



**QUARTERLY POLITICAL AND HUMAN RIGHTS
VIOLATIONS REPORT
July - September 2014**

A report by the Zimbabwe Human Rights NGO Forum

September 2014

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Executive summary

The month of July marked a year since the re-election of Robert Mugabe as President of Zimbabwe and the end of the Government of National Unity. Multiple social and economic crises remain. Economically the country remains fragile experiencing high liquidity problems, increased informalisation of the economy, high unemployment levels and company closures among other challenges. On the social front provision of basic social services continues to deteriorate while politically, there is endemic governance failure coupled with the ZANU PF succession crisis.

The 2014 Ibrahim Index of African Governance (IIAG), released on 29 September ranked Zimbabwe 46 out of the continent's 52 countries. The Index evaluates governments in areas ranging from economic and human development, human rights, safety, and the rule of law. This year Zimbabwe had an overall score of 38 out of 100, an improvement from last year's score of 35 out of 100.

Although a year has passed since the adoption of a new constitution there is still no urgency in aligning the country's legislative framework with the constitution serve for official expressions and promises of intent with no action. This has resulted in continued use of some repressive laws that are ultra vires the provisions of the constitution, corroding the democratic principles and human rights safeguards contained in the constitution.

Factionalism in ZANU PF has resulted in the two rival camps allegedly led by Justice, Legal and Parliamentary Affairs Minister, Emerson Mnangagwa, and Vice President, Joice Mujuru, resorting to violence and smear campaigns that have degenerated into in fists-fights and verbal slur ahead of the ZANU PF elective congress in December. The fights reached a climax during the youths and women's conferences held in August.

Although the constitution has a progressive and expansive Bill of Rights that includes economic, social and cultural rights, the government is failing to fulfill some of the realization of these rights by everyone. Rights to freedom from arbitrary evictions, safe and clean water, education and health, continue to be

violated. The majority of citizens lack access to basic food provisions and other social services.

There however has been a lull in cases of organized violence and torture compared to previous years although there was an increase in cases of arbitrary arrests, illegal and unconstitutional property demolitions, harassment and farm evictions that began in 2000 only that this time the victims are both white and black farmers.

On a positive note, the Zimbabwe Human Rights Commission (ZHRC) is now operational with a secretariat that will coordinate the Commission's activities. However, other Commissions established by the constitution such as the National Peace and Reconciliation Commission (NPRC) as well as the Gender Commission are yet to be functional.

In the circumstances, the Forum recommends to the government of Zimbabwe to urgently realign all laws with the Constitution. The government also needs to bring to a conclusion the farm invasions that have destroyed agriculture in Zimbabwe. There is also need to make human rights institutions in particular the Independent Commissions functional and not rhetorical.

Introduction

The Quarterly Political and Human Rights Violations Report is produced by the Zimbabwe Human Rights NGO Forum (the Forum). It is a monitoring tool to track and document trends in civil, political, economic, social and cultural rights violations. This report covers the period between January and March 2014 and highlights developments, statistics and trends in human rights violations. The information used is derived from the Forum's Public Interest Unit (PIU), member and partner organisations and verified press reports. Although this report derives its information from multiple sources it is not intended to be the main and exhaustive source of human rights violations information in Zimbabwe, but a complimentary report alongside those produced by other human rights organisations.

Developments in the fulfillment of human rights

There were a number of notable developments during the period. The Judicial Service Commission [JSC] held public interviews for the Supreme Court bench as part of public accountability and inclusion in the recruitment process. These interviews were the first in terms of the new constitutional procedure for appointing judges, outlined in section 180(2) (c) of the constitution.

During the third quarter, four local government by-elections were held in Gutu South Ward 24, Mberengwa Ward 26, and Redcliff Ward 5 and Ward 8 in compliance with sections 121 and 121A of the Zimbabwe Electoral Act, which provide for the occurrence of a by-election in the event of death or to fill a special vacancy in a given local authority. The holding of the by-elections demonstrates that the Zimbabwe Electoral Commission (ZEC) places high importance on local governance which strengthens democratic consolidation

at the grassroots level.¹ In all the by-elections, the electoral process was peaceful with no incidences of violence and voter intimidation.

