



# Monthly Monitoring Report

MARCH 2026

# ABOUT ZPP

The Zimbabwe Peace Project, ZPP, is a peace-promoting organisation that uses human rights lenses in peacebuilding, having established that the deprivation and abuse of human rights pose the greatest threat to peace in Zimbabwe.

The organisation was established in 2000 as a project of civil society and faith-based groups in response to the violence and human rights violations that characterised the political landscape of the time. These organisations were the Catholic Commission for Justice and Peace (CCJP), the Evangelical Fellowship of Zimbabwe (EFZ), the Zimbabwe Council of Churches, Zimbabwe Human Rights Association (ZIMRIGHTS), Zimbabwe Election Support Network (ZESN), Civic Education Network Trust (CIVNET), Counselling Services Unit (CSU), Zimbabwe Liberators Platform (ZLP) and Non-Violent Action and

Strategies for Social Change (NOVASC). Over the years, the ZPP network of members has evolved as the network welcomed new member organisations while others have developed new thematic interests or have ceased to exist. Current member organisations are the Catholic Commission of Justice and Peace (CCJPZ), Evangelical Fellowship of Zimbabwe (EFZ), Zimbabwe Council of Churches (ZCC), Zimbabwe Human Rights Association (ZIMRIGHTS), Counselling Services Unit (CSU), Women and Law Southern Africa (WLSA), National Association for the Care of the Handicapped (NASCOH) and the Women’s Coalition of Zimbabwe (WCoZ).

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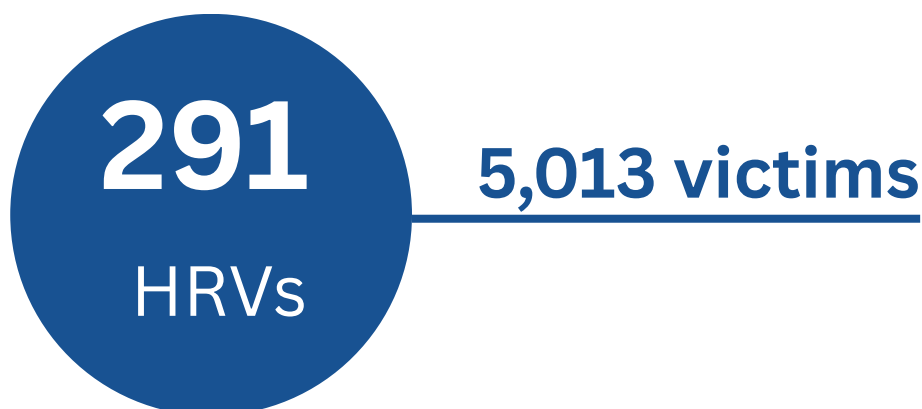
# EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Human rights violations surged sharply in March 2026, with 291 violations recorded compared to 104 in February, as the Zimbabwe Peace Project (ZPP) documented abuses affecting 5,013 victims nationwide. Of these, 2,863 were female, including 30 persons with disabilities, while 2,150 were male, including 23 persons with disabilities. This escalation was largely driven by widespread violations of civil and political rights during the politically tense environment leading up to the Parliamentary public hearings on the Constitution Amendment Bill (No. 3) of 2026, held from 30 March to 2 April. These public hearings were described by the Zimbabwe Human Rights Commission as being marred by violence and other forms of human rights violations.

In this month, citizens' freedoms were affected by overt political violence, including assaults, abductions, intimidation, and harassment, alongside systematic restrictions on freedoms of assembly, association, expression, and broader political rights while socio-economic rights were also negatively affected.

Perpetrators were predominantly linked to ruling party structures, with ZANU PF affiliates accounting for 49.71% of recorded violations, followed by the Zimbabwe Republic Police (13.08%), suspected state security agents (11.34%), and other government agencies (8.43%). Additional actors included school authorities (6.69%), local municipal authorities (4.65%), artisanal miners (1.45%), and traditional leaders (0.87%), while 3.78% of perpetrators were unaffiliated. Geographically, Manicaland recorded the highest number of violations (48), followed by Harare (42), Mashonaland West (38), Masvingo (35), Mashonaland Central (33), Mashonaland East (26), Midlands (23), and Bulawayo (20), with Matabeleland North and South recording 14 and 12 cases respectively.

In the "Towards Sustainable Peace in Zimbabwe" section, ZPP commends the Zimbabwe Human Rights Commission, under the leadership of the now reassigned Ms. Jessie Majome, for its principled stance in raising concerns over the human rights implications of the Constitution Amendment Bill and the conduct of the public hearings.



