# Table of Contents

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Section</th>
<th>Page</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Definition of Terms</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1. About the Report</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2. Executive Summary</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>a. Demonstrations Against Injustices and Economic Meltdown</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>b. Orchestrated Public Violence and Police Brutality</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>c. Unfair Food Aid Distribution</td>
<td>8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>d. War Veterans Persecution</td>
<td>11</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>e. Political Conflicts and Violations</td>
<td>12</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Conclusion</td>
<td>15</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Definition of Terms

The following are the specific key definitions of conflicts included in this report:

- **Land** - Boundary disputes, Conflicts resulting from land transactions, concessions, Land inheritance conflicts, Forced eviction, Land ownership disputes, Land compensation conflicts, Compensation and resettlement for land.
- **Environmental** - Reduced access to water, pasture, environmental pollution and degradation
- **Economic Conflicts** – Unemployment, Access to jobs, Poor labour conditions, access to economic resources and social services.
- **Political Conflicts** - Political disagreements, Vote rigging/electoral malpractice, Police brutality, Limited political and civic liberties, Forced arrests and disappearances.
- **Socio-cultural Conflicts** – Ethnicity, traditional cultural clash, disagreements and contestation
- **Unfair aid distribution** – any situation or process where resources are distributed to communities unfairly or in a partisan manner on the basis of political affiliation and support.
1. About the Report

This report is a compilation of emerging conflicts and rising tensions in Zimbabwe. While the report may not be exhaustive, it attempts to record current conflict trends, their causes and suggested community protection systems. It identifies different types of conflicts and human rights violations within different communities to support rapid response and early warning needs by law enforcement agencies and conflict transformation and peacebuilding agencies. The Zimbabwean community have for so long been having grievances upon their socio-political and economic welfares. They look forward to an improved standard of living and a tolerant society that apart from affiliation, culture, ethnicity and religion can be able to coexist and develop further their livelihoods. Communities need protection from violence and knowledge of emerging conflicts as well as capabilities to mitigate those conflicts. Communities need specific government policies that will address directly issues affecting their lives and livelihoods sources.

2. Executive Summary

Zimbabwe is currently undergoing serious socio-economic and political challenges which are likely to continue if their root causes are not addressed. In the month of July and August 2016, several demonstrations were carried out in Harare, Beitbridge, Kwekwe, Bulawayo, Mutare and other smaller towns of Zimbabwe. Apart from political protests by opposition and the ruling party, the country has also experienced a new wave of nonviolence social movements namely #This Flag, #Tajamuka, #Tasvinura among others, which have been launching peaceful protests across the country. The declining economic situation and political malaise are principally the root cause of the tensions. War Veterans have also been coalescing against perpetual discrimination of their welfare.

Police brutality, unfair deprivation of freedom by incarceration and political persecution has also been on the rise, particularly within political parties. The MDC-T and ZANU PF, major political parties in Zimbabwe are internally having conflicts mainly around succession issues. The ruling ZANU PF is the most affected, the bickering and banter reached high stakes when Mandi Chimene openly alleged VP Mnangagwa of leading a parallel government right in front of the party President. Many of its members feel insecure and vulnerable to political onslaught. Besides, there have also been reports of unfair food aid distribution perpetuated by partisan actions of local authorities responsible for food distribution within different communities.

Heal Zimbabwe Trust has 500 human rights monitors across the country who documents reports of violence and conflict issues. However, the reports are independently verified to establish facts before publication.
a. Demonstrations Against Injustices and Economic Meltdown.

Protests, picketing and street marches are a sign of rising tension and social discontent among citizens. In the month of July and August 2016 alone, Zimbabwe experienced demonstrations across different towns and communities including Harare, Bulawayo, Beitbridge, Kwekwe, Mutare, Gweru and other smaller towns. The protests were organised by different social movements and political parties with diverse grievances against the government and its leaders. Protesting social movements have given their efforts varying names borrowing much from the ever-growing cyber space. Popular protests banners include Pastor Evan Mawarire’s initiated #ThisFlag movement. After this flag started, more platforms with a similar cause have been joining.

