



Rine Vhathu

Thina Abantu

Iswe Banhu

**We the People of Zimbabwe**

Iswa Tubantu

Ife Anthu

Isu Vanhu

**August 20 Report  
20 days after Elections**

# Post-Elections Report

Post-election: 31 July –19 August, 2018 (20 days post elections)

Report Date: 21 August, 2018

## Introduction

We the People of Zimbabwe believe that all citizens of Zimbabwe have the right to choose their political leaders in an atmosphere of peace. Our vision is to unite and mobilise Zimbabweans to work for a peaceful, free and fair election in 2018, as the foundation for a better future. We the People of Zimbabwe believe a peaceful election will create a Zimbabwe in which a culture of peace replaces a culture of fear and enables community development.

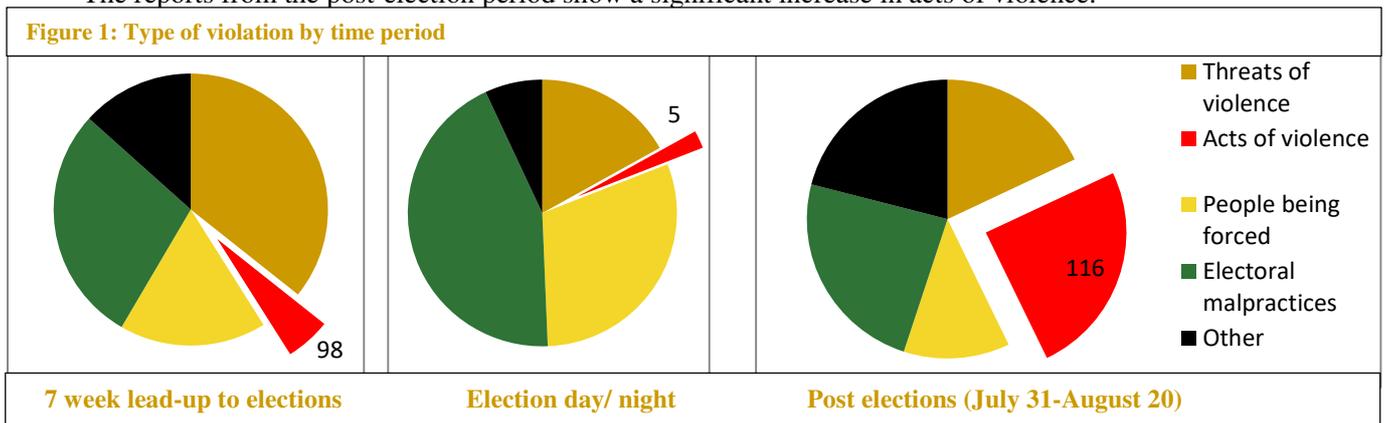
## Reports of Violations Post-Elections

Reports of violations in this report are primarily from the We the People call centre. Other reports were drawn from narratives of people receiving medical care and a reports verification team. Across these reporting sources, there were 294 reports with violations. Three of these reports were removed, due to being from more than one source, leaving 291 cases.

Category	Number of Reports	Percentage
Total calls with violations	291	
Total number of violations reported	467	
Calls reporting violence	116	40%
Reports of people being threatened with violence	84	29%
Reports of electoral malpractices	112	38%
Reports of people being forced to do what they do not want to do (not including during acts of violence)	57	20%
Report of other violations (not fitting in to the above categories)	98	34%

