



Rine Vhathu

Thina Abantu

Iswe Banhu

We the People of Zimbabwe

Iswa Tubantu

Ife Anthu

Isu Vanhu

**Report of July 23 – 27
3 days prior to elections**

Elections Trends Report

Pre-election: 23 - 27 July, 2018 Weekly Report (3 days prior to elections)

Report Date: 28 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 project is tracking trends in the pre-election period. This paper reports on trends of organised violence and torture (OVT) and electoral malpractices 3 days prior to the 2018 harmonised elections and how these have impacted on people within their communities.

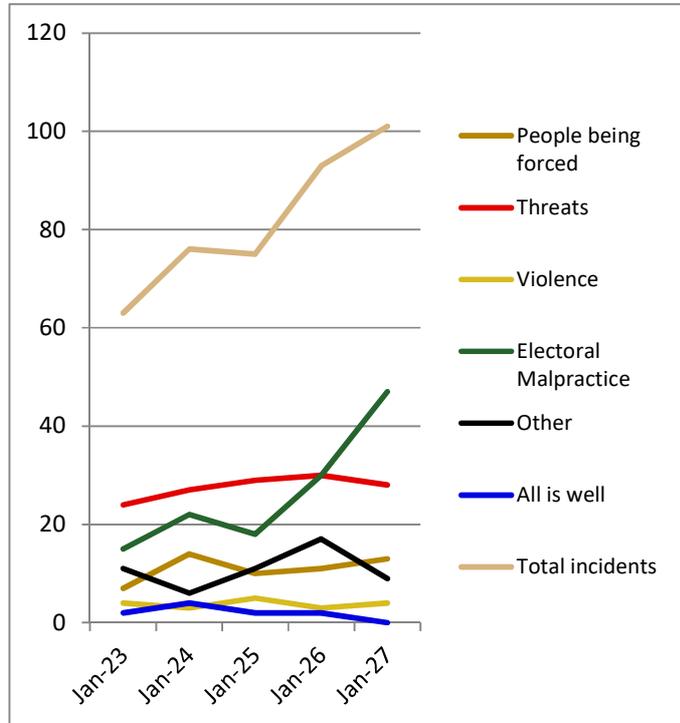
Reports of violations

Reports were made for 277 people who interacted with the We the People call centre, giving an average of 55 reports per day, more than double the daily average of the previous week. 10 reports were “all is well” leaving 267 calls with reportable violations. Violation numbers reported more than doubled in these five days, from a total of 162 in the previous week to 398 in five days. While the number of peace champions increased this week, the figures above show a significant increase in reports of human rights and election related violations.

Table 1: Incidents reported 23-27 July		
Incidents	No of reports	Difference from previous week*
People being threatened with violence	138	+31
Electoral malpractices	132	+61
People being forced to do what they do not want to do	55	+17
There has been violence	19	+6
Other: Trumped up accusations/ charges and arrests	3	-6
Other: Bases erected	1	-4
Other: Unable to report to police /police not acting	31	+14
Other: Use of schools for political activity	2	0
Other: Suspicious people/activities	3	+1
Other: Use/ threats of children	2	0
Other (varied)	12	-2
TOTAL	398	+128
*Note: The previous weeks reports was a 7 day report, compared to this 5 day report		



Figure 1: Incidents by date 23-27 July



Incident reporting increased over the five days, peaking on Friday. The numbers of each type of violation increased in almost every category. However a pattern similar to other weeks was evident; threats of extreme violence are the most common violation, followed by electoral malpractices. Violence and people being forced also increased significantly.

There was a marked increase in electoral malpractices being reported, including new trends related to election day. This included instructions that people will be forced to vote with a ZANU-PF ‘assistant’, will have to queue in an order determined by a village head, and of traditional leaders as polling station agents. There was also an increase in the number of people being denied food and other donor aid, and of vote buying.

