



Organised Violence & Torture Report
FIRST QUARTER
January – March 2018

By the Zimbabwe Human Rights NGO Forum

1.0 Introduction

It was widely expected that the new year would open with thawed political tensions owing to the fall of the military coup which overthrew Robert Mugabe in November 2017. This was not the case. Political tensions remained high. The political environment was still characterised by inter and intra party violence which seemed to be escalating amid the 2018 general elections due before the end of September 2018. Evidence points out to the deplorable political environment in Zimbabwe which is not only stagnant but seems to be deteriorating, same can be argued about the economic environment. Amidst the assumption of duty as the President of Zimbabwe, President Mnangagwa made promises to the masses of Zimbabwe that his 100-day plan [which ended on 4 March 2018] would see better health care, increased circulation of money thus eradicating cash queues, repatriation of externalised money and increased foreign direct investment. However, as we bask in the 100-day plan, the reality is the opposite of what the president set forth, for example, the socio-economic crisis continues to spiral out of control.

Factional conflicts within the MDC-T intensified since the untimely passing away of Dr. Morgan Richard Tsvangirai the founder and president of the MDC. The two main factions are led by Nelson Chamisa the interim President of the MDC-Alliance who was Tsvangirai's deputy at the time of his death and Thokozani Khupe who is one of the MDC-Ts Vice Presidents. Intra- party violence and conflict among the MDC-T leadership and supporters is becoming a growing culture of settling political differences within the party. The first of these intra party violent clashes happened in August 2017¹ and on the 20th of February violent clashes occurred in Buhera during Dr. Tsvangirai's funeral as party youths affiliated to Nelson Chamisa assaulted Thokozani Khupe, Douglas Mwonozora and Abednico Bhebhe.

During the month of January, the Harare City Council (HCC) in conjunction with the Zimbabwe Republic Police and the Zimbabwe National Army launched a short-lived operation banning commuter omnibuses from passing through the Central Business District (CBD). This led to citizens walking long distances from periphery bus stops as far as Coca Cola along Seke Road. Apart from the distress faced by the commuting public, the ripple effects of the operation resulted in the death of two (2) people (Nhamo Zepheniah 64 and Anatoria Kaseke 54) who succumbed to gunshot wounds from a police officer following skirmishes involving police officers, commuter omnibus operators, vendors and members of the public.

¹ The intra party violence occurred on 06 August at the MDC-T offices in Bulawayo when youths affiliated to the late MDC-T president Morgan Tsvangirai disrupted a meeting that was being held by the party's Vice President Thokozani Khupe

Summary of Violations for January

In January 2018, new victims of Organised Violence and Torture (OVT) were reported and documented from across the country. This figure includes seven incidents of infringement of political rights, five incidences of harassment and intimidation, three cases of assault and three incidences of denial of the right to food. .

NB: The following notes should be put into consideration when reading these cases:

- *Human rights violations contained in this report are derived from statements made to the Forum’s Public Interest Unit, its member and partner organisations.*
- *The identities of victims whose names have not been published in the press and are not public officials are protected. This is done in order to protect the victim from further violence, intimidation and possible reprisals.*
- *The Report cannot be considered as the exhaustive record of all incidents of politically-motivated violence in Zimbabwe in the period under review. Nevertheless, every incident reported to the Forum directly or through its members is meticulously documented and included in the report.*

Table 1: Reported Incidents of OVT January 2018

Date	Violation	Violation Narration	Number of victims	Perpetrator
15 July	Violation of freedom of the media	MDC Alliance youths assaulted freelance journalist Tamuka Charakupa in Chitungwiza, Harare. Charakupa, was assaulted following clashes between MDC-T Alliance youths and ZANU PF youths The MDC-T Alliance youths were part of a convoy of vehicles that was canvassing for votes for the party’s candidate, Advocate Maxwell Mavhunga. Four MDC Alliance youths accosted Charakupa as he took pictures of the clashes with his mobile phone. One of the youths snatched his phone. Charakupa’s spectacles were also broken in the process after he received a blow to his ear. He reported the incident to the police and managed to identify two of his assailants following Mavhunga’s assistance, resulting in their arrest. The suspects appeared in court on 17 July 2018 on charges of assault and theft.	1	MDC-T Alliance
			Unknown	ZANU-PF Supporters
			Unknown	ZANU-PF Supporters
			Unknown	ZANU-PF Supporters
			Unknown	ZANU-PF

