



Monthly Monitoring Report

APRIL 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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**Report Human
Rights
Violations**

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

In the month of April, the Zimbabwe Peace Project (ZPP) documented a total of 145 human rights violations. The violations documented in this report exclude the human rights abuses recorded during the Constitutional Amendment Bill (3) public hearings, which concluded on 2 April 2026, as those cases were already captured in the March MMR. The violations documented in April affected 3675 victims, 1887 females which included 8 females with disabilities, 1788 males, where 6 of them were males with disabilities.

The documented violations reflect a deteriorating human rights environment characterized by intimidation, violence, and the abuse of authority. Citizens were subjected to threats of violence, assaults, abductions, unlawful detention, unjustified arrests, and other forms of inhuman treatment, undermining their rights to personal security and dignity. Cases of restricted freedoms of assembly, association, and expression were also recorded, alongside politically motivated discrimination in access to government support, social services, and administrative justice.

Perpetrators affiliated with ZANU PF constituted the largest share of identified perpetrators of human rights violations in April, accounting for 53.72% of all recorded perpetrators. The Zimbabwe Republic Police (ZRP) represented 13.50% of perpetrators, followed by suspected state security agents at 6.89%. Traditional leaders accounted for 6.61% of perpetrators, while members of the Zimbabwe National Army (ZNA) constituted 2.75%. Local councils made up 5.79% of identified perpetrators, with other government officials accounting for 5.23%. School authorities represented 3.03%, while perpetrators without any affiliation accounted for 2.20%. Religious leaders constituted 0.28%. Overall, the data indicates that political actors, state security institutions, and government-linked structures comprised the majority of perpetrators implicated in documented human rights violations during the reporting period.

In "Towards Sustainable Peace in Zimbabwe" section, the Zimbabwe Peace Project commends the Working Group on Discrimination Against Women and Girls for its engagement with the Government of Zimbabwe on Constitution Amendment Bill No. 3 and the protection of the Zimbabwe Gender Commission. However, under "Ten Steps Backward," ZPP raises concern over the selective administration of justice, where cases involving politically aligned perpetrators are fast-tracked while opposition-linked activists face prolonged detention and delayed proceedings, undermining confidence in judicial impartiality and equal access to justice.

ABDUCTIONS AND ARBITRARY ARRESTS.

