

Youth calls for Xenophobic attacks to stop.

The Young Communist League of South Africa (YCLSA) are expected to form a Popular Youth Front against the recent spate of xenophobic attacks in KwaZulu Natal.

The YCLSA plans to mobilise the youth to lead a series of activities, including night vigils and prayer sessions against the recent spate of xenophobic attacks in KwaZulu Natal.

The events will run under the theme: A united, tolerant youth led Africa is the hope of a brighter future for our continent.

The activities will start on Wednesday and run through till Friday at various venues in KwaZulu-Natal. The night Vigils and prayer sessions are expected to be held on Wednesday and Thursday at uMlazi and KwaMashu.

It is expected that the activities will close with a visit to the Safe Retention Campson Friday.

Meanwhile religious and political leaders will also march to Durban City hall to stop the xenophobic attacks Kwa Zulu Natal premier Senzo Mchunu will lead the march.

http://www.thenewage.co.za/156602-1008-53-Youth_calls_for_Xenophobic_attacks_to_stop

Ledig protests continue as North West MEC set to address residents

April 15 2015 2:53PM

Residents of Ledig near Sun City chanted as they filed into the Bakubung ba Ratheo tribal offices where North West Local Government MEC Collen Maine was expected speak to them on Wednesday.

The residents have waged a week-long protest over alleged missing tribal funds. "Phanzi Phologoane, Phanzi [down Phologoane, down]", they chanted in front of the tribal office. They have demanded that Maine should bring Ditsele 'DJ' Phologoane, chairman of the Bakubung Economic Development Unit, along with him.

They also demanded that all people who had been arrested in recent days during the violent protests be released before Maine could speak to them. They alleged that money, amounting to R527 million which constitute shares the community got from a mining company, had been mismanaged.

A shop was burnt down on Tuesday night at the Ledig small industry. Other shops were torched at the weekend while four foreign-owned shops were looted during the protests.

http://www.thenewage.co.za/156618-1008-53-Ledig_protests_continue_as_North_West_MEC_set_to_address_residents

Clashes reported in Joburg CBD as foreigners close shops

The New Age Apr 15 2015 3:04PM

A group of people clashed with foreign nationals and threw bricks at each other in the Johannesburg on Wednesday.

One Somali national was beaten up in the skirmishes that lasted several minutes. "Come here...we will show you how to get beaten up.." one of the locals shouted at foreign nationals in SeSotho. A bakkie parked along the street was damaged.

The Somalian eventually managed to flee as Metro police arrived on the scene. Stores along several busy Johannesburg streets including Jeppe, Bree and Sauer were closed. Bangladeshi shop owner, Sheikh Syed said he received calls from fellow shop owners that people were planning to loot their stores.

"We decided to close and watch what might unfold. Nothing has happened so far, we're being careful because people were killed in Soweto, and now it's happening in Durban," he said as he stood outside his grocery store on Bree Street earlier on Wednesday.

He said he arrived in South Africa five years ago to seek a better life. There were not enough jobs for everyone in Bangladesh, he said. "We came in peace. I am sure South Africans would be treated well in my country. We are here to make a living, and not to take away people's jobs."

Syed said most foreigners stayed in South Africa for years and didn't travel home because they did not have permits to live in the country, and as a result fear being arrested by authorities upon trying to re-enter.

"Government needs to tighten the laws. If there's complaints that we don't pay tax, then fix the system and make it easy for us to trade and provide jobs," Syed said.

Metro police officers were visible as they patrolled the streets just before lunchtime on Wednesday. Security guard Siphiwe Mhlanga of Red Alert security company was stationed along Sauer Street and said shopkeepers had closed shops at around 10am.

"I don't know about other parts of the city, but there were no attempts to loot shops around here. There's police patrolling in cars as you can see."

Xenophobic attacks broke out in Durban, KwaZulu-Natal, over a week ago. At least 74 people have been arrested after police launched a clampdown on attacks on foreign nationals and their businesses.

http://www.thenewage.co.za/156620-1008-53-Clashes_reported_in_Joburg_CBD_as_foreigners_close_shops

Violence strikes Durban CBD again

ANA 15.4.2015 01.56 pm

Violence flared again in Durban city centre around lunchtime on Wednesday after a foreign national allegedly stabbed two men who had been sitting in a car.

Bystanders witnessed a Somali national approach the men while they were sitting inside a car on the corner of Ingcuze and Dr Goonam streets in Durban. He allegedly smashed the car windows and stabbed the men repeatedly before fleeing the scene into a nearby block of flats. However, police officers cornered him inside and managed to arrest him.

Police were then forced to fire warning shots to disperse a crowd that had gathered, sending people scattering in all directions.

Meanwhile, police in KwaZulu-Natal said five people had been confirmed dead and 74 arrested during the unrest which has hit areas of Durban over the past week.

“The violence has claimed five lives from the end of March to date, with one of the victims being a 14-year-old youth,” police spokesperson Jay Naicker said. “Seventy four arrests have been effected thus far for offences including murder, public violence, business robbery, theft and possession of firearms and ammunition.”

KwaZulu-Natal Provincial Police Commissioner, Lieutenant General Mmamonye Ngobeni condemned the attacks directed towards foreigners that had spread in Durban south and other areas around Durban over the past week.

“As a result of these attacks, I have added more manpower to the affected areas to maintain the situation while negotiations are taking place to resolve the situation,” Ngobeni said. “While the police are doing everything to restore peace and stability, I appeal to the community to refrain from attacking each other. We once again discourage people from taking the law into their own hands and caution that those found to be breaking the law will be prosecuted. They must stop committing criminal activities and report those suspects wanted by the police for crimes that were already reported in the area.”

Ngobeni thanked members of the public who had assisted police to effect arrests and restore order in volatile situations. She also instructed detectives investigating the current violence-related cases, to work closely with the prosecuting authorities to ensure that the cases were “thoroughly investigated and the perpetrators of violence brought to book as this will deter others from engaging in such criminal conduct in the future”.

“The SAPS makes an earnest appeal to those who are posting false information in the social media, to please desist from doing so,” police said in a statement. “Spreading false information on the number of deaths and attacks, the different areas that are being attacked and hate speech aimed at foreign nationals not only causes undue panic in communities but also have the potential to fuel the violence. The responsible use of social media can contribute greatly in our fight against

crime by making people aware of the consequences of engaging in criminal activity, ways to safeguard themselves and their property against criminals and to help police identify and find suspects.”

<http://citizen.co.za/363308/violence-strikes-durban-cbd-again/>

Zimbabwe: Call for a Boycott of SA Artists Over Xenophobia

Xenophobic attacks in Durban have escalated over the past week.

ZIMBABWEANS, angered by Xenophobic attacks in South Africa aimed mostly at foreigners of African origin in that country, are pushing for a boycott of arts events featuring South African artists.

According to media reports thousands of foreigners have fled their homes seeking sanctuary at police stations fearing attacks from angry South Africans.

Several people have been killed, with over 2000 displaced while shops owned by foreigners have been looted.

The spate of attacks especially in Durban follow reports that Zulu King Goodwill Zwelithini ordered foreigners to "pack their bags and go home."

Several high profile South African will be performing in Zimbabwe in the coming weeks.

In Bulawayo, House Music outfit, Big Nuz, who hail from Durban will be performing at the Bulawayo Amphitheatre on April 17.

The following week, chart topping Cassper Nyovest is billed to perform at Hartsfield Rugby Ground.

In Harare, Pop outfit Beatenberg will be performing at the Harare International Festival of the Arts (HIFA), which kicks off on April 28 and runs until May 2.

Other South Africans billed to perform at the high profile festival are The Kwazulu-Natal Philharmonic String Quartet.

Zimbabweans, who have been expressing their disgust at the xenophobic attacks, took it a notch higher, calling for locals to boycott any show featuring South African artists.

"Why should you support Durban artists (Big Nuz) in Bulawayo when abantwabenu (your children) are burnt like this? Worse off on our Independence," read one message which is being circulated on Whatsapp messaging platform.

Another message which has gone viral on social media platform reads: "With all these killings in Durban we Zimbabweans will be fools to attend any show from a South African artist whilst their kinsmen are burning our brothers. Whats your take on this chaps?"

Celebrated Harare-based filmmaker, Obrian Mudyiwenyama, also posted a similar message on his Facebook page.

"South Africans are busy killing our brothers and sister, burning them alive and we are busy promoting their artists here. . . . im disgusted (sic)," he wrote.

Twitter user, @Mvelase707 also came out in support of the planned boycotts.

"Noble Idea. why give them our money when they kill our relatives (sic)," he tweeted.

<http://allafrica.com/stories/201504150234.html>

Xenophobic violence continues unabated in Durban

<http://mg.co.za/multimedia/2015-04-15-xenophobic-violence-continues-unabated-in-durban>

National :Incendiary SMS targets foreign nationals in Jo'burg

15 Apr 2015 13:19| [MPHO RABORIFE](#)

An Ethiopian street vendor in central Johannesburg told News24 on Wednesday he received SMSes and WhatsApp messages warning that he and his countrymen faced attack.

“It seems that there are attacks planned for Johannesburg on Wednesday: CBD, Hillbrow, Berea and Yeoville. [On] Wednesday, Zulu people are coming to town starting from Market [street] their mission is to kill every foreigner on the road please pass this to all your contacts in case they come people should be on alert [sic],” it reads.

He said shop owners had opened their businesses in the morning, but after seeing people running up and down the streets they began closing again.

Seeing police and metro police cars driving around did not make him feel any safer, he said, packing away his T-shirts.

‘Govt must do something’

“Everybody is worried,” he said. He did not want to give his name.

A Nigerian street vendor pleaded for the government to do something.

“The president isn’t saying anything. This xenophobia thing is coming back again because the government did not do what it was supposed to do in 2008. There is no security here. If anything were to happen, what will they do?”

Ntombifuthi (27) from the Eastern Cape, who lives in the CBD, said if government did not want foreigners in the country it should tell them, instead of watching them being killed.

“I’m pleading with the government. If our government doesn’t want foreigners then stop giving them visas. How do they expect foreigners to be treated in other countries if we behave like this?” she asked.

“Young South Africans, we have to be open-minded, we have to be accommodating to everyone.”

‘Let South Africans in Nigeria come back’

A Nigerian man said: “A lot of people from South Africa are working in Nigeria. Let them come back here as well.”

Samuel Andreas, an Ethiopian who had been in South Africa for five years, said he could not go back to his home country.

“If the South African government doesn’t want us to stay here, please can they help us find refuge in other countries because back in Ethiopia there is war. So we can’t go back there. We are helping the economy here.”

A more alarming message was circulating in the Durban area following attacks in which five people were killed.

It warns people to stay away from the city centre, Tongaat, Verulam, Umlazi, Isipingo, and Kennedy Road. It made claims of a “massive riot going on”, “three people dead” and shops being set on fire with people still inside. – [News24.com](#)

<http://mg.co.za/article/2015-04-15-zulus-plan-to-kill-every-foreigner-in-joburg>

Pietermaritzburg CBD at a standstill as looting spreads

2015-04-15 13:45

The Witness and Jeff Wicks, News24

Pietermaritzburg - The Pietermaritzburg CBD came to a standstill on Wednesday after looters ransacked foreign-owned shops, forcing owners to close doors in fear of further xenophobic attacks, [The Witness](#) reported.

People in the city centre along Church, East and Retief streets were left in a state of panic as police vans swarmed the streets, monitoring the escalating situation.

Streets became gridlocked and some were cordoned off.

Owners witnessed looting and said businesses which remained open were doing so at their own risk.

In Howick, a small group was going around trying to loot shops, many of which closed their doors, The Witness said.

"We are seeing sporadic instances of looting and intimidation of foreign nationals. It is not on the grand scale like we have in KwaMashu, but there have been flare-ups all over the province," spokesperson Colonel Jay Naicker told News24's Jeff Wicks.

<http://www.news24.com/SouthAfrica/News/Pietermaritzburg-CBD-at-a-standstill-as-looting-spreads-20150415>

Who is stirring the hatred?

April 15 2015 at 01:37pm

By MPHATHI NXUMALO AND LEE RONDGANGER [Comment on this story](#)

Durban - Lawlessness and criminals jumping on the bandwagon are being blamed for the looting and attacks on foreigners sweeping Durban.

State Security spokesman, Brian Dube said on Wednesday that a high-level task team was being set up.

"It is some form of afrophobia that is playing itself out with elements of criminality."

On Wednesday crowds were again developing on Dr Pixley ka Seme (West) Street and there was a report of injuries from a flare up in Phoenix.

On Tuesday mobs rampaged through the city centre attacking foreign-owned shops with rumours flying that they would soon move to the Point area and Overport.

Dube said: "We must remember that this whole thing started as a labour dispute in Isipingo, which spread to other parts of Durban. It is now essential that this task force does its work so we can get behind what is the cause of this violence and how we can prevent it," he said.

