

IT'S  
**POHTRICKS**  
ALL OVER

THE ZIMBABWE PEACE PROJECT  
MONTHLY MONITORING REPORT  
**SEPTEMBER 2021**



ZIMBABWE  
**PEACE**  
PROJECT

**Politricks:**  
One who promises one thing and  
does another.  
Urban Dictionary

**Politricks:** Regarded as  
characterized by dishonesty  
or self interest; the use of  
underhand methods to achieve  
political ends regarded as  
self-serving or contemptible.  
Lexico.com

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Cover Page illustration:  
A deserted rural homestead.

The increase in political activity has resulted in many villagers  
spending a lot of time at political party meetings.  
Village homesteads are a symbol of the roots of many Zimbabweans.  
Their desecration for any purposes, including mining, is a serious  
assault on tradition & heritage

## 1.0 Executive Summary

Its politics, period!

September is the last month before Zanu PF holds its crucial annual conference.

Each time the party holds the conference, the preparations take centre stage and the country somewhat goes on pause.

This is because a large number of those in government are members of the ruling party and the conference is a chance to consolidate their positions in the party as they prepare for the elective congress, which is slated for 2022, just a year before national elections.

Zanu-PF is going to have its elective congress in December next year where the party is expected to elect a new national executive. The provinces are already preparing for their elections ahead of the congress, with all the leagues including the main, youth and women assemblies' elections expected to be held by this October, before the party goes to its conference.

It is so much like a drove fighting for a chance on the feeding trough!

And as clear as it is that the ruling party supersedes the operations of government, it is also apparent that for one to enjoy the extravagance that comes with being in government, they have to have a strategic place in the party structures.

With its pseudo democracy approach, Zanu PF continues to set up grassroots structures that then get the chance to attend and determine the outcome of the conference.

But in essence, it is mostly the senior officials in the district, provincial and national structures who run the show and determine who is in these grassroots structures.

As a result, there is often heightened violence during the run up to the conference as is already being witnessed.

So severe is the violence that senior party officials often end up intervening.

On 21 September, the party's national acting spokesperson Mike Bimha said provincial elections were being postponed to focus the party on preparations for the party's annual conference.

This was after the provincial election campaigns had, according to NewsDay, 'been marred by factionalism, smear campaigns and were threatening to turn bloody while also exposing deep-rooted factionalism in the party'.

Throughout the month of September, ZPP documented cases of intra-party confrontations within Zanu PF.

Worryingly, ZPP noted that the Zanu PF party officials continued to abuse state resources for their party campaigns.

For example, in Buhera North, the incumbent Member of Parliament, William Mutomba had to call in police at Dorowa to disrupt an agricultural show that his party rival, Philip Guyo, had sponsored. Far from Buhera North, in Wedza, two Zanu PF officials, one Kahondo and Lovemore Makombe, who are all aspiring to take up the District Coordinator Chairperson position, were in a brawl.

Makombe allegedly organized Zanu PF youths to disrupt a meeting convened by Kahondo.

In Mashonaland Central, former minister Lazarus Dokora had to flee with his life as he attempted to campaign to unseat the current provincial chairperson, Kazembe Kazembe, who is the current Home Affairs minister.

In Bubi, Nkenyane area, Zanu PF activists led by one Gift Moyo, have gone around telling small scale miners that they should go and register as voters at a local Zanu PF office or they lose their licences.

The clashes in the ruling party contributed to the 10 intra party violence cases the ZPP recorded in September.

The Zimbabwe Republic Police (ZRP) has topped the list of human rights violations in the past two years, but this September, they handed over the mantle to Zanu PF, which contributed to over 37 percent of violations compared to the ZRP's 31 percent.

Still, the ZRP's contribution to human rights violations remains a cause for concern considering that as the law enforcement agents, they are supposed to be the torch bearers of a human rights centred approach to policing and to public safety.

With the ruling party and the police leading as perpetrators of rights violations, the level of public safety and confidence are undermined.

Officers of the ZRP Chivhu in Chikomba District stand accused of torturing a woman to death during interrogation.

The woman was suspected of withholding money allegedly stolen by her younger sister.

This conduct by the police is of great concern and the ZPP continues to demand that police conduct themselves in a manner that is consistent with their constitutional mandate and should be able to handle arrested persons without using unconstitutional means such as torture.

In another incident, officers of the ZRP threw teargas into a bus near Harare, leaving a child and others hospitalised. This is not the first time this has happened. Last year police fired teargas into a bus in Harare and the ZRP said they had arrested the offending officers and promised to update the public about it. Nothing has been heard about the case at the time of finalizing this report.

Apart from the political rights violations, the ZPP this month notes with concern the increase in prices of good and services and the further erosion of the local currency, a situation that has left many vulnerable and unable to afford basic commodities as the monthly basic needs of a family of six shot to ZWL40,000.

