

**“THE SOUTH AFRICAN XENOPHOBIA CRISIS AND THE ROLE
OF THE GOVERNMENT”**

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DESCRIPTIVE ANALYSIS

BACKGROUND

South Africa has been under scrutiny on the recent conflict between its residents and its foreign visitors. This we have defined as the “South African Xenophobia crisis.” This paper studies this Xenophobia Crisis in detail by focusing on five aspects of it. Firstly it unpacks what has been reported on this crisis in terms of the media, this being how the print media has reported on the crisis. This is followed by studies of the gender roles within this crisis, the role of the police and armed forces in the crisis and the role that the ruling party (ANC) played in this crisis. Lastly it studies the role that the South African government has played within this crisis.

RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

In investigating this xenophobia crisis, we made the use of two types of media. These were print media in the form of newspapers and the internet. From the newspapers perspective, we made use of newspapers such as the “Sunday times” and “The Sowetan”. In terms of the internet, we made the use of different websites such as the South African government website (www.gov.co.za), the African National congress website (www.anc.org.za) and the News24 website (www.news24.com).

The government website was very helpful in revealing how the government officials were planning to resolve this crisis...the ANC website also provided us with the same type of information. The news24 website was the most useful as it provided us with the intricate details of this xenophobia crisis. Very often, it provided us with information of what was has happening across the country in terms of this crisis. This includes reports of where the foreigners were now being pushed out to, the safety camps that were provided for them by the government, what these abused foreigners were thinking and feeling, the gender aspects of this crisis...in an nutshell this website provided us with the fundamental information that was needed to conduct this research.

HOW THE SOUTH AFRICAN PRINT MEDIA HAS REPORTED ON THE XENOPHOBIA CRISIS

- For the purpose of this paper, when we refer to the print media, we are referring to credible South African newspapers. As we have mentioned earlier, here we are referring mostly to the “Sunday Times” and the “The Sowetan”
- When we study the articles within these papers, it is clear that they make the use of pathos when they report on this crisis. More often than not, they appeal to the reader’s emotions. This is often backed up by the use of factual statements (logos) for example by illustrating how detrimental this crisis has been by mentioning the number of deaths and injuries that it has caused. Also, by

focusing on how ironic this crisis is since South Africa has a reputation for fighting against racism, and any type of prejudice and inequalities in the country.

- If we look at the article entitled “**Spirit if the new SA has not been extinguished**” here it is clear that the reporter of this article has focused on the emotions of the crisis. The article focuses on the number of deaths and injuries that have occurred during the crisis. It does this by stating that “Gangs of panga-wielding youths led the charge against their African brothers and sisters resulting in 62 deaths and forcing tens of thousands of them from their homes”. This is the use of pathos and logos by the reporter...thereby appealing to the reader’s emotions. This was supported by the particular focus on how in Cape Town citizens have opened their hearts, wallets and homes to help those who have been affected by this crisis. This strengthens the reporter’s strategy of emphasizing the fact that foreigners are the victims in this crisis.

-The same strategy was used in the article entitled “**Refugees endure unspeakable misery**”. Here the reporter cleverly uses the first person to illustrate how the victims during this crisis were feeling. By doing this, he makes the use of pathos and he awakens the emotions of the reader to sympathize with the victims. If we take a look at an example from the article, when the speaker (victim) says “The reason we came to South Africa is because of fear. We came here looking for asylum, but now South Africa is turning its back on us” There is a clear emphasis on the neglect factor in this crisis and here the writer has used it to play on the emotions of the reader.

-The article entitled “**Send us back home**” makes the use of ethos to report on this xenophobia crisis. Since “The Sowetan” is a credible newspaper that reports on the facts of the case, the writer has made use of this. He reports the facts of the case however he then uses that as well as logos to bring about the emotional aspects of this crisis to the reader. For example the writer reports that one of the victims stated that when the charity organizations arrive they come with journalists, thereby using their misery to become popular. This is the use of a probable argument (logos). The reporter then ends off by stating that these victims have been quoted stating that “we are humans and we deserve to be treated as such”. This is the use of pathos as it appeals to the reader’s emotions very well.

- When we study the articles entitled “**Gauteng government condemns recent xenophobia attacks**” and the one entitled “**Brotherhood beyond all borders**” one can note that these two articles have something in common and this being the plea to allow the foreign victims back into the community. The way in which each of these articles goes about this is different however. The article entitled “**Gauteng government condemns recent attacks**” makes this plea by making the use of pathos. The writer appeals to the reader’s emotions and also makes the use of ethos by appealing to his or her sense of goodness and good character. Statements such as “These attacks on

our brothers and sisters are against everything we have been doing to build a humane and caring society” illustrate this. Here the use of words such as “brothers” and “sisters” highlight to the reader that these victims need to be treated in the same manner that one would treat their family member. This is an appeal to the reader’s emotions and character (clever use of ethos as well as pathos). The article entitled “**Brotherhood beyond all borders**” is very similar to the one above. It also makes use of words such as “brotherhood” which appeal to the reader’s emotions and character in the same manner as we have just mentioned. However holistically this article appeals to the reader more by making use of the work that Sol Plaatjie has done in this country to promote equality, he also symbolized universal brotherhood and he took a religious stance where human pain and suffering was concerned. Here the reporter takes the work of Sol Plaatjie and puts it into context in today’s age and this xenophobia crisis. Plaatjie believed that those who do not do anything to embitter the lives of those who are suffering have to be held responsible to some degree for the suffering that is experienced by others. In the context of this xenophobia crisis the reporter is basically appealing to the reader to do something to ease the suffering of these victims. This is a very clever use of an example to bring across an argument (the use of logical arguments-inductive speech).

- Lastly when we study the articles entitled “**You must go back to your place**”, “**Cold, wet refugees are fed rice and bones**” and “**We’ll never go home says Ethiopian refugees in Kenya camp**” here once again the reporters are clearly depicting the foreigners affected by this xenophobia crisis as the victims that they are. All of these articles appeal to the reader’s emotions (pathos)...as they depict that these refugees do not have a place to go and that their home countries are not a real option, as there was a reason why they left their home countries to begin with. What is interesting to note however is the religious aspect which has made itself apparent in one of these articles (“**You must go back to your place**”). Here a pastor told the refugees he was hosting that they must go back to their place. This questions the ethos of that church....as well as the ethos of other churches that did not help these refugees as they had stated. Since churches have a reputation for lending aid to those who need it, this plays on reader’s emotions as it depicts that the refugees really do not have a place to go. The fact that some refugees have threatened to commit suicide is testament to this

CONCLUSION

- What has been common knowledge about this xenophobia crisis is that from a South African point of view...the main argument for these violent attacks against foreigners in the country is that they bring crime to the country and that they take away job opportunities away from South African citizens

- It was interesting to note that in all of the articles that we have collected not one of them made mention to the above concerns. In fact the foreigners are the ones who depicted as being the victims that they are and not the other way around

- Since this xenophobia crisis is a violent matter where lives have been lost and injuries have taken place, there has been a great use of pathos (appeal to the emotions) by a lot of the reporters in these articles).
- The use of ethos was also common as well as the use of logical arguments (logos) however this was usually to emphasize on what had already been stated through the use of emotionally based arguments (pathos).