KwaZulu-Natal violence monitor Mary de Haas said the violence was being perpetrated by organised criminals hiding behind a strong xenophobic sentiment.

"When the violence broke out in KwaMashu last week I got reports from people in the community that there were people driving fancy cars that were targeting specific Somali-owned shops. That in itself is evidence that this is not purely xenophobic violence, but is linked to something.

“Who is behind this? I do not know, but our intelligence service should have been able to pick this up. It is not surprising that they did not (pick it up) because they are caught up in political battles, which is sad as foreigners in this country are victims of a social breakdown.

“At this rate we are on the road to anarchy,” she said.

Nigel Gumede, a member of the eThekweni Municipality’s executive committee, said in a housing committee meeting on Tuesday that in some instances people were targeting foreign shopkeepers because they owed them money.

“They borrow money from the shop owners and, because they don’t want to pay back the R5 000 they have borrowed, they will go and chase them away. As independently minded people we should not be attacking other human beings. It is not right,” he said.

Several incidents unfolded in the city on Tuesday with police using stun grenades, tear gas and rubber bullets to control both the agitators and foreigners who were prepared to stand their ground.

On Tuesday the initial drama took place about 2km away from where Malusi Gigaba, the Minister of Home Affairs, KZN Premier Senzo Mchunu and deputy mayor, Nomvuzo Shabalala, were at a media briefing talking about the violence, how it should be stopped and how Home Affairs would respond.

At about 12.30pm word spread that people were on their way to attack foreigners and their shops.

Parts of Dr Pixley ka Seme (West) Street were closed off by the SAPS and metro police.

On one side of the street, local residents were swearing at Ethiopians and Somalis who owned shops across the road.

Police told the Somalis and Ethiopians, who were becoming agitated, to return to their shops and dispersed the crowd.

Load shedding was under way at the same time and staff who would normally be serving customers, were on the streets, swelling numbers.

A street vendor was overheard on her cellphone saying “these people should be burnt”.

Rumours that trouble was on the way had reached further down the road to Mahatma Gandhi (Point) Road, where a crowd of about 500 foreign nationals had gathered outside the China Mall.

Debris was scattered across the road, concrete bins had been smashed and tyres were burning. As the police fired tear gas into the crowd, foreigners and South Africans who were watching, fled.

Some foreigners said they were worried, but would not fight back.

“How can we fight? We are in the minority. How can a foreigner fight a citizen?” said a man called Roger from Liberia.

Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) national, Kalmes Boyenga, said he was shocked.

“I heard that these Zulu guys are breaking the shops and that they are coming to Point (Mahatma Gandhi) Road. We came out to see when they are coming,” he said.

As the crowd dispersed, police had to rush to Park Street to calm down a group of about 200 foreigners who had gathered in anticipation of an attack.

Alice Kabwe, 39, from the DRC, said she had been told that foreigners were no longer welcome. “Our boys are prepared as some are soldiers,” Kabwe said.

And as she said this, a man from DRC stepped up and displayed a bush knife that he had concealed on his waist. Kabwe, who said she had been in the country for 22 years said: "This is worse than 2008."

The mother of six said her children did not go to school on Tuesday.

"We came here as refugees and it is sad to see this happening from fellow Africans."

Some South Africans in Park Street, like Trevor Bhengu from uMlazi, expressed shock. "Foreigners were calling us, daring us, as they were armed with bush knives. We are no longer comfortable. These people must go," he said.

In Pietermaritzburg on Tuesday, youth stormed the shop of a foreigner in the France township, looting and vandalising a superette.

The shop, owned by a Pakistani, was all but destroyed by a gang of 50 high school pupils from the area at about 2pm.

The shopkeeper, who fled, was later found with an unlicensed firearm.

Meanwhile, two men have been arrested for the murder of a teenager who was shot dead at Lindelani, outside Durban, while looting a shop, KwaZulu-Natal police confirmed on Wednesday.

Provincial police spokesperson, Colonel Jay Naicker, said two South African men, aged 25 and 32, had been charged following the killing of 14-year-old Thabo Mzobe who was shot three times on Tuesday night in the KwaNdlanzi area of Lindelani.

The suspects are expected to appear in the Ntuzuma Magistrate's Court on Wednesday.

<http://www.iol.co.za/news/crime-courts/who-is-stirring-the-hatred-1.1845575>

'Cops ready to move if attacks spread'

April 15 2015 at 01:01pm

By CHANTALL PRESENCE

Parliament - Police were ready and on standby to deal with xenophobic attacks should they move to other provinces, National Police Commissioner Riah Phiyega said on Wednesday.

Speaking to reporters on the sidelines of a meeting of the portfolio committee on police in Parliament, Phiyega said that so far there have been no reports of the level of violence experienced in KwaZulu-Natal spilling over into other provinces.

"You cannot stop the spread of those [attacks]. They may happen but we will also respond," Phiyega said.

"At this point in time the pressure and the incidents are largely in KZN."

Phiyega said just over 800 officers have been deployed to KZN to deal with clashes between locals and foreigners. They include reinforcements from other provinces.

"We would mobilise other public order policing resources from other environments to give support, depending on the level of threat..." she said.

Phiyega believed police were winning in their attempts to stabilise areas worst affected by the violence.

“We’ve moved from Isipingo to Chatsworth to all othe areas, to the city, and this thing is migrating. But in all instances, we manage when it occurs to restore stability and to secure the lives of those that are seeking our protection,” she said.

Responding to threats by some foreign nationals that they would arm themselves and engage in guerrilla warfare to defend themselves against attackers, Phiyega said this would not be tolerated.

“We take serious issues that are being mentioned around... the people who are saying they are ready to take up arms and fight. It is our duty as police to ensure that does not happen and this is what we’ve done in Durban. We’ll do it elsewhere,” she said.

“That is regarded as criminality so as police where we find such circumstances we will again do what is expected of us to remove those weapons.”

<http://www.iol.co.za/news/crime-courts/cops-ready-to-move-if-attacks-spread-1.1845511>

Five people were seriously injured when xenophobic attacks spread to Verulam, north of Durban, on Tuesday night.

KwaZulu-Natal Emergency Medical Services said it transported five people to hospital.

“The cases were trauma-related and patients were in a serious condition,” said spokesman Robert Mckenzie.

Police spokesman Colonel Jay Naicker said two shops, situated in the Verulam city centre, were looted at 7pm.

“A case of business robbery has been opened for investigation by Verulam SAPS. No one was injured and a 31-year-old suspect was arrested. He will appear in the Verulam Magistrates’ court soon,” he said.

Meanwhile, Durban’s CBD, which was the scene of violence when locals attacked foreign-owned shops and foreigners took up arms to fight themselves on Tuesday, was quiet later that night with no new incidents occurring.

<http://www.sowetanlive.co.za/news/2015/04/15/durban-xenophobic-attacks-spread-north-of-durban>

ANC labels KZN xenophobic attacks as 'barbaric'

ANC condemned the attacks against foreigners in KZN, calling them “unpardonable” and “barbaric”.

Masego Rahlaga | one hour ago

JOHANNESBURG - The African National Congress (ANC) has now admitted that acts of violence in KwaZulu-Natal (KZN) are xenophobic and has labeled them a “shameful assault to Africa’s humanity”.

The ruling party lashed out at the media during violence that erupted in Soweto earlier this year and downplayed the acts as pure criminality.

It has now come out in condemnation of the attacks against foreigners in KZN, calling them “unpardonable” and “barbaric”.

LISTEN: Xenophobia in KZN: Why are they attacking us?

The party’s spokesperson Keith Khoza said, “These attacks are certainly xenophobic, focusing on foreigners, which is a sad thing.”

Khoza says South Africans are currently spitting in the faces of those who helped them during apartheid.

“You know when we were faced with the situation of fighting apartheid, we received refuge in countries all over Africa and this is not how we advocate for change this early in our liberation.”

At least five people have died and thousands others have been left homeless following clashes between locals and foreigners.

Some business owners whose shops have been looted in areas including Ntuzuma, Umlazi and KwaMashu are now taking refuge in places of safety.

<http://ewn.co.za/2015/04/15/ANC-labels-KZN-xenophobic-attacks-as-barbaric>

Xenophobic violence fears spread to JHB as foreigners close shop doors

Several shops near the Noord taxi rank have closed their doors after rumours of xenophobic attacks spread.

Mia Lindeque & Rahima Essop | one hour ago

JOHANNESBURG/CAPE TOWN - As police maintain a heavy presence in parts of KwaZulu-Natal to prevent further xenophobic attacks, there are eyewitness reports this morning of a possible flare-up of violence in the Johannesburg CBD.

Several shops near the Noord Street taxi rank have closed their doors after rumours of xenophobic attacks spread.

Foreign shop owners in the CBD have also closed their doors in a bid to protect their stock amid rumours circulating on social networks that attacks are imminent.

#JHBcbd At least 2 foreign nationals have told EWN they closed shops as police search for counterfeit goods. ML pic.twitter.com/YS3myamP4q

— EWN Reporter (@ewnreporter) April 15, 2015

One shop owner has told Eyewitness News he was warned of possible attacks on foreign nationals today.

There have been reports of a mob moving through the CBD, but this stage the claims have not been verified

Police are nowhere to be seen and officials say they’re unaware of any reports of violence in the city centre this morning.

An eyewitness earlier claimed that people were looting foreign-owned shops.

“The CBD was stable, but now people are actually coming and robbing people.”

Another eyewitness said, “All the shops from Von Wielligh Street has been closed because the guys run into the shops and they start beating the people and customers that are in the shops.

On Tuesday, a message began circulating on social networks WhatsApp and Facebook warning of possible attacks against foreigners in Gauteng today.

The message reads:

“Xenophobic attack is just around the corner for the second time around JHB CBD and neighbouring areas like Alex, Olievenhoutbosch, Zandspruit, Msawawa, Cosmo city, Tembisa, Randburg, Princess, Kysand, Kaalfontein, Germiston, Benoni etc... The spokesperson for this Furious group honourable Khimzman Mquebulera warns his fellow South African on Wednesday not to ride the Bicycles as Malawians and Zimbabweans does, because this attack will be more destructive than ever before, pliz send this notice to ur all frinds to be in doors on Wednesday. Take ir serious our friends r killed like Coackroaches (sic).”

WATCH: *Xenophobic violence rocks Durban CBD*

National Police Commissioner Riah Phiyega says more than 800 police officers have been deployed to various parts of KZN.

Several areas including, Umlazi and KwaMashu were affected by looting and violence in recent days before the unrest spread to the heart of Durban on Tuesday.

Government has said the attacks are a symptom of Afrophobia.

Phiyega says police officers have managed to restore stability to areas where flare ups have occurred.

“We have moved from Isipingo to Chatsworth to all other areas to the city and this thing is migrating.”

Law enforcement officers have been mobilised from around the country, to deal with the unrest in KZN but Phiyega says day-to-day crime fighting efforts are not suffering.

“If we have the capacity to respond, we shall respond accordingly. Our issue is to ensure that we save lives, secondly, that we restore stability.”

She maintains her officers are coping.

Meanwhile, the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees says it's been inundated with calls from foreigners who fear for their safety.

<http://ewn.co.za/2015/04/15/Cops-maintain-heavy-presence-in-KZN>

Kept out of school by xenophobia

April 14 2015 at 10:58am

By Nokuthula Ntuli

Durban - More than 100 children in Durban are estimated to have missed school on Monday after their families were forced to flee their homes following xenophobic attacks last week.

The KZN Department of Education did not have the exact figures on Monday afternoon as it was the first day of the term, but spokesman Muzi Mahlambi said district managers in affected areas had already been told to collect the data.

Not all foreigners were at the transit camps on Monday, as some sought refuge with friends and families in different parts of the country.

“The information they get from schools will help us plan the intervention programmes during and post the situation. We are doing this in the context of a broad provincial intervention strategy,” he said.

When The Mercury visited the Chatsworth transit camp about 50 schoolgoing children had not gone to school. They were from the Lusaka and Bottlebrush informal settlements.

Lack of transport from the camp to the schools in their neighbourhoods was the main reason parents gave for their children staying at home.

Others had lost their schoolbooks and uniforms when their homes had been looted.

“We left everything when we fled; our lives became the foremost priority and one didn’t think to grab a school bag or uniform. But it’s all gone now because our homes have since been looted,” Abias Chazike said.

Chazike is a father of four with two children enrolled at Brooklyn Heights Primary School and 3-year-old twins attending a local preschool.

“Even if we get assistance with the uniforms, books and transport there’s still the issue of how safe they would be travelling from here to the school. I’m also worried that they might be victimised and called names by the children they go to school with,” he said.

Others like Zimbabwean Ogrith Ngwenya said they were taking their children back to their home countries, which would negatively affect their education.

They said their children were born in South Africa and not familiar with the languages in other African countries.

