thousands of Zanu PF supporters thronged Chief Nenyunga homestead in Gokwe where President Mnangagwa was launching the Pfumvudza programme, extended to include cotton, itself a source of livelihood for millions across the country," wrote the paper's Political Editor.

So, while at the lower levels,

there is the use of aid as a tool for coercion and the use of state security agents to harass and intimidate citizens, at the higher level, government has all but kitted up, ready to clip the wings of the very important civil society activity using the PVO Amendment Bill, which is being fast-tracked ahead of the potentially bruising 2023 elections. (See Section 5)

From November 25 to December 10, the world commemorates 16 Days of Activism Against Gender Based Violence, and it is a tragedy that women are becoming more and more victims of rights violations. While in October, women made up 43 percent of victims, the number goes up to nearly 53 percent in November. This is a worrying trend as Zimbabwe draws towards elections and history has shown that women tend to be on the receiving end of political violence. Once again, it is November all over again, and it appears when it comes to its human rights situation, Zimbabwe is in a much worse situation than ever before.

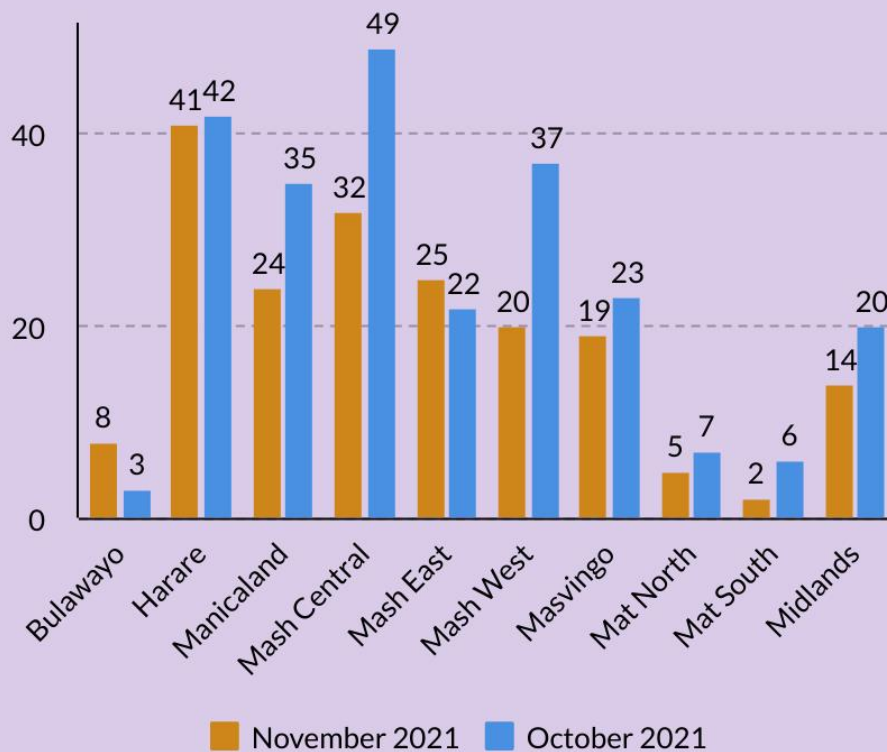
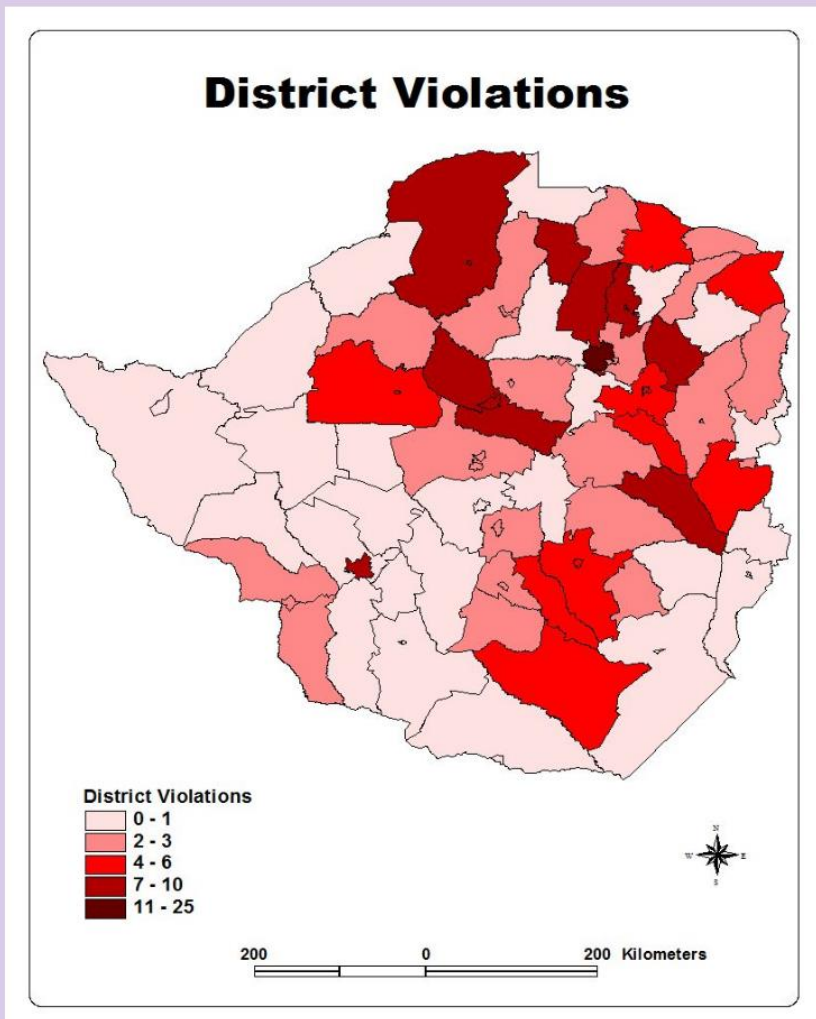
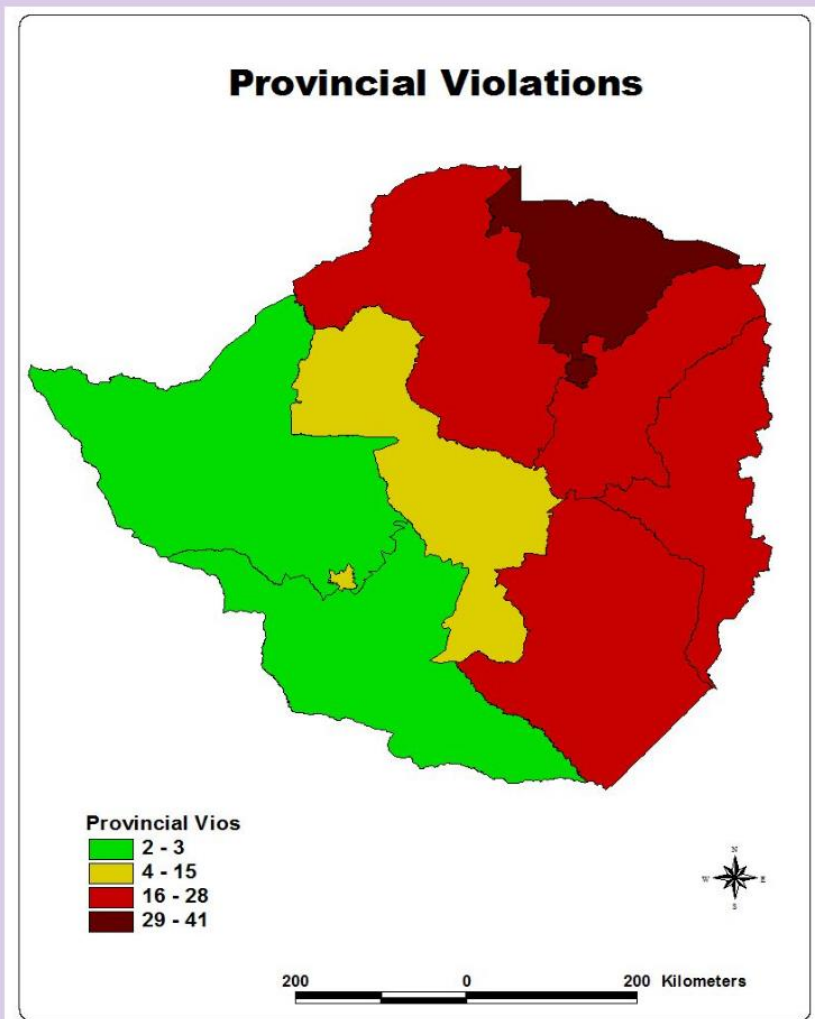


