

A HEAL ZIMBABWE CONFLICT AND HUMAN RIGHTS VIOLATIONS UPDATE

JANUARY 2017



About the Report

This report is a compilation of emerging conflicts and rising tensions in Zimbabwe, with a particular focus on rural communities. While the report may not be exhaustive, it records current conflict trends and their causes. It identifies different types of human rights violations within different communities. The information can be used to assist in early warning and early response processes and also useful to peace building and conflict transformation institutions who aim to build community social cohesion.

Methodology

Heal Zimbabwe documents reports of violence and human rights violations from across Zimbabwe. The reports are a result of solicited and unsolicited data which is independently verified to establish facts before publication. Solicited data is systematically collected through trained Human Rights Monitors supported by Heal Zimbabwe. The monitors report on different types of conflicts and violations obtaining in their communities. The data collected is verified through a monitoring system including spot checks, consultation with the police, traditional leaders' courts, media and local government authorities.

Heal Zimbabwe

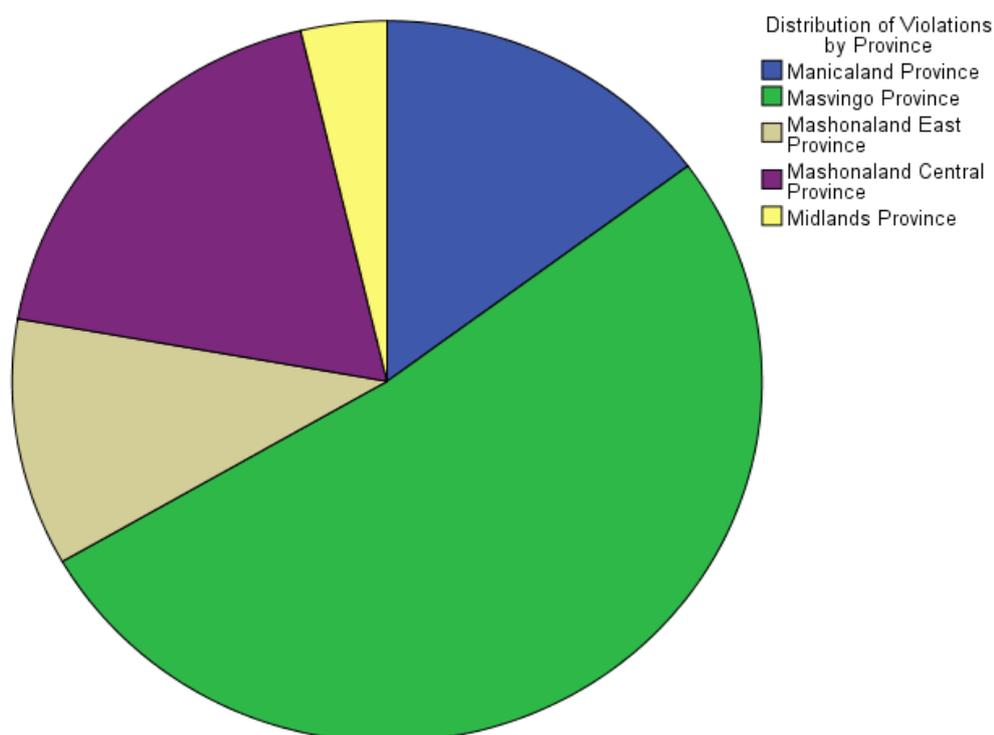
We envision a peaceful and prosperous Zimbabwe that celebrates diversity within local communities. Our mission is to prevent and transform conflicts with a particular focus on social justice and human rights.

1. Report Summary

The year 2017 started on a high note with the Bikita by-election setting the tone for the annual developments. Heal Zimbabwe recorded a total of 111 human rights violations, many of them originating from Bikita. Bikita recorded a frequency of 44% of the total violations observed in 12 districts and 5 Provinces. Out of the 111 recorded cases, according to Provinces, highest violations were recorded in Masvingo province recording 85% followed by 6% in Mashonaland Central, 4% in Manicaland Province, 3% in Mashonaland East and least violations recorded in the Midlands Province at 2% record. The top violations recorded include intimidation recording a total of 56% and the least recording 1% in the form of disrupted political gatherings.