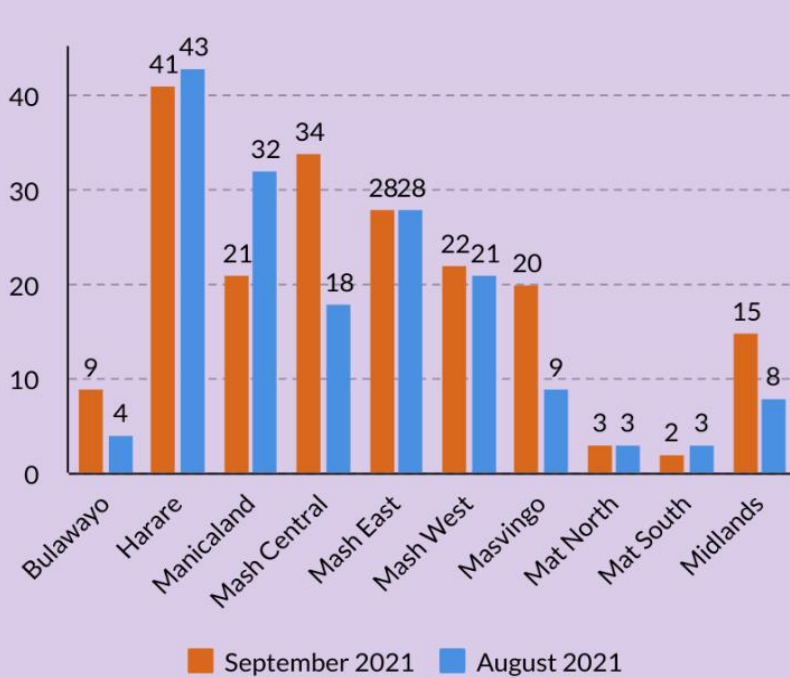
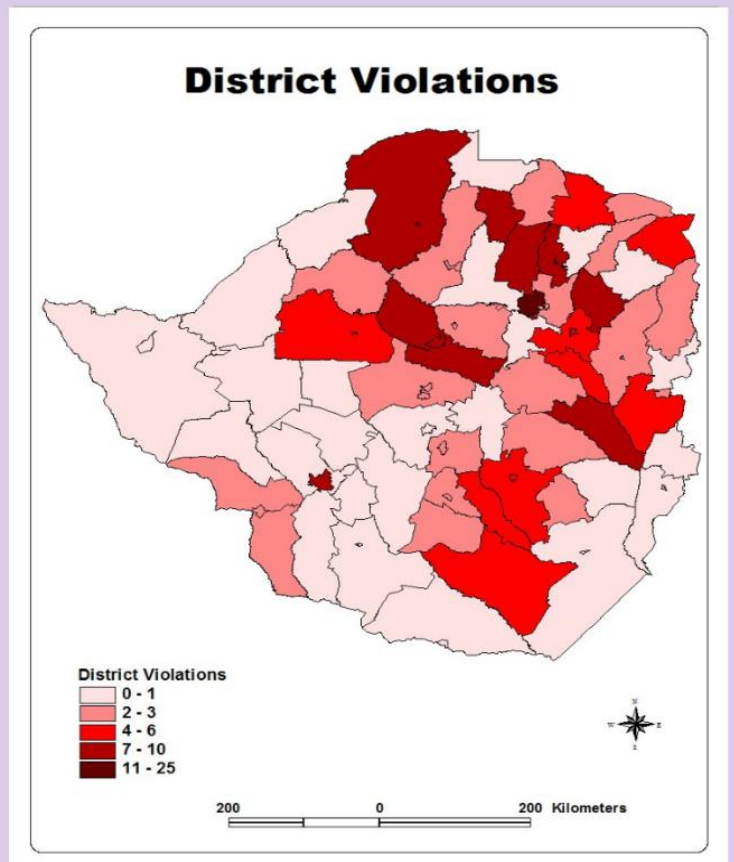
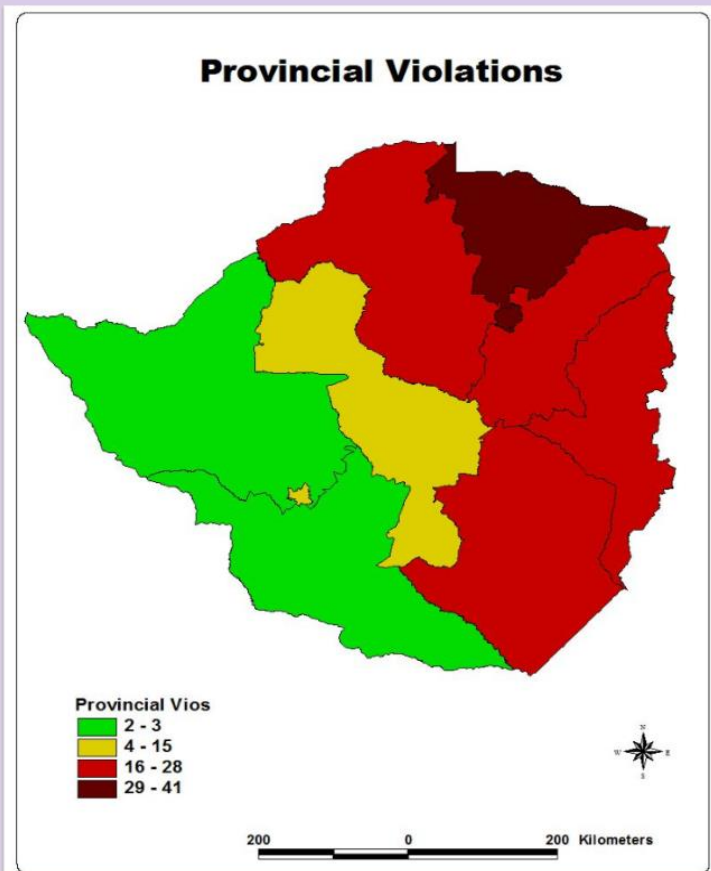
ZPP conducted a survey in the communities and discovered that the quality of life is going down as many in the informal sector, who endured two months in lockdown, attempted to resume operations at a time when the prices of goods and services were going up.

# 2.0 Violations Infographics

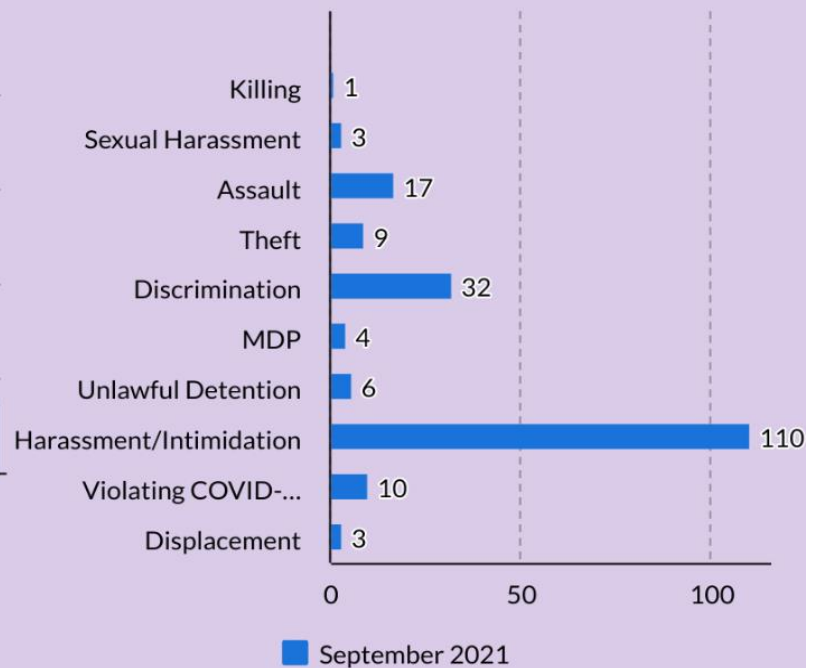
## Human Rights Violations Monthly Dashboard