Figure 1: Social Movements Demonstration against Corruption and Unemployment

These are: #ThisGown, #Tajamuka/Sesijikile, #Beatthebot, Informal Traders Association and political parties, the Movement for Democratic Change (MDC-T) and the Zimbabwe People First (Zim PF). Reasons for the demonstrations range from socio-economic to political challenges affecting the Zimbabwean citizens. For instance, demonstrations in Beitbridge emerged over the introduction of Statutory Instrument 64 of 2016 which regulates and impose a ban on the importation of basic commodities mostly imported by informal traders and vendors from South Africa. In Harare,

Mutare, Bulawayo and other areas, demonstrations were done against (i) the introduction of Bond Notes as a new Zimbabwean currency, (ii) unnecessary government expenditure mainly against the long stay of Vice President Mphoko at Rainbow Towers, (iii) Cash Crisis (iv) Police Roadblocks (v)
unemployment and (vi) ceaseless governance challenges. Below is a map of demonstrations held between July and August 2016 only in different parts of the country.

While the popular grievances are justified and resonating with the Zimbabwean populace, the government remains defiant and unapologetic, a situation that could trigger further or continued chaotic protests. Instead of responding to the national crisis issues affecting people, the state has chosen to suppress social dissent by brutally assaulting protestors and silencing their voices and dispersing any peaceful gatherings which is both a violation of the constitution and a negligent move to thwart popular complaints. The rise of citizen mobilisation and dissent is a result of the presence of liberated cyber space vial social media. Realising the power of this trend, Government has since tabled a Cybercrime Bill.

Notwithstanding that it is vital to maintain order, peace and security across the country, it is crucial to note that suppressing popular movements through brutality could lead to gross human rights violations and increased demonstrations. Other effects also include citizen’s negative attitude towards the police and other law enforcement agencies. Negative reporting and international isolation as has been the case before, during and after the 2008 elections may also emerge.

b. Orchestrated Public Violence and Police Brutality

As Zimbabwean citizens exercised their rights and freedoms to assemble and associate and to demonstrate and petition as granted in Section 58 and 59 of the Zimbabwean constitution, atrocious public violence ensued. In an attempt to execute orders, their duties and responsibilities the Police used excessive force against citizens leading to retaliation by their victims. Random beatings, firing of teargas canisters and water cannons pepper spraying attracted chaos and public violence pitting the state law enforcement agencies and the citizens. The most bloodcurdling situation is the continuing violent response by the government law enforcement agencies to peaceful marches and demonstrations which entirely result in multiple and indiscriminate injuries, deaths, loss of life and properties and arbitrary arrests and detentions. On the other hand, some members of the public have turned out to commit crimes including burning properties, looting shops and beating law
enforcement agencies as a form of revenge. A dangerous violence precedent is being set by both the
government agencies and the protestors in this regard.

A total of approximately 380 people were injured between January and August 2016 with 161 being
victims of police brutality and some form of organised violence particularly by ZANU PF members
who abducted and terrorised civil rights activists under the pretext of citizen arrests. Innocent
civilians and peaceful protestors were assaulted and violently displaced in several peaceful protests
in Harare, Kwekwe, Bulawayo, Beitbridge and many other smaller towns.

On the 30th of August 2016, the police arrested a Journalist, Chrispen Ndlovu and other six activists
including Mthokozisi Ncube, Lenny Kuzwarira, Hampton Maphosa, Plaxedes Denge, Lwandlelubanzi
Ndebele and Alfred Dzirutwe in Bulawayo, for peacefully demonstrating against unemployment. All
the arrested persons were badly beaten. The individuals were merely exercising their constitutio
nal right to demonstrate and petition peacefully but the law enforcement agencies decided to stop
them using violence and coercive force.

