



ZIMBABWE  
PEACE  
PROJECT



# MONTHLY MONITORING REPORT



JANUARY 2019  
**HUMAN RIGHTS VIOLATIONS**



## Meltdown

### Introduction

As the sun set nonchalantly over 2018, the smouldering ruins of post-election violence might have physically been extinguished but the memories of the carnage were, at the very least, glowing embers of indignation in the minds of many a Zimbabwean.

We contend that this is the backdrop against which the current malaise should be contextualised.

Further, and based on the illustrated findings contained in this monthly monitoring report, it is our considered position that whereas many analyses from within and without the fraternity of civic society will instinctively point to the fuel price hike as the spark that set off the chain of violent events early this year, the powder keg of pent-up anger and frustration could have been set alight by anything.

By the same token, the incumbent political establishment would have responded in the same currency it used a fortnight ago. The indiscriminate character of state-sanctioned violence confirms the uncertainty that haunts the reigning administration. Ergo, the stage has always been set for a meltdown—it was no longer a question of when, not if. Something had to, and perhaps must still give in the future. The floodgates of pent-up emotions could only hold back the groundswell of anarchic rampage for so long.

In the illustrative tools below, we have, for ease of interpretation and utility for the reader, assigned nine categories of incidents that occurred or did not occur for each of the constitutive provinces of our Republic.

The data collected reported six hundred and eighty eight human rights violations, which have been incorporated into the Shutdown Atrocities Report of the Zimbabwe Human Rights NGO Forum (of which ZPP is member). The Atrocities Report has compiled violations from all of the Zimbabwe Human Rights NGO Forum members; the report is contained below:

<http://www.hrforumzim.org/wp-content/uploads/2019/02/Shutdown-Atrocities-Report-6-February-2019.pdf>.

55.6% of the perpetrators of violence were uninformed forces; the remaining 44.4% represents the looters and protestors who had gone on rampage. Other perpetrators documented include Zanu PF members 5.4%, municipal police 3.4%, CIO 2.2%, War veterans at 0.4% and MDC Alliance members 0.3%. The victims recorded present a different picture. 97.2% of the victims were of unknown affiliation, 1.8% were MDC Alliance members and 0.8% Zanu PF.

The highest violations were recorded for harassment and intimidation with three hundred and eighteen (318), followed by one hundred and forty five (145) assaults, eighty eight (88) for malicious damage to property, and fifty six (56) theft/looting. We recorded twelve (12) cases

## 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.





# MONTHLY MONITORING REPORT

January 2019  
HUMAN RIGHTS VIOLATIONS



of extrajudicial killings during the month. Most of the killings were a result of gunshot wounds and took place on Monday 14 January while others were a result of beatings or other forms of torture such as being thrown out of vehicles in motion.

Such was the case of a young man who succumbed to death following injuries inflicted on by soldiers who after beating him forced him to jump out of a moving vehicle. The twenty-two (22) year old man died a few days after this gruesome torture. The killings were recorded mainly in Harare (9 deaths), with one each in Bulawayo, Mashonaland East and Mashonaland West. Of great concern is also the 15 abduction violations recorded, and the unlawful detention of citizens. Harare province recorded the highest violations with 290, followed by Bulawayo with 124, Mashonaland West and Mashonaland East with 57 each.