Report time frame: September, 2021

Zimbabwe Peace Project



Provincial Violations



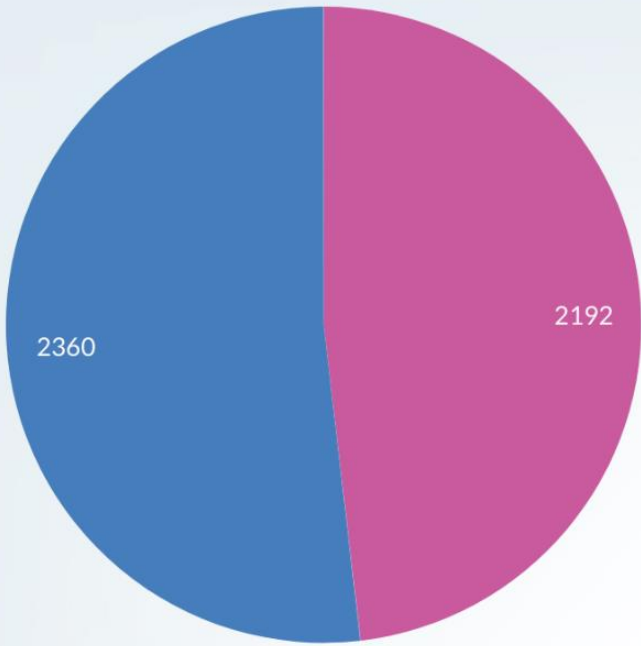
Types of Violations

### Violations analysis

Harare province topped the list with 41 human rights violations followed by Mashonaland Central with 32 cases. The Southern provinces, that is Matabeleland North and South and Bulawayo recorded the lowest number of violations. These are areas where the unresolved issue of Gukurahundi continues to be an undercurrent cause of fear among the citizens.

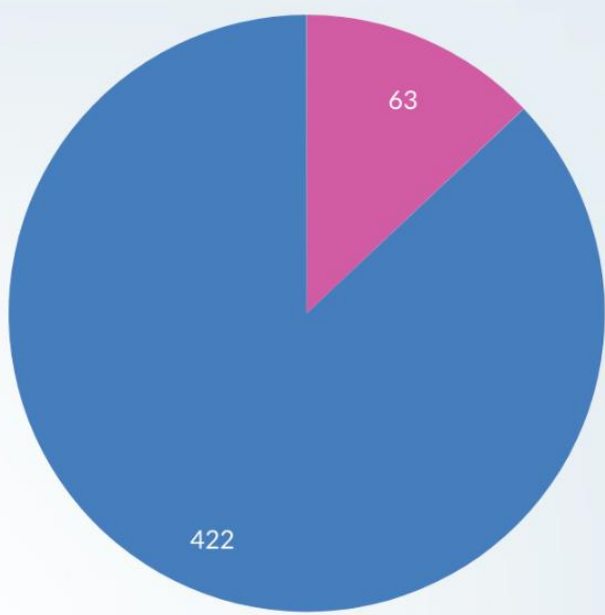
ZPP recorded 110 cases of harassment and intimidation largely attributed to the Zimbabwe Republic Police and Zanu PF. The ZRP, which has been put in charge of maintaining the COVID 19 regulations, has done so with little regard for citizens' rights, and that also explains the six cases of unlawful detention;





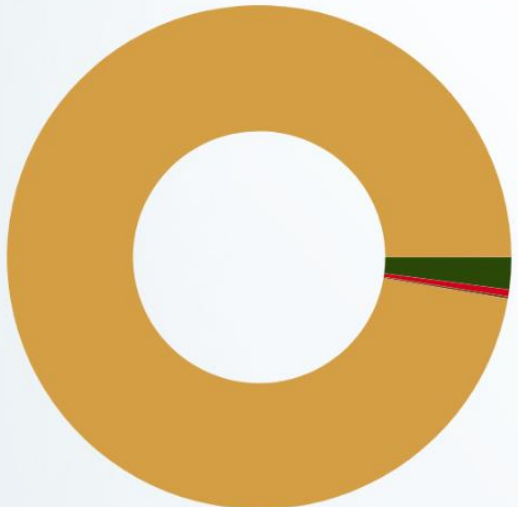
Female (48.15%) Male (51.85%)

Gender of Victims



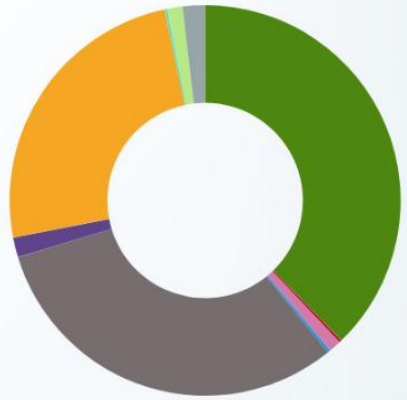
Female (12.99%) Male (87.01%)

Gender of Perpetrators



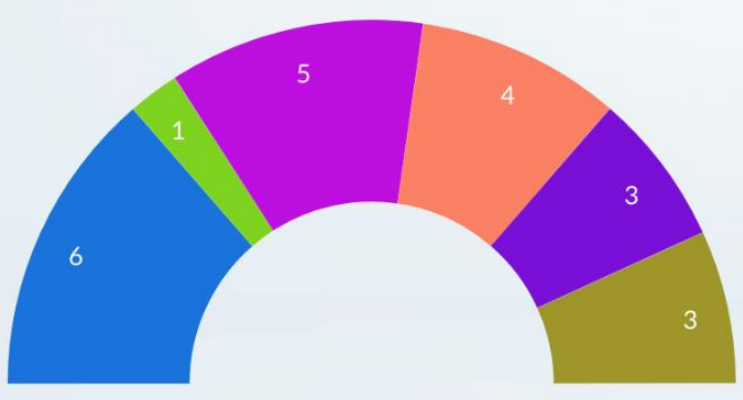
Zanu PF (2.07%) MDC Alliance (0.44%)  
Machete Gangs (0.13%) General Citizens (97.36%)

Victims Affiliation



Zanu PF (37.73%) MDC Alliance (0.21%)  
Machete Gangs (1.03%) PF ZAPU (0.21%)  
ZRP (31.13%) Municipal Police (1.65%)  
Unknown (24.74%) Mthwakazi (0.21%)  
State agents (1.24%) War Veterans (1.86%)

Perpetrators Affiliation



Harare (27.27%) Manicaland (4.55%)  
Mash Central (22.73%) Mash West (18.18%)  
Masvingo (13.64%) Midlands (13.64%)

Food & Other Aid Violations

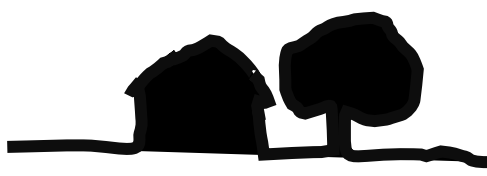


10 1  
Zanu PF MDC A

Intra Party Violence

### Violations analysis

This month, the percentage of women victims of human rights violations went up to 48.15 percent, up from 47.15 percent in the month of August . ZPP has noted an increase in the levels of victimization of women because in January, women made up about 41 percent of the victims and by May 2021, they were at 45 percent. This time, the ruling Zanu PF, which has always been the second highest perpetrator of human rights violations, overtook the long-standing chief perpetrator, the ZRP. This is a very sad trend considering that the ruling party should be setting the standards in terms of observing human rights while the ZRP itself is mandated to act to enforce the law in a peaceful and human-centred way. There was a resurgence of the activities of machete gangs, especially in the Midlands, and these contribute to just over one percent of the violations.