Between the 24th and 26th of August, the police used tear canisters, water cannons and baton sticks
to disperse peaceful protestors before they faced a mass backlash. On the 24th of August, the MDC-T
youths launched a peaceful march under #MyZimbabwe campaign which later turned violent when
the police fired tear canisters on them. When the protestors started retaliating, the police called for
force reinforcement leading to excessive use of violence against the marchers. The police randomly
beat anyone in their view, unnecessarily throwing tear canisters among people and spraying pepper
water to street walkers. Members of the public were caught up in the violence and they ended up
collaborating with the protestors against the police.

On the 26th of August, the police disrupted a peaceful march organised by a coalition of opposition
parties (under the National Electoral Reform Agenda) who intended to submit a petition to the
Zimbabwe Electoral Commission (ZEC). Again, innocent citizens were indiscriminately beaten,
sprayed with pepper water and choked with tear gasses. One example of the victims is Lillian
Chinyerere Shumba, a 62 year old woman who was brutally assaulted by the police outside the
Harare Magistrates Court. The woman was minding her own business and the police caught up with
her as they randomly bit anyone in the vicinity. Lillian suffered shoulder injuries and ear damages
from the brute force used against her by the law enforcement agencies.

On the 24th of August, retaliating members of the public also violently burnt two vehicles belonging
to the Zimbabwe Republic police and the Zimbabwe Broadcasting Cooperation (ZBC). Citizens started
pelting stones to police officers while some looted shops, including the Choppies Supermarket
belonging to Vice President Phelekezela Mphoko. On the 26th of the same month a people’s market
and properties were burnt in Harare.

Following the protests, the police went on to arrest a total of 104 citizens caught up in the protests.
Some of the arrested persons were abducted during the night. For example, Kerina Gweshe Dewah
was abducted at the middle of the night at her home in Glen View. She was only found at Harare
Central Police Station the following morning. It is notable that some abductions were carried out by
ZANU PF youths who would torture the victims before surrendering them to the police. One such case is of Gift Ostallos Siziba, a former student leader who was abducted by ZANU PF youth and thoroughly beaten at ZANU PF headquarters before being surrendered to the police.

Figure 3: A tale of Police Brutality and Public Backlash in Epworth (July 2016).

c. Unfair Food Aid Distribution

Unfair and partisan food aid distribution is a chronic challenge that continues to affect our communities’ peace and national cohesion. In the month of July and August, Heal Zimbabwe recorded 91 cases of unfair food aid distribution. The situation is worsened by the current Zimbabwe’s El-Nino induced drought with approximately 4 million people facing food shortages as

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2 The Standard (August 2016) ZANU PF Militia Abducts Activists.
of May 2016.\textsuperscript{3} In addition, about 33 000 children are at risk of severe malnutrition and related diseases due to food shortages.\textsuperscript{4}

Reported cases of unfair food aid in the month of July and August involved partisan distribution, discrimination on the basis of political affiliation and mere corruption by the authorities presiding over food aid distribution. The Social Welfare Department is responsible for the aid distribution, however, complaints are that ZANU PF leaders and Youth Officers usually hijack the process and begin to allocate food aid to their real and perceived members. As a result, communities are propelled into food distribution related conflicts which can be prevented if proper procedures and practices are followed. The figure below is a presentation of cases of food aid violations recorded in July 2016.

\textbf{Figure 4: Record of unfair food aid distribution}

\begin{figure}[h]
\centering
\includegraphics[width=\textwidth]{unfair_food_aid_distribution}
\caption{Unfair Food Aid Distribution Circumstances/July 2016}
\end{figure}

A total of 91 cases of unfair food aid violations were recorded in the month of July and August 2016. The violations were committed through issuance of politically motivated threats during food aid distribution (20), corruption during food distribution (11) and discrimination on the basis of political affiliation (37) or based on food for work activities (23).

