

Weekly Human Rights Violations Update.

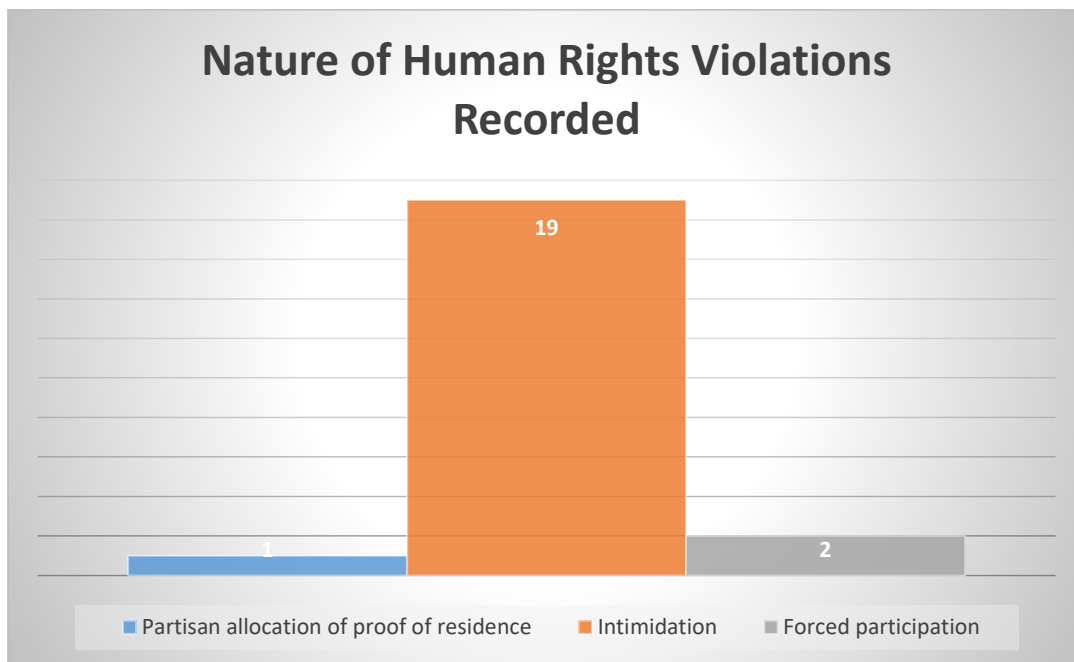


1.0 Summary of Human Rights Violations.

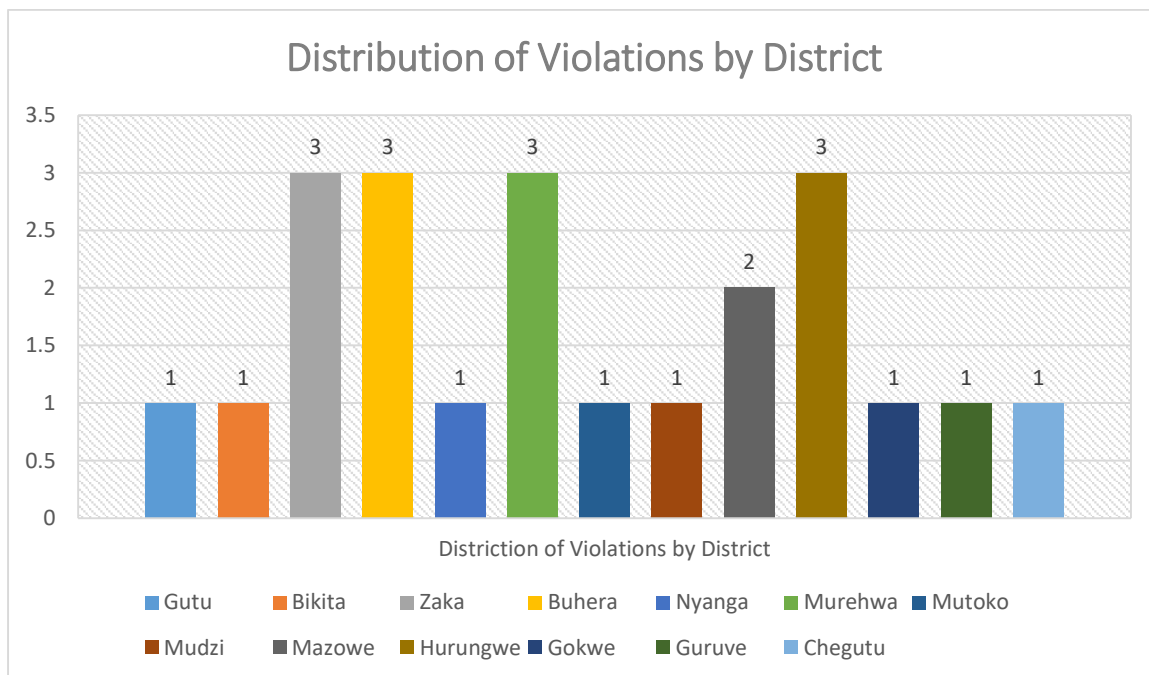
Heal Zimbabwe recorded 22 human rights violations from 13 districts from the 22nd – 28th of September 2017. In the period under review, three categories of human rights violations were recorded. These include intimidation (with threats of violence or threats of withdrawal of food aid or agricultural inputs), forced participation (in political meetings, financial or material contributions) and partisan allocation of proof of residence by traditional leaders. The levels of intimidation remains a concern with 86.36% (19 cases) being recorded this week, followed by forced participation in political activities with 9.10% (2 cases) and partisan allocation of proof of residence to potential voters with 4.54% (1 case). The recorded human rights violations were mainly emanating from (i) the lack of information around the ongoing Biometric Voter Registration process and (ii) ZANU PF restructuring exercises in local communities.

