



## **Organised Violence & Torture Report**

**01 November – 30 November 2016**

**By the Zimbabwe Human Rights NGO Forum**

**December 2016**

## **ACRONYMS**

CIO	Central Intelligence Organisation
CBD	Central Business District
MDC-T	Movement for Democratic Change – Tsvangirai
NCA	National Constitutional Assembly
OAUS	Occupy Africa Unity Square
OVT	Organized Violence and Torture
RTUZ	Rural Teachers Union of Zimbabwe
PDP	People’s Democratic Party
TNZ	Transform Zimbabwe Party
UMYF	Unemployed Mobile Youth Foundation
WOZA	Women of Zimbabwe Arise
ZAA	Zimbabwe Activist Alliance
ZANU-PF	Zimbabwe African National Union – Patriotic Front
ZimPF	Zimbabwe People First
ZNA	Zimbabwe National Army
ZRP	Zimbabwe Republic Police

## SUMMARY

This report presents an update of organized violence and torture (OVT) for the month of November 2016. A total of **31** cases were recorded, from victims that received medical treatment for injuries sustained in incidences of politically motivated violence across the country. ZANU-PF supporters and mixed groups of suspected state agents continue to account for the larger share of violations that were recorded during the period. Cases of targeted arson for political affiliation were reported in Mt Darwin district, reflective of previous eras of increasing targeted violence. The police refused to take action in each of these cases of arson where members of the Zimbabwe People First (ZimPF) party lost their property when suspected ZANU-PF supporters torched their homesteads.

The abduction of members of social movements that started in September continued in November. Compound teams of suspected state agents comprising members of the Zimbabwe Republic Police (ZRP), Zimbabwe National Army (ZNA) and members from the Central Intelligence Organisation (CIO) carried out these abductions. Suspected state agents in Mufakose Harare attacked seven members of a group of activists' leaders. Six of the victims sustained serious injuries, one managed to escape without injuries and two of the injured were abducted, severely tortured and dumped naked in separate locations out of Harare. The two cars they were travelling in were shot at, destroyed and burnt. The victims were organizing a citizens' protest against the release of bond notes in Zimbabwe, a desperate attempt by the government to address the crippling cash shortage.

In a separate incident on 17 November 2016 members of the army reportedly assaulted and raped a female victim in Harare for denouncing the State president and the introduction of bond notes. Violations for the month of November involved torture, rape, abduction, arson, displacement and assaults.

**Table 1: Narratives of the violations**

Date	Violation	Number of victims	Violation Narration	Perpetrator
1 Nov	Assault	2	In Mhondoro Mubaira constituency, two (2) brothers, both supporters of the Zimbabwe People First Party, were severely assaulted by ZANU-PF supporters at their home. They were accused of disturbing ZANU-PF activities in the area.	ZANU-PF Supporters
1 Nov	Assault	1	A student at Chinhoyi University was assaulted by suspected ZANU-PF youths whilst planning campaigns for ZINASU elections.	ZANU-PF Supporters
3 Nov	Arson	1	A homestead belonging to a ZimPF supporter was burnt down by ZANU-PF supporters in Mount Darwin. The victim reported the arson attack at Dotito police station but the police did not take any action.	ZANU-PF Supporters
3 Nov	Assault	3	Mine guards assaulted and set dogs on three (3) people suspected of illegally mining for diamonds at Chiadzwa.	Mine security Guards

