



**ZIMBABWE
PEACE
PROJECT**

**ZPP Monitoring Report Week
Ending 13 July 2018**

Introduction

This report focuses on the period, July 1 to July 13. Instances of political violence will be discussed with specific reference to the interparty and intraparty conflicts which is currently at play in almost all political parties. The number of cases reported in the period under review remain on a high, considering that this is just over two weeks in July and the efforts that are being invested in fostering a peaceful election.

Observations

The first two weeks of July have seen a deviation from the political party code by most of the political parties particularly those who were involved in the signing of the Peace Pledge supported by the National Peace and Reconciliation Commission. The political party code classifies political violence as, among other things, use of violence or threatening violence against someone, encouraging of violence against a group of people, intimidating or inciting of violence against anyone, acting in a way that may provoke violence, forcing voters to reveal who they voted for or reprisals against a voter who has voted in a particular way.

Violence can also be through song, speech or dance that is provocative, defacing and removal of posters or any other property related to elections. It also includes displaying weapons during political gatherings.

A total of 71 violations have been recorded in the period 1 to 13 July compared to 101 violations recorded during the same period in the month of June. This is a high figure considering that elections are less than 14 days away. Intolerance has been at the heart of most of these violations and the fight for political positions in political parties.

Interparty violence which had mainly manifested itself in verbal altercations and hate speech has escalated. In Epworth there have been two cases of inter party violence. The first one involved Zanu PF candidate Kudakwashe Damson's supporters clashing with the supporters of expelled Zalera Makhari. The second one involved an activist campaigning for a candidate in the Thokozani Khupe MDC-T being attacked by activists in the MDC Alliance for selling out. These are incidents of violence as a result of unresolved internal strife during primary elections. Civil society practitioner and MDC-T activist Maureen Kademaunga joined the list of those using hate speech when she likened Zanu PF members to cockroaches that needed to be exterminated on 30 July. The imagery of exterminating rivals is usually likened to what

happened in the Rwandan genocide. A day later, she realised her mistake and apologised something which leaders need to adopt.

As campaigning intensifies some cases of partisan food aid have been reported. Zanu PF activists and traditional leaders have been implicated in these practices. In Norton, a food distribution exercise was aborted after Christopher Mutsvangwa supporters clashed with Temba Mliswa's supporters over disagreements on who should distribute the aid. This clearly shows that there is a tendency to gain political mileage using food aid. The dispute also sucked in traditional leaders.

Atmosphere of fear

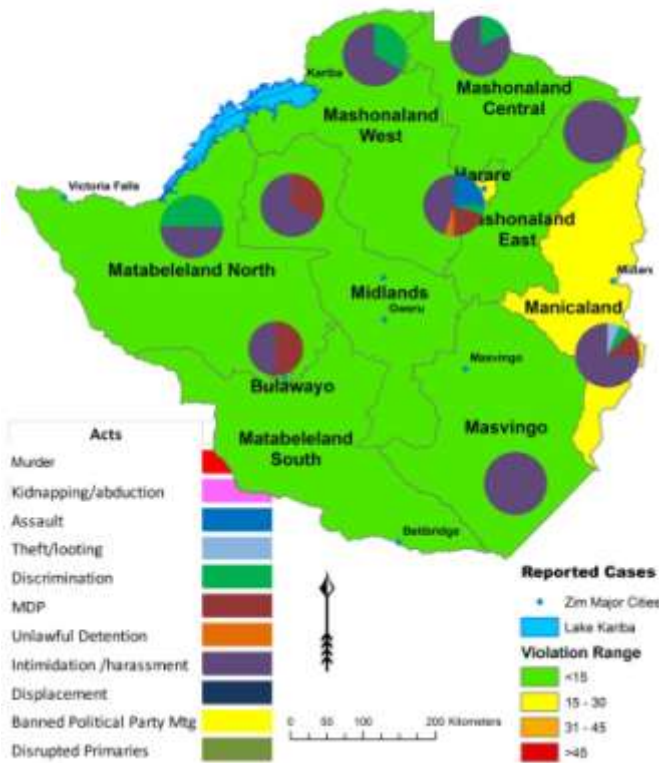
The Zimbabwe Peace Project recorded reports of terrified citizens based on two main issues. The first main source of fear are the messages that voters received on their mobiles asking them to vote for Zanu PF. The bone of contention by the terrified citizens is that they did not give their mobile telephone numbers to Zanu PF and they are perplexed as to how the party knew the areas they stay in correct to the constituency. After all the BVR threats, some villagers fear that they are under surveillance and their vote will not be secret. The second source of fear is unresolved cases of violence in some communities. In Mashonaland West a family is living in fear after their mother was killed. On the face of it, it seemed like a hit and run incident but failure by police to sufficiently investigate and provide a satisfactory post-mortem has led the family to think the murder could have been politically motivated. The woman Laiza Marimo was running community programmes that were aiding independent candidate Temba Mliswa and the family alleges that might have angered Mliswa's rival in the contest for Norton Christopher Mutsvangwa. The woman was allegedly threatened several times by Mutsvangwa's campaign team.

