



*Documenting a sustained  
assault on human rights...*

# HEIGHT OF INTOLERANCE

THE ZIMBABWE PEACE PROJECT  
**MONTHLY  
MONITORING  
REPORT**



ZIMBABWE  
PEACE  
PROJECT

**NOVEMBER 2020**



The late Joshua Nkomo

*When the rights of the individual – even of a few individuals – are suppressed, there can be not respect for the rights of the people as a whole.*

## 1.0 EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

In his book, *The Story of My Life*, first published in 1984, the late nationalist and Vice President of Zimbabwe, Joshua Mqabuko Nyongolo Nkomo, wrote,

“What matters is that the leadership should encourage diverse opinions to be heard – the opinions of different social groups, different economic interests, different social groups...But far too many leaders have come to believe that their own interests and those of the people are the same. They confuse self-preservation with national security, and to preserve their own regimes throw the safeguards of the law and of individuals’ rights out of the window. When the rights of the individual – even of a few individuals – are suppressed, there can be not respect for the rights of the people as a whole. The State begins to govern against its citizens, rather than with them...”

36 years after this was written, and more than 21 years after Nkomo’s death, the dream of a leadership that musters the collective energy of Zimbabweans towards development, is still to be realised.

What exists is, in the words of Nkomo, energy being “dissipated by government which seems to feel the need to exercise a partisan authority rather than to mobilise the national will.”

This is all evident in the human rights violations the Zimbabwe Peace Project (ZPP) recorded throughout the month of November, which confirm a growing pattern of government’s disregard of the socio-economic, and civil and political rights of ordinary citizens.





Women queue for water in Hopley Suburb, Harare

In November, there was a continuation of partisan distribution of agricultural inputs under the government's Pfumvudza input scheme, biased hand-out of food aid from the government's social welfare department as well as the open bias in court processes and the escalation of the stifling of alternative voices, in politics, media and civil society and other spaces.

In addition, ZPP, in November, documented a growing water crisis largely in urban centres, and increased vulnerability of people due to the economic challenges.

To buttress this are the statistics of human rights violations, where, out of the 226 incidents recorded, the Zimbabwe Republic Police (ZRP) contributed 30.65 percent of the perpetrators while Zanu PF accounted for 18.48 percent, followed by the municipal police at 8.7 percent and five percent by the Zimbabwe National Army (ZNA).

The affiliation of 34.75 percent of the perpetrators remained unknown, raising fears over the non-existence of a sense of personal security in the country, where the ordinary people are vulnerable, with no

effective protection from human rights violations.

The two factions, which are in a State-aided, bitter fight over the control of the biggest opposition political party, the MDC, contributed a combined 2.17 percent of the violations whereas the war veterans contributed 0.43 percent of perpetrators recorded.

It must be noted that entities linked to the State and the ruling party, which are, the ZRP, Zanu PF, ZNA, war veterans, and municipal police, contributed a combined 63.26 percent of perpetrators of human rights violations recorded in November.

Topping the list of incidents were 118 cases of intimidation and harassment attributed largely to the police and the army, followed by 45 cases of discrimination during aid distribution and 21 cases of assault and eight cases of unlawful detention.

In November, ZPP recorded two cases of killings, one in Harare and the other in Mazowe, where miners were buried alive as shall be detailed in the case files in this report.



This image by Pindula's Ruvimbo Muchenje, captured in Harare, shows passengers enduring the rain as they travel home in an open truck at day end. Access to affordable, reliable and safe transport has remained a challenge for many Zimbabweans since government banned private public transport and allowed the inadequate and often unsafe Zupco registered buses

*Let me reiterate that I will not hesitate to deal with any corrupt or irresponsible behaviour in the distribution of inputs,"* **Vice President Constantino Chiwenga**

In the past six months, Harare recorded the highest number of human rights violations and this was due to the tight lockdown enforcement by State security agents, who took advantage of their heavy street presence to stifle human rights and clamp down on dissent to protect the government.

But this November, the statistics shifted and there were more violations in other provinces, mostly the ruling party strongholds and this was due to the intensification of the distribution of inputs under the Pfumvudza input scheme, and once again, the handouts were issued in a partisan manner.

Topping the list of human rights violations is Masvingo, with 43 cases, followed by Mashonaland West at 36 and Mashonaland Central at 34.

