

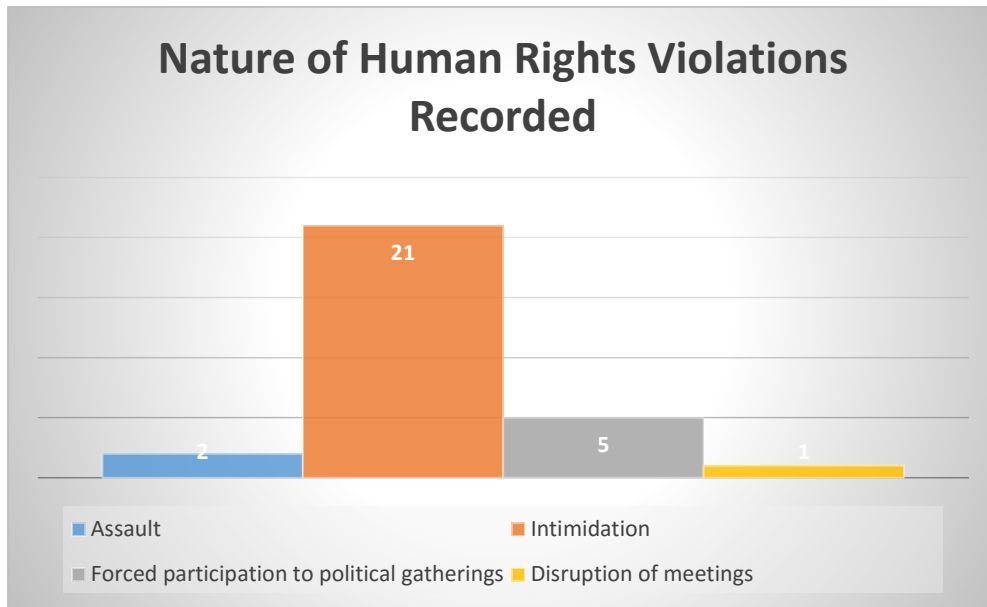
Human Rights Violations Update.



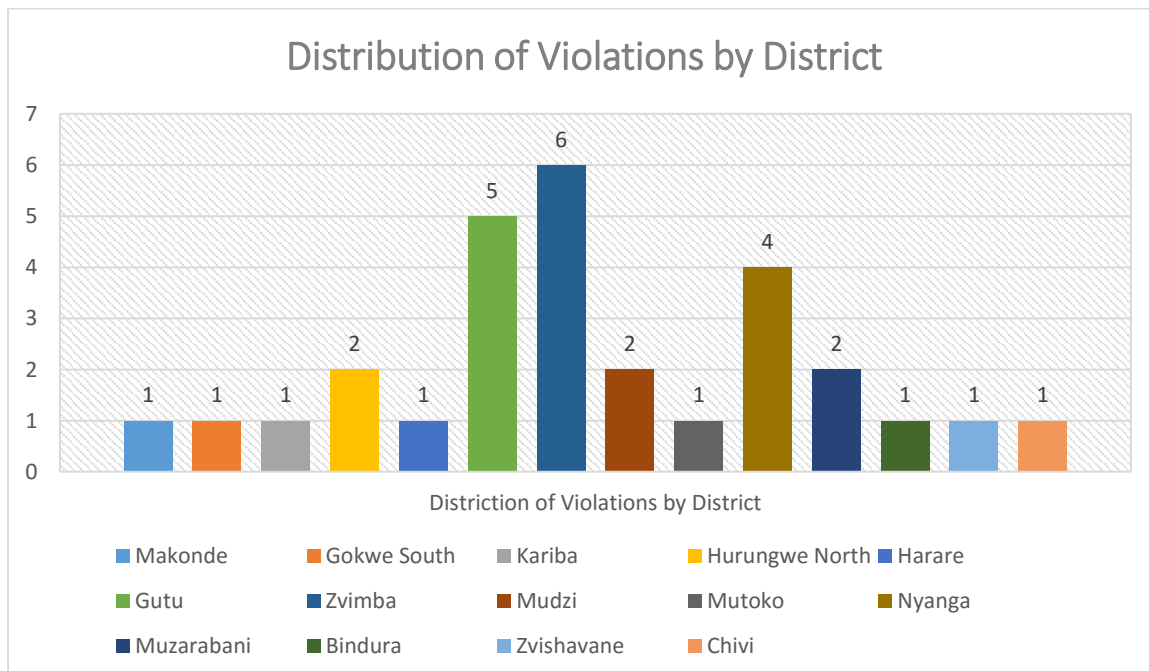
1. Summary of Human Rights Violations.