Box 1: Illustrative narratives of violations

Young people are being forced to vote for ZANU-PF or else what happened in 2008 when they were young will happen to them now that they are all grown-up. Any young person who talks about Chamisa being president will be dealt with. (Gokwe South, Midlands)

MDC Alliance members were conducting door to door campaigns in the ward. They found the road blocked with logs by ZANU-PF members including a ZANU-PF councillor who pounced on them and beat them up and poured beer on them. The victims sustained injuries while at the same time the perpetrators took away one of the victim’s spectacles. The perpetrators told them they were sent by an aspiring MP, and MDC Alliance is not welcome in the constituency. (Bindura South, Mashonaland Central)

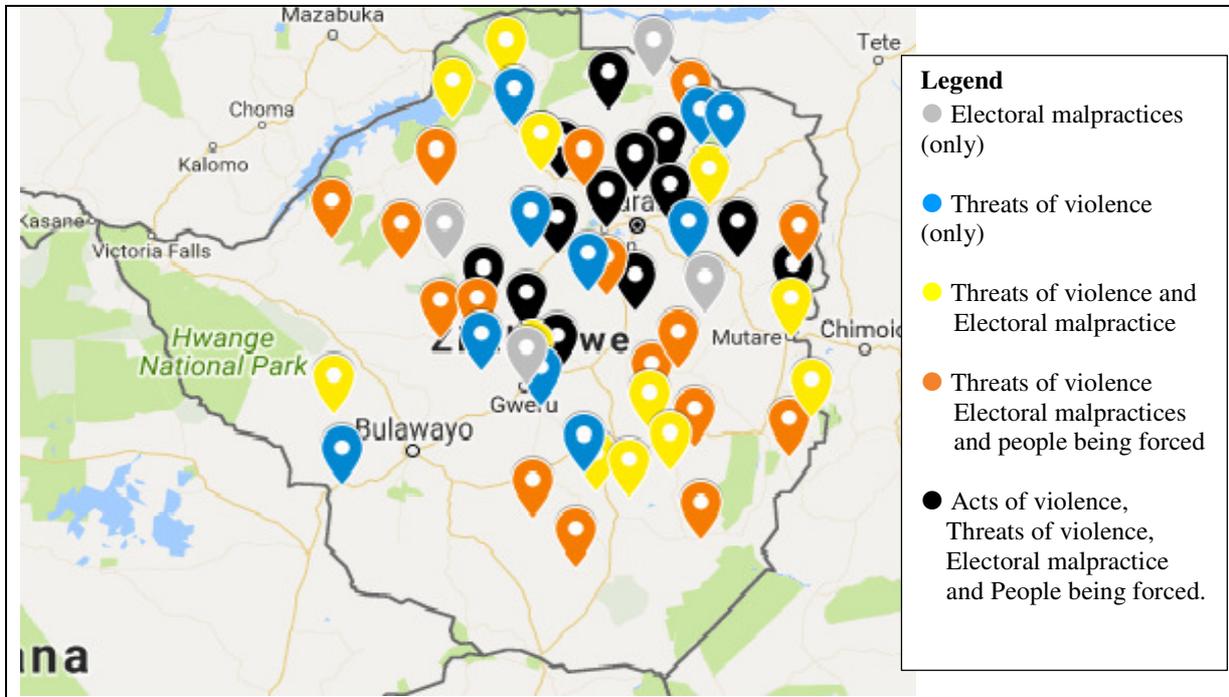
ZANU-PF supporters are threatening to position people alongside roads leading to the polling station to beat up everyone who does not vote for ZANU-PF. They have also noted that they will find ways of knowing who has voted for who in the upcoming election. (Nyaki North, Matabeleland North)

People were force-marched to Charuma Business Centre for a ZANU-PF meeting by ZANU-PF supporters. At the meeting they were threatened that if they vote for MDC they are going to be dealt with. If there is going to be a re-run they are going to be beaten mercilessly. (Chikombe West, Mashonaland West)

Village heads in two wards are standing in as polling agents for ZANU-PF in the upcoming elections. The matter was raised with the ZEC constituency officer who gave a very lame response to the issue. (Mutare, Manicaland)

Social welfare inputs were hijacked by War veterans who said that only ZANU-PF supporters will receive inputs. They reported the matter to police and spoke to the officer in charge who bluntly refused to take the case saying police are not to be involved in any dispute arising from elections. (Chiramanzu South, Midlands)

Figure 2: Violation by location 23-27 July



The mapping of incidents shows the extent of violations across the country. There were 21 ‘hotspot’ districts identified over the week where 5 or more calls with incidents were recorded. This is almost double the number from last week, and only 9 of these hotspot areas were the same as the previous week, showing that new areas with greater numbers of violations continue to emerge. However, of the 15 hotspots of last week, all but 2 continued to report 1 or more incident. 1 or more act of violence was recorded in 6 of these hot spot areas. There was one report of a base being erected in Zaka North, Masvingo.