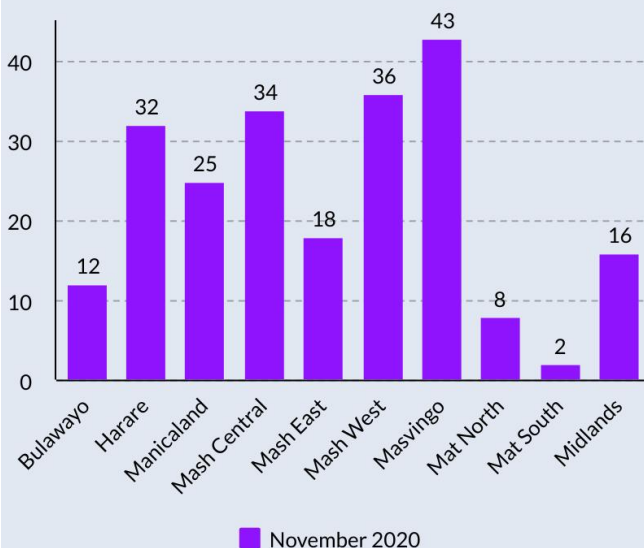
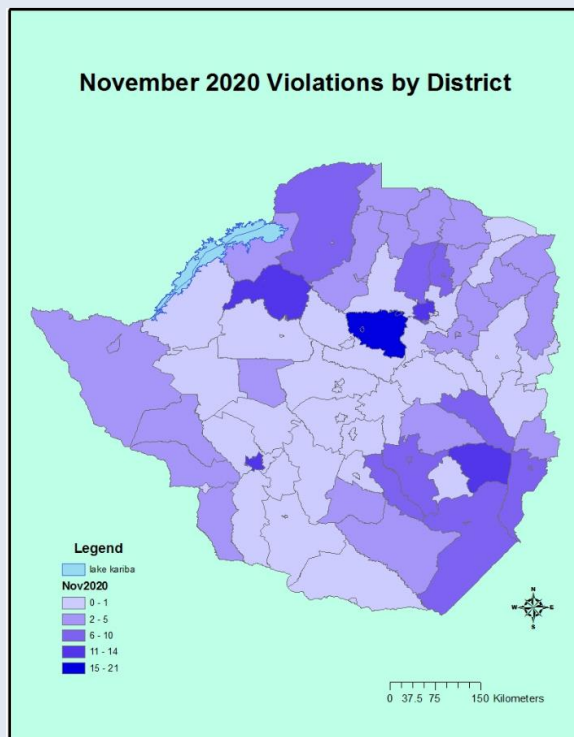
Elsewhere, the Finance Minister, Mthuli Ncube presented the 2021 National Budget, which proposed more taxation on the already hard-pressed Zimbabweans.

In light of these trends, the month of November 2020 – the third year of President Mnangagwa's leadership, - marked yet another low moment for Zimbabwe's human rights record, and as has been in the past months, the ordinary people have been on their own.

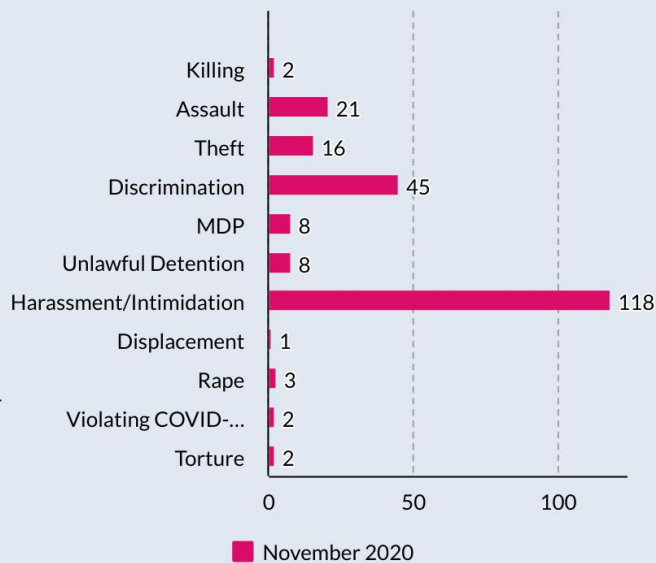
# Human Rights Violations Monthly Dashboard

