



**GREEN EDITION**

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# Erased!

3 Million  
Voices

**Just like that!**

**Documenting the story of three million voices that voted for the Constitution in 2013 and had that disregarded, just like that**

**THE ZIMBABWE  
PEACE PROJECT  
MONTHLY  
MONITORING  
REPORT**

**APRIL  
2021**



**ZIMBABWE  
PEACE  
PROJECT**

## 1.0 EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

**“In April, ZPP recorded three incidents of disruption of political events, 88 cases of harassment and intimidation, 23 cases of discrimination during aid distribution, many of which point to an increase in tensions within communities.**

It appears the silly season is upon us!

Judging by the incidents of human rights violations recorded in April countrywide, the ruling Zanu PF party, which has always used brute methods to garner support ahead of elections, appears to have gone a gear up in laying the bed for the 2023 elections.

Just as in the past, the strategy has always been to shut down political space for opposition parties elbowing them out of what is supposed to be their business, way ahead of election time, such that when the official campaign period kicks off, communities would have already been whipped into silence and fear.

Using its well-oiled internal structures and the ever-complicit state security apparatus and traditional leaders, Zanu PF has in the past employed tactics such as intimidation, harassment, threats, disruption of events, discrimination during food aid processes and assault, among other methods.

In light of this, Zimbabwe Peace Project (ZPP) in April recorded three incidents of disruption of political events, 88 cases of harassment and intimidation, 23 cases of discrimination during aid distribution, many of which point to an increase in tensions within communities.

Judging by the pattern of the events, they are not coincidences, but a clearly systematic drive towards the 2023 elections.

For example, in Harare, Mabelreign police disrupted an MDC-Alliance Harare West Constituency Coordinating Committee meeting on 4 April and arrested and briefly detained former Ward 16 Councillor Denford Ngadzire.

Two weeks later, on 24 April, police, without proffering any reason, disrupted another MDC Alliance provincial meeting in Epworth.

Zanu PF and the MDC-T - an offshoot of the MDC Alliance which has given official support to Zanu PF and government - have continued to conduct their meetings with no disruptions except in cases where citizens spurn invitations to attend MDC-T meetings.

On 24 April the police disrupted a clean-up campaign led by the 31 July Movement convener and leader of Transform Zimbabwe, Jacob Ngarivhume in Mbare.

In Chiwundura Constituency, at Muchakata, Vhuka Uzizenzele and Maodza Business Centres, the revival of terror bases by Zanu PF is said to have commenced.

In separate groups Zanu PF youths, acting on the command of their provincial leadership, allegedly patrol the three centres and the entire community checking if there are any individuals engaging in opposition politics.

On 16 April, a village head in Murehwa North convened a meeting in Ward 9 and reportedly said that MDC Alliance supporters had no place in his village and that they would not benefit from any government social welfare assistance until they openly denounced the MDC Alliance.

Elsewhere, in Zaka Central Ward 19, on 15 April, a Mr Rupindo, who is a Zanu PF Vice Chairperson for the Ward and an employee at Chemusisi Hospital allegedly threatened to assault about 45 beneficiaries of the social welfare food aid if they failed to chant ruling party slogans and cross the floor to Zanu PF. He reportedly told beneficiaries that government aid was from President Emmerson Mnangagwa and was meant for Zanu PF members only.

These and more incidents that ZPP has recorded in April and in the past point to a gradually deteriorating political environment and with some Zanu PF officials having declared the party will win the 2023 election by whatever means; this calls for urgent interventions to ensure the run up to the elections is peaceful and that human rights are observed, respected and defended while checks and balances are in place in the interest of the citizens who are often the victims in the whole political game.

The ZPP continues with its call for political tolerance and observance of the Constitution, which guarantees civil and political freedoms to all Zimbabweans.

THE  
ZIMBABWE REPUBLIC POLICE  
CONTRIBUTED TO OVER

**50%**

OF HUMAN RIGHTS  
VIOLATIONS.

ZANU PF  
CONTRIBUTED TO OVER

**22%**

OF HUMAN RIGHTS  
VIOLATIONS

GENERAL CITIZENS  
MAKE UP

**91%**

OF THE VICTIMS

## 1.0.1 SUMMARY OF VIOLATIONS

The Zimbabwe Republic Police once again topped the list of human rights violators by contributing to just over 50 percent of all the perpetrators of human rights violations while Zanu PF is second at just above 22 percent. The army, municipal police and MDC Alliance all contributed to nearly three percent of all violations each in the month of April.

The significant decrease in the army's contribution to perpetrating human rights can be attributed to the withdrawal of substantial army activities in the enforcement of the lockdown as lockdown regulations were eased.

In one of the incidents, an MDC Alliance party activist at Nyamavanga Business Centre in Mudzi West accused Zanu PF supporters of being witches that had destroyed the country. "MaZanu murivaroyi chaivo nokuti nyika irikufira mumaoko enyu," the MDC Alliance activist is alleged to have said this to a Zanu PF member, who reported the incident to the police; but no arrest was made.

The general citizens make up the most of the victims of the April human rights violations at over 91 percent. About seven percent of the victims are MDC Alliance members.

ZPP recorded a total of 173 human rights violations and of these, 63 were in Harare followed by 30 in Mashonaland Central and 21 in Mashonaland West.



