



HUMAN DIGNITY  
FOR ALL

OUR RIGHTS  
OUR VOICES  
OUR FUTURE

# Monthly Monitoring Report

JUNE 2026

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DIGNITY JUSTICE FREEDOM



## 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 this report, the Zimbabwe Peace Project provides a snapshot of the human rights situation in Zimbabwe recorded in June 2026, based on violations documented through a nationwide monitoring network. In June 2026, 228 human rights violations, affecting 5,996 victims, were documented. The victims comprised 3,071 males and 2,925 females, including 72 persons with disabilities.

The documented violations reveal continued restrictions on the enjoyment of fundamental rights and freedoms guaranteed under the Constitution of Zimbabwe and international human rights law. Key violations included breaches of the right to personal security, harassment and intimidation, restrictions on the freedoms of expression, assembly and association, discrimination and denial of access to social services, as well as abuse of authority in the unfair distribution of government support. These violations reflect persistent challenges to civic participation, political inclusion and equal access to public services.

Geographically, Masvingo Province recorded the highest number of violations (53), followed by Manicaland (41), Harare (31), Mashonaland Central (30), Midlands (17), Matabeleland South (17), Mashonaland West (13), Mashonaland East (11), Matabeleland North (10) and Bulawayo (5), demonstrating that human rights concerns remain widespread across the country.

Analysis of perpetrators indicates that ZANU PF members accounted for 45.51% of all recorded violations, followed by local authorities (9.62%), school authorities (8.97%), other government officials (6.41%), traditional leaders (7.61%), the Zimbabwe Republic Police (5.13%), unknown perpetrators (3.85%), civilians (9.61%), State security agents (1.92%), the Zimbabwe National Army (0.64%), and CCC leaders (0.64%), underscoring the continued involvement of both state and non-state actors in human rights violations.

This month's "Ten Steps Backwards" section highlights how Zimbabwe's Constitution Amendment Act No. 3 raises important concerns for democratic participation, judicial independence and human rights, and how a troubling emerging trend of digital harassment and intimidation targets human rights defenders, political actors, student leaders and civic activists. Under the Towards Sustainable Peace in Zimbabwe section, ZPP acknowledges the peaceful and coordinated support provided to Zimbabwean returnees from South Africa, while calling for sustained protection of their socio-economic rights and dignified reintegration to promote social cohesion and lasting peace.

ZPP encourages readers to engage with the detailed analysis and recommendations contained in this report to support evidence-based advocacy and collective action towards the protection and promotion of human rights in Zimbabwe.

### INTIMIDATION AND HARASSMENT: FROM DEATH THREATS TO COMMUNITY INTIMIDATION

In June, the Zimbabwe Peace Project documented 27 cases of harassment and intimidation, reflecting a sustained pattern of threats used to silence dissent, suppress civic participation and instill fear among citizens exercising their constitutional rights. Many of the documented incidents were linked to opposition to the controversial Constitution Amendment Bill No. 3 (CAB3), illustrating how intimidation increasingly accompanied public debate around the legislative process. While these acts did not always culminate in physical violence, they created an environment in which violence remained an imminent possibility, forcing victims to alter their behaviour, abandon political activities, relocate, or live under constant fear.

A particularly alarming case involved a political activist who approached the High Court challenging the constitutionality of the bill, by filing proceedings against the Parliament of Zimbabwe, the President, the Minister of Justice and the Attorney General. On 5 June, shortly after initiating the legal challenge, the activist received a threatening letter delivered to his residence by an unidentified man. The letter demanded that he either withdraw the court application or "choose the bullet", accompanied by the printed image of a bullet. The threat was a direct attempt to intimidate a citizen for exercising his constitutional right to seek judicial protection and represented an attack on both individual safety and judicial independence.

In Harare, a male and female activist were threatened by suspected state security agents and warned to stop speaking publicly about Constitution Amendment Bill No.3. The perpetrators demanded their silence or face unspecified consequences. Although no physical assault was reported, the warning carried an implied threat of violence given the identity of the alleged perpetrators and Zimbabwe's history of reprisals against government critics. The climate of intimidation was particularly evident on 18 June, the same day Parliament voted on CAB3. In Epworth North Ward 6, approximately 20 members of the ZANU PF youth group known as Mushayazano entered Tobela Sports Bar and openly threatened to "deal with" opposition Member of Parliament Zivai Mhetu and all people associated with him. The group declared that they would conduct door-to-door visits to identify and target known CCC supporters because they opposed the constitutional amendments. The group was led by individuals known locally as Tongo and Teaspoon, who are linked to the ruling party..