Zimbabwe Peace Project

Report time frame: November, 2020

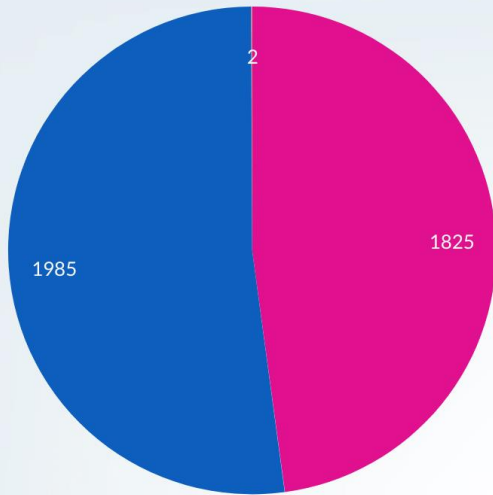


November Provincial Violations



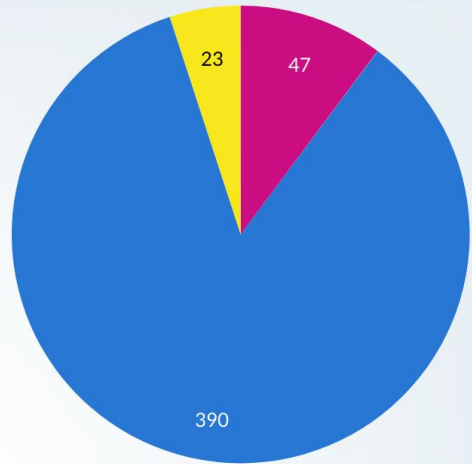
Types of Violations - November





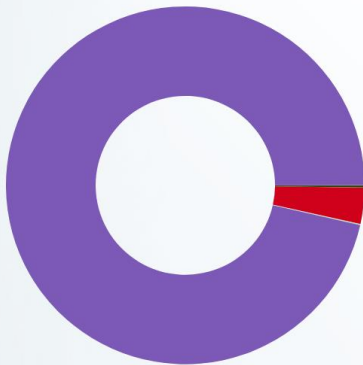
Female (47.88%) Male (52.07%) Female PWD (0.05%)

Gender of November Victims



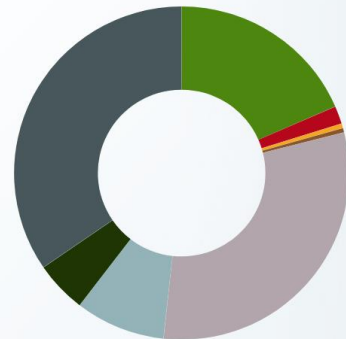
Female (10.22%) Male (84.78%) Unknown (5%)

Gender of November Perpetrators



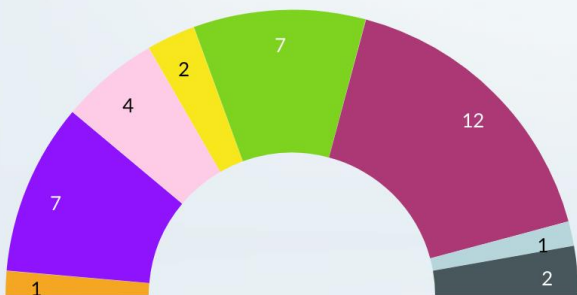
Zanu PF (0.21%) MDC Alliance (3.28%)  
MDC-T Khupe (0.03%) ZRP (0.05%)  
Unknown (96.43%)

November Victims Affiliation



Zanu PF (18.48%) MDC Alliance (1.74%)  
MDC-T Khupe (0.43%) War Vets (0.43%)  
ZRP (30.65%) Municipal Police (8.7%) ZNA (5%)  
Unknown (34.57%)

November Perpetrators Affiliation



Harare (2.78%) Manicaland (19.44%)  
Mash Central (11.11%) Mash East (5.56%)  
Mash West (19.44%) Masvingo (33.33%)  
Mat North (2.78%) Midlands (5.56%)

November Food & Other Aid Violations



1 MDC-A 2 Zanu PF  
November Intra Party Violence

## 2.0 OVERALL ANALYSIS

***COVID-19  
pandemic has  
gone beyond  
being just a  
health issue;  
not just in this  
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African region  
and the entire  
continent.***

### THE HEIGHT OF THE SEASON OF INTOLERANCE

The year 2020 has been difficult for many Zimbabweans, and the COVID-19 pandemic has gone beyond being just a health issue; not just in this country, but in the Southern African region and the entire continent.

The disaster has stirred, or rather become a source of a socio-economic and political crisis and the measures instituted to contain it have exposed and worsened human rights violations such as abusive law enforcement practices, unlawful detentions, arbitrary arrests, abductions and killings targeting human rights defenders.

This level of intolerance for dissent reached its peak in November, when on the 5th, Zanu PF Acting Spokesperson, Patrick Chinamasa, addressed a press conference, and threatened civil society organisations (CSOs), calling them American and British "surrogates and psychopants," and that Zanu PF would use its Parliamentary majority to crush them, adding that they should "go hang."

The statements were not a surprise as they are part of a growing disdain for civil society by the ruling party and government, characterized by open and subtle threats increasingly shrinking civic space.