# MONTHLY MONITORING REPORT

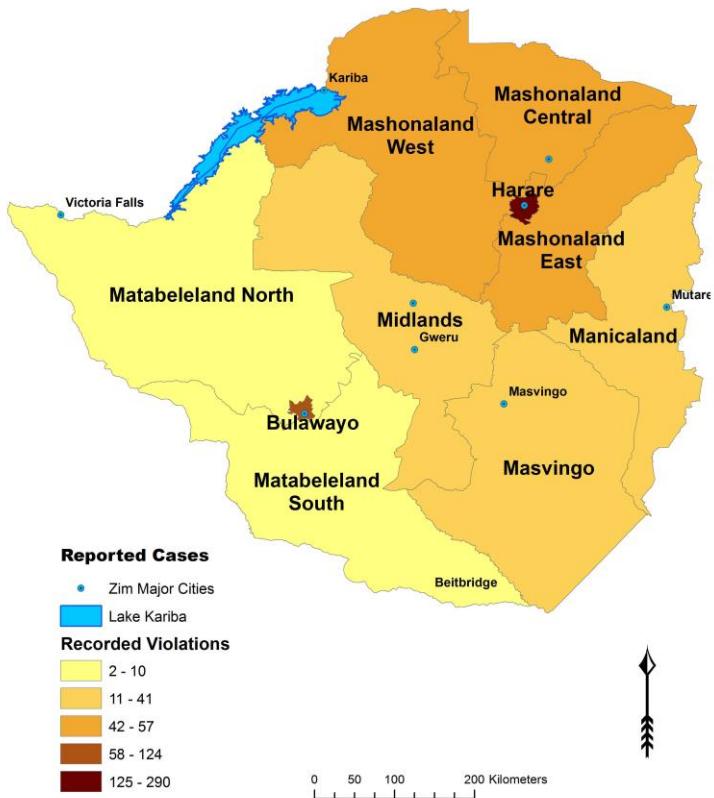
January 2019  
HUMAN RIGHTS VIOLATIONS



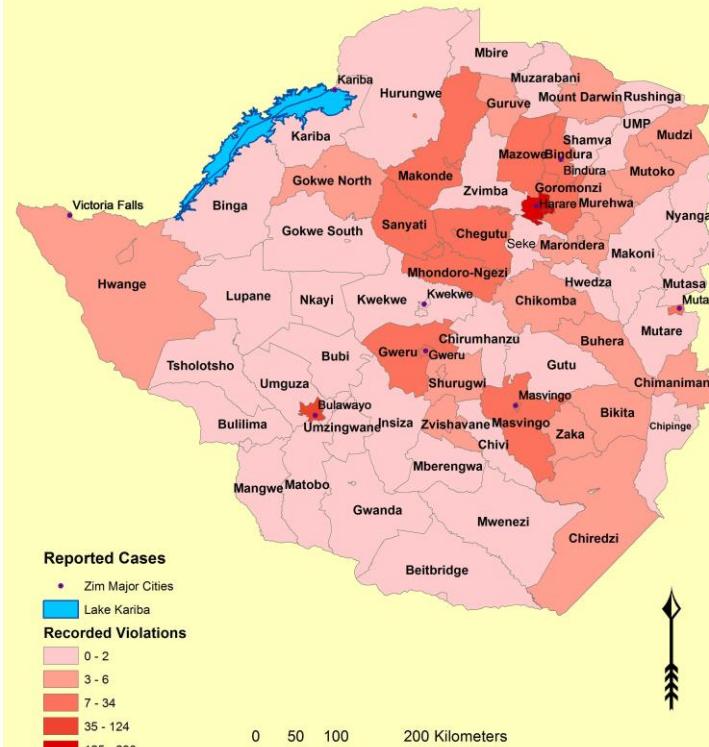
ZIMBABWE  
PEACE  
PROJECT

## January Dashboard of Statistics

**January 2019 Provincial Violations Map**



**January 2019 District Violations Map**



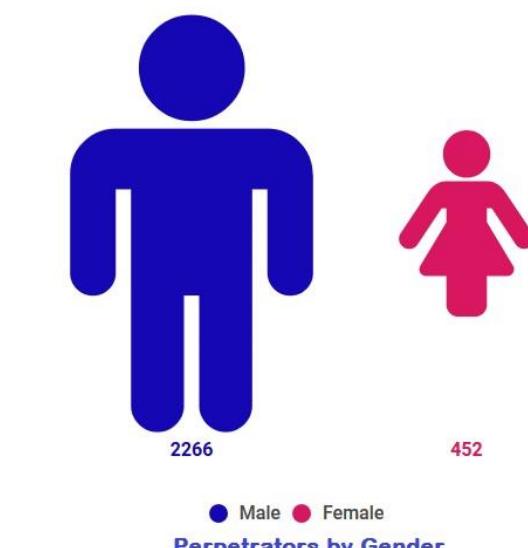
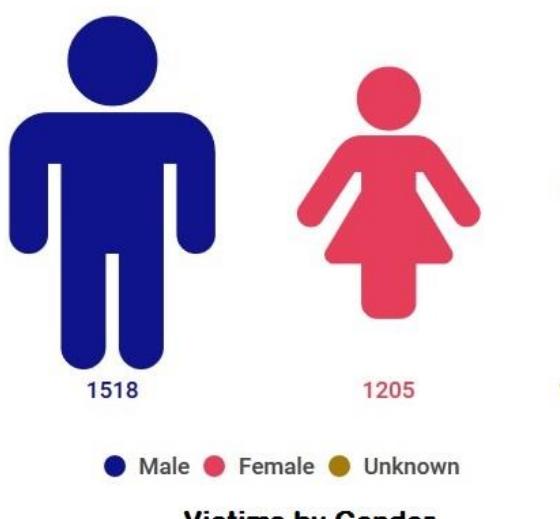


