



ZIMBABWE
PEACE
PROJECT



MONTHLY MONITORING REPORT



Picking up the pieces in the aftermath of the elections

Introduction

The total number of violations in the period 1 August to 31 August was 231 from a reported 124 cases down from the 266 recorded from 151 cases in July in the run up to the elections. Harare recorded the highest number of violations at 54. This could be attributed to a number of factors among them Harare is an urban area and for a long time has been the stronghold of the opposition MDC Alliance and it also happens to be the hub of where everything was happening in the elections from being the central point of all observers as well as being home to all the institutions related to

the elections. Supporters of the MDC Alliance took to the streets on August 1 protesting the perceived delay in the announcement of Presidential elections. After marching to the Zimbabwe Electoral Commission (ZEC) offices then to the Rainbow Towers where ZEC had set a National Results Centre, the protestors caught the ire of the police who were deployed to control the crowd and thus prevented them from accessing the Rainbow Towers where most international observers were housed and some were presenting their preliminary reports on the just ended July 30 harmonised elections. The police used water cannons and tear gas to push back the protesters from the area of the Rainbow Towers. To the surprise of many military vehicles were seen circling the city of Harare and in no time reports of unarmed civilians having been killed in cold blood started filtering. Seven citizens lost their lives and scores others were injured in the melee of running away from live ammunition. In the days that followed citizens in high density areas of Harare and other provinces faced violence.

Mashonaland Central had the second highest number of violations at 38. Most of the cases reported were of intimidation and harassment as reprisals intensified with most people being victimised for their choices during elections. There were 134 violations related to harassment and intimidation. There were 7 murder cases mainly due to the disproportionate force applied by the military to quell protests. ZPP recorded cases of gross human rights violations

ABOUT ZPP

The organisation was founded in 2000 by church-based and human rights organisations. The current members of ZPP are Evangelical Fellowship of Zimbabwe (EFZ), Zimbabwe Council of Churches (ZCC), Catholic Commission for Justice and Peace in Zimbabwe (CCJPZ), Counselling Services Unit (CSU), Zimbabwe Human Rights Association (ZimRights), Civic Education Network Trust (CIVNET), Zimbabwe Lawyers for Human Rights (ZLHR) and Women's Coalition of Zimbabwe (WCoZ).

ZPP was established with the objective of monitoring, documenting and building peace and promoting the peaceful resolution of disputes and conflicts. The Zimbabwe Peace Project seeks to foster dialogue and political tolerance through non-partisan peace monitoring activities, mainly through monitors who document the violations of rights in the provinces. The monitors, who at full complement stand at 420, constitute the core pool of volunteers, supported by four Regional Coordinators. The Regional Coordinators relate with the national office headed by the National Director and programme officers in various units.

during the month of August that surpass any other month in the run up to the elections. In interviews with victims of the post election violence it is evident that reprisals were also against members of the G-40 faction in Zanu PF. Zanu PF and members of the Zimbabwe National Army (ZNA) labelled as ‘rogue’ by the ZNA itself were responsible for perpetrating most of the violations. A high number of violations were also reported in Manicaland and Mashonaland East and West. Masvingo had a low number of violations as was Matebeleland region as well as the Midlands. It is not clear why some provinces had more violations recorded than others although the discrimination in the distribution of food affected all provinces regardless.

Observations

The Zimbabwe Peace Project (ZPP) extensively reported on widespread intimidation and harassment used in the run up to the elections. There were threats of using the Biometric Voter Registration (BVR) to sniff out the dissenting, the intricate system of Dande Mutande (Spiderweb), the distribution of food and agricultural inputs which forced people to make their choices with their tummies against humanitarian standards culminating in suspect assisted voting, and the ‘paddocking’ of villagers to vote in a certain way with the assistance of traditional leaders and other ruling party functionaries. Notwithstanding, these reports some of which were reported to the police the impression of the different election observers were varied.

Police responded to some of the reports but a good number of citizens still felt unsafe making police reports and continuing to live in the same communities. While the 2018 elections could have many boxes ticked as compared to past polls they still faced numerous challenges that made them short of being free and fair.