Chinamasa's statements come on the back of recent pronouncement by President Emmerson Mnangagwa, where he was quoted in a newspaper, hinting that his government would soon craft a law to whip 'errant' CSOs into line.



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*"The conduct of some NGOs and PVOs who operate outside their mandates and out of sync with the government's humanitarian priority programmes, remains a cause for concern," the President was quoted in NewsDay of October 23, 2020*

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In what appears a systematic attempt to tighten control on non-governmental organisations, President Mnangagwa said Parliament, where the ruling Zanu PF has a majority, would consider a "Private Voluntary Organisations" Amendment Bill to revamp the administration of NGOs and PVOs and correct the current anomalies."

The statements come in wake of sustained harassment, abductions, arbitrary arrests, and persecution by prosecution of civil society actors, especially those involved in human rights work.

For merely asking government to do the right thing and respect the constitution and improve the lives of citizens, and for calling for an end to high-level corruption, citizens and civil society actors have faced a backlash from government.

It must be noted that non-governmental organisations, which operate independently have a key role in any democracy in holding government to account, and in complementing the work of government in all sectors.

Countrywide, CSOs have impacted the population directly and indirectly through sustainable solutions in various sectors such as finance, education, and healthcare; efforts that have helped improve the quality of life of citizens.

Civil society work includes, but is not limited to, environmental protection, social justice, advocacy and human rights protection, the promotion of social and political cohesion and the development of society, improvement in communities, and promotion of citizen participation.

This role is very critical and as such, it is disheartening that with all this vast contribution, government and the ruling party falsely see the work of civil society organisations as a threat to power.



As stated earlier in this report, Masvingo, Mashonaland Central and Mashonaland West provinces had the highest number of recorded cases of human rights violations attributed to the partisan distribution of inputs under the government's Pfumvudza scheme.

Across the country, as recorded by ZPP, villagers, for the second month in a row, spoke of a deliberate and systematic process of sidelining perceived or real supporters of opposition political parties from benefitting from a government scheme that is supposed to benefit everyone regardless of their political affiliation.

In direct contravention of the Constitution, Zanu PF and government officials and local leaders charged with the distribution of inputs conducted themselves in an openly partisan manner.

According to the Constitution, "Zimbabwe is founded on respect for the following values and principles... recognition of the equality of all human beings."

Unfortunately, this has not been the case as those responsible for the Pfumvudza input scheme have shown little regard for the respect of this fundamental value especially considering that government is charged with the responsibility to ensure that everyone enjoys their right to equal treatment.

The conflation of the ruling party and the State compounded by impunity, which has been in existence since the Mugabe era, has continued to hound President Mnangagwa's tenure, with ruling party officials and activists hijacking government programmes without facing any consequence.

For example, in Marondera West, about 80 villagers who had gathered at Manyaira Shopping Centre in Ward 10 to receive Pfumvudza inputs in the presence of a Grain Marketing Board Officer, and the District Development Coordinator, were shocked when a Zanu PF Ward Councillor, Nelson Mukwenha, took over the process and denied those suspected to support the opposition.

# PFUMVUDZA: WIDESPREAD DISCRIMINATION

We also urge government to publish statistics of beneficiaries and resources allocated to each ward for public audit purposes.

The incidents were not limited to Pfumvudza inputs as in Hurungwe, at Mashuma Chirasasa village, a Zanu PF Ward Secretary, Livingstone Nzombe diverted the social welfare maize grain and sorghum meant for the elderly and persons with disabilities and distributed it to undeserving people.

Villagers who were brave enough to confront Nzombe received threats and a vegetable garden belonging to one of the disgruntled villagers was torched in unclear circumstances.

To show how widespread and systematic this discrimination is, it follows the same pattern across the country and the perpetrators are found at all levels of leadership in the ruling party and government.

For example, on 1 November, in Gutu North, at Zvavahera Business Centre, legislator Yeukai Simbanegavi allegedly asked those gathered to receive the Pfumvudza farming packs to produce their Zanu PF regalia as a condition to get the aid.

## WE RECOMMEND:

The Constitution of Zimbabwe guarantees civil and political liberties to all, and as such, anyone is free to affiliate themselves to any political party. Government, on the other hand, is charged with the responsibility to provide for all, regardless of which political party or religious group they belong to.

We therefore urge government to address the discrimination happening during the distribution of Pfumvudza inputs immediately as it has a bearing on food security.

In the interests of transparency and accountability, we also urge government to publish statistics of beneficiaries and resources allocated to each ward for public audit purposes.



## TAPS HAVE RUN DRY

Access to clean, potable and safe water as provided for in Section 77 of the Constitution, has remained elusive as major urban centres have had to go for weeks without running water.