Table 2: Districts with 5 or more incidents July 23-27

District	Total incidents	District	Total incidents
Bikita	12	*Goromonzi	7
Binga	7	*Guruve	9
Buhera	11	Gutu	10
Chegutu	12	Hurungwe	5
*Chikomba	5	Kadoma	12
Chipinge	9	Kariba	6
*Chirumanzu	6	*Kwekwe	5
Gokwe	8	*Mazowe	6
Gokwe North	18	Mt Darwin	12
Gokwe South	6	Mutare	6

*Note: these districts also reported at least one act of violence in the 5 day period

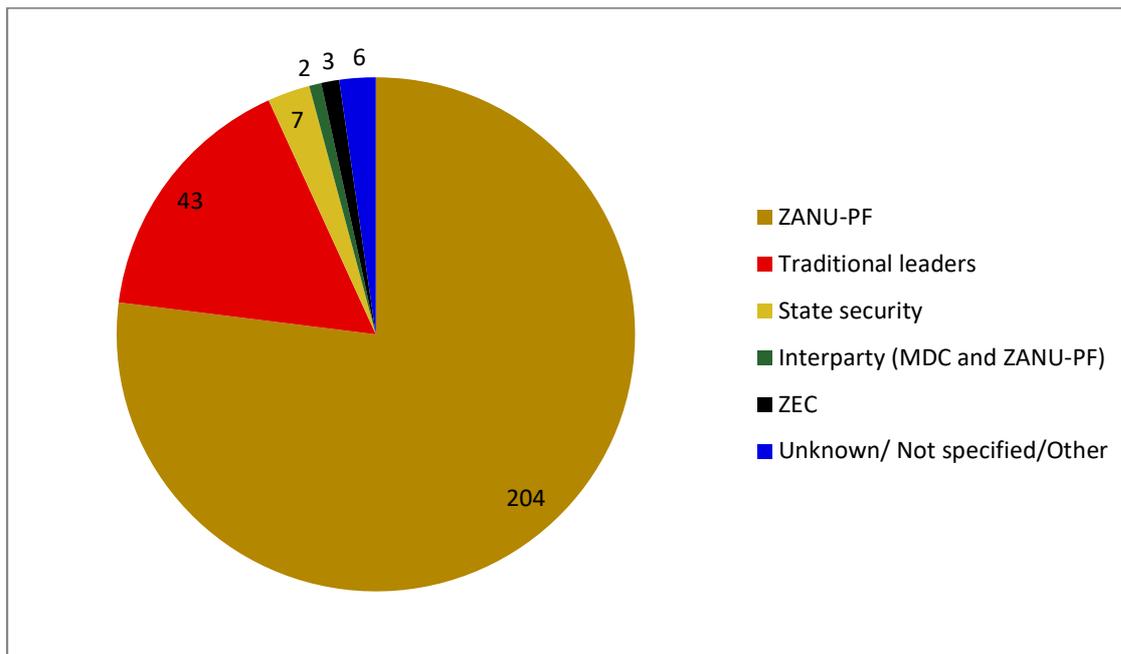


Figure 3: Key perpetrators July 23-27

The key perpetrators continue to be ZANU-PF, at 77%. The graph above shows the key perpetrators identified by the caller, however as with previous weeks, many of the narratives describe several perpetrators working together, often with political and village structures working in tandem.

Concerning trends to follow:

These 5 days have seen a sharp increase in reports of violations. 84.7% of the calls were reporting incidents within 48 hours of their occurrence, demonstrating that WTPZ is capturing current violations which are occurring in communities.

Threats and violence are increasing, and there are greater numbers of reports of police refusing to act. In particular there has been a sharp increase in electoral manipulation, and in violations specific to election day. The interference with free and fair elections is evident, as is the very real risk of violence towards Zimbabwean citizens.