When the rights of the individual – even of a few individuals – are suppressed, there cannot be respect for the rights of the people as a whole. The State begins to govern against its citizens, rather than with them..."
JOSHUA NKOMO

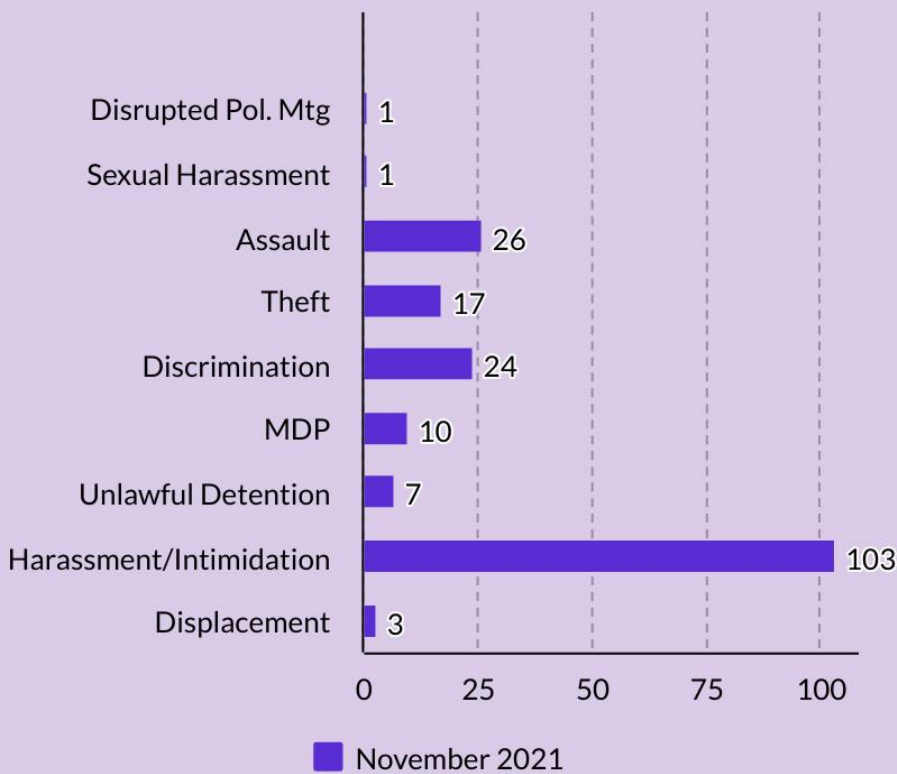
Human Rights Violations Monthly Dashboard