THE ROLE OF GENDER IN THE SOUTH AFRICAN XENOPHOBIA CRISIS

This section focuses on the gender dynamics during this xenophobia crisis. This is to say that it takes a keen interest in investigating how certain genders were affected during this crisis, which genders were affected the most during this crisis and lastly it investigates the possible reasons as to why these certain genders were affected at such alarming rates.

- According to the articles gathered in this paper to investigate these gender roles, it is clear that the gender that has been affected the most in this crisis has been the female one. In other words women have been affected the most or seem to have been the most ill-treated during this crisis.

- The article entitled “**Guards assault pregnant woman**” depicts the fact that women perhaps because of their femininity and their lack of ability to defend themselves physically has been abused during this crisis. The attack that took place in this article has been described by some as the most inhumane attack during this crisis.

- In this article even though the reporter did not make the use of adjectives and pathos to awaken the emotions of the reader, but he does report the facts of the incident in a manner that focuses on the inhumane facts of the incident. For example the fact that this attack was recorded on a cell phone. This gives the impression that whoever recorded the incident took pleasure in it and it awakens the emotions of the reader. It is a different but clever usage of pathos by the reporter.

- The article entitled “**Media should take the blame**” clearly depicts how women have been abused during this xenophobic crisis, stating that at least 50 people have been killed, and women have been gang-raped. This article is written with a lot of emotion by the reporter which alternatively awakens the same type of emotions within the reader. This is the use of pathos from the reporter, but what makes his use of pathos even stronger is how he links it next to logical proofs. In this article he makes the use of logos in the inductive form (through the use of examples). This gives the reader something tangible to base their emotions on. For example when the reporter reports on the fact that the media is

to blame for this violence because they paint a negative picture about foreigners e.g. calling them “ALIENS” in news headlines.

-Since women have been on the receiving end of this abuse, two very powerful women in the South African political context took it upon themselves to use their influential positions (which are respected by both men and women) to good use during this crisis. Here we are referring to Winnie Madikizela Mandela and Graca Machel respectively. Winnie in the article entitled **“Alex- Winnie says sorry”** formally apologizes to those who had been attacked in Alexandra. Her apology was very sympathetic appealing to her listener’s emotions. (use of pathos). However at the same time she makes an attempt to make the use of ethos to defend South Africa by stating that the attackers were not sent by South Africans, nor were they considered to be South African citizens.

- Graca in the article entitled **“Graca warns of back lash in Moz”** plays a different role to that of Winnie. Here she shares her knowledge of the political system warning Mozambique of what is likely to happen in the country with so many of their citizens returning from South Africa. This is the use of logos (in the inductive form) on her part. However by mentioning how many Mozambican citizens had been affected and abused, she makes the use of pathos. She leaves the impression that she is sending an indirect message to the South African government to help Mozambique in the crisis that they are about to experience.

CONCLUSION

From the above it is more than clear that gender has played a role in this crisis. It seems that since this crisis has revolved around violence...the gender divides within this crisis have been based on feminine and masculine factors. The men have clearly been the aggressors during this crisis. Even from the victim’s point of view, this is clearly depicted by the articles mentioned above and the article entitled **“Xenophobia case postponed”** as it was reported that the victims started to protest. The only positive aspect that has resulted from this gender dynamic, is how Winnie Madikizela Mandela and Graca Machel, being the powerful women symbols that they are were willing to use their power to positive and clever rhetorical usage.

THE POLICE AND ARMED FORCES IN THE XENOPHOBIA CRISIS

When there is a national crisis, especially one that is violent in nature, it goes without saying that the police and armed forces such as the army (in extreme cases) will get involved. This was definitely the case where this xenophobia crisis was concerned. With high rate of attacks during this period, the police became heavily involved, particularly in Johannesburg townships such as Alexandra also

known as Alex.

-When we study the articles gathered for this section it is clear that the police themselves have also been ill-treated by residents in townships such as Alex. To date the police being attacked was the most violent attack against them. Initially they used rubber bullets in order to protect themselves and for their use during crowd control. From a rhetoric point of view...there is a great usage of ethos in this section. This comes in the form of certain officials trying to stress the fact that they condemn attacks on foreigners or the police. An example of this can be found in the article entitled “**Cops should act harshly**”, here ANCYL Alexandra Chairperson- Thulane Mncube has called upon the police to act harshly when dealing with the violent Alex residents. By taking this stance, he is protecting the ethos of Alex by highlighting the fact that they do not support such behavior and that they actually condemn it very strongly.

- In the article entitled “**Police will use live ammo**” Deputy Minister of Safety- Susan Shabangu took a similar approach by encouraging the police to use live ammunition against the violent Alex residents if there’s a need to. Here she is also protecting the ethos of the police force by taking harsh measures to illustrate that they (the police) do not condone the actions taken by these residents. The fact that 500 more policemen were deployed to the Alex area also supports this

- The suggestion that the army be deployed to Alex because the police was under too much strain as it was stated in the article entitled “**Send army to Alexandra**” was also another way of protecting the country’s ethos which was being tarnished by these attacks. By getting the army or the military (see article “**Military Deployed**”) involved in this situation illustrates that the country is willing to invest some of its “premium” resources in order to resolve the matter.

CONCLUSION

This section illustrated that the foreign victims were not the only ones who suffered against the violent hands of the Alex residents. The local police were also abused because they were protecting the foreign victims. What is interesting to note is that these violent actions by these residents is what damages the image or the ethos of the country as a whole. It seems that all officials were aware of this and that their main priority was to say out right that they condemn these actions, and by doing so trying to restore the ethos of the country.

THE ANC AND ITS OFFICIALS GET INVOLVED IN THE XENOPHOBIA CRISIS

When a country is facing a crisis of this nature, it is to be expected for the ruling party of the nation to play an important role in resolving the crisis and to get their people to reconcile. The ANC in this case played a somewhat different role; their role was similar to that which was found in the previous section. Here the ANC made it a known fact that they condemned the acts of hatred against foreigners and the police force. To do this they made the use of rhetorical techniques such as pathos, ethos and logos. They even went as far as accusing the IFP for the attacks on foreigners in Alex, by doing this also highlighting the fact that they are against these attacks. (**“ANC accuses IFP of attacks”**)

- If we study the article entitled **“ANC statement on attacks on foreign nationals”** and the article entitled **“ANC Gauteng province condemns xenophobia and criminality”** what can be noted here is the ANC makes the use of pathos and ethos. The use of pathos is displayed in the first article when they make appeals to the nation to make a stand to these attacks, because they are morally incorrect and thus making the link between these attacks and racism, as well as apartheid. By the ruling party of the nation making such a stand, it also makes a statement about the country’s ethos on the whole. It indirectly states that South Africa therefore also condemns these on these attacks.