Another Zimbabwean, Paul Chikaanhadzi, said it saddened him to see his little girl, Andinakho, 5, sitting idly at the camp when she could have been enjoying her time with friends at school.

“Children are very smart; they know that they should have been at school today. On top of missing home, they are now missing out on a part of their childhood,” he said.

The Bottlebrush Community Outreach, a Christian charity organisation running a feeding scheme in the area, brought stationery to the children at the camp on Monday.

“We’ve been coming here every day to volunteer our services, keep the children occupied and play with them, because there is not much for them to do around the camp,” said Marieke Moodley.

Twenty-two people have been arrested so far in connection with attacks on foreigners and looting of shops in Durban.

“The police operation continues and more could be arrested,” said police spokesman Thulani Zwane.

They face charges of public violence, possession of stolen goods and possession of unlicensed firearms.

The attacks started in Isipingo, south of Durban, a week ago and had since spread to KwaMashu, Umlazi and Chatsworth, Zwane said.

A number of criminal cases had been opened at police stations in the Umlazi and Chatsworth areas. They included public violence, business robberies, murder, attempted murder, assault with intent to do grievous bodily harm and malicious damage to property.

Last Friday night a tuck shop was petrol-bombed by unknown people. Two foreigners sustained severe injuries and were taken to hospital. One died.

On Sunday, violence erupted in the KwaMashu Hostel where foreigners were attacked.

It is still not clear how many foreigners have died.

Additional reporting by ANA

<http://www.iol.co.za/news/south-africa/kwazulu-natal/kept-out-of-school-by-xenophobia-1.1844757>

One person arrested for looting in Durban

April 15 2015 at 11:57am

By ANA Reporter [Comment on this story](#)

Durban - One person was arrested in Verulam, north of Durban, after two shops belonging to Somali nationals were looted late on Tuesday night as violence between locals and foreigners continued in the coastal city.

KwaZulu-Natal police spokesperson, Jay Naicker said a group of locals had looted the two shops during a bout of planned electricity load shedding on Tuesday night.

Naicker said a case of business robbery was being investigated and the arrested 31-year-old suspect was expected to appear in the Verulam Magistrate's Court soon.

Meanwhile, after a stand-off between large groups of foreign nationals and locals in central Durban which resembled a war zone for much of Tuesday, there appeared to be semblance of calm on Wednesday morning.

Despite being attacked, having their shops looted and being left stranded, foreign nationals have remained adamant that they would not be forced out of the city of Durban.

Some of those affected by the growing xenophobic violence had even vowed to resort to guerrilla warfare to defend themselves.

“We will defend ourselves. We will retaliate in full force,” irate shop owner Richard Condonso told the African News Agency on Tuesday.

And despite police reinforcements from around the country being deployed as the tensions mounted, foreign nationals felt officers had disappointed them by not offering enough protection against their attackers.

“We are under attack, people are coming from everywhere. Cops are sitting back and let it go on. Maybe they are tired of us. I suspect they also attack us when not in uniform,” claimed Condonso.

The foreign nationals claim about 15 people have lost their lives during the attacks. They claim five children were burnt to death in Isiphingo, south of Durban, while in another attack in KwaMashu, north of Durban, a group of foreigners were locked inside a house and burnt to death.

A local, who refused to be named, said the foreign nationals deserved what was happening to them.

“We are tired of them. They are criminals. They do house break-ins. Ever since they came into the country, the crime rate has escalated”.

ANA

<http://www.iol.co.za/news/crime-courts/one-person-arrested-for-looting-in-durban-1.1845381>

KZN violence ‘seems well orchestrated’

April 15 2015 at 11:42am

By Kamini Padayachee and Babalo Ndenze

Durban - Xenophobic violence, which spread to the Durban CBD yesterday, might be “orchestrated attacks” that were being “well planned”.

This was the view of KwaZulu-Natal violence monitor Mary de Haas, who said she suspected the attacks were not being carried out by “people who were simply fed up with foreigners”.

“They know which shops to target and there are suggestions that in some areas the groups are driving around in ‘smart’ vehicles. Also people I have spoken to at the camps say they did not know some of the attackers, which suggests that they were not from the same area.”

Institute for Security Studies criminologist Johan Burger agreed that the spread of the attacks to the city centre suggested the violence was not spontaneous.

“The attacks being sustained and spreading into more urbanised areas creates a suspicion that it is being organised.”

Burger said the police needed to deploy a large contingent to the affected areas to curb the violence.

“There have been previous complaints that police have been onlookers and even participated in attacks that took place in Gauteng, but there has been no suggestion of this yet in KZN.

“The police need sufficient numbers to deal with the violence because two officers in a police van will not be able to stop a mob. The public order policing unit could also be called in.”

Meanwhile, at the Justice, Crime Prevention and Security cluster briefing in Cape Town yesterday, Police Minister Nathi Nhleko said the attacks represented a political and ideological problem, with elements of “self-hate” among black South Africans.

He said South Africans did not see Australians and Britons “being chased in the streets” and similar demands being placed.

“What you effectively see is largely Africans against one another in a sense. That’s why I’m saying it represents a particular set of a political problem that also needs to be dealt with by ourselves as South Africans. In a sense what we are witnessing are essentially Afrophobic kind of activities,” said Nhleko.

He said the evidence showed that the attacks were mostly against Congolese, Zimbabweans, Malawians, Somalis and South African nationals.

“In 2008 out of 62 people killed, 21 of those were South Africans on the basis that ‘I’m probably darker than you are and you look more foreign’.”

Defence Minister Nosiviwe Mapisa Nqakula said that lawlessness would not be tolerated.

“The government will not hesitate to enforce the laws of the country and we will continue to act speedily and decisively,” said Mapisa Nqakula.

She said 48 people had been arrested since the weekend.

She added that President Jacob Zuma had assigned the Minister of Home Affairs, Malusi Gigaba, Nhleko and State Security Minister David Mahlobo to work with the KZN provincial government to end the violence.

The briefing also heard that additional law enforcement officers had been mobilised from around the country and deployed to affected areas.

Additional reporting by ANA

The Mercury

Violence has Durban on the edge

April 15 2015 at 08:26am

By Sihle Manda, Sphelele Ngubane and Colleen Dardagan

Durban - The Durban CBD came to a standstill on Tuesday after xenophobic violence spread into the city’s streets.

After news of attacks on foreigners and the looting of foreign-owned shops in one part of the city spread to the Point area, angry residents vowed to fight, refusing to be at the mercy of “useless thugs”.

Nigerians in the Point area vowed that they would protect themselves:

“We have nowhere else to go. We can’t go back; the sea is behind us, so we have to fight back,” said one.

They built barriers out of burning tyres and scattered debris to protect themselves.

Large retail shops like Edgars and Ackermans in Dr Pixley KaSeme (West) Street and fast food restaurants in Mahatma Gandhi (Point) Road closed their doors as the violence threatened to spiral further out of control.

Many of the shop owners and vendors tried to rescue their goods.

The drama, which until on Tuesday had been restricted to eThekweni townships and informal settlements, spread to parts of the city, seen as a stronghold for foreigners.

Pandemonium erupted when news spread that foreign-owned shops were being looted in Joseph Nduli (Russell) Street and that the attackers were advancing through the city.

From Joseph Nduli Street, they proceeded to wreak havoc at The Workshop's flea market, where many foreigners had stalls.

Police were quick to respond to the looting and dispersed the crowd. The stall owners were forced to close shop.

A manager in one of the buildings in Dr Goonam (Prince Edward) Street, Jerry Samuel, said he witnessed looting of shops there and in Dr Yusuf Dadoo (Grey) and Ingcunze (Albert) streets.

"When the owners pulled the doors down, the looters started grabbing stuff displayed outside. We could only save what was inside," he said.

Many South African-owned shops were also looted while others quickly shut down.

"Some of the foreigners left their stuff and ran away because they were scared. We could not protect them because the groups were aggressive," he said.

The Mercury saw locals attacking foreigners who were walking in the streets. Police arrested two men at the forefront of the group.

The 320 West Street building was also not spared.

After hearing of the attacks in the city centre, foreigners in the Point area created a defensive barrier, burning tyres and scattering debris across Mahatma Gandhi Road, bringing the area to a standstill. A large group was armed with bush knives, hammers and cricket bats. Police used stun grenades and water cannon to disperse the crowd.

The SAPS and metro police struggled to maintain order.

An angry group of Nigerians, who spoke to The Mercury at the scene, issued a spine-chilling warning to their "rivals" that they had nowhere else to go and would defend themselves.

Shako Kuminga, who represents the Congolese in Durban, said people received frantic calls from their employees and families telling them of the violence in town.

"Our girlfriends and wives work near The Workshop and 320 (Dr Pixley KaSeme Street). My girlfriend called me saying, 'Come fetch me, they are hitting us,'" he said. "When we heard that we rallied to protect ourselves.

"I don't even know where she is right now," he said.

"They didn't get here... here it's the Nigerians, Zimbabweans, Ethiopians and Congolese.

"We want to stop them; we want to defend ourselves. We have nowhere else to go. We can't go back; there is the sea behind us, so we have to fight back. We are waiting for them. Our brothers have already been killed. We have nothing else to lose."

They were livid about the treatment meted out by locals, saying: "You will never hear of such a thing in Nigeria. Locals will beat you for calling someone a foreigner. We are brothers in our eyes."

The group said: "It's easy; government can just open the border gates and let us go if they don't want us. But they must know that no plane must leave South Africa to come to our countries."

There were reports of xenophobic attacks and looting in Waterloo and central Verulam on Tuesday. It was not clear whether there were any injuries in the incidents.

Police spokesman Jay Naicker said that in the Verulam CBD, two shops belonging to foreigners were looted by a group of people at about 7pm, during load shedding.

"No one was injured and a 31-year-old suspect was arrested. He will appear in the Verulam Magistrate's Court soon."

Situation 'diabolical and nefarious'

The city said on Tuesday night that it would not allow eThekweni to be turned into a war zone.

"Government has noted with grave concerns and regret that the attacks on foreign nationals and looting of their shops have continued around the province."

The statement said that it was completely unacceptable for South Africans to treat foreign nationals in such a "diabolical and nefarious manner".

Mayor James Nxumalo called upon all members of society "to join us in rejecting and condemning xenophobia and all related discrimination".

Earlier on Tuesday deputy mayor Nomvuso Shabalala spoke at the Khula Business Tour at the Dube TradePort.

"Before we have always said that xenophobia was in the townships. Today we have seen something we have never seen before.

"It has come to the inner city. We don't believe this thing that people are saying that foreigners have taken their businesses. We believe that there is an element of criminality and jealousy behind this. Durban has received a number of accolades, such as the best place to live, and we are worried that this is tarnishing the image of our city of Durban. The violence must stop – it is not acceptable and it is not humane."

MEC for Economic Development Mike Mabuyakhulu said the premier had called a meeting at city hall at 2.30pm on Wednesday, when all business stakeholders would meet to discuss solutions to the xenophobic violence.

"He wants to assure the public that the provincial government is providing leadership, this is not the time to panic."

Police Ministry spokesman Musa Zondi debunked rumours that the army was to be deployed, saying the military was not trained to handle such situations.

KZN EMS spokesman Robert McKenzie said at least six people, all foreigners, were attended to during the attacks on Tuesday. He said three were stabbed and one was burnt. The other two were transported by private ambulances.

Police said 12 people were arrested in Durban on Tuesday for public violence.

<http://www.iol.co.za/news/crime-courts/violence-has-durban-on-the-edge-1.1845192>

Foreigners threaten guerilla warfare

April 14 2015 at 09:02pm

By ANA Reporter [Comment on this story](#)

Durban - Despite being attacked, having their shops looted and being left stranded, foreign nationals were on Tuesday adamant that they would not be forced out of the city of Durban.

Some of those affected by the growing xenophobic violence sweeping through several areas of Durban vowed to resort to guerrilla warfare to defend themselves.

"We will defend ourselves. We will retaliate in full force," irate shop owner Richard Condonso told the African News Agency.

Tensions remained high in central Durban on Tuesday night as the violence spilled over into neighbouring areas, with locals and foreigners at each other's throats.

The streets were strewn with rubbish - evidence of shops being looted.

Despite, police reinforcements from around the country being deployed as the tensions mounted, foreign nationals felt officers had disappointed them by not offering enough protection against their attackers.

"We are under attack, people are coming from everywhere. Cops are sitting back and let it go on. Maybe they are tired of us. I suspect they also attack us when not in uniform," said Condonso.

The foreign nationals claim about 15 people have lost their lives during the attacks. They claim five children were burnt to death in Isiphingo, south of Durban, while in another attack in KwaMashu, north of Durban, a group of foreigners were locked inside a house and burnt to death.

The foreigners ANA spoke to felt Zulu King Goodwill Zwelithin's utterances in March during a moral regeneration event in Pongolo were to blame for the violent attacks on them.

"We are requesting those who come from outside to please go back to their countries," Zwelithini reportedly said.