The Zimbabwe Human Rights (ZHRC) Commission is now operational with a secretariat. The Commission was established in 2010 but had not been fully functional. Lack of capacitation of the ZHRC resulted in the resignation of its first Chairperson Professor Reginald Austin in 2012.

It is also important to note that during the period there were no cases of violations involving human rights defenders who in the past have been victims of unfounded criminal charges in a bid to curtail their operating space. The Constitutional Court finally acquitted the Election Resource Centre officials who were arrested during the run up to the 31st July 2013 harmonised elections on allegations of contravening section 40 (c) (1) (g) of the Electoral Act, for conducting voter education without the authority of ZEC. Also Bulawayo Agenda officials who had been arrested under the Public Order and Security Act and accused of conducting a public meeting without police clearance, were acquitted by the in Victoria Falls Magistrate Court on 21 August.

Forms of Abuse

The first section explains violations relating to civil and political rights and the second section relates to economic, social and cultural rights.

a. Rights relating to respect for the integrity of the Person

Although the political environment remained relatively calm, there were cases of torture, assault, harassment and intimidation recorded during the period.

Torture and other cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment

Torture is a crime prohibited under domestic and international law. Despite the Constitutional prohibition, police officers continue to use torture. The Forum documented a total of 44 cases of torture involving police officers. In the documented cases, torture was used in effecting arrests and interrogating criminal suspects in a bid to extract confessions. Furthermore, police officers

¹ See ZESN press statement on 13 September 2014 local government by-elections <http://www.zesn.org.zw/index.php/press-statements>

used excessive force to quell demonstrations resulting in people sustaining injuries.

The Government of Zimbabwe (GoZ) is yet to ratify the UN Convention Against Torture and other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or punishment (UNCAT) in fulfilment of its commitment at the 2011 UN Human Rights Council (HRC) Universal Periodical Review (UPR), where it made an undertaking to criminalise torture and prevent all forms of torture and inhuman or degrading treatment, and ensure full accountability of perpetrators and redress and rehabilitation of victims.

The following are some of the cases of torture.

- On 29 July, soldiers from 42nd infantry Battalion went on a rampage indiscriminately assaulting people at Mupandawana Growth Point in a revenge attack following the assault on one of their colleagues.²
- The 29 Chingwizi villagers' comprising nineteen (19) men and eight (8) women who were arrested on 3 August on assault charges following violent clashes in Chingwizi camp were allegedly severely assaulted and denied access to medication, food and sanitation while in police custody.³
- On 6 August, the manager of Ingwe Safari in Bulawayo was assaulted by soldiers on allegations of inciting fellow workers to demand their outstanding salaries.⁴
- On 18 August and 27, police violently quelled a demonstration organized by MDC-T youths demanding the promised 2.2 million jobs by ZANU-PF during the run up to the 2013 elections. The Forum through its Public Interest Unit documented 12 cases of individuals who were assaulted and injured during the job march. Seven youths were arrested and detained. The seven are being charged with obstructing or endangering free movement of people and traffic.

² http://www.zimbabwesituation.com/news/zimsit_w_gutu-residents-in-shock-following-attack-by-soldiers-sw-radio-africa/

³ The News Day 06 August 2014

⁴ See Zimbabwe Peace Project Monthly Monitor August 2014

- On 26 September, the Epworth Local Board with the assistance of riot police demolished houses during the night. Several occupants were injured and the police randomly assaulted residents. A total of 10 residents were arrested and released on 27 September. One of the arrested 10 sustained injuries.

Arbitrary arrest or detention

During the period under review, a total of 315 cases of arbitrary arrests and detention were documented. The rights and safeguards from arbitrary arrest and detention are provided for in the Declaration of Rights in the Constitution of Zimbabwe. A police officer should not effect an arrest without reasonable suspicion that the suspect should be arrested. During the period the Criminal Law (Codification and Reform) Act and the Public Order and Security Act (POSA) were used as the basis of arbitrary arrests and detentions. The following are some examples of the cases documented during the period.