Zimbabwe Peace Project

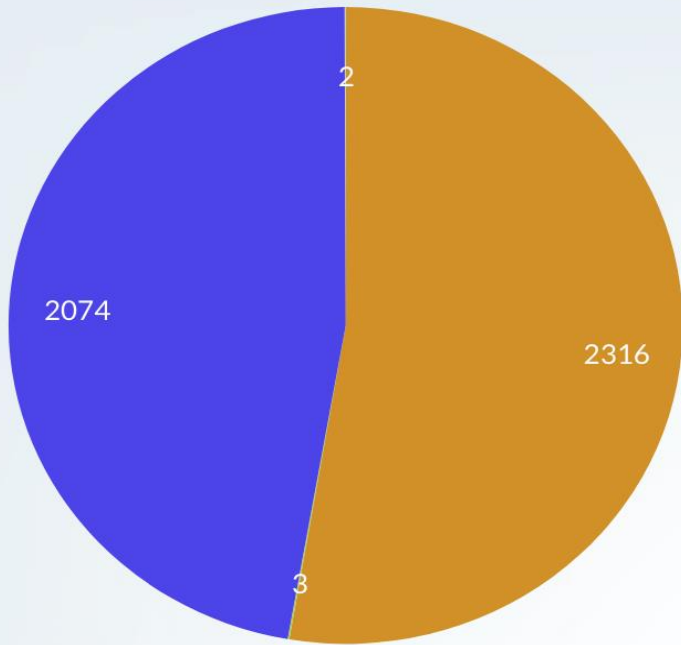
Report time frame: November, 2021



Provincial Violations

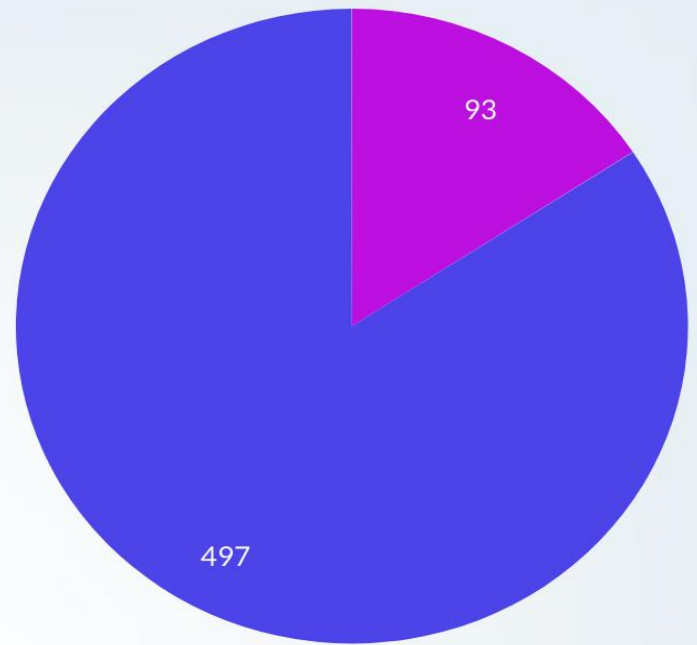


Types of Violations



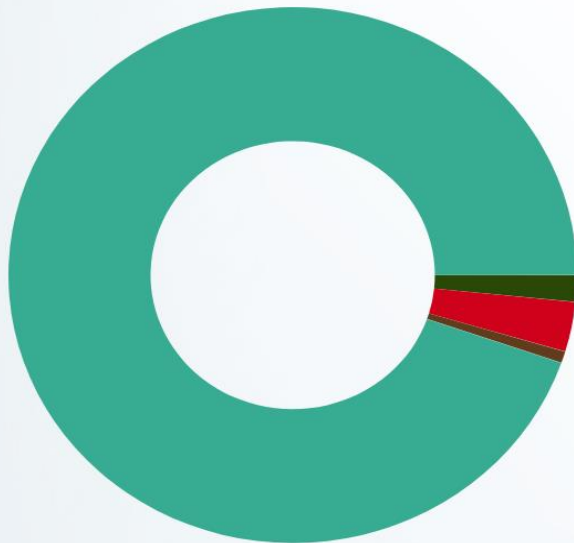
Female (52.7%) Female PWD (0.07%) Male (47.19%)
Male PWD (0.05%)

Gender of Victims



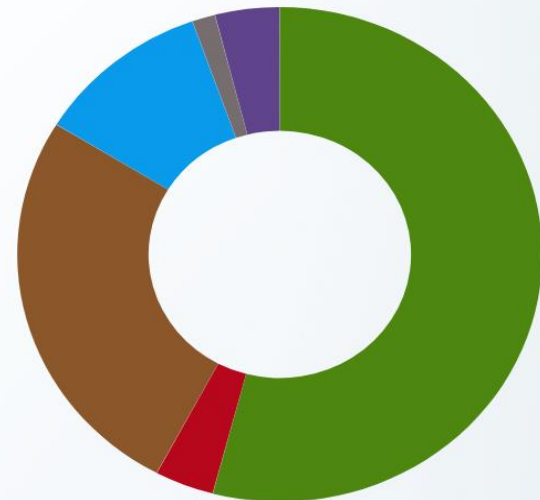
Female (15.76%) Male (84.24%)

Gender of Perpetrators



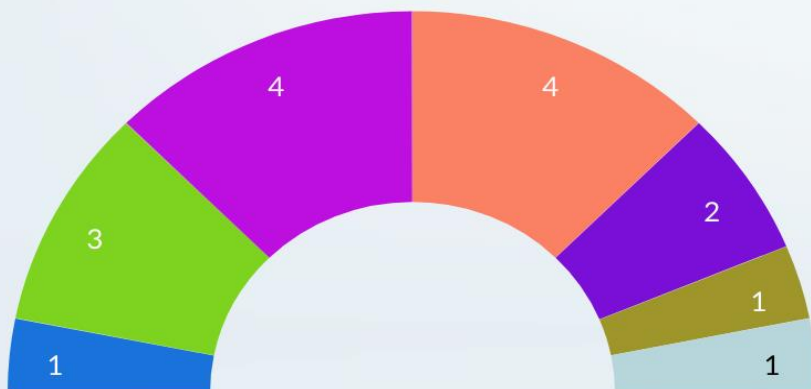
Zanu PF (1.61%) MDC Alliance (3.01%) ZRP (0.7%)
General Citizens (94.68%)