Heal Zimbabwe observed that cases of intimidation escalated in local communities after the launch of the BVR process countrywide. Falsehoods around the process, intimidation and partisan allocation of proof of residence inhibit free participation of people in electoral processes. Limited public information expose community members to victimisation. Some ZANU PF supporters are spreading falsehoods that the BVR process allows them to monitor voting trends using the captured physical and behavioural features such as fingerprints, the face, iris and signatures taken during the registration process. They are claiming that the BVR process will allow them to detect who would have voted for opposition political parties. HZT views such intimidation tactics as an impediment to freedom of expression and a threat to peace and social cohesion.

2.0 Nature of Violations Recorded.



2.1 Number of Cases Recorded by District



The diagram above depicts the distribution of human rights violations across districts. Human rights violations were recorded from 13 Districts compared to 10 in the previous week. The districts include Gutu, Bikita, Zaka, Buhera, Nyanga, Murewa, Mutoko, Mudzi, Mazowe, Hurungwe, Gokwe, Guruve and Chegutu. Heal Zimbabwe observed that in the period under

review, the human rights violations were committed by 30 perpetrators (28 males and 2 females) compared to 18 (16 males and 2 females) in the previous week. ZANU PF recorded the highest number of perpetrators with 21 (19 males and 2 females), traditional leaders were the second highest with 6 (all male), followed by 2 councillors (all male) and 1 Member of Parliament (male). The victims recorded include known opposition supporters, community members and traditional leaders.

3.0 Our Intervention on Human Rights Violations.

Heal Zimbabwe's niche is to promote peace and social cohesion in local communities. The organisation also facilitates for survivors of torture to access justice and requisite social services on time. The organisation has managed to respond to all the 22 human rights cases through its 24 hour rapid response referral system. HZT has also referred the recorded human rights cases to the Zimbabwe Human Rights Commission (ZHRC) and the Zimbabwe Electoral Commission (ZEC) for further investigations and redress.

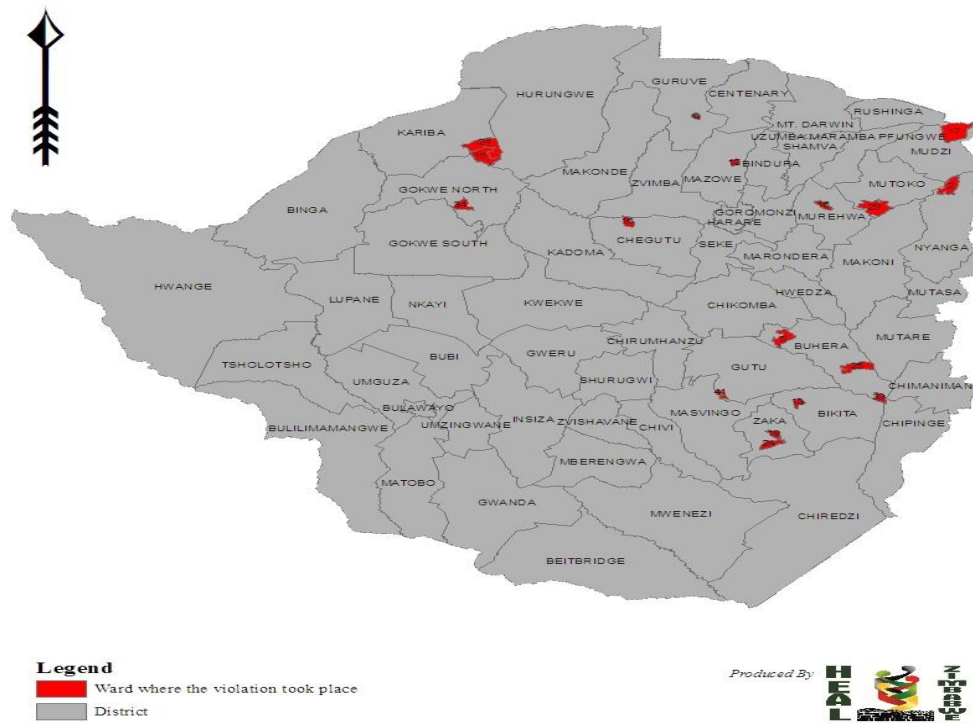
HZT is currently raising awareness on the need for peace and tolerance ahead of the 2018 elections through its National Peace Campaign dubbed 13 Million Voices for Peace, #13MilVoices4Peace.