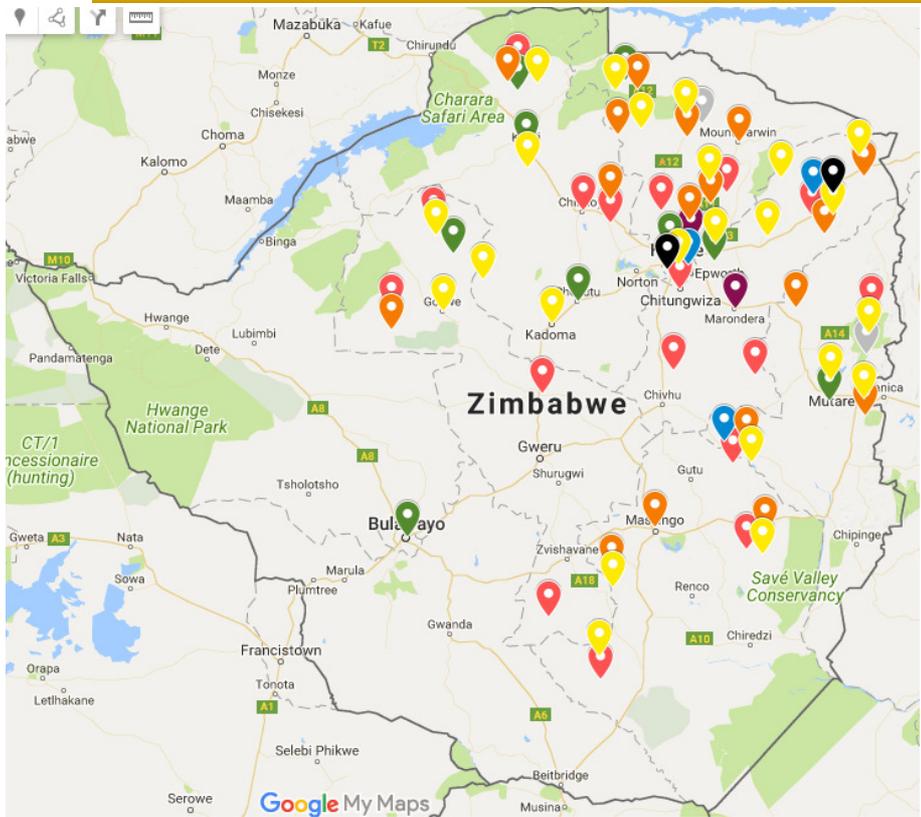
\*note: percentages sum to over 100%, as more than half the callers reported more than one violation

The reports from the post-election period show a significant increase in acts of violence.





# Total Violations

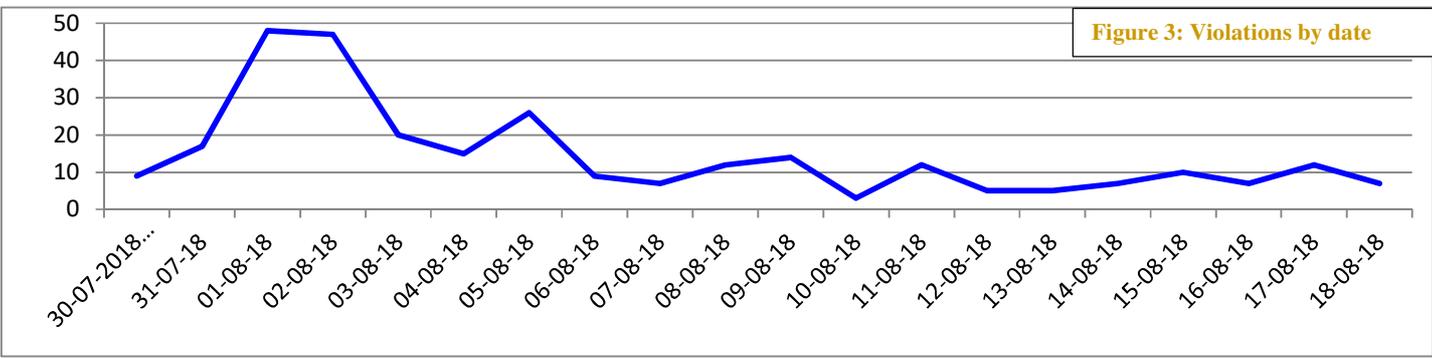


**Figure 2: Map of violations**

**Legend**

- Acts of violence by state actors
- Acts of violence by ZANU-PF
- Threats of Violence
- Arson
- Displacements
- Sexual torture/ assaults
- Abductions
- People Killed