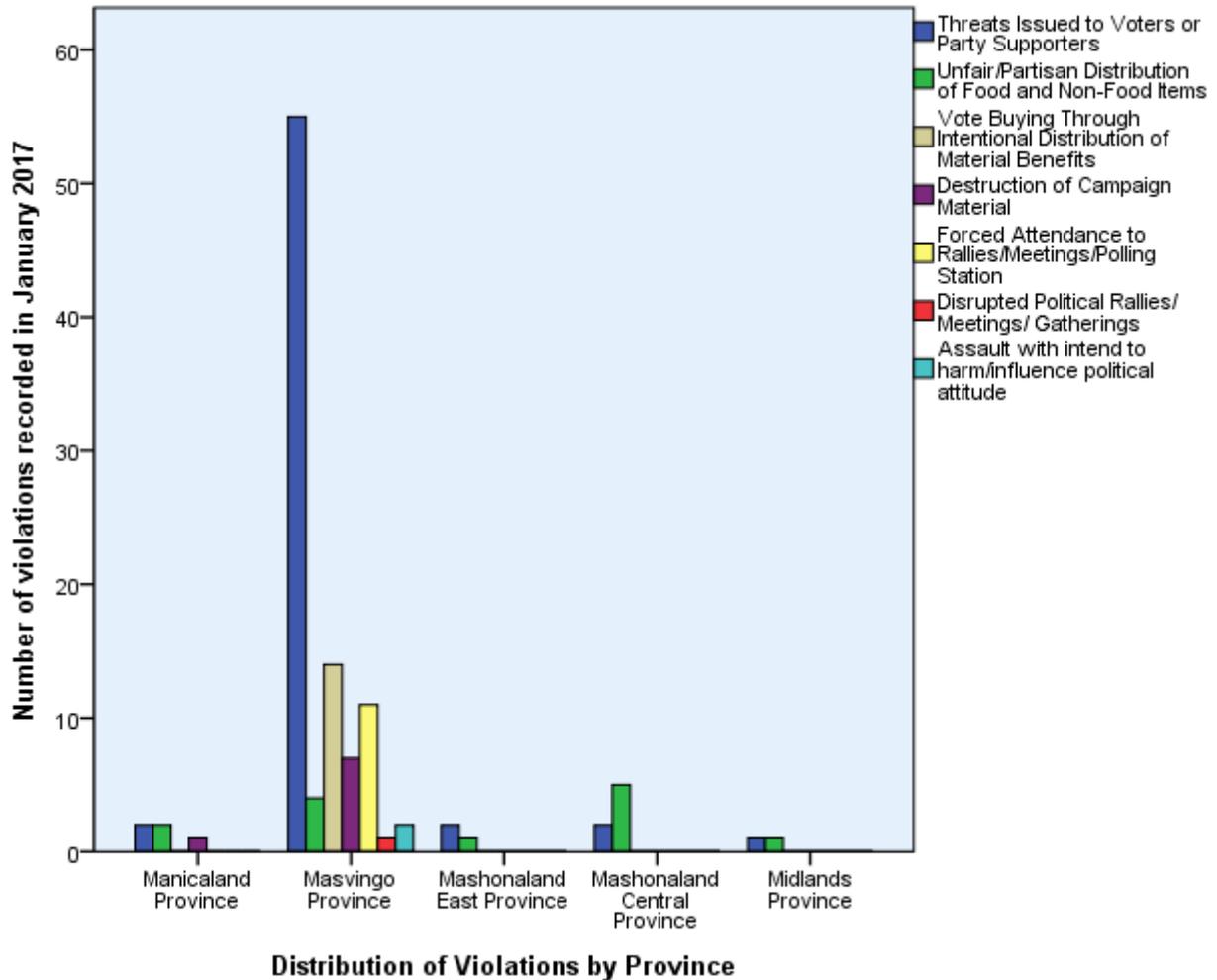
The socio-political environment was generally peaceful. However, the economic situation in the country is largely affecting communities' livelihoods performance. As the country readies for the elections in the coming year, the 2018 election hype is setting in. Fear of electoral violence is the greatest challenge that most communities are afraid of.

Geographical Distribution of Violations in January 2017



Masvingo Province has the highest number of human rights violations recorded with topping 85% of the total cases recorded. The Bikita West constituency by-election contributed highly to this number. However, least violations were recorded in the Midlands recording 2%.

Below is a bar graph showing the number and nature of cases recorded in each province.