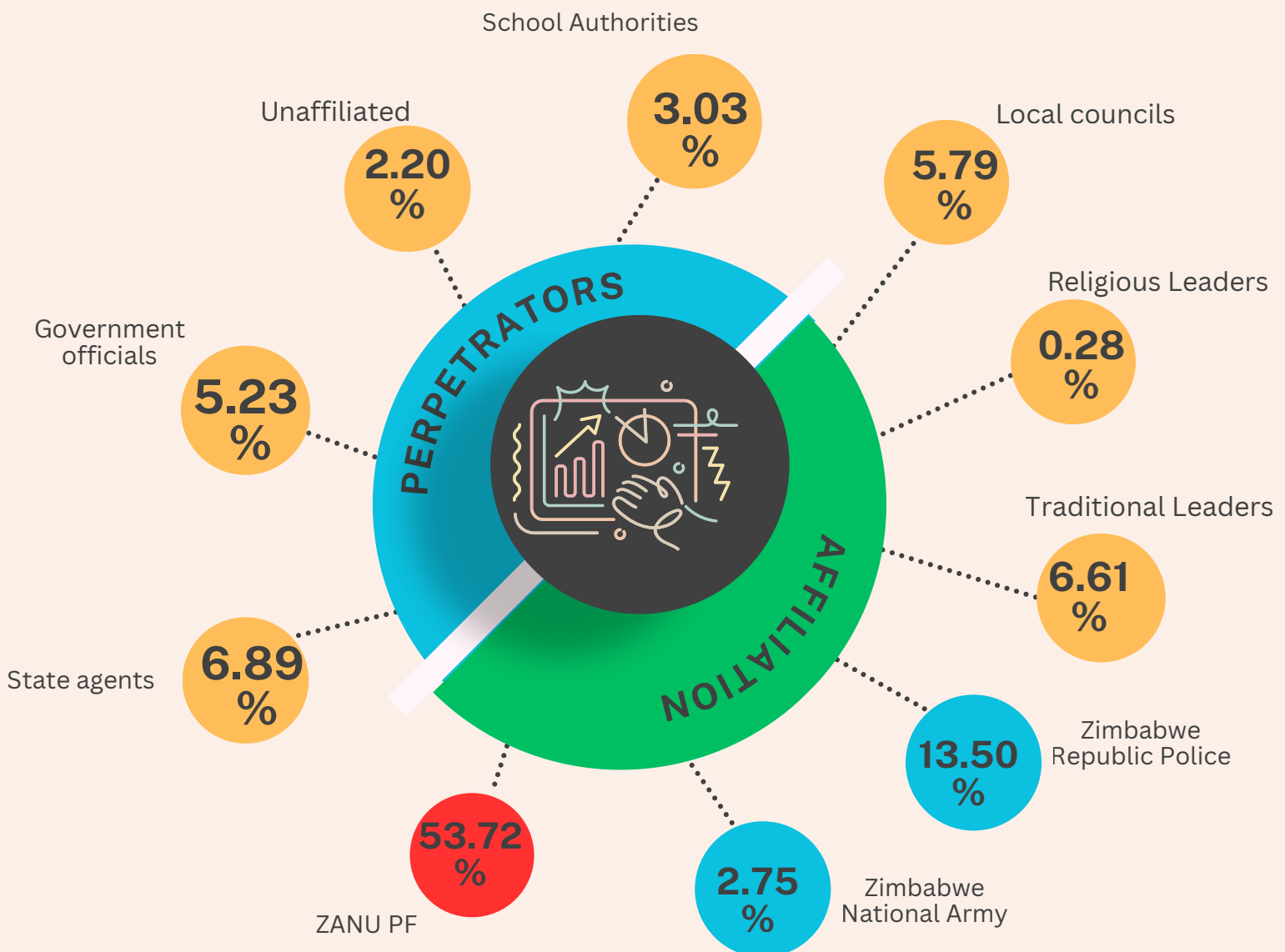
Recent incidents reflect a deeply concerning pattern in which citizens abducted by suspected state security agents are subsequently discovered in formal police custody, blurring the line between lawful arrest procedures and abductions. Two such incidents were recorded involving youth leader Emmanuel Sitima and six members of the Movement for Democratic Change (MDC), who were illegally and forcibly taken from their homes and communities.

On 23 April 2026, six MDC members were forcibly taken from their homes around 3am by heavily armed individuals suspected to be state security agents. The victims were likely identified during the distribution of fliers and mobilisation for a planned demonstration. Witnesses stated that the operatives, who were travelling in Mahindra vehicles and carrying AK-47 rifles and pistols, removed the individuals simultaneously from their homes without presenting arrest warrants or identifying themselves. The members were abducted ahead of a planned demonstration by the MDC. Following public outcry and alerts circulated through private media, the victims were later located at Harare Central Police Station at approximately 07:00am, where they remained in the custody of the Zimbabwe Republic Police (ZRP). Additionally, the seventh victim, a member of the MDC, was arrested after visiting the police station to follow up on the party's notice for a peaceful demonstration. He was subsequently charged together with the others for allegedly "inciting violence." The arrests occurred after the ZRP prohibited the MDC's planned peaceful demonstration in Harare despite prior notification having been submitted in line with the law. The detained members were assaulted and tortured while in custody, raising concerns over the violation of the right to freedom from torture and cruel, inhuman, or degrading treatment. A female victim sustained facial swelling and an eye injury and was detained in holding cells together with male detainees, further raising concerns about the treatment and protection of arrested persons. The incidents raise concerns about further rights violations, including violations of freedom from inhuman treatment and political rights. .

In a similar fashion, Defend the Constitution Platform (DCP) youth leader Emmanuel Sitima was abducted and unlawfully arrested at a shopping centre in Mabvuku by a group of unidentified men and a woman without a warrant of arrest. Sitima was assaulted, slapped, publicly labelled a thief allegedly carrying a firearm, and forcibly taken away in an unmarked vehicle before later being delivered to Harare Central Police Station without initially being informed of the charges against him. Sitima was subsequently charged jointly with Takunda Mhuka on allegations of malicious damage to property involving goods valued at US \$10. He has been denied bail repeatedly.