- On 12 July, the leader of a newly formed political party, Transform Zimbabwe (TZ) Jacob Chengezeni Satiya Ngarivhume and 13 party supporters were arrested and detained at the Gweru Central Police Station on charges of contravening Section 37(1) (a) of the Criminal Law (Codification and Reform) Act for holding a political meeting at Vashandiri Centre in Mkoba Gweru.⁵ The 13 members were however acquitted on 17 September.
- On 3 August, violence erupted in Chingwizi Camp following the government's attempts to relocate clinic facilities from the camp that had a carrying capacity of about 3 000 families, to the site earmarked for resettlement. Following repeated attempts by the police to move the clinic facilities on 1 August, villagers burnt two police vehicles and disarmed anti-riot police. This resulted in acts of retributive violence by the police and army who moved into the camp and indiscriminately assaulted and arrested 300 villagers who included the elderly, children and ill people. The crackdown culminated in the burning of the villagers' tents, which had become their homes after the floods

⁵ <http://www.bulawayo24.com/index-id-news-sc-national-byo-50586.html>

destroyed their homes and livelihoods in February. Of the 300 villagers who were rounded up, 29 were charged with arson and assault and 26 of them were released on 8 August on US\$30 bail while the remaining three are still in police custody.

- On 15 August MDC-T MP Sessill Zvidzai was arrested and formally charged for illegally importing 800 wind-up radios in 2010. He however was discharged and the police would proceed by way of summons.
- On 27 August, two MDC-T legislators, James Maridadi (Mabvuku-Tafara) and Eric Murayi (Highfield East) and Andrison Manyere a freelance journalist were briefly detained, but later released during the MDC-T jobs demonstration. The courts did not sustain charges against the MPs.

Assault

A total of 39 cases of politically motivated violence in the form of physical assault were also noted during the period. Most of the cases were a result of factionalism in ZANU-PF. Notable cases include:

- On 23 August, Edison Takataka, the ZANU PF Harare province Youth League vice chairperson was allegedly severely assaulted by party youths in Mbare for supporting Grace Mugabe's endorsement for the post of Secretary for Women's Affairs for the women's league. Takataka was allegedly assaulted in the presence of politburo member Honourable Tendai Savanhu at a constituency meeting in Mbare. A police report was made and no arrests were made.⁶
- On 29 September, Temba Mliswa the ZANU PF Mashonaland West provincial chairperson was assaulted by Beauty Zhuwawo a provincial executive member following disagreements at a meeting in Chinhoyi.⁷

⁶ See the Financial Gazette 28 August 2014

⁷ See the Newsday 30 September 2014

Harassment and Intimidation

Cases of harassment and threats of physical violence remained high during the period. A total of 266 cases⁸ were documented during the period. Harassment and intimidation arose mainly from factional fighting within ZANU-PF especially during the party's youth and women's conferences. The two conferences were characterised by systematic intimidation, vote buying, fraud and allegations of kidnappings as factions competed for votes.

- During the ZANU PF youth conference, a group called Generations 40 was moving in different parts of the country threatening violence. The group started in Harare and Mashonaland Central where their militant behaviour earned them the nickname *Boko Haram*.
- On 2 August the ZANU PF branch Chairperson and the district youth Chairperson for Glenview South, Harare moved door to door forcing residents to buy the party's electronic cards.
- On 05 September, teachers from Murombedzi in Zvimba West were forced by ZANU PF youths to abandon a school meeting so as to attend the installation of chief Zvimba.
- On 26 September Melusi Sibanda a known Central Intelligent Organisation operative and others in Chimanimani West were moving around in a vehicle intimidating people from attending an MDC-T rally scheduled for the following day.⁹

Malicious Damage of property

Two cases of arson were documented during the period.