- The second article **“ANC Gauteng province condemns xenophobia”** this article takes a similar approach to the one above by condemning these criminal attacks. However at the same time it also makes the use of other arguments to appeal to the South African people. These arguments mostly focused on the use of logos. This use of logos comes in the inductive form. Here the ANC makes an example of apartheid and the history of the country in terms of how the country has fought against discrimination of any sort and that these attacks were undoing all of that hard work. In addition to this, that it was making their good work of providing everyone with job opportunities over the last fourteen years difficult to maintain. At this point the ANC make reference to how important it is to have peace and stability in the communities because this is the best way to create opportunities for everyone. This is a clever use of pathos. After using facts to present their argument and then closing it off with this use of pathos, it gets the reader thinking that by continuing with these violent attacks, they are actually doing themselves a disservice in terms of job opportunities.

- The ANC president Jacob Zuma has also become involved in personally making statements about these attacks. In the article entitled “**ANC press statement**”, as it is to be expected as the president of the ANC he has taken the same stance on these attacks by condemning them and making it clear to the police that they need to do everything that is in their power to make sure that this matter is resolved very speedily. Once again this is the use of ethos by Jacob Zuma, here it protecting the moral standing of the ANC as well as the country as a whole.

- In the article entitled “**Attackers using my song**” It is reported that attackers have been using Jacob Zuma’s song “Umshini wam” “bring me my machine gun” during their attacks. Here Jacob Zuma expressed concern and stated that that song is for the ANC and not for those people. In this article again he was very expressive about condemning these attacks. He also makes use of a powerful argument by stating that South Africa can not be known as the xenophobic country especially after its history and the mere fact that during apartheid many South Africans looked for refuge in our neighboring countries. This again makes the use of logos in the inductive form, which seemed to be very popular in the ANC’s arguments as a whole.

In the article entitled “**Statement of ANC president on criminal violence**” here Jacob Zuma makes the use of pathos and epideictic speech to appeal to civic organizations, political formations, community based organizations, religious leaders, youth and women leaders to come together and to make a concerted effort to put these violent attacks to a halt. The way the speech or the statement was made also gives the impression that Jacob Zuma made this request by trying to appeal to them and to show that this stand would be for the good of the country.

CONCLUSION

- In the case of this xenophobia crisis and these violent attacks, it is evident that the ANC took the decision of being very vocal about the fact that they are against these attacks, that they do not understand them, that there is no place for them in the country....but most of all it seems that it was their goal to portray themselves as an organization that CONDEMNS xenophobia and acts of criminal violence in the country, accusing the IFP of supporting these attacks in Alex also but them on a better footing in the eyes of the South African public.

THE SOUTH AFRICAN GOVERNMENT AND ITS OFFICIALS GET INVOLVED IN THE XENOPHOBIA CRISIS

- It seems that the South African government has taken the same approach as the ANC by condemning the xenophobia and the violent attacks against foreigners. According to the article entitled **“South Africa announces service to say sorry”** the government had a service in memory for the victims in the xenophobia attacks in Tshwane on the 3rd of July 2008. This gesture could be understood to be the use of ethos from the government as it was the perfect platform for them to apologize for the attacks which had occurred, to condemn the attacks and to uphold the country’s good name at the same time.

-As it has been stated in the above, it is clear that the government’s as well as that of the country was being questioned and that it was their (the government) goal to uplift that ethos once again, by condemning the attacks and apologizing to those who had been deeply affected by the whole xenophobia crisis. However there were those organizations who were not convinced by the government’s gestures, condemnations or apologies. One of these organizations is COSATU. According to the article entitled **“Govt to blame for attacks”** COSATU has been very upfront about the fact that they believe that the government is responsible for the xenophobia crisis. Their reasoning being that the government did not interfere in the economic crisis that neighboring countries such as Zimbabwe were facing soon enough...and for that reason many of the citizens from neighboring countries sought for greener pastures in South Africa. In this article COSATU makes use of a lot of logos in the inductive...revealing the apparent truth that many listeners or readers would not be aware of.

- The articles entitled **“Gena body slams SA attacks”** and the article entitled **“Minister calls for calm in Alex”** elaborate on the xenophobia crisis in the country. They mention hard facts such as 13000 had to flee from their homes and seek shelter in churches and other organizations and that humanitarian organizations such as the Red Cross provided them with emergency kits. It is at this point that Thabo Mbeki made a compassionate appeal for Africans to respect the dignity of foreigners. In the same way Home affairs Minister Nosivine Mapisa-Nqakula became vocal about the attacks that had taken place in Alex. She with the company of her Deputy Malusi Gigaba and Deputy Safety and Security Minister Susan Shabangu met with the local leaders and the police in Alex to come up with a way forward in order to stop these attacks from reoccurring.

- Here it is evident that the government and its officials like the ANC did, were making the use of pathos to appeal to emotions of the people who were involved

in these attacks with the hope that they will listen to reason and to put a halt on the attacks. At the same time by expressing their opinions on this xenophobia crisis publicly they were making the use of ethos, preserving their image of being morally good to their readers and listeners...which in turn preserved the image of South Africa as I has been mentioned earlier in this report.

CONCLUSION

- In this section it is clearly evident that the government and the ANC have had the same approach in order to deal with this xenophobia crisis, which is not surprising since the ANC is the ruling party of the nation. Their main focus was to make the use primarily three rhetoric techniques when communicating with the South African people. These were the use of pathos, logos and ethos. This trio seemed to be very successful because they appealed to their readers and listeners emotions, they provided them with examples and fact that they were not necessarily aware of. In that process also made an attempt to salvage their image of being morally good and having the best interests of the people in the country at heart...whether they were South African or not.

- This strategy seemed to have worked well for them because they were able to achieve tremendous results, the main one which was bringing a halt and reducing the number xenophobic attacks around the country.

DATA

The role of gender in the South African xenophobia crisis

http://www.news24.com/News24/South_Africa/News/0,,2-7-1442_2355881,00.html

Downloaded on the 19th of July 2008 at 10:52am

Guard assaults pregnant woman

11/07/2008 14:01 - (SA)

Durban - A pregnant Congolese woman is in a serious condition after being beaten, allegedly by a guard at Durban's City Hall, the Mercury newspaper reported on Friday.

She was one of nearly 100 people, believed to have been displaced by xenophobic attacks, protesting at the hall on Thursday demanding funding and accommodation from the municipality after being kicked out of a hostel. The woman was taken to a local hospital in a serious condition.

Part of the assault was reportedly captured on a cellphone.

Metro police spokesperson Superintendent John Tyala told Sapa on Friday that they were unaware of the assault.

"If there is a crime, people must report it so we can investigate. We understand there was a commotion but we have no knowledge of a woman being beaten," he said.

Spokesperson for the group, Hulubatu Akyamba said they had been told by the municipality last week that they were to be sheltered at a building on Dr Yusuf Dadoo Street.

"But on Monday we were told that the municipality would stop paying and we would have to pay ourselves, but we have no money," he said.

"They (the municipality) tell us that the xenophobia crisis is over but we are still scared for our lives," he said.