"The fact that there were countries that played a role in the country's struggle for liberation should not be used as an excuse to create a situation where foreigners are allowed to inconvenience locals. I know you were in their countries during the struggle for liberation. But the fact of the matter is you did not set up businesses in their countries," Zwelithini told residents of Pongolo.

Patrick Abdul, one of the foreigners affected by the xenophobic uprising, told ANA: "The King should bring peace not war. We want the United Nations to help us."

Earlier on Tuesday, some areas of Durban resembled a war zone as police tried to quell the violence.

The city was plunged into chaos when some taxis were caught in the crossfire with windows being smashed as some foreign nationals hiding in a block of flats (Abyssin Accommodation) in West Street threw stones and rocks at locals.

Police had their hands full trying to calm down the angry mob of locals gathered at the apartment block.

The streets were littered with glass.

Police had to use teargas to separate the warring groups.

A local, who refused to be named, said the foreign nationals deserved what was happening to them.

“We are tired of them. They are criminals. They do house break-ins. Ever since they came into the country, the crime rate has escalated”.

Shops in central Durban were closed on Tuesday while the knobkierrie-wielding mob of locals assaulted foreign nationals and looted their shops in Durban.

Metro police rushed around to make sure shops were properly closed as some foreigners fled without closing them properly.

KwaZulu-Natal police spokesperson, Jay Naicker declined to comment.

ANA

<http://www.iol.co.za/news/crime-courts/foreigners-threaten-guerilla-warfare-1.1845104>

Xenophobic clashes rock Durban

April 14 2015 at 07:23pm

By ANA Reporter

Durban - Areas of Durban resembled a war zone late on Tuesday afternoon as violence between locals and foreign nationals boiled over.

Shops in central Durban were closed as a knobkierrie-wielding mob assaulted foreign nationals and looted their shops in Durban.

Metro police rushed around to make sure shops were properly closed as some foreigners fled without closing them properly.

Taxis had their windows smashed as foreign nationals threw rocks and stones from a block of flats on West Street, in central Durban.

Police had their hands full trying to calm down an angry mob of locals who had stones and rocks thrown at them.

There was glass all over the street and police resorted to using teargas in a bid to separate the warring groups.

“We are under attack, people are coming from everywhere. Police are not helping us, maybe they are tired of us,” said foreign shop owner, Richard Condonso.

He said the locals had pushed them into a corner.

“We will retaliate, in full force just to defend ourselves,” said Condonso.

A local, who refused to be named, said the foreign nationals deserved what was happening to them.

“We are tired of them. They are criminals. They do house break-ins. Ever since they came into the country, the crime rate has escalated”.

Police spokesperson, Jay Naicker could not be reached for comment.

<http://www.iol.co.za/news/crime-courts/xenophobic-clashes-rock-durban-1.1845085>

I was crying inside the container while I was burning: Xenophobia victim

BONGANI MTHETHWA (Times Live) 12 April, 2015 11:55

On Friday night the 22-year-old became the latest victim of a spate of xenophobic attacks that has engulfed Durban.

Marcus died at Prince Mshiyeni Memorial Hospital in Umlazi at 8pm on Friday night with third-degree burns.

His brother Alex, 24, was also burnt when a mob locked them inside the container in which they had set up their shop and torched it.

His brother sustained burn wounds on his head, left arm and both legs.

Speaking from his hospital bed yesterday - unaware that his brother had died - Alex recounted how they were trapped inside the burning container for an hour.

It was only after Point Sindane, 67, the owner of the property on which their shop stood, in Umlazi's W section, managed to open the door with a crowbar that they were able to get out. Sindane used a hosepipe to extinguish the flames eating away at their bodies.

"My body is still burning," said Alex yesterday. "I was crying inside the container while I was burning. We were locked inside for almost an hour."

He said his brother had joined him only four months ago to help him run the spaza shop. Their goods, worth more than R20000, were burned to ashes inside the container.

"It's painful what they are doing to us. We are all Africans. My brother and I were just working - why kill us?" said Alex.

Despite the attack he is determined to remain in South Africa.

The brothers' story is similar to that of thousands of other foreigners - from Malawi, Ethiopia, Somalia, Mozambique, the DRC and Tanzania - who have been driven from their communities since the attacks started in Isipingo, south of Durban, three weeks ago.

The displaced families are living in transit camps at Isipingo Beach and in Chatsworth.

The attacks on foreigners have been linked to King Goodwill Zwelithini, who, in Pongola on March 20, urged the government to expel them.

He has denied saying this but in a recording he can clearly be heard saying: "We ask foreign nationals to pack their belongings and go back to their countries," as his audience cheers.

Yesterday, the king's spokesman, Prince Thulani Zulu, was livid because the attacks continue to be linked to the king's comments.

He was outraged by calls for Zwelithini to convene a public gathering at which he would "clarify" his remarks.

"The people who are dying are the king's people. It's very sad to the king that his people are killing each other. People in Pongola heard what the king said and people in Pongola are not fighting. These are just thugs. The king has never said that people must be killed," Zulu said.

This week hundreds of foreigners fled their homes in Chatsworth and Sydenham after coming under attack. Their properties were ransacked and looted on Tuesday night, and dozens of people were injured in Umlazi on Thursday night.

On Friday, there were attacks in the Unit 11 informal settlement in Chatsworth and in Umlazi resulting in dozens of families taking refuge at the local police station.

They were taken to a local football ground, where a temporary camp and marquees were erected to accommodate them.

SA Human Rights Commission spokesman Isaac Mangena said the alleged utterances of the king, and the comments last week by President Jacob Zuma's son, Edward, were being investigated.

The president's son reportedly told News24.com: "We need to be aware that, as a country, we are sitting on a ticking time bomb of them [foreigners] taking over the country. We can't rule out the possibility of a coup in the future."

On Wednesday church leaders protested outside Durban City Hall and called for a meeting with the Zulu king. They asked for the monarch to convene a public gathering and speak to his followers about the attacks on foreigners.

On Thursday, Zuma, speaking at an event to commemorate the death of Chris Hani 22 years ago, condemned the "creeping problem of what appears to be xenophobia in our country".

The president said not all foreigners in South Africa were in the country illegally and many contributed to the economy with their skills.

<http://www.timeslive.co.za/local/2015/04/12/i-was-crying-inside-the-container-while-i-was-burning-xenophobia-victim>

Stop the hate, says Zulu king

April 10 2015 at 07:18pm

By ZAINUL DAWOOD [Comment on this story](#)

Durban - South Africa and KwaZulu-Natal could experience something akin to the Rwandan genocide of 1994 if the ongoing xenophobic attacks and tribalism continue, King Goodwill Zwelithini has warned.

In a statement read out on his behalf during an anti-xenophobia meeting at the Durban City Hall on Thursday, the king denounced the attacks on foreign nationals – which have been attributed to a speech he made in Pongola recently.

He is alleged to have said foreign nationals who were in South Africa illegally should be deported and the government was not doing enough to enforce the law.

Since that speech, foreign-owned shops and small businesses in Durban have been looted, people have been injured and at least four have been killed.

On Thursday night, a Malawian-owned shop was looted in uMlazi W-Section. A police source said about 30 people attacked the Malawians.

The king

denounced “the three great evils” experienced in KZN these past weeks.

“These three evils are the motivating force behind the vitriol (sic) articles, destrucphobic

tion of property and loss of human lives that some in print media have seen it proper to attribute as direct consequences of His Majesty’s address at the Pongola event a week ago.

“It is disappointing that despite numerous explanations, even by those who were present at the Pongola event, some sections of the media elected to deliberately distort what was an innocent outcry against crime and destruction of property,” read the statement.

He said tribalism was the “last evil”.

“While we encourage people to differ, we were however taken aback by grandstanding and vitriol attacks against Zulu people in general because, instead of engaging the speech, the media and some academics elected to engage in name- calling and profiling the Zulu people and their king as people who do not think. A mere suggestion that people who were looting were doing that under the king’s instruction is disingenuous,” he said.

KZN Premier Senzo Mchunu condemned the recent wave of xenophobia, calling the violence inhumane and saying the country’s economic success hinged on its ability to integrate with the rest of Africa.

He joined hands with more than 60 religious groups in a solidarity prayer at the City Hall on Thursday, along with victims of attacks.

In other attempts by government leaders to quell the violence, Home Affairs Minister Malusi Gigaba was scheduled to visit Chatsworth today after foreigners were targeted there.

The eThekweni Municipality is planning a “unified march” through the city, “to collectively voice our anger and repulsion”.

Yesterday, municipal manager, Sibusiso Sithole, said:

“We want the march to be inclusive, not a march by foreign nationals marching against government. We want the march to be led by our premier, MECs, the mayor, members of civil society and citizens of the country.”

<http://www.iol.co.za/news/crime-courts/stop-the-hate-says-zulu-king-1.1843596>

KZN top cop condemns xenophobic attacks

April 10 2015 at 05:28pm
By Chantall Presence

Durban - KwaZulu-Natal police commissioner Mmamonye Ngobeni on Friday deployed reinforcements to areas hit by a spate of xenophobic attacks in the province over the past few weeks.

“As a result of these attacks, Provincial Commissioner has added more manpower to the affected areas to maintain the situation while negotiations are taking place to resolve the situation,” provincial police said in a statement.

Ngobeni condemned attacks on foreigners and appealed to locals and foreigners to stop “attacking each other”.

“We once again discourage people from taking the law into their own hands and caution that those found to be breaking the law will be prosecuted. They must stop committing criminal activities and report those suspects wanted by the police for crimes that were already reported in the area,” she said.

Police confirmed that several criminal cases have been opened in the Umlazi and Chatsworth policing precincts.

“These cases include public violence, business robberies, murders, attempted murder, assault with intent to do grievous bodily harm and malicious damage to property,” police said.

“A total of 17 suspects have been arrested who were linked to different cases of public violence, murder, business robbery and business burglaries.”

Local residents assisted police with information which led to some of the arrests.

“That shows that some of our local communities are against these attacks directed towards the foreigners and their properties.”

During an incident on Thursday, a woman was killed when a Somali shopkeeper fired on four suspects trying to rob his supermarket.

“A foreigner was immediately arrested and will be charged with murder.”

Another foreigner was arrested for murder after police linked him to a killing at the Lusaka informal settlement in Chatsworth.

According to police, the looting of shops continued in Umlazi.

<http://www.iol.co.za/news/crime-courts/kzn-top-cop-condemns-xenophobic-attacks-1.1843549>

Xenophobic attacks: extortion claims

April 10 2015 at 10:23am
By Bongani Hans

Durban - Xenophobic attacks in Isipingo, south of Durban, have taken a strange turn as local South African business owners are being forced to pay up to R300 a day by the people who attacked foreign business owners.

Local salon owners told The Mercury on Thursday that every evening armed perpetrators of the xenophobic attacks extorted cash from them.

“They demand that we pay because they are helping us by chasing away foreigners who are competing with us. But we are not competing; instead, we work together,” said Nombuso Ngcobo.

Pandemonium broke out again on Thursday as foreigners were attacked and their businesses were looted. Some businesses owned by locals were also attacked.

Police spokesman Thulani Zwane said four suspects were arrested for public violence against foreigners.

“No injuries have been reported at this stage and investigations are continuing,” he said.

A group of Congolese gathered at the Isipingo police station on Thursday to report attacks and robberies.

Witnesses said the attacks started at about 9am after a group of women had gathered, singing Awashaywe amakwerekwere sikhulumile Isilo (Foreigners should be beaten, King Goodwill Zwelithini has spoken).

“Then a group of young men joined the women and they started attacking a salon container. The attacks later spread all over Isipingo. They took sofas, mirrors and coffee tables. Police caught three as they were running away with a fridge,” said the witness.

A large number of businesses were closed when The Mercury visited the area on Thursday.

Zanele Ngcobo, who said her foreign friends had helped her to start her business, runs a salon with a group of friends.

They run the salon from a stall which they rent from a Congolese man.

She said the attack had been conducted by a group of amapara (whoonga smokers) led by taxi drivers.

Another local salon owner, Nomhlanhla Mncwabe, said she had lost everything when her business had been looted.

“I had just opened when the chaos started. They came with sticks, and threw excrement into my salon. As we ran away they came in and took my hairdryers, hairpieces, relaxers and furniture,” she said.

“Amapara say that we should stop renting and take ownership of the stalls, or they will attack us if we continue doing business with the foreigners,” said another local salon owner.

<http://www.iol.co.za/news/crime-courts/xenophobic-attacks-extortion-claims-1.1843133>

Xenophobia victims shut out

April 9 2015 at 04:38pm

By ZAINUL DAWOOD AND NOSIPHO MNGOMA [Comment on this story](#)

Furious Greenwood Park, Durban, residents blocked the entrance to a community hall and padlocked the gate to prevent foreigners from getting in on Wednesday – just hours after an anti-xenophobia march was stopped in the city centre out of fears for the marchers’ safety.