⁸ See Zimbabwe Peace Project Monthly monitor July and August 2014

⁹ Ibid September 2014

- On 19 July, Tsaurai Lawrence Stemere, a farmer at Sundowns Farm, Masvingo had his Nissan Twin Cab vehicle and house set ablaze by war veterans during a farm invasion.
- On 14 September, the house of Penelop Makomeya, a ZANU PF youth leader was allegedly petrol bombed in alleged factional fighting following reports that Harare Province was opposed to the ascendancy of Grace Mugabe. Makomeya was also assaulted on 24 August by people who were allegedly sent by the ZANU PF Provincial Youth Chairperson, Godfrey Gomwe.¹⁰

c. Respect for civil liberties

This section covers freedom of assembly and association, freedom of expression and of the media. The constitution guarantees civil liberties including freedom of expression, press and media and freedom of assembly and association. During the period it was reported that the government is in the process of drafting new cyber-security laws to control the activities of social media. This move will undermine Zimbabweans' rights to free expression and a free media.¹¹

Freedom of assembly and association

The government's failure to realign laws that curtail fundamental freedoms with the Constitution, such as, the Public Order and Security Act (POSA) continues to provide the state with a justification to continue flaunting the right to freedom of assembly and association which is constitutionally safeguarded.¹² The following are some examples in which the government restricted these rights during the period under review.

- On 12 July, armed riot police disrupted Transform Zimbabwe's national executive meeting held in Gweru on the pretext of looking for the party's president Jacob Chenedzeni whom they wanted to arrest on charges of holding an unsanctioned meeting in Hatfield Harare.

¹⁰ <http://www.financialgazette.co.zw/elimination-politics-in-zanu-pf/>

¹¹ MMPZ-Press statement- MMPZ concerned by news of plans to 'regulate' social media http://www.mmpz.org/sites/default/files/articles/MMPZ%27s%20statement%20over%20plans%20by%20Government%20to%20control%20social%20media-Sept%202014_1.pdf

¹² See Section 58 (1) of the Constitution of Zimbabwe.

- On 01 August, police violently disrupted a clean up exercise in Harare that was organised by the National Vendors of Zimbabwe.¹³
- On 14 September, youths from MDC- Renewal Team allegedly disrupted a meeting convened by the MDC-T in Masvingo. The drunken youths from the Renewal Team were singing and shouting obscenities resulting in the adjourning of the meeting.¹⁴
- On 25 September, members of the CIO disrupted a Transparency International meeting in Hwange. The meeting was cleared by police and was meant to discuss environmental issues.

Freedom of expression and of the media

The right to freedom of expression and freedom of the media is constitutionally safeguarded.¹⁵ There was a reduction in cases of violation of freedom of expression and of the media. This can be attributed to the striking off of section 31 (a)(iii) of the Criminal (Codification and Reform) Act, which makes “*publishing or communicating false statements prejudicial to the state*” a crime. On 22 July the Constitutional Court ruled that section 31 of the Criminal Code was in contravention of the provisions of the constitution and was undemocratic.

The Media Institute of Southern Africa- Zimbabwe (MISA) recorded three (3) cases of violation of freedom of the media as summarized below.¹⁶

- On 18 and 27 August respectively a photojournalist Angela Jimu and a freelance journalist Andrison Manyere were assaulted and arrested during the MDC-T job marches. The two were released without any charges.
- On 2 September, the Chairperson of the Broadcasting Authority of Zimbabwe, Dr. Tafataona Mahoso banned recordings and social media

¹³ <http://allafrica.com/stories/201408050207.html>

¹⁴ <http://www.radiovop.com/index.php/national-news/11219-drunken-youths-disrupt-mdc-t-meeting.html>

¹⁵ See section 61 (1) and (2) of the Constitution of Zimbabwe.

¹⁶ See MISA- Zimbabwe Quarterly Media Freedom Monitor, August- October 2014

postings of proceedings during public hearings for prospective commercial radio station applicants in Bulawayo. As a result, BAZ confiscated recorders belonging to two journalists, Lifaqane Nare and Mvelo Zondo. The two only got their recorders after the hearings.