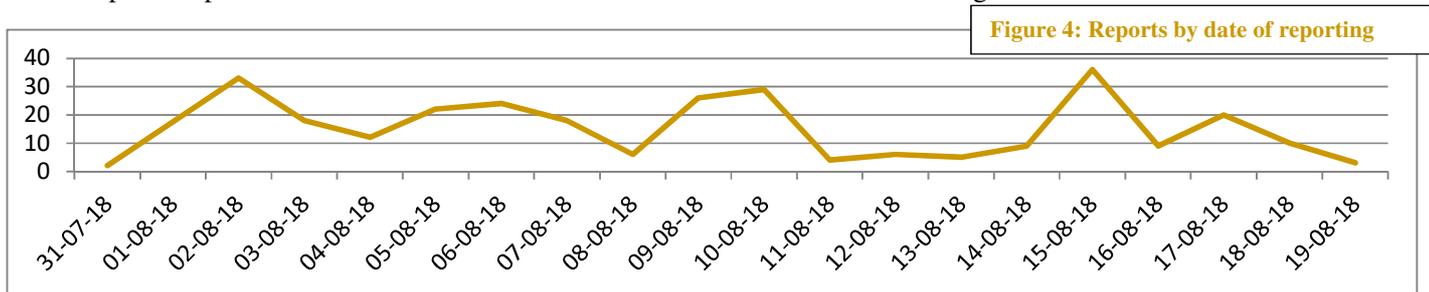
From the 291 reports of violations, nearly 70% were acts or threats of violence. Violations have been reported every day since elections, particularly at the start of August.



**Figure 3: Violations by date**

Many reports were not received on the day the violation occurred, meaning that there may be more recent violations which have not yet been recorded. 62% of reports were within 48 hours of the violation, however 17% of reports were recorded 3-6 days after the violation, and 21% were recorded a week or more after. This is consistent with narratives; people stated they are afraid to report incidents to police or medical services, or did not initially know where to seek help or report.

Reports of post-election violations have been consistent in the weeks following elections.



**Figure 4: Reports by date of reporting**



## Acts of Violence

There was a rapid escalation in acts of violence on 1 August, 2018, commencing with shootings by soldiers in Harare CBD. Whilst this violence was purportedly as a response to property destruction during demonstrations, the extent of violence has gone far beyond controlling demonstrators, with a wide spread of violence by different perpetrators and targeting a range of victims.

Acts of violence	Number of reports	Number of people violated
People killed	7	7
People tortured	16	17
Sexually tortured/ assaulted	5	5
Abducted (and tortured in all but 2 cases)	12	22
Shot (non-fatal)	8	8
Violently assaulted	61	73 + 9 groups
Injured whilst running away from attacks	7	7
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>116</b>	<b>139+ 9 groups</b>

\*'groups' represent when a person reported being assaulted as one of a group of people

- 🌻 6 of the victims were children, and in another 2 cases, parents were tortured in front of children
- 🌻 At least 31 cases meet the 'special stigma' of torture, where people were not only assaulted, but were violated as part of an interrogation or public humiliation
- 🌻 35% of acts of violence were perpetrated on August 1; 65% were on other days since elections

*On 1st August I was on my way to Park Street to get transport to go home when I was caught in a cross fire. People were running in all directions. I thought I was hit on my leg by a stone only to find myself bleeding. I sat down as I could not move. I was assisted by one pedestrian who bandaged my leg to stop the bleeding and he assisted me to go to Parirenyatwa Hospital where I found out I had been shot. I was admitted together with five people who were bleeding. One man who was just beside me passed on in front of my eyes and the experience of seeing a person dying is affecting me. The incident is continually coming back to my mind.*

*My brother and I were abducted by 15 men in civilian clothes who came in a kombi with tinted glass. They forced their way into my room and handcuffed me. They searched for weapons but found none. My children were harassed and dragged outside the house. We were interrogated in the bush and later dumped at Harare Central Police Station and charged with public violence.*

### Forced Displacement

The majority of cases of people being forced to do what they did not want to referred to incidents where people were forced to flee from their homes to avoid violence. At least 150 people have been displaced since elections after threats and acts of violence, attempted abductions and arson.