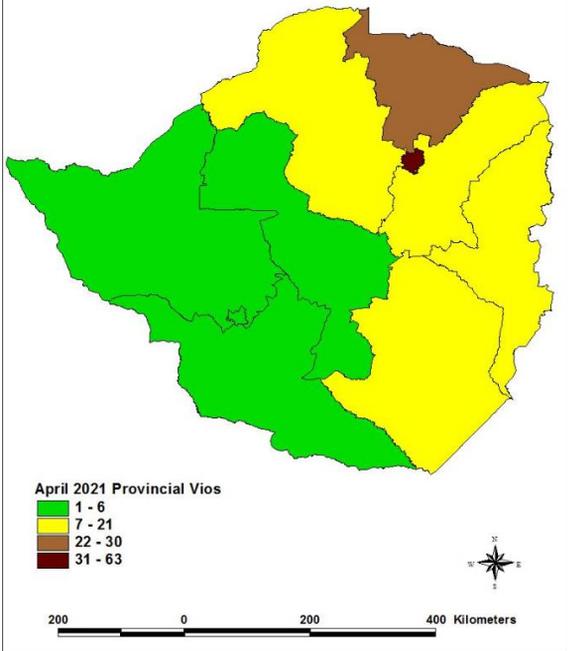
In April, ZPP donated COVID19 PPE to three health institutions and three schools in Mutasa and Matobo Districts. The PPE contained sanitisers, masks, latex gloves, buckets, and a handwashing point. Here, a ZPP staff member hands over PPE at Samaringa Primary School

# Human Rights Violations Monthly Dashboard

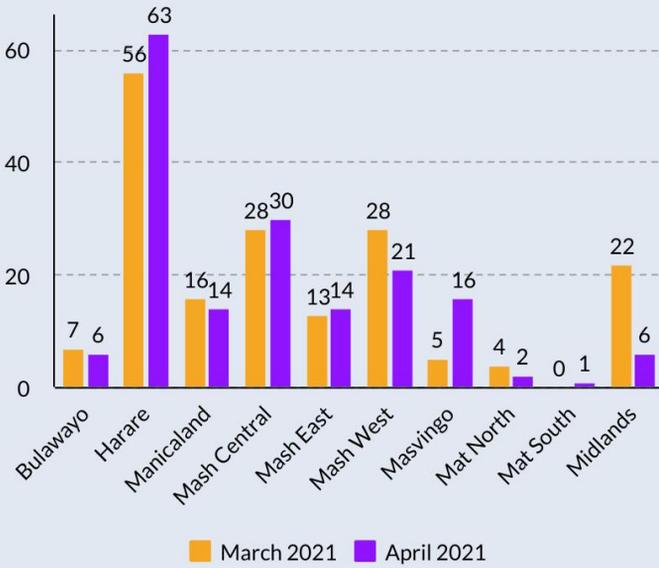
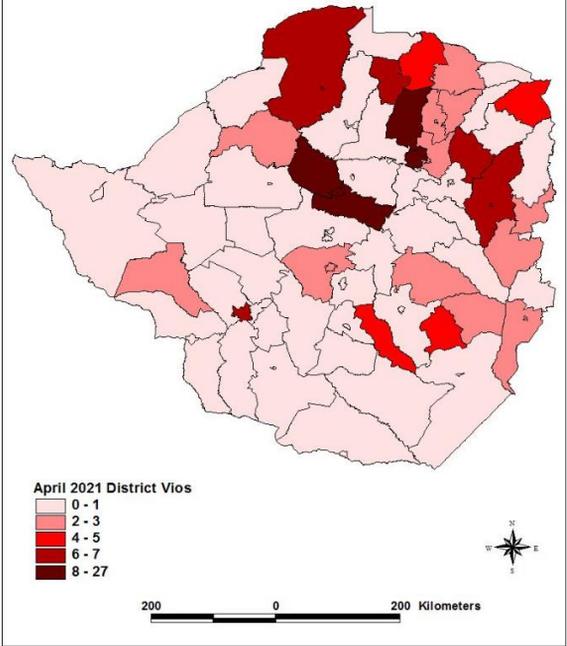
Report time frame: April, 2021

