

Date: 23 June 2026

The Presidency of the Republic of South Africa

Union Buildings
Government Avenue
Private Bag X1000, PRETORIA, 0001

The Justice, Crime Prevention and Security Cluster (JCPS)

C/O The Ministry of Justice and Constitutional Development

Attention:

His Excellency President Matamela Cyril Ramaphosa
Minister Mmamoloko Kubayi: Chairperson, JCPS Cluster and Minister of Justice and Constitutional Development
Minister Firoz Cachalia: Acting Minister of Police
Acting National Commissioner of the South African Police Service: Lieutenant-General Puleng Dimphe
Minister of Home Affairs: Leon Schreiber

Dear President Ramaphosa, Ministers, and National Commissioner,

RE: URGENT REQUEST FOR A MEETING REGARDING THE ESCALATING CRISIS OF POGROMS, FORCED REMOVALS, AND THE DISPLACEMENT OF MIGRANTS

We write to you on behalf of the Siyafana Sonke Action Campaign, a broad coalition representing 160 civil society organisations across South Africa, including trade unions, civic structures, and social justice activists.

We are all deeply disturbed by the rapidly escalating crisis unfolding in our communities, and we urgently request a meeting with the national government, specifically the Presidency and the Justice, Crime Prevention and Security Cluster (JCPS), which includes the Department of Home Affairs and the South African Police Service (SAPS).

The Purpose of Our Request

We are putting forward a set of targeted demands to the state regarding the 30th of June 2026. Our demands are aimed at securing a far firmer intervention than the state has initiated thus far. We demand this intervention to prevent any further loss of innocent life. The ongoing pogroms being carried out against migrant communities, including the forced removals from their homes and forced repatriation, must end today. Each day of delay evidently results in further escalation of this crisis, and we can no longer afford inaction or silence.

Our Demands

1. Immediate cessation of violence and displacement, and the provision of humanitarian aid: The ongoing pogroms, forced removals of migrants from their homes, and forced repatriation must cease immediately. We urgently need shelters, security and basic necessities for those who are being displaced.
2. Immediate arrest of vigilante ringleaders: The leaders of the 'March and March' movement and Operation Dudula, including, but not limited to: Zandile Dubula, Jacinta Ngobese-Zuma, Nkosikhona Ndabandaba (Phakelumthakathi), and Ngizwe Mchunu must be arrested immediately by SAPS. Not only have they stoked hatred by inciting xenophobic and tribalistic violence, but they have also committed crimes of assault, intimidation, prevention of medical care, unlawful searches, and unlawfully demanding documents of suspected migrants, in full view of the public eye. This can no longer continue unabated. They must be arrested, tried and held accountable for their violent actions. Their targeted attack on migrants serves as an 'example' to their large followings who have taken it upon themselves to form vigilante groups that, in some instances, have hacked, beaten and stoned people to death.
3. Immediate cancellation of the March and its self-declared deadline of June 30th: This criminally induced frolic must be stopped, and seen and responded to for what it is. Where extortion, incendiary violence, life-threatening intimidation, and deaths, inciting gross violations of the Constitution, and of International Human Rights and International Humanitarian Law. This deliberate act of treasonous destabilisation under the false guise of community activism must be halted with immediate effect.
4. Police accountability: the SAPS must be held accountable wherever they have failed to arrest the ringleaders of vigilante groups, or have aided and abetted them. We demand a full investigation into the conduct of SAPS members during these incidents and appropriate disciplinary or legal action where wrongdoing is found. Of particular concern is the ample video footage recording the presence of SAPS members at the scene of blatant intimidation and assaults directed at suspected migrants. This tacit endorsement of outright criminality, by representatives of an already deeply compromised police service, is deeply concerning to us.
5. Immediate humanitarian assistance: Thousands of migrants and refugees remain displaced across the country awaiting forced repatriation. These include women, children, pregnant women, the elderly and those with chronic illnesses. These communities of nationals from predominantly African countries are displaced in unlivable conditions. They have been reduced to living in tent camps, cramped buildings, and open-air fields. They are exposed to disease, hunger, dehydration and, to add insult to injury, frequent threats, taunting, assault, harassment and physical harm from local vigilante groups. We demand immediate shelter, medical care, trauma counselling, adequate food and clean water, and sanitation. The failure on every level of government, be it local, provincial, national or international, is an indictment of our failing system and must be addressed immediately. Human lives are at risk, and the dignity of these individuals has been severely stripped away.

6. Government must take responsibility for the root causes: As a secondary but crucial demand, we insist that the South African government must take its share of responsibility for implementing the neo-liberal economic policies that have essentially constituted an attack on the country's working class, including but not limited to the PIE Amendment Bill and the Labour Amendment Bill. We insist that the state takes responsibility for the implementation of policies which have exacerbated the unemployment, housing and service delivery crises. These systemic failures have created the conditions for xenophobic violence to flourish.
7. Immediate scrapping of the seriously flawed Revised White Paper on Citizenship, Immigration and Refugee Protection: This paper, approved by Cabinet on 26 March 2026, includes extremely concerning unconstitutional elements which contradict the United Nations Convention for Refugees, and erode fundamental rights of refugees. This includes the First Safe Country Principle that risks indirect refoulement and denial of individualised status determination, as well as Points-Based System for Refugees that violates the 1969 OAU Refugee Convention, which defines a refugee by persecution, not economic value.
8. Disqualification of vigilante leaders: We note that the criminal leaders of vigilante groups should be disqualified from running in elections. Those who orchestrate violence and fuel hatred must never be permitted to hold public office, or portray themselves as leaders of society. We note that political parties who openly spur on this destabilisation, including opportunistic alignment, encouragement, with direct, indirect or tacit support, are in violation of the IEC terms of reference and will face disqualification from participation in elections.

Meeting Logistics

We request that this meeting be conducted in a format that is accessible and transparent – whether online, in-person, or hybrid. We propose to form a delegation to meet with you, which will include refugee leaders who are directly affected by the crisis.

Ongoing Work

Our work engaging communities, faith-based organisations and trade unions will continue unabated. We will also continue our work of addressing the urgent needs of displaced, traumatised and injured migrants and refugees, as it is clear that the state has abdicated its statutory and constitutional duty to protect all those who reside within South Africa. We remain committed to building a South Africa that is safe and just for all who live within its borders.

We look forward to your urgent response. Please direct all correspondence regarding this request to the contact persons below.

Yours sincerely,

The Siyafana Sonke Action Campaign – [Supported by 160 organisations](#)

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