



# Elections Trends Report

Pre-election: 2 – 8 July, 2018 Weekly Report (3 weeks prior to elections)

Report Date: 9 July, 2018

## Introduction

We the People of Zimbabwe believe that all citizens of Zimbabwe have the right to choose their political leaders in an atmosphere of peace. Our vision is to unite and mobilise Zimbabweans to ensure a peaceful, free and fair election in 2018, as the foundation for a better future. We the People of Zimbabwe believe a peaceful election will create a Zimbabwe in which a culture of peace replaces a culture of fear and enables community development.

We the People of Zimbabwe is tracking trends in the pre-election period. This paper reports on trends of organised violence and torture (OVT) and electoral malpractices 3 weeks prior to the 2018 harmonised elections and how these have impacted on people within their communities.

## Reports of violations

Reports were made for 119 people who interacted with the We the People call centre, giving an average of 17 reports per day. Two reports were “all is well, leaving 117 calls with reportable incidents. A total of 157 violations were reported.

This represents a decrease from the previous week by around 3 calls a day due to a lower number of calls over the weekend.

Table 1: Incidents reported 2 – 8 July	
Incidents	No of reports
People being threatened with violence	55
Electoral malpractices	52
People being forced to do what they do not want to do	32
There has been violence	9
All is well	2
Other: Political Bases	3
Other: Presence of soldiers	3
Other: Missing persons	2
Other: Detained	1
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>159</b>



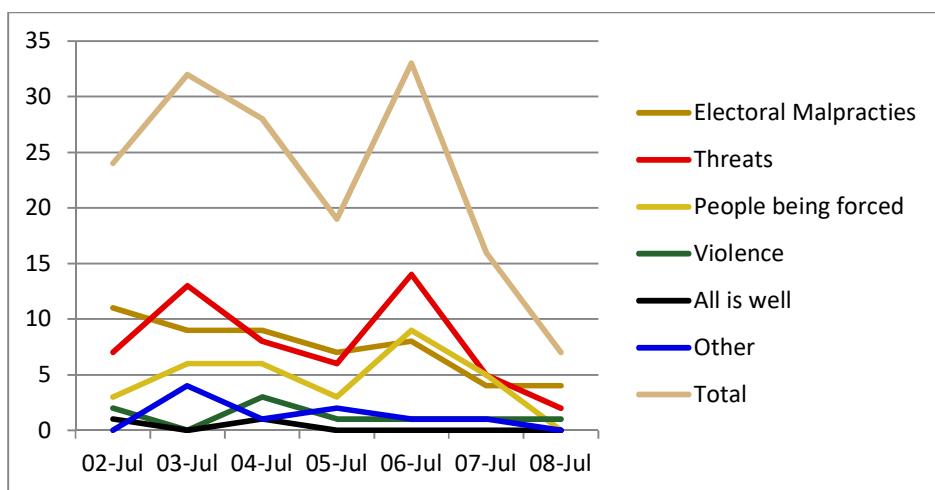
A higher number of violent incidents were reported this week, and also a higher number of people being forced to do what they do not want to do. Violent incidents were assaults and arson, and all were reported to be related to elections.

As with previous weeks, reports of people being forced were mainly centered around people being forced to attend political rallies for ZANU-PF. A smaller number of reports were received where people are still being forced to surrender voter registration slips.

Threats of violence continue to constitute the highest number of violations, though this number was lower than the previous week. As with previous weeks, threats continue to be widespread and explicit in nature, with most being threats of violence if people do not vote for ZANU-PF, or if that party does not achieve an outright win. Most threats were of beatings or of burning down homes of opposition supporters.

There were the same number of reports of electoral malpractices as the previous week. People reported candidates giving or promising food and agricultural inputs in exchange for votes, often paired with people being forced to provide names or voter registration slips. The tearing down of opposition posters by ZANU-PF supporters also continued to be reported. In most cases, this was done in an open and public manner.

**Figure 1: Incidents by date 02-08 July**



**Box 2: Illustrative narratives from the WTPZ incidents reports**

A 70 year old woman who is an MDC Alliance supporter was called in by the kraal head to his village court. He asked her why she supports and welcomes MDC Alliance members in her home. The primary elections for the party were held at her homestead, also MDC Alliance meetings are held at her house. The Kraal Head further said because of her actions he shall appoint boys who will make her disappear. The victim was advised to report the case to the police. Nyanga North, Manicaland

A beer festival was held in Taonezvi village and a prominent ZANU-PF supporter dared any MDC Alliance