## KEY VIOLATIONS



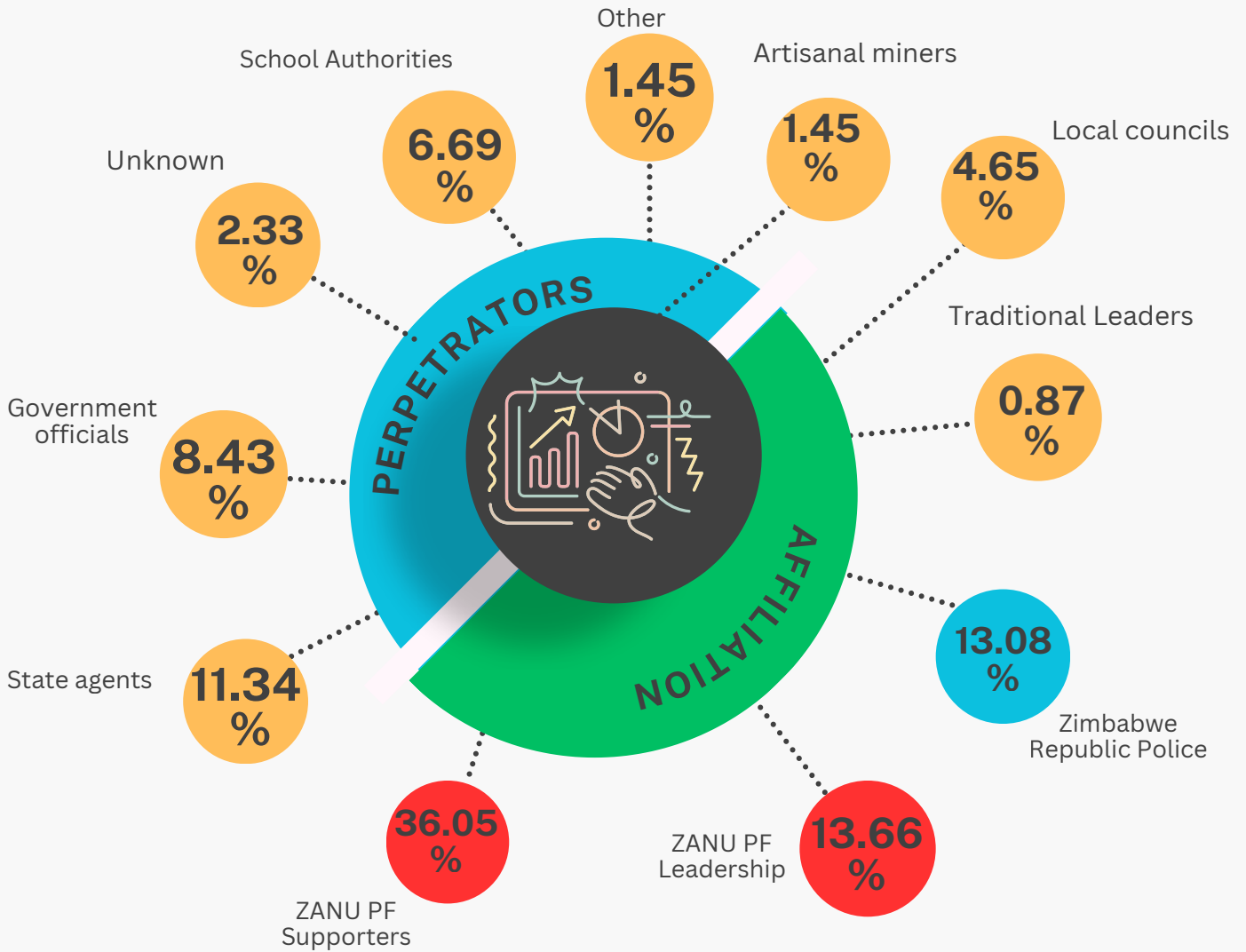
During the Parliamentary Public Hearings on the Constitution Amendment Bill (No. 3) of 2026, the Zimbabwe Peace Project (ZPP) documented a total of 121 overt human rights violations affecting 1,985 people, 714 males and 1,271 females, including 10 persons with disabilities. Rather than facilitating democratic participation, the hearings were marked by systemic repression, with widespread restrictions on freedoms of expression, assembly, and association, alongside violations of personal security and liberty through assault, threats, and unlawful detention. Individuals and groups which mobilized, participated, or expressed dissenting views against the Bill were targeted, creating an environment of fear, coercion, and punitive control.

Among the gravest violations were cases of abduction and unlawful detention, with four incidents recorded affecting six male victims. On 30 March 2026, a human rights defender and student activist affiliated with the Zimbabwe National Students Union (ZINASU) was forcibly taken in Bindura by four unidentified men driving an unregistered vehicle, who later identified themselves as police officers; he was accused without evidence, coerced into signing documents, and subjected to threats while being moved between offices. He was detained for two nights in degrading conditions without basic necessities, resulting in physical illness and psychological trauma, and although later released on bail following legal intervention, he remained under surveillance and threats, forcing him into hiding. Similar patterns were reported in Bulawayo and Chitungwiza, where victims were abducted, detained, and in some cases dumped with signs of physical abuse.

These incidents echo earlier incidents recorded prior to the hearings in March, including the abduction and assault of National Constitutional Assembly (NCA) members found dumped in Highlands, Harare. Additional unjustified arrests in Bindura, Bulawayo, and Gweru further illustrated the weaponisation of law enforcement to suppress dissent. During the four day period, 52 physical violence cases and threats to personal safety linked to the CAB3 process were recorded during and after the hearings. Notably, in Harare, prominent human rights lawyer Doug Coltart was assaulted and robbed of his mobile phone while being pursued by individuals suspected of planning further attacks, while in Bulawayo a male youth was abducted and other victims, including a young man and an elderly woman, were assaulted for expressing opposition to the Bill. Widespread intimidation compounded these abuses, with 35 incidents of threats of violence affecting 1,556 people, significantly deterring participation and entrenching fear.