Breakdown of the Cases and Violations Recorded for First 2 Weeks of July

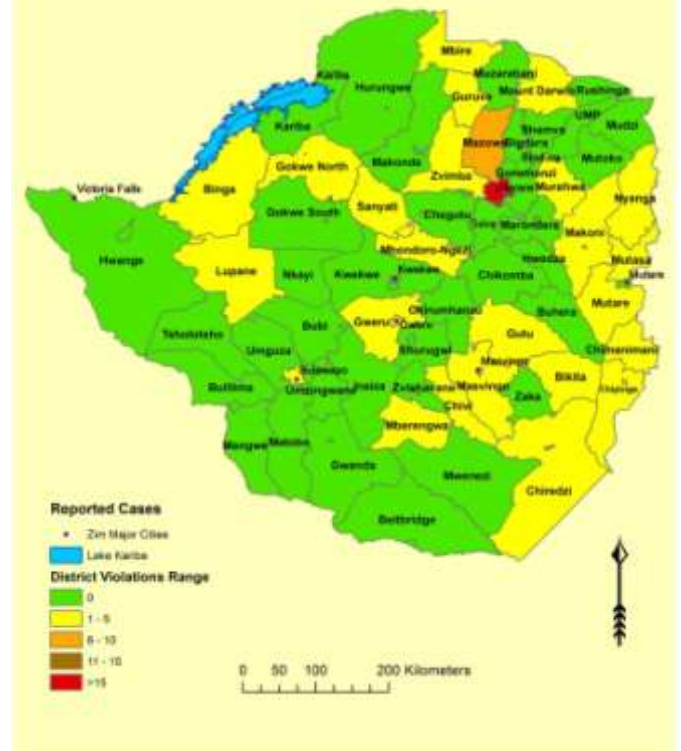
	Byo	Hre	Manicaland	Mash Central	Mash East	Mash West	Masvingo	Mat North	Mat South	Midlands	Total Cases	Total Recorded Violations
Intra Party violence		***	*								4	8
Inter Party violence		*****	*					*		**	9	19
Incitement/Hate speech											0	0
General violence	*	*									2	2
Corruption											0	0
Victimisation/ Intimidation		**	***	*****	*	***	*****	*		***	22	37
Right to Education		*		*		*					3	3
Discrimination/Food aid				*				*			2	2
Criminal conduct											0	0
Right of the child											0	0
Coercion											0	0
Right to health											0	0
TOTAL	1	11	5	7	1	4	5	3	0	5	42	71

Dashboard of Incidents

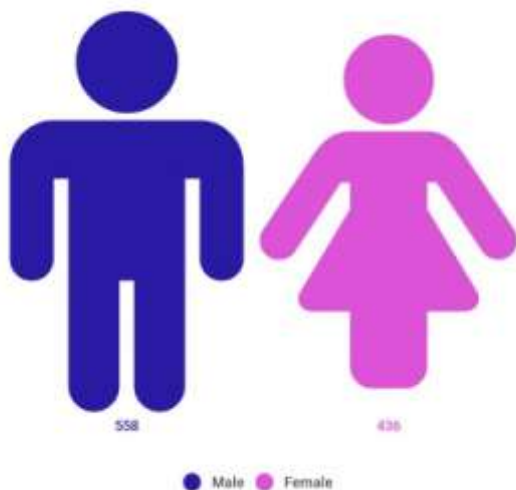
**Week Ending 13 July 2018
Provincial Violations Map**