				Supporters
			Unknown	ZANU-PF Supporters
			1	ZANU-PF Supporters
			Unknown	ZANU-PF Supporters
			1	ZANU-PF Supporters
			Unknown	ZANU-PF Supporters
13 Jan	Infringement of political rights		Unknown	ZANU-PF Supporters

2.0 Summary of Violations for February

In February 2018, 13 new incidences cases of Organized Violence and Torture (OVT) were reported and documented from across the country. Structural violence manifested in the form of harassment and intimidation centred mostly the BVR system where villagers were still being intimidated that the BVR system captures an individual's face and this enables the system to link an individual to their vote hence they were forced to submit their BVR serial numbers. Some ZANU-PF officials and traditional leadership were reportedly seizing social situations and national programs to campaign and threaten those gathered for registration to vote for them in the 2018 elections and also collected BVR serial numbers from them.

Also of concern was the use of brute force by the police when quelling demonstrations and dealing with vendors commuter omnibus operators and pirate taxis. These attacks on vendors and the public saw victims invariably facing trumped up charges of assaulting police officers such as in the case of Evans Gogo. Evans Gogo was severely tortured by the Forum and is receiving legal and medical support from the Forum and the Counselling Services Unit (CSU).

Further, four (4) people (Gibson Kataruware, Denis Kondo, Prince Beni and Emmanuel Muzariri) were tortured by the police after they were arrested on allegations of damaging property after the public stoned Harare Central Police Station and burnt several vehicles in protest of the shootings. Further, the Zimbabwe Republic Police (ZRP) as usual responded by using excessive force to crush a peaceful demonstration lodged by the National University of Science and Tecnonogy (NUST) students who were protesting against four weeks of not learning owing to collective job action by their lecturers. Widespread impunity for abuses by the police and the state security agents still remains.

Reports from across the country regarding voter intimidation and coercion through the illegal recording of citizen's serial numbers were also documented during the month. In a case recorded by the Forum, Abel Mauchi was assaulted by a ZANU PF supporter after he refused to reveal his BVR serial number. Cases in most provinces of Zimbabwe have been recorded and victims recommended to report the individual(s) to the police.

The table below summarizes cases of OVT for February 2018.

NB: The following notes should be put into consideration when reading these cases:

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TABLE 2: Reported Incidents of OVT February 2018

Date	Violation	Violation Narration	Number of victims	Perpetrator
9 Feb	Assault	Abel Mauchi was assaulted by Marota Musiiwa after he refused to disclose his BVR serial number. The Victim narrated that Marota Musiiwa demanded to know why he had not submitted his BVR serial number to which the victim said he had been away attending a Catholic Commission for Justice and Peace (CCJP) peace programme. Marota Musiiwa is said to have reiterated that the victim is an MDC supporter since according to Musiiwa CCJP serves the interests of the MDC. Sensing danger, the victim retreated away from Marota who then followed him, tripped him and repeatedly kicked him in the ribs head and legs. The victim also indicated that most, if not all members of his society had ceded to these demands.	1	ZANU-PF supporter(s)
16 Feb	Assault	Paul Teta and Fadzi Teta assaulted Wilson Sauro for supporting the incumbent Nyanga North MP Hurbert Nyanhongo. The duo wants Nicodimus Chibvura to be the next Nyanga North MP. The conflict started on the 27 January when honourable Hurbert Nyanhongo convened a meeting which ended in a squabble regarding this succession issue. on 16 February, Paul Teta and his brother Fadzi Teta then assaulted Wilson Sauro in Mutanda Bottle Store resulting in the latter sustaining injuries.	1	ZANU-PF supporters
20 Feb	Assault	In Buhera South Constituency during the funeral of Dr. Richard Tsvangirai, Givemore Simango (MDC Youth Chairperson Nyanga South, Mike Mukwenje (MDC Supporter Nyanga North) and other MDC Youths attacked Thokozani Khupe (MDC Vice President), Douglars Mwonzora (Secretary General of the MDC)	3	MDC-T supporters