KEY VIOLATIONS

In another case of unjustified arrests, a commuter Omnibus Operator was arrested after police allegedly discovered anti-Constitution Amendment Bill (3) campaign material in his vehicle, leading to charges of inciting public violence, while a youth activist was arrested on 14 April 2026 and charged with malicious damage to property for allegedly breaking a window at the residence of a ZANU-PF chairperson; and distributing flyers expressing opposition to the bill. His arrest occurred after he went to the police to file a complaint against ZANU PF youths who had assaulted him at his workplace in Waterfalls, destroyed his property, and forced the closure of his business. Instead of receiving protection and assistance as a complainant, he was arrested, denied bail, and remains in custody pending trial.

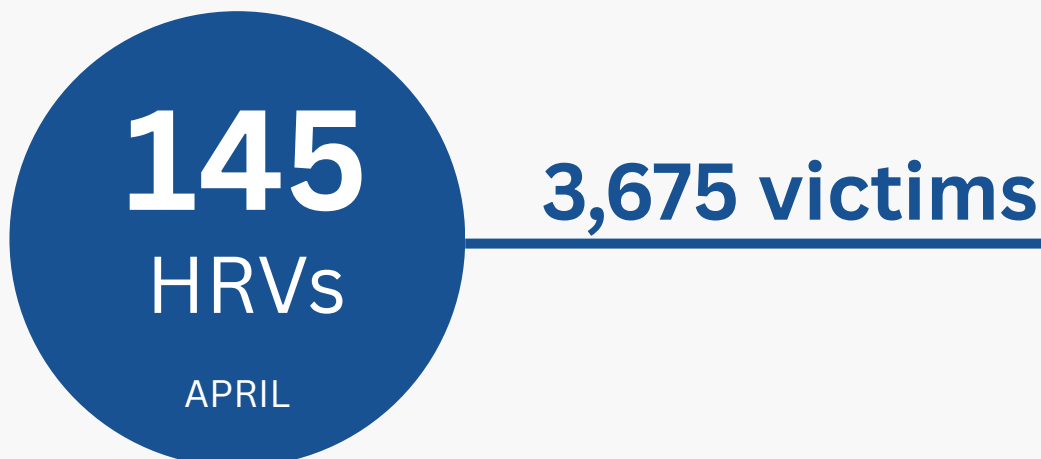


VIOLATION OF ADMINISTRATIVE JUSTICE

In April, ZPP documented 16 violations relating to administrative abuse perpetrated by government or local authority officials reflecting growing concerns over violations of principles of administrative justice, abuse of authority, and lack of procedural transparency and accountability by public officials and local leaders. In Chipinge East, a District Schools Inspectors (DSI), Mr Ndamuka Tarubereka, directed teachers from the district to contribute US\$3 each towards Provincial Independence Day celebrations held at Gaza Stadium in Chipinge and instructed school heads to compile lists of those who had paid, while threatening non-contributors with exclusion from possible national incentivised duties. Similar demands were reported in Chipinge Central, where teachers were required to contribute US\$5. These actions point to coercion, misuse of office, and the unlawful exercise of administrative power, as contributions were not voluntary and were enforced through intimidation and implied professional consequences. Comparable concerns were documented in Mutasa Central, Ward 13, where village heads were summoned to an emergency meeting by ZANU PF Councillor Maxwell Medzani and pressured to contribute towards Independence Day activities despite indicating that they lacked the resources and had been given inadequate notice. The incident also raised concerns over political interference and abuse of influence by traditional leaders.

In Chimanimani, Mashonjowa Primary School compelled learners from Grades 3 to 7 to attend paid extra lessons shortly after schools had closed, with fees ranging from US\$5 to US\$12 per learner. The arrangement was conducted without the knowledge or approval of the School Development Committee, raising concerns over unauthorised financial demands, exploitation of learners and parents, and failure to adhere to proper administrative and educational oversight procedures.

In Masvingo South, Ward 20, reports from Zibhowa Rural Clinic confirmed that community members seeking medication were being forced by Councillor Walter Masaka and Felix Tambade, an assistant to the village head to pay fees of US\$2 for adults and US\$1 for minors under the pretext of clinic development, despite the Health Centre Committee and the clinic administration being unaware of the arrangement. The practice has placed additional pressure on vulnerable groups, including the elderly and chronically ill, amid ongoing economic hardships. Collectively, these incidents demonstrate recurring violations of administrative justice principles, including abuse of authority, coercion, lack of transparency, absence of lawful consultation and proper approval processes.