Victims Affiliation



Zanu PF (54.13%) MDC Alliance (3.65%)
ZRP (26.03%) Unknown (10.79%)
State agents (1.43%) War Veteran (3.97%)

Perpetrators Affiliation



Harare (6.25%) Manicaland (18.75%)
Mash Central (25%) Mash East (25%)
Mash West (12.5%) Masvingo (6.25%)
Midlands (6.25%)

Food & Other Aid Violations

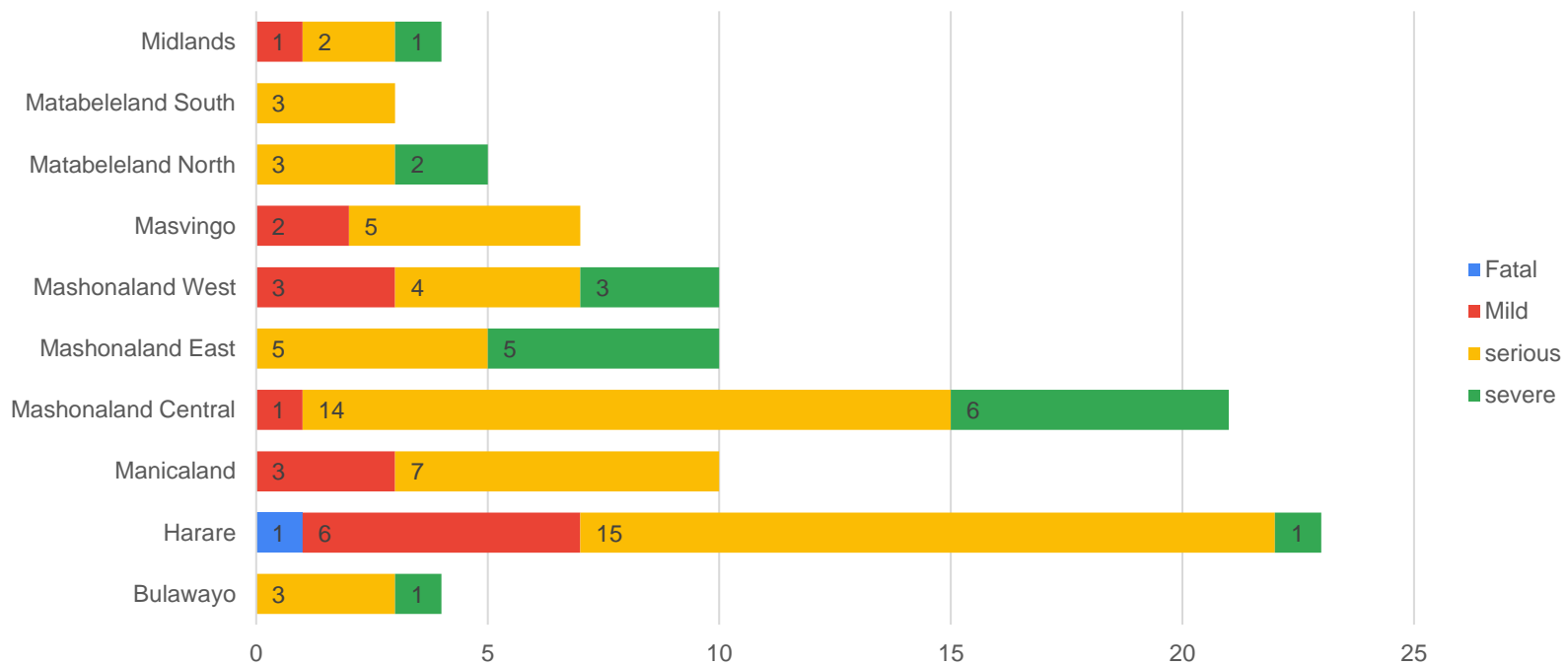


Zanu PF MDC A

Intra Party Violence

Using a highly sophisticated data analysis tool, ZPP maps the severity of the violations to give an indication of the political volatility of each province.

National Outlook



ZPP recorded more infractions in Harare and Mashonaland Central provinces. In Harare, there is a total of 22 violations while Mashonaland Central has 21 cases. ZPP recorded two fatalities, one each in Masvingo and Harare. In Harare, the Zimbabwe Investment Development Agency (ZIDA) chief executive Douglas Munatsi died in a fire at his Harare penthouse. While investigations are still ongoing, revelations that the top banker was due to meet President Mnangagwa to present a document exposing politically connected land barons, and the mysterious circumstances surrounding his demise raise questions on whether this was just an accident, or if it was a premeditated, politically

motivated murder. Munatsi's case brings back memories of the death of Edward Chindori-Chininga, a former mines minister who died in a mysterious freak accident in Guruve in June 2013 a few days after the Parliamentary Committee on Mines and Energy, which he chaired, had released a report claiming millions of dollars in taxes paid by companies mining diamonds had vanished. The other fatality happened in Masvingo, where an MDC Alliance activist, Nyasha Zhambe Mawere, of Gutu succumbed to injuries he sustained during a vicious attack by Zanu PF youths at an event attended by the party's leader Nelson Chamisa in Gutu.

In the past three months, Zanu PF supporters across the country have mounted violent onslaughts against their MDC-Alliance rivals as they sought to prevent Chamisa from holding his provincial meetings across the country. Mawere was seized by alleged Zanu PF youth league members, physically assaulted and left for dead. Sympathisers took him to Gutu District Rural Hospital where he was admitted, treated before being transferred to Harare where he eventually died on November 24. Of the 192 politically motivated human rights violations the ZPP recorded, 61 were of a serious nature while 16 were severe. (see index of severity on Page X)

Basing on the marginal increase in violations in all provinces, ZPP can conclude that election mode has gradually picked up especially that President Emmerson Mnangagwa has announced that the long-standing by-elections will be held in the first quarter of 2022. ZPP has already called on government, the Zimbabwe Electoral Commission (ZEC) and the Registrar General's (RG) Department to increase efforts to ensure that Zimbabweans do not miss the chance of enjoying their right to participate in the 2022 by-elections.