5 Nov	Displacement	1	A ZimPF supporter and his family were forced to leave their farm in Guruve district by a group of ZANU-PF supporters. The invaders informed the victim that since he now supports ZimPF they had taken over the farm.	ZANU-PF Supporters
6 Nov	Assault & violation of freedom of association	2	An MDC-T supporter was assaulted by a group of ZANU-PF supporters in Epworth. The perpetrators accused him of wearing a Tajamuka T-shirt.	ZANU-PF Supporters
6 Nov	Violation of freedom of assembly	1	Members of the riot police in Zvishavane injured an MDC-T supporter who was fleeing from the police after a violent attack of an MDC-T rally.	ZRP
6 Nov	Assault	1	An MDC-T supporter sustained injuries after being attacked by ZANU-PF youths in Highfield Suburb Harare. MDC-T supporters were holding a party T-shirt visibility rally when they were attacked by the youths.	ZANU-PF Supporters
6 Nov	Assault	1	A villager from Marange area in Manicaland presented with severe soft tissue injuries, including dog bite wounds, after mine security guards in Chiadzwa diamond fields assaulted him for illegally mining for diamonds in the fields.	Mine Security Guards
8 Nov	Arson	1	A Zimbabwe People First supporter lost all his property after ZANU-PF supporters in Mount Darwin burned down his homestead. He was accused of deserting ZANU-PF to join ZimPF. The perpetrators then attacked his home at 0200 hrs. He made a report at Dotito police station but the police refused to record the case.	ZANU-PF Supporters
10 Nov	Violation of the freedom to demonstrate & petition	1	Riot police violently dispersed members of the Civil Society Alliance (CSA) who were marching to present a petition to the Mayor of Harare. One (1) member of the Civil Society alliance was injured whilst fleeing from the riot police at Town House.	ZRP
17 Nov	Torture & rape	1	A woman was assaulted and raped by three (3) soldiers in Mufakose Harare; the victim was accused of publicly criticizing bond notes and the Zimbabwean president.	ZNA
18 Nov	Torture and abduction	7	Seven (7) members of a group of activists' leaders were attacked by suspected state agents in Mufakose Harare. They were severely assaulted at the scene, five (5) managed to escape during the assault. Two (2) of the activists were subsequently abducted and were found badly injured and dumped at different locations.	State agents
20 Nov	Assault	2	Two (2) members of the Unemployed Mobile Youth Organisation were attacked by unidentified men in Harare CBD. The assailants accused the youths of being members of Tajamuka.	State agents
22 Nov	Torture & arbitrary detention	1	A pastor held a one-man demonstration by locking himself in a cage near The Zimbabwe Parliament building. He preached from the cage about the evils of the Zimbabwean government and president. He was assaulted by the police and detained for three days.	ZRP
23 Nov	Assault & violation of freedom of association	1	An MDC-T supporter was assaulted by ZANU-PF supporters in Epworth near Harare. for wearing an MDC-T t-shirt.	ZANU-PF Supporters
25 Nov	Assault	1	A female MDC-T supporter was attacked during the night by two men at her home in Kambuzuma Harare. She noted she was attacked because she had been overheard talking about bond notes and general politics at the bar during that evening.	ZANU-PF Supporters

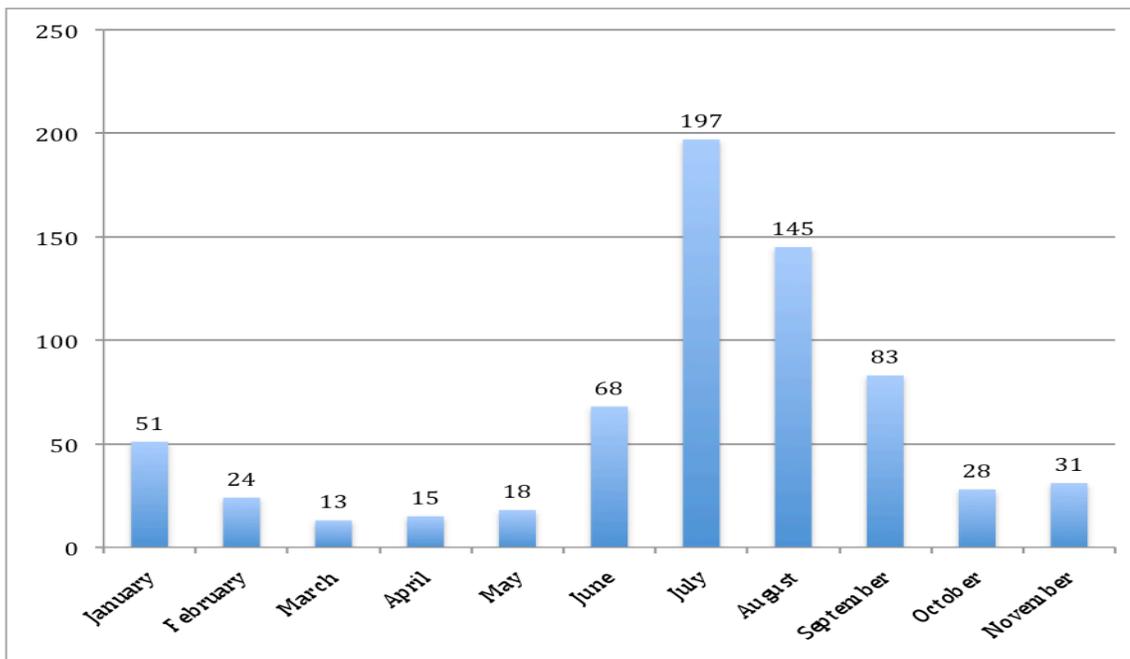
29 Nov	Assault	3	Three (3) MDC-T supporters were assaulted by a group of ZANU-PF youths in Epworth. The perpetrators accused them of refusing to surrender their residential stands to ZANU-PF youths as was ordered by a local ZANU-PF councillor.	ZANU-PF Supporters
30 Nov	Assault	1	A male vendor operating close to the MDC-T head office was hit in the back of his head by a tear gas canister that had been fired by the police when they dispersed MDC-T youths who were marching towards The Zimbabwe Parliament Building.	ZRP