- On 21 September, the Zimbabwe Mail Online Editor, Privilege Musvanhiri was assaulted and arrested by Harare Municipal Traffic Enforcement Officers while he was taking pictures of clashes between the Municipal police and touts. His phone was confiscated and he was detained and later released.

d. Prisoners' rights

In Zimbabwe, prisoners' rights are guaranteed by the Constitution. However prisoners were not spared from the prevailing economic crisis. Prisoners continue to experience shortages of clothing and food poor levels of sanitation, overcrowding and diseases, inadequate medical facilities, extensive use of lengthy pre-trial detention. According to the Female Prisoners' Support Trust (FEMPRIST) Sanitary wear is out of reach for women in prisons, forcing them to resort to unhealthy alternatives thereby jeopardising their health. These problems emanate from funding shortfalls. In the 2014 national budget the Zimbabwe Prisons and Correctional Services was allocated \$2,5 million against \$21 million it had requested.¹⁷

The Chief Executive Officer of the Zimbabwe Association for Crime Prevention and Rehabilitation of the Offender (ZACRO), while giving evidence before the Thematic Committee on Human Rights, reported that "inmates in Zimbabwe's Prison and Correctional Services facilities are forced to stay naked owing to inadequate supply of uniforms and the situation was more dire in remotely located prisons"¹⁸

Also prolonged pretrial detention of prisoners remains a problem resulting in overcrowding of remand prisons. Some detainees are incarcerated for several months before trial or sentencing due to reasons that include poor

¹⁷ <http://www.southerneye.co.zw/2014/07/09/govt-decongest-prisons-mnangagwa/>

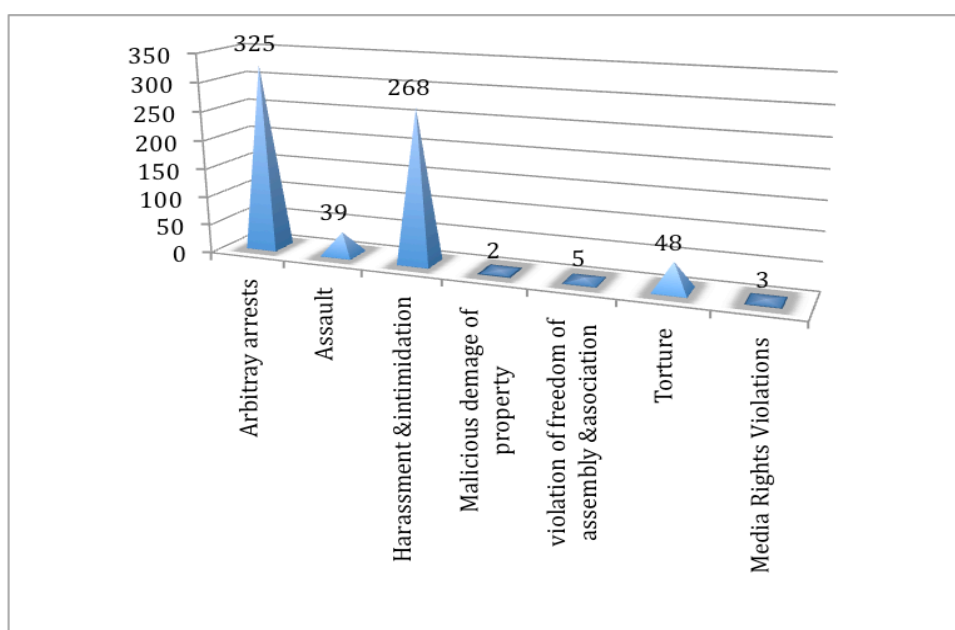
¹⁸ The Herald, <http://www.herald.co.zw/> 'Scarce resources force prisoners to go naked', 7 August 2014

bureaucratic procedures, shortages of court interpreters and in some cases political reasons.

Cases of political violence

The cases of human rights violations during the period are summarised in the pie chart below. A total of 690 cases were recorded during the quarter.