This has been attributed to the failure by local authorities to acquire the water treatment chemicals and the drying up of water sources.

While the crisis peaked in October, and was expected to recede in November as the first rains came, ZPP records show that the situation remained dire, especially in heavily populated areas like Bulawayo, Chitungwiza, Harare, and Norton.

Smaller towns like Mutoko and Kariba, which sits on the shores of Zimbabwe's largest lake, were not spared, going for weeks without running water.

In Norton residents from Katanga and Maridale stated that they had gone for close to three months without a drop of water coming out of their taps.

In Bulawayo and surrounding areas, residents are spending long hours in queues in search of water at public water points and this has affected their other activities.

In two unfortunate incidents in Nkulumane and Nketha constituencies, Zanu PF activists reportedly took over boreholes and are demanding up to ZWL50 per month from residents who use the water points.

Overall, the situation has greatly affected women, who, because of the gender roles assigned to them by our patriarchal society, have to find water.

After waiting to get water for up to five hours a day, women find themselves unable to do any other economic activity and limits their empowerment.

## ZPP RECOMMENDS

Section 77 of the Constitution of Zimbabwe guarantees the right to clean, potable and safe water. Government should therefore avail resources for water cleaning chemicals and should embark on a drive to increase the number of public water points.

Government should also implement an early prevention programme to deal with the looming typhoid and cholera disaster as we enter the rain season.

# PRESIDENT MNANGAGWA THREE YEARS ON

President Mnangagwa, three years on! November 2020 marks three years after President Emmerson Mnangagwa was sworn in as president, taking over from the late long-time ruler Robert Mugabe following a military coup.

At his swearing in ceremony on 24 November 2017, President Mnangagwa who enjoyed widespread goodwill had a list of promises and pledges to open up democratic space and to fix the country's long standing economic woes.

Three years later, we reflect, and we make the following recommendations, based on the current situation the country is in

- Government should institute investigations of all serious human rights abuses over the last three years and ensure that citizens get justice. State security agents who have acted outside their mandate should be brought to book without fear or favour.

- All interventions should be done in line with national law and international standards. The government should also take urgent steps to reform the state

security sector as spelt out in the recommendations of the Motlanthe Commission, and as promised by President Mnangagwa in 2017. All those responsible for human rights abuses should be held to account. That way, it creates a culture of accountability and responsibility within the state security sector.

- Zimbabwe's constitution provides a basis for the enjoyment of all people's and human rights and government should embrace a culture of Constitutionalism and ensure that all citizens get the benefit of all the socio-economic rights due to them.

- The economy has become one of the major human rights issues and government should take the right steps to ensure that the labour force enjoys a living wage and the informal sector gets the necessary support and that those in need of social protection get the due protection.

[Read the full statement on Mnangagwa's three years in power here](#)



ZPP is introducing a monthly Accountability Tracker as part of the Monthly Monitoring Report. The Accountability tracker will analyse and assess government's commitment towards dealing with COVID-19 and its effects. This is because COVID-19 has gone beyond being just a health issue as it has affected the socio-economic and political situation in the country and beyond.

## CASES OF PARTISAN AID DISTRIBUTION FROM AUGUST TO NOVEMBER



### PFUMVUDZA & OTHER AID

For the third month in a row, since government began the distribution of inputs under the agricultural scheme, Pfumvudza, ZPP has recorded cases of discrimination of those perceived to be supporters of opposition political parties. In August, ZPP recorded 12 cases of aid discrimination, but the number shot to 32 in September, 38 in October and peaked 45 this November. In all these cases reported, ZPP has all the necessary information, including the victims, perpetrators and the exact locations of the violations. According to government, 1.6 million households are set to benefit from the scheme. However, from the way the distribution of inputs has been implemented, as observed by ZPP through its countrywide monitoring mechanism, Masvingo, Mashonaland West and Mashonaland Central have recorded the highest forms of partisan distribution of the inputs, with ruling party officials, and elected and traditional local leaders influencing the process; making it partisan.

Upon its inception, Lands, Agriculture, Water and Rural Resettlement permanent secretary, Dr John Basera said Pfumvudza was one of the concepts under the Agriculture Recovery Plan, which was being spearheaded by Government to reverse the current trends in food production.

It is therefore of great concern that a government programme, which is supposed to benefit everyone, is being politicized in a manner that will leave some families vulnerable.

# COVID-19 ACCOUNTABILITY TRACKER

## SOCIAL GRANTS

In April, government pledged to pay ZWL180 (about US\$5.00 at prevailing exchange rate at the time) a month to one million households left vulnerable by COVID-19 restrictions on business operations.