The above violation narrations show evidence of increased involvement of state agents as the main perpetrators. State agents (the ZRP, CIO and the ZNA) have increasingly targeted social movements and political activists who since June 2016 have led more than 40 protests in questioning the deteriorating social, economic and political governance of the country (See appendix 1). These protests were met with State heavy handedness and the violation of people's rights.

### Cumulative violations January – October 2016

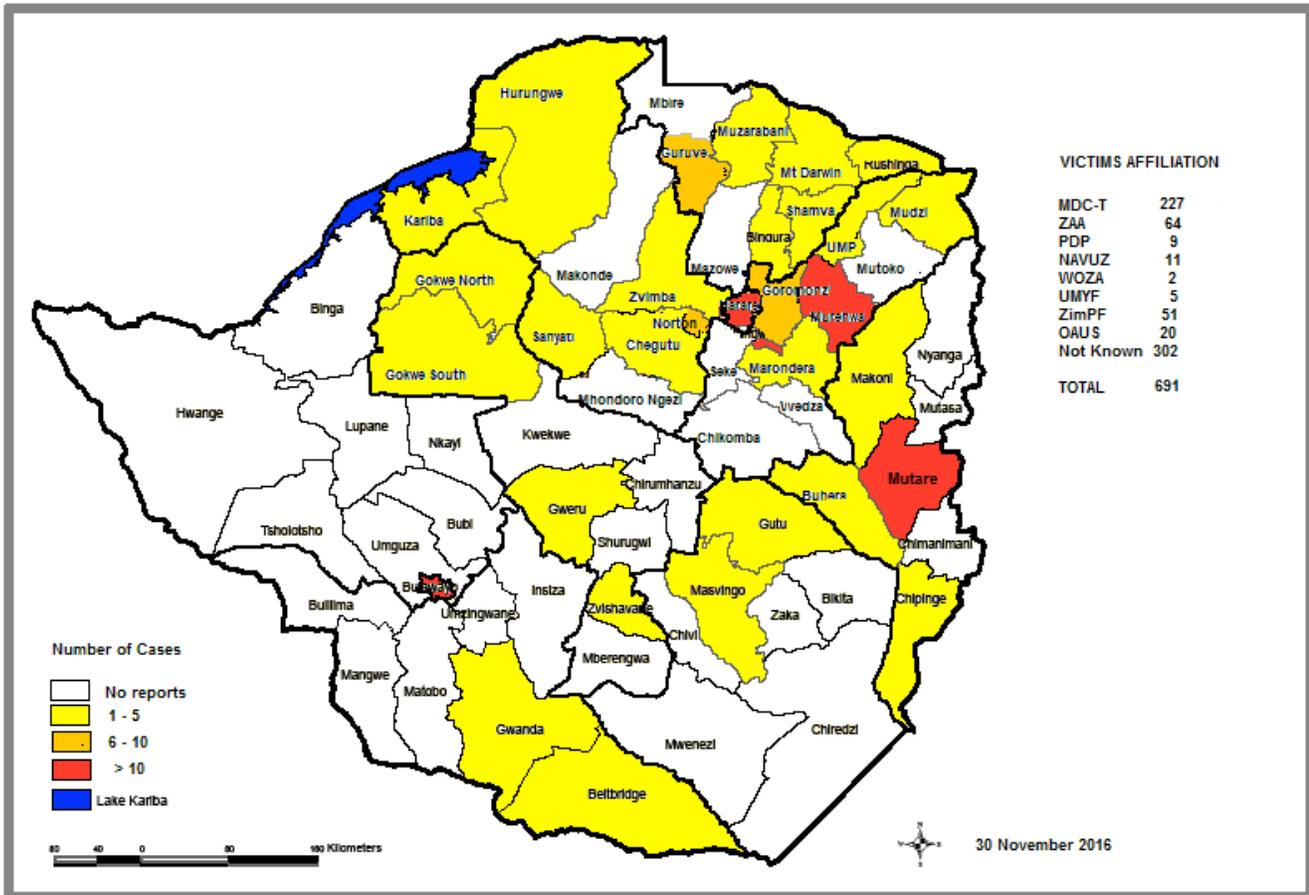
The organised violence and torture observed in November is a build-up of on-going violence from January 2016 and should be reviewed in that context. A total of 691 victims of organised violence and torture were recorded between January and November 2016 as shown in Figure 1 below.