Municipal manager [Mike Sutcliffe](#) was quoted in the report as saying that it was not the city's responsibility to help the group

<http://bizcommunity.com/Article/196/39/24852.html>

Downloaded on the 17th August 2008 at 17:33pm

Xenophobia in SA: 'media should take the blame'

By: Issa Sikiti da Silva

At least 50 people are dead, more than 1000 injured, scores of women gang-raped and nearly 35 000 are displaced as xenophobia attacks - described by *The Sunday Independent* as 'ethnic cleansing - SA style' - show no sign of abating. As the continent celebrated Africa Day yesterday, Sunday, 25 May 2008, victims of the violence and other immigrants accused the South African media of fuelling the attacks by what they see as 'constantly anti-foreigners reporting'.

"Where in the world do you see a press that calls foreigners 'aliens' in their headlines and constantly rush to print stories based on hearsay without proper investigation if they involve foreigners?" a high school teacher immigrant, who begged not to be identified for fear of victimisation, told Bizcommunity.com.

'Should be held accountable'

"Whatever these xenophobic newspapers' agenda was, I think they have succeeded in turning their brothers and sisters against us and if this massacre turns out like the Rwanda genocide, they should be properly investigated and held accountable for fuelling the violence," a Congolese refugee, who attends a local university, said.

"The people here are jealous of us, and people and newspapers are always saying that 'foreigners did this, foreigners did that, foreigners are the criminals, and foreigners rape our women'. So they attacked us - and stole everything, except what I have here," Mozambican Solomon Chibebe told *The Sunday Independent*.

The SA Media Monitoring Project (MMP), which monitors media content on a daily basis, echoed some of these immigrants' sentiments. "There are certain sections of print media that must be found guilty of xenophobia due to anti-foreign stereotypes created in their daily reporting," MMP executive director William Bird told Bizcommunity.com last night.

Bird said that this form of reporting - fuelling xenophobia - must be condemned as it violates the Constitution and the SA Press Code. "Our Constitution preaches the right to dignity and equality for all, and clearly they are ignoring it. They must also read the Press Code very carefully," he said.

Praised some media outlets

Nevertheless, he praised some media outlets for what it called balanced and fair reporting on the latest xenophobia attacks. “They have done a fantastic job out there by condemning xenophobia and giving us responsible reporting on the latest xenophobic attacks,” Bird said.

Meanwhile, a campaign called ‘Trust no South African’ will soon kick off in Joburg, whereby immigrants will be visited door-to-door, warning them not to trust their black South African neighbours, as they can quickly turn from angels to vicious killers and rapists within seconds, a source told Bizcommunity.com.

“It is true. They must be warned that these people are not to be trusted. Look at me. My neighbours, with whom I lived in peace for the past 15 years, burned down our shack, chased us out and stole our property. Thank God, my two kids and I are still alive,” Maria Dos Santos, a Mozambican woman now sheltering at the Primrose police station, said.

More than 20 000 people have already fled the ‘Slaughter House’, as many African immigrants now call SA.

Ironically, on 25 May the continent celebrated Africa Day, the 45th anniversary of the foundation of the Organisation of African Unity (OAU), the ancestor of the current African Union, amid the xenophobic troubles blighting the ‘Slaughter House’.

http://www.news24.com/News24/South_Africa/Politics/0,,2-7-12_2322392,00.html

Downloaded on the 5th September 2008 at 20:00pm

Alex - Winnie says sorry

14/05/2008 17:13 - (SA)

Johannesburg - Leading ANC figure [Winnie Madikizela-Mandela](#) apologised to foreigners in Alexandra on Wednesday after they fled their homes out of fear for their lives.

"I am sorry ... It is not all South Africans that are like this," she told the group who had sought safety at Alexandra police station.

Madikizela-Mandela's visit came three days after the eruption of violence and xenophobic attacks in the sprawling township north of Johannesburg.

Madikizela-Mandela, an NEC member of the African National Congress, was accompanied by several Gauteng MECs.

Dozens of displaced residents remained at the police station on Wednesday afternoon.

Gilbert Sibanda, who was among the displaced residents that Madikizela-Mandela spoke to, said: "These people (the attackers) were not sent by the public and that they were not citizens of South Africa."

Sibanda said he was told the government was trying to sort out the problem and ensure that those displaced got their homes back.

Sibanda said was beaten up and robbed on Monday during the attacks.

http://www.news24.com/News24/Africa/News/0,,2-11-1447_2338924,00.html

Downloaded on the 6th of September 2008 at 19:15pm

Graca warns of backlash in Moz

11/06/2008 21:20 - (SA)

Maputo - Thousands of destitute Mozambicans who fled anti-foreigner violence in SA may revolt against their home government if their needs are not met, according to a woman with a unique perspective on both countries.

Former Mozambican first lady Graca Machel, who is now married to former SA President Nelson Mandela and is a child rights advocate, spoke on Wednesday in the Mozambican capital during a conference on ethnic cleansing.

A wave of attacks against immigrants in SA, which killed at least 60 people in May, drove 39 000 Mozambicans back home, authorities say. Some fled on crowded buses sent by the Mozambican government; others took trains or found other ways to return..

"For the first few weeks, they will cry on the shoulders of their families for having lost everything," Machel said. "Then they will go and cry to the government, and at the end they will revolt against the government and all who are around them."

South Africans killed 27 Mozambicans during the violence, accusing them and other immigrants of taking jobs and committing crime. Although not all were assaulted during the attacks, accounts of violence, including a photograph of a burning Mozambican man on the front pages of local newspapers, were enough to persuade many to leave.

Unmonitored immigration

Machel said inadequate living conditions in SA's poorest areas, rather than hatred of foreigners, sparked the attacks. She said the violence was the result of years of unmonitored immigration that put enormous pressure on SA's urban infrastructure.

"Extreme poverty dehumanises people and leads them to madness," she said. "That's what happened in Rwanda over 10 years ago."

SA - considered the African powerhouse - has long been a magnet for people fleeing poverty or violence in other nations on the continent. Up to three million Zimbabweans alone are believed to be in SA because of the economic meltdown and political repression in their country.

Delegates from Mozambique, SA, Botswana, Zambia and Zimbabwe attended the meeting Machel addressed.

http://www.news24.com/News24/South_Africa/Xenophobia/0,,2-7-2382_2366687,00.html

Downloaded on the 17th August 2008 at 16:37

Xenophobia case postponed

30/07/2008 10:39 - (SA)

Johannesburg - The first group of the more than 200 male refugees and asylum seekers arrested for camping outside the Lindela detention centre had their case postponed to August 6 in the Krugersdorp District Court on Wednesday.

Magistrate Erina Breedt ordered that they remain in the Krugersdorp police cells so that their documentation could be fully determined and a legal aid board attorney consult with them.

They face charges under the Road Traffic Act for allegedly hindering and obstructing traffic on the R28 between Krugersdorp and Randfontein.

Two hundred and three men were arrested, court prosecutor Engela Van Der Merwe said before the court started.

Due to the size of the group police brought them up from the holding cells in groups of between 40 to 50 people and arranged them in the court according to the order of the charge sheet.

The men, looking tired and holding sleeping bags and blankets, stood up one by one to take up the court's offer of legal aid.

Breedt ordered a French interpreter to explain their rights to them.