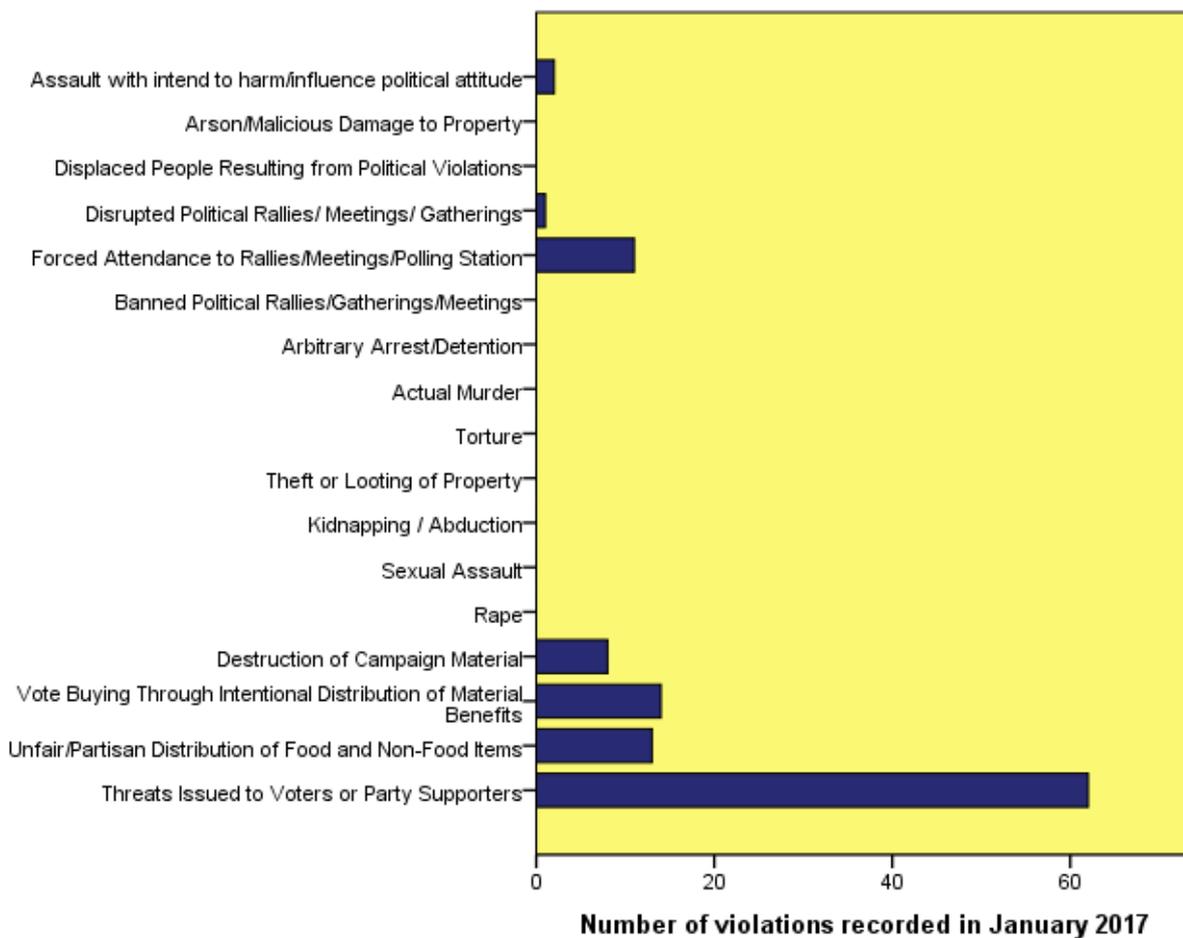
2. District Specific Human Rights Violations Frequency Report.

A total of 12 districts in 5 provinces recorded human rights violations and as mentioned earlier, Bikita recorded a high percentage because of violations that took place before during and after the Bikita West by-election. Bikita district recorded a frequency of 44% human rights violations, followed by Muzarabani, Mount Darwin, Chimanimani and Buhera that recorded 17% each. Uzumba-Maramba-Pfungwe, Mudzi, Mazowe, Marondera, Gutu, Gokwe North and Chivi recorded a frequency of 4% human rights violations each. Below is the data of the frequency of violations recorded in January 2017 within the identified 12 districts.

