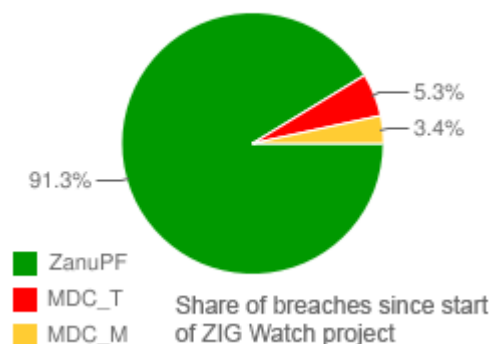


Sokwanele - Enough is Enough - Zimbabwe
PROMOTING NON-VIOLENT PRINCIPLES TO ACHIEVE DEMOCRACY

Zimbabwe Inclusive Government Watch : Issue 27

Sokwanele : 25 May 2011

Cumulative % share of breaches

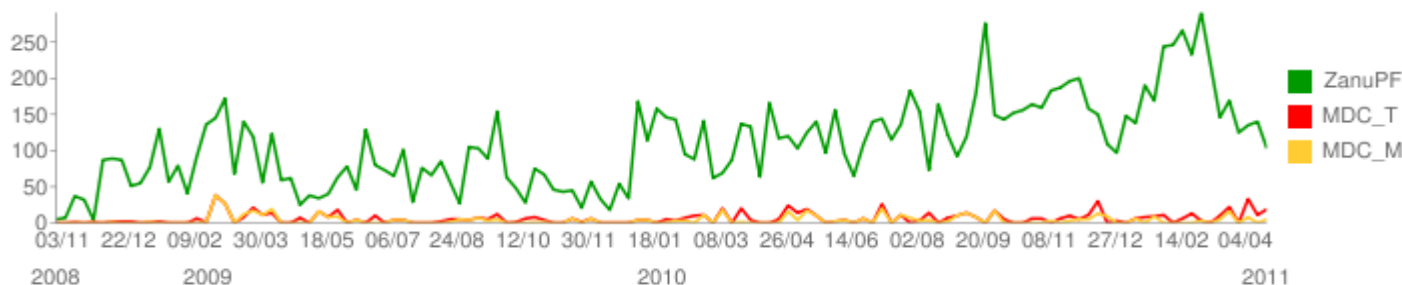


Media reports in April indicate that Zimbabwe's political turmoil continues to grow and that the positions adopted by the MDC parties and Zanu-PF are becoming increasingly polarised. As the MDCs continue to oppose Zanu-PF's policies, the latter's methods to resist political change in Zimbabwe are evolving and becoming ever more inventive. This, it seems, is resulting in surprising changes in the distribution of the categories, and numbers, of violations being recorded under the ZIG watch project.

We recorded breaches in 82 media articles published in the month of April. Each recorded article signifies a unique breach of the terms set out in the Global Political Agreement (GPA). By categorising these articles according to the nature of the breach, we have generated representative statistics.

Violations in the form of violence, intimidation, hate speech, threats, abductions and brutality were identified in 27 articles (32.9% of total). Legal harassment of perceived opposition politicians and supporters followed with breaches found in 21 articles (25.6% of total), while cases of corruption, or efforts to entrench corrupt practices, were found in 14 different articles published in April (17.1%). The fourth category of breach - violations in the form of gross non co-operation of a GPA partner with the terms of the GPA - was identified in 9 articles (11.0% of total). In total, these four categories of breaches (71 articles) accounted for 86.6% of the total analysed. Within these four categories, Zanu-PF was accountable for 93.0% of the violations in April.

Total breaches by party



At the end of this mailing we list ten articles that are representative of this April's media activity in relation to breaches of the GPA. We should note that whilst the latter are representative, they do not represent the enormity and volume of human rights violations being committed with impunity against the people of Zimbabwe. We therefore invite all our readers to review the summaries (or original articles) of all articles (and if possible, previously captured articles) on the webpage <http://www.sokwanele.com/zigwatch> and ask you to share this information with your colleagues and other interested parties.

We begin our report with selected articles illustrating this month's most significant violation - that of violence, intimidation, hate speech, threats, abductions and brutality. Media reports suggest that Zanu-PF has instructed the police to target church services and the clergy for their implicit opposition of President Mugabe's violent, authoritarian rule: a truckload of armed riot police officers violently disrupted the "Praying for Peace to Save Zimbabwe" Church Service at the Church of Nazarene in the high-density suburb of Glen Norah. About 500 people, including 4 Bishops and 46 pastors from Harare, Mutare, Bulawayo and Gweru had congregated to pray for peace in Zimbabwe. The Riot

Squad, armed with rifles, baton sticks and tear gas, stormed the Church during prayer, ordered everyone to disperse, and fired tear gas into the church. The ensuing pandemonium led to a stampede with some worshippers forced to escape through broken windows.