Later that month, Finance Minister, Mthuli Ncube claimed he had used a "sophisticated algorithm" to choose beneficiaries of the funds.

ZPP conducted a survey countrywide and confirmed that in some communities in Mashonaland Central and West, Midlands and Matabeleland South and North provinces, people had randomly received the money via their mobile money wallets. The distribution was not systematic, and even though the amounts were far from being adequate to provide the needed social cover, they were disbursed in such a random manner that they did not serve the purpose as many were left out.

On 26 July 2020, government, for the second time, announced plans to pay ZW\$ 300 a month to a million households left vulnerable by COVID-19.

Whilst the amounts were as little as USD3.00, the model of distribution of the grants was this time, never publicized, and the number of beneficiaries remains unknown, and government has not acquitted itself on this issue. There has been no feedback from government on how they utilized the funds and donations received from other countries and development partners.

Again, ZPP conducted surveys using its national network of community based human rights monitors in all constituencies and some districts, and discovered that just as in the first disbursements, some people confirmed receiving money while others did not.

ZPP continues to seek answers from government on how they distributed the funds, and how they utilized the COVID-19 donations that were pledged by various local, regional and international development partners and were due to be distributed via government.

Transparency is a hallmark of democracy and good governance and government is still to exhibit such.





## **EDUCATION & SCHOOLS OPENING**

Since schools reopened in October, government has failed to provide adequate COVID-19 PPE in schools, and has not effected a strict monitoring process to assess if there is adherence to protocols in schools. While has appealed to schools to approach the education ministry about provision of PPE a large number of learners risk contracting the virus as they are going to school without masks. Almost 300 students have tested positive for COVID-19 since the resumption of classes and COVID-19 cases have taken a sharp rise since then.

For schools that require COVID-19 test certificates, there is no standard, and government should utilize its countrywide health institutions as centres for testing so that there is a standard certificate that can be used.

In addition to that, the standoff between teachers and government has made the situation worse. Schools have not operated at full capacity since October.

ZPP urges government to prioritise the education sector and avail resources to ensure that learners attend lessons in a safe environment.

## **REOPENING OF BORDERS**

Starting December, Zimbabwe opened land borders to the public. ZPP continues to receive reports that there is confusion over clearance letters at the ports of entry. This is because while travelers are required to get tested for COVID-19 before travelling, there is no standard clearance letter such that some are using fake letters, adding more risk of heightened infections.

On 4 December, it was reported that about 300 Zimbabweans were left stranded at the borders of South Africa and Botswana, after officials blocked entry points, citing that the people did not have credible COVID-19 test certificates.

It costs US\$60.00 to get a COVID-19 test in Zimbabwe, an amount that is out of reach for the many Zimbabweans who use land borders for their small scale buying and selling businesses. As a result, many are resorting to backyard methods, and only this weekend police arrested two people and confiscated more than 300 blank stamped COVID-19 certificates, raising fears this phenomenon could result in increased infections.

ZPP calls on government to make the testing affordable by subsidizing institutions and they should also regularize and standardize the testing so that the ports of entry do not become the sources of new infections.

ZPP further urges government to strengthen its COVID-19 Experts Advisory Committee so that experts have more leverage to make evidence based and technically correct decisions. This will help eliminate the politicization of the management of COVID-19.



## **HEALTHCARE SYSTEM**

In the 2021 budget, the Finance minister allocated 13 percent, up from the 10 percent allocated in 2020. While this is commendable and close to meeting the minimum expectations in budget allocation as stated in the Abuja Declaration of 2001, there are genuine concerns that with the state of Zimbabwe's social services sectors, that is chiefly, health and education, more should have been allocated. This is because Zimbabwe's health sector needs major overhaul as the infrastructure is dilapidated from years of neglect. In addition, government still relies heavily on donor funding for most of the health services. Getting sick in Zimbabwe has become hazardous. Prices of lifesaving drugs are exorbitant and unaffordable to the ordinary citizens.

The rot in the health sector has impacted heavily on maternal health as expecting mothers are being turned away from public hospitals and clinics, and some are being forced to pay bribes in order to be attended to. Private hospitals are charging up to US\$600 for deliveries and this is hardly affordable for many.

A countrywide survey conducted by ZPP established that healthcare workers are demanding between US\$5.00 and US\$30.00 to attend to women in labour. In addition, expecting mothers use their resources to purchase the required equipment, including syringes, cotton wool, gloves, and spirit among other items.