- \textbf{Corruption Cases:}
  Corrupt community members involved in food aid distribution are generating preventable social dissent which is escalating tensions among citizens and the government’s Social Welfare Department. A total of 11 cases of some officials converting food aid for their personal benefit while denying rightful beneficiaries of their expected share were recorded.

\textsuperscript{3} Euronews (02 May 2016) Four million people face hunger in Zimbabwe http://www.euronews.com/2016/05/02/four-million-people-face-hunger-from-zimbabwe-drought

between July and August 2016. In some instances, the alleged persons use their political positions to take food aid meant for the elderly and vulnerable families or they sell the food instead of distributing freely. In Mutasa Central, Ward 10, for example, Heal Zimbabwe observed that 100 households were removed from the beneficiaries lists and their share (100 bags of maize) were received through the social welfare department, 100 bags were sold at $2.00 per bucket. Among those removed were orphans, senior citizens and people living with HIV/AIDS, beneficiaries who actually qualified for the support. Reasons for their removal were varied from political affiliation, mere discrimination and personality differences.

In Chikombwa West, ward 15, the food aid distribution beneficiaries list was reportedly having names of deceased people and young people below the age of 30 years, yet the food was meant for elderly people above 70 years of age. On another note, in Bikita, ward 8, Village Head Muduri was reportedly asking bribes from potential food aid beneficiaries. Mr Muduri reportedly asked for money in return for food aid. However, the food being distributed by the Social Welfare Department should be fairly distributed to the target population without any form of payment.

- **Food for work:**
  A total of 23 cases of unfair food aid distribution occurring through the food for work programme were recorded between July and August 2016. Food for work programme is whereby selected community members participate in some community development work such as road maintenance in return for food aid. Therefore, beneficiaries who will participate in the food for work programme are being selected according to their political affiliation rather than the established criteria of fairness and need. In Uzumba, ward 8, for example, it is reported that the Councillor selects beneficiaries who are from ZANU PF only instead of selecting beneficiaries regardless of their political affiliation or support as repeatedly called for by the President H.E RG Mugabe. Similar reports were also observed in Buhera Central ward 18. It was observed that initially all qualifying community members were participating in the Food-for-Work Programme equally and fairly, however, with time perceived opposition members were removed from the participants list such that now, only supposed ZANU PF members are benefiting. In Buhera ward 8, ZANU PF members Jesten Mavhenene and Tarisai Vangirai are reportedly behind the program.

- **Political affiliation:**
  Heal Zimbabwe recorded 37 complaints of unfair food aid distribution on the basis of political affiliation. In Mutoko South ward 20, for example, ZANU PF Councillor Mr Zano Kahuni, distributed food aid only to known ZANU PF members. Besides, they also distribute to non-qualifying beneficiaries as long as they are part of their political affiliation. This was also the case in Marondera West, Ward 5 and Muzarabani North ward 27. In Marondera, Mr John Marova of ZANU PF and ZANU PF chairperson one Taguta reportedly distributed food aid along partisan lines. Another form of discrimination recorded as a way of stopping other
beneficiaries from accessing food aid fairly is by putting ZANU PF beneficiaries on top of the list. One reporter said “ZANU PF activists are always on the top of the beneficiary list where in the event of shortages the MDC supporters are more likely to lose out.” Also, in Muzarabani North, Ward 2 (Dzouya village) Mr Chamunorwa Jambira was reportedly barred from getting food aid after his name was removed at the insistence of Councillor Oliver Ururu who asked him to first surrender his MDC party regalia. A Social Welfare Officer called Mupirinyuri allegedly witnessed this violation helplessly.