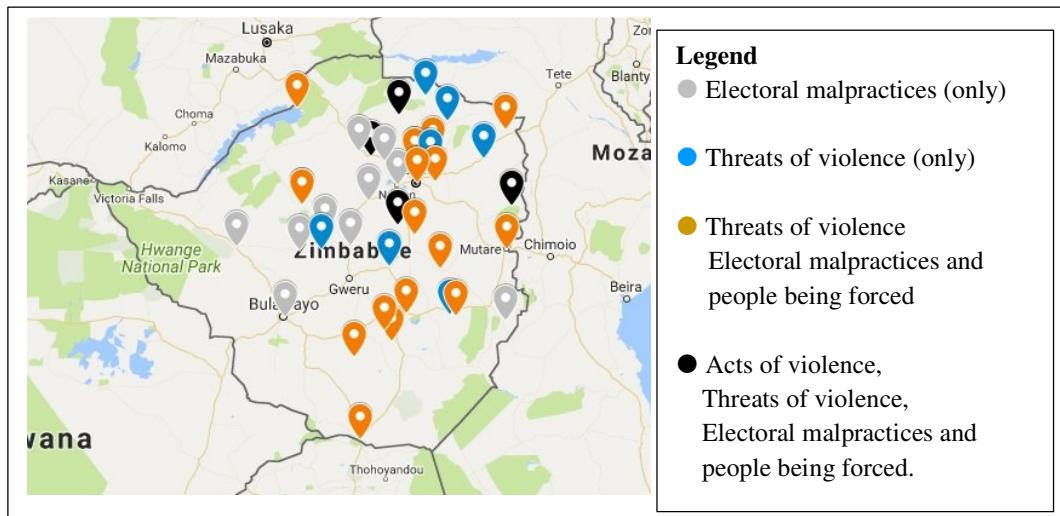
*supporter to raise their hand and one did. He was beaten by 3 ZANU-PF supporters. They held him by the collar and pushed him against the walls bruising him in the process. It took him time to report to the police and he was encouraged by others to report so that he could get treatment.* Mhondoro-Ngezi, Mashonaland West

*Contesting ZANU-PF MP candidate for Masvingo Province is forcing people give up their registration slips in exchange for food allocations. People are now going to the village head's house to register their names for food allocations. Masvingo North, Manicaland*

*On the 23rd of June, people were being given out maize and the perpetrators attacked the victim and his spouse, saying that if ZANU-PF loses they will have their house burnt down; since they are closely linked to MDC Alliance. Buhera West, Manicaland*

*MDC Alliance refused to conduct primary elections, they just installed one candidate who was not the people's choice. The followers of the independent candidate for the ward are now being harassed. Pumula East, Bulawayo*

**Figure 2: Violation by location**



The key perpetrators for the week were overwhelmingly ZANU-PF supporters. In most cases, the callers knew who the perpetrators were, and were able to identify them by name, demonstrating that most (though not all) violations were by local residents in their own areas. Traditional leaders were also a notable perpetrators group, particularly village heads.

Soldiers and police were indicated in a small number of cases, though the significance of these state actors as perpetrators cannot be underemphasised, given the history of violations by state actors and the subsequent fear that this causes in communities.

There continue to be a very small number of violations perpetrated by opposition parties. Whilst the table below identifies the key perpetrator in each call, there continues to be a trend of categories of perpetrators



working together, such as MPs, candidates and traditional leaders working in tandem with ZANU=PF supporters to commit violations.

**Table 2: Perpetrators reported 2 – 8 July**

Key Perpetrator	No of reports
ZANU-PF supporter	54
Village head	13
Candidate (ZANU-PF)	8
Chairperson (ZANU-PF)	7
Councillor (ZANU-PF)	6
ZANU-PF official\leader	6
Member of Parliament (ZANU-PF)	4
Headman	4
War veteran	4
Soldiers	2
Police	2
MDC-Khupe	1
MDC Alliance	1
Independent candidate	1
District Education Officer	1
Other/ not specified	3
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>117</b>

**Box 2: Illustrative narratives of range of perpetrators**

*President Mnangagwa is holding a rally today and there is heavy military presence since last night; people were being bused from different places. The soldiers were chasing (local) people away, the bused people went around the town taking down opposition posters. (Bindura, Mashonaland Central)*

*A soldier was forcing people to take ZANU-PF regalia. Caller was not too comfortable talking about the incident. (Chegutu, Mashonaland West)*

*ED has a rally today at Liebernberg High School. Teachers and Headmasters are being forced to attend the rally; those who do not have transport money are to be given it from the school's accounts. The District Education Officer gave out the instruction. (Chikomba, Mashonaland East)*

*ZANU-PF Secretary for Zhombe Constituency is threatening people saying if they don't vote for ZANU-PF they will be beaten up. Also she is using her power and her shop to access resources like food and seeds to use for campaigning. (Zhombe, Midlands)*

*ZANU-PF members held a meeting with the people and informed them that they already have a list of everyone who is not part of ZANU-PF. They threatened those people and reminded them of their history of violence and that they can make people disappear. (Mt. Darwin, Mashonaland Central)*

*ZANU-PF District Chairperson and Youth Chairman held a rally and threats were made: shootings will happen if people do not know where to vote. Villagers were told that they have their finger prints and faces which were used during registration and that will be used as a way of seeing who would have voted for which party. MDC supporters are the main targets. (Gokwe, Midlands)*



An additional three reports were taken this week regarding the setting up of political bases in three different Provinces, as illustrated in the box below. In all cases, the bases have been paired with clear threats to citizens and are provoking fear in communities.