# KEY VIOLATIONS

The pre-hearing period further reflected a deteriorating civic space, with 67 human rights violations related to the Constitution Amendment Bill (3) documented between January and March, indicating a sustained campaign of intimidation targeting human rights defenders and civic actors. Collectively, these violations infringed constitutionally guaranteed rights, particularly freedoms of assembly and association (Section 58), the right to demonstrate and petition (Section 59), and freedom of expression and the media (Section 61), all of which are essential for democratic participation in constitutional reform processes.



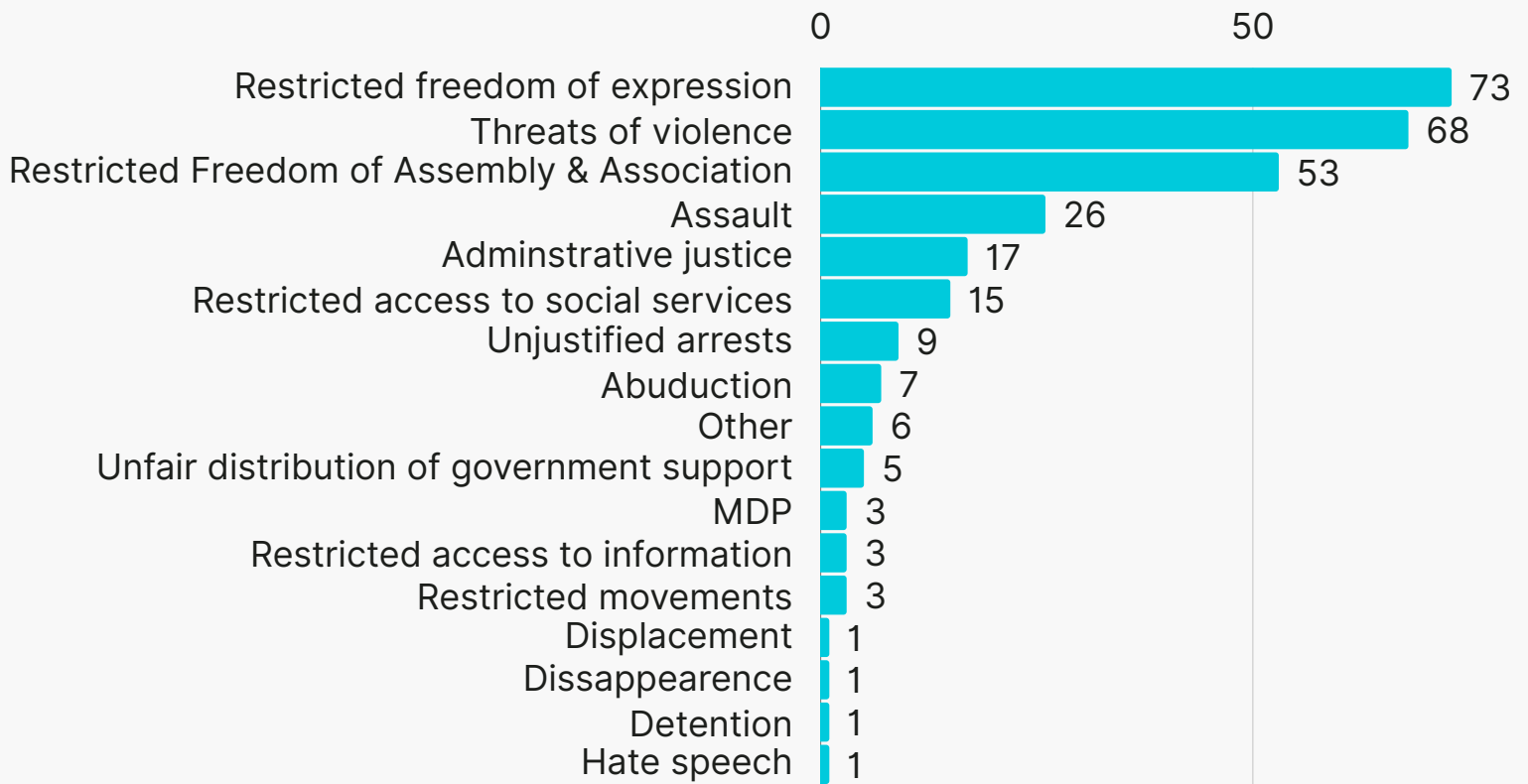
### HARRASMENT AND INTIMIDATION

In March 2026, ZPP documented a total of 68 human rights violations related to intimidation and harassment, reflecting a deliberate and coordinated campaign of fear and coercion especially in the lead-up to the Parliamentary public hearings on the Constitution Amendment Bill (No. 3). This period was marked by heightened surveillance of citizens, human rights defenders, and perceived dissenters, with threats of violence widely used to suppress opposing views and restrict participation in constitutionally protected processes. The violations largely involved explicit and implicit threats prior to and during mobilisation for the hearings, creating an environment where citizens were deterred from exercising their rights to freedom of expression, assembly, and political participation as guaranteed under Sections 58, 59, and 61 of the Constitution of Zimbabwe. Among the most alarming cases, on 4 March, the President of the People's Unity Party, Herbert Chamuka, publicly threatened to burn the homes of opposition leaders Nelson Chamisa and Tendai Biti in a widely circulated video, invoking past political violence as a means to justify coercion. In Rushinga District (Ward 14), local ruling party leadership structures warned communities that anyone opposing the Bill would be "dealt with," restricting attendance at public hearings to selected individuals and deploying party-linked actors to identify and punish dissenters. Similarly, in Kwekwe at Mapfungautsi Primary School, a ZANU PF meeting incited violence against those resisting the amendments, with calls for opponents to be beaten, while parallel meetings in rural areas reinforced threats against non-compliant citizens.