The displaced foreigners from informal settlements in Reservoir Hills and Sea Cow Lake had been staying at the Greenwood Park police station after xenophobic violence erupted earlier this week.

As about 40 people were being moved across to the community hall by a police truck, local residents locked the entrance gates to the Maurice Benjamin Hall and tennis courts in Cheron Road.

Ward 34 councillor, Deochand Ganesh, said police and eThekweni Municipality officials had met at the Sydenham police station on Tuesday to find solutions to the problem.

Police did not have the resources to cater for the immediate needs of the foreigners, he said.

“The Greenwood Park Community Hall in Chris Hani (North Coast) Road, which is five times bigger than the Maurice Benjamin Hall and with better facilities, was suggested as a temporary holding point,” Ganesh said.

However, police transported the foreigners to the smaller Maurice Benjamin Hall.

Then when a second load of foreigners arrived, residents gathered and padlocked the gate to prevent them getting in.

The second batch were forced to sit on the roadside verge while eThekweni officials and police tried to find a solution.

Later, other foreigners, brought in by truck, were also prevented from entering the premises.

However last night, 20 people who had been left sitting on the verge, were allowed into the hall.

Resident Darrien Lortan said they had not been consulted and when the first truck arrived, the neighbourhood watch was alerted via message service WhatsApp.

Inside the hall, a group of Mozambicans were ecstatic to have a roof over their heads and toilet facilities. Several were seen playing cards, some slept on chairs and others were having a shower.

Washing hung on the fence outside the hall as they settled in.

Ganesh said the Department of Home Affairs was documenting the foreigners. “There was a discussion to see if these foreigners could be reintegrated into the communities in which they were living. The scenario is changing by the hour,” he said.

Meanwhile in the city centre there was chaos when police used a water cannon, tear gas and rubber bullets to disperse the crowd of people who were defying a ban on their march.

Deputy city manager, Dr Musa Gumede, said representatives of the municipality had advised marchers when they gathered at King Dinuzulu Park on Wednesday that the permit for the march had been denied because of safety concerns.

“We received intelligence that there were plans for a counter march with a threat of violence, so it would have been too risky to allow this (anti-xenophobic) march,” he said.

But the KZN Right2Know campaign’s Phezu Ntetha, said the message that police were inadvertently sending was that they were on the side of those who wanted to chase foreign-born residents from the country.

“By forbidding the march, police are denying them the expression entrenched in the constitution. The marchers here have papers; they are here legally and have every right to participate. Police are meant to protect and serve them.”

The eThekweni Municipality was unavailable for comment by time of publication.

In Chatsworth, residents attacked foreigners in an informal settlement on Tuesday night, forcing them to evacuate, police spokesman, Major Thulani Zwane, said on Wednesday.

On the same night at the Quarry Road informal settlement in Clare Estate, about 100 people attacked foreigners living there.

Zwane said that when police intervened to assist the foreigners, the community pelted them with stones.

<http://www.iol.co.za/news/crime-courts/xenophobia-victims-shut-out-1.1842917>

Xenophobia attacks increase

April 9 2015 at 01:05pm

By Nokuthula Ntuli

Durban - As xenophobic attacks continued to spread in eThekweni, KwaZulu-Natal MEC for Community Safety and Liaison Willie Mchunu insisted on Wednesday that he wanted foreigners to be reintegrated into the communities they had been chased away from.

The attacks started in Isipingo and Umlazi last week and have now spread to settlements in Reservoir Hills and Chatsworth. Marchers protesting against the attacks were assaulted in Durban's CBD on Wednesday.

Mchunu held a closed meeting with eThekweni deputy mayor Nomvuzo Shabalala, councillors and other stakeholders at the Isipingo Civic Centre on Wednesday.

He told journalists: "The councillors will convene meetings to warn their communities against these criminal acts. We strongly believe these attacks are being driven by opportunistic criminals who want to rob fellow Africans of their things and livelihood."

Shabalala and Mchunu were confident all the foreigners in Isipingo, Reservoir Hills and Chatsworth could safely return to live among the locals after community meetings.

The xenophobic attacks spread to Chatsworth on Tuesday night, where hundreds of foreigners were forced to flee their homes.

Many, with just the clothes on their backs, sought refuge at the Chatsworth police station.

The police escorted them to the Westcliff Stadium where other foreigners from informal settlements such as Lusaka and Broker Bush joined them.

"It's been widespread panic, so the numbers have been increasing since last night. Some are having their employers and friends drop them off because they are scared to go home," said ANC MPL Maggie Govender.

She and Mozambique consul-general Olga Sambo and other local leaders visited the destitute at the stadium.

"Last week I went to Isipingo and found 38 Mozambicans and here in Chatsworth there are 74 adults and four children including a 6-month-old baby," said Sambo.

She said some of her countrymen and women had asked for assistance to return home and she was busy arranging that.

"It's most worrying that these attacks seem to be spreading."

Kilintrensia Namkhali said she was planning to leave for Mozambique as soon as possible with her 2-year-old daughter, Anna Shikone. Namkhali and her common-law husband, Anton Shikone, agreed that it was safer to live in different countries.

"I came home last night to find our house empty; they (looters) took everything and left just a bed. I desperately went knocking at our neighbours' doors looking for Kilintrensia and Anna," said Shikone.

He said he was close to tears when he could not find them, but eventually someone told him they were hiding with friends.

Shikone said going back home was not an option as there were no jobs.

A Zimbabwean who refused to give his name said there was no difference between going back home and staying in South Africa under attack.

"I have nothing to go back to and I will probably starve to death there because I will not find any job. It's better here because there are jobs in the construction industry."

Adonis Maute, who has two sons with a South African, said his children were too young to understand.

"My sons are 2 and 7 years old. I've been speaking to them over the phone just so that they know that I'm okay and I love them, but I don't know how to explain to them the complexity of these attacks. It's really hard."

Nars Gisikho has been in South Africa since 1998. He had never had problems until he saw foreigners being beaten on Tuesday.

"I just left everything and fled. I know we've been robbed of all our belongings."

Shabalala was adamant on Wednesday that the foreigners would be able to reintegrate.

"We will obviously speak to them as well to see if they would like to go back to the communities they were living with." She said the Department of Home Affairs would help determine who had permits to be in South Africa.

She strongly condemned the implication that King Goodwill Zwelithini's comments on foreigners had sparked the xenophobic attacks.

"The king never said they should assault and rob innocent people and force mothers and children out of their homes. They (attackers) are motivated by their own criminality and want to use the king's name to justify their unlawful actions," she said.

Shabalala and Mchunu expressed concern that attacks were spreading.

"We need South Africans to understand that these assaults and robberies are criminal acts and they should come forward and report the perpetrators because the victims might not be able to identify them," said Mchunu.

<http://www.iol.co.za/news/crime-courts/xenophobia-attacks-increase-1.1842755>

Police stop Durban hate protest

April 8 2015 at 05:19pm

By DAILY NEWS REPORTERS

Durban - A march through Durban on Wednesday against xenophobia was stopped by police using tear gas and a water cannon.

This was apparently because the organisers of the march, which included shack-dwellers' movement, Abahlali baseMjondolo, did not have the required permit.

However Abahlali's Mazwi Nzimande said they had obtained permits for the march and were told only as they were preparing to start that they could not proceed because marshalls were not wearing vests.

"The vests arrived and we were readying to move and still they told us we could not march."

The clash with police happened in Dr Pixley ka Seme (West) Street, near King Dinuzulu Park. A group of South Africans started gathering at the sidelines afterwards, gesturing to the foreign would-be marchers to leave.

Police, also armed with rubber bullets, then became involved in keeping the groups apart, as some people yelled "foreigners are dogs".

Abahlali has condemned the xenophobia sweeping Durban and called on all South Africans to join forces to eradicate it.

Spokesman for the group championing housing for all, Kapele Mutachi, said last night that xenophobic attitudes, practices and beliefs had been allowed to exist and proliferate in communities for years.

"We are united in our common outrage at the brutal acts," he said.

The movement had aimed to march alongside the Congolese Solidarity Campaign and the Somali Association of South Africa in the city centre.

Mutachi said there was no end in sight to the recent violence against foreigners. "Those who have openly attacked others have claimed that South Africans are being denied access to scarce jobs, basic services, and better lives because of the need to compete with people from other African countries for these limited resources.

"It is a high time for all of us – foreign nationals and South Africans – to join forces to eradicate the anti-foreign perception, coupled with unfair treatment that conspire against the ideal of Pan-Africanism heralded by government."

The Diakonia Council of Churches was scheduled to hold an anti-xenophobia prayer vigil at the city hall between 1 and 2pm. The aim was "to spread positive messages of peace", said its spokesman, Kudzai Taruona.

As they prepared for their initiatives, anti-foreigner sentiments in informal settlements continued to uproot lives.

On Tuesday, Sydenham police took 42 displaced foreigners who had fled from the New Germany informal settlement in Reservoir Hills to the Greenwood Park police station, where they met others who were forcibly removed from a Sea Cow Lake informal settlement on Sunday.

Police accompanied them home to gather their belongings before taking them back to Greenwood Park.

The areas affected so far are: Isipingo, uMlazi, Reservoir Hills and Sea Cow Lake. The latest spate of attacks started a week ago.

eThekweni Municipality spokeswoman, Tozi Mthethwa, has appealed to people not to take the law into their hands and to refrain from violence.

"The municipality was not involved in the relocation of foreign nationals from the New Germany informal settlement near Clare Estate to the Sydenham police station."

The municipality was informed that foreigners had contacted their local police, she said, and asked to be moved to a place of safety.

In Isipingo, the displaced residents were accommodated at a local sports ground. Mthethwa said the city was working with relevant government departments and the NGO sector to reintegrate them into their communities.

A meeting was planned for today at the Isipingo Beach Civic Centre to address the reintegration process.

“We are concerned about reports of attacks on foreign nationals in other parts of the city. We appeal to affected people to report such attacks to the police and the law must take its course,” Mthethwa said.

Ward 34 councillor, Deochand Ganesh, said Sunday’s attack had taken place at the Syathuthuka informal settlement in Sea Cow Lake. Five houses were damaged, displacing about 27 Mozambicans.

“The suspected attackers were wearing balaclavas and spoke isiZulu. One foreigner sustained head injuries,” he said.

“Four mothers with their infant children were accommodated at the police station’s trauma centre.”

<http://www.iol.co.za/news/crime-courts/police-stop-durban-hate-protest-1.1842286>

‘They were chasing and assaulting us’

April 8 2015 at 11:12am

By Sihle Manda

Durban - Amid the escalating xenophobic attacks in Durban, which spread to a Reservoir Hills informal settlement this week, King Goodwill Zwelithini has opened the door to discussions with clergymen over his controversial foreigner deportation remarks.

Speaking for the king, Prince Thulani Zulu said such a meeting would go a long way to stopping criminals who were attacking foreigners.

On Monday evening about 40 Zimbabwean and Mozambican nationals from the New Germany Road informal settlement sought refuge at the Sydenham police station. About 30 others fled the area entirely.

They were assaulted with golf clubs, sticks and crowbars by South Africans, who later looted their homes.

While the request for a meeting proposed by Diakonia Council of Churches leaders had not yet been received, it would be welcomed, he said.

Zulu said the clergymen would go the “extra mile to correct misinterpretation of the king’s comment”.

“The king would welcome that because it would clarify the message. Maybe the king’s message and that of the church leaders against criminality to everybody will be taken on board by the community ... including the criminals who attack the foreigners,” he said.

He condemned the attacks, saying they were “uncalled for”.

Zulu brushed off the link made between the king’s speech, delivered in Pongola last month, and the attacks.

“In Gauteng, attacks and lootings started after a foreigner shot dead a kid. Attacks on foreigners have been going on; I do not understand how that is linked to the king’s utterances on the widespread crime and drug dealing.”

He said a meeting with the religious leaders would put “the king’s straightforward message” about criminals back on track.

On Tuesday, a group of traumatised foreign nationals sat nursing their wounds at the police station after a night of terror. They believed that the attack was by locals heeding the king's call for foreigners to leave the country.

The group, escorted by a large police contingent, later returned to the settlement.

The community seemed divided, with some distraught about the attacks. But the residents' committee was resolute – foreigners were not welcome in the community.

The trouble started on Saturday when the representative of the foreigners, Gabriel Mondlane, was instructed by the committee to gather the permits and passports of his compatriots and Mozambicans.

"I said, 'Fine.' I did that, but yesterday (Monday) the threats started. I was told that we were running out of time," said Mondlane.

At 8pm on Monday the informal settlement descended to chaos – it was "time for us to leave", he said.

A committee member, who asked not to be identified, decried the force used.

"This is the most peaceful informal settlement ... I couldn't sleep last night. I knew nothing about this. It was anarchy."

She said the foreigners were assaulted with golf clubs, sticks and crowbars.