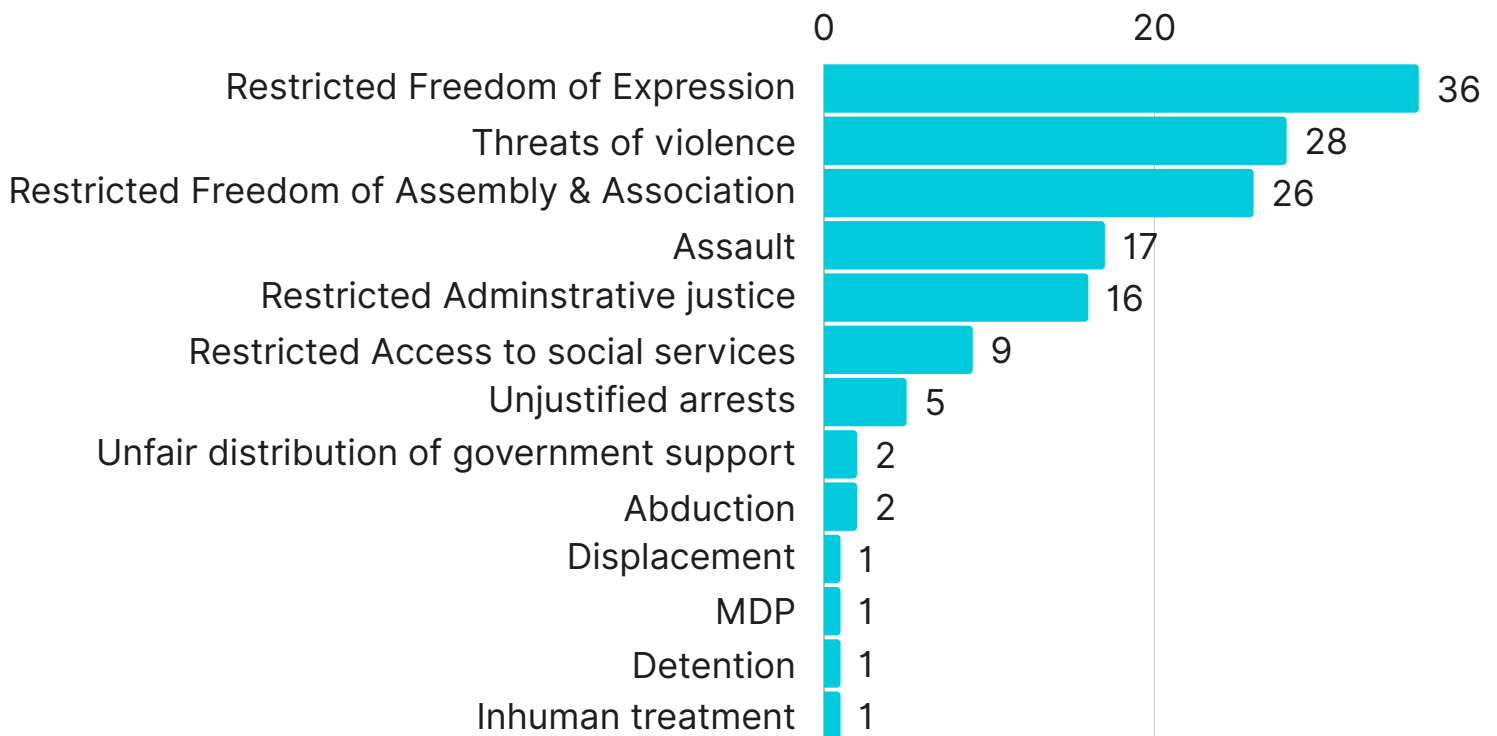
FORCED ASSOCIATION AND THE BREACH OF POLITICAL RIGHTS.

In April, 26 violations of the rights to freedom of assembly and freedom of association were recorded, reflecting a growing pattern of political coercion, intimidation, and violence. The reported cases point to serious infringements on constitutional rights, including forced political affiliation, intimidation, and a breach of free participation in public affairs. In rural Chiweshe, Ward 1, ZANU PF DDC member Chipso Chiripanyanga moved around villages compelling residents to sign papers endorsing the Constitution Amendment Bill (3). Villagers reported that forms already contained their names and that they were pressured to sign regardless of their personal views, undermining their freedoms of expression, political choice, and association. Similar incidents of forced political endorsement were recorded in Buhera West, Ward 14, where ZANU PF member Gilbert Kamhunga coerced shop owners and vendors into signing papers in support of the Bill, threatening unspecified consequences for those who refused. Such acts constitute intimidation and violate citizens’ rights to freely hold and express political opinions without coercion.