**FIGURE 1: Cumulative distribution of political violence cases by month**

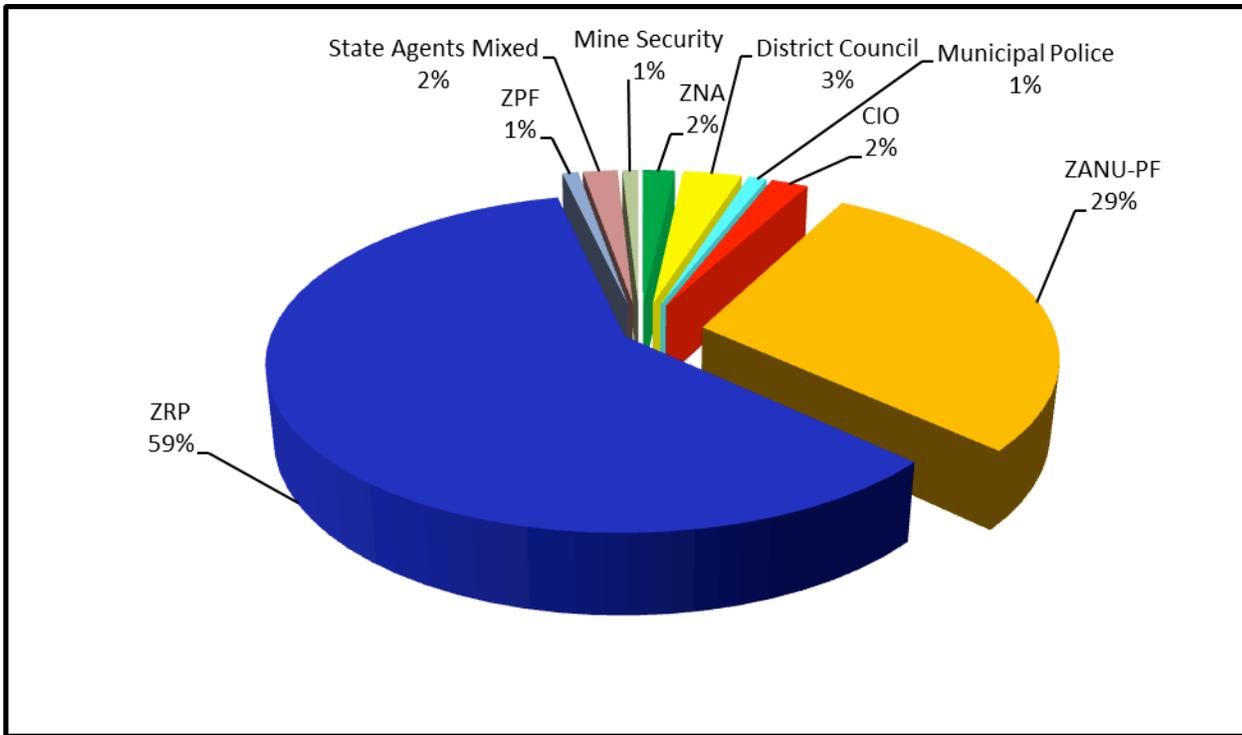


The violence surge observed between the months of June and September was associated with demonstrations against deteriorating socio-economic and political conditions in the country. Figure 2 below shows cases of political violence by district from January to November 2016.

**FIGURE 2: Political Violence: New Cases by District: 1 January to 30 November 2016**



**FIGURE 3: Distribution of Perpetrators by Violator Institution 1 January to 30 November 2016**



Zimbabwe Republic Police accounted for 59 % of the violations while ZANU-PF supporters accounted for 29% of the violations since 1 January 2016.