## **WATER & SANITATION & PRISON CONDITIONS**

In a very positive ruling, the High Court of Zimbabwe ordered that inmates of Chikurubi Maximum prison must get a daily supply of 60 liters of water per inmate. The order was granted to ensure the measures are enforced, as per an urgent chamber application was filed by serving prisoner Taurai Dodzo and Zimbabwe Human Rights NGO Forum concerned about water shortages and a diarrhea outbreak in the prison.

ZPP will continue to monitor the implementation of this court order as water, apart from it being an essential requirement, is even more critical in these times of COVID-19.

This positive ruling can only bring sanity to the prison system if it is complemented by an improvement in the conditions of Zimbabwean prisons.

Journalist Hopewell Chin'ono, who spent a lengthy time detained at Chikurubi spoke about overcrowding at Zimbabwe's largest prison, said he was with 41 other detainees in a cell meant for 16 people.

"When you get out in the morning, food is served in the courtyard which has raw sewage flowing," he said.

With such a scenario, which was corroborated by other activists who have been to Chikurubi, and based on ZPP findings on the state of prisons countrywide, it is likely that prisons are potential hotbeds of outbreaks of diseases like cholera and typhoid.

Government needs to act to improve the conditions in prison to avoid the 2008 disaster when there was a cholera outbreak and international development agencies had to intervene to save the situation



**#THEVODCAST is a series of community voices audio/visual broadcasts that are flighted on ZPP social media platforms. Through #THEVODCAST, ZPP goes far & wide and #PEOPLESPEAK out on key human rights issues in Zimbabwe**

## BAD POLICING LEADS TO DEATH

### ? What really happened?

On 26 November, police officers pursuing a commuter omnibus that was illegally picking up passengers along Simon Mazorodze Road, a busy dual way about three kilometres from the Harare city centre were accused of causing an accident that resulted in the death of a woman.

Police officers, who use unconventional ways like smashing windows of moving vehicles, were in pursuit of a commuter omnibus – one of the many operating illegally as government has not opened up to private public transporters – and the bus ran over a woman.

She died on the spot.

Angry crowds unfortunately instituted mob justice and beat up and tore apart the uniforms of one of the police officers behind the chase.

Very unfortunate was the entire incident as it ended up in a death that could have been avoided.

This incident proves the urgent need for security sector reform.

The police need to understand how to enforce the law without causing deaths or more harm to the very societies they are supposed to protect.



### The Police's response

The Zimbabwe Republic Police regrets the loss of life in a road traffic accident which occurred along Simon Mazorodze Road near Total Service Station on 26th November 2020. The incident is unfortunate.

The Police implore kombi operators and drivers to comply with the country's laws in order to safeguard lives.

The Zimbabwe Republic Police is equally concerned about the rowdy commuter omnibus drivers' conduct who have become militant and dangerous to other road users and police officers enforcing laws of the land. Some of them have even removed number plates to avoid detection.

Upon seeing police officers coming to arrest them they speed off and in the process endanger the lives of pedestrians and other motorists.

The public is implored not to board kombis or other vehicles not displaying number plates as they risk being killed or injured as the unruly drivers will be running away or speeding off to evade arrest.

On the other hand, police officers enforcing traffic laws and COVID -19 regulations are urged to conduct themselves according to the laws of the land and avoid acting in a manner which endangers lives.

Members of the public are urged to report any acts by police officers which are contrary to their constitutional obligations.

The following numbers are operational 24 hours; Harare Operations 0242 748836, National Complaints Desk 0242 703631 or Bulawayo Operations 029 885479. The Zimbabwe Republic Police is conducting investigations into this sad incident.

[NYATHI P] Assistant Commissioner

# 12 YEARS AFTER DEC 3, 2008 MY RANDOM THOUGHTS



"It is clear from the facts that at the time the State security agents kidnapped the applicant from home and later detained her at the secret place, they did not have reasonable suspicion of her having committed the criminal offence she was later charged with. They then used torture, inhuman and degrading treatment during interrogation to extract from her information or evidence on which they expected that the public prosecutor would act as a basis of a reasonable suspicion of her having committed the criminal offence with which she was then charged." This is according to the judgement handed down by the Constitutional court and ordered a permanent stay of criminal prosecution. (September 2009 although the full judgement was only available in 2012)

Twelve years later today, I still wonder why I was abducted. My mother did foresee something terrible happening, after she saw a two headed snake while working in the fields a day before. I thought she was being unnecessarily superstitious, but mothers will always feel the pain of their children before it even sets in. In less than 10 hours after her phone call, I had been force-marched out of the house, bare foot, without my glasses and in my night clothes. For 21 days I was held incommunicado, and subjected to physical and psychological torture.