Individual cases further illustrate the pervasive nature of these violations. For instance, in Sanyati (Ward 3), a woman was threatened with assault in front of her family for failing to attend ruling party meetings while in Epworth, a door-to-door campaign by ZANU PF included threats of displacement for those opposing the Bill, and in Centenary, a male human rights activist was subjected to continuous surveillance and interrogation by suspected state security agents regarding his involvement in mobilisation efforts. In Mazowe, vendors were coerced into signing pre-filled forms supporting the Bill under threat of eviction, demonstrating how economic vulnerability was exploited to enforce political compliance. In Hurungwe (Ward 6), threats escalated further, with warnings that opponents could "disappear," while in Mashonaland Central, a young woman who expressed dissent during a hearing was later threatened with violence by a Member of Parliament, who invoked state intelligence structures to intimidate her. Beyond political spaces, intimidation also extended into socio-economic rights contexts, as seen in Mutasa, Manicaland, where a Chinese mining operation not only threatened environmental and community rights but where those opposing the activities faced threats of violence and arrest from state security agents.

These cases, alongside numerous similar incidents across the country, demonstrate a systematic pattern of intimidation and harassment aimed at silencing dissent, undermining democratic participation, and eroding constitutional protections. The scale and consistency of the 68 recorded violations highlight not isolated misconduct but an entrenched environment of repression, in which both state and non-state actors acted, directly or indirectly, to curtail fundamental rights and freedoms.

## MARCH HUMAN RIGHTS VIOLATIONS



## ABDUCTIONS

In March 2026, the Zimbabwe Peace Project documented 7 grave human rights violations involving abductions and associated abuses, underscoring a disturbing escalation in the use of extreme coercive tactics to silence dissent in the lead-up to the Parliamentary public hearings on the Constitution Amendment Bill (No. 3). These violations occurred within a broader context of shrinking civic space, where individuals perceived to oppose the Bill, including students, activists, and community leaders, were targeted through abduction, assault, and intimidation, in clear violation of constitutionally guaranteed rights to personal security (Section 52), personal liberty (Section 49), and freedoms of expression, assembly, and association (Sections 58, 59, and 61). A notable case involved a student leader at Chinhoyi University, who was abducted after participating in discussions opposing the Constitution Amendment Bill (3). The incident unfolded in a lecture hall where debates were taking place among students affiliated with ZICOSU, alongside those expressing dissenting views. After entering the venue and engaging in the discussion, the victim and other student leaders who opposed the Bill were forcibly chased out before he was subsequently abducted and attacked. He sustained serious injuries across his body, including on the soles of his feet, an indication of deliberate and punitive assault, reportedly at the hands of individuals linked to pro-CAB3 groups present during the discussions. This case reflects a broader and deeply concerning pattern in which abductions were used not only to inflict physical harm but also to instill fear and deter participation in democratic processes.

# TOWARDS SUSTAINABLE PEACE IN ZIMBABWE



## ***A principled stand: ZHRC calls out rights violations in CAB3 hearings***

The Zimbabwe Peace Project commends the Zimbabwe Human Rights Commission, under the leadership of Chairperson Jessie Majome, for its principled, evidence-based, and human rights-centred assessment of the Constitution Amendment Bill (No. 3) of 2026 and the Parliamentary public hearings held between the 30th of March and 2 April 2026. ZPP particularly recognises the Commission’s courage in openly documenting intimidation, harassment, exclusion, and violence within a highly sensitive political process, while reaffirming constitutional guarantees and international human rights standards. This intervention reflects the Commission’s constitutional mandate not only to monitor and report on human rights conditions, but also to promote accountability, raise public awareness, and ensure that state institutions comply with both domestic and international obligations. Through its deployment of monitoring teams, public reporting, and clear articulation of rights violations, the Commission has demonstrated its role as an independent oversight body committed to safeguarding democratic participation, protecting vulnerable groups, and fostering a culture of respect for human rights.

In its broader analysis, the Zimbabwe Human Rights Commission presents a critical evaluation of the public hearings, acknowledging efforts by Parliament to facilitate participation through nationwide consultations, advance publicisation, and provision for written submissions. However, the Commission’s findings reveal that these procedural measures were significantly undermined by systemic barriers and coercive practices, including restricted access to venues, controlled participation through vetting mechanisms, and the targeting of dissenting voices. The documented cases of intimidation, denial of audience, and physical attacks expose a shrinking civic space and a clear departure from the principles of transparency, inclusivity, and participatory democracy. By explicitly linking these practices to violations of fundamental rights, such as freedom of expression, conscience, assembly, personal security, dignity, and equality, the Commission not only highlights the gravity of the situation but also situates it within Zimbabwe’s constitutional framework and its obligations under international human rights law, including the ICCPR. Ultimately, the statement underscores a critical gap between the formal intent of public participation and the lived reality of citizens, reinforcing the urgent need for institutional reforms and stronger safeguards to protect democratic processes.