### **Conclusion**

This report shows that State agents continue to violate human rights with impunity. As has been the case for years, there is no and or very little evidence; of any attempt by State to proactively deal with the violence. The Zimbabwe Republic police are the main perpetrators of organized violence and torture while members of the CIO systematically carry out abductions. There is therefore an urgent need for the Government of Zimbabwe to investigate all cases of human rights violations, prosecute and punish acts of torture and bring justice to the victims.

## Appendix 1: Demonstrations 1 June to 30 November 2016

Date	Location	Organisations	Notes	Number of victims documented
01-Jun-16	Africa Unity Square, Harare	OAUS, ZAA, ZINASU, Zimbabwe Women in Politics	Beginning of 16 day sit-in to protest the deterioration of the economy and the human rights abuses by the government	0
03-Jun-16	Africa Unity Square, Harare	OAUS, ZAA, ZINASU, Women in Politics	Activists occupying Africa Unity Square were assaulted by the Riot Police	5
08-Jun-16	Africa Unity Square, Harare	OAUS, ZAA, ZINASU, Women in Politics	Activists occupying Africa Unity Square were assaulted by the Riot Police	8
09-Jun-16	Africa Unity Square, Harare	OAUS, ZAA, ZINASU, Women in Politics	Activists occupying Africa Unity Square were assaulted by the Riot Police	3
20-Jun-16	Africa Unity Square, Harare	OAUS	The activists whose sit-in had been broken up by the Riot Police re-grouped and moved back into Africa Unity Square, only to be assaulted again.	5
24-Jun-16	Sheraton Hotel, Harare	ROHR, NAVUZ, Tajamuka	Activists protested the lengthy, costly residence of Vice President Mphoko at the Sheraton Hotel.	0
27-Jun-16	Harare	Prayer Network of Zimbabwe	Members of church organisations staged a peaceful protest against the imposition of a national pledge by the Minister of Education.	0
27-Jun-16	Bulawayo	BUYA	BUYA activists demonstrated against grinding poverty and joblessness. 30 activists were arrested.	0
01-Jul-16	Beitbridge	Cross-Border Traders	People angered by the import limitations of SI64 protested at the border post, setting a warehouse alight.	0
04-Jul-16	Bulawayo; Epworth; Hatfield; Mabvuku; Ruwa; Zimre Park	Commuter Omnibus Operators	Commuter omnibuses went on strike in Bulawayo and Harare. In high-density suburbs in Harare, they barricaded the roads with bricks and burning tires. In many areas the police responded violently.	42
06-Jul-16	Nationwide Stay Away	#ThisFlag	On 6 July a national Stay Away coincided with a civil servants strike against their delayed pay dates. In some areas the Stay Away was successful and peaceful. However, in Budiriro and Mufakose the police attacked and assaulted participants in the Stay Away, in Bulawayo people were severely assaulted and tear gassed. In Bulawayo some protesters established barricades to block roads into town.	104
13-Jul-16	Harare	#ThisFlag, Tajamuka, OAUS	Following the arrest of the #ThisFlag figurehead, Pastor Evan Mwarire, thousands of people gathered at the Harare Magistrate Court in solidarity with him.	0
15-Jul-16	Harare CBD	NAVUZ	NAVUZ demonstrated against the worsening economic conditions and growing restrictions on vendors by the police. The Riot Police violently broke up the demonstration, firing large amounts of teargas.	5