They extracted a confession. It is a fact that I was not abducted, tortured and detained as a class D prisoner for a further 68 days at Chikurubi maximum security prison because a disgruntled police officer had approached the Zimbabwe Peace Project. It is also an undeniable fact that there were no young people recruited and none were ever sent to Botswana for training; I was accused of having "recruited or attempted to recruit or assisted in the recruitment of Ricardo Hwasheni to undergo military training in Botswana in order to commit any act of insurgency, banditry, sabotage or terrorism in Zimbabwe" sometime between June and July 2008. Only one frustrated police officer is said to have been recruited and the same police officer was also abducted at a traffic light in Harare and was a protected state witness.

On one of my trips to Botswana years later I met a Botswana official who together with others was seized with investigating the issue of the training of young people in that country as alleged by Zimbabwe. Initially, the Botswana delegation was supposed to be joined by representatives from Zimbabwe who at the last moment pulled out of the fact-finding mission...they knew they had lied.

The fact that the then Minister of State security Didymus Mutasa signed a certificate protecting the abductors who perpetrated torture implies their identities are known but still none of them have accounted for their actions despite the constitutional court having ruled, "The Court unanimously concludes that the State through its agents violated the applicant's constitutional rights protected under ss 13(1), 15(1) and 18(1) of the Constitution of Zimbabwe to the extent entitling the applicant to a permanent stay of criminal prosecution associated with the above violations." The Minister argued that the perpetrators were on official duty. The fact that perpetrators are rewarded and not made to account insinuates they can continue to violate the rights of citizens. are rewarded and not made to account insinuates they can continue to violate the rights of citizens.

# MY RANDOM THOUGHTS



The perpetrators who came for me at dawn on December 3, 2008 included police officers. My son identified one of the perpetrators who was later identified as a police officer in court. These are the same police officers who professed ignorance of what had happened to me when a report was made. They even placed an advert for missing persons including my fellow colleagues at ZPP also victims of abduction and torture (Broderick Takawira and Pascal Gonzo) in a local newspaper. The secret house in Braeside where I was held for 21 days is in close proximity of a police camp. When on December 22, 2008 I was handed to the police the drive from the secret house to Braeside police station was brief. I was supposed to be detained there although I was not supposed to be recorded in the detention book as having been detained there. The police officers were under strict instructions not to allow anyone be it family or lawyers to have access to me. The police knew about this assignment which involved other security agents. They knew the people who brought me in but they decided to remain tight lipped. They detained me knowing fully well my family was anxious to know my whereabouts.

Years after this ordeal, a settlement of RTGS 150 000 was consented to. The award was devalued by a Statutory Instrument that put 1 USD equivalent to 1 RTGS. I did say no amount of money would heal the wounds inflicted by the harrowing experience but was a good precedent. The dreadful experience snatched me away from my son and the rest of the family many of whom thought I had been killed. Unfortunately, December 3 comes every year and as the years go by I have unanswered questions and I am not sure who will answer them and when. What had I done to deserve such inhuman, and degrading punishment?

For months I was paraded at the courts in hand cuffs and leg irons and the red caravan vehicle that ferried us (many other people had been abducted including a two year old boy and a 72 year old former police officer) always had to be escorted by officers from Support Unit. I am reminded today of how my life was transformed. I endured beatings on the soles of my feet, kneeling on gravel for hours during interrogation, threats of 'extinction' and numerous random drives around Harare in blindfold. After spending days on end only allowed to sit on the floor, when I landed on a chair in blindfold I thought it was a guillotine.

The judgment of the Constitutional court maintained, "No evidence was placed before the Court by the respondent to show that the decisions by the public prosecutor were based on independent evidence of the crime which was lawfully obtained."

## CONCLUSIONS & RECOMMENDATIONS

Throughout the year, ZPP has recorded cases of partisan aid distribution, human rights violations perpetrated by state security agents, the assault on the judiciary, among other things.

These have not been resolved, and worse still, government has not shown interest or will-power to address them.

Instead, government and the ruling party have, as stated in this report, openly declared their contempt for pro-democracy and human rights actors.

The declarations, which include Chinamasa and President Mnangagwa's threats on civil society and pro-democracy actors, have been substantiated by the sustained incidents of human rights violations targeting human rights defenders, journalists, opposition political activists and any others who do not agree with government positions on any matter

Based on the above, and considering that the pattern of human rights violations continues unabated, ZPP concludes that Zimbabwe is in urgent need of collaborative efforts by all pro-democracy and human rights actors to lobby and advocate, locally, regionally and internationally, for the return to constitutionalism. The situation obtaining cannot continue in the current mode, hence there is need for government to reflect and rule, not for those in positions, but in the interests of the broader majority as espoused in Nkomo's book.

This cannot go on!



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