# MONTHLY MONITORING REPORT

January 2019  
HUMAN RIGHTS VIOLATIONS



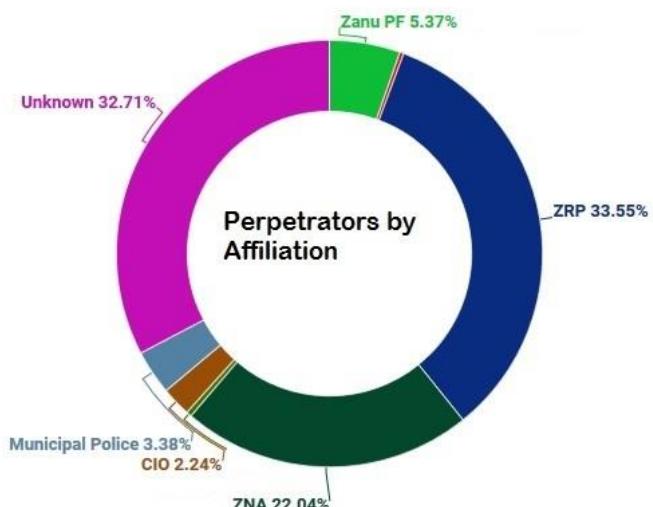
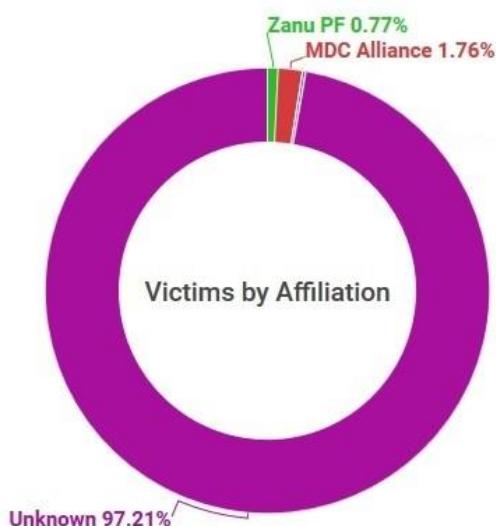
Map of January Violations





# MONTHLY MONITORING REPORT

January 2019  
HUMAN RIGHTS VIOLATIONS

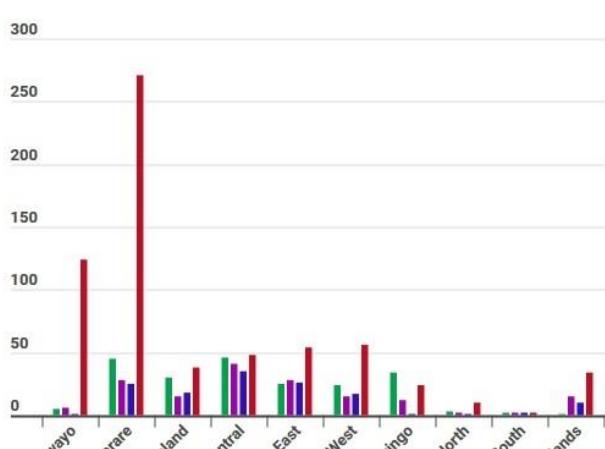


## Food and Other Aid Violations

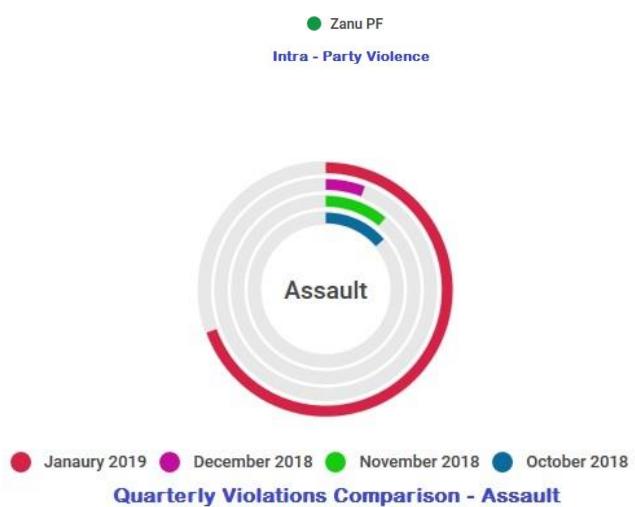


● Harare ● Manicaland ● Mash Central ● Mash East  
● Mash West ● Masvingo ● Midlands