3. Nature of Violations Recorded

In this reporting month, Heal Zimbabwe registered a total of 7 forms of human rights violations. These cases involved; a 56% record of intimidation, 12% unfair/partisan distribution of food aid and farming inputs, 7% destruction of campaign material, 10% forced attendance to political gatherings, 1% disrupted political meetings and finally 2% assault on political grounds. As observed in the last instalment of Heal Zimbabwe’s conflict update, it is encouraging that there are barely any cases of rape, sexual assault, abduction, murder and torture. Below bar graph shows different forms of violations recorded in the month of January 2017.

Number of Violations Recorded in January 2017



4. Our Observation

In the month of January, Heal Zimbabwe observed that the most trending violations involved intimidation and followed by vote buying and partisan food aid and farming inputs

distribution. However, it must be noted that the rise in these violations was mainly because of the election hype in Bikita West constituency where an election was held on the 21st of January 2017. Partisan food aid distribution continues because of political intolerance and mere corruption.

Generally, we conclude that the general environment was peaceful. Isolated cases of human rights violations are largely a result of unfair food aid and farming inputs distribution and vote buying. Many such violations are perpetual across the country, particularly those most affected by the El-Nino induced drought.

Specific Cases Recorded:

Muzarabani ward 17

On 29 January 2017, ZANU-PF ward chairperson, Phaeton Mupinga participated at the Social Welfare food aid distribution held at Hoya Primary school. While at the distribution point, he announced that the food aid was from President Robert Mugabe. Mupinga also pointed out that no opposition party members were going to receive the food aid and announced that he had already removed names of all opposition party members from the Ministry of Public Service, Labour and Social welfare food aid beneficiaries list. He also pointed out that if people wanted to continue receiving food aid, they should continue supporting President Mugabe.

Maramba Pfungwe ward 6

On 27 January 2017, Maramba Pfungwe legislator Washington Musvaire and ZANU PF ward chairperson, Tichafunga Marekera participated at the food aid distribution process held at Mutawatawa Growth point. At the meeting, Hon Musvaire announced that the maize from the Social Welfare Department was only meant for ZANU PF supporters. He indicated that he has already notified the Ministry of Labour, Public Service and Social Welfare to remove names of all known opposition party members from the food aid beneficiaries list. Marekera also pointed out that all those who fail to attend meetings that he calls for in the ward will never receive food aid again.

Bikita South ward 6

Bikita South Legislator, Jebby Jaboon distributed farming fertilisers to ZANU PF supporters only at Mutikizizi business centre on 27 January 2017. At the meeting, Hon Jaboon indicated that the fertiliser was only meant for ZANU PF supporters. He indicated that he had already removed names of opposition supporters from the Ministry of Social Welfare food aid beneficiary list.

Gutu ward 33

On the 25th of January 2017, Ward 33 councillor Baster Mafiyo (ZANU PF), verbally and physically assaulted Rangarirai Mureriwa a vendor who was moving around Mupandawana Growth point selling sun hats. The incident took place at Mupandawana rural district council offices. Baster Mafiyo asked about the price of the sun hats from Rangarirai Mureriwa who lifted an open palm signalling that the hats were costing \$5 each. Mafiyo then began insulting Rangarirai Mureriwa with vulgar language and punching him in the face accusing him of waving an open palm which resembles the MDC-T party symbol. He highlighted that he was not going to tolerate such disrespect from opposition party members. Baster Mafiyo also highlighted that he will ensure that no opposition party conducts a meeting in his ward. Heal Zimbabwe encouraged Mureriwa to report the case to the police.

Marondera ward 14

Ward 14 councillor, Tonderai Kwaramba (ZANU PF) and ZANU PF ward chairman Taderera Gwanzura attended a PLAN international food registration programme on 27 January 2017 at Nyembazvere clinic. The two tried to force people to chant slogans, but the Plan international officer who was coordinating the registration programme was quick to stop them highlighting that the gathering was not a political activity. After the Plan International official had left, the two announced that all the people who registered for the food programme should attend the ZANU PF ward meeting the following day on the 28th of January 2017 at Chipitiri Business centre if they wanted to receive food from PLAN International.

Mazowe North ward 28

On 4 January 2017, ZANU PF ward chairperson, Vincent Murenga distributed fertilisers and agricultural inputs at Mvurwi communal hall. At the meeting, he announced that only ZANU

PF members were going to receive the inputs and urged all opposition party members present to join ZANU PF if they wanted to receive the aid.

