



Rine Vhathu

Thina Abantu

Iswe Banhu

We the People of Zimbabwe

Iswa Tubantu

Ife Anthu

Isu Vanhu

We the
People of
Zimbabwe

2018
Elections

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.

Post
Elections
Report:
July 31 –
August 7



Reports of Violations

A disabled man, working as a vendor in Harare was shot by soldiers in Harare CBD. He was unable to communicate and had to return home to his family so he could communicate that he was shot. The bullet is still in his body.

Reports of Violations

The call centre received 130 calls with incidents between July 31 and August 7. This was also coordinated with reports from people who were subsequently identified through verification of these reports, thus totaling 161 reports with incidents (1 report was subsequently removed as a repeat).

- ☀ 4 of the reports were in relation to events that had happened prior to elections, making a total of 1184 calls
- ☀ 47 of the reports were continuing to report violations committed on election day, making a total of 187 calls related to election day/ night
- ☀ 115 of the reports were violations that occurred after election day/ night

Table 1: Total election violations before, during and after elections¹

	Before	During	After
Total calls with violations	1184	187	115
Total number of violations reported	1833	231	152
Calls reporting violence	98 5%	5 2%	62 41%
Reports of people being threatened with violence	655 36%	39 17%	30 20%
Reports of electoral malpractices	518 28%	101 44%	18 12%
Reports of people being forced to do what they do now want to do (not including during acts of violence)	318 17%	70 30%	13 9%
Report of other violations (not fitting in to the above categories)	244 13%	16 7%	29 19%

The reports show the ways in which election-related violations were employed at different stages:

- ☀ The before election period was primarily driven by threats of what would happen to people of ZANU-PF did not win, including extreme violence, eviction and loss of aid
- ☀ The during election period reported high level of electoral malpractices, most frequently people being forced to claim illiteracy or disability and be 'assisted' to vote
- ☀ The post-election period has seen high levels of violence and displacement, playing out the threats issued in the election lead-up.

¹ Percentages may not sum to 100% due to rounding



Acts of Violence

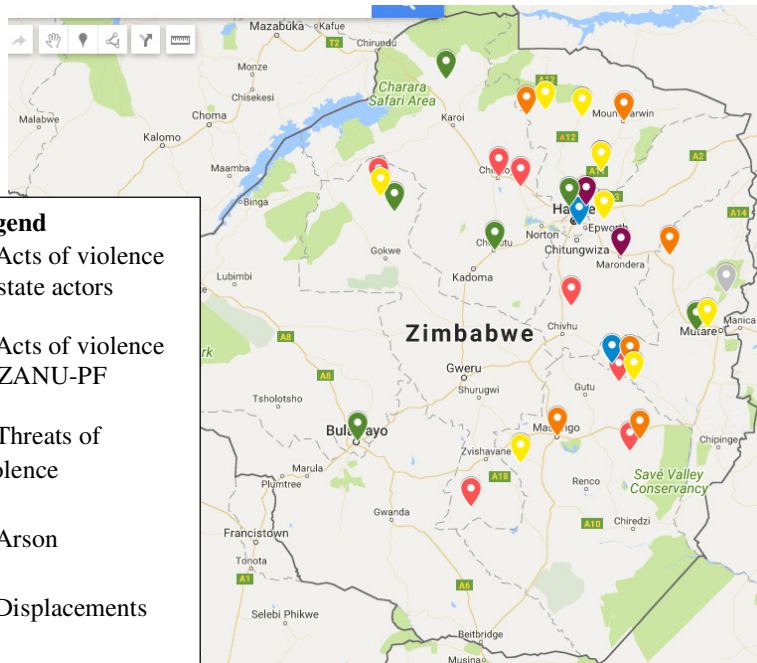
I saw one soldier beating one guy with a chain. A large group of soldiers arrived and we were told to lie on the ground. We were brutally assaulted all over our bodies. Then they ordered us to run then a soldier hit me with a chain on my back. I met another groups of soldiers and was beaten again and forced to do press ups.