2



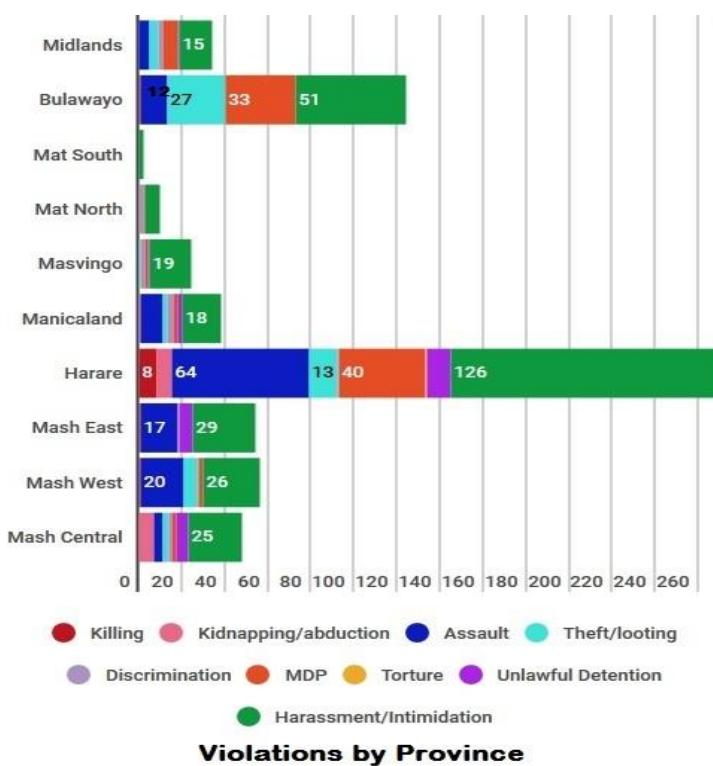
● Oct 2018 ● Nov 2018 ● Dec 2018 ● Jan 2019  
Provincial Quarterly Violations Review





# MONTHLY MONITORING REPORT

January 2019  
HUMAN RIGHTS VIOLATIONS





## Analysis

January was a test for the state given the underlying political and socio-economic setbacks that continue to threaten the livelihood of the citizens after the July 2018 Harmonised elections. Following a period of hope by the citizens in the new administration for economic transformation these hopes were shattered by the end of the year into 2019 civil servants threatened to strike together with doctors citing that their salaries and benefits were in variance with the realities of the hyper-inflationary economy. In Harare Amalgamated Rural Teachers Union (ARTUZ) took the lead to conduct peaceful demonstrations at Africa Unity Square and at Finance Minister Professor Mthuli Ncube's officers demanding teachers' salaries in US Dollars. The announcement of the price hike in fuel by President Mnangagwa only served as a trigger to catalyse the Zimbabwe Trade Unions (ZCTU) and social movement This Flag to call for a 3 day stay away. The foundation of the recent stay away and the amount of support it received from the citizens across Zimbabwe do not come as a surprise as this was laid in most of the human right violations which were noted since September 2018. The stay away turned violent as the state security response was heavy handed in its use of live ammunition and excessive force to disperse demonstrators. Unresolved and increasing economic issues drive people to desperation to be heard as such the call for a stay way occurred at a time when citizens were at wits end drowning in uncertainty and expanding insecurities.

The frustrations of citizens also played out in the looting of supermarkets, road barricading and burning of tyres cementing the notion that there exists some deep seated resentment towards the new administration. Deep seated anger, and vicious cycles of reprisals continue to tarnish the hopes of Zimbabweans who following the events of November 2017 which were full of promise of a positive shift in governance, rule of law and the socio-economics and civic liberties. The continued rise in the prices of basic commodities, shortage of essential goods, poor access to essential medical products and the subsequent pricing of commodities in the US dollar over the past few weeks have raised the levels of frustrations. Unprogressive roundtable dialogues have not yielded fruitful results further deepening the crisis, one case in example being the response of the government to the doctor's 40 day industrial action. Government acknowledges that there are challenges in the country but struggles to implement lasting measures to effectively contain the years of suffering endured by the citizens. The economic climate is too unstable to structure in place measures and options which will accommodate interests of all social groups. The austerity measures introduced in 2018 by the Minister of Finance such as the 2% tax is reported to be yielding positive results in terms of increased revenue for the national treasury but the ordinary taxpayer is yet to reap the benefits of these stringent measures which have so far continued to impoverish.