4.0 Conclusion

Heal Zimbabwe observed that the environment is generally peaceful despite the increased cases of intimidation mainly centred on the BVR registration exercise. The organisation condemns all forms of human rights violations and implores duty bearers such as the police to investigate and arrest perpetrators. HZT further calls all the political parties to promote peace and adopt peaceful strategies when campaigning in local communities. HZT further implores the Independent Commissions Supporting Democracy such as the ZHRC and ZEC to quickly launch investigations and ensure that citizens' rights are protected.

Annexure: Specific Cases Recorded:

Human Rights Violations



Masvingo Province

Gutu Ward 41 – Intimidation.

Councillor Kaiton Nzembe intimidated community members on the 22nd of September 2017 at Manhombo Methodist Church. Nzembe ordered that anyone who wanted to register to vote in the area should first purchase a ZANU PF membership card. The cards were being sold at \$1 each. Nzembe further highlighted that all those who defied the order will be heavily beaten up in the upcoming elections.

Bikita West Ward 13 – Intimidation

Village head Taurai Mamhanga and Patrick Ushu intimidated community members on the 22nd of September 2017 in Ushu village. The two conducted door to door visits in the area where they stated that all opposition supporters will be evicted from the community if they do not defect to ZANU PF before the 2018 elections.

Bikita West Ward 13 – Intimidation

On 25 September 2017, Village head Patrick Ushe and Taurai Manhanga, a ZANU PF member moved around the ward forcing people to register their names with them first before they proceed to Nyika growth point for voter registration.

Zaka West Ward 24 – Intimidation

ZANU PF member identified as Maga Maga intimidated community members during a community meeting conducted on the 27th of September 2017 at Charuka Primary School. Maga Maga stated that the BVR process allows them to identify those who would have voted for the opposition in the pending elections. He further threatened that anyone who will be caught will be evicted from the area.

Zaka West Ward 19 – Intimidation and forced contribution to political activities.

On Friday 22 September, ZANU PF youth forced people at Jerera Growth point to make \$1 contributions towards a ZANU PF meeting that took place on 24 September 2017. At the meeting, the youth told people present that they should all vote for ZANU PF or risk being evicted from the area. They further indicated that those who defy and vote for the opposition shall be detected using the BVR system.

Manicaland Province

Buhera South Ward 33 – Intimidation.

Village head Miyeri Svongwa intimidated community members during a community meeting that was turned into a ZANU PF gathering on the 24th of September 2017. Village head Svongwa forced community members to chant ZANU PF slogans. He further highlighted that voting patterns will be monitored through the BVR process and all those who will vote against ZANU PF in the 2018 elections will be heavily beaten up after the announcement of results.

Buhera Ward 25 – Intimidation.

ZANU PF supporter Cypren Gwara and ZANU PF District Secretary Vengai Muchinani intimidated community members during a ZANU PF meeting conducted on the 26th of September 2017 at Zangama Primary School. The two highlighted that the BVR kits will assist ZANU PF in disclosing names of opposition supporters who would have voted against ZANU PF. They further warned that all those who will vote against the ruling party will be heavily beaten up soon after the elections.

Nyanga North Ward 2 – Intimidation.

ZANU PF Ward Chairman Wilson Sauro intimidated village heads during a meeting conducted on the 27th of September 2017 at Avila Business Centre. He addressed the meeting and stated that the BVR system will disclose all the people who would have voted for the opposition. He ordered the traditional leaders to make sure everyone within their jurisdiction vote for ZANU PF to avoid violence.

Mashonaland East

Mudzi ward 17 – Intimidation and forced contribution to political activities.