## 3.0 **#RRRV2023**: National Outlook

In this month, we witnessed an increase in political activity both by the opposition and ruling Zanu PF.

In most cases, Zanu PF got its way and the main opposition MDC Alliance, whose operating space has been grossly constricted, also managed to gather its supporters in some rural and urban areas and in some instances, the party had to conduct activities at night.

It was a bloody weekend of 24-26 September 2021 in the Zanu PF party as party supporters and those aspiring for positions engaged in bloody fights in Harare, Manicaland, Mashonaland West and Midlands provinces.

This explains the 10 cases of intra party violence within Zanu PF recorded in September.

In August 2021, ZPP recorded four cases of intra-party violence in Zanu PF and the increase is likely to hold into October and up until the party concludes its elective process.

In September, four political parties made their names known, one calling itself Freedom of Rights Under Sovereign (FORUS), the other, Divine Alliance for Vitalisation of Inspired Development (DAVID). Another party, the Citizens Convergence for Change (CCC), appeared in a letter addressed to the electoral commission in what was seen as an attempt to preempt the MDC Alliance's Citizens' Convergence for Change campaign model.

Another party, Patriotic Zimbabweans Party (PZP), was also born.

In light of the increased political activity across the country, ZPP continues to urge restraint and tolerance. This is because in the context of a democratic society that Zimbabwe seeks to achieve, intolerance and violence can only take the country backwards.

Political parties and individuals vying for public office have a duty to conduct themselves in a peaceful manner and to respect the rights of citizens.

The rights that we continue to remind politicians of include the right to free expression, freedoms of association and assembly.

Belonging to or sympathizing with a political party of one's choice is not a crime; it is a fundamental right!

We also call on the ruling party to end its abuse of state institutions such as the police, and that the line between government and the ruling party remains clear.

## 3.1 #RRRV2023: Regional Updates

### 3.1.1 Harare

I will pummel you Masimirembwa. You want to rig elections for Chidau so that he becomes chairman. I will pop that large belly."

Zanu PF's Godwin Gomwe's alleged words before hitting the party's Harare provincial chairperson Godwills Masimirembwa with a chair



It was good news for Civil Society Organisations following the High Court ruling which nullified Harare Provincial Development Coordinator, Tafadzwa Muguti's decision to ban some non-Governmental Organisations (NGOs) after they defied submitting their work plans as he had directed them to do.

In an urgent chamber application filed on 3 August, Zimbabwe Human Rights NGO Forum and Crisis in Zimbabwe Coalition Trust, both coalitions of NGOs argued the directive was unconstitutional as Muguti has no mandate dealing with NGOs.

Muguti, Minister of State for Provincial Affairs and Devolution Harare Metropolitan Province, Local Government, Home Affairs, Public Service ministers were all cited as respondents. In its ruling handed down on 17 September, the High Court said the applicants had proved a prima facie case establishing that their constitutional rights had been violated by Muguti's directive.

In a disturbing development, a Zimbabwe Electoral Commission (ZEC) leaked memo, revealed that the supposedly independent body was waiting for instructions from unnamed authorities for it to include the main opposition, MDC Alliance, in the commission's consultative processes for stakeholders.

ZEC spokesperson Commissioner Joyce Kazembe confirmed to NewsDay that the MDC Alliance was not invited to the critical meetings because the matter over the ownership of the name MDC Alliance was still to be resolved at the courts.

"We did not extend our invitation to MDC Alliance to be part of a stakeholder meeting because the matter regarding the name MDC Alliance is still before the courts," she told NewsDay.

Ironically, there is no legal wrangle before the courts over the MDC Alliance name.

Following the leaked memo, a youth leader in the MDC Alliance Denford Ngadzire who had gone to attempt to attend the ZEC meeting, and nine journalists who were covering the event, were arrested on 30 September.

This shows the extent to which there is collusion between the state and the ruling Zanu PF, whose leadership has openly declared they 'own' every institution in the country.

President Emmerson Mnangagwa is on record bragging about how the party owns the police, the Commissions, the army and virtually every institution.

Meanwhile, Zanu PF's chairperson for Harare province Godwills Masimirembwa had a chair thrown at him during preparations for chaotic district elections held on 24 September court heard.

Masimirembwa's deputy Godwin Gomwe appeared in court charged with assault over the incident.

Gomwe allegedly accused Masimirembwa of creating fictitious party districts to facilitate the rigging of internal elections in favour of Harare's minister of state, Oliver Chidau, in forthcoming Zanu PF provincial elections.

Gomwe is alleged to have shouted: "Ndirikuda kukum\*m\*sa Masimirembwa. Urikuda kuriga maelections uchiitira Chidau kuti aite chairman. Ndoda kukuputitsa zidumbu iroro (I will pummel you Masimirembwa. You want to rig elections for Chidau so that he becomes chairman. I will pop that large belly)."



## 3.1 #RRRV2023: Regional Updates

### 3.1.2 Manicaland

"We cannot continue to sleep as the party is being destroyed by one person...we are camping here at the party headquarters and we don't fear hunger. In Mozambique, we could go for many days without eating anything."

**Zimbabwe National Liberation War Veterans Associations national political commissar Joel Mureremba**

The relaxation of the lockdown regulations opened floodgates for political activity to resume in the country. Manicaland Province was no exception.

In this province, like everywhere else, Zanu PF was conducting its business as usual, gathering and mobilizing its supporters.

The factional clashes continued into the month of September and in Mutare, about 200 youths and other party supporters besieged the Manicaland provincial offices baying for provincial Chairperson Mike Madiro's blood, accusing him of influencing the ongoing district election process.

The factional fights in Manicaland are typical of what is being witnessed in other provinces. Zanu PF acting national spokesperson Mike Bimha told the media the party did not believe in violence.

"We all know that when there are elections, people jostle for positions, but we don't accept violence. Any violence of any sort is condemned and we would want to take disciplinary action," he told a local newspaper, NewsDay.