Matters are not helped by the progressive emasculation of institutions like the judiciary that would curb executive excess. Towards the end of January, legal practitioners conducted a peaceful march to make a submission to the Constitutional court demanding a return to the rule of law as they felt there was a miscarriage of justice in the fast tracked handling of cases of those accused of inciting violence and committing various crimes during the protests. Non-state actors like the press, non-governmental organisations, cultural and religious institutions have laboured under the yoke of regime-sanctioned repression in its many forms, ranging from intimidation, detentions, raids, closures, financial restrictions and in many cases, torture and extrajudicial killings. These excesses are conducted under the veneer of a legal framework designed to justify them notwithstanding the protections contained in the Bill of Rights of the Constitution of Zimbabwe. The response to the march of the legal practitioners by the Chief Justice Luke Malaba served to consolidate these views.





The absence of an independent and impartial judicial branch of government implies that there is little or no recourse available to everyday citizens for violations visited on the poor and vulnerable. Politically-motivated legislation that seeks to suppress civil and political rights entrenches the injustices that have been caused to everyday citizens by a dysfunctional judiciary. A bird's eye view of the global terrain for civic and political rights makes the case for increased advocacy and urgency in tackling the causes of constricted environments, poverty and the effects of inequality. Globally, there exists a general anti-government sentiment that should not be dismissed out of hand.

The months-old protests in Sudan, the fallout from Britain's interminable wrangling with the European Union, the aftershocks of the government shutdown in the United States, the Yellow Vests in France, to mention a few, underscore this point. Events that shocked the world such as the London Riots of 2011 and the response by stakeholders to the same offer us in Zimbabwe a leaf to borrow from to better examine and prescribe appropriate remedial measures.

Events of January 14 to date continue to dominate the Regional and International community who continue to encourage Zimbabwe's leadership to act quickly in the prevention of further loss of life, as at the end of January 2019 there were 12 confirmed deaths. The National Peace and Reconciliation Commission (NPRC) has recently called for a National Dialogue while the President has put together an Advisory Council as part of the measures of inclusivity to put to test his word that he indeed is a listening President " soft as wool". Key questions remain unanswered: what do the Commissions of Inquiry after violent epochs in Zimbabwe actually achieve? Should Motlanthe be packing his bags to come once again to address/investigate the violence question? Did we read the report, will the recommendations be implemented?

### **ZPP calls for the following:**

- An immediate stop to the use of excessive force by the security agents for crowd control. More humane and dignified mechanisms should be the standard as opposed to the use of live ammunition. Soldiers, whose mandate is clearly defined by the Constitution and other enabling Legislation, should be withdrawn from the public and returned to the barracks.
- The state and interest groups should immediately engage in dialogue with the trade Unions, business associations such as transport operators in order to expedite talks on ending the economic crisis and provide solutions to give relief to the suffering citizens.
- Civil liberties and rights as enshrined in the Constitution, including the rights to assembly, protest and association, should be respected.
- Draconian and highhanded actions such as the shutting down of internet services should be highly discouraged as it is an infringement of the right to information and adversely impacts commercial enterprises which increasingly rely on digital connectivity and other technologies to operate.



- Citizens should be implored to always exercise restraint and use peaceful means whenever they are protesting. They should also realise that their rights should not be enjoyed to the detriment of others.

The Zimbabwe Peace Project has been watching the crafting of the road to the National Dialogue by developing a National Dialogue diaries in an effort to bring back the voice of the ordinary citizens to the discourse about the Zimbabwe they envision in light of the tragic events of January 2019. ZPP is also concerned about the continued blame on Civic Society Organisations who are described as regime change agents by the government, for the violent protests as this tarnishes the role and efforts made by CSOs in supporting engagements towards building lasting peace in Zimbabwe. We have opened our social media pages and WhatsApp lines to invite voices and faces. Please share your views helping shape the Zimbabwe question and how it can be answered.

Find below the link for the Dialogue Diaries:

<https://www.zimpeaceproject.com/campaigns/>

Also find December MMR link for those that missed that edition due to connectivity issues on our end we apologise for the inconvenience:

<https://www.zimpeaceproject.com/monthly-monitoring-reports-2018/>

*If you are concerned about acts of violence in your community ZPP encourages you to get in touch on WhatsApp numbers: +263 774 883 406 and +263 774 883 417 and Toll free number 080 80199*

