

RESEARCHED AND COMPILED BY THE REFUGEE DOCUMENTATION CENTRE OF IRELAND ON THE 20 FEBRUARY 2025

DISCLAIMER

This response was prepared after researching publicly accessible information currently available to the Refugee Documentation Centre within time constraints. All COI Query Responses are compiled in line with the Common EU Guidelines (2008) and the EUAA Methodology (2023). This response is not and does not purport to be conclusive as to the merit of any particular claim to international protection. Please refer to all documents cited.

COI QUERY RESPONSE

ZIMBABWE – INFORMATION ON ZANU-PF INCLUDING: TREATMENT OF FARMERS, ENFORCEMENT OF POWER BY KIDNAPPING

The *Zimbabwe Human Rights Association (ZimRights)* in January 2025 points out that: “The right to life is provided for under Section 48 of the Zimbabwean Constitution as well as Article 3 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and Article 6 of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights. Despite these protections of this fundamental right, cases of extra-judicial killings of human rights defenders continue to soar in Zimbabwe. According to the Zimbabwe Human Rights NGO Forum, in the first second of 2022, there were 4 cases of extra-judicial killings of human rights defenders in Zimbabwe. The case of Mbongeni Ncube, who was killed by ZANU PF militia at a rally in Kwekwe is an example of extrajudicial killings. Another case of extra-judicial killings is that of Moreblessing Ali, who was abducted by a known ZANU PF supporter, in full view of people was killed and her body was cut into two pieces. If confirmed dead, Itai Dzamara's case could also be very well be categorised as a case of extra-judicial killings.”¹

The *Centre for Voters Initiative & Action* in January 2025 reported that: “Beyond legal persecution, opposition supporters face physical violence from state and militia forces. On 27 February 2022, ZANU-PF militias attacked a rally held by opposition leader Nelson Chamisa in Kwekwe. The attackers, armed with machetes, spears, iron bars, and bricks, killed one opposition supporter and injured at least 22 others. Security forces have also obstructed opposition campaigns by erecting illegal roadblocks staffed by police, military officers, and ZANU-PF activists. In March 2023, CCC members were stopped at a roadblock and forced to denounce their party leader before being beaten and hospitalised.”² This report further states that: “Political parties such as ZANU-PF have

¹ Zimbabwe Human Rights Association (ZimRights) (31 January 2025) Zimbabwe's Compliance with the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights: Information on the National Human Rights Situation Relating to Civic Space

² Centre for Voters Initiative & Action (31 January 2025) NGO Report on the Republic of Zimbabwe for the 143rd Session of the Human Rights Committee

also been accused of intimidating voters through "exit polls" where citizens' names were recorded, potentially as a means of tracking and punishing dissenting votes."³

A report issued by *Human Rights Watch* in January 2025 notes that: "In 2024, Zimbabwean authorities acted to undermine democratic processes, repressed civil society and restricted political pluralism. They continued to weaponize the criminal justice system against perceived critics and the political opposition. Impunity for the ruling party ZANU-PF violence, intimidation, harassment, and repression against opposition members and civil society activists restricted civic and political space. The authorities failed to uphold the government's domestic and international human rights obligations to respect peaceful activism."⁴

The *Zimbabwe Peace Project (ZPP)* in January 2025 mentioned that: "The Zimbabwe Peace Project documented a total of 95 human rights violations in the month of December, a significant drop in human rights violations from the previous month's 141. The violations included unfair distribution of food aid and agricultural inputs, threats of violence, assault, restricted freedoms of assembly and association, inhuman treatment, restricted freedom of expression and unlawful eviction. Other violations documented include looting and pillaging of public resources, restricted access to social services and unjustified arrests. The violations affected 1460 victims, of which 646 were male and 814 females, including 2 with disabilities. Of the perpetrators, 38.79% were affiliated to the ruling party ZANU PF, while 15.76% were local authorities. Members of the Zimbabwe Republic Police contributed 11.52% of the violators. Other perpetrators included members and officials of the government of Zimbabwe (9.7%), artisanal miners (4.85%), traditional leaders (4.24%) and War veterans (2.42%). 12.72% of the perpetrators were not affiliated to any known group."⁵

