I can offer no explanation as to why some PDFs fail in Linux but not in Windows. I use the PDF library from http://www.fpdf.org/ which uses standard PHP code and no special extensions or OS functions. It should produce the same results wherever it is run.

Is it the case that just SOME of the failed PDF files work in Windows, or is it that ALL of them work OK?

What version of Adobe PDF reader do you have installed?

What happens if you save the PDF file to disk instead of opening it in the bowser? Can you view the disk file, or is it still corrupted?

Do you have zlib compression turned ON or OFF in your web server? If you have compression turned ON can you try turning it OFF and testing those PF documents again?