Figure 1: Cases of political violence July to September 2014

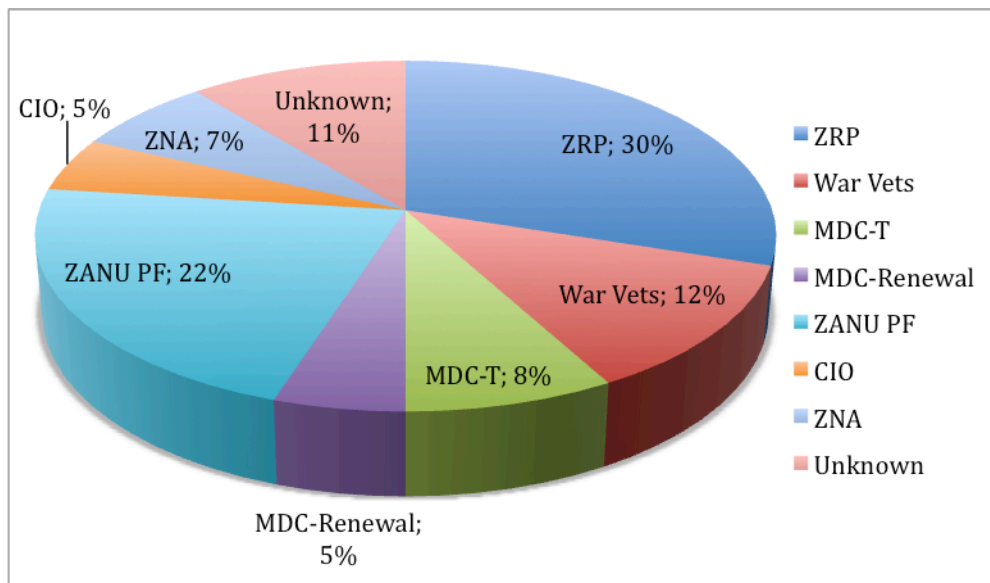


SOURCE: *Consolidated statistics from the Forum, CSU, MISA, ZPP, ZLHR, and verified press reports*

Although the environment was relatively calm, there was a high incidence of cases of arbitrary arrests with the highest figure emanating from violence that erupted in Chingwizi Camp from 31 July. According to Zimbabwe Lawyers for Human Rights, about 300 villagers were arrested on accusations of torching a police vehicle and assaulting police officers during a protest against relocation of clinic facilities from the camp to the site earmarked for resettlement. The relocation of the clinic facilities was an attempt by government to force them to move to a new site before compensating the villagers. Police, along with reinforcement from the Zimbabwe National Army, arrested the villagers. The villagers were reportedly denied food while in police custody. The police also burnt down a number of tents housing the dislocated families

Villagers burnt two police vehicles and disarmed anti-riot police. This resulted in acts of retributive violence by the police and army who moved into the camp and indiscriminately assaulted and arrested villagers including the elderly, children and ill people. Police arbitrarily arrested about 300 villagers and 29 were charged of assault and arson of which three of them are still in police custody.

Chart 2: Perpetrators of violence July to September 2014



SOURCE: *Consolidated statistics from the Forum, CSU, ZPP, ZLHR, MISA and verified press reports*

The Zimbabwe Republic Police (ZRP) and ZANU-PF were the main perpetrators of violence. ZRP constituted 30% of the perpetrators (as they arbitrarily arrested and assaulted citizens). ZANU PF constituted 22% of the perpetrators, war veterans 12%, MDC-T 8%, Zimbabwe National Army 7%, CIO 5%, MDC- Renewal Team 5% and unknown perpetrators 11%.

Table 2: Violations by perpetrator types July to September 2014

Violation	Perpetrators							
	ZRP	CIO	ZNA	War Vets	MDC-Renewal	ZANU PF	MDC-T	Unknown
Assault								
Intimidation/harassment								
Malicious damage to property								
Media rights violations								
Torture								
Unlawful arrest/detention								
Violation of freedom of association, expression and assembly								

SOURCE: Consolidated statistics from the Forum, CSU, ZPP, ZLHR, MISA and verified press reports

Economic, Social and Cultural rights

The Constitution of Zimbabwe has an elaborate Bill of Rights that covers economic, social and cultural rights. Service delivery continued to deteriorate in most towns and cities. There was an acute shortage of electricity and water and the country's major referral hospitals were not spared.

a. Freedom from arbitrary eviction

During the third quarter, the government continued with demolitions, threats of demolitions and arbitrary evictions contrary to section 74 of the constitution of Zimbabwe which state; *"No person may be evicted from their home, or have their home demolished without an order of court made after considering all the relevant circumstances"*. Also the demolitions were in violation of section 51 and 53 of the constitution, which guarantees protection against cruel, inhuman and degrading treatment and the right to human dignity.