Zimbabwe Peace Project

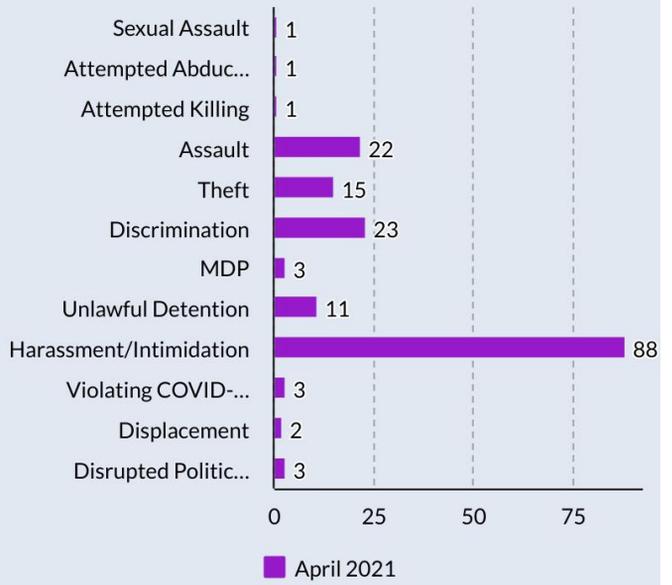
April 2021 Provincial Violations



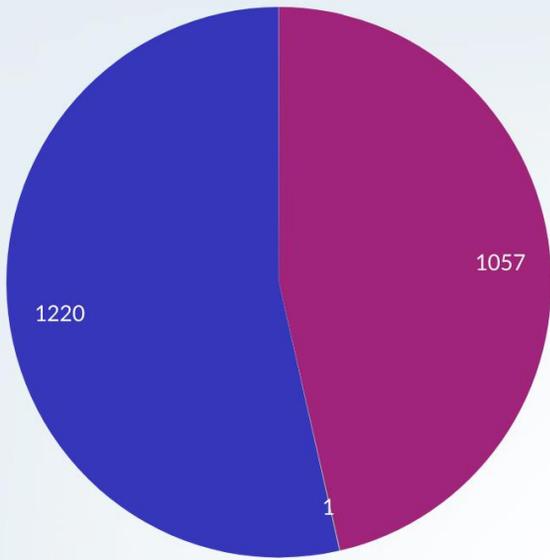
April 2021 District Violations



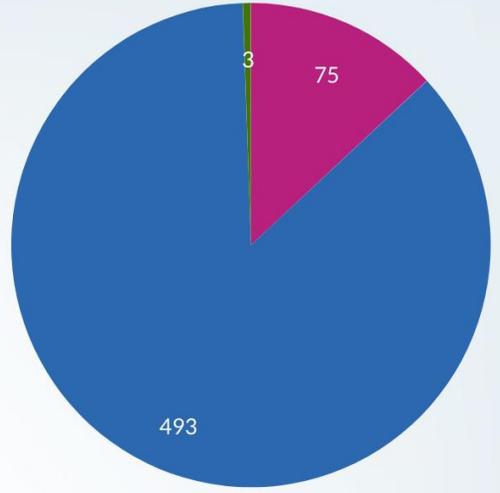
April Provincial Violations



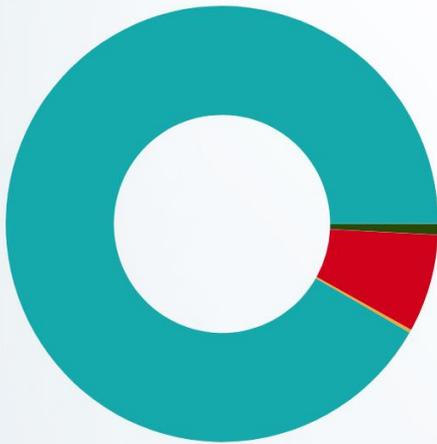
April Types of Violations



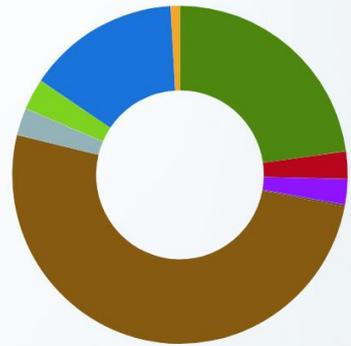
Gender of April Victims



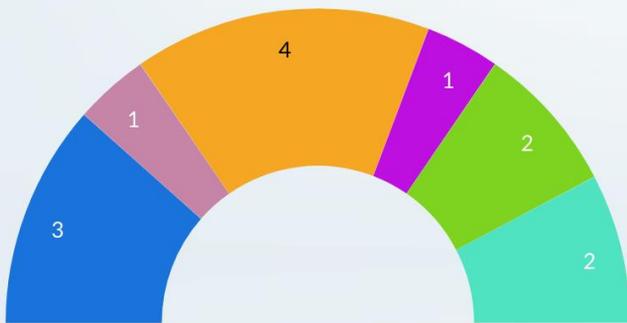
Gender of April Perpetrators



April Victims Affiliation



April Perpetrators Affiliation



April Food & Other Aid Violations



April Intra Party Violence



# 2.1 3 MILLION VOICES GONE!

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On 20 April 2021, the Parliament of Zimbabwe overwhelmingly voted for the second Amendment to the Zimbabwe Constitution.

This signaled a major shift in the way the country is to be governed going forward as the Amendments will give more power to the executive, take away the independence of the judiciary, and undermine the role of Parliament as an arm of government. History therefore noted a dark day for Zimbabwe and a major dent to aspirations of Zimbabwe becoming democratic beyond just political rhetoric.

As part of the Amendment, the President can now appoint judges without having them go through a public interview process, which interviews were beginning to foster transparency. Ultimately the amendment means that members of the judiciary will be solely answerable to the President and this seriously undermines the principle of separation of powers.

In addition, it will mean that members of the judiciary will not be appointed on merit, and neither will they go through scrutiny by the public before being appointed.

The Amendment will significantly alter the state of the office of the Vice-President, who is the second-highest ranking political official in Zimbabwe and is supposed to perform the duties of the President when he or she is absent or otherwise unable to exercise their duties.

Through Amendment Number 2, the President will have higher authority to appoint and remove and control Vice Presidents.

This will leave the Vice Presidents to serve at the mercy of the President for fear of being removed and again, it undermines the concept of democracy as espoused in the running mate system that the 2013 Constitution had ushered in.

Through this Amendment, the President will have room to appoint more ministers and deputy ministers that are not in parliament from the current five to seven.

On closer scrutiny, this change provides the President with greater powers as he will have more influence in bringing into the executive unelected officials and this can have consequences on the level of representative politics in Zimbabwe.

However, if this is done properly, it means that the President has more capacity to bring into government suitably qualified ministers to specific portfolios that require technical expertise.

The Amendments also seek to create the office of a Public Protector who will be appointed by the President and will conduct, among others, the following duties:

- To undertake investigations into administrative actions taken by officers, persons, or authorities who are part of any Ministry or department;
- To investigate where it is alleged that a person has suffered an injustice, and it is unlikely that judicial remedies will be available to that person. This function was previously assigned to the Zimbabwe Human Rights Commission (ZHRC) provided by Section 243(1)(e) of the Constitution; and
- To investigate cases where a person, authority, offender, or officer is acting on behalf of the State or a public institution.

## 2.1.1 OUR CONCERNS WITH THE AMENDMENT



It is of concern that the President has such unrestrained powers of the appointment of the Public Protector and this enables the Head of State to select individuals based on self-interest or political motivations considering that there are also no constitutional qualification requirements for the holder of the office of the Public Protector.

By amending Section 327(3) (b) of the Constitution, the words, “foreign organisations or entities” will change to “international organisations”.

Foreign organisations or entities are institutions that operate or are based outside Zimbabwe, such as foreign international banks and financial institutions while international organisations are established by treaties or other international instruments, like UN Agencies.

What the Amendment will do is to confer powers to the President to conclude agreements that bind Zimbabwe with foreign organisations and entities without seeking approval of Parliament.

Previously, the President could only enter into agreements with international organisations, but now he can enter into agreements with any individual or institution and this poses a risk that such agreements could be against the national interest, or could be driven by personal interest and still bind the State, including bringing Zimbabwe into economic debt.

What this means is that there is no longer a provision for Parliament to question the President before he signs any binding agreements with foreign entities and this increases the chances of corruption and lack of transparency.

Currently, Zimbabwe is battling a huge burden of debt incurred under unclear terms and conditions and by allowing the President to do as (s)he pleases when signing agreements can further worsen the situation.

While the extension of Section 124(1)(b), which allows for the allocation of 60 seats reserved for the appointment of women as members of Parliament is meant to encourage their participation in politics, it instead does the opposite.

The quota has enabled political parties to ignore or discourage female candidates from contesting in elections on the pretext that they would be catered for by the quota.

In reality, the quota provides a misleading view that government is improving gender balance in politics, yet it actually saves the State from undertaking steps to ensure gender equality provisions such as 50/50 representation at all levels of leadership in accordance with the provisions of the Constitution.