The group had been living on the verge of the R28 between Krugersdorp and Randfontein for a week after being transferred from a shelter for xenophobia victims in Glenanda, Johannesburg to the Lindela in Krugersdorp.

They had refused to register at the Glenanda camp, fearing that the temporary identity cards they would be given would cancel their existing immigration rights.

As a result they were taken to Lindela, a facility which detained foreigners believed to be in the country illegally, then either released or deported them.

But officials discovered that these people were in the country legally and released them to return to their South African homes. The Department of Home Affairs had validated the documents that allowed them residence in South Africa and said that the refugees were now "on their own".

The immigrants stayed on the side of the road, saying they were too scared to return to their communities and would rather be repatriated.

They were given until Monday to leave the roadside. On Monday afternoon the women and men were rounded up by police, with the women being taken to a place of safety and the men arrested.

A wave of xenophobic attacks started in Alexandra township on May 12 and then spread around the country, leaving more than 62 people dead and 17 000 displaced, according to police

http://www.news24.com/News24/South_Africa/Xenophobia/0,,2-7-2382_2361018,00.html

Downloaded on the 17th August 2008 at 19:04pm

'Come back home to Zambia'
21/07/2008 09:07 - (SA)

Lusaka - Zambian victims of recent xenophobic acts in South Africa should return home to begin a new life, Information Minister Mike Mulongoti said in Lusaka on Sunday.

"Many opportunities exist in Zambia for the victims. The government would do everything possible to assist the xenophobic victims to settle," he said.

But those victims who felt safe in South Africa would not be compelled to return, he said.

More than 120 Zambians have returned home from South Africa telling chilling stories of the wave of violence directed against foreigners.

Mulongoti denied the violence meted out was state sponsored or South African government policy but was perpetrated by criminal elements.

Around 60 people were killed, hundreds injured and tens of thousands of migrants displaced by deadly attacks against foreigners in South Africa, which began in Alexandra township north-east of Johannesburg on May 11 and later spread to slums across the country.

Zimbabwean refugees

Zambian immigration officials meanwhile turned back around 17 Zimbabwean women who illegally crossed into Zambia on Lake Kariba last Friday.

Post-election violence in Zimbabwe, purportedly perpetrated by militias supporting the ruling party, has sent columns of Zimbabweans fleeing into Zambia, posing security concerns.

Lusaka streets are now flooded with Zimbabweans eking out a living by selling all sorts of merchandise and sending back home to relatives whatever foreign currency they earn in Zambia.

The local Zambian currency is ostensibly treated as the legal tender in Zimbabwe's border areas. - Sapa-dpa

http://www.news24.com/News24/South_Africa/Xenophobia/0,,2-7-2382_2332116,00.html

Downloaded on the 17th of august 2008 at 19:33pm

UN donates tents to foreigners
30/05/2008 22:38 - (SA)

Cape Town - The United Nations refugee agency donated 2 sop;000 tents to help South Africa shelter foreigners displaced by violent attacks, as critics accused the government of bungling its response.

The UN High Commissioner for Refugees also said it would help authorities find sites for temporary camps for an estimated 42 000 people in need of shelter.

"We hope that this initial donation will contribute to alleviating the suffering of displaced people," said Sanda Kimbimbi, UNHCR's regional representative for southern Africa.

Up to 100 000 people fled their homes amid xenophobic attacks that left 56 people dead throughout the country in the last three weeks. Calm has been restored, but many foreigners say they fear returning to communities that chased them out.

Madikizela-Mandela hits out at govt

Winnie Madikizela-Mandela lambasted the government's performance after she visited Johannesburg's Cleveland police station along with ANC leader Jacob Zuma.

"There are 1 700 people, including 160 children and 70 pregnant women, and you would have expected at least the health officials to be there, but there is nothing," she said in a rare interview with the Mail and Guardian.

"No one is taking responsibility, and station commanders say they are referred from one government department to the next," she said. Madikizela-Mandela has given refuge to a Congolese family she found at the police station.

Thabo Masebe, spokesperson for Gauteng province said that nearly 10 000 people - one third of them children - remained in police stations and other public buildings in the province.

He said authorities hoped to move people over the weekend into temporary shelters, mainly small tents, with access to health care and other facilities.

R1.5m donation to China

Meanwhile, Deputy Foreign Minister Aziz Pahad on Friday donated R1.5m to help victims of the Chinese earthquake - prompting some to question the government's priorities.

Deputy President Phumzile Mlambo-Ngcuka toured communities in Cape Town, where there was wide widespread looting last weekend. SABC radio said she was told of local grievances that foreigners were receiving more help than South Africans.

Imtiaz Sooliman, head of the Gift of the Givers group providing relief supplies, suggested the government was struggling to balance the needs of both sides.

"They're considering the feeling on the ground. Are they more on the side of the immigrants or the people? You don't want to upset the masses," Sooliman said.

"It's not lack of will, it's a lack of skills," he said. "They want to do something, they just don't know how or what."

The police and armed forces in the xenophobia crisis

http://www.news24.com/News24/South_Africa/News/0,,2-7-1442_2321915,00.html

Downloaded on the 6th of September 2008 at 19:50pm

Alex residents stone police
14/05/2008 07:19 - (SA)

Johannesburg - Chaos broke out in Alexandra again on Tuesday night when residents pelted policemen with stones, the SABC reported.

In response police fired rubber bullets at residents.

Gauteng police spokesperson Superintendent Lungelo Dlamini could not confirm the incident.

"I have not been informed of such incident, I will contact you when somebody from Alexandra has called to inform me of the latest developments," he said.

Attacks on foreigners by local residents began on Sunday and continued into Monday night and early Tuesday morning.

At least two people have died so far and over 60 were injured.

http://www.news24.com/News24/South_Africa/Politics/0,,2-7-12_2321834,00.html

Downloaded on the 6th of September 2008 at 19:30pm

ANCYL: Cops should act harshly
14/05/2008 13:11 - (SA)

Johannesburg - The ANC Youth League called on police in Alexandra to act harshly when dealing with xenophobic attacks in the township, the league said on Tuesday night.

ANCYL Alexandra chairperson Thulani Mncube said: "The ANC Youth League strongly condemns the action by thugs and sinister forces that are using hatred of foreigners to destabilise the township."

This follows violent attacks on foreigners by local Alexandra residents on Sunday and which continued into Monday night and early Tuesday morning.

"We are currently mobilising all our members in the township to identify and isolate these hooligans. Some of these criminals are trying to illegally occupy the houses using 'xenophobia' to undermine orderly housing processes," Mncube said.

"We therefore call on police to act harshly when dealing with the situation in the township.

"On Friday morning we are converging at the Sankopano community centre to march to the police station to demand swift action from the police."

http://www.news24.com/News24/South_Africa/News/0,,2-7-1442_2323445,00.html

Downloaded on the 5th September 2008 at 19:12pm

'Police will use live ammo'

16/05/2008 08:37 - (SA) Cobus Coetzee, Beeld

Johannesburg - The police will shoot using live ammunition (during crowd control) if they are forced to, said Deputy Minister of Safety and Security [Susan Shabangu](#) on Thursday when she and other ministers visited Alexandra north of Johannesburg.