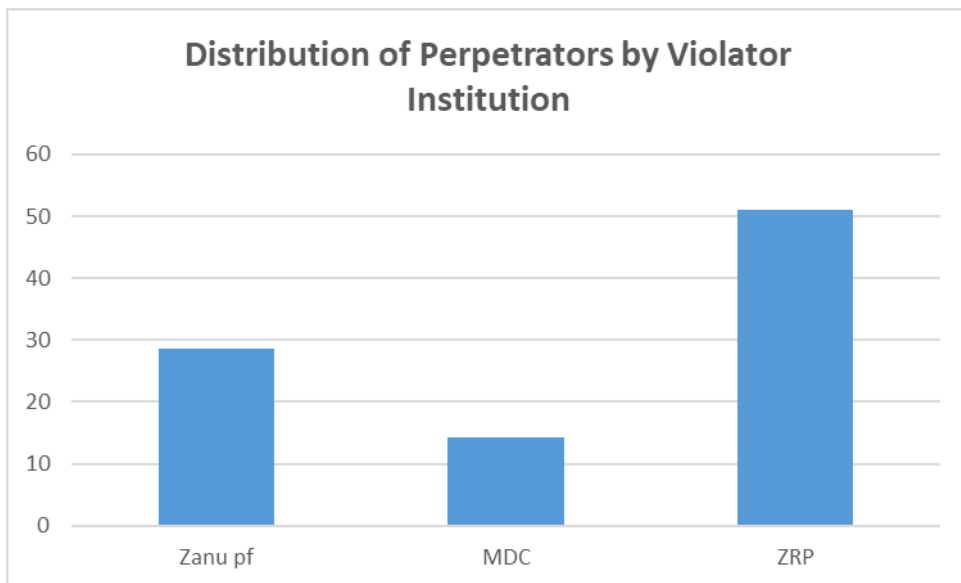
		and Abednic Bhebhe (MP for Nkayi South). The trio sought refuge in a nearby hut which the youths tried to burn. Douglas Mwonzora's Bodyguards Madziwa, and Dzambacheka together with Civil society organisations came to their aid. the reason why the youths assaulted the trio was that the youths viewed Khupe as the likely Tsvangirai successor yet they favoured Chamisa. it was after Chamisa instructed them to release the trio that they did so.		
22 Feb	Murder, assault/ torture, MDP, Unlawful arrest & detention	Two (2) vendors where shot by a police officer whilst he was trying to restrict a commuter omnibus from accessing the Harare CBD. After the general public, vendors and commuter omnibus operators realised that the two individuals who had been shot (Nhamo Zepheniah and Anatoria Kaseke) had succumbed to the gunshot wounds, the mob stoned the Harare central police station and torched several vehicles that where parked around the vicinity of the station. It has also been reported that Gibson Kataruware, Denis Kondo, Prince Beni and Emmanuel Muzariri where later arrested in conjunction with the vandalism. whilst in police custody the trio where tortured by the police leading them to be severely injured such that Gibson Kataruware was hospitalised. The quartet are being charged with public violence.	6	ZRP
24 Feb	Torture and Unlawful arrest & detention	Calvin Nyamatare disembarked a Kombi from Chitungwiza General Hospital where his wife had just given birth. He was then summoned by a police officer who was holding a police dog, to this he indicated his fear of the dog. The police Officer assured him that it was safe for him to approach. after this, the police officer accused the victim of attacking a police officer to which the victim refused. the police officer then directed the victim to a Kombi (Nissan Caravan). Upon boarding the Kombi, the victim was slapped thrice by a female police officer. When he protested against this, the first male police officer released the dog and commanded it to attack the victim. the victim was then taken to Makoni Police station where he stayed for three (3) days andtwo (2) nights after which they released him and directed him to CIO Drugs and Narcotics. It is at this point that the victim got in touch with the Forum	1	ZRP

27 Feb	Assault & arbitrary arrests	Following a four weeks demonstration by National University of Science & Technology (NUST) lectures the students held peaceful demonstrations and blocked the entrance to the University to petition for their right to education as articulated by section 75 of the Constitution. Riot Police then intervened with water cannons and arrested over 40 students. it is reported that some students were injured during the course of the riot crack down.	Unknown	ZRP
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Nature of violations

Violations during the month of February were mostly torture, assault, and violation of freedom of the media and harassment and intimidation. The nature of the violations, the number of the victims and the perpetrator category are shown in Table 2 below.

FIGURE 1: Distribution of Perpetrators by Violator Institution: February 2018



The ZRP was the main perpetrator of violence, accounting for 51% of the violence, followed by ZANU PF, which accounted for 28.6% of the violence.