In December 2024 *The Standard (Zimbabwe)* notes that: "The ruling Zanu PF party's overbearing influence in districts and wards has largely resulted in the unfair allocation of aid, with those perceived to be opposition supporters being denied assistance."⁶ The same report states that: "In some instances, unfair distribution of rations left many individuals and families struggling to survive. A striking example of this unfair distribution can be seen in Mhandarume, Chimanimani West where 50 kg of compound D fertilizer was shared among three farmers. In the same constituency, in Murazvu B village, 20kg of maize was shared among 63 farmers (meaning 0.3kg per farmer) while 15 farmers shared a litre of herbicide (0.06 liters per person). Meanwhile war veterans in the same ward received a 50kg allocation per farmer. This blatant disparity highlights the politicisation of aid distribution, where those with connections to the ruling party are favoured over others."⁷

The *Zimbabwe Peace Project (ZPP)* in November 2024 points out that: "In Mashonaland Central, 29 human rights violations were recorded. Children are being turned away from schools due to non-payment of fees, effectively denying them their right to education. Meanwhile, in Chireya village, the Mwaka tillage farming program has become a tool for political discrimination, with only senior ZANU PF members granted access to vital farming equipment, leaving opposition farmers in the cold. The situation takes a darker turn with ZANU PF official Matola's brazen declaration that opposition members will be excluded from all government programs, boasting that ZANU PF controls the government, police, army, and indeed, the country itself. This alarming rhetoric has created an atmosphere of fear and intimidation, perpetuating a culture of human rights violations."⁸

³ ibid

⁴ Human Rights Watch (16 January 2025) World Report 2025: Zimbabwe

⁵ Zimbabwe Peace Project (15 January 2025) Monthly Monitoring Report: December 2024

⁶ The Standard (Zimbabwe) (23 December 2024) Rampant discrimination in distribution of food and inputs

⁷ ibid

⁸ Zimbabwe Peace Project (ZPP) (16 November 2024) Monthly Monitoring Report: October 2024

The *Zimbabwe Peace Project (ZPP)* in reporting on human rights violations reported in October 2024 that: “Traditional leaders, party officials, and activists from the ruling ZANU PF party used public speeches, targeted harassment, and violence to intimidate opposition supporters and citizens perceived to support other parties. Victims were forced to join the ruling party to avoid persecution and access government support schemes, including food aid.”⁹

The report further states that: “Victims were forced to join the ruling party to avoid persecution and access government support schemes, including food aid. In Chiundura Constituency, Midlands Province, three ZANU PF members harassed a female victim, accusing her of being a “traitor” and threatening her family with unspecified action should she continue to ‘go by her ways and threaten the independence of the country.’ In the Midlands Province again, a male victim was confronted by ZANU PF activists Jacob Zulu and David Paradza and a third unnamed accomplice and was instructed to join the party within a month and warned of eviction and persecution if he failed to comply.”¹⁰

The *Zimbabwe Mail* in October 2024 mentioned that: “A fierce power struggle has escalated within Zimbabwe’s ruling Zanu PF party, with tensions rising between President Emmerson Mnangagwa and Vice President Constantino Chiwenga. The growing rift between the two leaders has come into sharper focus over conflicting views on corruption and national security, hinting at a potential reshuffle in the party’s leadership. The latest episode in the feud centres on a statement by Chiwenga, in which he declared that corruption had become a national security threat. This public admission reportedly irked Mnangagwa, prompting him to summon General Anselem Sanyatwe to his Precabe Farm for a private meeting.”¹¹ This same document further points out that: “The rift over corruption has become a key battleground in the power struggle. Chiwenga’s statement acknowledging corruption as a threat to national security marks a stark departure from Mnangagwa’s approach. Unlike Chiwenga, Mnangagwa has shown little concern over accusations of corruption within his administration. Allegations have long circulated implicating the President in corrupt activities, with figures such as Mike Chimombe and Moses Mpfu reportedly naming him as a central figure. Yet, these allegations have rarely been aired in public, reflecting the sensitivity around directly challenging Mnangagwa’s leadership.”¹²