Immigrants in the township had been attacked since Sunday, in violence fuelled by xenophobia.

During some of the attacks, police were fired on with live ammunition.

Shabangu said: "If police are pushed to such an extent, they'll use live ammunition and not just rubber bullets."

500 extra police

She said, however, the situation in Alexandra had not yet reached that point.

Shabangu caused an uproar in April when she said that police officers should shoot to kill.

Since the violence broke out in Alexandra, 500 extra police and metro officers have been deployed in the township.

Shabangu said: "Even although the atmosphere is tense, there is calm and police have everything under control."

http://www.news24.com/News24/South_Africa/News/0,,2-7-1442_2321972,00.html

Downloaded on the 5th September at 19:40pm

DA: Send army to Alexandra
14/05/2008 11:13 - (SA)

Johannesburg - The army could help strained police stop xenophobic attacks in Alexandra, the Democratic Alliance said on Wednesday.

"The army should only be used in a civilian context in case of serious emergency. But I believe we may have reached that stage," said party representative [John Moodey](#).

Police had not been able to bring the situation under control and faced the threat of live ammunition being used against them, endangering their lives and the lives of Alexandra residents.

"They should either be reinforced so that they can, or the army should be brought in to back them up."

The African National Congress Youth League called for calm saying the attacks may compromise genuine grievances.

"We call on communities both organised and unorganised to remain vigilant and protect the integrity of their struggles, and not to resort to violence," said League spokesperson Zizi Kodwa.

Three people have been killed since Sunday and on Tuesday night three teenage boys were stabbed in the attacks described by Gauteng safety and security MEC [Firoz Cachalia](#) as "spontaneous acts of xenophobic hatred".

Foreigners have been targeted in the attacks and have been taking refuge with the police.

http://www.news24.com/News24/South_Africa/Xenophobia/0,,2-7-2382_2327371,00.html

Downloaded on the 6th September 2008 at 19:00pm

Xenophobia: Military deployed

22/05/2008 15:38 - (SA)

Johannesburg - Hostel raids by the police and the military in Johannesburg on Thursday following xenophobic violence have netted 28 arrests, police said on Thursday.

Director Sally de Beer said the cordon-and-search operations were "aimed at restoring peace and stability in various areas of the province which have been plagued with violence over the past several days".

She said the men were not arrested in direct connection with the xenophobic violence that erupted in those areas, but further investigations and interrogation would reveal possible involvement.

"The joint operation was extremely successful and resulted in 28 arrests being effected, 150kg of dagga being seized and firearms, ammunition and suspected stolen property being recovered," said De Beer.

The operation was conducted jointly by the South African Police Service and the South African National Defence Force (SANDF) in the early hours of Thursday.

The assistance in terms of provision of certain resources in this particular operation was authorised by president Thabo Mbeki on Wednesday.

"The cordon-and-search operations were conducted at the Wolhuter and George Goch hostels in Jeppe and the Denver hostel in Cleveland between 01:00 and 07:00.

"Members of the SANDF from 21 South African Infantry Battalion were tasked with forming outer perimeter security rings while SAPS members entered the premises and carried out search, seizure and arrest duties," she said.

Other such joint ventures would "definitely" follow in the near future, De Beer said.

Earlier on Thursday, National Intelligence Agency director general Manala Manzini said that in the run-up to the 1994 democratic elections, "elements" that supported the apartheid regime had delivered weapons to hostels for use in attacking communities.

"We are beginning to see those movements taking place currently. Into hostels where people are beginning to organise and resuscitate some of those people that they have had contact with in the past.

"To provoke and encourage them to unleash violence. That we are beginning to pick up."

More than 40 people have been killed and 17 000 displaced in xenophobic violence that started in Alexandra on May 12.

The ANC and its officials get involved in the xenophobia crisis

Downloaded on the 5th September 2008 at 20:05pm

ANC accuses IFP of Alex attacks

15/05/2008 07:24 - (SA)

Msimelelo Njwabane, Beeld

Johannesburg - The ANC in Alexandra was accusing the IFP and the South African National Civic Organisation (Sanco) on Wednesday of being behind the violence against immigrants in the township, north of Johannesburg.

The allegations against the IFP and Sanco were contained in a report by the ANC in Alexandra, which was handed to Johannesburg's Mayor [Amos Masondo](#) and five ANC members of the Gauteng legislature [Paul Mashatile](#), [Firoz Cachalia](#), [Barbara Creecy](#), [Ignatius Jacobs](#) and Kgagelo Lekgoro in a closed meeting on Wednesday.

According to the ANC's Alexandra branch the IFP and Sanco were determined to drive the immigrants from Alexandra.

In the report, which was seen by Beeld, the ANC said the violent campaign against immigrants began within hours of the local branch of the IFP finishing its general meeting.

Allegations denied

The campaign began from the Nobuhle hostel in the KwaMadala area - the IFP's stronghold in Alexandra.

The vice chairperson of the IFP in Alexandra Nhlanhla Msimango said that these allegations were false.

At least three people were killed, many were injured and hundreds were left homeless because of the violence raging since the weekend.

According to the ANC report, at a meeting on April 6 Sanco undertook "to drive all foreign citizens out of Alexandra".

The report also linked the violence to a meeting earlier this month of the community policing forum of residents of the Beirut informal settlement, where immigrants were blamed for the increasing violence.

Criminal elements

The report furthermore said that the IFP also had undertaken at its meeting last weekend to drive foreigners from Alexandra.

The attacks apparently began shortly after this.

"The attacks are the result of political interference and an opportunistic criminal element which is exploiting the situation," read the ANC report, which did not identify any "key players". But Mashatile later denied that he and five other highly-placed ANC members had been informed about a political motive behind the attacks. "We could not find any political motive, we know the motive is only of a criminal nature".

Vice minister of foreign affairs [Aziz Pahad](#) requested in Cape Town on Wednesday that the "possible involvement of other forces" in the xenophobic attacks be investigated.

The DA requested that the military intervene.

Pahad said the latest violence was especially worrying in the light of the country's history and seen against the background that South Africa was the host of the World Conference against Racism in 2001.

Cosatu and the SACP on Wednesday criticised their "own workers" as they were "part of the plundering" after the spate of xenophobic attacks on immigrants in Alexandra.

"When you are hungry, then you don't steal someone's TV or rape their wives", said Dr Blade Nzimande, secretary general of the SACP on Wednesday.

Japhet Khumalo, a Zimbabwean who along with hundreds of other immigrants was taking shelter at the Alexandra police station, said on Wednesday he did not want to return home because he feared for his life.

Khumalo said he was so scared that he was prepared to go back to Zimbabwe, despite the terrible economic situation and the increasing political violence in his home country.

"I can't live like this. I would rather die of hunger in Zimbabwe than die here".