- On 19 July 67 families were left homeless after they were unprocedurally and illegally evicted from Banana Grove Farm in Ruwa, Mashonaland East by the farm owner Simon Makaza.
- On 14 September, the Harare City Council demolished market stalls

and booths at Fourth Street bus terminus destroying the source of livelihood for many families.

- On 26 September, local authorities in Chitungwiza and Epworth demolished houses without a court order as per the provisions of the constitution. According to the Chitungwiza Residents' Trust, the demolitions in the two areas took place during the night around 0100 and 0200 hours and several occupants were injured as the demolition took place whilst inhabitants were helplessly sleeping.¹⁹ In Epworth, the Epworth Local Board efforts were reinforced by riot police resulting in violent skirmishes with the police randomly assaulting residents. Police fired warning shots into the air to disperse residents resisting evictions. While in Chitungwiza a nearly completed shopping complex was demolished in St Mary's. The demolitions in Chitungwiza came against a court order granted by Chitungwiza Magistrates' Court in favour of residents on the 24th of April 2014.²⁰

b. The right to property

Land redistribution remains a burning issue in Zimbabwe. The wave of farm invasions that dates back to 2000 when the Government of Zimbabwe sanctioned the chaotic land reform exercise on white commercial farms now targets both black and white commercial farmers. The land invasions are violent and are carried out with disregard to the rule of law. Masvingo, Mashonaland Central and Matabeleland North and South provinces were affected during the third quarter. In July President Robert Mugabe upped the invasions by ordering the nation's remaining white farmers to be evicted from their farms.²¹ According to the Commercial Farmers Union, there are only between 100 and 150 white farmers left in Zimbabwe, down from 6 500 at

¹⁹<http://nehandaradio.com/2014/09/27/council-in-midnight-demolition-blitz/#sthash.UDp5snFw.dpuf>

²⁰ Crisis Coalition Report issue 306, 02 October 2014

²¹ President Robert Mugabe told a ZANU PF supporters at Chipfundi Farm in Mhangura during the launch of the A1 small scale commercial farm
<http://www.csmonitor.com/World/Africa/2014/0703/R>

independence in 1980.²² The following are some cases of farm invasions:

- On 7 July, more than 100 ZANU PF supporters invaded Mazwi Game and Nature Reserve in St Peters Bulawayo.
- On 19 July, war veterans invaded Mr. Mukaro's farm in Masvingo province and attacked him and destroyed his car. Another farmer Mr Stemere again in Masvingo province had his car damaged and his house burnt. Some of the farms that have been invaded include Nidspruit, Potyo Farm, Thankerton Farm, Chigumedhe, Mudzikisi, Chipare, Pakai and Mukuta, all in Masvingo province.²³
- On 1 August, Ray Ndhlukula the deputy chief secretary in the office of the President and Cabinet invaded Dartnelly Farm in Figtree, Bulawayo belonging to David Connolly. The invasion took place despite a High Court order barring him from evicting Mr. Connolly. Farm workers who had been on the farm since 1980 were rendered jobless and homeless.
- On 04 August, militant ZANU PF youths invaded Dubiso Dabengwa's Rudy Farm in Nyamandlovu Matabeleland North.

c. The right to food

A total of 67 violations relating to the right to food were recorded during the period²⁴ violating section 77(b) of the constitution, which guarantees the right to sufficient food. Food continued to be politicised especially in drought-prone areas. People were denied food handouts on the basis of their political party affiliation.

d. The right to safe and clean water

The Government of Zimbabwe has for more than a decade now failed to provide safe and clean water to its citizens thus violating the citizen's right to