In Kadoma, a commuter omnibus operator, was harassed and barred from operating after refusing demands by ZANU PF youths to display campaign stickers on his vehicle and associate himself with those supporting the bill. The victim was further threatened that his vehicles would be burned if he does not comply. The incident reflects violations of the rights to political freedom, personal security, and economic livelihood, as individuals were punished for refusing to publicly support a political position. In a case of forced association in Chitungwiza Ward 24, ZANU PF members and local councillor Obert Matsika solicited money from vendors while promising them access to vending stalls from which they had previously been excluded for not being ZANU PF members or local residents. Vendors were told that they could not use the land unless they attended ZANU PF meetings.



April Human Rights Violations





UN Working Group on Women engages Government of Zimbabwe over ZGC

The Zimbabwe Peace Project commends the United Nations Working Group on Discrimination Against Women and Girls for its constructive engagement with the Government of Zimbabwe regarding the proposed Constitution of Zimbabwe Amendment Bill (No. 3) and its implications for the Zimbabwe Gender Commission. In a formal communication, the Working Group raises concerns over provisions that seek to dissolve the Gender Commission and transfer its mandate to the Zimbabwe Human Rights Commission.

The Zimbabwe Peace Project commends the Working Group's engagement, particularly its emphasis on protecting institutional safeguards for gender equality and ensuring compliance with international human rights obligations, including CEDAW. The letter notes that the Zimbabwe Gender Commission, established under the 2013 Constitution and operational since 2015, plays a dedicated role in promoting gender equality, monitoring discrimination, and advising on gender-responsive policies. The proposed amendment, particularly clauses 18 and 19, would remove this specialised body and integrate its functions into the Zimbabwe Human Rights Commission.

The Working Group warns that this restructuring risks deprioritising women's and girls' rights, weakening targeted interventions on gender-based violence, and undermining state obligations under CEDAW. It further highlights concerns about reduced institutional focus, potential dilution of resources, and weakened accountability mechanisms for addressing gender discrimination.

The letter also references global frameworks, including the Beijing Declaration and CEDAW General Recommendations, stressing the need for strong, well-resourced national gender machineries with clear mandates and independence. It recalls previous observations that while the Commission has been effective, it remains constrained by limited resources and enforcement capacity.

Importantly, the Working Group urges Zimbabwe to maintain a standalone gender equality institution, or at minimum ensure robust safeguards if reforms proceed. It calls for inclusive consultation with civil society, especially women and girls, alongside a gender-impact assessment to evaluate consequences of the proposed changes.

Finally, the Working Group offers technical assistance and requests further clarification from the Government on the rationale, consultative process, and mitigation measures related to the proposed institutional restructuring, reaffirming the importance of safeguarding substantive gender equality and preventing regression in women's rights protections.

Selective Justice Concerns Persist Despite Positive Anti-Impunity Rulings in Zimbabwe