### **Our Conclusion:**

Overall, the Amendment of the Constitution weakens democracy, and undermines the concept of the rule of law and separation of powers and is a step back in the context of good governance and accountability.

### **4.1.2 Expert Perspective**

**Beatrice Mtetwa**

**Human Rights Lawyer**

**(Speaking to Heart and Soul TV)**

When the people of Zimbabwe went out and voted for this constitution on 16 March 2013, they were making a statement; more than 90 percent voted for that constitution. It’s an absolute slap in the face, for the senators and MPs who are being complicit in this mutilation of the Constitution, and I think as and when (legal) challenges (to this Amendment) are heard in the courts it will be a sad day if the judiciary says a process that is patently unconstitutional and unlawful, is lawful.

## 2.3 MASS MIGRATION

It is now more than a year since COVID-19 hit Zimbabwe just as the rest of the world. As part of measures to contain the virus, countries have imposed lockdowns that led to the closure of businesses.

Millions of Zimbabweans live outside the country and have migrated to seek better economic fortunes – with the largest number estimated to be in South Africa – and these were affected when these countries effected lockdowns.

Many were forced to return to Zimbabwe during the course of 2020 into 2021.

The International Organisation of Migration (IOM), has since estimated that between March 2020 and March 2021, over 200,000 Zimbabweans returned home “due to the economic fallout from COVID-19 in countries where they had been working.”

“These migrants have returned to the very communities which led them to look for a better life elsewhere and have no livelihood opportunities to sustain their return and overall socio-economic stability,” said IOM Chief of Mission, Mario Lito Malanca.

An IOM survey of the returnees found that, in most cases, the decision to return was linked to the impact of the pandemic, including financial challenges, hunger and loss of accommodation, lack of access to medical assistance, mental health support, identity document issues and the risk of assault in the country where they were working.

The survey also found that the returnees have professional skills ranging from construction to trading, agriculture, catering, painting, and domestic work.

In light of this, ZPP has reached out to returnees and documents some of their experiences considering that for the majority of them, the reason they migrated in the first place, was the limited access to socio-economic rights in Zimbabwe.

### PROFILE 1

**Tatenda 33, Hairdresser.**

**Mother of two school going children.**

**Was taking care of mother who is on diabetes medication.**

“I returned to Zimbabwe in June 2020 from South Africa, where I had gone to try to work a year earlier. My job in South Africa gave me enough to afford my expenses and send some groceries and medication back home. COVID-19 brought about hardships as I was a hairdresser and when the South African government imposed a lockdown in March, I endured two months with no income and I had no choice but to return to my home country. After spending two weeks in quarantine, I went back home to Norton, back to the life that I ran away from. I found myself facing my mother, who cannot do any work because she is diabetic, and my two children. I had no source of income and they all looked up to me. I tried to start selling tomatoes but because Zimbabwe was also under a lockdown, we were raided by the police; the business did not thrive that much. I could not meet all the bills and we retreated back to our rural area in Murombedzi.

My mother passed away in December.

I am still trying to set up a salon, but it is not easy because I have no finance, and the capital to start and so far I just do basic hairstyles.

### PROFILE 2: Terrence (25)

**Mutasa, Manicaland.**

Terrence hangs out at Hauna Growth Point, where he engages in odd jobs to feed his substance addiction.

When ZPP spoke to Terrence, his eyes seemed to be so far away as he narrated the story of his life and while holding a bottle of some cheap gin, he spoke about his ill-fated journey to South Africa in search of greener pastures.

“We were living a not so bad life and although I was young, I still recall how we were forced to move back here to Hauna from Harare where my father was working.”

“He had been retrenched and when the 2005 Operation Murambatsvina came, our house was destroyed and in the wave of things, we moved back here.”

Operation Murambatsvina, a government-driven wave of house demolitions in urban areas, left over 700 000 people hungry, homeless and without a source of income, according to the United Nations.

Families whose homes had been summarily destroyed, were either forced to go to their rural homes, or were transported to transit camps, among them Caledonia, just outside Harare.

As a result, Terrence missed school for nearly a year before re-enrolling in Hauna, but things had already taken a turn for the worst for his family as his father died in 2009, when he was only 13.

“I ended up dropping out of school, and it was not easy as only my mother had to fend for me,” he said, adding that when his mother passed on he was 17, life worsened.

## 2.3 MASS MIGRATION

### PROFILE 3: Charles (21)

#### Hauna, Mutasa, Manicaland

At 21, Charles joined the long trek to South Africa, where he started doing odd jobs.

"I could afford to live. It was not the best of life though, especially because I was an illegal immigrant, but we had to survive. It was better than sitting in Hauna and not being able to do anything."

"With the money I was getting, I was hoping to enroll at a college and do a vocation course that would help me start to rebuild my life."

An only child, Charles found himself on the way back to the place that he had always dreaded to come back to, his family home in Hauna.

"With the COVID-19 restrictions having come into place in South Africa, life became unbearable and in addition, the xenophobic sentiments within the community that I lived forced me to think of just going back home. It was more like there was no other option."

Back in Hauna, Charles could not bear it and before he knew it, he turned into drugs, and a year later, he is full time into it.

"My life is ruined, I do not know how I can get back on track. One time I was saving for an education that I did not get and the next thing, I have no idea where my life is going."

### 2.3.1 Our Observation

The two cases highlighted in the above section of the report are in their own, a pointer of the serious socio-economic rights issues that exist in the country.

While government has denied there is a social, political and economic crisis in Zimbabwe, the fact that in just a year, over 200,000 Zimbabweans were forced to return from foreign countries where they had gone to seek economic relief, shows the gravity of the numbers of people who had fled the country's toxic political, economic and social environment.

The 200,000 returnees have come back to add onto the millions who were already suffering from the government neglect of social service delivery system.

ZPP identified one key social service delivery area; healthcare and focuses on physical and mental health as issues whose neglect have had a huge negative impact on the quality of life of Zimbabweans.

### 2.3.2 Healthcare:

The country's healthcare system is dysfunctional and with government having failed to adequately invest in the sector, public health institutions, which are supposed to provide free or subsidized health services, are gravely incapacitated.