In Gutu South Ward 25, intimidation took the form of political coercion and threats of exclusion. During a ruling party meeting held at Adbenie Cheninga Business Centre, teachers from Cheninga Primary and Secondary Schools were instructed to submit comprehensive lists of all staff members, including spouses residing with them, purportedly for the distribution of food aid and other party benefits. The school head complied by submitting the information to ZANU PF chairperson Augustine Matunja. During the same meeting, village head Cheninga announced that instructions had been issued from the party to remove from the community anyone suspected of supporting the opposition.



**228**  
HRVs  
MAY

**5,996 victims**

The incident illustrates how access to essential resources can be manipulated to secure political compliance while threats of expulsion reinforce fear within communities.

Harassment also targeted political organisers. In Harare Central Ward 5, former opposition legislator Amos Chibaya received a death threat ahead of a planned community meeting intended to discuss the country's political situation amid growing tensions surrounding CAB3. The threatening message warned that if the meeting proceeded, he would be killed. The threat sought to prevent the peaceful exercise of the rights to assembly, association and political participation.

Similarly, in Zaka Central Ward 15, a female activist became the target of sustained intimidation after publicly opposing Constitution Amendment Bill No. 3. Living at a local school with her husband, a teacher, the victim began receiving repeated death threats from anonymous callers using private numbers. Fearing that she was being tracked because of her political affiliation and online advocacy, she ceased using her mobile phone for communication and ultimately fled the area for her own safety. The incident was neither reported to police nor resolved, for fear of further victimisation. The forced displacement of an individual due to political intimidation demonstrates the profound personal consequences of unchecked threats, including loss of security, disruption of family life and exclusion from public participation.

Even in the absence of immediate physical violence, credible threats create fear, encourage self-censorship, suppress lawful political participation and increase the likelihood of future violence.

## INHUMAN TREATMENT AND TORTURE

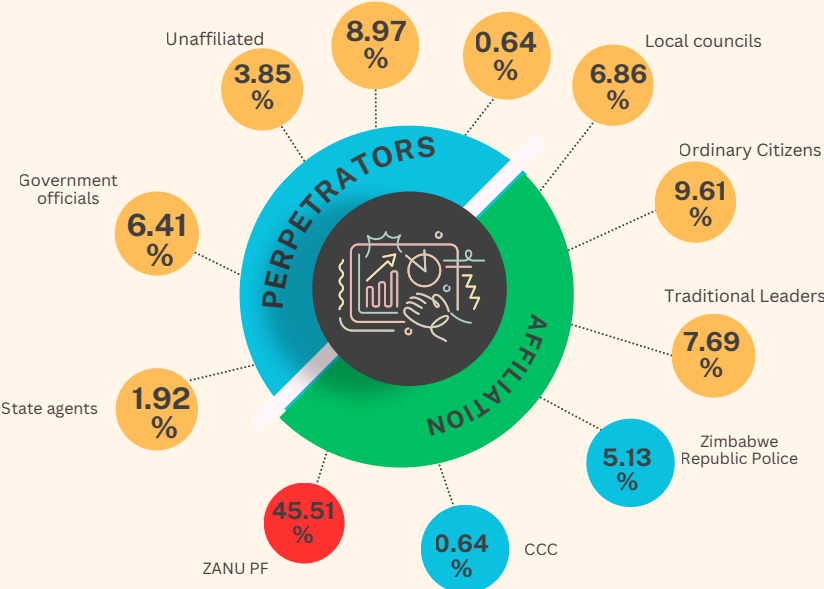
In Ward 7, Gwanda, in Tshitaudze Constituency, four individuals were arbitrarily arrested by police officers and subjected to torture and other forms of ill-treatment while in custody during an interrogation aimed at obtaining information on the whereabouts of another individual. The victims were detained for a period of 15 hours at Gwanda Central Police Station before being released without charge. The four men are friends of an individual the police were looking for. The arbitrary deprivation of liberty, use of torture and subsequent release without prosecution raise serious concerns regarding violations of the rights to personal liberty, human dignity, freedom from torture and cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment, as well as the right to due process guaranteed under the Constitution of Zimbabwe and international human rights standards.



