

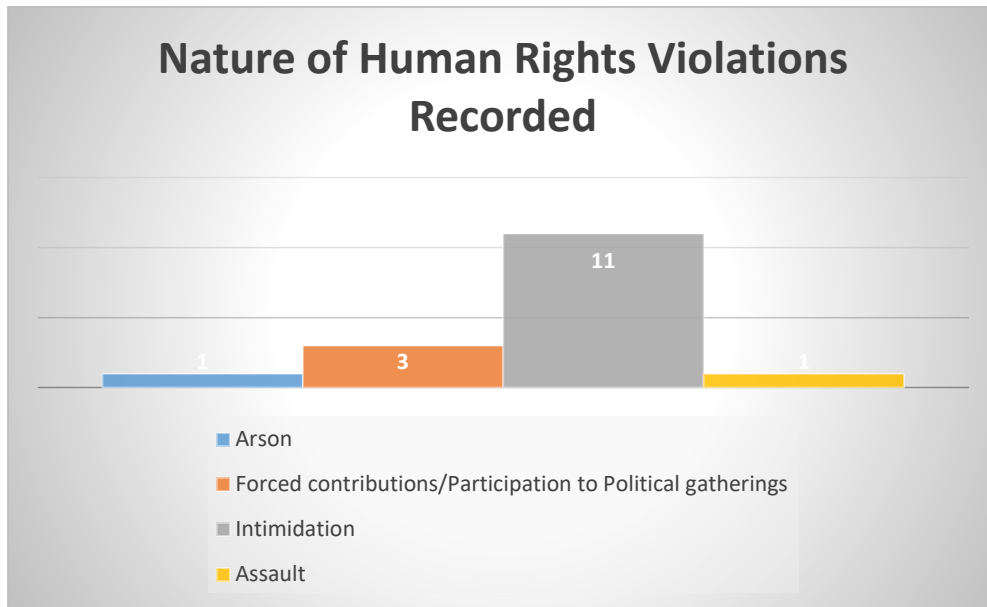
Human Rights Violations Update.



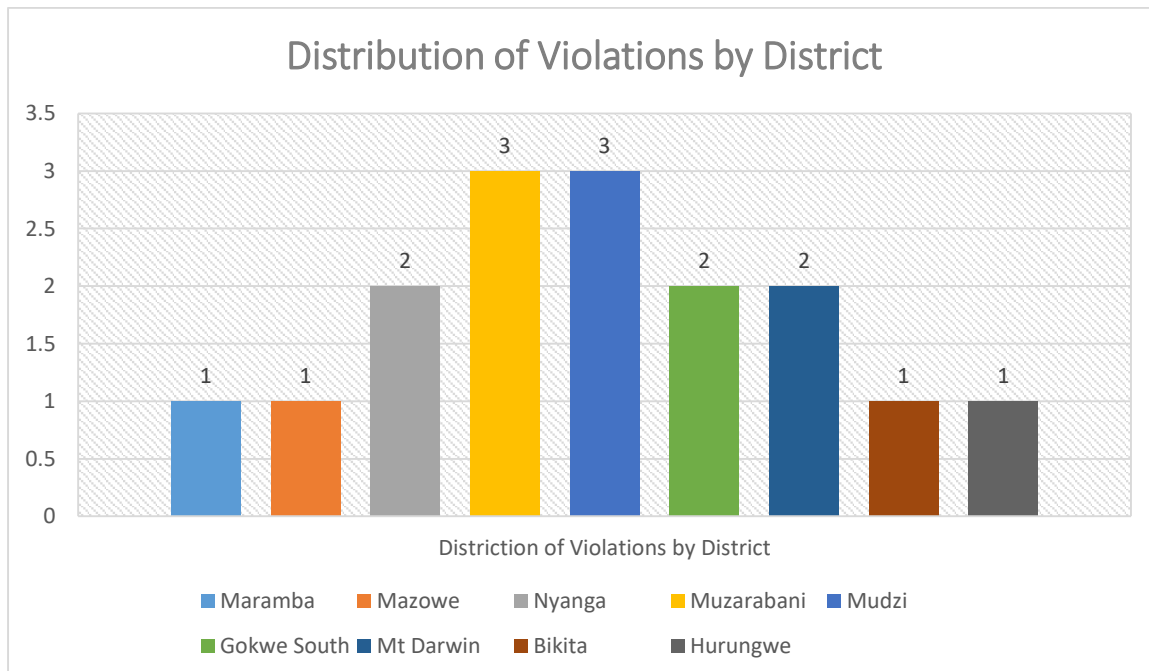
1.0 Summary of Violations.