[HTTP://WWW.ANC.ORG.ZA/ANCDocs/PR/2008/PR0512.HTML](http://www.anc.org.za/ancdocs/pr/2008/pr0512.html)

DOWNLOADED ON THE 6TH OF SEPTEMBER 2008 AT 19:57PM

ANC STATEMENT ON ATTACKS ON FOREIGN NATIONALS

12 May 2008

The African National Congress notes with grave concern the recent attacks on foreign nationals in Alexandra, north of Johannesburg.

We wish to reiterate our unequivocal condemnation of such xenophobic acts.

We call on all South Africans to take a firm stand against such violent acts and treat them as hate crimes. Such acts can only take society backwards and open the wounds of racism and intolerance against which so many of our people fought.

The killings in Atteridgeville earlier this year and recent attacks on Somalis and others, are an attack not only foreigners, but are an assault on the values of our democratic society.

We call on all South Africans to spare no effort in speaking out against acts of xenophobia in any form.

The ANC repeats its call to all state institutions and security agencies to apply the country's immigration laws in a consistent and even-handed manner, with due regard to the country's constitution and its international commitments.

We believe that through the recognition of the crucial role played by the international community in South Africa's liberation, all South Africans will work together to ensure that we build a better world where people of different nations and races co-exist and live in peace and harmony.

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ANC GAUTENG PROVINCE CONDEMNS XENOPHOBIA AND CRIMINALITY

16 May 2008

The ANC Gauteng Province condemns acts of criminality and destabilization which include attacks on people, homes and properties in several Gauteng townships over the past weeks. There can be no excuse for this type of behavior.

Criminals are criminals whether they are South African or non South Africans. There is no excuse for random racist attacks on non South Africans. People should leave issues of illegal immigration to the government to sort out in a legal and humane manner.

Xenophobia is no different from the racism of apartheid. In the same manner that we fought against racism, sexism and all forms of discrimination, we must fight against the hatred of foreign nationals.

Over the past fourteen years we have delivered water and sanitation; built millions of houses; opened access to quality education and healthcare; and created work opportunities for many. We continue to intensify our efforts to build a caring society that provides services and opportunities for those who still do not have them.

The journey we have travelled thus far gives us hope. Where there are problems with the quality and administration of government service delivery, we ask our communities to raise their concerns without resorting to violence and criminality. We need peace and stability in our communities. Without peace and stability, development and delivery cannot continue.

The African National Congress Gauteng Province therefore calls on our people to help us fight criminality and destabilization by working with the police and community policing forums to restore law and order, report criminals who cause instability, protect women and children from assault and rape and prevent armed gangs from looting shops and homes.

We congratulate those of our people who are already working hard to stop xenophobia and criminality and we urge others to join them. This weekend ANC national, provincial and regional leadership will be addressing public meetings across the province in an

effort to frustrate criminal elements who are using discrimination, hatred and fear to destabilise our communities.

For more information contact Nkenke Kekana,
ANC Head of Provincial Communications on 082 900 0096

<http://www.anc.org.za/ancdocs/pr/2008/pr0520.html>

DOWNLOADED ON THE 7TH OF SEPTEMBER 2008 AT 18:30PM

ANC PRESS STATEMENT

20 May 2008

ANC President, Mr Jacob Zuma, is currently in London, where he is attending a Graduation Ceremony of his daughter, Msholozzi Zuma.

Prior to his departure, Mr Zuma addressed a meeting in Mamelodi, Pretoria, where he sent a clear message on the issue of xenophobia:

"There is no room for xenophobia in South Africa. The violence perpetrated against foreign nationals is nothing but thuggery and criminality. The police must deal with this matter speedily to identify and arrest the perpetrators."

The ANC President will return on Friday 23 May 2008, where he will attend the National Executive Committee meeting that ends on Sunday 25 May 2008. Mr Zuma is expected to have a short meeting with French President Sarkozy on Thursday 22 May 2008.

ANC General Secretary Mr Gwede Mantashe visited Tembisa this morning to acquaint himself with the conditions faced by the foreign nationals, following attacks by armed gangs. Leadership from the ANC Gauteng Province and members of the National Executive Committee have been deployed to Reiger Park on the East Rand.

http://www.news24.com/News24/South_Africa/Politics/0,,2-7-12_2324586,00.html

Downloaded on the 5th September 2008 at 19:35pm

Attackers using my song - Zuma

18/05/2008 20:18 - (SA)

Pretoria - African National Congress president [Jacob Zuma](#) condemned xenophobic attacks on foreigners.

He is annoyed, too, that the attackers are using his "theme song", *Bring me my machine gun*.

He said on Sunday: "We cannot allow South Africa to be famous for xenophobia.

"We cannot be a xenophobic country," he said, addressing a packed hall at the University of Pretoria's Vista campus in Mamelodi.

The address followed Zuma's meeting with local stakeholders - including the Somali Association of SA (Sasa) - to address issues facing the community, including xenophobia.

He said community leaders had told him that residents had identified those behind the xenophobic attacks, but that when the information was taken to the police, they did not act on it.

"They've identified the people that started the problem and they've given information to the police and the police have not acted," he said.

"We cannot have police who are not active to deal with the issue because in no time this matter is going to take a different direction".

Machine gun song

He said he could not understand how people could attack foreigners when ANC members had sought refuge in neighbouring countries.

"We should be the last people to have this problem of having a negative attitude towards our brothers and sisters who come from outside."

He said he had heard that people attacked others while singing the song *Umshini wam*.

"That is a serious matter, for that song belongs to the ANC, it doesn't belong to unknown people.

"The question is, who are those people who are misleading the public by singing an ANC song when they're doing the wrong thing?" he asked.

"People are abusing (an) ANC song for wrong things that they're doing and they must be condemned."

While calling for the establishment of street committees, Zuma said criminals took advantage of xenophobic attacks on foreigners "for criminal activity".

"There are also reports that some political organisations are also perpetuating this, I don't know how true those reports are."

Chastises police

On the issue of crime, Zuma called for the establishment of street committees, while calling for the eradication of drug abuse.

He said there needed to be better interaction between communities and the police. He said the notion that communities took the law into their own hands was likely because the police did not take any action.

"If the community takes its action against the criminal, the police come very heavy on the community. When the criminal takes the law into their own hands, they (police) don't come heavy on the criminals."

He said there needed to be a debate as to whether laws set in place to fight crime were strong enough.

"Our laws look like they are user-friendly for criminals," he said, to loud applause from the crowd.

He called on the party to be more active within its respective communities.

Reflecting on the meeting, Sasa director Ahmed Dawlo said the meeting with Zuma was assuring.

Attacks 'traumatising'

"It was assuring our faith in the South African government. It used to be a form of denial... the scourge of xenophobia in South Africa. But hearing from Zuma it seems like the government has realised the challenge," said Dawlo.

Touching on recent spates of xenophobia in the country, Dawlo described the events, especially in Alexandra, as "traumatising".

Zuma's visit followed a series of violent attacks on foreign nationals throughout Gauteng.

<http://www.anc.org.za/ancdocs/pr/2008/pr0520a.html>

DOWNLOADED ON THE 8TH OF SEPTEMBER 2008 AT 18:00PM

STATEMENT OF ANC PRESIDENT JACOB ZUMA ON CRIMINAL VIOLENCE

20 May 2008

The criminal attacks against both foreign nationals and South African citizens over the last few days must be condemned by all our people.