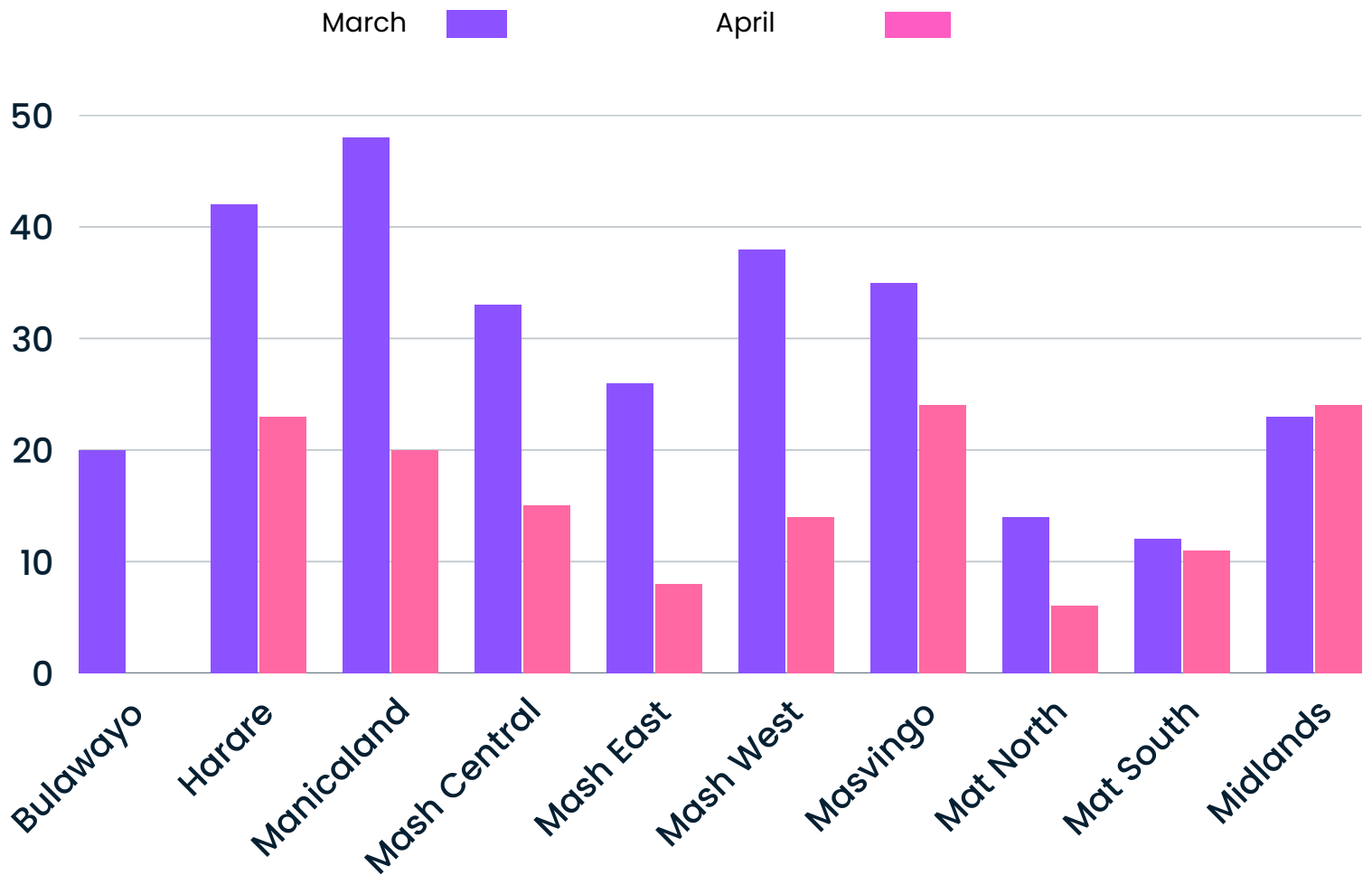
The conviction of a ZANU PF activist and a Zimbabwe Prisons and Correctional Services (ZPCS) officer for the abduction and torture of a CID detective, as well as the assault of a commuter operator in Gokwe, represents an important and welcome step toward accountability. It reinforces the principle that acts of organised violence, torture, and abuse of authority must not go unpunished, and affirms the importance of the rule of law and protection from inhuman and degrading treatment. The Zimbabwe Peace Project (ZPP) commends such rulings as they contribute to curbing impunity and strengthening public confidence in justice institutions.

However, these positive developments stand in stark contrast to ongoing concerns regarding the selective application of justice and access to fair trial rights. Cases involving activists and citizens whose rights were violently violated during and around the process of the Constitution Amendment Bill (3) public hearings as well as several others expressing political views, including those of Takunda Mhuka and Emmanuel Sitima, continue to be delayed, with victims experiencing prolonged detention, repeated denial of bail, and delays in the resolution of charges and access to justice. This raises serious questions about equality before the law and the consistency of judicial processes.

The disparity between swiftly concluded cases involving politically aligned perpetrators and delayed proceedings involving opposition-linked activists risks undermining perceptions of judicial impartiality. It also raises concerns about whether access to justice is being applied uniformly or influenced by political considerations.

ZPP therefore reiterates its call for an end to impunity in all its forms, but also for equal and timely justice for all victims of violations, regardless of political affiliation. Justice must not only be done, but must be seen to be done consistently, fairly, and without discrimination.