Heal Zimbabwe recorded a total of 29 cases of human rights violations from 14 districts from the 24th of July to the 18th of August 2017. A total of four different categories of human rights violations were recorded namely: Intimidation (with threats of violence or threats of withdrawal of food aid or agricultural inputs), forced participation (in political meetings, polling stations, Financial or material contributions), assault and disruption of political gatherings. The organisation noted that intimidation recorded the highest number of cases with 72.4% (21 cases), followed by forced attendance to political gatherings recording 17.25% (5 cases), assault which recorded 6.9% (2 cases) and disruption of meetings which recorded 3.45% (1 case). Heal Zimbabwe observed that the majority of the human rights cases recorded are mainly centred on (i) the ongoing Presidential youth interface rallies, (ii) ZANU PF party restructuring processes and (iii) the falsehoods coined around the Biometric Voter Registration (BVR) process. Community members are being forced to attend ZANU PF restructuring meetings whether they support the party or not. Cases of harassment and intimidation are worrying especially now as the nation heads towards the 2018 plebiscite. HZT perceives intimidation as a hindrance to peaceful coexistence and a stumbling block towards freedom of expression in local communities and achievement of free, fair, peaceful and credible elections.

2. Nature of Human Rights Violations Recorded.



3. Number of Cases Recorded by District.



The above diagram indicates the distribution of human rights violations by district. The distributions reveal that human rights violations were recorded in a total of 14 Districts that

are: Makonde, Gokwe South, Kariba, Hurungwe, Harare, Gutu, Zvimba, Mudzi, Mutoko, Nyanga, Muzarabani, Bindura, Zvishavane and Chivi. There was a slight increase from the districts recorded in the previous report which registered 10 districts compared to 14 recorded in this reporting period. Zvimba (6 cases) and Gutu (5 cases) districts recorded the highest number of violations largely because of the recently conducted Presidential youth interface rallies in Masvingo and Chinhoyi respectively. Heal Zimbabwe observed that there was a slight increase in the number of human rights violations in this period (29 cases) compared to the previous report where 16 cases were recorded. Intimidation was recorded in 11 districts save for three districts that are Harare, Bindura and Nyanga. HZT recorded 37 perpetrators from all the human rights violations reported in the period under review (36 males and 1 female). 26 of the recorded perpetrators were largely within ZANU PF party local leadership, 4 local councillors, 3 police officers, 2 war veterans and 2 teachers. The victims varied from ordinary community members, village heads, opposition supporters, teachers and journalists.

4. Our Interventions on Human Rights Violations.

Heal Zimbabwe continually works to protect and assist survivors of political violence and ensure that they are able to access justice and requisite social services. The organisation intervened in the cases recorded this week by referring the victims and forwarding the cases for further investigation to the Zimbabwe Human Rights Commission (ZHRC) and the Zimbabwe Electoral Commission (ZEC). HZT as a peace building and conflict transformation organisation condemns all forms of human rights violations and calls upon community members to coexist peacefully. The organisation is currently following up on some of the perpetrators through target engagement and lobbying exercises with the aim of ensuring that they desist from violating other peoples' rights. In an attempt to reduce violence and human rights cases, Heal Zimbabwe is currently reaching out to community members especially youth country wide to desist from engaging in violent activities under its National Peace Campaign dubbed 13 Million Voices for Peace: *#13MilVoices4Peace*.

4. Conclusion

Heal Zimbabwe observed that whilst all forms of human rights violations are unacceptable, the environment is generally calm. The organisation condemns in the strongest terms all forms of

human rights violations especially intimidation which continues to top the list of cases recorded and urges political parties to use non-violent campaign strategies. The organisation further calls upon the ZHRC to swiftly launch investigations into the recorded violations so that people can freely enjoy their fundamental rights as enshrined in the constitution.

Annexure: Specific Cases Recorded:

Mashonaland West-Makonde Ward 16 - Intimidation

ZANU PF Chairperson for Makonde District Bruce Pedzisai on the 24th of July 2017 intimidated community members during a community meeting conducted at the ward centre. Pedzisai ordered that everyone in the ward should vote for ZANU PF or risk being beaten up in the upcoming 2018 elections.