Besides previous elections having been held in

environments that are not level, there are technical factors that can prevent the 2022 and subsequently the 2023 elections from reflecting the true will of the people and some of them are as follows.

- The potential delay by ZEC to start its mobile voter registration blitz may affect the effectiveness of the process
- The incapacitation of the RG's Department is likely to impact on the chances of first-time and other voters to acquire registration documents they need to register to vote.
- While the legal framework provides for all political parties

to access the media, the state media has remained biased towards the ruling party and this is likely to continue, and other political players, just as in previous elections, will not have access.

- Government is likely to continue using COVID-19 as an excuse to clamp down on rights. This has already happened in Mabvuku, where police arrested MDC Alliance youths for holding an event and charged them with violating COVID-19 regulations and yet Zanu PF youths had just held a similar event in the suburb a few days before.

Our key asks

For the electorate to exercise their political rights the following should happen:

The road to credible election starts with the creation of a violence-free environment, application of the law without fear or favour, and the end to the use of aid and traditional leaders as tools for coercion.

With everyone able to express themselves politically, there should be deliberate steps taken to make sure those who need to access national and birth documentation do so at the local level. Voter registration should permit every eligible citizen to exercise their right to vote. The country anxiously awaits electoral reforms and

adoption of recommendations from the last harmonised elections.

In the meantime, Zimbabwe has laws in place and it only takes their genuine and proper application to ensure an election where the voice of the people prevails.



Watch our Video on the impact of displacements on women's rights on

twitter.com/zppINFO and fb.com/zppINFO



ZIMBABWE:

The Croc's 4th year

The human rights situation during the fourth year of President Emmerson Mnangagwa, known as the Crocodile by his supporters

At his swearing in ceremony in November 2017, President Mnangagwa pledged; “My Government will work towards ensuring that the pillars of the State assuring democracy in our land are strengthened and respected.”

“My goal is to preside over a polity and run an administration that recognises strength in our diversity as a people, hoping that this position and well-meant stance will be reciprocated and radiated to cover all our groups, organisations and communities...”

On reflection, it is now clear these promises were not sincere because four years later, there is sustained intolerance for dissent, opposition political activity and human rights work as evidenced by the cases documented by the Zimbabwe Peace Project not just this November, but throughout the year. Between November 2017 and this November, ZPP has recorded 9,345 human rights violations, and in all this, State security agents, and officials or members of the ruling Zanu PF have been the major perpetrators.

The violations include killings, abductions, torture, arbitrary arrests, unlawful detentions, and harassment and intimidation,

among others and these have largely targeted opposition activists, government critics, and human rights activists.

Over the past four years, there has been a systematic and gradual and deliberate erosion of democratic principles and between November 2020 and November 2021, there was an acceleration of the pace, and this is most likely because election year is drawing closer and the ruling party, whose officials have proclaimed they will not accept an election defeat, are ringfencing themselves through various strategies. We focus on the key areas, and that is, state security agents, agriculture and aid, legislation and the economy

LEGISLATION

The highlights of the fourth year of President Mnangagwa's reign was the fast tracking of the amendment of the Constitution to give the President more power and to undermine the role of the judiciary and the legislature.

Through the amendment, President Mnangagwa now has the powers to appoint judges without them having to go through a public interview process. Armed with Constitutional Amendment Number 2, President Mnangagwa

now wields more power, and the role of the two other arms of government has been diminished. Parliament had already been weakened by the 2020 recalls of legislators and throughout the entire 2021, by-elections remained banned and Parliament and local authorities had to operate without 28 MPs and 105 councillors. The other highlight was the reappointment of Chief Justice Luke Malaba as the Chief Justice despite him having reached the age of retirement. With a weak judiciary, Malaba won against the court challenges mounted by the Zimbabwe Human Rights NGO Forum, of which the ZPP is a member. Currently, there is a fervent push to enact the PVO Amendment Bill, which if passed, will suppress, strictly regulate and choke the valuable work of civil society organisations.

This is in direct contradiction to Mnangagwa's pledge that his government was going to work towards ensuring that the pillars of the State assuring democracy in our land are strengthened and respected.

The reality is that President Mnangagwa's government has trampled on those very pillars.

Police and other state agents have openly and actively applied the law selectively in favour of the ruling party.

FOOD and other AID

Food and other aid continue to be used as tools for coercion and ZPP recorded 359 cases of discrimination of people during aid distribution.

Many in rural communities rely on aid, and Zanu PF used its influence in government to influence the determination of who gets or does not get aid. Those who choose not to support the party or participate in its activities are left out. The goal is to intimidate, isolate, weaken and impoverish members of the community who have the courage to assert their Constitutionally guaranteed right to freedom of association and assembly. Zanu PF has used this strategy across the country and each month, ZPP recorded an average of 30 such cases. Just as the last November, the cases rise this month when government avails inputs under the Presidential and Pfumvudza schemes. Equitable distribution of aid regardless of people's diverse political affiliation is a hallmark of the recognition of the 'strength in our diversity' that President Mnangagwa spoke about when he was sworn in, in 2017. In that regard, his government has failed citizens who pinned a lot of hope on the government.

STATE SECURITY BIAS

Throughout the year 2021, Zanu PF and the Zimbabwe Republic Police took turns to lead the list of human rights violators and for the past three months, Zanu PF has taken the lead, contributing to over 50 percent of all violations while the ZRP

has come second at an average 30 percent each month.

Police and other state agents have openly and actively applied the law selectively in favour of the ruling party. For example, despite the suspects in the alleged murder of MDC Alliance supporter Nyasha Zhambe Mawere being known, police have not made any arrests. State security agents are supposed to discharge their duties with impartiality and professionalism and this is not happening. The irony is that after soldiers shot dead six civilians on 1 August 2018, President Mnangagwa established a Commission to enquire into the incident. The Commission led by former South African president Kgalema Motlanthe, came up with recommendations for the reform of the state security system. This has not happened and three years later, Zimbabwe is drawing towards another election with a state security system that is heavily biased towards the ruling party.