VIOLATIONS OF THE RIGHT TO PERSONAL SECURITY



In June, the Zimbabwe Peace Project documented 9 violations of the right to personal security, reflecting a continued pattern of politically motivated violence, abuse of authority and arbitrary use of force. Among the most serious incidents, a CCC member and coordinator from Chitungwiza North sustained severe head injuries after he was assaulted by ZANU PF supporters because of his close association with Member of Parliament Godfrey Sithole, who opposed Constitution Amendment Bill No. 3 during parliamentary debates. In Goromonzi Ward 8, a man was attacked with a machete by unknown assailants who accused him of supporting the opposition. The victim was wearing regalia for the CCC and was accused of being an ‘enemy’ leading to the assault, demonstrating how perceived political affiliation continues to expose citizens to violent reprisals. ZPP also documented the assault of a village head in Mutare North ward 2, by ruling party supporters who suspected him of mobilising residents against Constitution Amendment Bill No. 3, reflecting ongoing intimidation linked to political participation and freedom of opinion. In Gwanda, police officers assaulted a man after wrongly suspecting him of involvement in a public fight, raising concerns over excessive use of force and violations of due process. These incidents illustrate a worrying trend in which political intolerance, abuse of state authority and arbitrary violence continue to undermine the rights to personal security and restrict citizens' ability to exercise their constitutional rights without intimidation.





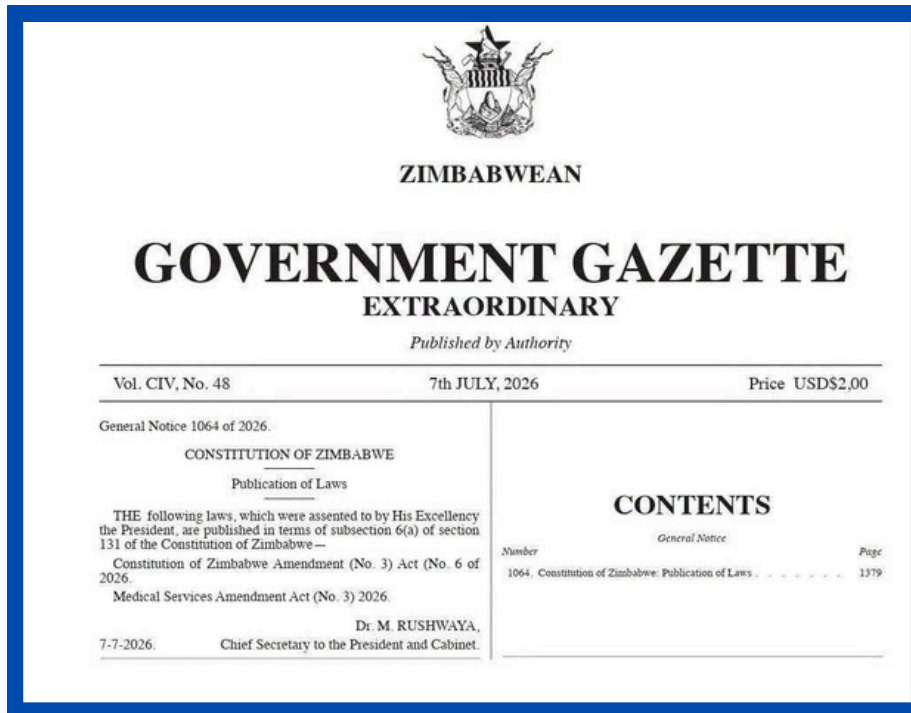


## **Peacebuilding Observation: Upholding Human Dignity Amid the Return of Zimbabwean Migrants**

The Zimbabwe Peace Project (ZPP) notes with appreciation the largely peaceful and coordinated efforts by the Government of Zimbabwe, humanitarian organisations, faith-based institutions and community actors to receive and assist Zimbabwean nationals returning from South Africa following protests directed at undocumented foreign nationals. While the demonstrations were reportedly aimed at undocumented migrants, reports indicated that several Zimbabweans with valid permits and legal residence were also affected through intimidation, discrimination and fear of xenophobic violence, underscoring the need for the protection of all migrants regardless of their legal status.

ZPP commends the provision of transport, temporary accommodation, food assistance, documentation support and other humanitarian interventions that enabled many returnees to return safely and with dignity. These actions demonstrate the value of solidarity and coordinated responses in preventing further harm and promoting peaceful reintegration.

ZPP encourages the Government of Zimbabwe and regional stakeholders to build on these positive interventions by strengthening measures that protect the socio-economic rights of returnees and host communities alike. Ensuring access to livelihoods, social protection, healthcare and other essential services will be critical to safeguarding human dignity, reducing the risk of social tensions and fostering sustainable peace. Addressing the structural socio-economic conditions that compel migration remains fundamental to preventing future vulnerability and promoting lasting human security.



## Constitution Amendment Act No. 3: Parliamentary Passage and Human Rights Implications

June 2026 was dominated by intense parliamentary debate over the Constitution of Zimbabwe Amendment (No. 3) Bill (CAB3), one of the most consequential constitutional reform proposals since the adoption of the 2013 Constitution. Following several days of debate in the National Assembly, the Bill was approved on 18 June 2026 by 216 votes in favour and 42 against, exceeding the two-thirds constitutional threshold. It subsequently passed the Senate on 24 June 2026 with 75 senators voting in favour and four against. The Bill was signed into law by President Emmerson Mnangagwa on 7 July 2026, becoming the Constitution of Zimbabwe Amendment Act No. 3.