Ironically, his utterances are not reflected in what is happening in Manicaland districts and the nation at large, where party officials and activists are resorting to all forms of violent and coercive methods to win their way.

Interestingly, one of those protesting at the Manicaland Zanu PF office, Zimbabwe National Liberation War Veterans Associations national political commissar Joel Mureremba said statements that reminds many of the extent to which Zanu PF supporters and officials are prepared to go.

He is quoted in the paper saying they 'cannot continue to sleep as the party is being destroyed' He goes on to vow that they will camp at the party headquarters and that they do not fear hunger. He ends with juxtaposing their experiences in the liberation struggle and the ensuing plans to 'go for many days without eating anything' while maintaining a vigil at the party's offices.

By evoking war memories, Mureremba simply pointed out that they are prepared to go to war. For many who have followed Zimbabwe's elections, these statements are not new.

Army generals and top Zanu PF officials have recklessly expressed these warnings during election times and only recently, presidential spokesperson, George Charamba hinted that war veterans would not allow the hand over of power to MDC Alliance Nelson Chamisa if he won elections.

## 3.1 #RRRV2023: Regional Updates

### 3.1.3 Masvingo

"I have noted with disdain the brazen attempt by MDC Alliance MP Jacob Nyokanhete and some members of his political outfit to ascribe to him the Rujeko Secondary School project currently being carried out by the Masvingo City Council using public funds"

**Zanu PF councillor for Masvingo City's Ward 10, Sengerai Manyanga**

Zanu PF structures, which include Ward Chairpersons, once again continued their unholy collusion with traditional leaders in denying food aid to opposition political party supporters in Masvingo West, King Mine, Mashava area.

In one of the cases, some Zanu PF women leaders and a staffer at the Ministry of Women Affairs, Gender and Community Development were part of those who led the politicisation of aid from government.

Meanwhile, tension continued to mount in Masvingo urban following the clash between the area's Member of Parliament Jacob Nyokanhete of the opposition MDC Alliance and a Zanu PF councillor.

The two clashed over the use of part of the \$2 million Community Development Fund (CDF), which the legislator channelled towards construction of a high school in the City.

Zanu PF councillor for Masvingo City's Ward 10, Sengerai Manyanga accused Nyokanhete of hijacking the project, which he said was already in motion.

Manyanga was quoted in a local paper, newzimbabwe.com, saying that "I have noted with disdain the brazen attempt by MDC Alliance Masvingo Urban Member of Parliament, Jacob Nyokanhete and some members of his political outfit to ascribe to him the Rujeko Secondary School project currently being carried out by the Masvingo City Council using public funds"

These clashes point to the deep seated polarisation and the conflation of state and political parties, where elected individuals still continue to serve the interests of the party, not of the people they are supposed to represent.



**THE BAD NEWS**  
"Mdara mongosiyawo ka10 zvfambe"

**THE GOOD NEWS**  
You can now report such bribe-seeking by the cops

Download the SPECC App for Android and you can report human rights violations in real-time

**SPECC**  
Its purely Zimbabwean

GET IT ON  
**Google Play**

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## 3.1 #RRRV2023: Regional Updates

### 3.1.4 Midlands

"I went (to the police) as DCC chairman to solve the dispute between parties and in the process, secured the freedom of a kidnapped guy, falsely accused of hiding papers. The hired machete-wielding criminals were arrested and locked up. Gokwe North says no to violence and intimidation," Wadyajena told the newspaper.

**Gokwe Nembudziya MP and Gokwe North Zanu PF DCC Justice Mayor Wadyajena**

In the Midlands Province, the use of traditional leaders to further ZanuPF partisan interest was the highlight of the month.

A Mberengwa East Chief, Beta Mataruse, assigned his kraal heads to go door to door to establish those who had received the Covid-19 vaccine.

Chief Beta informed those who failed to produce the vaccine cards that they would not get any government aid and that they would not be able to vote in the 2023 elections.

As a result, villagers besieged the local health centers for the vaccine.

The pronouncements by the chief triggered a wave of fear and anxiety as Zanu PF activists used this to pronounce that those who did not get vaccinated were opposition MDC Alliance members and that violence of the scale of the 2008 bloody elections would befall them.

In 2008, Zimbabwe experienced one of its worst election violence when Zanu PF lost to the MDC-T and there was a systematic onslaught of opposition MDC-T members that left over 200 dead and thousands injured and displaced. No healing and reconciliation has happened since then.

In Gokwe-Nembudziya constituency, skirmishes took place during the voting process, adding that resultantly, resulting in the arrest of some machete-wielding youths.

Midlands is the hotbed of machete wars, and these are a manifestation of the heavily politicised and chaotic artisanal mining activities in the province.

The machete gangs have been a useful tool to Zanu PF's coercive campaign methods for years.

Gokwe-Nembudziya Member of Parliament and Gokwe North DCC chairperson Justice Mayor Wadyajena confirmed to a local newspaper that a driver and aide to one of the party's senior officials in the district were arrested, and that he had to go to the police station to 'rescue' a party official who had been falsely accused by a rival camp.

He said two officials linked to the senior party official paid admission of guilty fines.

Wadyajena disputed having gone to the police to seek refuge.

"I went as DCC chairman to solve the dispute between parties and in the process, secured the freedom of a kidnapped guy, falsely accused of hiding papers. The hired machete-wielding criminals were arrested and locked up. Gokwe North says no to violence and intimidation," Wadyajena told the newspaper.

This smacks of interference in the work of the police.

## 3.1 #RRRV2023: Regional Updates

### 3.1.5 Mashonaland Central

"He (Lazarus Dokora), has been under siege of late, including an attempt on his life, police victimization and unspecified threats and it's only logical for him to step aside. The truth of the matter is that he had already gained considerable ground which earned him those threats"

**An unnamed source commenting on the developments in the Zanu PF electoral processes**

The Zanu PF Annual Conference slated for October 2021 in Bindura Mashonaland Central province had a bearing on the political, socio- economic environment in the province.

Zanu PF factional raptures manifested ahead of the October conference with citizens being intimidated and harassed by traditional leaders and ruling party activists. The campaign trail turned nasty with cases on the right to personal security, political rights and hate speech being recorded ahead of this conference.

ZPP noted that there has been serious jostling for positions, with the current minister of Home Affairs Kazembe Kazembe reported to be intimidating other ruling party activists opposing his desire to grab the post of Mashonaland Chairperson at the conference.

ZPP received reports of attacks and an assassination attempt on former Mugabe administration Education minister Lazarus Dokora by suspected rivals from Kazembe Kazembe's camp.