Mashonaland West-Kariba ward 1 - Intimidation

ZANU PF Chairperson only identified as Mr Sikanako on the 24th of July 2017 intimidated Nyamhunga residents and ordered them to join ZANU PF cell structures if they wanted to be “protected” from violence in the upcoming 2018 elections. This took place at Sikanako’s homestead in Nyamhunga location.

Midlands- Gokwe South ward 16 - Intimidation

The Hon Member of Parliament for Gokwe Mapfungautsi, Miriam Makweya on the 24th of July 2017 banned opposition supporters from conducting any opposition meetings in the ward. This took place at Chitapo Business Centre. She highlighted that all those who defy will be heavily beaten in the upcoming 2018 elections.

Mashonaland West-Hurungwe North ward 9 - Intimidation

Ward 9 Councillor, Dickson Munyoro and Peter Madamombe a retired soldier on the 24th of July 2017 intimidated community members during a ZANU PF restructuring meeting in Kazungu village. The duo highlighted that the new Biometric Voter Registration process allows

ZANU PF to know who would have voted for the opposition in the area. They further stated that all those who shall vote for the opposition will be evicted from the area.

Harare CBD - Assault

Three NewsDay Journalists, Obey Manayiti, Abigail Matsikidze, Shepherd Tozvireva and their driver Raphael Phiri were on the 27th of July assaulted by the police in the CBD for taking photographs of plain clothed police detail wielding spikes. The four were detained at Harare Central Police Station. Obey Manayiti sustained injuries on the lips and on the right eye from the assault.

Masvingo-Gutu South ward 6 - Intimidation and forced participation in political gatherings

ZANU PF youth identified as Brian Munyoro and Magumise on the 28th of July 2017 threatened community members with violence if they fail to join the ZANU cell and branch restructuring process which was being conducted at Matutu Business Centre.

Masvingo-Gutu South Ward 30 – Intimidation

On the 24th of July 2017, Godfrey Zishumba, a war veteran announced to school children at Nerupiri Secondary school that they should inform their parents of a ZANU PF restructuring meeting scheduled for 26 July. He further indicated that those who fail to attend risk being beaten up in the upcoming elections.

Masvingo-Gutu West ward 6 - Intimidation

ZANU PF ward chairman, Wenceslaus Madhai on the 1st of August 2017 intimidated community members during a restructuring exercise at his homestead in Matoto village. Madhai labelled all opposition supporters “sell outs” who should be evicted from the area before the 2018 elections.

Masvingo-Chivi South ward 25 - Intimidation

ZANU PF activists, Gwaungana Chiozva, Charles Chigaridzano and William Marandure on the 12th of August 2017 intimidated community members during a tombstone unveiling ceremony in Pedzisai village. The trio threatened all opposition supporters at the event with violence if they do not join ZANU PF before the 2018 elections. The three also indicated that they are in the process of compiling names of all opposition supporters in the area so that they do not receive food aid.

Mashonaland East-Mutoko ward 6 - Intimidation

ZANU PF ward chairman Lordwell Chibanda on the 25th of July 2017 addressed a community meeting at Chiutsi Hall. At the meeting, he indicated that all known opposition supporters shall be denied proof of residence letters by traditional leaders when voter registration commences.

Mashonaland East-Mudzi North ward 17 - Intimidation

On the 26th of July 2017 Councillor Kenneth Makarutse intimidated village heads during a ZANU PF restructuring meeting at Musawu Primary School. Makarutse ordered all village heads present to begin compiling names of all community members who are eligible to vote and submit the names to the ZANU ward Chairman. He stated that all those who defy the order shall be heavily beaten up in the upcoming elections.

Mashonaland East- Mudzi north ward 17 - Intimidation

ZANU PF youth member Phineas Kamhapa on the 29th of July 2017 intimidated community members during a meeting at Fuchira Primary School. Kamhapa threatened to evict all opposition supporters in the area before the voter registration process kicks off. He gave them an ultimatum to defect to ZANU PF by the 30th of September 2017.