In the end, the only available adequate healthcare services are from private institutions that charge exorbitant fees that are beyond the reach of many.

Last year, the Insurance and Pensions Commission established that only one in 10 Zimbabweans have medical cover in a country of over 14 million people.

For 2021, the government allocated ZW\$54.7 billion of the national budget's ZW\$360.5 billion to health and child care and the majority of funding that goes into the health sector is largely by international donors.

For example, ZPP established that government has not invested in service vehicles for health institutions, but has prioritized buying vehicles for ministry officials.

The majority of service vehicles like ambulances are bought by development partners while support for chronic diseases like HIV and AIDs, and Tuberculosis is also coming in from international donors.

In some unfortunate instances, low-level corruption at health institutions has led to some deserving beneficiaries of international donor medication facilities failing to get access.

For example, on 12 April, People Living with HIV and AIDS in Murehwa North were asked to pay up to ZWL40.00 to access medication which they should get for free.

The entire situation presents a serious case of mis-prioritisation that has left Zimbabweans not able to access their constitutionally guaranteed right to health.

The Zimbabwe health delivery system is built on the constitutional right to health care in Section 76, sub-section 1-4, of the Zimbabwe Constitution, which states that: Every citizen and permanent resident of Zimbabwe has the right to have access to basic health care services, including reproductive health.

A survey by ZPP showed that some public clinics and hospitals are charging about USD5 consultation fee.

ZPP recorded a case at Chipinge Hospital, where an elderly patient died after being denied admission on the basis that she had not yet paid the USD5 required for consultation.

"We spent several hours moving from one department to the other seeking assistance to no avail. Unfortunately, she passed away before admission," said a relative to the deceased.

"After the consultation, you are told there is no medication, even as basic as paracetamol pain killer tablets," reports a resident of Highfields, Harare.

## 2.3 MASS MIGRATION

### 2.3.3 Mental Health

Zimbabwe has a severe shortage of human resources for mental health, with an estimated 18 psychiatrists in government institutions, 17 of them in Harare, or approximately 0.1 per 100,000 population, according to the World Health Organisation (WHO).

There are 917 psychiatric nurses, which is about six per every 100,000 people and six psychologists, about 0.04 per 100,000.

For over two decades, economic volatility has led to a substantial brain drain, and trained specialists in all sectors, including health, have left the country or are practicing privately.

According to the WHO, although there is a relatively large number of psychiatric nurses in Zimbabwe, many have diverted to HIV-related care given increased funding, primarily from international donors, for these areas of health services

The entire country only has two public psychiatric hospitals, two psychiatric inpatient units, and seven outpatient mental health facilities.

The majority of the rural population in Zimbabwe do not have access to mental health services.

Private mental health specialists charge as much as USD150.00 for a single session, an amount that is out of reach for many Zimbabweans.

#### 2.3.3 An expert's perspective

**Clement Nhunzvi**

**Occupational therapist; a PhD fellow with the African Mental Health Research Initiative (AMARI);**

**Lecturer at the University of Zimbabwe**

New trends of substance abuse are emerging from research and observational data in Zimbabwe, where young adults are going into substance abuse in efforts to cope with socio-economic challenges.

People are struggling to make ends meet and they do not have adaptive ways of dealing with it.

The other problem is that drugs are also available because of the porous border posts and corrupt law enforcement agencies.

.The solution is to admit at country level that we have a crisis and the crisis is socio-economic in nature. We are continuing as if everything is fine. When we have admitted the reality of the situation, we put in place measures that tally with the reality.

Measures like having mental health services available to those in the informal sector. We need to organize these informal traders into spaces where we are able to make them acquire knowledge.

Some people do not know what to do and where to go and we need to raise awareness so that people can know where to go.

The services should also be of good quality and should be transformative to people's lives.

Government should put up more innovative and sustainable responses to this challenge.

Without a social contract that binds the right to work, the right to an adequate standard of living, including food, clothing, and housing, the right to physical and mental health, the right to social security, the right to a healthy environment, and the right to education, the future remains gloomy.

We need an all-inclusive approach to repairing the social damage that has happened to our country which has affected not just women, but the general population and has left many living in abject poverty.

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## 2.4 CLAMPDOWN ON VENDORS

Spiwe Tembo, an informal trader who makes her living selling buns, is handcuffed to another vendor after being arrested by police in Harare. AFP/Jekesai Njikizana

During April, citizens who had endured the first two months of the year under lockdown, found themselves having to learn new coping mechanisms to survive in the largely informalised economy of Zimbabwe.

Notably in Harare and Bulawayo, where there is usually a high number of vendors and informal traders, law enforcement agents remained in the streets to contain the surge in vending activities.

Vendors returned to their usual spots in the two city centres and during the month, municipal officers were carrying out massive patrols to raid and arrest vendors.

The municipal officers used all forms of methods, including assault and beatings to clamp down on the vendors.

Municipal officers and the Zimbabwe Republic Police (ZRP) continued to carry out joint operations to impound public buses that operated outside the government ZUPCO subsidy project.

Just as with vendors, the municipal police and ZRP used all sorts of unconventional methods including smashing windows, deploying spikes to deflate tyres and assaulting bus crews and members of the public.

### 2.4.1 Expert Perspective

**Samuel Wadzai**

**Executive Director**

**Vendors Initiative for Socio-Economic Transformation**

The informal sector has become the way of survival in Zimbabwe and no amount of trying to rub it off using force can work.

We recommend that government and local authorities to accept that Zimbabwe's economy is largely informalised and therefore these two authorities should work towards creating an environment that is conducive.

What they should be doing is to fast track the formalization of the informal sector. The bylaws should be changed to suit the largely informal situation such that these running battles come to an end. Government and local authorities should build adequate infrastructure to cater for those in the informal sector.

Decisions should be made with the involvement and consultation of all the people to be affected and this way, there can be an all-inclusive solution, where everyone will have ownership.

## 2.5 SAVE THE DINDE COMMUNITY

About 600 families are facing eviction in the Dinde community in Hwange, where a Chinese mining company, Beifa Investments (Pvt) Ltd is carrying out mining activities after being granted a special mining exploration permit to conduct exploration activities in the area.