• **Threats of violence and denial of food aid:**

Hungry citizens in some communities are also faced with intimidation and threats of violence and denial to food aid. The threats take place either during food-for-work programmes or at rallies. Heal Zimbabwe recorded 20 cases where members of political parties take advantage of the Food-for-Work Programmes to mobilise for political support by telling participants not to boycott rallies and threatening that once they support other parties they will lose their beneficiary status. For example, in Bikita, the ZANU PF Ward 10 Chairperson, Mr. Ngonidzasho Taruona threatened villagers who were participating at a food for work program on the 19th of July 2016, that if they boycott ZANU PF meetings they will not receive food aid. This means, participating in the Food-for-Work Programme is not a guarantee for food aid, but attendance to a ZANU PF rally qualifies one to benefit from the government food aid.

Unfair food aid distribution requires that the responsible authorities address the challenge being experienced by citizens before a public backlash. The increasing hunger within communities can lead to violent clashes if food aid continues to be distributed unfairly and on the basis of partisanship. There is a possibility of disadvantaged political parties and citizens teaming up together against the social welfare officers, ZANU PF local leaders and ultimately with local authorities if their concerns are not addressed timely. Therefore, Heal Zimbabwe appeals to the government and local authorities to consider depoliticizing the distribution of food aid in order to create a conducive environment for peace and stability in the country. Political activists and leaders should be prevented from distributing food aid. This means the Government’s Social Welfare Department authorities must operate independently without any control from politicians and political activists.

d. **War Veterans Persecution**

In early July 2016, the Zimbabwe National Liberation War Veterans Association (ZNLWVA) leadership was arrested and publicly disparaged for speaking negatively against the political economy and the actions of some government ministers. In a stinging Communiqué, allegedly authored by War Veterans on the 16th of July 2016, they called for President Mugabe to step down from national leadership. The concerns raised in the Communiqué are a result of the government’s failure to address the group’s candid concerns following their foiled meeting on the 18th of February 2016 at Harare City Sports Centre and ‘so called crunch meeting with the President on the 7th of April 2016 at the ZANU PF headquarters in Harare.
On 18 February 2016, the government disrupted the War Veterans planned and police cleared meeting using coercive force. The former freedom fighters were dispersed using teargas, water cannons and baton sticks. Ambassador Christopher Mutsvangwa, the War Veterans Leader described the treatment like the Marikana Massacres in South Africa where 44 miners were killed in cold blood. He said “These are the war vets who were subjected to such treatment by the State. We equate such brutality to the South African Marikana scenario. Clearly to see police bringing out paraphernalia of violence and beat up war vets who are unarmed, the best they had were cell phones. Its equivalent to Marikana scenario because the State has gone berserk,” he said. “We don’t know why the state has gone berserk,”

Therefore, any irreconcilable conflict between ZANU PF and war veterans signals potential political instability in the country as both parties are capable of violence.

In view of the above, it can be noted that Zimbabwe is sitting on a boiling society that can potentially erupt into violence. Warnings and registration of disappointment by the former freedom fighters should be heeded and their concerns must be addressed amicably. It is unfortunate that the government has chosen to treat the former freedom fighters as dissidents rather than a frustrated social group needing a remedy. While meeting a certain faction of the War Veterans and ZANU PF youths, the President labelled them ‘dissidents worth dealing with them like the 1980s Gukurahundi victims.’ However, war veterans can potentially trigger violence because they are capable and they have demonstrated it during the election times against members of the opposition and the entire society in general. It is therefore, reasonable for the government to take active measures to pay attention to War Veterans issues and address them in a peaceful way in order to maintain peace and order as well as preventing the generation of fertile grounds for violence.

e. Political Conflicts and Violations

Political violence continues to rear its ugly head among the Zimbabwean citizens. Heal Zimbabwe recorded at total of 53 cases involving politically motivated conflicts and violence between July and August 2016. Three major conflicts recorded in this section involve threats of political intolerance, disruption of meetings and forced participation in political forums. While intra and inter party violence are also forms of political conflict, they have been recorded under the section revealing threats of violence and intimidation. Politically motivated violence emerging from demonstrations were recorded earlier in the section covering demonstrations, public violence and police brutality.