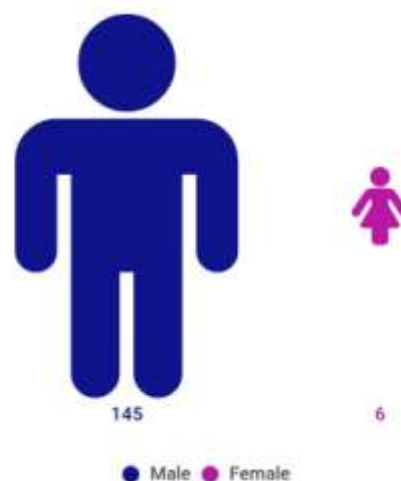
Mid-July 2018 District Violations Map



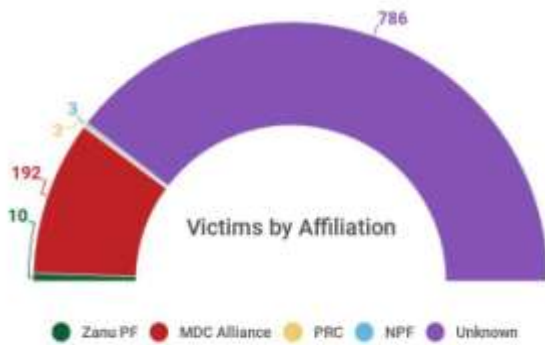
Victims by Gender



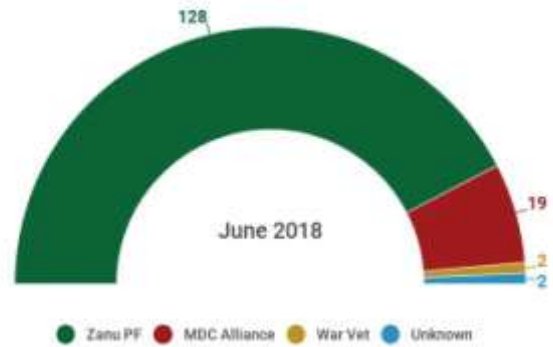
Perpetrators by Gender



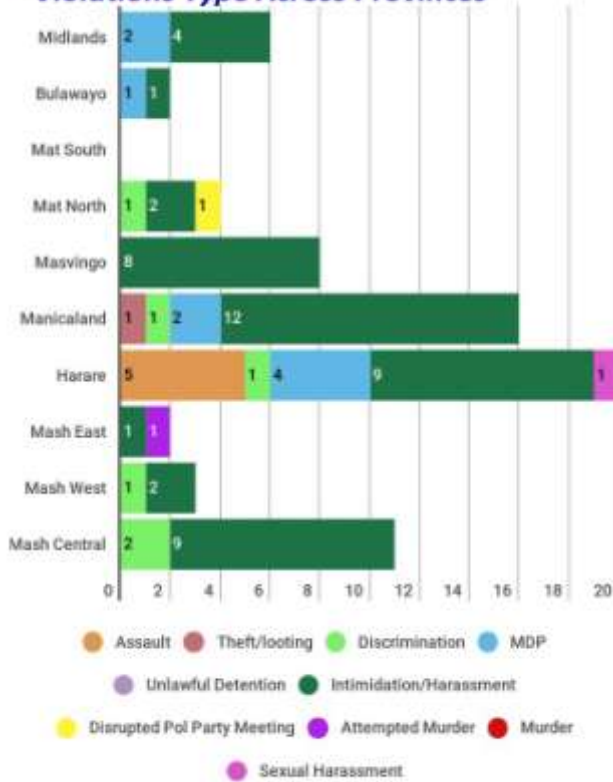
Victims by Affiliation



Perpetrators by Affiliation



Violations Type Across Provinces



Intra Party Violence



Food and Other Aid Violations



Interpretive analysis

Increasing hate speech particularly on social media is a worrying sign of intolerance and may incite party supporters to violence. This intolerance reached a crescendo when the Zimbabwe Election Support Network abandoned a meeting in Mutare after disruptions by Zanu PF and MDC Alliance supporters. The intolerance also reached extreme levels after some politicians have described other political parties as ‘cockroaches’ and such words have been known to fuel violence in the past as was in Rwanda in the 1990s. The intolerance has also been manifested by the high number of cases of defaced posters. The perpetrators have mainly been Zanu PF and MDC Alliance supporters and candidates. The concentration of violence in areas that primary elections were contentious such as Epworth shows that festering violence which is left unresolved can be a source of future conflict. Undemocratic internal processes affect national elections. Lack of sufficient voter education and access to information is breeding fear in rural areas. Messages sent by the ruling party without the recipients giving their mobile phone numbers to the party has led to some of them who are not familiar with how technology works to believe that they are under surveillance. This exposed Zimbabwe’s lack of a data protection framework as a major human rights concern. Failure by Zimbabwe Republic Police to conclude criminal cases and cases of political violence has cultivated a spirit of fear in communities. Some of the people implicated in violence are repeated offenders who perpetrated violence in 2008. Some perpetrated violence as recent as 2016 in a case in Norton for example. An atmosphere of fear means that many people will not be able to exercise their freedoms of assembly and association which are critical in a free, fair and credible election. Disregard of political parties’ code of conduct on violence indicates lip service to peace. ZPP is also concerned about the gap between signing these many pledges without fully understanding what they mean.

Recommendations

ZPP urges the Zimbabwe Human Rights Commission to intervene in the cases of food aid violations and other violations being reported and also to determine what together with ZEC what the difference is between food aid and vote buying as it seems that there is a faint line between the two.

Political parties must adhere to the political parties code of conduct and also implore the Zimbabwe Human Rights Commission to enforce the requirements of the code of conduct. The formation of the multi-party liaison committee is a welcome move but the law should be

reformed so that these structures do not just come alive with elections but rather become part of people's lives considering their affinity to party politics. This could work in relation to reducing intolerance and polarisation.

The ZEC should commit to be responsive to the issues being raised by the opposition on levelling the playing field since ignoring these calls could plunge the country into chaos.

Conclusion

While there is a show of tolerance during rallies and peace messages at public platforms there have been worrying levels of intolerance that have been the trigger to hate speech, partisan food distribution and outright violence in some cases. Parties continue to display a wanton disregard of the code of conduct that is supposed to guide them during the election period.

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