In a separate incident, a Roman Catholic priest stationed in Lupane, Father Mark Mkandla, was arrested by police in Lupane soon after a church service organised by the organ for National healing and Reconciliation. Co-minister of the organ, Moses Mzila Ndlovu, said that Father Mkandla was arrested after the meeting where the priest delivered a powerful sermon against violence: "... I do not know why the police waited for everyone's departure to arrest the priest. All he did was to deliver a sermon against violence," said Minister Ndlovu.

Article 18 of the GPA calls on all parties to "consistently appeal to their members to desist from violence"; however, reeling from intra-party violence that marred provincial elections, the MDT-T party adopted an equivocal stance in advance of its congress, saying it could not guarantee peace to delegates during its national congress. Organising secretary, Elias Mudzuri said: "I cannot guarantee peace during the congress . . . We will, however, not brook any violence. We anticipate a violence free congress . . . We hope we will not have external interference." (The party's youths fought in the streets of Bulawayo, Mutare and Gweru during provincial elections).

Violence and intimidation continues in the rural areas of Zimbabwe: 82 year old headman Rwisai Nyakauru, who was arrested and tortured by Zanu-PF youth militia and war veterans, died from his injuries on 16 April 2011. Militants had targeted him because he attended an MDC-T rally addressed by Nyanga North MP Douglas Mwonzora. It is understood that the three Zanu-PF thugs who abducted and tortured him prolonged the intimidation by taunting villagers in Nyanga about his death: "The assailants are roaming free in the villages of Nyakomba. They are teasing people about the death of the old man as we speak and they don't face justice," Mwonzora said in an interview.

Legal harassment and efforts to impede free political activity (a breach of Article 10 of the GPA) emerged in relation to the MDC-T congress held at the end of April in Bulawayo. Police were trying to bar the MDC-T congress: the article reporting this alleges that the police aim was to scuttle MDC-T plans for general elections that President Robert Mugabe wants held later this year, going on to suggest that the MDC-T is favoured to win the elections and so police moves to bar the congress are intended to shore up Mugabe and his Zanu-PF party's chances. Further efforts to impede the congress were also highlighted in the article: the MDC-T was also barred from using education institutions for accommodation, apparently an attempt to leave hundreds of delegates stranded. And while Zanu-PF never pays the police for security at its functions, the police claimed they needed US\$10 000 to provide extra security at the MDC-T congress.

Zanu PF have to date mustered every legal impediment they can to block MDC-T Treasurer General Roy Bennett from assuming his post as deputy Agriculture minister. In mid-April, Prime Minister Morgan Tsvangirai was forced to withdraw Bennett's nomination to Senate because Bennett missed 21 consecutive sittings of the Senate, a situation that arose because Bennett was forced into self-imposed exile in South Africa by sustained Zanu-PF persecution. According to the law, if a senator misses 21 consecutive sittings he loses his seat. Mugabe originally refused to swear in the former Chimanimani MP citing his race and colonial past.

Moving on to articles that highlighted cases of corruption - these undermining Article 7's commitment to equality and national healing - award-winning human rights lawyer Beatrice Mtetwa reported in April that Zanu-PF officials tried to bribe her to stop representing President Robert Mugabe's opponents. Mtetwa said she had resisted offers of a farm and appointments to boards of parastatals, but she refused to name the officials who attempted to bribe her: "I have also been offered perks if I abandon my human rights work," Mtetwa said. "I found it very interesting because the people making those offers were people I had once represented when their own rights had been violated by the very system." Mtetwa said she turned down the offers because she believed in what she does.

Corruption in relation to diamonds once again made the news: the resignation of mines minister Obert Mpofu has been called for, after rough diamonds worth Rs 10.17 crore were seized in Surat by India's Directorate of Revenue Intelligence. The two men arrested confessed that the diamonds came from Zimbabwe's Marange diamond field. Centre for Research and Development (CRD), a Zimbabwean NGO that investigates corruption and human rights violation in Zimbabwe's diamond fields, has called upon Mpofu to publicly apologize and resign from his post. CRD says there is weak security throughout the supply chain and mining activities, mainly due to Mpofu's failure to implement the joint work plan developed with the Kimberly Process Certification Scheme.

And in our last category - non co-operation with the partners of the GPA - President Robert Mugabe clearly put on record his determination to resist co-operation with his GPA partners: "MDC thinks SADC or the AU can prescribe to us how we run our things," Mugabe was quoted as saying at a meeting of his party's central committee. "We will not brook any dictation from any source. We are a sovereign country. Even our neighbours cannot dictate to us. We will resist that." Mugabe's response came after an unusually strong rebuke from regional leaders criticising slow pace on the power-sharing deal with MDC leader Tsvangirai and demanding an end to political violence.