²² See the Zimbabwe Independent 25 July 2014

²³<http://www.newzimbabwe.com/news-16925-War+vets+axe+new+farmer+in+land+row/news.aspx>

²⁴ See the Zimbabwe Peace Project Monthly monitor July and August 2014

safe and clean water.²⁵ According to Human Rights Watch, the water crisis in Harare appears to be the result of government's neglect of the city's water system whose infrastructure predates Zimbabwe's 1980 independence, when the city had 600,000 residents; but now has in excess of 1.6 million.²⁶

e. The right to health

Although the right to health care is constitutionally protected²⁷, water shortages continued to cripple the health delivery system. During the period under review, the country's major referral hospitals that include Harare and Parirenyatwa hospitals operated without water for the better part of the quarter in violation of several international public health standards. Clean and safe water has also not been constantly available to citizens in urban areas and major referral hospitals have not been spared thus exposing people to diseases. Relatives of the admitted family members resorted to bringing water for them to enable them to take medication and bath.

Shortages of water also resulted in outbreaks of typhoid. According to the Ministry of Health and Child Welfare, a total of 370 new cases of typhoid were reported in Harare, Mutare and Chegutu during the period.²⁸

Conclusion and Recommendations

While factionalism looks like a ZANU PF problem, the truth is factionalism is posing threats to the revival of the country's economy as factional leaders are more concerned with acquiring power at the expense of the national governance issues. The government must exert energy in reviving the economy as living standards are deteriorating to the 2008 levels when the country experienced the worst social, economic and political crisis.

²⁵ See section 77 (a) of the Constitution of Zimbabwe.

²⁶ See Human Rights Watch Report: Troubled Water: Burst Pipes Contaminated Wells and Open Defecation in Zimbabwe's Capital, November 2013

²⁷ See section 76 of the constitution of Zimbabwe

²⁸ <http://www.thezimbabwean.co/news/zimbabwe/72995/typhoid-kills-nine-370-fresh.html>

In view of the on-going violations, the Forum urges the Government of Zimbabwe to:

- a. Repeal or realign all laws that are not consistent with the Constitution of Zimbabwe.
- b. Make human rights institutions in particular the Independent Commissions functional and not rhetorical
- c. Ensure the enjoyment of economic, social and cultural rights by all citizens.
- d. The government must bring to a conclusion the continued farm invasions and also end the inhuman and unconstitutional demolitions of homes and market stalls.

ABOUT THE ZIMBABWE HUMAN RIGHTS NGO FORUM

The Zimbabwe Human Rights NGO Forum (the Forum) is a coalition of 20 human rights organisations. The Forum has been in existence since January 1998 when Non-Governmental Organisations working in the field of human rights joined together to provide legal and psychosocial assistance to the victims of the food riots of January 1998. The Forum has now expanded its objectives to assist victims of organized violence and torture (OVT)

The Forum has three operational units: the Public Interest Unit, the Research and Documentation Unit and the Transitional Justice Unit.

The Forum works in close collaboration with its member organisations to provide legal and psychosocial services to victims of OVT and to document all human rights violations, particularly politically motivated violence.

Member organisations of the Zimbabwe Human Rights NGO Forum

- Amnesty International-Zimbabwe
- Catholic Commission for Justice and Peace in Zimbabwe
- Counseling Services Unit
- Gays and Lesbians of Zimbabwe
- Justice for Children
- Legal Resources Foundation
- Media Institute of Southern Africa-Zimbabwe
- Media Monitoring Project Zimbabwe
- Non-violent Action and Strategies for Social Change
- Research and Advocacy Unit
- Students Solidarity Trust
- Transparency International-Zimbabwe
- Women of Zimbabwe Arise
- Zimbabwe Association for Crime Prevention and Rehabilitation of the

Offender

- Zimbabwe Association of Doctors for Human Rights
- Zimbabwe Civic Education Trust
- Zimbabwe Human Rights Association
- Zimbabwe Lawyers for Human Rights
- Zimbabwe Peace Project
- Zimbabwe Women Lawyers Association

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