In June 2024 the *Human Rights Foundation (HRF)* released a report on elections in Zimbabwe commenting: “Zimbabweans have never known free and fair elections. Voter intimidation and suppression have tainted every election since February 1980, during which Robert Mugabe’s ZANU-PF party claimed power. The August 2023 general elections — the second since Mugabe was deposed in a 2017 military coup and replaced by his long-time enforcer Emmerson — followed the country’s historical pattern.”¹³

In June 2024 the *Zimbabwe Peace Project (ZPP)* reported: “In Chiwundura Constituency, Gweru District, Midlands Province, 47 beneficiaries from Wards 13 and 14 were deprived of food aid. The Government-sponsored food aid lot was intended to benefit 30 beneficiaries per ward in wards 13, 14 and 15. While all 30 beneficiaries from Ward 15 received their allocated rations, only 13 beneficiaries from Ward 13 and 14 received their rations. 47 beneficiaries were denied their right to food because they were not members of the ruling party. The distribution was coordinated by Moyoza, a ZANU PF councillor who was assisted by the ruling party Ward Committees. Beneficiaries were allocated sorghum or maize meal, each person receiving either 25kgs Sorghum or 10kgs maize mealie-meal. The deprivation in Wards 13 and 14 was supposedly because the ward councillors were

⁹ Zimbabwe Peace Project (ZPP) (15 October 2024) Monthly Monitoring Report: September 2024

¹⁰ *ibid*

¹¹ The Zimbabwe Mail (7 October 2024) Mnangagwa Seething With Anger Over Chiwenga’s Corruption Remarks

¹² *ibid*

¹³ Human Rights Foundation (HRF) (26 June 2024) Eight Ways Zimbabwe’s regime hijacked the 2023 vote, p.1

members of the CCC. ZANU PF Councillor Moyoza was recorded saying members of the opposition parties must 'repent and join the ruling party' for them to be given food."¹⁴ In reporting on human rights violations, it stated that: "61.83% of the perpetrators were affiliated with the ruling party ZANU PF."¹⁵

The *Southern Eye* in July 2023 mentioned that: "ZANU PF activists allegedly "kidnapped" a Binga Citizens Coalition for Change (CCC) polling agent last week, and released him after holding him hostage for hours. A message that circulated among the CCC members claimed that Fanuel Madimba was kidnapped from Kela village in Sikalenge area, Binga North, Matabeleland North province. "We have received reports that Fanuel from Kela in Sikalenge was kidnapped by Zanu PF members from his homestead. Among those who kidnapped him is one Chingwa, a Zanu PF member who runs a business at Manjolo," the message read."¹⁶

NewsDay in December 2020 notes that: "Five Zanu PF members, among them a Zimunya-Marange district political commissar candidate in the party's district co-ordinating committee elections to be held at the weekend, have been arrested for kidnapping an Agriculture ministry official and forcing him to address a gathering of 300 villagers."¹⁷

References

Centre for Voters Initiative & Action (31 January 2025) *NGO Report on the Republic of Zimbabwe for the 143rd Session of the Human Rights Committee*

<https://www.ein.org.uk/members/country-report/ngo-report-republic-zimbabwe-143rd-session-human-rights-committee>

(Accessed on 20 February 2025)

This is a subscription database

Human Rights Watch (16 January 2025) *World Report 2025: Zimbabwe*

<https://www.ein.org.uk/members/country-report/world-report-2025-zimbabwe>

(Accessed on 20 February 2025)

This is a subscription database

Human Rights Foundation (HRF) (26 June 2024) *Eight Ways Zimbabwe's regime hijacked the 2023 vote*

<https://hrf.org/latest/eight-ways-zimbabwes-regime-hijacked-the-2023-vote/>

(Accessed on 20 February 2025)

NewsDay (3 December 2020) *Zanu PF officials in kidnapping storm*

<https://advance.lexis.com/document/?pdmfid=1519360&crd=5950b722-713a-4478-872c-366bf12d5c36&pddocfullpath=%2Fshared%2Fdocument%2Fnews%2Furn%3AcontentItem%3A61F4-WFJ1-F11P-X1D2-00000-00&pdcontentcomponentid=417357&pdteaserkey=sr3&pdtab=allpods&ecomp=hc-yk&earg=sr3&prid=7150894e-fa74-4321-bf03-a414ec77c0b1>