	Number of reports	Number of people impacted
Displacements	44	130 + 11 households of two or more people
Arson of homes	3	4 households
Property destruction	4	1000+, mostly from the mass destruction of vendors stalls and goods by soldiers in Harare
Property theft	10	19

\*note: 14 people experienced both violence and displacement

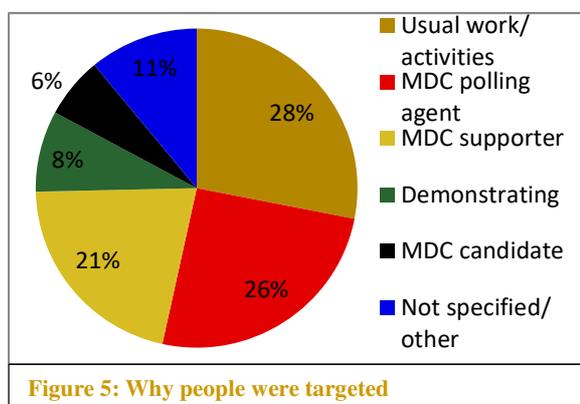
# Why are Acts of Violence and Displacement being Committed?



From the narratives taken, it was identified that the largest groups of people who have been subjected to violence and/ or displacement are those who were going about their daily lives, followed by those acting as MDC polling agents on election day. 8% of victims of violence were involved in demonstrations.

	No of reports
<b>Usual work/ activities</b>	41
Going about daily life (16)	
Commuting (11)	
Working as a vendor (7)	
Working in usual occupation (7)	
<b>Being an MDC polling agent (or family of)</b>	37
<b>Being an MDC supporter</b>	31
<b>Demonstrating</b>	12
<b>Knowing or being an MDC candidate</b>	9
<b>Not specified in the narrative</b>	9
<b>Other</b>	7
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>146</b>

*I work as a motivational singer. On the 6th August 2018 I was going home. When I was about 50 meters away from my home I heard people calling my name. Immediately I was blindfolded and tape was put on my mouth. I was dragged while being assaulted. I was kicked and slapped all over the body and assaulted under the soles of my feet. I was stripped naked and was forced to drink a liquid before I was thrown into a nearby river. I lost consciousness. I managed to get out of the water but I do not know how.*



*The victim was warned before elections by her neighbors for being an MDC polling agent. Yesterday they approached her in her homestead and assaulted her which left her with a swollen face and open wounds.*

## Why Polling agents?

Of the 112 reports of electoral malpractices since elections, 55 of these were disrupting the work of MDC polling agents. These were often paired with violence, acts of intimidation and threats. Violations included:

- ☀ Trying to force them to sign forms
- ☀ Trying to force them to re-sign forms with different information
- ☀ ‘Punishing’ people for being polling agents with acts and threats of violence
- ☀ Targeting the family members of polling agents (including children) for assault, threats and intimidation

When there were killings, beatings, and other violations in the 2008 run-off elections, polling agents and their families were the first to be targeted. Polling agents are a target for violence:

- ☀ To break down the rural structures of MDC
- ☀ In case there is a run-off, to ensure people are not able or willing to act as MDC polling agents
- ☀ To instill fear; this demonstrates what happens to people who are acting on behalf of MDC Alliance

*Soldiers are moving around Gokwe Kabuyuni, They are looking for polling agents and have papers they want these guys to sign. Polling agents have since left the area and are hiding*

# Threats of Violence and Carrying them out



## Carrying out promised threats

Prior to elections, threats of violence were the most common violation reported. These threats were particularly based around threats of beatings if ZANU-PF did not have an outright win, including threats that were would be retaliation from soldiers. The shift from threats to acts of violence in the post-election period has showed that these threats are playing out.

Threats have not ceased in the post-election period, with 84 reports of threats of violence.

<i>Threats if ....</i>	<b>No of reports</b>
<b>People did/ do support MDC</b>	56
<b>People didn't/ don't support ZANU-PF</b>	11
<b>There is a run-off</b>	5
<b>Other</b>	8
<b>People did/ do support ZANU-PF</b>	2
<b>Not specified</b>	2
<b>TOTAL</b>	84

*ZANU-PF ex-soldiers were working as polling agents before elections and told people to vote for ED or else they will disappear. After elections now they are telling people that if ever there is re-run people are going to be heavily beaten like in 2008.*

<i>Threats that people will be...</i>	<b>No of reports</b>
<b>Killed</b>	15
<b>Beaten/ assaulted</b>	14
<b>Subjected to violence</b>	13
<b>Arson/ have property destroyed and violence</b>	11
<b>Not specified/other</b>	7
<b>Evicted/ expelled from their home</b>	6
<b>'Dealt with'</b>	5
<b>Abducted</b>	4
<b>Attacked by soldiers</b>	3
<b>Subject to war/ blood shed</b>	3
<b>Arrested without reason</b>	2
<b>Having limbs amputated</b>	1
<b>TOTAL</b>	84