It is alleged that Dokora who was eyeing the Zanu PF Mashonaland Central provincial Chairperson post was targeted on 13 September by alleged hit-men who used claw hammers to smash his car intending to kill him.

It is said that Dokora reported the attempt on his life at the Bindura Central police station. Sources told local publications that the police at Bindura did not entertain his report. The publication reported the source as saying the attempt on the former minister's life was a sign colleagues in Zanu PF's Mashonaland Central were determined to "eliminate" him before the provincial elections are held after he emerged as a clear front runner. Verified reports said that Dokora parked his vehicle and got out.

The assailants came and smashed his door with an intention of killing him with claw hammers.

Kazembe reportedly pointed a fire arm at some Mashonaland Central Provincial members who are from a rival faction.

Dokora has since stepped aside and a source told newzimbabwe.com, "He (Lazarus Dokora), has been under siege of late, including an attempt on his life, police victimization and unspecified threats and it's only logical for him to step aside. The truth of the matter is that he had already gained considerable ground which earned him those threats"

This level of violence at the high level affecting the elite of the Zanu PF party hierarchy is troubling, considering that it is only internal.

It gives a strong early warning that in an election where the party will be facing other parties, it is likely to use everything at its disposal, including state security agents, to thwart opposition to its rule.



## 3.1 #RRRV2023: Regional Updates



A police officer scrambles to board a truck home along Simon Mazorodze Road in Harare. The public transport crisis in Zimbabwe's urban and rural areas has left many resorting to unsafe means of commuting. IMAGE zppINFO

### 3.1.6 Mashonaland East

“The Chinese guys were moving around the area telling everyone to prepare to be moved as the place was meant for underground mining of black granite. We were shocked. How can we be moved from our ancestral land just like that,” he said.

**A Mutoko villager commenting on the attempts by Chinese miners to displace over 1500 people to pave way for black granite mining**

#### Mining and Lives

The controversial gold rush by the Chinese in Mashonaland East – Mutoko - sparked a significant amount of shock and anger among Zimbabwean citizens.

The usually sleepy districts, known for being the source of fresh vegetables, suddenly became the centre of attention as the Chinese scrambled to claim ownership of vast tracts of land, which they said was for exploration.

In Mutoko, there already has been a huge amount of discontent by villagers over the extraction of the valuable black granite, exported to developed countries at the expense of the poor communities.

To add to their worries, villagers in Mutoko North were shocked when the Chinese allegedly claimed they were to evict about four villages living on the 178 hectares of land slated for underground black granite extraction.

The Chinese allegedly entered without the company of government officials, and claimed the land belonged to them, as they had obtained the exploration rights.

According to the law, exploration rights supersede any other right over land.

A villager who spoke to ZPP confirmed the visits by the Chinese.

“The Chinese guys were moving around the area telling everyone to prepare to be moved as the place was meant for underground mining of black granite. We were shocked. How can we be moved from our ancestral land just like that,” he said.

A few days later, a video of a blast inside a village emerged signaling the beginning of mining activities in one part of Mutoko.

This is not just happening in Mutoko.

The Zimbabwe Independent, a weekly newspaper, has reported that thousands of Domboshawa villagers face imminent displacement to accommodate a clique of gold miners with strong links to the ruling Zanu PF party.

The paper further reported that fresh gold rush is happening without following proper channels, including an environmental impact assessment (EIA) and other licencing processes.

In Mavuradonha, foreign miners invaded game parks to exploit chrome. A Chinese miner also got a claim in Hwange National Park for coal.

In 2011, the Marange people of Chiadzwa in Manicaland were moved to ARDA Transau pave way for the mining of diamonds in the area and to date, they live in abject poverty and the land they were displaced from has since been desecrated due to the exploitative mining methods used by the Chinese companies linked to top government officials

## 3.1 #RRRV2023: Regional Updates

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### **Death in the hands of the police**

Police officers were among the main perpetrators of human rights violations in Mashonaland East.

The police were the perpetrators of forty percent of the human rights violations that ZPP recorded this month.

In one of the cases, police officers at Chivhu in Chikomba district tortured a woman to death during interrogations on 12 September.

She was suspected of withholding money allegedly stolen by her younger sister who had been arrested in Harare.

According to an autopsy shown to the ZPP, the deceased, Sharai Mukaro, suffered massive pericardial clot, had large amounts of blood in the upper mediastinum (which contains the heart, thymus gland, portions of the esophagus and trachea, and other structures), and had ruptures in the area of the aorta.

In other words, she had a lot of internal bleeding in the area around her heart and that could have resulted in her death.

There is no record of any procedures being undertaken against the offending police officers.

This is not the first case of people dying in the hands of the police.

Last year Eugene Marangwanda, who was in police custody over murder, died and the post mortem he had died from being assaulted by police at Bindura Police Station. Marangwanda's widow, Catherine Wazvaremhaka and her three children, in June began court procedures to are jointly suing Police Commissioner Gideon Matanga and Home Affairs minister Kazembe Kazembe.

In March 2021, Tatenda Pasinyore was arrested on undisclosed charges and witness statements indicate that he was subjected to a brutal assault by arresting police officers, which led to his death.

In 2019, a vendor Hilton Tamangani died in police detention at Harare Central Police.

ZPP calls on the police to act within their mandate when dealing with suspects. The Constitution clearly outlines the procedures to be undertaken during the investigation of a crime.

Torture should be a punishable crime and we call on the Home Affairs ministry to ensure that perpetrators be brought to book in order to infuse confidence into the criminal and justice system of the country.

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### **3.1.7 Mashonaland West**

The political environment in Mashonaland West has been tense during the month of September.

Zanu PF activists including coordinating officers and councillors have been coercing villagers to attend party meetings telling them that they will be removed from social welfare and inputs registers for not attending these meetings.

Zanu PF activists were reported to be forcing villagers not to associate with MDC Alliance activists and villagers who do not attend meetings.

Citizens from both rural and urban areas in Mashonaland West were victims of political rights violations, intimidation and harassment as they were being forced to vote for local structure leaders. Villagers and teachers from rural areas are being coerced to attend Zanu PF meetings.

The meetings were characterised by intimidation and threats as opposition supporters are being targeted and sometimes told to denounce their political affiliation.

## 3.1 #RRRV2023: Regional Updates

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### 3.1.8 Bulawayo

The highlight of political activities in Bulawayo this month is the proliferation of hate speech as political parties shape themselves ahead of the 2023 elections.

In Nkulumane constituency, the control of the informal sector workers continued.