**Box 3: Narratives on setting up of political bases**

*The aspiring ZANU-PF MP is said to have ordered the setting up of a political base in Ward 4. There are people there 24 hours a day and at times can be heard chanting ZANU-PF slogans and singing Chimurenga war songs. When there was an MDC Alliance rally in the area they used ZANU-PF branded cars to block cars from coming to the rally. (Gokwe Centre, Midlands)*

*ZANU-PF members including a councillor are threatening people, saying there will be violence if they do not vote for ZANU-PF. They also reinforce these acts saying this time around it will be more severe than the 2008 period as people will not only be beaten but they will also use guns. In addition there are suspicious political bases in the area and soldiers have been moving around the area. People are now scared and they are considering to just vote for ZANU-PF and live rather than relive the whole past period. (Buhera South, Manicaland)*

*A leader in ZANU-PF in Mhondoro-Ngezi has ordered people who have been supporting opposition parties to renounce their membership in the opposition parties. A few people did so and he has ordered the setting up of political bases in Ward 17 to deal with those that refuse membership in opposition parties. (Mhondoro- Ngezi, Mashonaland West)*

**Concerning trends to follow:**

Trends are overall following the same lines as recent weeks, with the largest number of violations being threats of violence, and almost all violations being perpetrated by supporters or officials aligned with ZANU-PF. This week showed a small increased in incidents of violence, and a more substantial increase in people being forced to attend rallies and to submit person information against their will.

The public nature of violations is also an issue of concern. Most of the reported incidents are occurring openly and in public spaces, such as where posters are displayed and rallies are held. Whilst the numbers of reports of the presence of soldiers and political bases being set up are not rising, they are still a small number of these being reported every week.



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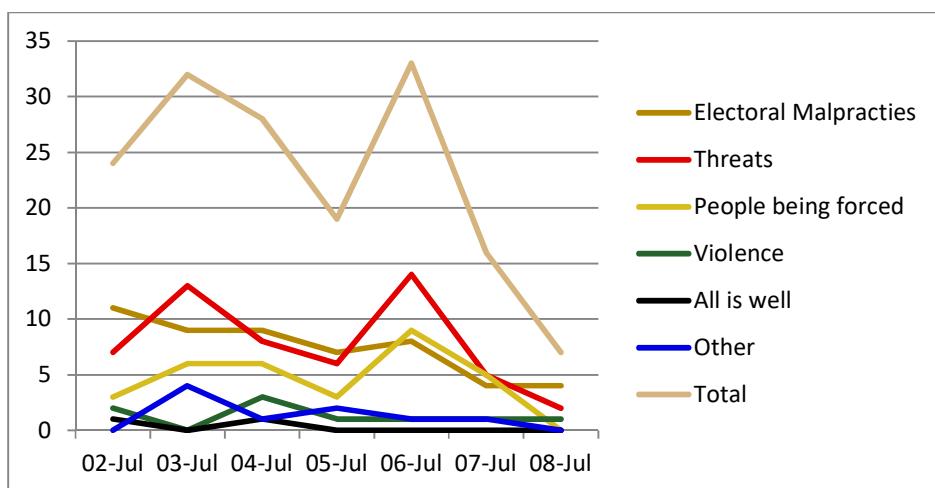
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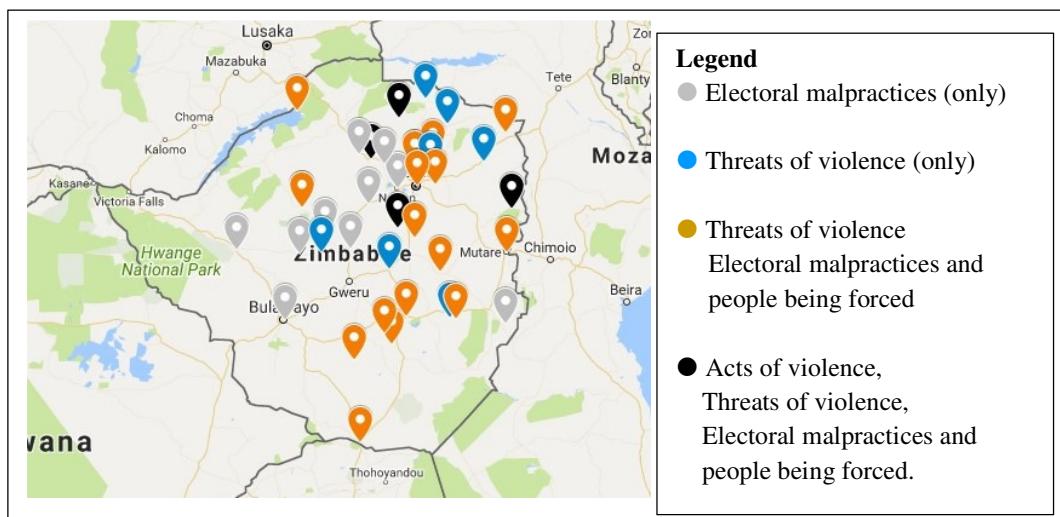
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