The Act introduces far-reaching constitutional changes, including extending presidential and parliamentary terms from five to seven years, replacing the direct election of the President with election by a joint sitting of Parliament, transferring voter registration functions from the Zimbabwe Electoral Commission to the Registrar-General, increasing the number of presidentially appointed senators, removing public interviews for senior judicial appointments, and restructuring several constitutional offices and institutions. Collectively, these amendments significantly reshape Zimbabwe's governance and electoral framework and have far reaching implications on the people's rights, including political rights.

From a human rights and constitutional governance perspective, the amendments raise important concerns regarding democratic participation, separation of powers, judicial independence and electoral integrity. The removal of direct presidential elections limits citizens' ability to directly exercise political rights, while changes affecting judicial appointments and electoral administration could weaken institutional checks and balances if not accompanied by strong safeguards. The concentration of additional appointment powers within the Executive further underscores the need for robust oversight to preserve constitutional accountability.

With the Act now in force, ensuring accountability will require vigilant parliamentary oversight, independent judicial review where constitutional questions arise, strengthened protection of the independence of electoral and oversight institutions, meaningful public access to information on the implementation of the amendments, and continued monitoring by civil society, the media and regional and international human rights mechanisms. These measures will be essential to ensure that the constitutional changes are implemented consistently with Zimbabwe's Constitution, democratic principles and the country's regional and international human rights obligations.



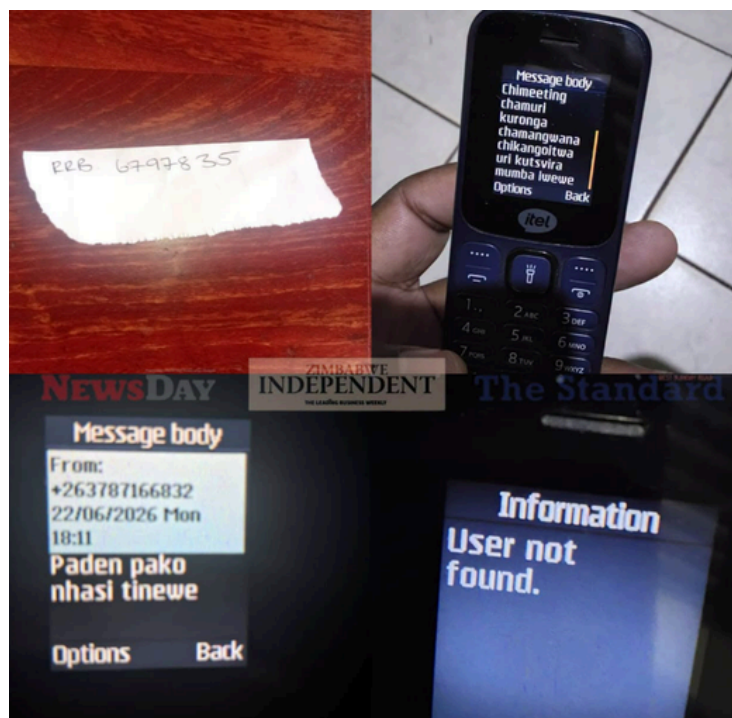
## Emerging pattern of digital harassment in Zimbabwe

The Zimbabwe Peace Project is concerned over an emerging pattern of digital harassment and intimidation targeting human rights defenders, political actors, student leaders and community organisers in Zimbabwe. Between April and June 2026, ZPP documented several cases in which individuals involved in civic and political activities received anonymous threats through mobile phones, text messages, phone calls and social media. Victims were warned against organising communities, attending meetings or expressing political opinions, signalling a shift from traditional forms of intimidation to technology-enabled repression.

A particularly concerning trend is the repeated use of the same mobile phone number to threaten multiple victims, including student activists and former opposition legislator Amos Chibaya, who received a death threat linked to a planned political meeting. This pattern raises serious concerns about unlawful access to personal information, the misuse of telecommunications infrastructure and weaknesses in data protection safeguards. It also highlights the growing convergence between civic rights violations and digital rights violations, where personal data is allegedly exploited to silence dissent.