The terrified group returned, escorted by police, to fetch their belongings on Tuesday, but were met by a trail of destruction. Shacks had been damaged and looted. They packed the little they could salvage into police vehicles and were escorted to the Greenwood Park community hall.

Mozambican couple America Tivane, 27, and Juvia Cubia, 22, took the blow the hardest, wailing when they saw the broken door of their home.

"They were chasing and assaulting us, demanding that we leave ... We ran and eventually stopped an approaching police vehicle and were taken to the station," Tivane said.

"They took everything – the television, stove, blankets, bed ... They only left the fridge because it can't come out through the door."

Councillor Themba Mtshali said the victims would be accommodated at the hall "until we get instructions on what should be done".

"We've asked that eThekweni's disaster management come on board. Our approach on the matter is to deal with them as victims rather than as foreigners. At this stage we haven't verified their status, but we'll provide them with support until there's a clear guideline."

He said the residents' committee denied allegations that it had led the attack.

Committee member Dumisani Fakude said the group was chased out.

"We couldn't contain the community," he said. "But the truth of the matter is that we don't need them here."

He said the injured were assaulted because they "resisted and were defiant".

"They are thieves and peddle drugs. They also vandalise property ... They come here with their diseases – they don't vaccinate before coming here to South Africa." He cited Ebola as a possible threat.

“Their businesses are thriving while ours are struggling,” he said.

“Even if the king had not said what he said, they were leaving anyway.”

Police spokesman Thulani Zwane said there had been no arrests and no case had been opened.

The Mercury

<http://www.iol.co.za/news/crime-courts/they-were-chasing-and-assaulting-us-1.1841997>

Foreign fugitives are wet, cold and scared

April 7 2015 at 02:52pm

By Bongani Hans [Comment on this story](#)

Durban - Young Congolese mother Asako Makelele and her 1-year-old son Junior have spent the past two rainy nights on their feet because they could not lie down to sleep as the thin mattresses placed on the ground were covered with water.

Makelele, 22, is among hundreds of foreign nationals, mostly from the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC), who had to seek refuge at the Isipingo sports ground. They left their homes in Isipingo, Umlazi and Malukazi at the end of the month after they were attacked by locals. The municipality has supplied them with three large tents and the mattresses to sleep on.

“These tents are very hot during the day and very cold at night. We cannot even sleep because the ground is full of water,” she said.

When The Mercury visited the camp, secured by SAPS officers and security guards, some refugees were playing soccer, and children were running around. Some women were inside tents minding their toddlers. A happy looking Junior was running behind his mother who kept reprimanding him about being naughty.

Makelele, who co-owned a small beauty salon with her 31-old sister Salimi, said she and her sister now had no way to generate income after their business was attacked and looted. Another two sisters who owned a salon also lost everything in the attack and are living in the camp.

She said she and her sisters left Uvira village at the north end of Lake Tanganyika in the DRC after witnessing her mother, Teresa, and father, Mkyau, being hacked to death by militants in 1996.

She said they had run away and sought refuge elsewhere in that country for 14 years.

“But the war was everywhere. People were being killed and young girls raped. I am still scared of going back home,” said Makelele.

She said she crossed the border with other Congolese and her sisters and was registered as a war refugee in South Africa. In 2010 she arrived in Durban where she and her sister started a small business. But she had a bigger dream of going back to school as she wanted to study commerce.

“My life was good when I arrived in Durban.

“I made lots of local friends, who were mostly my customers at the salon,” she said.

However, things turned around on March 30 when a large group of South Africans attacked her business, stealing everything.

“It was at midday when one of my customers warned me to run away because feranges (a term to describe thugs and people who abuse whoonga) from Malukazi were on their way to attack foreigners.

“I dismissed the warning as a joke. But about 12.30 people were shouting: “Awahambe amakwerekwere!” (Foreigners must leave). I ran away from the salon to take refuge in a house full of scared Congolese. Attackers came and threatened to burn down the house and we all ran to the police station.”

At the camp she was taken care of by her salon customers.

“My Zulu friend who lives nearby always welcomes me for meals. But I come back to sleep in the tent.

“I always receive WhatsApp messages from Zulu friends who say they are sorry about what is happening.

“I would like to go back to my normal life, but it would be difficult to do business again.”

Joe Nene, an adviser to eThekweni Mayor James Nxumalo, said the city and Community Safety and Liaison MEC Willie Mchunu would lead a campaign to take foreigners back into the community.

“From this week Mchunu will lead the campaign to talk to people because they need to understand the plight of the foreigners,” he said.

Municipality official Bheki Mngwengwe said many foreigners were coming to seek accommodation.

“But we cannot just accept them until we assess if their lives are under threat. Those who still have homes must go back and only come for food.”

<http://www.iol.co.za/news/crime-courts/foreign-fugitives-are-wet-cold-and-scared-1.1841708>

Church leaders want to meet Zulu king

April 7 2015 at 02:38pm

By NOELENE BARBEAU [Comment on this story](#)

Durban - KwaZulu-Natal church leaders hope to meet King Goodwill Zwelithini to try to find a “common voice” that would reconcile foreigners and local communities.

“It is clear the king’s comment (reportedly that foreigners should leave South Africa) has been misinterpreted by people. Foreign nationals are convinced the recent attacks on them are because of his statement and we are hoping to get a message to the king to try and say something positive,” said Reverend Ian Booth, chairman of the Diakonia Council of Churches.

Clergy from Diakonia on Monday visited a transit camp in Isipingo which has become home to about 260 foreigners seeking refuge since a fresh wave of xenophobic attacks began in the past week in Isipingo, uMlazi and Malukazi.

Sparking the recent outbreak of xenophobic violence was believed to be a combination of a labour dispute and King Zwelithini’s reported comment.

Police have said a supermarket and wholesaler in uMlazi had been involved in a labour protest with workers since last year and that protesting workers were fired and replaced with foreigners.

Cars, minibus taxis, homes and foreign-owned businesses were attacked, forcing foreigners to flee to the Isipingo police station where they had been staying until many were moved to a local transit camp and other parts of Durban.

Many of the foreigners, who have sought refuge in Durban, told Diakonia members on Monday they were afraid of what might happen on Wednesday when locals were expected to march in the city centre.

“Locals, our neighbours, have been telling us to move out by Wednesday because by then they will be staying in our rooms,” said a foreigner who did not want to be named.

Booth said some of the foreigners who fled last week had tried to return to their homes in Isipingo only to find people already living there.

In Isipingo, the transit camp is protected by temporary barricades, the local police and a private security company.

There are currently two marquees that house 265 people – one for men and the other for women and children.

At the time of the visit by the clergy, a few mothers were bathing their little ones in plastic wash basins that had been provided. A heavily pregnant woman was being allowed into the camp that has a makeshift clinic set up by the SA Red Cross. Free meals are also being provided.

eThekweni municipal officials have been trying to control the number of people seeking refuge, interviewing each person first and asking those whose homes had not been targeted to stay there.

Other displaced foreigners have been housed temporarily in Merebank, uMlazi and Austerville.

Bishop Mike Vorster of the Methodist Church of Southern Africa learnt that when foreigners were attacked, they were told, by locals, the king had given them permission to do it.

He said he felt broader socio- economic issues needed to be addressed.

Bishop Ruben Phillip, chairman of the KZN Church Leaders Group and head of the Anglican Church in KZN, said he was asked to try to initiate a meeting with King Zwelithini, so that he could play a role in reversing the feeling of negativity.

“We desperately need leaders, civil and political, to speak with a common voice towards peace and reconciliation,” he said.

The king’s spokesman, Nhlanhla Mntaka, did not answer calls on Monday.

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<http://www.iol.co.za/news/crime-courts/church-leaders-want-to-meet-zulu-king-1.1841694>

Foreigners flee to Durban police stations

April 7 2015 at 01:28pm

By Zainul Dawood and Nosipho Mngoma

Durban - Xenophobic attacks in Durban have taken an ominous turn in the past 24 hours with more groups of threatened foreigners arriving at police stations seeking protection.

On Tuesday morning there was a growing crowd of Mozambicans and Zimbabweans at the Sydenham police station after they were chased by locals from their homes in the New Germany Road informal settlement.

On Monday night a different group gathered at Greenwood Park police station – also after being chased from their homes.

On Monday church leaders visited a camp in Isipingo after foreigners were hounded out of that area as well as uMlazi.

Many of the affected people are families who have been living in Durban for several years.

At Sydenham police station on Tuesday, Joseph Msimango, 36, of Zimbabwe, said the New Germany Road informal settlement residents' committee had taken a roll call on Monday of all foreign nationals.

“They took down our names and checked our papers. They said they wanted to check that we were all here legally. We had no problem, because they talked to us properly.”

Hours later, the foreign nationals were ambushed in their homes and beaten, many escaping with only the clothes they were wearing.

Another man who asked not to be named said: “We have been living with them as brothers for 15 years. All of a sudden they herd us out like cows.”

Most of the group work as artisans. Besides their passports and other documents, they are desperate to go back for their tools.

“We just want to take our things, make some money and go home before we are killed,” said another.

Satish Dhupelia, of the Sydenham Community Police Forum, said they were trying to get the municipality to help because the police alone cannot handle all the needs of the stranded people.

On Sunday, 28 Mozambicans fled from a Sea Cow Lake shack settlement after a mob of 15 balaclava-clad men allegedly attacked them.

They are now living in one of the prefabricated offices at the Greenwood Park police station.

One of the victims, David Santo, said the mob arrived on Saturday night. They stoned the shacks of the foreigners and looted their homes.

Several men were beaten with sticks, rocks and bottles, Santo said.

“They broke whatever they could in our shacks, including our fridges and televisions.

“They threatened to kill (us) on Sunday if they found us still staying there. Some of the residents fled to the CBD. The police took the rest of us to the police station,” he said.

“We want to go back to our homeland.”

Santo said the “landlord” of the rented shacks had tried to help them, but the mob pushed him aside, saying they did not want foreigners in the country.

Another victim, who identified herself as Linda, said they rented the shacks for R350 a month.

Some Mozambicans have been living in the settlement for 10 years, working as tradesmen, shop assistants and domestic workers.

The police provided them with food for the night.

Police spokesman Major Thulani Zwane confirmed on Tuesday morning that people had come to the Greenwood Park police station claiming they were victims of a xenophobic attack. He said the police were interviewing and taking down statements.

Foreigners threatened via WhatsApp

April 7 2015 at 12:46pm

By Bongani Hans [Comment on this story](#)

Durban - "Wednesday Zulu pp are coming to town starting from market they mission is to kill every foreigner on da road pls pass ths 2 all ur contacts in case they cam pp should b on alert!" read a WhatsApp alert warning of an alleged threat against foreigners in Durban.

Foreigners told religious leaders of the Diakonia Council of Churches on Monday that since last week they had been receiving warnings through social networks telling them to be vigilant of possible attacks to take place in Durban on Wednesday.

"This warning has been circulating on the cellphones of foreigners. Personally I don't know who is the source of the warning," said Daniel Dunia, who is the spokesman for refugees at the camp that has been established in Isipingo Beach, south of Durban.

A Zimbabwean living in the CBD said his neighbours, who were South Africans, had been telling him that on Wednesday "we are going to attack all foreigners because the king said you must be out of the country".

"One even told me: 'That flat is going to be mine,'" he said.

Anglican Church Bishop Rubin Phillip and Methodist Church Bishop Mike Vorster led the fact-finding mission to the camp that has become a safe haven for victims of xenophobic attacks in Isipingo, Malukazi and Umlazi.

Vorster said even though the alert could be just a rumour it should not be dismissed outright.

There were differing reports as to what sparked the violence that started on March 30.

City officials told the clergymen that it started after a labour protest by South Africans who then turned their anger on foreigners.

But locals blamed King Goodwill Zwelithini, saying the attackers said the king had given an order that foreigners should be deported.

Municipal official Bheki Mngwengwe, who is assigned to look after the Isipingo camp, said the threat would be reported to the National Intelligence Agency for investigation.

"They (the agency) were here just now. As soon as they come back we will inform them about this."

Before the violence in Durban erupted, the king told a moral regeneration gathering in Pongola last month that foreigners were helping break down culture, that some were responsible for crime and that illegal foreigners should leave the country.

Vorster said the Diakonia Council of Churches was seeking a meeting with the king to understand what his statement meant.

"I would like to ask him to clarify what he said.

"We would like to meet the king, but certainly there is a protocol that would need to be followed.

"We would like to explore that and see if we cannot have an audience with the king to have a better understanding in terms of what he did say," he said.

Phillip said leaders should speak responsibly about foreigners.

“They (leaders) have to watch their words because if the leader says anything against or about the foreign nations that is negative, then the people might use that to continue to attack foreign nationals.”

He said whether the leader was a politician, church leader or king, they should choose their words carefully.