The post election phase was fraught with extreme violence where opposition party supporters mainly those in high density areas reported of attacks by members of the defence forces especially in bars and night spots. The ZNA has denied that they had deployed officers in high density areas but rather labelling the perpetrators ‘rogue’ elements. The period was also characterised by displacements in both urban and rural areas as political persecution targeting opposition supporters triggered their fleeing their homes. The period also witnessed the escalation of reports of reprisals against political opponents. Zanu PF members and supporters spearheaded reprisals in their party as some individuals were accused of decampaigning the party and sabotaging President Emmerson Mnangagwa. To a lesser extent

there were scuffles as well in the MDC Alliance where those who were suspected of decampaigning Nelson Chamisa were also targeted.

These reprisals manifested through deprivation of government funded food aid and agriculture inputs and evictions. In Guruve those who acted as polling agents for MDC Alliance candidates were targeted and failed to access farming inputs. In Mazowe a woman who had worked as an election observer was evicted from a farm where she had been living for a number of years. Several cases of deprivation of food aid were recorded in rural areas soon after elections as those who had voted for losing candidates or acted as poll agents of opposition parties or observers were targeted. In farming communities those who had been resettled but accused of supporting the opposition parties were forcibly evicted.

It was also a period of hate speech and intolerance as supporters of feuding parties owing to the undecided electoral court case exchanged harsh words mainly on social media. A case in point is losing MP for Southerton in Harare receiving intolerant threats in response to an article he wrote describing opposition leader Nelson Chamisa as a dictator. The post election period was also one of criminalisation of opposition politics as opposition supporters and their leaders were targets for arrests.

Contestations on the outcomes of the elections resulted in violent protests in Harare on 1 August which were met by disproportionate force by the state. Soldiers were deployed and fired live ammunition at protestors and some citizens who had nothing to do with the protest but rather were going about their own activities such as vending. One of the people who remained with a bullet lodged in his shoulder is a deaf and dumb 34 year old man. ‘When I saw everyone around me run I also ran’, he said when he narrated his ordeal to his family. It is unfortunate that when tragedies such as this happen no one really considers that among the citizens in the Central Business District are people with disabilities (PWDs) like in this case he did not hear the automatic rifle when it filled the air and sadly he was to become a victim of this callous attack. This has exposed the unconventional crowd control methods used by security forces that disregard human rights and fail to consider all citizens.

The President has responded with the appointment of a commission of inquiry to investigate the killings and establish who is responsible and make recommendations. The news of the appointment of the Commission which is made up of local, regional and international actors has viewed in many different ways but the bottom line is that Zimbabweans and the world want answers as to what happened on August 1 most specifically who ordered the army on

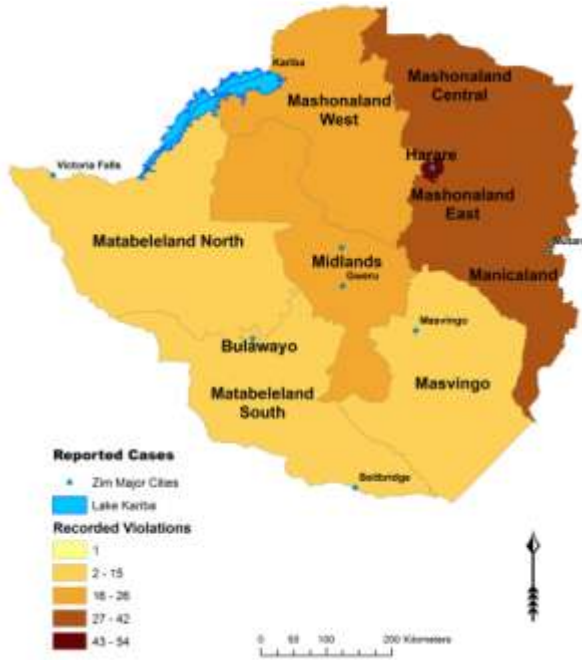
the streets and if what the military did when they got to the streets was part of the orders. Legal minds are of different opinions regarding the Commission and some people are questioning the integrity of two local members of the Commission.