Between July and August 2016, Heal Zimbabwe received 29 cases of threats of political intolerance, 9 cases of disruption of meetings and rallies and 15 cases of forced participation in political processes. Political conflicts make communities live in fear and vigilant leading to fragile societies. It is therefore vital for the communities and state institutions to collaboratively engage and dialogue to

prevent further political conflicts and violence, lest the gains of the Government of National Unity and the post GNU stability returns to haunt communities as is currently reflected.

Threats of Political Intolerance:

Evidence of political intolerance continues to grow within the Zimbabwean body politics. Political intolerance, in the context of Zimbabwe is the unwillingness of political parties and their members to accept the opinions, views and or behaviour that differ with theirs. This can be internally within their parties or across political parties. About 29 cases of political intolerance were recorded. Currently political intolerance is manifesting in the form of political threats of violence, abduction, rape and denial of food against perceived opposition parties and individuals. For example, in Gutu ward 6, Mr. Michael Bhema, a ZANU PF elected Councillor threatened villagers who attended the Zimbabwe People First rally at Mucheke Stadium in Masvingo on the 19th of July 2016. Bhema said “those who attended Zimbabwe People First rally in Masvingo will have their names submitted to the Central Intelligence Officers and dealt with before the 2018 elections.” These remarks show the relationship and a conflation between state structures and political party businesses which is a violation of the constitution. The constitution prohibits security structures from supporting any political party and from acting in a partisan manner.

In Uzumba Ward 6, on the 20th of August, ZANU PF Ward 6 Chairperson Godfrey Chikono moved around the ward threatening members of the public who attended a public meeting hosted by the Rural Teachers Union of Zimbabwe (RTUZ) on the 19th of August 2016 at Mutawatawata Business Centre. He threatened violence and eviction to those who disregarded his words and instructed that only meetings announced by ZANU PF should be attended. Similar threats were also reported in Buhera ward 5, a ZANU PF Councillor, Jane Ziki ordered people at community gatherings and
meetings that all opposition supporters in the area should "repent" before the 2018 elections, or face the "consequences". Other cases of political intolerance were also reported in Shamva ward 11, Gutu Ward 2, Mbire Ward 17 and Nyanga North ward 2, Chinhoyi ward 15 and Mazowe North constituency. In Mazowe, ZANU PF Mashonaland Central Provincial Chairperson, Dickson Mafios was addressing rallies campaigning for the Parliamentary by election candidate, Advocate Martin Dinha where he threatened people with evictions if Mr Dinha lose the election.

**Forced Participation in Political Processes:**

Communities are increasingly getting worried about forced participation in political processes such as meetings and rallies by perceived and known ZANU PF members. Heal Zimbabwe recorded 15 cases of forced participation in political processes. On the 2nd of August 2016, in Maramba-Pfungwe, Ward 7, Mr Chikumo who is both a Village Head and ZANU PF District Chairperson allegedly forced his subjects to have their names written down in a ZANU PF register so that they become registered voters or they risk losing food aid. The incident happened at Barahwe School where Mr Chikumo also said, as a war veteran, they were instructed not to tolerate opposition members and anyone who does not participate in the party’s activities should compulsorily do so.

In Mwenezi East, Ward 5, ZANU PF Deputy Ward Chairperson Mr Ezra Mashindi told villagers on the 30th of July (at Rata business centre) that everyone should attend the party’s meetings. He went further to say that anyone in the area who fails to attend the meetings will be labelled a supporter of Zimbabwe People First member, Mr Munyaradzi Sigogo. He also warned them that ZANU PF youths had been deployed in the area to write down names of people boycotting meetings. Community members have now started attending some of the meetings being called for out of fear.