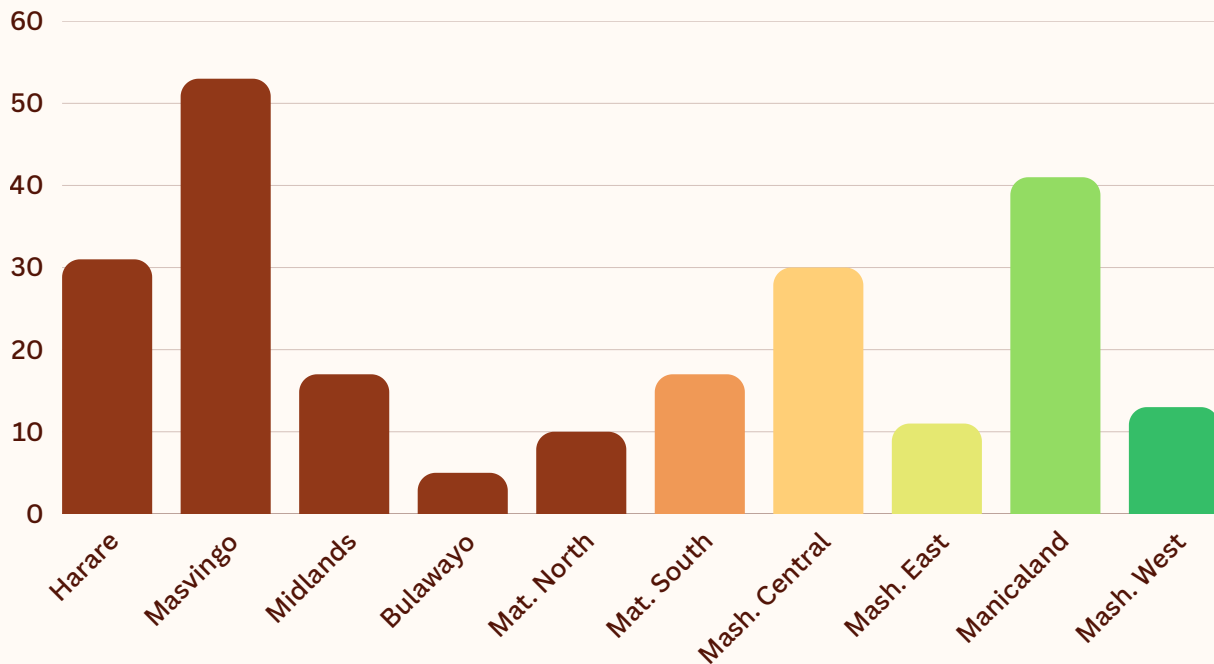
ZPP also notes that digital intimidation is increasingly accompanied by physical attacks. In one reported case in Chiweshe, an opposition activist's home was allegedly destroyed in a politically motivated arson attack, with claims that police failed to record or investigate the complaint.

These violations threaten constitutional rights to privacy, freedom of expression, association, political participation, personal security and property, while undermining democratic participation and shrinking civic space. ZPP calls on the Zimbabwe Republic Police, POTRAZ, telecommunications providers, the Zimbabwe Human Rights Commission and the Government of Zimbabwe to investigate reported cases, strengthen data protection and telecommunications safeguards, protect human rights defenders and ensure accountability for perpetrators to prevent the normalisation of digital repression.



# PROVINCIAL OUTLOOK

## • HUMAN RIGHTS VIOLATIONS - JUNE 2026



### Masvingo

Masvingo Province recorded 53 human rights violations. This makes it one of the provinces most affected by politically motivated intimidation, coercion and restrictions on fundamental freedoms. The incidents included the assault of three young men by suspected ZANU PF supporters who accused them of opposing Constitution Amendment Bill No. 3 (CAB3), and the sustained intimidation of a female activist in Zaka Central who received anonymous death threats after publicly opposing the Bill, forcing her to flee her home for fear of her life. These incidents demonstrate how threats, when left unchecked, can escalate into physical violence and forced displacement, undermining the rights to personal security, freedom of expression and political participation.

The province also witnessed increasing restrictions on civic space. Human rights activists in Gutu were denied an opportunity to meet their councillors by the District Administrator, while a community activist in Chiredzi urban was arrested and detained for two nights on allegations of inciting public violence after criticising government leaders over the demolition of informal traders' stalls. Political coercion remained widespread, with villagers across several districts compelled to attend ZANU PF Cell Day meetings under threats of losing development benefits, agricultural inputs or facing unspecified reprisals. In Gutu South, teachers were ordered to submit lists of staff and their household members for use in the distribution of government-linked food aid. However community leaders then threatened to expel teachers and residents suspected of supporting the opposition claiming the information will be used regularly to check conformity. The province also recorded the politicisation of food security, with residents in Zaka forced to surrender maize to the Grain Marketing Board under threats of exclusion from future farming inputs.

