

Rule Of Law, Militarisation Of Politics, Organised Violence

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**Zimbabwe APRM Popular Sensitization Project (ZAPS)
APRM Submission Validation Workshop
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SIVIO
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BACKGROUND

- The rule of law is the bedrock of any democracy as it ensures the principle of equality of all citizens regardless of race, gender or social class.
- The concept of rule of law essentially theoretical in Zimbabwe as the Constitution has been ignored and distorted to further the agendas of power holders, resultantly the following are a product of this:
 - The militarization of the country,
 - *Installation of military leaders in strategic political positions.*
 - *Involvement of the military in civilian affairs*
 - *Reliance on the military to deal with dissent*
 - *Infiltration of the military in critical democratic areas*
 - *Adapting the military for intelligence gathering*

- Organised Torture and Violence
 - *A climate of fear*
 - *Impunity*
- Weaponisation of the judiciary,
 - *Prolonged pretrial incarceration*
 - *Unwarranted denial of bail*
- Unwarranted changes to the Constitution,
 - *Constitution of Zimbabwe Amendment No 1 Act*
 - *Constitution of Zimbabwe Amendment No 2 Act*
- Excessive use of Presidential Powers,
 - *COVID-19 lockdown regulations*
 - *Command Economy*
- Shrinking civic space and the silencing of dissenting voices,
 - *Proposed Changes to the PVO Act,*
 - *Proposed Patriotic Bill,*
 - *Illegal prerequisite of MOUs*
 - *Verbal and physical attacks of CSOs and their Reps*
- Harassment and Abuse of Lawyers Taking up Political Cases,

RECOMMENDATIONS

- Take urgent steps to fulfil its obligations arising out of the Constitution of Zimbabwe to respect, promote and protect fundamental human rights.
 - Ratifying the United Nations Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment (UNCAT);
 - Ratifying the International Convention for the Protection of All Persons from Enforced Disappearance;
 - Speaking out and condemning all acts of violence in the country; and
 - Launching immediate investigations into the allegations of human rights violations
- Address the historical injustices perpetrated over time since independence.

RECOMMENDATIONS

- Put in place concrete, transparent and targeted measures to facilitate national peacebuilding, eradicate hate speech
- Align laws to the Constitution, uphold the rule of law, and create an impartial and independent Judiciary.
- Create a professional, impartial and accountable police force
- establish an independent complaints mechanism as envisaged in Section 210 of the Constitution to ensure that perpetrators of violence are investigated and prosecuted fully
- Remove the Zimbabwe National Army as an ancillary law enforcement force to the police and return the army to its barracks.