Besides, it has also been noted that some community members were being forced to pay money towards the Heroes Day celebrations. In Uzumba-Maramba, ward 8, Village head Mr Chitengu forced villagers to contribute $1.00 per household while in Mwenezi West teachers at Mwenezi Government School, Chingami Primary School, Masogwe High School, Chesvingo Primary School, Mavambo Primary School, Tsungirirai High School, Neshuro Secondary and Matande schools were ordered to pay at least $5 towards the Heroes day celebrations. A Public Service Inspector, Mr Gondo allegedly gave the directive to Headmasters to collect these $5 contributions. Villagers were threatened with denial of food aid while teachers were told that they will not be allowed to become election agents if they do not pay. ZANU PF Chairman Tarisai Nanga for Buhera Ward 18 and ZANU PF Secretary Rongai Muchemwa (Mutoko ward 20) also threatened that people who do not pay the $1.00 towards the heroes’ day celebrations will be denied food aid. Similar cases were also recorded in Marondera West, Ward 15 (Village heads Chasi, Matongo, Bvukumbwe and Mhizha).

**Disruption of Meetings and Rallies:**

Heal Zimbabwe received a total of 9 cases of disruptions of rallies and community meetings particularly by ZANU PF supporters. Most disrupted meetings and rallies were those of the opposition Zimbabwe People First and the MDC T. Disruption of meetings is an attempt to prevent and stifle the freedom of association and assembly that is bestowed by the constitution. Section 58
(1 & 2) of the constitution states that “(i) Every person has the right to freedom of assembly and association, and the right not to assemble or associate with others and (ii) No person may be compelled to belong to an association or to attend a meeting or gathering.

By way of example, on the 23rd of August 2016, in Chivhu ward 12, ZANU PF youths led by ZNLWA members Mr Joaquim Chivandire and Moses Matarutse disrupted a meeting organized by Chivhu Residents Trust at Chivhu Community Hall. ZANU PF youths started chanting slogans when an official from the Ministry of Local government took to the podium to address the meeting. The youths then ordered that the meeting be abandoned. Police who were covering the meeting watched and did not intervene to restore order. Also, in Zaka, Ward 24 ZANU PF leaders namely Tizirai Muzekenyi, (Ward Chairperson), Joyce Charuka, Ward Women’s League Chairperson) and Cuthbert Chiguvi (Ward Youth Chairperson) disrupted a field day organised at Zvinavahobvu ward centre by chanting political slogans and warning all perceived opposition supporters “to repent” before it’s too late, referring to 2018 elections.

Conclusion

Emerging demonstrations across the country is a proverbial signal of utmost social discontent over the socio-economic and political order obtaining in the country. Once these push factors leading to the protests are not addressed, the environment will continue to be tense with potential of perpetual attrition between the state and its citizens. It is vital for the government, through its diverse institutions, engage dissenting social groups and pay attention to their complaints. Failure to address the root causes of dissention can perpetuate a conflict environment with potential of degenerating into violence.

The use of brute force by the Police and other law enforcement agencies is a negative approach to maintaining law and order. In July, the police exhibited ruthlessness and lack of strategic engagement and cooperation with the Zimbabwean citizens by using brute force on peaceful protestors and demonstrators. It is a violation of the constitution. The police should therefore, consider abiding by the law and respecting peaceful protestors to avoid infringing citizens’ fundamental rights and obligations. On the other hand, it is notable that public backlash against law enforcement agencies is a show of growing bitterness over the manner in which the police execute their duties. Any further use of brute force could trigger mass revenges and attacks on the police force and other security agencies. One cannot rule out defections from the same law enforcement agencies since they are also human with relatives suffering in the clashes. To avoid public backlash and gain popular respect, law enforcement agencies must act and conduct themselves within the confines of the law and with dignity and respect.

Unfair food aid distribution is an ancient violation of human rights and should be stopped forthwith. It is certain that public bitterness, particularly from the opposition political party members being denied food aid is building and it could reach a boiling point. Food aid could be looted and violence could break out at distribution points, a situation that could be difficult to rectify in the near future because of the intensifying food shortages and public anger over partisan distribution of food aid.