Breakdown of the Violations and Cases for August 2018

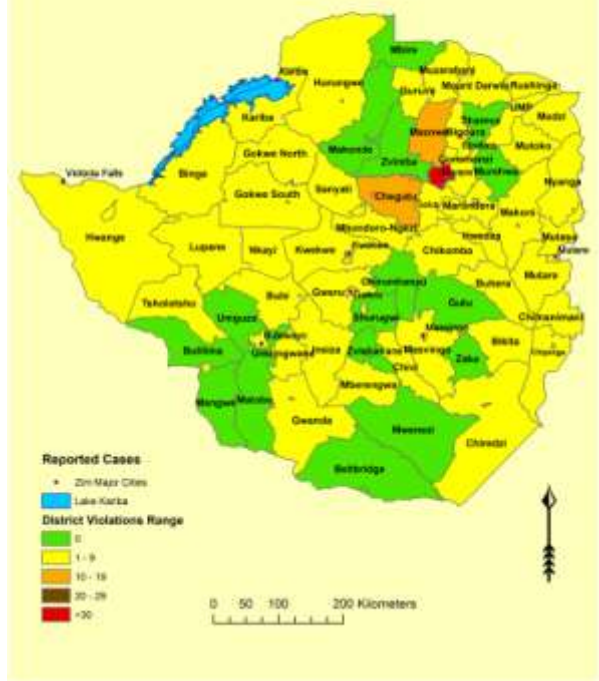
	Midlands	Byo	Mat. South	Mat. North	Masvingo	Manicaland	Harare	Mash. East	Mash. West	Mash. Central	TOTAL
Recorded Cases	15	5	6	9	8	15	18	14	16	18	124
ACTS											
Murder	0	0	0	0	0	0	7	0	0	0	7
Rape/Sexual Harassment	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	1
Kidnapping/abduction	0	0	0	0	0	2	0	0	0	0	2
Assault	2	1	2	2	1	2	17	1	4	3	35
Theft/looting	0	0	0	1	0	0	2	1	0	0	4
Discrimination	5	1	1	1	0	4	0	2	2	10	26
MDP	0	0	0	2	0	1	3	2	0	0	8
Torture	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	1
Unlawful Detention	0	0	0	0	0	2	0	1	0	0	3
Intimidation /harassment	15	3	7	7	9	16	20	22	15	20	134
Displacement	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	3	5
Attempted Murder	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	0	0	0	2
Attempted Rape	0	0	0	0	0	0	3	0	0	0	3
Banned Political Party Mtg	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Disrupted Pol Party Mtg	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Total	23	5	10	13	10	27	54	29	22	38	231