In the end, it is the citizens who are at the receiving end of human rights violations because the police, who should protect people, and the ruling party, which is supposed to work for all Zimbabweans, are colluding to violate rights for the political gain of Zanu PF.

OUR KEY ASKS

In light of this, ZPP calls on the following:

- Government should institute investigations of all serious human rights abuses over the past four years and ensure

that citizens get justice. State security agents who have acted outside their mandate should be brought to book without fear or favour.

- Government should reverse and cease the fast tracking of Draconian legislation such as the PVO Amendment Bill meant to shut down civil and democratic space. This will restore confidence in the country and government and result in the nation focusing on the real development agenda.
- Government should genuinely open up space for national cohesion, dialogue, healing and reconciliation and not work towards increasing the levels of polarisation and intolerance through the widespread use of state institutions to suppress dissent and alternative voices.
- State Security reform is long overdue and government should, without delay, implement the recommendations of the Motlanthe Commission of Inquiry, which set out what state security agents are expected to do to deal with and avoid the repeat of abuse of citizens as witnessed on August 1, 2018, when soldiers fired live ammunition at protesters, killing six and injuring dozens others.
- Zimbabwe's Constitution provides a basis for the enjoyment of human rights by all citizens. The government should therefore embrace a culture of Constitutionalism and ensure that all citizens exercise and enjoy the socio-economic rights due to them.



NOT GREEN AGAIN!

For the second November in a row, there has been brazen politicization of government agricultural inputs under the Pfunvudza scheme

It is that month again when government distributes inputs across the country and this time under the Pfunvudza scheme, ZPP recorded cases of politicization of this aid.

Citizens claim there is a deliberate and systematic process of sidelining perceived or real supporters of opposition political parties from benefitting from a government scheme that is supposed to benefit everyone regardless of their political affiliation.

In some cases, the distribution of the maize and fertilizer was done nicodemously. For example, in Chandavengerwa Village, only 18 families benefitted out of a potential over 70 households and there was no proper process to determine how the 18 got the inputs.

In direct contravention of the Constitution, Zanu PF and government officials and local leaders charged with the distribution of inputs conducted themselves in an openly partisan manner.

According to the Constitution, “Zimbabwe is founded on respect for the following values and principles... recognition of the equality of all human beings.”

Unfortunately, this has not been the case as those responsible for the Pfunvudza input Scheme, have shown little regard for the respect of this fundamental value especially considering that government is charged with the responsibility to ensure that everyone enjoys their right to equal treatment.

The conflation of the ruling party and the State compounded by impunity has continued and ruling party officials and activists have continued to hijack government programmes without facing any consequence.

Any citizens who attempt to call out these partisan acts face the brutality of the Zanu PF activists. In one case in Mudzi West at Masarakufa turn-off Ward 8, Zanu PF Ward Chairperson Jesinau Liver said, in reference to MDC-Alliance supporters who had been denied Pfunvudza inputs, “Hatingape vapanduki kuti vagute vagotipandukira (We cannot give inputs to traitors in order for them to be well-fed enough to turn on us).

In another case in Hurungwe, violence broke out when an MDC-Alliance Councillor Nyamafukudze confronted a Zanu PF Councillor

Chimtokoma over the politicised allocation of inputs.

Chimtokoma allegedly assaulted Nyamafukidze, claiming that government inputs are Zanu PF inputs and only ruling party supporters are entitled to benefit from the Pfunvudza Project.

These examples show the barefaced level of politicization of government aid and if not arrested, it can contribute to heightened levels of food insecurity.

OUR KEY ASKS

The Constitution of Zimbabwe guarantees civil and political liberties to all, and as such, anyone is free to affiliate themselves to any political party. Government, on the other hand, is charged with the responsibility to provide for all, regardless of which political party or religious group they belong to. We therefore urge government to address the discrimination happening during the distribution of Pfunvudza inputs immediately as it has a bearing on food security.

In the interests of transparency and accountability, we also urge government to publish statistics of beneficiaries and resources allocated to each ward for public audit purposes.

The Law as a Weapon

The PVO Amendment Bill potentially criminalises NGO work and human rights defending.

The PVO Amendment Bill, seeks to limit, strictly regulate and interfere in the work of non-governmental organisations, whose vibrancy is critical in keeping checks and balances on government as well as complementing development work. Among other issues, the PVO Amendment Bill will reconfigure the meaning of a Private Voluntary Organisation (PVO) to include currently not applicable organisations such as trusts and common law universities. According to an analysis of the Bill by the Southern Africa Human Rights Defenders Network, (SAHRDN), these organizations will now be subject to re-registration and to broad control and regulation by the Board and the Minister.

According to SAHRDN, the Bill allows the Minister to make application to the High Court to appoint one or more persons as trustees to run the affairs of an organization.

What are the implications?

According to the SAHRDN, the PVO Amendment Bill poses a significant risk to civic space in Zimbabwe. It gives too much power to the Executive to control and interfere with the work of NGOs. It increases the surveillance and monitoring of NGOs and HRDs. It potentially criminalises NGO work and human rights defending.

The role of civil society and NGOs
It must be noted that a vibrant civil society can bring new information to decision-makers, be it through research, through close contacts with particular populations, or through bringing opinions that are born neither in the state nor in the private sector.

Civil society institutions are an important source of information for both citizens and government. They monitor government policies and actions and empower citizens to hold government accountable. They engage in advocacy and offer alternative policies for government, the private sector, and other institutions.

There is a significant number of organisations that focus on key population groups such as women, youth persons with disabilities, and other marginalized groups and there is a risk of reversing the gains made so far in making these key population groups to be the centre of the country's national development agenda.