Those who are likely to be affected have so far been proactive and have raised their concerns through a protest, which resulted in the arrest of Never Tshuma, who was arrested on 16 April and detained for inciting public violence after he took part in a demonstration against the mining activities by the company.

Tshuma is currently out on a ZWL10,000 bail.

The company is trampling on the heritage of the Dinde community and in one part of the community, the mining company has drilled holes around a graveyard.

The case of the Dinde people is just another case of government's insensitive approach to local communities, where there is no proper bottom to top consultation of communities on key issues such as investment ventures signed at central government levels.

Government defends the mining project and according to Matabeleland North Provincial Affairs minister Richard Moyo, government will not tolerate attempts to disrupt the coal mining project. Armed police have allegedly been deployed to the area to "protect" the investor.

What is happening in Dinde points to yet another situation where the ruling elite get richer and fatten their pockets while the poor are forced to fend for themselves and get poorer.

Forced displacement without compensation, termed as forced evictions, violates international human rights law. The African Union Convention for the Protection and Assistance of Internally Displaced Persons in Africa, which Zimbabwe ratified, requires in article 3(1)(a) that states parties "refrain from, prohibit and prevent arbitrary displacement of populations." The fact that Zimbabwe signed and ratified the African Union Convention for the protection and assistance of internally displaced people should be deterrence enough for the Zanu-PF government to press pause on the project until the dispute is resolved.

The African Commission on Human and Peoples' Rights has stated that the right to property includes the recognition of communities' traditional and collective ownership of land and their protection from forced evictions.

In General Comment 7, the UN Committee on Economic, Cultural, and Social Rights defines forced evictions as "the permanent or temporary removal against their will of individuals, families and/or communities from the homes and/or land which they occupy, without the provision of, and access to, appropriate forms of legal or other protection."

The environment has been an essential source for the livelihood of people and other living things and as such must be protected.

While the mining sector is indispensable to the economic development of Zimbabwe, it must be noted that its negative effects on the environment are far reaching and long lasting. In light of this, ZPP calls on government to ensure that prior to the displacement of hundreds of villagers, all feasible alternatives are explored in consultation with the affected villagers.



WHAT IS HAPPENING IN  
DINDE POINTS TO YET  
ANOTHER SITUATION  
WHERE THE RULING ELITE  
GET RICHER AND FATTEN  
THEIR POCKETS WHILE THE  
POOR ARE FORCED TO FEND  
FOR THEMSELVES AND GET  
POORER.

## 2.6 COVID-19 VACCINATION SURVEY: HARARE

In April, ZPP carried a survey in Harare to establish the situation obtaining in centres where the COVID-19 vaccination is being administered.

Areas visited include Highfields Poly Clinic, Kuwadzana 4 Clinic, Wilkins Hospital, Edith Opperman and Mbare Hostels Clinics in Mbare, Belvedere Clinic and Epworth Poly Clinic.

Observations showed that while there was a general increase in the people coming in for vaccination, the numbers have remained low in comparison to the number of residents in areas visited.

This is attributable largely to the information gap around the process as government has not made adequate efforts to inform citizens.

There was also a general logistical disjoint in the nature with which the process is being carried out as some healthcare workers charged to conduct the process did not have adequate resources and information. For example, in Epworth at Overspill Poly Clinic, there were no vaccine cards on April 7 and some individuals had their names just recorded and told to check with the clinic at a later date to receive their cards.

At Highfields Poly Clinic, it was found out that there were no second jab vaccines and people were being referred to Harare Hospital or Wilkins Infectious Disease hospital for the second jab of the vaccination.

### 2.6.1.1 Issues noted

### 2.6.2 Information gap.

During the survey, it was noted that there was an information gap on the difference between the Chinese Sinopharm and Sinovac vaccines, and when asked, the healthcare workers said the two were the same.

Government has also not fully explained the discrepancy in the dates for the first and second jabs. It was noted that people who went for the first vaccine on the same day did not always get the same date of return for the second jab, and the reasons for that were not explained and the healthcare workers only mentioned that the differences in dates for the second jab did not matter.

In addition, for those who got vaccinated, there is no room to choose between the three vaccines available, that is the Sinopharm and Sinovac and the Indian

"I was only told to wait in the vaccination queue and the next episode was taking down my personal details before getting a jab. I was only surprised to see written codes on my card different from one of my colleagues" said a man in his late 40s after taking a jab at Edith Opperman Polyclinic in Mbare.

### 2.6.3 Coercion

Some people who spoke to ZPP cited that they were being coerced to take the vaccine following pressure from their employers and threats to fire them if they continued to resist the vaccination process. The respondents said they were not given adequate time or education to understand the process they were getting into and some companies had introduced a "No vaccine, No work policy" and did not give enough information to the workers.

### 2.6.4 Our recommendations:

The Ministry of Health should embark on a nationwide, all-inclusive programme to educate people on the variables in the vaccination process.

Government should also partner with civil society and the corporate sector to complement efforts for a nationwide information dissemination drive on the vaccination process.

In addition, government should give credible and evidence-based information to citizens on the entire process.



## 2.7 MASVINGO'S DRY TAPS

The right to water, (as provided for in section 77 of the Constitution of Zimbabwe) despite being among the most basic rights necessary for human dignity, life and full enjoyment of all other rights, continues to be one of the most violated and problematic in the country.

This is due to various factors including climate change, a worsening economic crisis and more recently, the COVID 19 pandemic. The crisis has seen households going for months without piped water forcing many to rely on stream water, shallow wells and boreholes. Further, cholera and typhoid outbreaks and deaths due to water borne diseases amidst the COVID 19 pandemic have also been recorded in major cities.

During April, Masvingo Provincial Hospital announced that it was intermittently suspending theatre operations due to the water crisis in the city. In some cases, patients were required to bring their own water causing a delay.

According to Masvingo Provincial Medical Doctor (PMD) Dr Amadeus Shamhu, the hospital has two boreholes which have the capacity to supply the water needed. Despite this, patients are still complaining that they are in dire need of the precious liquid.

Masvingo City Council has attributed the water problems in the city to Zimbabwe Electricity Supply Authority's (ZESA) faulty transformer which powers the Bushmead Water Works.