August Dashboard of Statistics

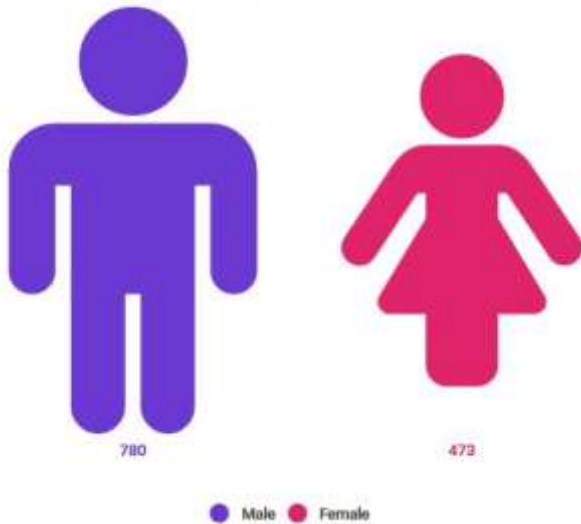
August 2018 Provincial Violations Map



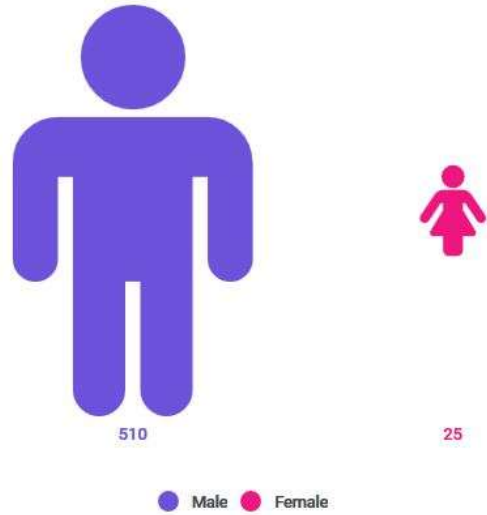
August 2018 District Violations Map



Victims by Gender

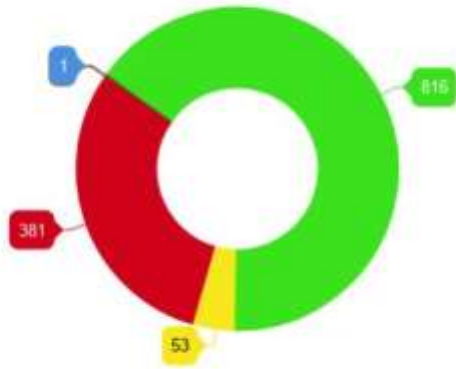


Perpetrator by Gender



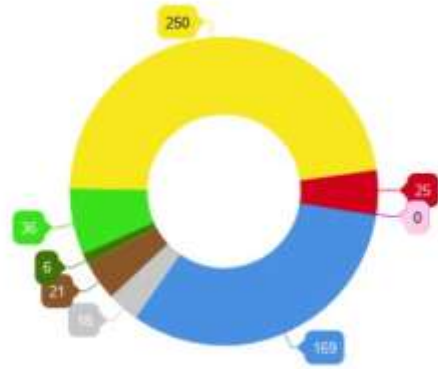


Victims By Affiliation



Zanu PF (4.23%) MDC Alliance (30.41%) MDC T Khupe (0.08%) PDP (0%)
 War Vets (0.08%) ZRP (0%) ZNA (0.08%) Unknown (65.12%)

Perpetrator by Affiliation



Zanu PF (47.53%) MDC Alliance (4.75%) NPF (0.19%) Independent (0%)
 ZNA (32.13%) ZRP (3.42%) MASH (3.99%) War Vets (1.14%) Unknown (6.84%)



ZanuPF MDC Alliance
Intra Party Violations

Food and Other Aid

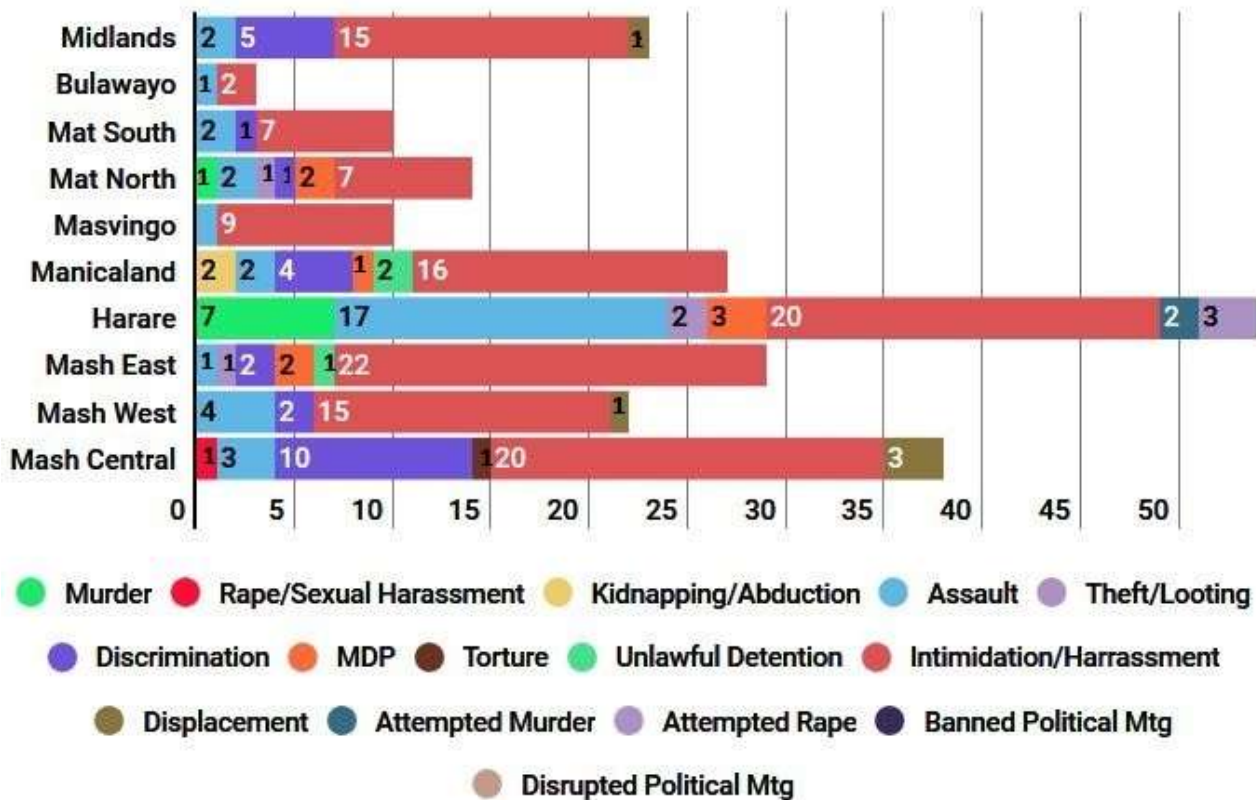


Harare (0%) Manicaland (11.76%) Mash Central (29.41%) Mash East (11.76%)
 Mash West (11.76%) Mat North (5.88%) Midlands (29.41%)