There are so many organisations that are positively contributing to livelihoods of communities and highlighting key issues on the delivery of socio-cultural rights, policy formulation and public service delivery. These organisations work hand in glove with local and central government at all levels and the Bill will not

only negatively affect the operations of these institutions, but it will affect the local and central government's capacity to deliver on its mandate and negatively impact the lives of ordinary citizens.

In the health and education sectors, non-governmental organisations complement the work of government and a recent example was the COVID-19 disaster, during which most of the non governmental organisations pulled resources to fill the gap left by government by providing communities with information, PPE, and other health and education needs at a time when government was falling far short in responding adequately to the pandemic.

OUR KEY ASKS

We join other non- governmental and pro-democracy groups in calling for government to rethink the PVO Amendment Bill because while it may have political benefits to the ruling party, it has implications on the livelihoods of people and the Bill is a danger to the progress Zimbabwe may have made in the area of Constitutionalism, democracy, human rights and good governance.

MASHONALAND EAST

In November, Mashonaland East recorded a significant increase in number of violations as compared to October. In one of the major cases, police enforcing the COVID-19 curfew unleashed dogs on revellers in Chivhu.

Darlington Manjokota was not so lucky and he suffered immense dog bite wounds on his hand and had to be admitted to Chivhu General Hospital.

When Manjokota confronted a police officer by the name Ruziwa the next morning over the matter, the officer threatened to throw Manjokota into the cells now accusing him of throwing a stone at the police dog.

The stifling of opposition activities continued and in Mutoko and once again there was collusion between Zanu PF and the Zimbabwe Republic Police.

At the time Chamisa was due to visit the area as part of his countrywide campaign tour, police reportedly told vendors at Corner store in Mutoko to stop operations for three days.

The distribution of the government's Pfumvudza inputs continued to happen in a politicised manner and MDC Alliance activists were reportedly denied the inputs in Murehwa and Mudzi as they were told to get their inputs from Nelson Chamisa. Zanu PF Councillors and Zanu PF aligned traditional leaders continued to be the major perpetrators of rights violations in most of the rural communities across Mashonaland East.

MASHONALAND WEST

The highlight of the month in Mashonaland West was the two cases of evictions in Hurungwe, during. 63 families are currently living at a roadside along the Harare-Chirundu Highway. The families were evicted from Waterloo farm by one Vincent Chigwedere following a three-year dispute between the families and Chigwedere. The evicted families moved to the farm in 2018 and the dispute was taken to courts and it is only in October this year that a court order was issued for their eviction. Following the issuing of the order, armed police moved in and forcibly remove the families from the farm. It is reported that police asked the villagers to burn their own houses and move out of the farm within 48 hours. During this incident police reportedly used excessive force and left some of the victims injured. Eight of the evicted villagers you have since been arrested and are being prosecuted for, among other things resisting arrest, failing to abide by a court order and assaulting the police. The ZPP team could not verify some of the charges the eight are facing. The families are in need of temporary shelter, food and other basic needs, especially for the young children who are in there are dozens. There are no toilets where they are living and they get their water from a dam kilometres away. Some of the families are sharing a single plastic as temporary shelter which is not adequate. There is a high risk of an outbreak of diseases like malaria, cholera and typhoid resulting from the poor living conditions. Young children also risk getting malnutrition,

infections or being run over by vehicles is these people I settled only a few meters from the busy highway. A seven year old child died on the spot after being run over by a vehicle, a day after the evictees settled by that roadside. In Mhondoro Ngezi in Benhura Village Wad 5, it is alleged that four unmarked vehicles surrounded the house of Tedious Benhura. Five state agents then pounced on Benhura and accused him of receiving and distributing MDC Alliance material. The five agents reportedly searched Benhura's home claiming that he had received farming tools from the MDC Alliance President Nelson Chamisa. The state agents did not produce a search warrant neither did they produce their identification. The five agents warned Benhura not to work with MDC activists.

BULAWAYO PROVINCE

Political tensions continue to rise in the province. Zanu PF members forced some vendors to attend the funeral proceedings of the late national hero Simon Khaya Moyo, Vendors who chose to stay behind were told that they would lose their stands because they had defied the orders of the party.

Zanu PF is currently also targeting vendors so as to boost its membership and aim to have five million voters in 2023. It was reported that ZanuPF members led by a man only identified as Siziba, were going around the stands forcing vendors to buy their membership cards for US\$2. It is said that vendors were warned that they risk losing their stands if they did not buy party cards.

MATABELELAND NORTH PROVINCE

The presence of MDC Alliance leader Nelson Chamisa in the province resulted in some human rights violations as some Zanu PF activists and officials attempted to victimize opposition supporters in order to frustrate Chamisa's campaign trail.

For example, on 18 November at Bhule 2 village of Tsholotsho constituency, an MDC Alliance activist who hosted Chamisa at her homestead was victimized by Zanu PF activists and police officers. Details show that MDC Alliance members gathered at the victim's homestead for a close-door meeting with Chamisa and after the meeting, which had attracted more MDC Alliance supporters, police and Zanu PF activists visited the homestead and harassed her before charging her for organizing a political gathering during the COVID-19 pandemic.

In Jotsholo village of Lupane West constituency an MDC Alliance activist Japhet Moyo got arrested for organizing a football tournament as part of a voter's

registration awareness campaign. It is said that he was accused of convening a political gathering without police clearance. He was arrested during the tournament and released in the evening the same day.

In some instances, ZanuPF supporters violently tried to stop MDC Alliance campaigns. At Siansundu ward 9, a ZanuPF activist only identified as Jefferson Mulenga reportedly threatened to remove all MDC Alliance members from the Social Services beneficiary list. Mulenga told community members that all those that had organized and met Nelson Chamisa in Binga on the 22nd of November 2021 were going to be removed from the beneficiary list.