Manicaland-Nyanga South ward 19 - Assault

A group of ZANU PF youth led by Luke Fore on the 30th of July assaulted an MDC T activist, Malvern Chigwanda at Sedze Primary School. They accused him of campaigning for his sister

an independent candidate, Judith Chigwanda who is contesting in the local government by election slated for 26 August 2017. Malvern Chigwanda sustained injuries on the head and is currently admitted at Nyanga Hospital. A police report was made at Nyanga Police station but no arrest has been made.

Nyanga South ward 19 – Intimidation

ZANU PF Provincial chairman for Manicaland Samuel Undenge on the 4th of August 2017 intimidated village heads during a ZANU PF meeting conducted at Sedze Business Centre. Undenge ordered the traditional leaders present to mobilise people to join ZANU PF or risk losing their monthly stipend.

Nyanga North ward 4 – Force financial contributions to political party activities.

Rodgers Bhamusi, the Ruwangwe Secondary School Headmaster on the 9th of August 2017 ordered teachers to make \$1 contributions towards the Heroes Day Commemorations during a staff meeting convened at the school. He threatened that those who refuse risk losing their jobs. The directive had come from Mr Zimunya of Nyanga Department of District Development Fund in the form of a written letter.

Nyanga South ward 19 – Intimidation

Two ZANU PF activists, Brighton Gutu and Kudzanai Mariwo on the 11th of August 2017 intimidated community members at Sedze Business Centre. The two moved around the business centre threatening people with violence if ZANU PF fails to win the council by election slated for 26 August 2017. The seat fell vacant following the death of MDC T Councillor Alexander Muchadei.

Mashonaland Central- Muzarabani ward 10 - Intimidation

ZANU PF activists, Club Safarawa, Mubaiwa Mukano and Never Chengeta on the 28th of July 2017 intimidated community members during a ZANU PF restructuring meeting at Apostolic Faith Mission Church in Musakanyi village. The trio took turns to address the crowd where

they lied that the new BVR process allows ZANU PF to know who would have voted for the opposition in the area. They then urged opposition supporters to defect to ZANU PF before the voter registration process commences.

Muzarabani North ward 8 - Intimidation

ZANU PF ward chairman Denshot Mazarura and Councillor Norman Chizeya on the 3rd of August 2017 intimidated community members during a funeral in Gunduza village. They took turns to address the gathering where they highlighted that all opposition supporters will be evicted from the area before the voter registration process commences. They forced everyone at the funeral to chant ZANU PF slogans.

Mashonaland West- Zvimba South ward 23 – Intimidation and forced attendance to political gatherings.

ZANU PF Branch Chairman Japhet Nyafeso forced and intimidated residents to attend a ZANU PF youth interface rally that was addressed by President Mugabe in Chinhoyi on the 29th of July 2017. He forced people to suspend their daily activities and attend the rally or risk being beaten up. The perpetrator also forced opposition supporters in ward 23 to surrender their party regalia to him as a sign of defecting to ZANU PF.

Zvimba ward 23 - Forced attendance to political gatherings and intimidation

ZANU PF ward youth leader, Wonder Hutepafi on the 27th of July 2017 forced community members to attend the ZANU PF youth interface rally in Chinhoyi on Saturday 29 July 2017. Hutepafi threatened those who defied with violence and eviction from the area.

Midlands- Zvishavane ward 8 – Intimidation

On the 2nd August 2017, ZANU PF ward chairman Jackson Nyoni intimidated community members during a ZANU PF restructuring meeting at Musvinwa ward centre in Murovanidze village. At the meeting, he indicated that all the names of opposition supporters should be

compiled and handed over to him and in turn he will make sure they do not get proof of residence to register as voters.

Mashonaland Central- Bindura - Disruption of political gatherings

Members of the police in riot gear disrupted an MDC T meeting at the party offices in Bindura on the 3rd of August 2017. The meeting had to be abruptly stopped as the police were threatening to arrest the participants.

Hurungwe West ward 24 - Intimidation

ZANU PF youth chairman James Madziva on the 12th of August 2017 intimidated community members during ZANU PF restructuring meetings conducted at Deve Business Centre and Chisipiti Primary School. Madziva threatened opposition supporters with violence if they do not defect to ZANU PF.

Heal Zimbabwe

We, envision a peaceful and prosperous Zimbabwe that celebrates diversity within local communities. Our mission is to prevent and transform conflicts with a particular focus of social justice. Our report records human rights violations mainly from key conflict and violence hotspots.