We call on all affected communities to reject the criminal actions of those individuals who have no respect for the lives or dignity of their neighbours.

We call on all political formations, civic organisations, community based organisations, religious leaders, youth and women leaders, and all institutions of the state to unite in a concerted effort to halt these senseless attacks.

We call on law enforcement agencies to deploy all necessary resources to affected areas to prevent further violence, and to apprehend those responsible.

These attacks are being fuelled by criminals, who are making use of the vulnerability of foreign nationals, to loot and steal.

South Africans will not stand for this.

We call on all those who may have real concerns and grievances to raise these through the correct channels, in a peaceful and responsible manner.

As the African National Congress we have deployed our leaders and structures to work with other parties and stakeholders to address this grave problem.

Now is the time for South Africans to unite to overcome the scourge of violence and sheer criminality.

Jacob Zuma
ANC President

**The South African government and its officials get involved in
the xenophobia crisis**

<http://www.sowetan.co.za/News/Article.aspx?id=791615>

Downloaded on the 5th September 2008 at 19:30pm

South Africa announces xenophobia service - to say sorry

26 June 2008 The government has announced plans for a remembrance service for the victims of xenophobic attacks - to be held in Tshwane on July 3.

"Leaders of government, the diplomatic corps, families of victims and civil society will gather to show remorse and declare that such acts of violence are never repeated," presidency spokesman Thabang Chiloane said.

The service will be held at the City Hall.

The attacks started on May 12 in Johannesburg's Alexandra township and spread around the country, leaving at least 62 dead and 17,000 displaced, according to police.

About 1,400 people have been arrested.

Sapa

http://www.news24.com/News24/South_Africa/Xenophobia/0,,2-7-2382_2330913,00.html

Downloaded on the 5th September 2008 at 19:23pm

'Govt to blame for attacks'

29/05/2008 15:48 - (SA)

Johannesburg - The government must accept blame for the crisis of violent xenophobic attacks experienced in the country recently, the Congress of SA Trade Unions said on Wednesday.

"Had the government decisively intervened some ten years ago when it became clear that the Zimbabwe situation was deteriorating, the Zimbabweans would not find it necessary to leave their country.

"Cosatu and others warned a long time ago that the political and economic meltdown in Zimbabwe...(would) eventually force everyone to leave the country and be economic refugees (to) everyone in South Africa," Cosatu general secretary [Zwelinzima Vavi](#) told a press briefing following a Cosatu central executive committee meeting.

"Our government did the usual denialism and refused to act."

However, the main reason for the unrest was the "appalling levels of unemployment in the country" and this was blamed on government economic policies.

"It is a failure of our country to restructure the economy and have an industrial strategy as well as genuine and agrarian reform that has brought us to this point. That is the issue."

Cosatu also discussed Eskom's proposed tariff hike and rising food prices at its meeting.

Vavi said the union federation remains adamantly opposed to Eskom's 53% tariff hike.

The union federation said it would resort to industrial action should the proposed hike be approved.

"Our section 77 process however remains in place and we have yet to see any movement from Eskom and government to persuade us to abandon our campaign to defend jobs and prevent the poor consumers to pay the price for the mistakes and mismanagement by government and Eskom," Vavi said.

http://www.news24.com/News24/South_Africa/News/0,,2-7-1442_2325873,00.html

Downloaded on the 5th of September 2008 at 21:00pm

Geneva body slams SA attacks

22/05/2008 08:57 - (SA)

Geneva - A wave of violence against foreigners in South Africa has forced 13 000 people to flee their homes and seek shelter in churches and other social centres, the International Organisation for Migration (IOM) said on Tuesday.

IOM spokesperson Jean-Philippe Chauzy said: "Thirteen thousand people had to flee their homes to seek refuge in churches and parish centres, and most didn't take anything with them.

"Humanitarian organisations including the South African Red Cross will distribute emergency kits containing clothing and hygiene products on Wednesday," he said.

President Thabo Mbeki made an impassioned appeal to respect the dignity of foreigners as calls grew on Tuesday for troops to be sent in to stamp out xenophobic violence.

Broadcasting on Metro FM

The flare-up in the Johannesburg region, believed to have claimed the lives of 23 people, has stretched police resources.

The IOM said it would broadcast messages against anti-foreigner violence on the regional southern African radio station Metro FM.

The organisation estimates that between two and five million immigrants live in South Africa, mostly from other southern African countries and mostly working in the underground economy.

Many South Africans have blamed immigrants for high levels of crime and unemployment.

An estimated three million Zimbabweans are believed to have crossed into South Africa to escape the economic meltdown in their homeland.

http://www.news24.com/News24/South_Africa/News/0,,2-7-1442_2322948,00.html

Downloaded on the 5th September 2008 at 20:30pm

Minister calls for calm in Alex

15/05/2008 15:29 - (SA) Johannesburg - Home Affairs Minister [Nosiviwe Mapisa-Nqakula](#) visited Alexandra north of Johannesburg on Thursday to appeal for calm following xenophobic clashes there this week.

Mapisa-Nqakula immediately went into a meeting with local leaders and police management, accompanied by her deputy [Malusi Gigaba](#) and Deputy Safety and Security Minister [Susan Shabangu](#).

Alexandra residents attacked some foreign nationals, forcing them out of their houses while accusing them of crime and taking their jobs.

Their belongings were also stolen.

Sergio Bila, 22, from Mozambique said his computer and furniture were stolen on Tuesday night when he was attacked. He was hit with an iron rod on his head and on his right arm.

"If they do not want us here they should not allow us to gain entry at the border gates - they should close the gates and we will not come here," he said.

Bila said he had no intention of returning to Mozambique but would head to Rustenburg to look for employment on the mines.

Alexandra was calm on Thursday, although many streets were still strewn with debris after the clashes.

At the police station tents have been erected to provide shelter for displaced foreigners.

Some were playing card games, others doing laundry or queuing up for breakfast.

They were reluctant to speak to locals, saying they did not trust them.

http://www.news24.com/News24/South_Africa/News/0,,2-7-1442_2321543,00.html

Downloaded on the 5th September 2008 at 21:43pm

Mandela warns SA

13/05/2008 14:42 - (SA)

Pretoria - Former president [Nelson Mandela](#) on Tuesday warned against "destructive divisiveness" in the country.

"Remember the horror from which we come from. Never forget the greatness of a nation that has overcome its division. Let us never descend into destructive divisiveness."

Mandela was speaking shortly after receiving the Freedom of the City from Tshwane mayor [Gwen Ramokgopa](#) at a private ceremony at the Nelson Mandela Foundation in Johannesburg.

Referring to himself as "an old man," Mandela said he had stopped receiving awards but that this award was an exception that he accepted "warmly and with humility.

"We accept this honour from the administrative capital of our nation."

The event was broadcast live to Pretoria's Church Square and the City Hall.

Both venues were a hive of activity with musicians entertaining the crowd.

A group of striking SA Municipal Workers Union (SAMWU) members earlier disrupted proceedings.