Gokwe North ward 19

On 2 January 2017, ZANU PF District chairperson, Atnos Munyira distributed rice at Makotore business centre. He announced that only ZANU PF members were going to receive the food aid from Government because they support President Robert Mugabe. Munyira also announced that he had deployed youths in the ward to compile names of all known opposition party members so that they can be removed from the beneficiaries list of food aid.

Mt Darwin ward 14

On 10 January 2017, ZANU PF ward chairperson, Oswald Chinyanga distributed fertiliser at Nyamazvizvi business centre. At the meeting, he announced that no opposition supporter would receive food aid since the area was won by ZANU PF during the 2013 elections. A total of 35 women and 15 men were denied fertiliser because they were accused of supporting opposition party, MDC-T.

Mudzi ward 9

Alois Kambambaira, ZANU PF ward chairperson announced during a Social Welfare food aid distribution exercise at Madzivanhanga Primary school that ZANU PF was already preparing for the 2018 elections. Kambambaira also announced that he had already deployed youths in the ward to compile names of all known opposition party members so that they do not receive food aid from Government.

Chivi ward 25

ZANU PF ward chairperson, Tongai Mafuzhe moved in the ward on 28 January 2017 threatening people that they should pay \$2 to get ZANU PF membership cards. Mafuzhe was in the company of five ZANU PF youths. Mafuzhe also announced that anyone who fails to purchase the membership cards will have their names removed from the food aid beneficiary list.

Chimanimani West ward 9

Ward 9 councillor Rueben Mujee (ZANU PF) and his secretary Fungai Dhorobha denied opposition members food aid from the Ministry of Public Service, Labour and social welfare on the 8th of January 2017 at Hot Springs primary school. Rueben Mujee highlighted that he was not going to give opposition members maize because they supported the opposition party, MDC-T. He further highlighted that the food was only meant for ZANU PF supporters. Rueben Mujee also pointed out that he received a directive to deny food aid to opposition party members from acting Chief Douglas Chimukwe. About 25 people (12 females and 13 males) all opposition supporters were denied the food aid.

Chimanimani ward 8

Two unidentified ZANU PF youths on the 9th of January 2017 moved around Makotamo and Dirikwe villages chanting slogans ordering people to vote for ZANU PF chairman Muyapi Chinguno in the ward 8 Council by-elections that took place on the 21st of January 2017. The elections were to replace Councillor Joseph Zviuya who defected to Zimbabwe People First (ZPF). The youths threatened all opposition supporters with violence and highlighted that they will not receive inputs such as maize and fertilizers if they do not vote for Chinguno. Chinguno won the elections ahead of Isaaiah Mushungo (NCA).

Chimanimani ward 8

Posters belonging to the National Constitutional Assembly (NCA) candidate Isaaiah Mushungo in the Chimanimani West ward 8 Councillor by-election were defaced by Posana Jitiro a ZANU PF youth on the 10th of January 2017 at Nyanyadzi Growth Point. Jitiro was caught defacing the posters and a police report was made but no arrest has been made to date.

Buhera ward 33

ZANU PF district chairperson Norman Muchini and ZANU PF district youth chairperson Wellington Marowa denied MDC-T party supporters maize on the 4th of January 2017 at Kufakwatenzi primary School. The maize was from the Ministry of Public Service, Labour and Social Welfare. Norman Muchini highlighted that he was not going to give MDC-T supporters any food aid that comes into the ward. He then ordered all opposition party members who had attended the meeting to leave the distribution exercise meeting and told

them that they should go and get food aid from their MDC-T leader Morgan Tsvangirai. A complaint was lodged at the Buhera District Administrator's (D.A) office at Buhera office but no action has been taken so far.

Buhera ward 9

On 30 January 2017, ZANU PF ward 9 Chairman Christopher Machokoto threatened people during a village meeting in Zvinavashe village with violence if they continued to support and participate in opposition party activities. He also announced that all opposition party members should purchase ZANU PF membership cards which cost \$3 if they wanted to receive food aid.

Muzarabani ward 22

ZANU PF Ward 22 Councillor Sarudzai Mutyavaviri and ZANU PF ward chairman, Kenneth Mapondera denied opposition members fertilizer on the 16th of January 2017 at Nyamarinda business centre. Mapondera announced at the meeting that all opposition party members were supposed to leave the meeting as they were not going to receive any fertiliser. The fertiliser was from the Ministry of Social Welfare.