Heal Zimbabwe recorded a total of 16 cases of human rights violations from 9 districts between the 20th of August and the 15th of September 2017. HZT recorded four different categories of human rights violations that include Intimidation (with threats of violence or threats of withdrawal of food aid or agricultural inputs), forced participation (in political meetings, Financial or material contributions), arson and assault. The organisation observed that Intimidation recorded the highest number of cases in this reported period with 68.75% (11 cases), followed by forced attendance to political gatherings recording 18.75% (3 cases), arson which recorded 6.25% (1 case) and assault which recorded 6.25% (1 case). Heal Zimbabwe observed that the recorded human rights violations are mainly centred on (i) ZANU PF restructuring exercises within local communities, (ii) the hype behind the recently announced Biometric Voter Registration (BVR) process which was rolled out in local communities beginning on the 18th of September 2017 and (iii) the ongoing countrywide Presidential youth interface rallies, the latest being in Bindura. Heal Zimbabwe notes with great concern the continued prevalence of human rights violations linked to intimidation in local communities. The organisation perceives intimidation as a barrier towards the realisation of peace in Zimbabwe and a stumbling block to the attainment of a democratic society as provided for in the Constitution. HZT continues to call for peace and tolerance ahead of the 2018 elections.

2.0 Nature of Violations Recorded.



2.1 Number of Cases Recorded by District.



The above diagram indicates the distribution of human rights violations by district. The distribution reveals that human rights violations were recorded in a total of 9 Districts which are: Maramba, Mazowe, Nyanga, Muzarabani, Mudzi, Gokwe South, Mt Darwin, Bikita and Hurungwe. Muzarabani (3 cases) and Mudzi (3 cases) districts recorded the highest number of violations largely because of the ZANU PF restructuring exercises in local communities.

Intimidation was recorded in 6 districts: Gokwe South, Maramba, Mt Darwin, Muzarabani, Nyanga and Mudzi. HZT observed that the human rights violations recorded in this period were perpetrated by 32 perpetrators (30 males and 2 females). ZANU PF continues to top the majority of the perpetrators with 22 recorded in this period. Eight of the perpetrators were also traditional leaders (7 village heads and 1 Headman), 1 councillor and 1 retired soldier. The majority of the victims were opposition supporters followed by ordinary community members, village heads, residents and vendors.

3.0 Our Intervention on Human Rights Violations.

Heal Zimbabwe is committed to protecting and assisting survivors of torture so that they are able to access justice and requisite social services. The organisation has, in this period under review intervened in the 16 reported cases through its rapid response referral system. HZT has since forwarded the cases for further investigation to the Zimbabwe Human Rights Commission (ZHRC) and the Zimbabwe Electoral Commission (ZEC).

In an attempt to reduce violence and human rights violations, the organisation is currently reaching out to community members especially youth country wide to desist from engaging in violent activities. The organisation is running a National Peace Campaign for peaceful 2018 elections dubbed 13 Million Voices For Peace, *#13MilVoices4Peace*.

4.0 Conclusion

Heal Zimbabwe observed that whilst all forms of human rights violations are unacceptable, the environment is generally peaceful with sporadic cases of covert violence being recorded. Intimidation and any other forms of human rights violations are a threat to peace and erodes the social fabric and community cohesion in local communities. HZT further calls for tolerance for divergent views and urge all political parties to craft and implement non-violent campaign strategies and desist from inciting violence and anarchy in local communities. Heal Zimbabwe appeals to the ZHRC and ZEC to launch speedy investigations into the recorded cases of violations so that justice is met for the victims. Heal Zimbabwe further urges all the citizens in the country to shun violence and promote peace in their respective spaces.

Annexure: Specific Cases Recorded:

Midlands

Gokwe South ward 33 – Intimidation

ZANU PF ward Chairman, Johnson Sithole and Peter Mbakadha (a retired soldier) on 27 August intimidated community members during a community sports tournament organised by Hon Miriam Makweya at Nyamacheni Business Centre in ward 33. Sithole and Mbakadha threatened all opposition supporters with violence if they continue campaigning for their political parties in the area. The two indicated that the directive was coming from the ZANU PF MP for Gokwe Mapfungautsi Miriam Makweya.

