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Information on the Citizens Coalition for Change including treatment of supporters

A report released in August 2023 by *Human Rights Watch* states that:

“The authorities have weaponized the criminal justice system against the ruling party’s political opponents” (Human Rights Watch (3 August 2023) *“Crush Them Like Lice”, Repression of Civil and Political Rights Ahead of Zimbabwe’s August 2023 Election*, p.1).

This document also states that:

“Violence, intimidation, harassment, and repression linked to ZANU-PF and aimed principally at CCC members and civil society activists have restricted civic and political space” (ibid, p.1).

In August 2023 the *International Crisis Group* comments on:

“...crackdowns on the opposition and arrests of its supporters...Intimidation of the opposition has taken many forms. Many members of the umbrella opposition group Citizens Coalition for Change (CCC) and their supporters have been arrested on questionable charges or otherwise subjected to repressive tactics such as harassment, threats and violence” (International Crisis Group (17 August 2023) *What to Expect from Zimbabwe’s Tilted Polls*, p.2).

In September 2023 the *Associated Press* points out that:

“There are signs that the country has now slipped into another era of brutal oppression...more than a dozen opposition CCC figures — from elected representatives to officials and activists — have been arrested by police in the three weeks since the election, the party says. Others have been targeted with violent abductions” (Associated Press (17 September 2023) *Zimbabwe’s reelected president says there’s democracy. But beating and torture allegations emerge*, p.1).

In September 2023 the *Zimbabwe Peace Project* states that:

“The post-election environment was unstable characterised by an increase in cases of political violence targeting perceived opposition supporters by Zanu PF supporters and traditional leaders. Most of the victims mapped were Citizens Coalition for Change candidates and polling agents” (Zimbabwe Peace Project (19 September 2023) *Monthly Monitoring Report: August 2023 - Silenced Voices?*, p.3).

A report issued in September 2023 by the *Guardian* states that:

“Barely a week after being sworn in as an opposition MP following elections in Zimbabwe last month, Gift Siziba found himself in police custody facing several charges, including inciting violence at a football match and defacing posters of an opponent in Bulawayo. While other legislators debate in parliament, Siziba, from the Citizens Coalition for Change (CCC),

has been in and out of court defending his innocence. Siziba is just one of a number of opposition politicians and activists who have been arrested and charged with various offences since President Emmerson Mnangagwa won a second term in the 23 August vote, a result the CCC described as a “gigantic fraud” (Guardian (26 September 2023) *Zimbabwe opposition figures detained in crackdown after disputed election*).

In September 2023 *Amnesty International* notes that:

“The government has consistently used security personnel to quash any opposition” (Amnesty International (29 September 2023) *Zimbabwe: Human rights under attack: A review of Zimbabwe’s human rights record in the period 2018-2023*, p.21).

In October 2023 the *Zimbabwe Human Rights NGO Forum* states that:

“...the post-electoral environment in Zimbabwe is characterised by unprecedented levels of victimisation aimed prevalently at opposition political party candidates...” (Zimbabwe Human Rights NGO Forum (5 October 2023) *The New “Error”!, A preliminary report on Post-election Organised Violence and Torture: 23 August to 30 September 2023*, p.10).

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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 Report 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.

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