Summary of Violations for March

In March 2018, **16** new victims of Organized Violence and Torture (OVT) were reported and documented from across the country.

The table below summarises cases of OVT for March.

NB: The following notes should be put into consideration when reading these cases:

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TABLE 3: Reported Incidents of OVT March 2018

Date	Violation	Violation Narration	Number of victims	Perpetrator
10 Mar	Assault	ZANU PF Member of Parliament for Nyanga North constituency, Gift Nyamuchaka allegedly assaulted Tapiwa Muromowenyoka (former independent Councilor for Troutbeck, Nyanga) with fists over verbal insults he received from both Tapiwa and Amai Sanyatwe (Wife to Brigadier Sanyatwe) at Chapatarango Secondary School, Nyanga North in ward 5. The brawl emanated from a campaign by Tapiwa and amai Sanyatwe to discredit Gift Nyamuchaka. It was reported that the duo told the gathering villagers that Nyamuchaka is not eligible to be the Councillor for ward 5 since he is a grade 3-school dropout. During their smear campaign, Nyamuchaka arrived at the gathering and demanded to know who had sanctioned a ZANU PF meeting in his ward without consent from his as the current the Councillor. It is at this point that Muromowenyoka insulted Nyamuchaka regarding his educational background. Muromowenyoka reportedly sped off in his vehicle.	1	ZANU PF supporters
15 Mar	Harassment & intimidation	Chief Victor Saunyama of ward 12 Nyanga North, Mawadza (a former war veteran and ZANU PF activist) and the Chief’s secretary allegedly gathered 300 households in Samungure village for a political party meeting where they were reportedly campaigning for the ZANU PF party. The trio allegedly uttered intimidatory statements like villagers’ faces would be identified through the biometric system if they voted for the opposition party.	Unknown	Traditional leader
16 Mar	Politically motivated killings	ZANU PF supporter Washington Mutetwa stabbed the party’s Youth Chairperson for Chiundura District in Midlands Province, Claudius Chikope (29) to death after the two argued about ZANU PF candidates in their constituency. It was reported that	1	ZANU PF supporter

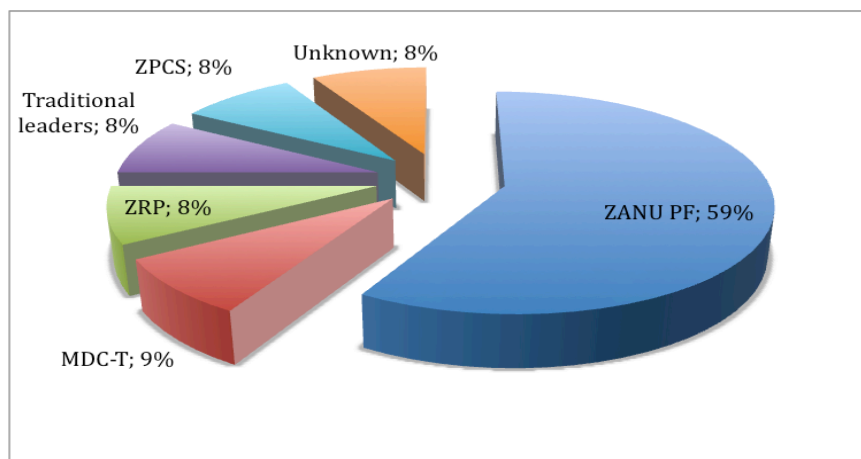
		Mutetwa approached Chikope at a bar at Zaloba Business Centre and accused him of supporting Mbalekwa who was viewed as a spy working for the MDC-T party. It is during this altercation that Mutetwa stabbed Chikope in the back with a piece of a bear bottle leading to his death.		
17 Mar	Harassment & intimidation	ZANU PF MP for Mudzi North constituency, Newton Kachepa, the ZANU PF Youth chairperson, Henry Kachepa and the provincial ZANU PF youth chairman Kangora were reportedly heard threatening villagers from Musiyani and Muguvamanzi Villages. This allegedly occurred at a ZANU PF meeting and the team particularly mentioned that they were going to kill those that voted for the opposition party, including Marokwe (an MDC-T) activist. Kachepa being the chief in the area threatened to displace villagers if he lost in the upcoming elections.	1	ZRP
19 Mar	Violation of freedom of assembly & association	Elizabeth Dzedze, a ZANU PF Chairman of Muvadzi village, ward 11 in Mudzi North allegedly approached Eunice Tembo and Shupikai Mbofana of Tizora village and forced them to attend and contribute 25c towards a ZANU PF meeting that was to be held at Kotwa growth point. Elizabeth also told the two that failure to attend the meeting would result in them being taught, beaten and beaten to death.	2	ZANU PF supporters
19 Mar	Violation of freedom of assembly & association	Memory Nyatsine of ward 8, Mudzi West Constituency carried out a door-to-door campaign forcing all women to contribute 50c towards party t-shirts they would receive at a ZANU PF meeting. Anaha Vhovha was one of the victims that were forced to walk a 12-kilometer distance to attend the ZANU PF rally. The case was not reported to the police.	Unknown	ZANU PF supporters
21 Mar	Assault	Muranganwa Chanyau (MDC-T district Chairperson) & Peter Chigaba (MDC-T Provincial administrator) heavily descended on TellZim offices in Masvingo and verbally assaulted journalists and staff while demanding to see who had written the story headlined 'MDC-T Masvingo plots coup on sitting councilors'. The two MDC-T officials went on to discourage TellZim from publishing articles that denigrate the image of MDC-T.	1	MDC-T
22 March	Violation of the right to education	Pupils at Ruwongore Primary and secondary school, Mazowe North were reportedly stopped from attending lessons and turned away from school by the school head. They were asked to bring their parents with them to attend a ZANU PF rally addressed by Advocate Martin Dinha.	Unknown	ZANU PF supporters
22 Mar	Assault	ZPS officers allegedly threatened four journalists namely Godfrey Mtimba (a freelancer) Patrick Chitongo (Flame Newspaper) Morris Bishi (Masvingo Mirror) and Tawanda Mangoma (Zimpapers) The four journalists were covering the court hearing of Andrew Takashinga Bere at the Chiredzi Magistrates court attempted to capture pictures of Mr. Bere as he was led out of the court. The media practitioners were forcefully stopped from taking photos of Bere and were verbally insulted by both ZPCS officers and Mr Bere's family. The journalists reported the case at Chiredzi police station under RRB No.	4	ZPS officers & Unknown