The Mercury

<http://www.iol.co.za/news/crime-courts/foreigners-threatened-via-whatsapp-1.1841552>

‘I came for better life, not madness’

April 5 2015 at 02:28pm

By Nkululeko Nene

Isipingo, KwaZulu-Natal - The desperate cries of a young child can be heard across a transit camp hastily established near Isipingo.

They're a haunting reminder that within this tented environment, fear and isolation are part of an unfolding human tragedy marked by xenophobia and violence.

The camp has been set up to secure the safety of 240 displaced foreigners, whose hopes for a new beginning in Kwa-Zulu-Natal have been dashed.

Attacked in Isipingo this week, they sought refuge at the local police station. Then they were moved to the camp.

Angry locals claimed the foreigners were taking their jobs and involved in crime.

The foreigners say they had to leave their countries and were simply looking for a better way of life for their families.

Adding fuel to the fire, according to some, was King Goodwill Zwelithini suggesting recently that foreigners involved in crime should be deported.

Social Development MEC Weziwe Thusi said the camp's location was being kept secret to avoid further violence.

She said the foreigners were being housed in two large marquees, one for men and the other for women.

“They will be provided with three meals a day, with food donated by volunteer organisations,” she said, adding that the plan was to eventually send the foreigners back to the community.

“Meanwhile, we need to engage local communities and ensure the reintegration of the foreigners is peaceful.”

She said the Department of Home Affairs had already started a process of verifying documents.

The situation reached a climax on Monday when local workers accused businesses in Isipingo of hiring foreigners to replace local workers involved in industrial action and wage disputes.

Ethekwini deputy city manager of community and emergency services Musa Gumede confirmed workers in the Isipingo area were upset that foreigners undermined their job security.

It is understood that the aggrieved locals were engaged in continuing industrial action over wages when businesses started using foreigners to replace those taking part in the strikes.

Steven Pillay, human resources manager of Jeena Wholesalers, one of the companies accused of hiring foreigners, said that the rumours that they were hiring foreigners were not true.

“All I can confirm is that there is a court order against the union representing the workers. This is as a result of threats against customers and workers who did not take part in the action.”

But the real human drama is in the camp.

An asylum seeker, Kabango Hussein Ocean, 29, from the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC), said he was hit on the head with an iron rod while working at his family’s hair salon in Isipingo.

“I had to run for my life. People screamed at me ‘go back to your country - even the king says voetsak’.”

Ocean says he has legal documents that allow him to stay.

Trying to comfort her crying child, Adibisho Seza Oliver, a 29-year-old mother from the Kivu province of the DRC, said: “I came here to live a better life. I did not expect this madness.”

Religious leaders and politicians have been hard at work trying to prevent any further flare-ups.

SAPS spokesman, Major Thulani Zwane, said the situation was under control with mobile units set up to patrol the area and ensure the safety of all concerned.

<http://www.iol.co.za/news/south-africa/kwazulu-natal/i-came-for-better-life-not-madness-1.1841121>

Shelter sought for Isipingo displaced

April 2 2015 at 03:18pm

By ZAINUL DAWOOD AND SIHLE MLAMBO [Comment on this story](#)

Durban - Authorities are scrambling to find a suitable place to house foreigners displaced after violence erupted in Isipingo this week.

About 170 people including children are affected, but the numbers swelled to about 250 on Wednesday night.

Many of them have been sleeping in the open at the Isipingo police station premises since Monday, fearing for their lives after violent attacks on foreigners in the area.

They were to have been temporarily moved to a soccer field in Merebank, but that plan did not work out and they had to spend their third night in the open at the police station.

The decision to move them was announced on Wednesday by mayor James Nxumalo after two days of consultation with stakeholders, including Community Safety MEC Willie Mchunu, uMlazi and Isipingo councillors and representatives of the group.

Earlier in the day, Nxumalo said buses would be arranged to fetch them after 4pm.

However on Wednesday night the facilities were not ready and this was delayed to Thursday.

Deputy city manager for community and emergency services, Musa Gumede, who met representatives of the affected group on Wednesday night, said later: "There have been talks with stakeholders in the taxi industry, the community and shop owners. Once we believe there is an area conducive for the refugees to live in we will inform them.

"Some of the businesses owned by foreigners are open in the Isipingo area. Tensions have eased."

Gumede said the city had a four-pronged approach to deal with the displaced foreigners:

- * The completion of the verification process being done by the Department of Home Affairs.
- * Looking for temporary shelter that has electricity, water, ablution facilities and importantly, security.
- * Food, clothing and other needs; but Gumede said this was being addressed by NGOs.
- * Integration back into the community.

Meanwhile, Isipingo Community Police Forum chairman, Denzil Reddy, said the convergence of the displaced people had made it difficult for normal policing to take place.

"During the night more people flock to the police station. They are using the toilets (meant) for the police staff. Children are running around in the parking lot which is dangerous," he said.

Last night the police station entrance and parking areas were littered with paper plates, discarded canned foods and dirt.

People were sleeping around the station blocks, underneath office containers, in their cars and under trees.

Some loitered around the station premises, urinated along the fences and trees and spoke loudly, much to the anger of police on duty.

Daniel Dunia, the group's representative, told Gumede they were not happy with the situation.

"We have nothing to sleep on. This is unacceptable."

Democratic Republic of Congo's ambassador to South Africa, Bene M'Poko, said he was doing all he could to help his countrymen and expressed disappointment at the attacks on them.

"Their lives are destroyed; some have nothing to go back to because the places they were living in have been looted and their shops have been vandalised. They have nothing but fear for their lives.

"We want to appeal to our South African brothers to maintain African solidarity. We need to work together to help each other," M'Poko said.

<http://www.iol.co.za/news/crime-courts/shelter-sought-for-isipingo-displaced-1.1840739>

Diakonia Council of Churches expresses deep concern about the continuing xenophobic related violent attacks against foreign nationals in Isipingo, Umlazi and Malukazi.

Hundreds of people have been affected. Some have had their businesses and properties looted and many injured. Several have been left homeless. There are reports of some abductions and missing persons.

We lament that most of the victims are law-abiding migrants seeking a safe and better life for their families in South Africa. We are gravely concerned at the prospect of further escalation of violence especially against the most vulnerable, including women and children.

Such xenophobic violence is in direct contradiction of our nation's professed belief in *ubuntu*. The violence has laid bare the aching soul of our nation and revealed that we are a nation in need of healing. The violence is symptomatic of the deep structural problems in South Africa and foreign nationals have become scapegoats. Reducing the humanity in them makes violence against them easier and even 'justified'.

We lend our voice to the condemnation of the senseless violence and implore the law enforcement agencies, together with community and religious leaders, to bring these attacks to an immediate cessation and to offer full protection for all persons affected.

We strongly urge communities in Isipingo, Umlazi and Malukazi to live the spirit of *ubuntu* which is fundamental to our coexistence as equal human beings living in an open, free and democratic country.

The Book of Leviticus (19:34) urges us: "The alien who resides with you shall be to you as the citizen among you; you shall love the alien as yourself."

We therefore call for:

- * All those involved in these criminal acts to refrain from targeting vulnerable sectors of the community and victimising foreign nationals in their community.
- * Use of full force of the law to clamp down on xenophobic attacks and bring perpetrators to justice.
- * People in positions of authority to refrain from making reckless and inflammatory statements that may be taken as an excuse by criminal elements.
- * Community dialogue between religious leaders, community leaders, local businesses and foreign nationals to explore ways of working together and peaceful co-existence.
- * Government and civil society organisations to embark upon systematic civic education on the positive social and economic contribution migrants make to South Africa.

Revd Ian Booth, Chairperson, Diakonia Council of Churches

Congolese man abducted in Isipingo

IOL News 2 April 2015

Durban - A Congolese man living in Isipingo has been missing since Monday, after looters apparently beat him badly, shoved him into their car and drove away.

Durban's spokesman for Congo nationals in the region, Shako Kumingo, said he only found out about his missing countryman, Mwanabeke, when he went to Isipingo police station on Wednesday.

"I went to deliver food to those who are seeking refuge at the police station and they told me that Mwanabeke was last seen on Monday," he said.

Mwanabeke is one of about 20 shop owners who were robbed of their belongings and assaulted by locals on Monday.

The xenophobic attacks on foreign nationals are alleged to have been sparked by King Goodwill Zwelithini's recent comment in which he said they should return to their home countries.

Looters allegedly told the foreigners that Zwelithini said they should be gone by Wednesday.

King Zwelithini's spokesman Judge Jerome Ngwenya denied this, saying the king was only referring to foreign criminals who entered the country and broke the law.

KwaZulu-Natal police spokesman Thulani Zwane said the number of foreigners harboured at the Isipingo police station kept increasing.

There were now more than 400 foreign nationals at the station.

"A case of public violence is being investigated by Isipingo SAPS. The police are monitoring the situation. No other incidents have been reported in the province. No arrests were made, investigations are continuing," he said.

Kumingo said the situation was heartbreaking because young children and women had been forced to leave their homes and feared going back.

He could not confirm that everyone had been accounted for except Mwanabeke.

"There may be more people missing. At the moment I'm trying to find his family so that I can get his picture to take to the police. We are really worried because witnesses said he was beat up quite badly," he said.

Foreign nationals from other parts of the province have been delivering food to those at the police station.

"Some don't have anything but the clothes on their backs so we are putting our heads together so we can deliver blankets," said Kumingo.

www.iol.co.za

Xenophobic violence in KZN: "This is a black Easter for foreigners"

in [Features, Slider](#) 4 mins ago

Xenophobic violence reared its head in Durban this week, with foreign nationals given an ultimatum to leave the country left fearing for their lives and seeking refuge with police. [According to IOL](#), about 120 people were attacked in Isipingo on Monday night.

“This is black Easter in KZN for foreigners,” said China Ngubane, a human-rights activist based in Durban, who was on the scene.

“In Malugazi, 3km from Isipingo, shops are being looted now. One Ethiopian [was] allegedly killed.”

“In Kenville, near Moses Mabhida stadium, roads are blocked; foreign-owned shops looted. One Indian couple chased [was] from a house. [There were] reports that the couple may have been killed,” Ngubane said in an email.

Another eyewitness, who asked not to be named, told the Daily Vox that the protests did not appear to be organic.

“It didn’t look like your normal people joining a mob; this looked orchestrated,” he said.

Foreign-owned shops in Isipingo have since been boarded up and street hawkers have fled.

“There are a lot of guys who are hawkers [in Isipingo]; they’ve got little tents, cutting hair, selling things on the roadside – they’re all gone,” he added.

After the attacks, foreign nationals fled for safety to the Isipingo police station.

It’s believed that the riots were sparked by [comments made](#) by Zulu king Goodwill Zwelithini last week. Zwelithini was reported to have said that foreigners should be deported as they were competing with locals for employment opportunities.

Members of the [mob allegedly told](#) foreigners Zwelithini had said foreigners should go home “by April 1”.

The SA Human Rights Commission has [launched a probe](#) into the remarks, but Zwelithini has now [denied making them](#).

KZN community safety and liaison department spokesperson Siphon Khumalo [told East Coast Radio](#) that police had a security plan in the works and that the department was trying to organise a forum to allow those affected to discuss their concerns peacefully.

“The MEC and the province of KZN have urged that all parties that are complaining about the presence of the foreign business people that let this matter be discussed in a forum with authorities with the view of resolving it amicably,” he said.

- All images courtesy of China Ngubane.

<http://www.thedailyvox.co.za/xenophobic-violence-in-kzn-this-is-a-black-easter-for-foreigners/>

- 1 Apr 2015
- The Mercury
- Sphelele Ngubane

400 harboured at police station

ATTACKS and looting of shops owned by foreigners spread across Malukazi township, outside Isipingo, where violence erupted on Monday, allegedly in response to King Goodwill Zwelithini's comments that foreigners should go back to their home countries.

PICTURE BRENTON GEACH Convicted murderer Thandi Maqubela is sentenced in the Western Cape High Court to 18 years in jail for the murder of her husband, Acting Judge Patrick Maqubela.

About 20 of the foreigners, who were robbed of their belongings when the house they rented was ransacked, found refuge at the Isipingo police station.

By Monday night, it was estimated there were about 100 Congolese nationals, including women and children, at the police station.

Last night, Amvri Djuma, 32, said locals had attacked foreigners staying in flats around Isipingo. He said about 300 more people had been brought to the police station for safety.

When The Mercury went to one of the looted shops in Malukazi, there were sticks and stones lying outside the shop. They had apparently been left there by looters taking away armfuls of stolen goods.

Inside the empty shop, distraught Jerome Dlamini, the owner of the house, said he could not believe how the Somali shop owner had escaped.

He said a group of locals had arrived at the shop claiming the foreigner "was not supposed to be at Malukazi because the king had said they are not wanted".

"I protected him until police arrived. They took him to the police station and I locked the shop. A while after police had left, people climbed up and removed the rooftop to get in. They took everything," Dlamini said.

"I tried stopping them, but I was also scared."