## ***A condemnation of Violence, Intimidation, and Systems That Enable Impunity***



ZPP strongly condemns the use of violence, intimidation, and coercive systems that enable impunity. A deeply troubling pattern continues to exist in which citizens seeking to participate in governance and political activities, such as the constitutional reform processes are met not with protection, but with repression. Grave violations, including abductions, assaults, unlawful detention, and sustained intimidation, demonstrate a systematic attempt to silence dissent and manipulate democratic processes through fear. Such acts reflect entrenched practices that shield perpetrators from accountability while undermining the rule of law.

The documented environment was characterised by threats, surveillance, and violence against human rights defenders, students, and ordinary citizens. These violations strike at the core of constitutionally guaranteed freedoms, including the rights to personal security, dignity, expression, assembly, and political participation. When individuals are abducted, assaulted, or threatened for expressing views on national governance, the legitimacy of the entire reform process is fundamentally compromised.

ZPP further notes with concern that these patterns persist within a broader system that normalises impunity, where perpetrators, whether state or non-state actors, are rarely held accountable. This not only emboldens further abuses but erodes public trust in institutions tasked with upholding justice. The failure to investigate and prosecute such violations sends a dangerous message that violence is an acceptable tool of political control.

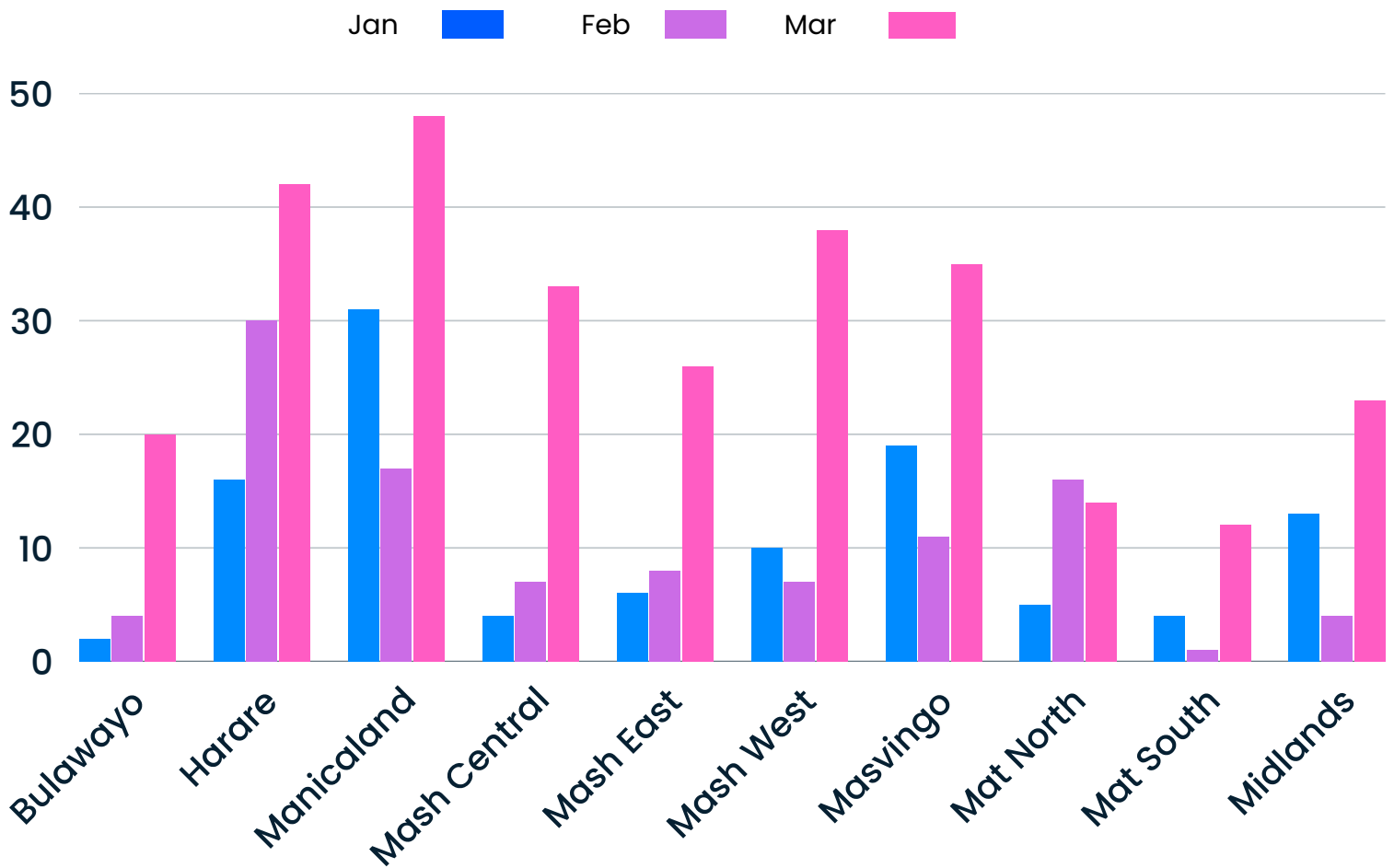
Zimbabwe must urgently align its actions with international human rights standards. In particular, ZPP calls on the



Government of Zimbabwe to ratify the Convention Against Torture (CAT) and fully domesticate its provisions into national law. Ratification would signal a firm commitment to ending torture and related abuses, and to ensuring that all allegations of such violations are independently investigated and prosecuted.