Since the holding of harmonised elections on July 30, there has been a rapid escalation of acts of extreme violence against Zimbabwean citizens, particularly perpetrated by the state. Acts of violence have included:

- ☀ Fatal shootings
- ☀ Torture
- ☀ Sexual torture
- ☀ Abductions (paired with torture in all cases where victims have given testimonials)
- ☀ Shootings (non-fatal)
- ☀ Violent assaults with weapons, including chains, poles, batons, ropes and booted feet

Table 2: Acts of violence reported 31 July – midday 6 August

No of people killed	No of people tortured	No of people sexually tortured	No of people abducted	No of people shot	No of people violently assaulted	No injured whilst fleeing	TOTAL
6	8	3	18	7	44	2	88



Legend

- Acts of violence by state actors
- Acts of violence by ZANU-PF
- Threats of Violence
- Arson
- Displacements
- Sexual assaults

A number of people who were assaulted also reported that these were amongst a much larger group of people. These numbers are therefore an underestimate of the extent and spread of violence.

Some of the assaults have been separated out as meeting the ‘special stigma’ of torture, where victims were not only assaulted, but were assaulted during interrogation, or were assaulted as a part of public humiliation.

Acts of torture and shooting were all enacted by verified or suspected state agents.



Targeted Violence

The ZANU-PF councillor is moving around with his car at midnight every day at MDC Alliance houses. He is targeting mainly the ones who were polling agents of the opposition party because he said they should all get their heads cut off.

Displacement

MDC supporters are being displaced from rural areas, including people in leadership positions and those who were polling agents. People and their families have been chased away by village heads and ZANU-PF members working in tandem. Perpetrators have been arriving at homesteads and forcing the victims out of their homes either by arson, by threatening to kill them, or by a campaign of intimidation to the extent that people feel they have no choice but to flee.

Table 3: Displacement	
Perpetrators	Number of families/ individuals
Traditional leaders (ZANU-PF supporting)	23 families, and 1 individual
Soldiers	1 family, and 1 individual
ZANU-PF	2 families and 5 individuals
Threats from unknown people	2 families and 3 individuals
TOTAL	28 families, and 10 individuals

Polling agents

Polling agents who do not support ZANU-PF have consistently been targets of threats both on election day and in the days since elections. 18 reports have been received of polling agents threatened by ZANU-PF supporters, traditional leaders, soldiers, and suspected state agents. These reports have included:

- ☀ 6 of acts of violence, including torture, abduction and assault
- ☀ 3 of threats of violence
- ☀ 1 of property destruction
- ☀ 2 of suspected planned abduction/ assault

According to reports, polling agents are being threatened for:

- ☀ Refusing to sign falsified V11 forms
- ☀ Reporting election irregularities
- ☀ Having sighted additional ballot papers and irregular movement of ballot boxes
- ☀ Simply having acted as polling agents in elections



A Week of Violence

Table 4: Events from July 31 – August 6		
Day	No of reports	Key events
Tuesday July 31	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ☀ 3 of acts of violence ☀ 3 of threats of violence ☀ 2 of people forced to flee 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ☀ Threats and targeting of MDC supporters and polling agents in rural areas by ZANU-PF and traditional leaders
Wednesday August 1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ☀ 7 of shootings (6 killed, 7 injured) ☀ 17 of assaults/ acts of torture ☀ 3 of abductions ☀ 4 of threats/ intimidation 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ☀ Demonstrations for release of presidential results in Harare ☀ Police enact POSA ☀ Soldiers fire live ammunition ☀ Soldiers engage in excessive beatings and torture ☀ Threats and targeting of MDC supporters and polling agents in rural areas
Thursday August 2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ☀ 7 of acts of violence ☀ 11 of threats and intimidation ☀ 2 of people forced to flee 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ☀ Soldiers and police assault people in Harare high density suburbs ☀ Police slap demonstrators in Bulawayo ☀ Threats and targeting of MDC supporters and polling agents in rural areas
Friday August 3	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ☀ 6 of threats and intimidation ☀ 2 of assaults ☀ 2 of arson/ property destruction ☀ 2 of being forced to flee/ leave home (involving 23 families) ☀ 1 of abductions (2 people) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ☀ Threats and targeting of MDC supporters and polling agents in Harare and rural areas by ZANU-PF and traditional leaders ☀ Abductions by suspected state agents
Saturday August 4	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ☀ 6 of threats and intimidation ☀ 2 of being forced to flee ☀ 1 of massive property destruction ☀ 1 of assault/torture 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ☀ Razing of hundreds of market stalls in Harare ☀ Threats and targeting of MDC supporters and polling agents in rural areas by ZANU-PF ☀ Suspected state agents involved in torture ☀ MDC supporters not being given donor aid in rural areas
Sunday August 5	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ☀ 8 of assault/ torture ☀ 3 of abductions ☀ 1 of property destruction ☀ 4 of threats and intimidation 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ☀ Hunting of MDC figures and targeting of their families ☀ Threats and targeting of MDC supporters and polling agents in rural areas by ZANU-PF ☀ 1 MDC-T perpetrator commits an assault
Monday August 6	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ☀ 3 of threats/ intimidation ☀ 2 of arson/ attempted arson ☀ 2 of abductions ☀ 1 of assault ☀ 1 of being forced to flee 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ☀ Threats and targeting of MDC supporters in rural areas ☀ Soldiers indicated in abductions ☀ Unknown people commit arson attacks