In light of this, ZPP calls upon the State to uphold section 77 of the constitution, respect and protect people's right to water and ensure that water rationing is equitable, consensual and humane.

**On May 4, a woman in Kariba gave birth outside Nyamhunga Clinic . Nurses at the clinic allegedly made her wait outside as they were on lunch In this video, nurses are attending to her outside.**

**[Follow the link to watch the video](#)**

**Did you know that Section 52 of the Constitution guarantees your right to personal security and freedom from ALL FORMS OF violence? This includes violence from the State.**

**[Follow the link to watch the video](#)**



RESIST

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REPORT

VIOLENCE

Zimbabwe's general elections are due in about two years. Campaigning and related human rights violations have already started.

At face value everything may appear calm, but our conclusive countrywide and evidence-based observations actually show that the electoral activities have already begun especially in rural areas.

There, incidents of harassment, segregation and intimidation have started, and no doubt, these are meant to create a sense of fear, where people will not be able to express themselves when the official campaign period kicks off.

A brief look at the history of Zimbabwe's election periods show that the ruling Zanu PF is prepared to do anything – no matter how brutal- to stay in power and the recent reintroduction of the National Youth Service, whose reputation of unleashing brutality in communities is well known and documented, is one clear indicator that the electoral environment is set to be characterized by violence and gross human rights abuses.

As ZPP, our mandate is to work towards a Zimbabwe where there is peace, justice, dignity and development in a bid to foster a culture of co-existence and tolerance as enshrined in the Constitution. As part of our efforts towards that, we are introducing, in our Monthly Monitoring Report and on all our online platforms, a campaign to use our strong rights documentation capacity to advocate for citizens to Resist, Reject and Report Violence as we get into the 2023 election period.

The Resist, Reject and Report Violence, or #RRRV2023 campaign will also feature our provincial analysis of the political temperature every month and closer to the polls under the same campaign we will also have more products at fortnightly and weekly intervals. The campaign also seeks to show case examples of where communities have been able to resist and reject violence.

## Mashonaland East

Citizens in Mashonaland East celebrated independence on a sad note amid crippling economic hardships and a deteriorating political situation.

As political parties concentrate on seeking political dominance, human rights abuses are on the increase.

In the rural parts of the province, villagers were forced to form cell groups by the ruling Zanu PF and in all this, there was a heavy involvement of traditional leaders who used their influence to whip people to support Zanu PF.

Attempts by some opposition political parties to conduct their activities in Mudzi were unsuccessful as the entrenched dominant Zanu PF structures shut down any operating space for opposition political activities .

In this province, there was more intimidation, harassment and violation of political rights in April 2021 compared to the previous period, and citizens could not express themselves freely more than ever before.

The province recorded 14 human rights violations, all of which are related to political intimidation, harassment, assault and politically motivated discrimination during food aid distribution.

Mashonaland East is known historically to be a Zanu PF stronghold and one of the provinces where political violence is highly prevalent during election periods.

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**VIOLENCE**

## Mashonaland West

Twenty-one incidents of human rights violations were recorded in Mashonaland West province.

There was significant intimidation, harassment and food and other discrimination and the violation of the right to personal security.

Traditional leaders in rural communities and Zanu PF activists were the main perpetrators of these human rights violations.

For example, traditional leaders in Hurungwe reportedly denied MDC Alliance activists access to government food aid.

As has always been the case, food aid has been used as a political tool by the ruling party, which uses its influence in government to manipulate the Department of Social Welfare's food aid distribution criteria.

In Zvimba South at Kutama Day Care Centre Ward 6, Zanu PF is reportedly on a massive grassroots restructuring exercise, and its officials Augustine Maburo and Edson Bure, are allegedly forcing villagers to form cell groups at schools and in the villages.

## Bulawayo Metro

The province recorded six cases of human rights violations.

Inter-party conflict between the main opposition, the MDC Alliance and its off-shoot, the MDC-T has continued following the further recall of some MPs aligned to the MDC Alliance early this month. While the recall has been overturned by the High Court, the divisions at the political grassroots level have continued. The infights and the recalls have stalled community development as constituencies are now operating without leaders and more importantly, this has also affected policy directions in Parliament.

## Mashonaland Central

There were 30 incidents of human rights violations in this province. Politically motivated intimidation, harassment and discrimination topped the list of violations. In two of the cases, suspected state security agents were allegedly involved in the attempted abduction of MDC Alliance activist James Nyama in Muzarabani North at Willis farm ward 21. The incident happened on 1 April, at around 6pm when Nyama was on his way home. Four men in an unregistered Range Rover vehicle approached him and offered him a lift home, an offer which he refused. The four men, who were armed with AK47 rifles then tried to forcibly drag him into the vehicle. Nyama screamed and this attracted nearby villagers and farmers who came to his rescue as the assailants drove off. Following the incident Nyama has been receiving anonymous phone calls asking him why he is campaigning for Nelson Chamisa. The victim is being intimidated and is reportedly leaving in fear.

## Matebeleland South

Zanu PF began the exercise of revisiting most of their cell groups targeting all beneficiaries of command livestock.

In Gwanda North of Mtshabezi, villagers were told that they should kick start the campaigns and prepare for the by- elections to be announced soon. This was revealed by Zanu PF activist, Jeffrey Moyo. He reportedly said that during the by elections, membership shall be drawn from household lists and the lists supplied by traditional leaders so that they monitor who has failed to vote for Zanu PF.

In other campaign trails, ZAPU is preparing for its congress in August and tempers are already high. One recorded incident during the meeting in Kezi, Mzingaye Khumalo threatened to beat up five ZAPU members during a meeting of identifying who had opposed the rise of aspiring presidential candidate Sibangilizwe Nkomo one of the surviving sons of Joshua Nkomo.

RESIST

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## Harare Metro

Most of the human rights violations in April happened in Harare and ZPP recorded 63.

The persecution and prosecution of political and civil society activists continued in the month of April and these include the conviction of MDC Alliance Youth Assembly member Makomborero Haruzvishe on allegations of inciting public violence.

Those who had come to attend the sentencing were harassed by the police guarding the Harare Magistrates' Court. The MDC Alliance spokesperson Advocate Fadzayi Mahere was barred by the police from speaking to the press at the court, soon after Haruzvishe's sentencing although she is a practicing lawyer.