PROVINCIAL OUTLOOK



Harare

In Harare Province, ZPP recorded 23 human rights violations, including abductions, torture, unlawful arrests, and violations of political freedoms. DCP youth leader Emmanuel Sitima was abducted by unidentified individuals in Mabvuku, assaulted, and unlawfully taken to Harare Central Police Station without due process before being charged and repeatedly denied bail. Similarly, MDC members were forcibly taken from their homes by heavily armed suspected state agents and later found in police custody after a planned peaceful demonstration had been prohibited by the ZRP. Victims reported torture and inhuman treatment in detention, including the assault of a female detainee. Concerns over the right to life also arose after commuter omnibus driver Paswell Tichare died following alleged reckless police action despite the police denying the allegations. Youth leader Takunda Mhuka was arrested after reporting political violence against him, while police intimidation of student activists was reported through a raid on Zimbabwe National Students Union (ZINASU) offices. Political discrimination against vendors and poor service delivery, including prolonged water shortages and unsafe waste conditions in Glenview, were also documented.

Manicaland

In Manicaland, 20 human rights violations were documented, reflecting growing political intimidation, abuse of authority, and socio-economic rights violations. Teachers in Chipinge East were coerced by education officials to contribute funds towards Independence Day celebrations under threats of exclusion from national duties and election-related opportunities. Cases of forced political association were also recorded, including intimidation of vendors and shop owners to endorse Constitutional Amendment Bill No. 3. In Buhera South, an Agritex officer was assaulted by police officers, sustaining serious injuries after a confrontation over public indecency. Political violence was also reported when a resident was assaulted for criticising the Constitutional Amendment process at a funeral gathering while religious leader, Andyby Makururu, threatened opponents of the bill with death. Additionally, poor sanitation and illegal user fees at Marange Hospital raised serious concerns over the rights to health, dignity, and safe public services, while forced extra lessons placed economic and psychological pressure on learners and parents.

Midlands

In Midlands Province, 24 human rights violations were documented, largely characterised by political intimidation, coercion, and discrimination linked to Constitutional Amendment Bill No. 3 and Vision 2030 campaigns. In Chiwundura and Gokwe, ZANU PF supporters threatened residents with punishment for opposing the bill, while police allegedly failed to act despite reports being made. Communities in Chireya and Gokwe Kabuyuni were coerced into paying compulsory levies and Independence Day contributions under fear of exclusion from agricultural input schemes and other benefits. In Gokwe Sasame, ZANU PF leader Eddington Mashoko warned that those opposing Vision 2030 would be “dealt with,” creating a climate of fear and suppressing political freedoms. Political discrimination was also reported in Gokwe Nembudziya, where road construction employment opportunities excluded non-ZANU PF members. Overall, the violations reflected continued abuse of political influence to intimidate communities and restrict freedoms of expression, association, and equal access to opportunities.

Mashonaland East

In Mashonaland East, ZPP documented 8 human rights violations, with the most severe involving political violence, intimidation, and assaults linked to freedom of expression and association. In Mutoko South Ward 27, four individuals were assaulted by unknown attackers at a funeral after expressing differing views on the Constitutional Amendment Bill No. 3, highlighting violations of personal security and freedom of expression. In Mudzi South Ward 14, residents were coerced by village leadership, including Stanford Kanofema, to contribute money for Independence Day celebrations, reflecting economic coercion and abuse of authority under threat of consequences for non-compliance. In Kagonda village, Saporanyambuya B irrigation scheme members were subjected to intimidation by war veteran Biggie Muroza, who accused participants of political dissent, threatened “vetting,” and warned of punitive action against perceived opposition supporters, creating a climate of fear and restricting political freedoms. The violations reflect a pattern of political intimidation, coercion, and suppression of dissent in community spaces.

Mashonaland West

In Mashonaland West, 14 human rights violations were documented, predominantly reflecting political intimidation, assaults, and coercion. The most serious incident involved the brutal assault of a young man in Sengwe Township on 18 April. A group of alleged ZANU PF youths, returning drunk from Independence Day celebrations, attacked him without provocation using logs, bricks, and bottles, leaving him unconscious with severe head injuries that required hospitalisation. Elsewhere, a commuter minibus operator in Kadoma was harassed, banned from operating, and threatened with arson after refusing to display the ruling party's campaign material, illustrating coercion and threats to livelihood. In Hurungwe West and surrounding wards, village heads and traditional leaders conducted politicised meetings promoting the Constitution Amendment Bill, labelling dissenters as "sellouts" and compiling names of opponents under instructions from higher authorities, fostering fear and suppression of dissent. Vendors in Whitehouse were also reportedly threatened with eviction for political non-compliance. The violations reflect a pattern of political violence, intimidation, and abuse of authority restricting freedom of expression, association, and economic activity.