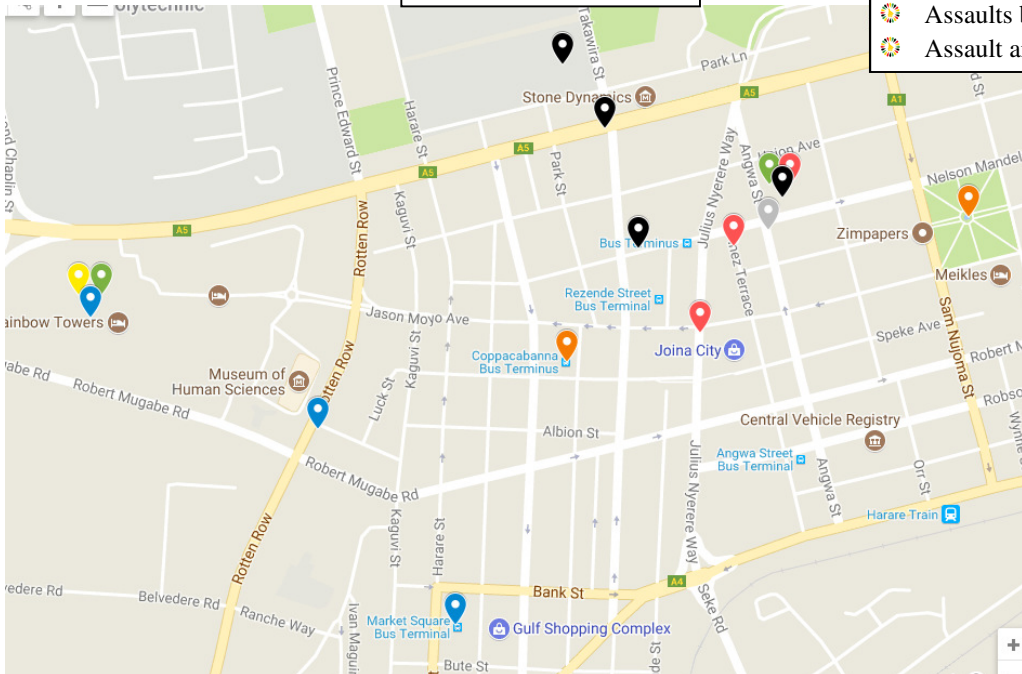
Events of August 01, 2018

Timeline and Map of Events of August 1, 2018

- | | | | |
|--|---|--|--|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ☀ Protests heard at HICC. Protestors visible along Rotten Row ☀ Riot police arrive at HICC | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ☀ Protestors chanting at HICC ☀ Shots heard and recorded at HICC ☀ Soldiers shooting live ammunition at Market Square (Bank St) | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ☀ Harvest House abductions start ☀ Shots fired at people gathered at Harvest House ☀ Soldiers shooting on Julius Nyerere ☀ Tanks sighted and soldiers assaulting on Samora Machel near Girls High | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ☀ Soldiers targeting people accessing public transport to leave town ☀ 2 large groups assaulted at Copacabana |
|--|---|--|--|



- | | | |
|---|--|--|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ☀ Soldiers arrive at HICC and start shooting ☀ Soldiers arrive at Harvest House and start shooting | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ☀ Soldiers moving in separated groups (2 groups at Harvest House, 1 at Inez Terrace) beating people ☀ Live ammunition on Julius Nyerere Way | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ☀ Shootings by soldiers at Africa Unity Square ☀ Soldiers start to enter residential areas around the city ☀ Live ammunition on Julius Nyerere Way ☀ Abduction at barracks on town outskirts ☀ Assaults by Chitungwiza road block ☀ Assault and sexual assault at ZBC |
|---|--|--|



Legend

- 12-1pm
- 1-2 pm
- 2-3pm
- 3-4pm
- 4-5pm
- 5-7pm
- Time unknown

A group were picked from Harvest House, blind folded and taken to an unknown location. They were beaten up, assaulted and tortured with electricity. While they were torturing them they did not specify why they were doing that. They were injected in the arm and were told they were being inserted with trackers. They were again taken in a car and dumped by roadside.