It appears that despite Zanu-PF wanting elections held later this year, and the government being unable to finance elections this year, Zanu-PF is reported to have turned down an offer by the United Nations to fund and supervise elections. They accuse the UN of taking the wrong side in the Ivory Coast conflict. UNDP approached Justice Minister Patrick Chinamasa with the offer, but Zanu-PF hardliners said it was "unacceptable". Zanu-PF reportedly accused the UN of siding with Alassane Outtara, accepted internationally as the winner in the Ivory Coast presidential elections, instead of the incumbent Laurent Gbagbo, whom the party credited with fighting "the imperialist West". ZANU PF national chairperson Simon Khaya Moyo made similar comments, when he said his party would not allow funding of the elections by the European Union. It is believed that neither of the rejections were discussed with the MDC parties, co-signatories in the GPA.

**Police disrupt praying for peace church service, arrest 9 and teargas Glen-Norah B
SW Radio Africa (ZW): 09/04/2011**

A truckload of about twenty armed riot police officers violently disrupted the Praying for Peace to Save Zimbabwe Church Service at the Church of Nazarene in the high-density suburb of Glen Norah. An estimated flock of 500, including 4 Bishops and 46 pastors from Harare, Mutare, Bulawayo and Gweru had congregated to pray for peace amidst the resurgence and escalation of politically motivated violence, arrests, polarization and the general breakdown of peace. The Riot Squad, which stormed the Church during prayer, ordered everyone to disperse, were armed with rifles, baton sticks and tear gas, which they fired into the church. The ensuing pandemonium led to a stampede with some worshippers forced to escape through windows.

- ARTICLE II: DECLARATION OF COMMITMENT
- ARTICLE VII : PROMOTION OF EQUALITY, NATIONAL HEALING, COHESION AND UNITY
- ARTICLE XI : RULE OF LAW, RESPECT FOR THE CONSTITUTION AND OTHER LAWS
- ARTICLE XII : FREEDOM OF ASSEMBLY AND ASSOCIATION
- ARTICLE XIII : STATE ORGANS AND INSTITUTIONS
- ARTICLE XVIII : SECURITY OF PERSONS AND PREVENTION OF VIOLENCE

**We can't guarantee peaceful congress, says MDC-T
ZimEye: 13/04/2011**

THE MDC-T, reeling from serious intra-party violence that marred provincial elections, says it will not guarantee peace to delegates during its forthcoming national congress set for Bulawayo next week. MDC-T organising secretary, Mr Elias Mudzuri said: "I cannot guarantee peace during the congress . . . We will, however, not brook any violence. "We anticipate a violence free congress . . . We hope we will not have external interference." The party's youths last week shocked many when they set upon mourners at Warren Hills Cemetery during the unveiling of tombstones for MDC-T activists and damaged police and private vehicles. They also fought in the streets of Bulawayo, Mutare and Gweru during provincial elections.

- ARTICLE VII : PROMOTION OF EQUALITY, NATIONAL HEALING, COHESION AND UNITY
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- ARTICLE XVIII : SECURITY OF PERSONS AND PREVENTION OF VIOLENCE

**Thugs who assaulted elderly headman taunt villagers
SW Radio Africa (ZW): 19/04/2011**

82 year old headman Rwisai Nyakauru, who was arrested and tortured by Zanu-PF youth militia and war vets, died from his injuries on Saturday. Militants targeted him because he attended an MDC-T rally addressed by Nyanga North MP Douglas Mwonzora. Now, it is understood, the three Zanu-PF thugs who abducted and tortured him are taunting villagers in Nyanga about his death. "The assailants are roaming free in the villages of Nyakomba. They are teasing people about the death of the old man as we speak and they don't face justice," Mwonzora told us in an interview. The Nyanga North legislator paid tribute to the headman for being resolute throughout his ordeal.

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Zim Catholic Priest Nabbed For Preaching On Violence **RadioVOP: 14/04/2011**

A Roman Catholic priest stationed in Lupane, Father Mark Mkandla, was on Wednesday night arrested by police in Lupane soon after a church service organised by the organ for National healing and Reconciliation in the area. Co-minister of the organ, Moses Mzila Ndlovu, said on Thursday that Mkandla was arrested after the meeting where the priest delivered a powerful sermon against violence. "Father Mkandla, head of the Roman Catholic diocese in Hwange, was arrested by the Hwange police while at a national healing church service which I also attended. I do not know why the police waited for everyone's departure to arrest the priest. All he did was deliver a sermon against violence," said minister Ndlovu.