At Tshino village, it was reported that ZanuPF activist identified as Moses Dube threatened to evict members of the opposition in the new stands that accommodate internal displaced persons

MATABELELAND SOUTH PROVINCE

The presence of MDC Alliance leader, Nelson Chamisa was also the centre of political activity in the province. In the same way as other provinces, Zanu PF activists, police and some traditional leaders employed strategies to undermine the success of the opposition leader's campaign trail. For example, at Insiza South Ward 11, a ZanuPF activist identified as Mr. Ngwenya led a group of ruling party youths to chase away citizens and MDC Alliance supporters that had convened at the local community hall hoping to meet with Chamisa. The meeting was later convened at a Daniel Moyo's residence. On the same night, police arrested Moyo.

As the election gather momentum, it was reported that in ward 5 of Insiza South, ZanuPF activist only identified as Shem Mathe was going around telling villagers to join ZanuPF structures or they would be removed from the area and added that youth officers were in the process of identifying opposition members living in area.



63 families are living by the roadside in Hurungwe after being evicted in October

MANICALAND PROVINCE

In Manicaland Province, during the month of November 2021, partisan distribution of food was rampant in Headlands and Buhera areas.

In Headlands, police arrested and detained Ward 32 councillor Farai Mutokose after he stood his ground to resist and block partisan distribution of aid after Zanu PF members had hijacked the process and attempted to deny MDC supporters maize inputs. The incident involved a government extension officer who had aided Zanu PF members to sideline opposition supporters in what shows a worrying conflation of state and the ruling party.

In Buhera, government's Social Welfare department aid was politicized by ZanuPF activists after the Department of Social Welfare officers left it in the hands of the local leaders. This trend is likely to continue as the country goes to the 2023 election. Food and other aid is usually used as a political weapon to coerce and lure villagers into compromising on their political rights as if they are opposed to those with close proximity to power, they are then denied the aid.

In Chimanimani West, ward 17, on 28 November 2021, police armed with guns, baton sticks and tear gas canisters disrupted an MDC Alliance closed-door meeting near Biriiri Business Centre.

Masvingo Province

In Masvingo as political temperatures continued heating up, and factionalism within the ruling ZanuPF party continued with the most notable case being in Chivi Central.

The result of the fights between the Pwanyai and Bholato factions in the area is affecting the villagers' way of life. In one instance the Pwanyai faction hijacked an aid distribution

process and dished out to members of that faction, leaving many people not benefitting. and distributed inputs among themselves before leaving freebies for the other faction to get and this led to many people not receiving their shares.

The factionalism in Chivi Central is leading to tension and violence and on 12 November 2021 Ward 16, it one Namiel Gumbu who is the former ZanuPF Youth chairperson for the ward allegedly caused mayhem at Masunda South School as he violently blocked a truck ferrying people to Nyamakwe Business Centre to get fertilizer handouts. A violent confrontation played out as the two factions of the ruling party clashed.

HARARE

Zimbabwe's two major political parties Zanu PF and MDC-Alliance continued to violate Covid-19 protocols on gatherings through political activities held around the province. On 5 November a large crowd of Zanu PF supporters thronged the Robert Gabriel Mugabe International Airport to welcome President Mnangagwa on his return from a trip to the United Nations Climate Change Conference held in Glasgow, Scotland during the COP26 conference. Two weeks later on 14 November MDC Alliance supporters who had convened in Mabvuku for the party's 22 anniversary celebrations were violently dispersed by the Zimbabwe Republic Police. MDC Alliance secretary-general Chalton Hwende confirmed the arrests of at least 15 party supporters who attended the event which he was scheduled to address. The activists were detained at Mabvuku Tafara police station. Although both parties violated Covid-19 protocols the police remained biased towards Zanu PF supporters as no arrests were

made at the airport however MDC Alliance activists were rounded up by the police. ZPP therefore implores the Zimbabwe Republic Police (ZRP) to execute their duties in a professional manner and enforce the law without fear or favour.

MASHONALAND CENTRAL

MDC Alliance President Nelson Chamisa's tour to meet opinion leaders, councillors and other duty bearers in Mashonaland Central Province faced violent reactions from suspected Zanu PF supporters. Chamisa's team comprising of party activists and his security team faced challenges in Shamva, Mvurwi, Muzarabani and Mbire areas. These areas reportedly turned into a warzone as roads were barricaded with stones, tree logs and other materials. In Muzarabani North Zanu PF called for an urgent meeting at Muzarabani Growth point following rumours that MDC-Alliance President Nelson Chamisa was coming to address people in Muzarabani. Ruling party activists were mobilised to convene at the venue where Chamisa was scheduled to engage community leaders and other stakeholders. In Mbire Chamisa is said to have evaded roadblocks mounted by suspected Zanu PF supporters and state security agents. He reportedly used a motorbike to travel to Mbire to evade his adversaries. Sources say that state security agents and some Zanu PF supporters were trailing Chamisa's convoy and the opposition leader was forced to abandon it and use a motorbike. In Bindura South, Chamisa security team reportedly clashed with State security agents and Zanu PF youths resulting in gunshots being fired to disperse both parties.



Upon returning from his trip to the United Kingdom, President Mnangagwa gathered thousands of people at the RG Mugabe Airport to welcome him

MIDLANDS PROVINCE

In the Midlands Province, there were violent clashes at the , ZanuPF offices in Kwekwe where the party was holding its district verification process of its supporters and officials. The clash pitted supporters of two aspiring Parliamentary by-election candidates . Kwekwe Central is due to have a by-election in 2022 and it being the home town of President Emmerson Mnangagwa makes it a potential hotbed of intra party clashes. Currently, two candidates, Kandros Mugabe and Energy' Dhala' Ncube are leading the roll of aspiring candidates and so far there has been tension.

Partisan aid distribution also happened in the province and one example is at Chinyenyetu Hall in Gokwe Nembudziya, where ZanuPF member Addington Mutirwa, while addressing a meeting, said that farming inputs were supposed to be only given to ZanuPF supporters and no one else

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