Perpetrators and the Shift to State Sponsored Violence

The victim was at Kuwadzana Shops when they saw soldiers coming. They ran and hid at a local bar, the bar manager locked down the bar. They were about 10 in the bar when the soldiers came and demanded the manager to open the locked doors. The manager complied and the soldiers entered and started beating people up using baton sticks and chains. The victim is pregnant.

During the pre-election period, data collected in the We the People call center did not suggest any systematic roll out of violence. There were no identifiable patterns which suggested that violence and intimidation were ordered by state institutions. Instead the vast majority of perpetrators of the 1,184 counts of pre-election violations were localised, meaning that they came from within communities and were not deployed. While some were people in positions of authority, they tended to be local leaders living within those communities and whose actions were not particularly linked to state actors. The reach of their violations were not reported to spread wider than their wards or constituencies.

Only a few types of violations in the pre-election period were recurring and consistent in nature and execution. Across all provinces, people in control of resources such as food aid or agricultural inputs (traditional leaders and ZANU-PF leaders) demanded voter registration slips from citizens and threatened that they would know how individuals voted by tracing the biometric information taken at voter registration. A repeat of 2008 election-related atrocities was also threatened should there be a run-off to the election. The consistency in these messages may suggest local ZANU-PF leaders were following instructions. However, violence was sporadic and whilst military were cited in a number of communities and police often refused to act on complaints, there were few cases of direct involvement of state security forces in acts of violence.


Election day represented a marked shift in the nature of violence reported. Since July 31^t, acts of violence have largely been:

- ☀ Coordinated and systematic (timing; linked to other acts of violence in the area)
- ☀ Targeted (at certain actors and communities and in response to specific issues)
- ☀ Similar in nature (weapons used and types of violence)
- ☀ Largely committed by state actors (soldiers, police)


Perpetrators	Number of victims
Soldiers	59
Police	2
Soldiers and police	1
Suspected state actors	11
ZANU-PF	13
MDC-T	1
Unknown	1
TOTAL	87

This all means that the majority of violence in Zimbabwe is currently state sanctioned and actors are receiving orders from central authorities.

1. Coordinated

 **Timing:** The hour by hour timeline of events that took place on August 1 2018 shows that soldiers were deployed in groups to specific areas in Harare CBD at the same times, despite the fact that protestors were concentrated at HICC and Harvest House. Victims reported running away from one group of soldiers straight into another as they tried to exit the CBD. Some victim narratives suggest that soldiers were intentionally herding them towards other groups of soldiers who also assaulted them. In addition, reports show that soldiers entered high density locations in different parts of the city around the same time following the protests. This all indicates a timed, methodical and planned deployment.

2. Targeted

 **Specific people targeted as victims:**

- Pursuit of targeted victims following the demonstrations where victims were abducted or visited in their homes by state agents, or arrested and detained.
- Pursuit of MDC Alliance Polling Station agents to sign amended V11 polling station forms, to hide election irregularities, or to face consequences for fulfilling their role as agents.
- Searches for and trumped up charges against MDC Alliance leaders and harassment and at times assault of members of their families and people connected to them

 **Violence was in response to specific issues:**

- Violence on the streets at demonstrations in Harare on August 1
- Response to election data- collection, signing and analysis of data forms

3. Similar in nature: Similar methods of torture and violence were used including blind folding, beatings by electric cables, chains and baton sticks, forcing people to perform humiliating acts, and use of live ammunition,.

Whilst MDC demonstrators, agents and leaders have been targeted, violence in the CBT was also directed towards a range of community members, including those commuting or working as vendors, demonstrating the ability of the army to exert control over all citizens. This strategy works to ensure all people are fearful and compliant with state actors, and that any person can be harmed in the same manner if the state wills it.

4. Similar actors: Uniformed soldiers make the largest number of perpetrators.