Muzarabani ward 17

ZANU PF District chairman Charles Mapungu and Councillor Oliver Ururu denied opposition members food aid and agricultural inputs on the 28th of January 2017 at Hoya business centre. Charles Mapungu highlighted that he was not going to give opposition party supporters the inputs and food aid. He then went on to distribute maize and inputs to ZANU PF youths, village heads and war veterans who were at the meeting. Mapungu also announced that if people in the ward choose to support any opposition party, he will ensure that they are denied food aid. The maize and agricultural inputs were from the Ministry of Social welfare.

Mt Darwin ward 19

On the 28th of January 2017, Ward 19 Councillor Caleb Karima and his secretary Edward Chadzimba threatened Sosera Secondary School headmaster, Mr Hebert Maravanyika with violence during a School Development Committee (SDC) meeting accusing him of

supporting opposition party, MDC-T. Karima and Chadzimba are committee members in the School Development Committee (SDC). On the day in question, Karima and Chadzimba told Maravanyika to consider lowering school fees from \$40 to \$25. Maravanyika then advised the committee that he will write to the Ministry of Primary and Secondary education advising them of the meeting resolutions. It is at this point that Karima and Chadzimba started shouting at Maravanyika accusing him of being an MDC-T member. The two advised Maravanyika that they were going to advise the ZANU PF leadership in Mt Darwin to remove Maravanyika from Sosera Secondary school. The headmaster has since been transferred to another school.

Bikita West Ward 32

ZANU PF ward chairperson Charles Tirukai distributed rice on the 24th of January 2017 at Makotore Business Centre. Tirukai who was an election agent for ZANU PF newly elected legislator, Beauty Chabaya at Chivanga polling station, highlighted that on the day of the by-election, he saw a number of people in the ward who were refusing to be assisted to vote. Tirukai announced that he was going to ensure that everyone who refused to be assisted is denied food aid. Tirukai was accompanied by Councillor Sheka Ushe (ZANU PF) who assisted him to distribute rice to ZANU PF supporters only as a gesture of gratitude for voting for Beauty Chabaya.

Appendix 1: Violations being tracked by Heal Zimbabwe

- 1. Intimidation** –is whereby a person threatens to commit a crime (assault, murder, rape, detention, theft, malicious damage to property etc) against voters, human rights defenders, activists or party supporters thus instilling fear to the target or belief that he or she will commit the crime.
- 2. Unfair/ partisan distribution of aid**–is when public resources donated to the people by the government or aid agencies are distributed on the basis of political affiliation rather than on the basis of equality, fairness and need.
- 3. Vote buying**–describes a situation where parties or candidates distribute resources with the intention to bribe or manipulate one’s voting or political behaviour in an election.
- 4. Destruction of campaign material**- This include tearing or removal of posters, vandalism of campaign material and burning of paraphernalia or any regalia meant for political campaigns.
- 5. Rape** –unlawful sexual activity or intercourse ordinarily carried out forcibly or under threat of injury against the will usually of a female or with a person who is beneath a certain age or incapable of valid consent.
- 6. Sexual assault** – it is any form of sexual contact without explicit or consent by the affected person involving forced sexual intercourse, sodomy, child molestation, incest, fondling and attempted rape
- 7. Abduction** –it involves an act of taking someone by force or holding him/her in captivity against the person’s will.
- 8. Theft/ Looting** – an act of taking away of another person’s property or services without that person’s permission or consent with the intent of depriving the rightful owner of it either for personal benefit or for other reasons.
- 9. Torture**- involves the act of or practice of inflicting severe pain or someone as a punishment or in order to force them to do or say something.
- 10. Murder**- unlawful killing of another human without justification or valid excuse.
- 11. Arbitrary arrest and detention** –describes the arrest of or detention of an individual in a case in which there is no likelihood or evidence that they committed a crime against a legal statute or in which there has been no proper due process of law.
- 12. Banned political rallies/Gatherings and meetings** –this is an action of prohibiting or stopping a meeting unconstitutionally.
- 13. Displaced people** –are persons who have been forced to leave his/her home or place of habitual residence as a result of political/social/economic violations.
- 14. Arson**–a deliberate action of setting fire to property or the crime of intentionally, deliberately, and maliciously setting fire to buildings, wild land areas, dumpsters, vehicles or other property with intent to cause damage.
- 15. Malicious damage to property** –is a crime to wilfully and maliciously destroy and injure someone else property.
- 16. Assault** -an act of beating, attacking, mugging and or thrashing someone with a weapon with intent to cause serious harm, injury and or fear.