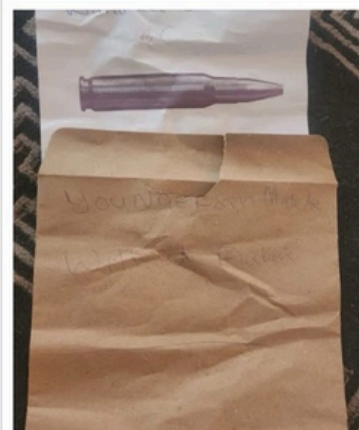
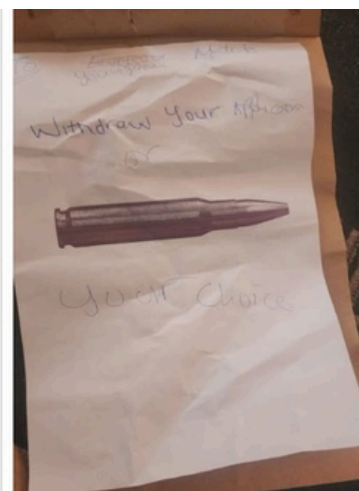
## Manicaland

Manicaland Province recorded 41 human rights violations in June, characterised by political coercion, discrimination, assaults, and violations of socio-economic rights. A particularly serious incident involved the assault of a village head in Mutare after ruling party supporters accused him of mobilising residents against Constitution Amendment Bill No. 3 (CAB3), reflecting growing intolerance of dissent and violations of the right to personal security. Political coercion was also widespread, with villagers in several wards forced to attend ZANU PF Cell Day meetings under threats that those who failed to register in party cell structures would be excluded from government agricultural inputs and social assistance. In another case, community members in Chipinge South, Ward 27, were deceived into recording their names and national identity numbers at a village meeting, only to be informed afterwards that the information was being used for ZANU PF cell registration, violating their freedom of association and political choice. The province also recorded serious violations of the rights to education and equality. At Crosdale Secondary School, learners who had not paid school fees were segregated from their classmates and denied access to lessons, while Musirizwi Primary School continued sending pupils home for non-payment of building funds despite government policy prohibiting the exclusion of learners for non-payment of fees. Additionally, food aid under the Presidential Inputs Scheme was distributed on partisan lines in Buhera Central, ward 23, with known opposition supporters denied maize while ruling party members received assistance. These incidents highlight the continued politicisation of public resources, abuse of authority and erosion of fundamental civil, political and socio-economic rights.

## Harare

In Harare Province, 31 human rights violations were documented in June, with the most serious incidents reflecting an escalation in politically motivated intimidation, violence and restrictions on civic space linked to the debate around Constitution Amendment Bill No. 3 (CAB3). A political activist who challenged the constitutionality of CAB3 before the High Court received a death threat ordering him to withdraw the case or "choose the bullet", a blatant attempt to obstruct access to justice and silence constitutional litigation. On the day Parliament passed the Bill, a group of approximately 20 ZANU PF youths allegedly threatened to "deal with" Epworth MP Zivai Mhetu for voting against the amendment and vowed to conduct door-to-door searches targeting opposition supporters. In Chitungwiza, a CCC coordinator sustained severe head injuries after being assaulted by suspected ZANU PF supporters because of his association with MP Godfrey Sithole, while former legislator Amos Chibaya received death threats intended to stop a planned public meeting. Civic space continued to shrink as police denied clearance for a residents' demonstration against poor service delivery in Epworth. The police also denied the community in Chitungwiza the right to assemble and get feedback from the Municipality of Chitungwiza when they blocked a councillor's feedback meeting in St Mary's Chitungwiza ward 3.

On 23 June, police raided the residence of a Constitutional activist in Mabvuku without producing a search warrant, identifying themselves, or providing reasons for the search. During the raid, officers searched his home and seized printed documents from his bedroom, raising concerns over due process, privacy and the targeting of civic activists. The province also recorded serious socio-economic rights violations, including the demolition of 54 homes in Stoneridge, in Harare South, the politicisation of access to a donor-funded borehole in Epworth, and prolonged water shortages and sewage failures in Glen Norah.





## Mashonaland Central

30 human rights violations were recorded in Mashonaland Central Province, the violations were largely political intimidation, coercion and the abuse of traditional leadership structures to advance partisan interests. In one incident reported in Mazowe Ward 16, a resident received repeated death threats over the phone for opposing Constitution Amendment Bill No. 3, violating the rights to personal security, freedom of expression and political participation. Political intimidation was also evident in Guruve South Ward 12, where the local councillor warned residents that attendance at a ZANU PF meeting was compulsory and that those who failed to attend would "be dealt with." Similarly, in Mazowe North Ward 33, a ruling party meeting chaired by ward chairperson Lydia Chimbari Sigauke included threats against individuals opposed to CAB3, with announcements that names of opponents were being compiled, creating fear and discouraging citizens from freely expressing their political views.