Accountability is not optional, it is essential. All perpetrators of violence, regardless of affiliation or status, must be brought to justice through credible and transparent processes. At the same time, the State must take proactive steps to guarantee the safety of citizens, protect civic space, and uphold the principles of democratic participation. Without these measures, constitutional reform risks becoming an exercise overshadowed by fear rather than a genuine reflection of the will of the people.

# PROVINCIAL OUTLOOK



## Harare

In March, Harare recorded 42 human rights violations, with the most egregious incident occurring in Chitungwiza on 30 March, where two men were abducted, assaulted and dumped with visible injuries after they had expressed opposition during the parliamentary public hearing on the Constitution Amendment Bill (3). Other grave violations included threats of arson by private individuals against opposition figures Nelson Chamisa and Tendai Biti, amid an intimidating heavy police presence at Tendai Biti's offices. The remainder of violations reflected systematic intimidation and coercion as residents and informal traders in Glenview and Gazaland were threatened with eviction for not supporting the 2030 agenda while citizens across the province were forced to attend ruling party meetings ahead of the public hearings. Meanwhile, citizens in Epworth faced threats and pressure to back Constitutional Amendment Bill No. (3) with coercion such as forced signatures and warnings of displacement being used. Civil society activities in Chitungwiza were also curtailed, as a planned community meeting was blocked by police, highlighting shrinking civic space.



## Manicaland

In March, Manicaland Province recorded the highest number of human rights violations (48), marked by several grave incidents. Most notably, a Mutare based popular social media content creator and TikToker, was brutally assaulted by suspected ruling party youths after expressing dissent online, leaving him hospitalized in a coma. No arrests were made, highlighting impunity. In Chipinge South, Civil Protection Unit authorities failed to respond to a disaster where 16 people were trapped by floods, forcing the community to mount a risky rescue that left three individuals stranded for more than 18 hours. In Mutare, the arrest of Tendai Biti and fellow activists for campaigning against Constitutional Amendment Bill No. 3 exposed the selective application of the law where their personal liberty, political rights as well as freedoms of expression and assembly were violated. Additionally, violent extortion and intimidation by ruling party-linked groups in Buhera and Sakubva targeted residents, vendors, and transport operators where ruling party youths unprocedurally and in some cases violently took over local authorities roles to allocate and collect operating fees. Other violations reflected widespread coercion, including partisan distribution of food aid, forced financial contributions towards Independence celebrations, threats against perceived opposition supporters, restriction of civic participation at public hearings, and harassment by law enforcement officers. All these point to shrinking civic space and entrenched political intimidation across the province.

## Mashonaland Central

In Mashonaland Central, 33 human rights -violations were documented, with the most serious involving the targeting of a female human rights defender in Bindura after she opposed Constitutional Amendment Bill No. 3 at a public hearing. The victim was harassed and threatened with violence by Member of Parliament Remigious Matangira and suspected intelligence operatives. In Mazowe Central, armed police and suspected state agents besieged a homestead under the pretext of an unlawful meeting, instilling fear and signalling potential repression of dissent. Another grave trend was the systematic suppression of freedoms across Mazowe and Guruve, where communities were threatened, forced to attend ruling party meetings, and warned of a repeat of 2008 violence if they opposed the Bill, effectively silencing debate and enforcing compliance. In Mt Darwin, a political meeting disrupted learning after a Chihoko primary school was commandeered to provide a classroom for ruling party's meeting. The meeting, co-chaired by Innocent Mavhura and Katurura, involved the presentation of the Bill's contents to attendees, who were told it was not open to contestation as it had already been agreed upon. Katurura asserted that their parliamentary two-thirds majority meant the process could not be challenged. Attendees, including teachers, Chief Dotito, village heads, and community members, were not given an opportunity to express their views. The conduct of the meeting, held in a school setting, undermined both the right to education and fundamental freedoms of assembly, association, and participation. In Guruve North, residents were coerced into supporting the Bill under threats while other violations reflected widespread coercion and abuse of authority, including intimidation at community meetings, restriction of participation in public hearings, and extortion of vendors by politically linked groups.

## Mashonaland East

26 human rights violations were documented in Mashonaland East where the situation was marked by serious cases of coercion and suppression of fundamental freedoms. The most severe violations occurred in Goromonzi South, where a ruling party rally led by Provincial Chairperson and Minister of Local Development Honourable Daniel Garwe, forced residents and business owners to shut down operations, contribute funds, and attend under intimidation, with some individuals forcibly taken to the venue and compelled to chant slogans. In Mudzi South, communities were threatened with violence by a war veteran for resisting Constitutional Amendment Bill No. 3, while churches were directed to suspend services to allow congregants to attend a political meeting, an act widely criticised as an abuse of power and infringement on freedom of religion, and freedoms of assembly and association. In Chivhu, a human rights workshop at a school was disrupted by suspected state security agents who harassed staff and learners, confiscated materials, and forced participants to remove branded T-shirts, leading to the premature termination of the programme. The violations in the province reflect a continued pattern of intimidation and forced political participation showing increasing pressure on citizens to conform to ruling party positions.