A Mthwakazi activist allegedly threatened vendors in the area with violence if they continued to take instructions from Zanu PF and not the council.

Informal sector workers are often a strategic tool for political parties. This is because it is council that provides them operating spaces.

Zanu PF and MDC Alliance, the two parties that have the biggest influence in local authorities, try to use their presence in council to control these operating spaces. Throughout the province, Zanu PF is going around forcing vendors to join their cell groups.

One Delani Moyo of Zanu PF said those who failed to register under his party could soon lose licenses.

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### 3.1.8 Matebeleland North

Zanu PF has launched a new campaign blueprint that compliments their target to reach five million votes.

The new blueprint was launched in Hwange district amid calls to elect a new provincial executive and this led to divisions and conflict.

**In Tsholotsho South at Ngqoya homestead, a Zanu PF activist identified as Philani Zondo allegedly likened opposition members to dogs 'that do not have an ideology.'**

A similar case was recorded in Bubi constituency at Nkenyane area, where Zanu PF activists led by Gift Moyo were going around forcing small scale miners to go and register as voters at a local Zanu PF office. Moyo threatened the miners that in the event they fail to register under the cell group they risk being evicted from the area.

Food aid remains a weapon to control the electorate in Lupane district. A case of intimidation and threat was recorded in Lupane West constituency where a Zanu PF activist identified as Tryphine Khumalo told villagers to register under her party cell group or risk being removed from the food aid distribution list. It is said that she warned the villagers that come 2023, Zanu PF will be the only party in Zimbabwe and the rest will be swallowed by her party.

Even in Binga North opposition activists have been targeted and intimidated by Chief Saba of Binga North in Ward 9.

He has instructed all village heads to report any meeting convened by the members of the opposition. It is said that Chief Saba had instructed village heads to draw up a list of any opposition members seen moving around so that they could be dealt with.



## 3.1 #RRRV2023: Regional Updates

### 3.1.10 Matabeleland South

The province hosted MDC Alliance president Nelson Chamisa who paid a surprise visit to the disused Bhalagwe mine in Maphisa, Matabeleland South where Gukurahundi victims are buried in mass graves.

From the reports, police officers and security agencies did not disturb the gathering but ZPP recorded a case of intimidation where a Zanu PF activist identified as Nyabadzawa allegedly told the Secretary General of Ibhetshu likaZulu, Mbuso Fuzwayo that he should be careful with his life especially if he continues to meddle with the Gukurahundi issue.

In Plumtree town, an MDC Alliance member Julius Dube assaulted his fellow party member for criticising the party leader, Nelson Chamisa.

**IN 2023, HE WANTS  
SIX MILLION VOTES**

**IN 2023, HE WANTS  
FIVE MILLION VOTES**



**These ambitious plans by the country's two major political leaders pose a potential threat of political violence. But, the good news is, you can now report any incidents of political violence in real-time**

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## 4.0 Price up as dollar goes down

In the month of September, there was a marked increase in prices as a family of six now needs over ZWL40,000 (USD150.00 at street value and USD460 at the official exchange rate) a month to survive, according to ZIMSTAT. This marked a 4.8 percent increase from August's ZWL37,000 (USD217 at street value and USD425 at official exchange rate).

In February, the bread basket was at about ZWL25,000

The increases do not match what the majority of workers are earning as their monthly salaries are below ZWL20 000 (USD287 at official exchange rate)

The latest research conducted by the International Labour Organisations (ILO) shows some workers in the informal sector are earning less than ZWL1 000 (USD5.80 at street value or USD11 at official rate) with the majority of jobs in the sector being described as "survivalist".

The latest rise in the cost of living happened as the value of the Zimbabwe dollar on the parallel exchange market depreciated, pushing more retailers to increase their Zimbabwe dollar prices.

Even those retailers that still stick to the official exchange rate increased their Zimbabwe dollar prices.

This situation seriously affected the majority of workers who earn their salaries in Zimbabwe dollars.

The social inequalities have widened.

Just a snapshot into the changes of prices, even by government agencies, prove that government continues to remain in denial about the fact that the controlled exchange rate is not working.

Cooking oil prices have increased by over 50 percent to about ZWL500.00 from about ZWL 320.00 for a two-litre bottle.

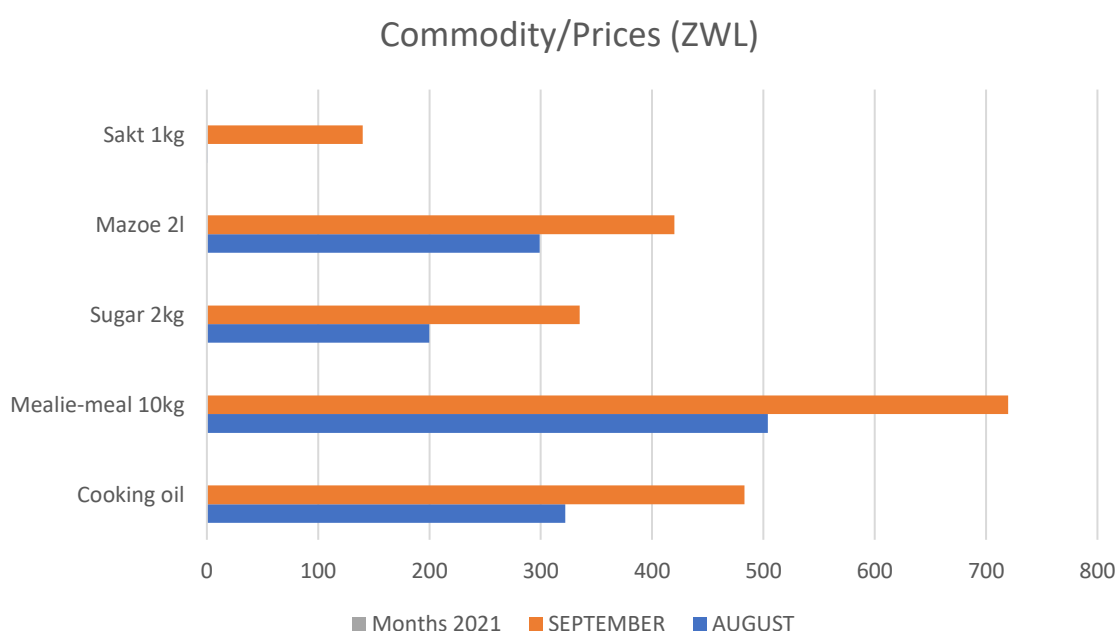
This means that at the official exchange rate of about 1USD:ZWL87, cooking oil will now cost about USD5.70, up from USD3.60.