Gokwe South ward 19 – Intimidation

Gokwe-Kana Member of Parliament Hon Owen Ncube intimidated village heads during a ZANU PF meeting conducted at Kudiwa Business centre on the 12th of September 2017. Hon Ncube ordered village heads to compile names of community members within their jurisdiction and make sure they register to vote and vote for ZANU PF in the pending 2018 elections. He further threatened that all those who defy shall be dethroned from their positions.

Mashonaland East

Maramba ward 6 - Intimidation

ZANU PF District Political Commissar, Tendai Zihwa intimidated community members during a ZANU PF restructuring meeting at Saparanyambuya ward centre on the 22nd of August 2017. Zihwa addressed the meeting where he barred opposition political parties from conducting any activities in the area. He went further to state that all known opposition supporters in the area will be assisted to vote in the 2018 elections.

Mudzi North ward 1 - Intimidation

Mudzi North Member of Parliament Hon Newton Kachepa on the 12th of September 2017 intimidated community members during a Rally that took place at Nyamapanda Growth Point. MP Kachepa declared that everyone in the constituency must vote for ZANU PF or risk being beaten up like what transpired during the 2008 election violence.

Mudzi North ward 1 – Intimidation and forced attendance to political gatherings.

ZANU PF youth led by Gift Tembo, John Karonga and Tatenda Karonga intimidated and forced community members to attend a rally addressed by Mudzi North Member of Parliament, Newton Kachepa on the 12th of September 2017 at Nyamapanda Growth Point. The three ordered vendors in the growth point to close their kiosks and attend the rally. They threatened those who tried to resist with violence. The victims had no option but to oblige.

Mashonaland Central

Mt Darwin ward 31 - Intimidation

ZANU PF District Chairperson Emerson Climate, Village head Chimbuwe and Headman Kaitano intimidated community members during a ZANU PF restructuring meeting on the 27th of August 2017 in Mumba Village. The three took turns to threaten community members with violence if they campaign for opposition political parties in the area.

Mt Darwin North ward 3 - Intimidation

Chief Chiswiti on the 1st of September 2017 forced village heads to chant ZANU PF slogans during a community meeting held at Gomo Primary School. The Chief threatened the village heads with violence if ZANU PF fails to win the 2018 elections.

Muzarabani South ward 22 – Intimidation

Ward 22 Councillor Sarudzai Mutyavaviri and Darlington Mungwariri, a ZANU PF member intimidated community members during a ZANU PF restructuring exercise at Chaona Business Centre on the 27th of August 2017. The two threatened community members with evictions if they are caught supporting opposition political parties.

Muzarabani South ward 20 - Intimidation

ZANU PF District Chairman Jack Chawurira intimidated community members during a meeting conducted in the ward centre on the 1st of September 2017. Chawurira ordered village heads to compile names of eligible voters in the area and make sure they all vote for ZANU PF in the upcoming 2018 elections. He further threatened that those who fail to vote for ZANU PF will be known and exposed as the new BVR process allows them to monitor voting patterns.

Muzarabani North ward 17 – Assault

Village head George Bumhira assaulted Nelson Shengweni an MDC T member on the 22nd of August 2017 in Muchembere village. The village head accused the victim of disrespecting ZANU PF people by passing through a ZANU PF gathering. Shengweni sustained head injuries and had to be treated at Hoya Clinic. The case has since been reported to the local police station but no arrests have been made.

Mazowe Central ward 12 – Forced Contribution to political gatherings.

Five unidentified ZANU PF youth moved around the ward forcing community members to make \$0.50 contributions on the 4th of September 2017. The youths highlighted that the \$0.50 contributions were for transporting people to the Presidential youth interface rally held in Bindura on the 9th of September 2017 at Chipadze stadium.

Manicaland

Nyanga North ward 9 – Intimidation

Village head Doreen Mandidewa forced community members to reveal the political parties they support for them to receive food aid. This happened in Mandidewa village on the 15th of September 2017 during an aid distribution meeting. Everyone present had to declare that they support ZANU PF for them to receive agricultural inputs donated under the Command Agriculture programme.

Masvingo

Bikita West Ward 9 – Arson

The house belonging to Enerst Manjonjo an MDC supporter was burnt to ashes on the 26th of August 2017 by suspected ZANU PF youth. A Police report was made at Bikita Police Station but no arrests or evidence of investigations have commenced to date.

Mashonaland West

Hurungwe West ward 15 - Forced attendance to political gatherings.

Village head Aleck Muzazi forced and intimidated community members to attend ZANU PF restructuring meetings on the 4th of September 2017 at Chiedza Business Centre. Muzazi highlighted that all who defied his order are “sell-outs” who will be heavily beaten in the coming elections.