*The caller was threatened before elections by ZANU-PF supporters saying they will beat him after election. On the 2nd of August a black plate-less Mercedes Benz approached his house and the people in it said they are looking for him in connection with the demonstrations that took place in the CBD. From that day he ran away and went into hiding*

In addition to threats of violence, one of the most common violations in the lead-up to elections was restricting MDC supporters from donor goods and aid, including food and agricultural inputs, or threatening that this would happen once elections were complete. This has come to fruition, with 29 reports of those who voted MDC or were suspected of voting or supporting MDC being denied aid.

*Agricultural inputs were delivered to our ward before elections but ZANU-PF leaders said they will distribute them after elections once they have seen who is loyal and who is not. Now they only gave the inputs to their party members.*

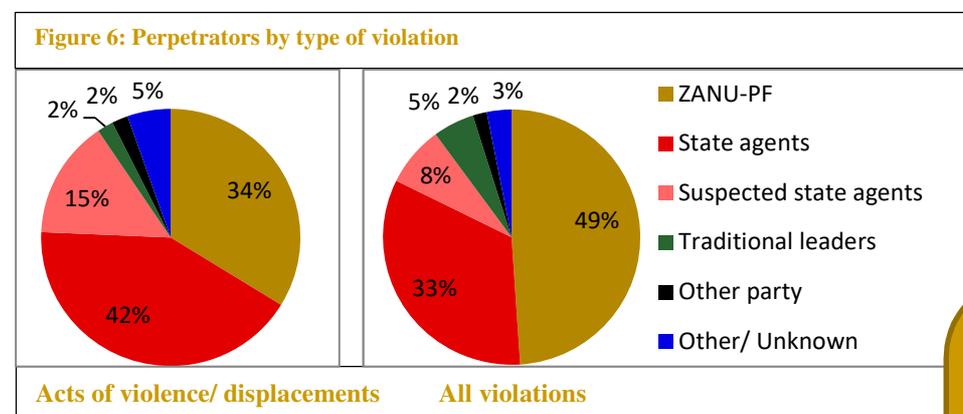


# Perpetrators of Violations

Prior to elections, ZANU-PF members were the perpetrators of the majority of all violations, followed by traditional leaders. However, post-election violations have been more evenly dispersed across state security actors, and ZANU-PF. For all violations, ZANU-PF perpetrated the highest number, however state security forces have perpetrated the greatest number of acts of violence and forced displacements.

**Table 6: Perpetrators of violence**

Perpetrators	For acts of violence/ displacements	For all violations
ZANU-PF	50	141
Soldiers	49	56
Police	3	26
Soldiers and police	7	7
CIO	3	7
Suspected state agents	22	22
Traditional leaders	3	15
MDC Alliance	1	1
MDC-T	1	3
Independent candidate supporter	1	1
Unknown	6	9
Courts	0	1
ZEC	0	2
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>146</b>	<b>291</b>



State Security actors were identified by:

- ☀ Official police or military uniforms
- ☀ Carrying military weapons
- ☀ Travelling in state security vehicles
- ☀ Being in plain clothes but either with uniformed security, or directly handing victims over to uniformed state security

In a number of cases, perpetrators were identified as ‘suspected state agents’, where they performed violations consistent with those reported of state agents, but were not able to be identified as such.

An elderly couple who are MDC Alliance members had been tipped by ZANU-PF members that they are not safe as they are targets of abduction and torture. For the past week they have been sleeping outside their home in a nearby bush. Today around 1am two armed men went to their house and banged on doors looking for them. They saw this from a nearby bush where they were hiding. When the men did not find anyone in the houses they started searching around the houses using torches. They ran away as they were afraid they could be seen.

On 2nd August 2018 I was at a bar near Kuwadzana Extension. We were about twelve including my wife when we were attacked by soldiers and some uniformed policemen. They did not even give us the chance to talk but they just assaulted all of us with whips with a wire at the end. They accused us of burning Harare, "Harare Haipiswe", that is all they said. I do not know how my leg was injured because I was assaulted by many of them at the same time.