



Southern African Media and
Gender Institute

5 June 2008

SAMGI STATEMENT ON THE XENOPHOBIC ATTACKS ON FOREIGN NATIONALS LIVING IN SOUTH AFRICA

The Southern African Media and Gender Institute* (SAMGI) joins the government of South Africa, civil society organisations and other law abiding South African citizens in condemning the recent spate of xenophobic and hate violence that rocked some sections of South Africa. We would also like to explain that not all South Africans are xenophobic- the actions of a few intolerant and criminal elements in our midst should not give impetus to broad generalisations like "All South Africans are xenophobic." On the contrary, we are a rainbow nation that tries to embrace people of diverse origins. The perpetrators were largely marginalised South Africans, who attacked refugee Africans living in township areas. SAMGI sympathises with the many refugees who were killed, injured and displaced during this time of turmoil. Many of these refugees fled to South Africa to escape from various instabilities in their own countries; ranging from hunger to war. Now they are forced again to flee for their lives from the places they considered 'home.' In this light, a situation like this demands that various stakeholders like government and civil society work jointly to rectify the current crisis as well as to ensure that such shameful intolerance should not be repeated in this rainbow nation.

Thus the Southern African Media & Gender Institute, has established a petition on <http://www.PetitionOnline.com/SAMGI104/> which we are asking you to please sign as a show of solidarity with concerned citizens and people that say "NO TO XENOPHOBIA, NO TO HATE CRIMES!"

AMANDLA!!

For further information regarding SAMGI and the petition please contact:

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*As a human rights based organisation, SAMGI has been working to fight xenophobia since its inception.