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- ARTICLE XIII : STATE ORGANS AND INSTITUTIONS

Plot to block MDC-T congress **Zimbabwe Standard, The (ZW): 16/04/2011**

POLICE are reportedly trying to bar the MDC-T congress set for month-end in Bulawayo in a bid to scuttle MDC-T plans for general elections which President Robert Mugabe wants held later this year. MDC-T is favoured to win the elections and so police moves to bar the congress are meant to shore up Mugabe and his Zanu-PF party's chances. The openly partisan police claim they do not have adequate manpower to cover the meeting and are demanding US\$10 000 a day to provide extra security. The party is also being barred from using education institutions for accommodation, which might leave hundreds of delegates stranded. Zanu-PF never pays the police for security at its functions.

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Mugabe wins on Bennett **Zimbabwe Standard, The (ZW): 16/04/2011**

PRESIDENT Robert Mugabe will finally win over the appointment of MDC-T treasurer general Roy Bennett as deputy Agriculture minister when Prime Minister Morgan Tsvangirai withdraws Bennett's nomination to Senate this week. Tsvangirai has been forced to take the drastic action after Bennett missed 21 consecutive seatings of the Senate. He was forced into self-imposed exile in South Africa by sustained Zanu-PF persecution. According to the law, if a senator misses 21 consecutive sittings he loses his seat. It was not clear yesterday who Tsvangirai had chosen to replace Bennett as senator and deputy Agriculture minister designate. Mugabe refused to swear in the former Chimanimani MP citing his race and colonial past.

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- ARTICLE XIII : STATE ORGANS AND INSTITUTIONS
- ARTICLE XX : FRAMEWORK FOR A NEW GOVERNMENT

Zanu-PF tried to bribe me - Mtetwa **Zimbabwe Standard, The (ZW): 10/04/2011**

AWARD-winning human rights lawyer Beatrice Mtetwa says Zanu-PF officials tried to bribe her so that she would stop representing President Robert Mu-gabe's opponents. Mtetwa said she had resisted offers of a farm and appointments to boards of parastatals, but she refused to name the officials who attempted to bribe her. "I have also been offered perks if I abandon my human rights work," Mtetwa said. "I found it very interesting because the people making those offers were people I had once represented when their own rights had been violated by the very system." Mtetwa said she turned down the offers simply because she believed in what she does.

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Seizure Of Zim Blood Diamonds Increase Pressure On Mpofu To Resign
RadioVOP: 30/04/2011

The seizure of blood diamonds, originating from Zimbabwe, has led to the demand for resignation of country's mines minister Obert Mpofu. Rough diamonds worth Rs 10.17 crore were seized in Surat by India's Directorate of Revenue Intelligence (DRI). The two men arrested, confessed that the diamonds came from Zimbabwe's Marange diamond field. Centre for Research and Development (CRD), a Zimbabwean NGO that investigates corruption and human rights violation in Zimbabwe's diamond fields, has called upon Mpofu to publicly apologize and resign from his post. CRD says there is weak security throughout the supply chain and mining activities, mainly due to Mpofu's failure to implement the joint work plan developed with the Kimberly Process Certification Scheme.

- ARTICLE II: DECLARATION OF COMMITMENT
- ARTICLE III : RESTORATION OF ECONOMIC STABILITY AND GROWTH
- ARTICLE VII : PROMOTION OF EQUALITY, NATIONAL HEALING, COHESION AND UNITY

Mugabe vows to resist regional pressure
AFP: 01/04/2011

President Robert Mugabe on Friday vowed to resist pressure from fellow African leaders to resolve tensions in his power-sharing government with MDC. "MDC thinks SADC or the AU can prescribe to us how we run our things," Mugabe was quoted as saying by the state-run New Ziana news agency at a meeting of his party's central committee. "We will not brook any dictation from any source. We are a sovereign country. Even our neighbours cannot dictate to us. We will resist that." Mugabe's response came after an unusually strong rebuke from regional leaders criticising slow pace on the power-sharing deal with MDC leader Tsvangirai and demanding an end to political violence.

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- ARTICLE XIII : STATE ORGANS AND INSTITUTIONS
- ARTICLE XXIV : INTERIM CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENTS

ZANU PF snubs EU and UN funding for elections
SW Radio Africa (ZW): 13/04/2011

ZANU PF is reported to have turned down an offer by the United Nations to fund and supervise elections, accusing the UN of taking the wrong side in the Ivory Coast conflict. UNDP approached Justice Minister Patrick Chinamasa with the offer, but ZANU PF hardliners said it was "unacceptable". ZANU PF reportedly accused the UN of siding with Alassane Outtara, accepted internationally as the winner in the Ivory Coast presidential elections, instead of the incumbent Laurent Gbagbo, whom the party credited with fighting "the imperialist West." ZANU PF national chairperson Simon Khaya Moyo made similar comments this week, when he said his party would not allow funding of the elections by the European Union.

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We have a fundamental right to freedom of expression!