## Midlands

In March, a total of 23 human rights violations were documented in Midlands Province, reflecting a pattern of coercion, intimidation, and restrictions on fundamental freedoms in the context of constitutional amendment consultations. In Kwekwe, a local human rights defender reported receiving threats prior to a public hearing, effectively violating their right to participate in public affairs and undermining the protection of human rights defenders. At a public hearing on the Constitution Amendment Bill (3), a citizen who expressed opposition to the proposed bill was subjected to verbal abuse and public humiliation, an infringement of freedom of expression. Reports further indicate that some individuals were coerced to attend the hearings, including through direct communication from political actors instructing attendance at specific times. In addition, a former councilor was jeered at and assaulted, violating their right to personal security. In Chiwundura, communities reported widespread intimidation ahead of consultations on Bill No. 3. Residents described threats against those perceived to oppose the bill raising fears of exclusion and manipulation of public participation processes. Across affected areas, there were also reports of systematic data collection by political actors, including door-to-door requests for personal information such as names, identification numbers, and contact details as noted in Mbizo. In Gokwe Central, community members were instructed to forgo religious services in order to attend a political gathering, infringing on freedom of religion. During the meeting, political messaging suggested that the constitutional amendment process was predetermined, undermining the principles of meaningful public participation and democratic governance. Attendees were further encouraged to recruit others into political structures, with implications for equal access to state resources. Additionally, reports from Kwekwe and surrounding rural areas indicate that individuals opposing the amendment were threatened with violence, including calls for physical assault.

## Matabeleland South

In March, 12 human rights violations were documented in Matabeleland South, reflecting concerns around intimidation, restricted civic participation, and socio-economic rights. In Gwanda, a human rights activist was summoned by state security agents and questioned regarding their intended role in mobilising citizens for public hearings. This action constitutes an intimidation tactic that undermines the rights to freedom of expression, association, and participation in public affairs, particularly for human rights defenders. In Umzingwane, the right to education has been adversely affected at a local primary school, where a prolonged shortage of teachers has left Grade 5 and 6 learners without instruction for more than a school term. In Bulilima, during a public hearing held at Nyele Hall in Bulilima West, individuals perceived to oppose the constitutional amendment bill were systematically denied the opportunity to speak. Those attempting to express dissenting views were reportedly booed and jeered at, creating a hostile environment that discouraged meaningful participation. This undermines the principles of inclusive and participatory governance, as well as the rights to freedom of expression and equal participation in public processes.

## Masvingo



In March, 35 human rights violations were documented in Masvingo Province, pointing to a pattern of political interference, intimidation, and restrictions on civic space. Human rights defenders in the province remain at heightened risk. In Chivi, a female human rights defender reported repeated threats and was instructed to discourage civil society mobilisation around public hearings. In Masvingo city, a male youth activist was also threatened with violence after expressing dissenting views during a public hearing and has reported countless visits to his home by unknown individuals looking for him. In Mwenezi North (Ward 5), traditional leaders were instructed by a ruling party local councillor to compel community members to attend gatherings related to the constitutional amendment process and to publicly demonstrate support. A

male villager who expressed unwillingness to participate due to personal and religious commitments, was subjected to threats and intimidation, including coercion directed at his family members. Civic space in the province continues to be constrained through administrative and political barriers placed on civil society organisations. In Ward 20, Masvingo Central, a community-based organisation was denied permission to conduct a workshop following ZANU-PF Secretary General and Speaker of the National Assembly, Jacob Mudenda's calls for ruling party members to keep a close watch and monitor the activities of non-governmental organisations (NGOs) operating in the province. Similar restrictions were reported in Chivi, where local authorities demanded clearance procedures that resulted in the cancellation of planned activities. These measures, reportedly linked to directives to monitor and control non-governmental organisations, undermine the right to freedom of association and limit the ability of civil society to operate independently. In Chivi District, at Madzivire Primary School (Ward 6), the integrity of the School Development Committee (SDC) elections was undermined by interference from political actors. Reports indicate that individuals were denied the right to vote freely, while vote counting processes lacked transparency and confidentiality. Candidates perceived to be aligned with opposition parties were disregarded despite community support, resulting in the imposition of a committee aligned to one political party. Overall, the situation in Masvingo Province reflects a shrinking civic space characterised by coercion, political interference, and intimidation, undermining both civil and political rights as well as community-level democratic processes.