(Accessed on 20 February 2025)

This is a subscription database

¹⁴ Zimbabwe Peace Project (ZPP) (14 June 2024) *Monthly Monitoring Report: May 2024*, p.3

¹⁵ *ibid*

¹⁶ *Southern Eye* (20 July 2023) *Binga CCC polling agent kidnapped, released*

¹⁷ *NewsDay* (3 December 2020) *Zanu PF officials in kidnapping storm*

Southern Eye (20 July 2023) *Binga CCC polling agent kidnapped, released*

<https://advance.lexis.com/document/?pdmfid=1519360&crd=d53df40a-5810-4a4b-90b0-45ff249cb075&pddocfullpath=%2Fshared%2Fdocument%2Fnews%2Furn%3AcontentItem%3A68RR-2YP1-JDJN-62V7-00000-00&pdcontentcomponentid=411412&pdteaserkey=sr4&pditab=allpods&ecomp=hc-yk&earg=sr4&prid=7150894e-fa74-4321-bf03-a414ec77c0b1>

(Accessed on 20 February 2025)

This is a subscription database

The Standard (Zimbabwe) (23 December 2024) *Rampant discrimination in distribution of food and inputs*

<https://advance.lexis.com/document/?pdmfid=1519360&crd=e8dedd16-d7ca-4cc4-8c84-05d592fea86f&pddocfullpath=%2Fshared%2Fdocument%2Fnews%2Furn%3AcontentItem%3A6DPX-CDH3-SCR1-R2XP-00000-00&pdcontentcomponentid=407852&pdteaserkey=sr1&pditab=allpods&ecomp=hc-yk&earg=sr1&prid=21ecac91-4a4f-4e27-ae71-a2adb7fa9efd>

(Accessed on 20 February 2025)

This is a subscription database

The Zimbabwe Mail (7 October 2024) *Mnangagwa Seething With Anger Over Chiwenga's Corruption Remarks*

<https://www.thezimbabwemail.com/main/mnangagwa-seething-with-anger-over-chiwengas-corruption-remarks/>

(Accessed on 20 February 2025)

Zimbabwe Human Rights Association (ZimRights) (31 January 2025) *Zimbabwe's Compliance with the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights: Information on the National Human Rights Situation Relating to Civic Space*

<https://www.ein.org.uk/members/country-report/zimbabwes-compliance-international-covenant-civil-and-political-rights-0>

(Accessed on 20 February 2025)

This is a subscription database

Zimbabwe Peace Project (ZPP) (16 November 2024) *Monthly Monitoring Report: October 2024*

<https://www.ein.org.uk/members/country-report/monthly-monitoring-report-october-2024>

(Accessed on 20 February 2025)

This is a subscription database

Zimbabwe Peace Project (15 January 2025) *Monthly Monitoring Report: December 2024*

<https://www.ein.org.uk/members/country-report/monthly-monitoring-report-december-2024>

(Accessed on 20 February 2025)

This is a subscription database

Zimbabwe Peace Project (ZPP) (15 October 2024) *Monthly Monitoring Report: September 2024*

<https://zimpeaceproject.com/>

(Accessed on 20 February 2025)

Zimbabwe Peace Project (ZPP) (14 June 2024) *Monthly Monitoring Report: May 2024*

<https://zimpeaceproject.com/>

(Accessed on 20 February 2025)

Sources Consulted:

Amnesty International
BBC News
Electronic Immigration Network
European Country of Origin Information Network
Freedom House
Google
Human Rights Watch
Immigration and Refugee Board of Canada
Internal Displacement Monitoring Centre
International Crisis Group
Lexis Nexis
Minority Rights Group International
New Humanitarian
Online Newspapers
Refugee Documentation Centre Query Database
Reliefweb
United Kingdom Home Office
United States Department of State
UNHCR Refworld

Contact Information

Refugee Documentation Centre
Legal Aid Board
48/49 North Brunswick Street
Dublin 7
Ireland

Email: research@legalaidboard.ie