This goes for many other basic commodities, including Orange crush, Sugar and Washing powder.

In the last week of September, telecommunications companies increased their tariffs and in the education sector, schools continued to review their school fees upwards.

As if they have not been racked with pain enough from striving to make ends meet from the already moribund economy, the government Statutory Instrument 127 of 2021 which seeks to rein in businesses that benefit from the foreign exchange auction system to use the rate pegged by RBZ when charging using the US dollar.

This initiative has ignited a rise in inflation as most businesses will be forced to charge very high prices considering the high street market rate for US dollar.



**Official Rate: 1USD: ZWL87**  
**Street Rate: 1 USD:ZWL170**

ZPP conducted a brief survey on the impact of the price increases to the ordinary citizens and here are some of the responses:

“I personally think the price increases are affecting us civil servants more, looking at how most Zimbabwe dollar salaries are being eroded every minute and many retailers and service providers are demanding payments in US Dollars. So, we have to go to the parallel market, where the exchange rate is nearly double the official rate and that leaves us with very little.”

“Everything is uncertain. One day you wake up with the (Finance) minister telling you that the economy is improving, and yet all that I have known for the past three years has been price increases, changes in currencies and people rejecting the local currency. Life is much harder now and this September, things became much worse for me as a vendor because if I sell my tomatoes in the local currency, I do not feel secure anymore to keep it in case it will be eroded overnight.”

“Our government owes us a great deal of honesty. They continue to just blame everyone else when anything goes wrong. They are the ones who make the parallel market and they blame the same parallel market when they cannot control it. Corruption, looting and misgovernance are the reason why we continue to have inflation and currency problems. I hope the government owns up for what it has caused us in this country.”

See more on [twitter.com/zppINFO](https://twitter.com/zppINFO)

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## Our recommendations

### **Transparency**

We strongly urge government and the Finance and Economic Development ministry to be more transparent on the state of the economy. This is because while the government's position is that the economy is improving, it sadly is not reflected on the ordinary person and as ZPP has noted, life has become more difficult in the communities.

### **Priorities**

Transparency allows the citizen to understand government's priorities in income and expenditure. For a government that has not done enough in covering the critical social sectors such as health, education and social welfare, it is important for citizens to know where the often -mentioned mineral resource and other revenues are being channeled to. This is because the social inequalities between the poor and hardworking and rich and connected. ZPP urges government to set its priorities right and ensure that the social sector is prioritized, because it is when people have adequate social services that their quality of life improves and genuine development takes place.

## 5.0 Welcome move



ZPP welcomes the deployment of a United Nations Special Rapporteur on the negative impact of unilateral coercive measures on the enjoyment of human rights, Ms. Alena Douhan, at the invitation of the Government of Zimbabwe.

She will undertake an official visit to country from 18 to 28 October 2021 in order to gather first-hand information related to the negative impact of unilateral coercive measures on the enjoyment of human rights in a specific country, enabling her to conduct her assessment and evaluation of such impacts and thus to prepare relevant recommendations and guidelines on means to mitigate or eliminate these adverse impacts," the UN has said.

"The purpose of the mission is to examine, in the spirit of co-operation and dialogue, whether and to what extent the adoption, maintenance or implementation of unilateral sanctions impedes

"the full realization of the rights set forth in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and other international human rights instruments, in particular the right of individuals and peoples to development.

We are confident that the Rapporteur will be able to meet all the stakeholders, including those in the civil society.

Zimbabwe has been under United States sanctions since 2001, when the US government enacted the Zimbabwe Democracy and Economic Recovery Act (ZIDERA).

The US action was replicated by the European Union which, in February 2002, imposed sanctions on the southern African country because of "serious violations of human rights, as well as violations of the freedom of opinion, freedom of association and freedom of peaceful assembly."

After the formation of the government of national unity between Zanu PF and opposition parties in 2009, the EU eased sanctions to encourage political reform.

In February 2014, it eventually suspended sanctions on eight of Zimbabwe's most powerful military and political figures, but maintained them on the late former President Robert Mugabe and his wife, Grace.

The human rights situation in Zimbabwe has not improved and if at all, "serious violations of human rights, as well as violations of the freedom of opinion, freedom of association and freedom of peaceful assembly" have worsened.

## 6.0 International Day of Peace

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### **Perspective from Mutoko**

Zimbabwe, like every other country in the world, has experienced the shocks brought about by the COVID-19.

Societies have had to endure social and economic depression for over a year and although the vaccine has brought about due relief, the road to recovery, especially for rural communities in Zimbabwe, is still long.

This year, the theme for the International Day of Peace was "Recovering better for an equitable and sustainable world."

To demonstrate the sheer resilience of the communities the Zimbabwe Peace Project works in, the organization conducted a colourful commemoration ceremony at Chindenga Secondary School in Mutoko.

Here, members of the community, with the support of their local leaders and government officials including the Mutoko District Development Coordinator Emilda Chidarikire all gathered for one cause, PEACE.

For a community that is known to have a long history of violent politics and a high number of domestic violence cases, Mutoko North has transformed, many thanks to the various peacebuilding initiatives that ZPP has conducted in the area over the past years.

So, even as people gathered to celebrate the International Day of Peace, it was all harmony. Communities celebrated this day in dance, drama and theatre acts that highlighted the problems that COVID-19 brought about, and the home grown solutions the communities have resorted to using.

The International Day of Peace is significant to the work of ZPP as peace is a key part of the organization's vision for a Zimbabwe where there is Peace, Justice, Dignity and Development for all.

We believe that everything begins with tolerance, coexistence and respect, and all these are what makes a national peaceful. It is with the peace that justice, dignity and development can manifest.

### **THE TAKE AWAYS**

When a community works together, like is happening in Mutoko North, they are able to confront social, economic and political challenges with collective influence.

For example, the communities have, with the support of ZPP and other organisations, successfully lobbied for local-based black granite processing plants. ZPP is informed that there are two plants currently under construction.

The community has also continued to utilize local structures like Child Care Workers Committees to protect the rights of women and children.

ZPP continues to urge government and the local authorities to implement community grown development initiatives.

This is what they said on the International Day of Peace:

*We need to step up our peace and resilience as a community so that we contribute to sustainable development. Community members need to look out for each other to protect children and all vulnerable groups"*

### **Mutoko District Development Co-Ordinator Emilda Chidarikire**

*We thank ZPP for bringing everyone together to highlight issues that we face. I believe that my community has embraced peace-building initiatives. We continue to hope to see a decline in cases of abuse being reported to the police and the traditional courts because with such peace-building initiatives, people will live together within their differences. **Headman Chindenga, Mutoko North.***