The province also recorded the abuse of public records and traditional governance structures for partisan purposes. Following poor attendance at a ruling party meeting in Guruve District, village heads were instructed to surrender village register books to ZANU PF officials for the party's cell registration exercise. The use of official community records for political mobilisation undermines the neutrality of traditional leadership, violates citizens' right to privacy and freedom of association, and erodes public confidence in local governance institutions.

## Midlands

In Midlands Province 17 human rights violations were recorded. Incidents included corporate-related abuses, environmental rights violations, forced displacement and political discrimination. In Shurugwi, residents accused Chengxi Mine of using high-capacity explosives that have damaged homes through cracked walls, collapsing ceilings and broken windows, while underground tunnelling threatens the structural safety of entire neighbourhoods. The mine's operations have also generated excessive dust linked to respiratory illnesses, including reported deaths, and contaminated the Mutevekwi River with cyanide, placing the health and livelihoods of more than 100 residents at risk. The displacement of over 400 people from communities surrounding the mine was also recorded, raising concerns over the rights to adequate housing, property, health and a safe environment.

Among the human rights breaches were political coercion and discrimination. In one incident, mourners attending a funeral in Luzwalo Village were forced by ZANU PF supporters to chant ruling party slogans, violating their freedoms of conscience, expression and association during a private funeral gathering. In Chirumhanzu South, government agricultural inputs were distributed exclusively to ruling party supporters, with opposition members denied assistance unless they joined ZANU PF, reflecting the continued politicisation of public resources. Meanwhile, in Redcliff ward 23, political interference prevented an organisation from donating sanitary pads to girls at a local secondary school after local ruling party officials pressured the school to reject the assistance, undermining children's rights to education, dignity and access to essential support services.

## Matabeleland South

Matabeleland South Province recorded 17 human rights violations involving labour rights abuses, police brutality, torture, environmental harm and impunity. In Matobo South, workers employed by a Chinese-owned mining company in Gwezha Ward 3 were subjected to exploitative working conditions, including excessive production targets, denial of leave, and arbitrary dismissals, raising concerns over violations of labour rights, fair working conditions and protection from unfair labour practices. The province also recorded serious abuses by law enforcement officials. In Gwanda District, four individuals were arbitrarily arrested and subjected to torture and other forms of ill-treatment while in police custody during an interrogation aimed at obtaining information about an individual known to the victims, constituting grave violations of the rights to liberty, dignity and freedom from torture. In a separate incident in Gwanda, police assaulted a man after wrongly suspecting him of involvement in a public fight, highlighting concerns over excessive use of force and disregard for due process. In Beitbridge, a ZANU PF known as Masendeke, activist accused of assaulting a Zimbabwe Anti-Corruption Commission (ZACC) official was released without charge the following day, reinforcing perceptions of selective application of the law and impunity for politically connected individuals.

## Mashonaland West

Mashonaland West Province recorded 13 human rights violations. The violations documented in the province were characterised by political discrimination, coercion and the continued politicisation of access to public resources. In Sanyati Ward 7, a woman was denied the opportunity to purchase a residential stand solely because of her perceived political affiliation, despite meeting all the required criteria. The incident highlights discrimination in access to property and public services, violating the rights to equality, non-discrimination and equal protection under the law. Political intimidation was also prevalent as evidenced in Kadoma Central, where ZANU PF officials threatened residents with reprisals if they failed to attend the National Cell Day meeting, equating non-attendance with opposition to Constitution Amendment Bill No. 3 (CAB3). Residents were warned that attendance registers would be used to identify opposition supporters, who would be treated as enemies of the party, while attendees would be expected to purchase party membership cards. Similarly, in Zvimba North and Chegutu East, residents were instructed to contribute 20 kilograms of maize for delivery to the Grain Marketing Board under threats that those who failed to comply would be excluded from future government assistance programmes. These incidents reflect the use of intimidation and economic coercion to compel political conformity, undermining citizens' rights to freedom of association, political participation and equal access to public benefits without discrimination.