At the same event, MDC Alliance Women Assembly member, Vongai Tome accused a police officer of indecently assaulting her, but instead, it was Tome, the complainant, and her colleague, who got arrested. Freelance Journalist Takawira Sam also left the scene with a bleeding finger after he was assaulted by the police. On 4 April, MDC Alliance Harare West Constituency Coordination Committee (CCC) was disrupted by the police and Denford Ngadziore (recalled MDC Alliance Harare Ward 16 councillor) was arrested by the police. On 12 April police ordered mourners at a funeral service of the late Apostolic Faith Mission in Zimbabwe Pastor Tabeth Chiweshe to disperse because the MDC Alliance leader Nelson Chamisa was due to attend the service.

On 24 April an MDC Alliance Harare Province Epworth meeting was prematurely disrupted by police while people who came in solidarity with MDC Alliance Deputy National Chairperson Job Sikahla were randomly beaten at the Harare Magistrate courts by the police.

MDC Alliance youth assembly members Joanna Mamombe and Cecilia Chimbiri are yet to get bail and the persecution of Mamombe continued, with her being forcibly removed from a private hospital where she was receiving medical attention and taken back to Chikurubi prison.

## Manicaland

In the month of April, the situation was tense in Chimanimani East and an incident that happened there on 27 April give a glimpse of what 2023 is likely to be.

Some Zanu PF DCC members from Chimanimani East and all government Department Heads from Chimanimani Administrative District went for an ideological course at Herbert Chitepo School of Ideology in Vumba.

The ideological school is a ruling party creation, where people go for reorientation into the Zanu PF ideology. The situation created heightened fear among other government employees who feel that this reorientation will result in their department heads acting, or forcing all subordinates to act in a partisan manner.

In Mutasa district, the political atmosphere is heating up and in once incident, which took place on 5 April 2021 at Zambe Primary School, the Zanu PF ward 14 chairperson for Nyariya village in Mutasa Central, Never Mukumba, summoned people for a meeting to organize Zanu PF cell structures for the elections. He then secretly manipulated the process and wrote Rose Mutambanuki's name of Kagweda village Ward 14 Mutasa Central to be Zanu PF political commissar without her knowledge. It is said that the victim felt violated since she was not consulted to take the position. The initiative reportedly left other people who were aspiring to take up the positions concerned as it was clear that the ruling Zanu PF would force anyone to take up a position even if it violated their freedom of assembly and association as well as their political rights.

## Matabeleland North

There are significant indicators to show that Zanu PF has since levelled up for the 2023 campaign. In one incident in Tsholotsho South, citizens were told by Zanu PF activists only identified as Fani Moyo and Lameck Tshuma told people that in order for them to benefit from food aid, they had to be part of the Zanu PF cell groups in the area.

As in other provinces, food and other aid have remained tools of political manipulation for poor villagers.

Zanu PF launched the Hebert Chitepo School of ideology in Hwange at a three-day training workshop held in Matabeleland North at Edmund Davis Hall.

Participants were trained in national ideology, party affairs, government economic policies, social policies and governance issues, defense and security policies, international relations, media and communication studies and current affairs. Part of the training highlighted the need for the new Zanu PF DDC leaders from Matabeleland North to use the imparted skills by any means necessary to draw the targeted five million voters. The training also exposed the hand of the military in the political affairs of the country.

**RESIST**

**REJECT**

**REPORT**

**VIOLENCE**

## Masvingo

The province had less political activity in this month and this is seen in the few human rights incidences recorded. In Zaka, there was, however, partisan distribution of aid. There were also cases of direct threats of assault to those who refused to declare themselves Zanu PF during the department of Social Welfare food aid distributions. This clearly pointed to the fact there would be wide use of aid as a weapon to manipulate and violate people's rights ahead of the 2023 elections.

It is worrying that all these cases involved party legislators and chairpersons who are supposed to be custodians of peace.

In Zaka Central, Ward 19, during a community distribution of food aid from the Social Welfare department, it is said that 45 beneficiaries who were summoned for the distribution were threatened with assault if they failed to declare themselves Zanu PF members. Zanu PF vice chairperson a Mr. Rupondo, who is also an employee at Chemusisi hospital reportedly made beneficiaries chant ruling party slogans. He then reportedly told beneficiaries that government aid was from President Emmerson Mnangagwa and for Zanu PF members only. This incident was reported on 15 April 2021.

## Midlands Province

In Midlands, people were being forced to have Zanu PF membership cards in order for them to receive food and other aid in most areas. In Silobela and Zhombe rural areas and in towns like Kwekwe and Redcliff, there was a deliberate effort to force people to join Zanu PF in order for them benefit from food aid processes.

Zanu PF torture/ terror bases were revived in Chiwundura and every morning, the youths who form part of the camps gather at the shops until sunset and they patrol throughout the day, dressed in Zanu PF regalia.

The party's provincial leadership addresses the youths at the end of the day. The situation is leaving youths living in fear

There is also a battle of the opposition control for the province between the two warring MDCs in the province.

As the Douglas Mwonzora led MDC-T continues to recall MDC Alliance aligned MPs and councilors, this is fueling further conflict.

### #RRRV Synopsis

The stage seems set for interparty violence between the MDC Alliance and the Mwonzora led MDC-T following the parliamentary and local authority recalls. The violence could overshadow and take up most of the campaign time for these two political parties a situation that could see Zanu PF that has been accused of fermenting the fractures taking advantage to consolidate its position in particular at the lowest levels. There seems to be concerted efforts by the ruling party through the police in particular to thwart any opportunities for the MDC Alliance to access its supporters a situation that is feared could result in a skewed political landscape. The disruption of meetings has been noted to have been common in the month of April.

The use of food and other aid as a weapon or a carrot dangled for the poor and those who are food insecure means that there is an impending danger of many of the affected voting with their stomachs and contributing to the 5 million target. The use of food and aid in elections has always been seen as bordering on vote buying and it seems this infamous practice always comes in handy for the ruling party.

A disquieting trend is the training of government officials by the Herbert Chitepo Ideological School making the line between party and government even fainter and making it difficult for all citizens to access services from government in a transparent manner.