## Mashonaland West

In Mashonaland West, 38 human rights violations were documented including grave violations such as abductions, assaults, and organised violence. A particularly case involved the abduction and torture of a student leader at Chinhoyi University following his participation in discussions on the Constitution Amendment Bill. After engaging in a debate involving student groups, including those aligned to ZICOSU and the ruling party, the victim and other dissenting students were forcibly ejected from the venue. He was forcibly taken away and subjected to a violent assault, sustaining serious injuries, including on the soles of his feet, an indication of deliberate and punitive violence. This constitutes a severe violation of the rights to personal security, freedom from torture and inhuman or degrading treatment, and freedom of expression. In Mhondoro-Ngezi, another abduction was reported following a violent disruption of a meeting at Mamina Business Centre. A participant who opposed the Bill was targeted after a youth leader incited chaos, leading to the premature termination of the gathering. The individual was later taken by unidentified persons, further underscoring the use of enforced disappearance and intimidation to silence dissent. In Kariba, five individuals, four men and one young woman, were assaulted by a mob reportedly including ruling party supporters after expressing opposing views during a public hearing. The victims sustained injuries, highlighting a pattern of collective violence against perceived dissenters and violations of the rights to security of person and peaceful participation. In Kadoma, organised groups conducted marches promoting “Vision 2030” and support for the amendment. During these activities, individuals who expressed opposing views were reportedly harassed and physically manhandled in public. In Sanyati (Ward 3), a woman was threatened with assault in front of her family for failing to attend ruling party meetings, illustrating coercion and intimidation, and violations of the rights to freedom of association and personal security. Further concerns arise in Zvimba (Raffingora), where reports indicated that participants were pre-selected and possibly rehearsed, with many expressing fear and reluctance to speak freely. Overall, the situation in Mashonaland West is characterised by grave human rights violations, including abductions and violent assaults, alongside widespread intimidation and manipulation of civic processes.

## Matabeleland North

14 human rights violations were documented in Matabeleland North. Human rights violations included incidents of assault, torture, and threats forcing displacement, particularly targeting individuals exercising their rights to association, expression, and participation. In Tsholotsho, three male victims were subjected to a violent and coordinated attack by unidentified assailants wearing masks who disrupted a rural teachers’ union meeting. The victims were assaulted and tortured, with the perpetrators demanding information on the whereabouts of union leader Obert Masaraure. The victims sustained serious injuries. In Hwange, a human rights defender was repeatedly interrogated by state security agents regarding his involvement in mobilising citizens for public hearings. He was further threatened with violence should he continue his activities or express dissenting views. These actions amount to intimidation and harassment, undermining the rights to freedom of expression, association, and the protection of human rights defenders. In Bubi District, at a public hearing held in Inyathi, a male participant who expressed opposition to the Constitutional Amendment Bill faced severe reprisals. A local ruling party councillor issued threats of arson against the victim’s home. As a result, the individual fled his residence, leaving behind his family out of fear for his life, the threats continued until the victim temporarily relocated his family for fear of further victimisation. This represents a serious violation of the rights to security of person, protection from threats and intimidation, and the right to participate freely in public affairs without fear of retaliation.

## Bulawayo

In March, 20 human rights violations were documented in Bulawayo, with several grave violations recorded in the context of constitutional amendment consultations. These include abduction, assault, and systematic suppression of dissent, pointing to a serious deterioration of civic space and protection of fundamental rights. A particularly grave incident involved the abduction of a student activist shortly after participating in a public hearing in Nketa, where he had expressed opposition to Constitutional Amendment Bill No. 3. He was reportedly taken by unidentified individuals in an unmarked vehicle and was



forced to reveal his residence and other private information details. Further post-hearing violations were recorded in Nketa, including the assault of a female activist for opposing the Bill who sustained injuries and was subsequently subjected to further intimidation when ruling party youths visited her home and threatened her family forcing her to temporarily vacate her home. In addition, police presence was reported outside the residence of a former Member of Parliament and opposition activist, raising concerns about surveillance and harassment. Earlier in the month, a press conference organised by the National Democratic Working Group (NDWG) was disrupted by police in Bulawayo's central business district. Law enforcement officers, including those in anti-riot gear, blocked access to the venue and arrested one individual, who was later released. This action violated the rights to freedom of assembly, expression, and media freedom, and reflects the use of state security mechanisms to suppress civic engagement. The conduct of public hearings in Bulawayo further undermined the principles of inclusive and meaningful participation with evidence suggesting that large numbers of individuals were transported from outside the city to attend proceedings. The overcrowding of venues, poor facilitation, and selective allocation of speaking opportunities created an environment where dissenting voices were marginalised.

## Conclusion

The human rights violations documented in March 2026 were driven largely by a repressive environment surrounding the Constitution Amendment Bill (No. 3) public hearings, where citizens faced systematic violence, intimidation, abductions, unlawful detention, and coercion that severely undermined freedoms of expression, assembly, association, and political participation. The findings reveal a coordinated pattern of abuses, largely attributed to ruling party affiliates, state security agents, and law enforcement, seemingly designed to silence dissent and manipulate democratic processes through fear, compounded by entrenched impunity and the failure to investigate or prosecute perpetrators, thereby eroding public trust and the rule of law.

In light of these grave violations, the Zimbabwe Peace Project calls on Parliament to reveal the reports and ensure genuinely inclusive, transparent, and rights-compliant public participation processes. ZPP further calls on the Zimbabwe Republic Police to uphold constitutional obligations by protecting citizens, ending the weaponisation of law enforcement, and promptly investigating all violations; and the Government of Zimbabwe to demonstrate political will by ending impunity, aligning practices with constitutional and international human rights standards, and urgently ratifying and domesticating the Convention Against Torture (CAT).

ZPP strongly recommends that the Zimbabwe Human Rights Commission continue its independent monitoring, reporting, and advocacy role without interference and to thoroughly investigate all cases of human rights violations and administrative abuse, particularly during this period and to ensure the citizens have adequate access to file complaints in order to access justice.

ZPP also recommends that the Zimbabwe Independent Complaints Commission operationalise robust, transparent mechanisms to receive, investigate, and redress complaints against security service officers, ensuring accountability for all perpetrators regardless of status or affiliation.