## Mashonaland East

In Mashonaland East, ZPP documented 11 human rights violations, with incidents revealing a pattern of politically motivated violence, threats and intimidation that undermined citizens' rights. The most serious violation occurred in Goromonzi Ward 8, where a man was attacked with a machete by unknown assailants who accused him of supporting the opposition. The province also recorded several incidents of intimidation linked to opposition to Constitution Amendment Bill No. 3 (CAB3) and the ruling party's national cell day. In Murehwa North Ward 4, a ruling party meeting led by the local councillor warned residents who opposed CAB3 that they were known and would eventually be forced to leave the village because they had opposed the President. Similarly, in Mudzi West Ward 8, community members were compelled to attend a ZANU PF Cell Day meeting and bring their national identity cards. When attendance was low, party officials and war veterans threatened to assault villagers, declaring that people had "forgotten the war" and warning that beatings would follow if participation did not improve. Comparable incidents of political intimidation were also documented in Mutoko and UMP (Uzumba-Maramba-Pfungwe), indicating that such coercive practices were not isolated. Although many of these incidents did not result in immediate physical violence, persistent threats normalise fear, suppress dissent and create conditions in which intimidation can easily escalate into serious acts of political violence if left unchecked.

## Matabeleland North

During the reporting period, Matabeleland North Province recorded 10 human rights violations with the province experiencing growing restrictions on civic space, political coercion and the politicisation of humanitarian assistance. A major concern was the disruption of the annual Kamandama Mine Disaster Commemorations in Hwange, where an event attended by about 100 people was prematurely halted by officials from the Office of the President and Cabinet (OPC) despite organisers having submitted the required notification two weeks earlier. The cancellation, without any explanation, undermined the rights to freedom of assembly, association and remembrance. In a related incident, a community human rights defender organising a mining governance roundtable was subjected to intimidation through anonymous phone calls warning that she would be "dealt with" because of her advocacy work, violating her rights to personal security, freedom of expression and civic participation.

The province also recorded increasing political coercion linked to ZANU PF Cell Day activities. At a meeting in Siachilaba, party officials urged residents to abandon opposition parties and warned that access to impending drought relief would depend on joining ZANU PF. returnees from the opposition were publicly paraded, while ward relief committees were instructed to register only ruling party supporters as beneficiaries, highlighting the continued politicisation of food assistance. In a separate development, villagers in Siawwandu raised concerns after being informed of a significant increase in annual village levies imposed through traditional leadership without prior community consultation, highlighting concerns over transparency, accountability and meaningful public participation in local governance.

## Bulawayo

Bulawayo Province recorded 5 human rights violations, with the documented cases highlighting threats to freedom of expression, assembly, association and the right to participate in public affairs without intimidation. On 6 June, a peaceful ZINASU Bulawayo Polytechnic semester closing meeting was disrupted by individuals believed to be affiliated with ZANU PF, together with members of the institution's security personnel, because discussions were suspected to involve Constitution Amendment Bill No. 3. The disruption and intimidation of students interfered with their ability to freely assemble, associate and discuss issues of public interest. On 22 June, a community human rights activist received threatening phone calls from an unknown caller using a UK number, warning her to stop her activism and speaking against CAB3 ahead of the Senate debate. The threats, including warnings of unspecified consequences, targeted her exercise of freedom of expression and civic participation, with additional discriminatory remarks directed at her status as a person with a disability. In another incident, vendors in Bulawayo Central were forced to close their businesses and attend ZANU PF Cell Day activities or risk losing their vending spaces. The incident reflects the use of economic pressure and coercion to compel political participation, undermining freedom of choice, association and livelihood rights.



## Conclusion

The observations of the human rights situation in June 2026 indicate that human rights violations in Zimbabwe are becoming increasingly systematic, coordinated and nationwide, undermining constitutional governance, civic participation and socio-economic rights. A prominent trend was the politicisation of Constitution Amendment Bill No. 3 (CAB3), with opposition to the Bill resulting in death threats, assaults, forced attendance at ruling party activities, digital harassment and restrictions on peaceful assembly. This report also highlights the emergence of technology-enabled intimidation through anonymous phone calls and online threats, suggesting coordinated efforts to silence dissent. Equally concerning was the continued weaponisation of public resources, with food aid, agricultural inputs, drought relief and access to land frequently conditioned on political allegiance. Beyond civic and political rights, the findings reveal growing concerns over environmental degradation, unsafe labour practices and forced displacement linked to mining activities, alongside persistent impunity for arbitrary arrests, torture, unlawful searches and excessive use of force by state actors.

Recommendations: the Zimbabwe Peace Project recommends that relevant authorities should urgently investigate politically motivated violence, digital harassment, mining-related human rights abuses and the politicisation of public resources, while strengthening protection for human rights defenders and civic actors. Government institutions must ensure the separation of party and state, guarantee non-discriminatory access to public services and humanitarian assistance, strengthen safeguards against the misuse of personal data, and hold all perpetrators of human rights violations accountable through impartial investigations, effective oversight and the consistent application of the rule of law.

## Report Human Rights Violations

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