Dashboard of Violations by Province



Analytic interpretation

The state of civil military relations was laid bare as the military once again became an arbiter to political disputes in the guise of maintaining order. The arbitrary deployment of the military to deal with violence in the central business district of Harare buttressed the damage that Operation Restore Legacy did much to acclamation of a large number of Zimbabweans, in particular to the police services and incapacitated them from dealing with routine crowd control situations. The pitfalls of the winner takes all system once again came to the fore as victors immediately set out to punish opponents and their supporters by depriving them of economic opportunities and food aid. A proportional representation electoral system may be necessary for inclusivity to ensure less tension in the entire electoral process. The politics of the winner takes all has the victors hounding the losers and the losers find it difficult to accept defeat.

Unresolved issues of how the leaders in the main political parties ascended to power leave a bitter taste in the mouth and the subsequent leadership disputes have also been the source of reprisals as the winning factions sought to consolidate their grip on power by victimising those who opposed them. These contradictions also set the stage for bruising intra-party violence after President Mnangagwa hinted that





those who are behind 'bhora musango' a plot to decampaign him will be dealt with. He also hinted that those behind the Bulawayo bomb incident are now known and they would be dealt with. This could set the stage for violent confrontations.

In the opposition MDC Alliance a looming congress to elect new leadership may also be a source of conflict as two distinct camps represented by Nelson Chamisa and Douglas Mwonzora are said to be firming up. The issue of how the grouping of the MDC Alliance has come about is another issue which could be a source of serious contestation once the dust of the 2018 elections settles.

Reprisals against opposition supporters especially through illegal evictions and deprivation of food expose an inadequate legal framework to deal with post election conflict. Most of the mechanisms provided for by the law deal with the period immediately before elections and during elections but citizens are left to the 'wolves' in the post election period. The injury to a person with disability in Harare CBD after being shot by soldiers reveals that those who organise political protests and those who respond to them have no regard for the rights of people with disabilities. Elections although declared free fair and peaceful, many reports of intimidation and harassment continued to pour in. Impunity remains as traditional leaders continued to meddle in partisan politics without any meaningful action being taken against them.

Recommendations

- ✓ While the establishment of a Commission of Inquiry into post election violence is noted ZPP is concerned that with the growing number of PWD in the Central Business Districts and the injury of a deaf and dumb vendor the inclusion of a disability expert to this Commission would be in the best interest of all citizens so that issues of PWD can also be included in the recommendations.
- ✓ We recommend sensitisation of security forces to be mindful of the presence of persons with disabilities on the streets when implementing their crowd control measures.
- ✓ In post elections era the work of the Chapter 12 Commissions has been cut out the mandate of the National Peace and Reconciliation Commission in being the forerunner in post conflict healing, social cohesion and tolerance cannot be over emphasised; the Zimbabwe Human Rights Commission has to get its hands dirty by investigating all reports of human rights violations and assist in the building of confidence in state institutions such as the police and the Zimbabwe Electoral Commission needs a serious reflection of its role in the elections so as to take on board all recommendations from the varied observers.
- ✓ Political parties are urged to have processes that will contribute to healing their supporters when internal processes fail most of the violent conflict was witnessed in intra party violence when political parties struggled to finalise their lists to everyone's satisfaction.





- ✓ Zimbabweans are urged to see themselves as Zimbabweans first and supporters of political parties second in order to foster a culture of tolerance, and building consensus that will see Zimbabwe forging ahead.

Conclusion

The winner takes all approach to elections proved it is a source of conflict after opposition forces accused ZEC and the government of stealing the Presidential elections. Even after a constitutional court decision on the Presidential elections, the opposition parties have refused to accept the ruling vowing to escalate the matter to African platforms. The intimidation and harassment of losing political opponents supporters points towards poor mechanisms to protect citizens in the post election period.

*NB – The Zimbabwe Peace Project only disseminates verified reports.