Charles Chitinho, Tawanda Kangora and 4 unidentified ZANU PF members intimidated community members during a community meeting conducted on the 24th of September 2017 at Fuchira Primary School. Chitinho and Kangora highlighted that all opposition supporters will be heavily beaten up in the upcoming elections. Chitinho further highlighted that voting patterns will be monitored using the new BVR process. Chitinho also forced community members to make \$3 contributions each for fuel for their Member of Parliament, Newton Kachepa who is set to address a rally next week.

Murewa North ward 16 – Intimidation.

ZANU PF District Secretary Elias Svowa and ZANU PF District Political Commissar Gift Chinake intimidated community members on the 25th of September 2017 in Chinake village. Svowa and Chinake moved around the village threatening people with violence for boycotting a ZANU PF meeting which was supposed to take place at Nyangambiri Business Centre on the same day. The two had to reschedule the meeting to next week and threatened that if the community members fail to attend they will be evicted from the area.

Murewa North Ward 16 – Intimidation and forced attendance to political gatherings.

ZANU PF District Chairman Charles Chitsote, ZANU PF District Secretary Elias Svowa, ZANU PF District Political Commissar Gift Chinake and ZANU PF District Women's League Chairlady Anna Meda intimidated and forced community members to attend a ZANU PF restructuring meeting conducted on the 28th of September 2017 at Nyangambiri Business Centre. Charles Chitsote and Elias Svowa threatened that opposition supporters will be detected using the BVR process and evicted from the area.

Mutoko ward 29 – Intimidation.

ZANU PF Cell Chairperson Wisdom Mawi addressed school children at Nzira Primary school on the 28th of September where he threatened community members with violence. He told the school children to convey a message to their parents that anyone who fail to attend a ZANU PF meeting scheduled for next week at the school shall be beaten up. He further warned that ZANU PF youth shall be deployed to deal with anyone who would have stayed behind.

Mashonaland Central Province

Mazowe ward 12 - Intimidation and Forced Participation in political gatherings.

Councillor Night Muzhira and ZANU PF Youth Chairman Takuona Nyikadzino intimidated community members during a community meeting conducted on the 23rd of September 2017 at Gweshe Business Centre. The two highlighted that all opposition supporters will be heavily beaten up in the upcoming elections. Nyikadzino warned that all known opposition supporters should repent and join the ruling party before December 2017 or face eviction.

Guruve North ward 6 – Intimidation

ZANU PF member only identified as Ms Chirongwe intimidated community members during a ZANU PF restructuring meeting conducted on the 23rd of September 2017 at Chimanikire Primary School. She announced that all those who boycott ZANU PF meetings in the area shall not receive hand-outs from the Presidential Input Scheme and the Ministry of Public Service, Labour and Social Welfare.

Mashonaland West Province

Hurungwe West ward 24 – Intimidation

ZANU PF Vice District Chairman, Matunha Charovedzera intimidated community members on the 24th of September 2017 at Madudzo Business Centre. He threatened that the new BVR process will allow ZANU PF to detect who would have voted for the opposition in the 2018 elections. Charovedzera further warned that those “found guilty” of voting for the opposition will be heavily beaten up soon after the 2018 election results are announced.

Hurungwe West ward 15 – Intimidation

ZANU PF District Secretary identified as Sibanda, intimidated community members on the 25th of September 2017 at Chiedza Business Centre. Sibanda threatened that the BVR kits will allow his party to monitor voting trends and detect who would have voted for the opposition. Sibanda ordered that those identified to have voted for the opposition will be beaten up after the 2018 elections.

Hurungwe West ward 15 - Intimidation

On 25 September 2017, Village heads Mutsindo and Marowa told people at Chiedza Business Centre that the BVR is meant to detect opposition party supporters during voting. They also warned people that if they wanted to continue receiving food aid, they were supposed to vote resoundingly for ZANU PF in the 2018 elections.

Chegutu East ward 16 – Intimidation

ZANU PF Youth Chairman, Emmanuel Matai intimidated community members during a ZANU PF meeting on the 25th of September 2017 at Hwadze Primary School. He moved around the ward warning people against snubbing ZANU PF meetings. He threatened that all those who fail to attend future meetings will be beaten up.

Midlands Province

Gokwe Sesame ward 34 – Partisan Allocation of proof of residence and Intimidation.

Headman Siyamachanga intimidated community members who came seeking proof of residence for the BVR process on the 22nd of September 2017 at his homestead. He highlighted that he will not issue proof of residence to opposition supporters. He further warned the community members that all known opposition supporters will be beaten up in the upcoming 2018 elections.

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 on social justice. Our report records human rights violations mainly from key conflict and violence hotspots.