		3479828		
23 Mar	Torture	The police assaulted, tortured and interrogated Evans Gogo, together with 3 other vendors at Harare Central Police whilst he was waiting to board a combi to Epworth high-density suburb where he resides. Police officers assaulted Gogo and arrested four (4) other vendors following a clash with in Harare's CBD in the wake of the HCC and JOC commuter omnibus ban. Evans sustained severe leg and head injuries as a result of the torture and is being treated at Parirenyatwa Hospital under police custody.	1	ZRP
24 March	Violation of freedom of assembly & association	Tendai Nhau led a group of ZANU PF youths to force farmers at Dhawe Farm in Mazowe ward 26 to attend a meeting with Martin Dinha who is the Provincial Governor and resident minister of Mashonaland Central. it is alleged that Tendai Nhau and other ZANU PF YOUTHS went door to door threatening citizens to attend the meeting or else they would face consequences, further, the citizens were told to to bring their BVR registration slips	1	ZANU-PF Supporters
25 Mar	Violation of freedom of assembly & association	Nicodemus Mudenha a ZANU PF Youth forced farmers at Frogmore Farm in Mazowe to attend a ZANU PF meeting at the neighbouring Forester Farm. He instructed the farmers to bring their national identity cards and BVR registration slips. it was reported that these farmers were forcefully summoned to the ZANU PF meeting owing to the failure of the previous meeting due to low turnover.	Unknown	ZANU-PF Supporters

Nature of violations

Violations during March were mostly in the form of harassment and intimidation, politically motivated killings violation of freedom of assembly and association assault, and violation of the right to education.

FIGURE 2: Distribution of Perpetrators by Violator Institution March 2018



ZANU PF were the main perpetrators of violence accounting for 59% of the violence, followed by MDC-T, which accounted for 9%, traditional leaders, ZRP, ZPS and unknown all accounted for 8%

3.0 Conclusion

The violation of human rights by security services in Zimbabwe has become a culture. As such Government of Zimbabwe must urgently set up and capacitate the independent complaints mechanism meant to receive complaints from the public concerning the conduct of security services, provided for in terms of Section 210 of the Constitution. Also the government must desist from using the military in civilian matters. All the security services should be a service and not a force; protect and secure the lives and property of the people and not be perpetrators of violence.