Mashonaland Central

Mashonaland Central recorded 15 human rights violations, largely characterised by political coercion, intimidation, and forced political endorsement linked to Constitutional Amendment Bill No. 3. The violations were reported in rural Chiweshe, Ward 1, where ZANU PF DDC member Chipso Chiripanyanga allegedly moved from village to village compelling residents to sign pre-prepared endorsement forms, undermining freedoms of expression, association, and political choice. In Mazowe Central, over 50 households were reportedly forced to pay \$2 each towards Independence Day celebrations, with threats of being labelled as opposing the ruling party, creating an environment of fear and economic coercion. In Mt Darwin East, Ward 13, village heads were summoned to an emergency meeting where a councillor allegedly instructed them, under higher authority directives, to sign support for the bill or risk removal from the payroll. This amounted to intimidation and pressure on traditional leaders, compromising their independence and freedom of expression.

Masvingo

In Masvingo Province, 24 human rights violations were documented, largely reflecting political intimidation, coercion, and restricted access to basic services. The most serious incidents involved forced political participation, including in Bikita South Ward 29, where residents were compelled to sign pre-filled Constitutional Amendment Bill forms under village leadership pressure, with no genuine option to dissent, undermining freedoms of expression and political choice. In Masvingo Central, Ward 15, an elderly man was harassed and threatened by a war veteran for wearing an opposition party T-shirt during Independence Day commemorations, illustrating restrictions on political expression and intimidation.

In Chiredzi East, beneficiaries of agricultural support were excluded from receiving vegetable seed distributions and cash assistance based on perceived political affiliation, constituting discrimination in access to state support. In Ward 20, residents reported illegal fees imposed at Zibwowa Clinic for accessing health services, while Ngorima Clinic faced severe shortages of essential medicines, forcing patients to purchase treatment privately and placing vulnerable groups at risk. Overall, the violations reflect a pattern of political coercion, discrimination, harassment, and deteriorating access to essential health services.

Matabeleland North

In Matabeleland North, six human rights violations were documented, with serious concerns raised over labour rights, workplace safety, and access to basic services. Reports indicate that injured workers have been dismissed by the Chinese mine management, with many lacking National Social Security Authority (NSSA) coverage, raising concerns over unsafe working conditions, unfair labour practices, and denial of social protection. In Mpofo village, residents continue to face restricted access to safe drinking water following a government-led dam construction project. Although boreholes were drilled, they remain inaccessible to communities because they are located within the area designated for the dam project, from which residents were displaced to pave the way for construction. As a result, villagers have been forced to rely on untreated dam water intended for irrigation, exposing them to serious health risks and violating their right to clean, safe, and accessible water.

Matabeleland South

In Matabeleland South, 11 human rights violations were documented, with major concerns centred on political coercion and violations of community rights. In Bulilima West, ZANU PF members moved across all 22 wards, distributing forms that required residents to provide their names and national identification details in support of the “2030 agenda.” Community members expressed fear and intimidation surrounding the exercise, with some refusing to sign amid concerns over possible misuse of personal information and the undermining of democratic processes. In Umzingwane Ward 10, land previously allocated for school grounds was reportedly reassigned for mining activities without consultation with school authorities or the affected community. The arbitrary decision raised concerns over violations of community participation rights, transparency in governance, and the protection of educational infrastructure. The violations reflected growing concerns over exclusionary decision-making and politically driven intimidation within communities.

Conclusion

The findings of this report point to a continued erosion of democratic space and constitutional freedoms in Zimbabwe, characterised by politically motivated intimidation, abuse of authority, and selective application of justice. The recurring involvement of political actors, state security institutions, and local governance structures in reported violations raises serious concerns about accountability, impartiality, and the protection of fundamental rights. Violations targeting freedom of expression, association, personal security, and equal access to public services reflect a climate of fear and shrinking civic space, particularly for citizens perceived to hold dissenting political views. The reported disparities in the handling of cases involving politically connected perpetrators compared to opposition-linked activists further undermine public confidence in the justice system and the principle of equality before the law.

ZPP therefore calls on the Government of Zimbabwe to uphold constitutional and international human rights obligations by ensuring independent investigations, ending politically motivated arrests and intimidation, and guaranteeing equal protection under the law for all citizens. The report further recommends strengthening the independence of oversight institutions, protecting civic participation, and promoting inclusive, rights-based governance grounded in accountability, transparency, and respect for human dignity.