16-Jul-16	Bulawayo; Kwekwe; Chitungwiza	MDC-T	MDC-T women protested the deteriorating economy and growing hunger by beating their cooking pots.	0
26-Jul-16	Bulawayo	WOZA	WOZA staged a protest against police brutality and the deteriorating state of the economy.	0
03-Aug-16	Harare	Tajamuka	Tajamuka activists protested the government's threat to introduce bond notes to the economy. Riot Police broke up the protest violently, injuring journalists as well as activists.	10
11-Aug-16	Africa Unity Square, Harare	OAUS, Tajamuka	OAUS and Tajamuka activists gathered in Africa Unity Square to demand the return of Itai Dzamara. They offered cake and flowers to the Riot Police.	0
13-Aug-16	Gweru	MDC-T, ZPF	MDC-T held a demonstration to protest Robert Mugabe's failure to solve the economic crisis. The leadership and supporters of ZPF, who were in Gweru for a party rally, joined them.	0
15-Aug-16	Uzumba Maramba Pfungwe	RTUZ	Teachers from RTUZ began a 200km, 10-day march to protest the poor pay of rural teachers and to protest police violence. Later in the week they were arrested and threatened, so cut the march short.	0
17-Aug-16	Harare CBD	Tajamuka	The Riot Police fired teargas and attacked protesters from Tajamuka, who were demanding that Mugabe step down.	3
18-Aug-16	Bulawayo	WOZA	WOZA held a peaceful demonstration in Bulawayo to demand that government scrap school levies.	0
18-Aug-16	Harare Central Police Station, Harare	NAVUZ, Tajamuka	Activists marched to Harare Central Police Station, where they handed the police flowers as a peace offering. The leader was severely beaten.	1
18-Aug-16	UNICEF Offices, Harare	OAUS	Members of OAUS demonstrated outside the UNICEF offices, following a statement from UNICEF supporting the state media's criticism of OAUS allowing children to be present at peaceful demonstrations.	0
24-Aug-16	Harare CBD	MDC-T	MDC-T activists held a march to protest police brutality. The march was violently broken up by the Riot Police, using teargas and water cannons.	18
25-Aug-16	Harare CBD	Zimbabwe Pastors' Conference	Heavily armed police disrupted a peaceful march by church leaders to protest misrule and police brutality.	0
26-Aug-16	Harare CBD	NERA	People from the activist groups and from the political parties working together under the NERA platform attempted to hold a march asking for electoral reforms. The march was violently thwarted by the Riot Police, who then fought running battles with small groups of protesters in the CBD. Over 70 people were arrested.	43
12-Sept-16		NAVUZ	NATIONAL Vendors' Union of Zimbabwe (NAVUZ) leader Standrick Zvorwadza led a group of protesters against cash shortages by addressing	0

	Harare CBD		people in Queues at banking halls.	
17-Sept-16	National	NERA	On 17 September, Following the ban on protests in the central Harare, NERA called for protests in all constituencies. Many of these protests were violently broken up by the riot police, resulting in arbitrary arrests of many people.	23
26-Sept-16	Harare CBD	NAVUZ	Vendors protested against the municipal police in Harare. The municipal police were confiscating the vendor's wares and this resulted in a violent reaction by the vendors who chased away the municipal police officers and deflated the council tractor tyres. The ZRP anti-riot squad moved in with teargas and dispersed the protesters.	0
26-Sept-16	Chiredzi Town	Sugar Production and Milling Industry Workers Union of Zimbabwe	Workers from the sugar plantations protested against the Land seizures by the Provincial Governor and other senior state officials. They were concerned that the move was resulting in many workers losing employment as production stops as soon as the land is taken over. Some ZANU-PF supporters who are against the land expropriations also joined the workers.	0
27-Sept-16	Harare CBD	NAVUZ, ZANU-PF youths	ZANU-PF allegedly attacked NATIONAL Vendors' Union of Zimbabwe (NAVUZ) offices in Harare. Members of the union reacted and there were clashes in the street. A member of NAVUZ leadership was abducted in the evening of the same day.	1
7-Oct-16	Harare CBD	PDP	Youth members of the PDP staged a demonstration against the introduction of bond notes. They moved around the CBD addressing people in queues at banking halls. They were however violently dispersed by anti-riot police.	1
14-Oct-16	Harare Gardens, Harare	O AUS	Five members of the Occupy Africa Unity Square protest group were arrested. These members of the group were accused of staging a demonstration as they were found sitting on a bench in the park wearing t-shirts with the words "END GAME".	0
19 Oct-16	Parliament of Zimbabwe Building	O AUS	Partson Dzamara staged a one-man demonstration at the parliament building. His demands were that the state should release information on the whereabouts of his brother Itai who was abducted and has been missing since March 2015.	0
10 Nov-16	Harare CBD (Town House)	Centre for Community Development	A group of Centre for Community Development in Zimbabwe members, Wanted to present a petition to the Harare Mayor. The petition was highlighting misuse of funds and poor service delivery by the council. The group was however	1

			dispersed by the police.	
22 Nov-16	Parliament of Zimbabwe Building	Zimbabwe Activists Alliance	A pastor locked himself inside a cage that is in Africa Unity square close to The Zimbabwe Parliament building and preached from inside. He denounced members of parliament who were not doing anything about the situation in the country. Riot police broke the lock to the cage and took him away.	1
30 Nov-16	Harare CBD (Harvest House)	NERA	MDC-T youths participated in a NERA organized demonstration against Bond notes and electoral reforms. The protesters were violently dispersed by the police and they failed to regroup again because of the heavy presence of policemen in the CBD.	1