He said police never came to stop the crowd from looting and in the morning a police officer told him they could not come because "they were changing shifts".

Condemned

KwaZulu-Natal police commissioner Mmamonye Ngobeni condemned the attacks yesterday.

"We will not tolerate such attacks and damaging of property belonging to foreigners ... Police officers will continue to monitor the situation in the province and will investigate the cases that have been opened," she said.

“Cases of public violence were also opened after the community members barricaded the roads around Isipingo and Umlazi area.”

Yesterday, the Royal Household Trust said at a media briefing in Durban that attributing the call to oust foreigners to the king was a false allegation.

Speaking for King Zwelithini, the trust’s chairman, Judge Jerome Ngwenya, said it was regretted that “the unfortunate inaccurate reporting is now abused by some opportunists claiming it is the king’s call”.

“The king has no issues with any foreign national regardless of his/her country of origin. In his speech ... he decried the breakdown of law and order. We find nothing offensive in this, nor anything xenophobic in it or about it,” he said.

“The king feels justified in his utterances ... he wants to make it categorically clear that his comments were and are confined and directed to criminals in general and in particular those who enter the country’s borders illegally.”

The Mercury is in possession of a recording in which King Zwelithini, speaking at Pongola, said foreigners must go back to their home countries.

Last night, mayor James Nxumalo, Community Safety and Liaison MEC Willies Mchunu and other government officials visited the foreigners at the Isipingo police station.

On Monday, Zimbabwean Home Affairs Minister Kembo Mohadi told The Herald newspaper that the king’s remarks were highly inflammatory and against SADC protocols.

Foreigners driven out of Isipingo

March 31 2015 at 03:40pm

By SIHLE MLAMBO AND CHRIS NDALISO [Comment on this story](#)

DAILY NEWS Women and children of foreign businessmen at the Isipingo police station where they went to seek safety. Photos: Sihle Mlambo

Durban - About 120 foreign nationals who were attacked in Isipingo spent Monday night at the local police station.

According to a police source in the area, the conflict erupted after a group of men pelted the foreigners with stones, accusing them of destroying local businesses.

“The group of foreigners also run businesses in the area and when they were attacked by locals, they fought back pelting their attackers with stones. Because the area is next to a taxi rank, about five taxis were hit by the bricks. That made the situation worse,” said the source.

Isipingo police station commander, Colonel Themba Shelembe, said it was a sorry sight seeing children and their parents sleeping in the open on the police station grounds.

“We have people from Congo, Burundi, Rwanda, Ethiopia and Malawi gathered at the station as we speak,” he said this morning.

“Yesterday at about 11pm the Congolese Embassy called me, saying that they were coming to take their people to a safer place but when I relayed the news to the Congolese, they wanted none of it,” Shelembe said.

A foreign panel beater loads his spares as he prepares to flee from his Isipingo rented home which was stoned by angry locals. DAILY NEWS

He said the Congolese said if help was on the way, then they should not be separated from the rest of the refugees.

“Even women shouted that they would not be separated from their men. The sad part is that some of these people have small children.

“We need an urgent solution to this because we don’t have accommodation for these people.”

King Goodwill Zwelithini’s reported comments that foreigners must leave has been blamed for the fresh wave of xenophobic attacks, this time in Isipingo and uMlazi. Cars, minibus taxis, a house and foreign-owned businesses were stoned as hordes of people allegedly chased them out of their businesses saying, the “king has spoken”.

The foreigners have hit back at the king and called for him to chase his Swazi wife, Queen Zola Mafu, out of the country first.

They blamed the government for not denouncing his comments, saying the attacks had left their shops exposed, with thousands of rand worth of stock looted as a result on Monday.

The Royal House has since denied that the king made the comments, claiming that he was quoted out of context. The South African Human Rights Commission is investigating a complaint and has asked for an audio recording of his speech.

Speaking at the Isipingo police station on Monday, foreigners called for the government to intervene.

Daniel Dunia, a businessman from the DRC, who claimed he was in the country legally, said the government was to blame because nobody had called the king to order.

“The South African government must change the constitution if they want us to go away; we can find a different country to seek asylum,” he said.

“The government, the president never said anything to call the king to order, so they are responsible for this, too.”

Dunia said at least three people had been taken to hospital with injuries.

“The king is the one who is responsible for this xenophobic attack,” Dunia said.

“We are not safe at all; at home we are not safe and even at the police station we are not safe, because they are beating us here, even the police.

“A few months ago, the relationship was very good... we don’t have any problems with (South Africans).

“To me he (the king) is not a leader because we have never found a leader who can say foreigners must go. He has a foreign woman, he must chase his wife away first and then we can go.”

Dunia slammed police and claimed they did nothing to quell the attacks and instead, two foreigners who were carrying bush knives were arrested by police.

“The police come and do nothing; they just stand there. Then they (attackers) start taking stones and beating foreigners with the stones and sticks, and the police are standing there, and at the end of the day, we ask them (the police) what can we do.

“So, they escort us to the police station.

“We reach here and even the police are beating our brothers here at the police station in Isipingo,” he said.

Another foreigner, Domingo Felekeni, said he fled from his barber shop to the police station when he got a phone call that foreign businesses were under attack.

Police spokesman, Major Thulani Zwane, said police were aware of incidents in uMlazi and Isipingo but that no cases had been opened.

“We urge the victims to come forward and report the matter so that we can commence with the investigation.”

Community activist, Desmond D’Sa, described the attacks as “sad”. “This must stem from the king’s statement; it’s really sad,” he said.

A house owned by a South African and rented by a group of foreigners was stoned. They live there and use it as a scrapyard by day.

The property owner, who did not want to be named, said he was disappointed that the house had been badly damaged, adding that the attacks were not necessary.

“Many cars that belong to people were being fixed here and are badly ruined now because of this,” he said.

“I’m still shocked at what happened and I am afraid for them because the people hit the taxis with the stones and they will be blamed for this.”

Daily News

Zuma's son wants foreigners out of the country

By: Amanda Khoza, News24 2015-04-01 07:07

Durban - President Jacob Zuma's son, Edward, has come out in full support of King Goodwill Zwelithini's controversial call to deport foreigners from South Africa.

“We need to be aware that as a country we are sitting on a ticking time bomb of them [foreigners] taking over the country.

"The reason why I am saying that is because some of the foreigners are working for private security companies where they have been employed for cheap labour. These companies are running away from complying with South African labour laws,” said the president’s eldest son.

'Foreigners need to leave the country'

Zuma told News24 in an interview he fully agreed with Zwelithini’s sentiments that “foreigners needed to leave the country.”

Zwelithini allegedly made the comments, which have sparked criticism, at a moral regeneration rally in Pongola, northern KwaZulu-Natal, two weeks ago.

The Zulu king reportedly said that foreigners were changing the nature of South African society as they were taking advantage of the poorly behaved and undisciplined locals.

Zwelithini was also quoted as saying, “We urge all foreigners to pack their bags and leave.”

Despite the South African Human Rights Commission now probing the Zulu king’s utterances, Zuma junior said, as a citizen of South Africa, he fully agreed with the king.

He said some foreigners didn’t have legal documentation permitting them to be in the country.

Former soldiers a danger

The time bomb, charged Zuma, was that some foreigners were carrying guns and some of them were soldiers in their home countries.

“In South Africa you need to have a gun licence to be able to carry a gun. Where are their licences? We can’t rule out the possibility of a coup in the future. The government needs to clean out everyone that is in the country illegally. They need to leave,” said Zuma.

He said foreigners were fuelling South Africa’s drug problem.

“They are the reason why there are so many drugs in the country. They supply and sell the drugs to communities in our country. Take Radovan Krejcir for example, he came into the country because he knew he could commit crime and get away with it,” said Zuma referring to the Czech fugitive who has been charged, along with three others, for the murder of Lebanese national Sam Issa.

“I am not only talking about foreigners from African countries, I am also talking about Asians and Europeans as well. They are a real security threat to this country and the police can’t catch them because they can’t be traced because some of them do not have proper documentation,” said Zuma.

News24

Edward Zuma. Business interests include Silvex 556; Isthebe Construction and Engineering; and a range of companies that the president’s son joined after Jacob Zuma took office. These include Southeast Network Construction SA; SA Guilding Star Trading; Nippon Import Export SA; Isthebe Petroleum; Isthebe Oil and Gas; Isthebe Foods; Dumaka Alternative Technology; Ocean Crest Trading 51; Khumusi Trading Enterprise; Izichwe Investment Holdings; and Masikhuza. In November 2012 it was revealed that Zuma Jnr had defaulted on two loans totalling close on R5 [million](#) from the Ithala Development Finance Corporation. Earlier in September 2012 it was reported that Edward Zuma was being sued by a wedding planner for not paying the R1,5 million still [owed](#) on his 2011 wedding to Pumelele at the Tala Game Reserve in KwaZulu-Natal. The total cost of the wedding was R2,5 million.

Foreigners attacked in Isipingo

(“Foreigners must go; the king said they must go, ‘ makwerekwere awahambe”)

Sphelele Ngubane The Mercury 31 Mar 2015

CONGOLESE living and running businesses in Isipingo came under siege yesterday when locals attacked them in their shops and trashed the house they had run to for refuge.

The locals allegedly told the foreigners that King Goodwill Zwelithini had given them an ultimatum that “by April 1” they should have gone back to their home countries.

However, the Royal Household Trust’s chairman, Judge Jerome Ngwenya, denied that the actions of the locals were triggered by the king’s utterances, adding that the violence was started by foreigners fighting among themselves in Umlazi earlier.

Ngwenya said according to his knowledge, the violence started at a shopping complex in Umlazi where a foreigner shot dead another foreigner.

He said the trust maintained that the king did not say foreigners must be deported.

“He did not use the word ‘foreigners’. He did not say the foreigners must leave. He said izigilamkhuba (thugs) who illegally enter the country and continue with their criminal activities must go back to their countries.

“The king is not talking to foreigners who are legally here and are working ... and who do not break the law.”

Police spokesman Thulani Zwane said that no case had been opened. “We urged the victims to come forward,” he said.

He could not link the Umlazi incident and the Isipingo one.

Congolese Raphaely Fikiri, 30, said the violence started between 10am and 11am when a crowd of people looted shops, chasing people away, and told them that foreigners must go.

Fikiri said when they ran to the house which they rented, police arrived but were too few to manage the hostile crowd.

“They came in one small car and they left. The looters then got a chance to enter the house. They damaged four cars, they threw stones,” he said.

Some helped themselves to car stereos and bags with personal belongings. A number of people suffered minor injuries to the head and body after being hit by stones.

The Congolese attacked at the house were at the Isipingo police station for their safety and could not go back to the house last night.

Fikiri said their relationship with the locals had been peaceful since he had got there in 2006.

“People just took a chance because they heard the king saying all foreigners must move,” he said.

“I forgive the king because he does not know what he has said. We know that his wife is also a foreigner. She also can go back.”

Fikiri, who has been in the country legally for 10 years, said they were defenceless. He said most of them had hair salons and one of them was a car mechanic. Some of the four cars on the property had been brought in by owners for fixing.

Daniel Dunia, 33, said he was in his shop when he heard the locals singing in the streets: “Foreigners must go; the king said they must go, ‘makwerekwere awahambe’”.

Dunia said police who returned to the scene advised them to close down.

A vendor who saw the crowd said he heard them saying: “The foreigners must have gone back home by April 1.”

Human Rights Commission spokesman Isaac Mangena said they condemned the attack and called on communities to understand the rights of foreigners.

“They do have a right to stay in the country, to find employment and to start businesses. Law enforcement agencies must ensure that they arrest perpetrators and protect the foreigners,” said Mangena.

Community Safety MEC Willies Mchunu said the attack was “pure criminality that should be treated as such”. He said attacks on foreigners were undermining peaceful efforts to resolve such violence.

Independent violence monitor Mary de Haas said the locals were using “what the king had said as an excuse, but that is their responsibility ... It gives them an excuse to do it and it is criminal mob behaviour.”

De Haas was also astonished that no arrests had been made, and at reports that police who first arrived at the scene went back to the station and returned later on.

During a moral regeneration event in Pongola two weeks ago, the king called for the government to send foreigners back home because they were changing the nature of South African society with their “amanikiniki” (shabby goods) and enjoying wealth that should have been for local people. The HRC is investigating the king’s speech.

<http://www.iol.co.za/news/crime-courts/foreigners-attacked-in-isipingo-1.1839319>

- 30 Mar 2015
- The Mercury
- Sphelele Ngubane

HRC asked for details of its case

THE Royal Household Trust has written to the Human Rights Commission requesting complaint submissions that formed the basis of the commission’s investigation of King Goodwill Zwelithini’s speech about the deporting of foreigners.

The commission is probing the speech he gave during a moral regeneration event in Pongola two weeks ago. In his speech, the king called for the government to send foreigners back home.

In a letter written to the commission, the acting chief executive of the trust, Bonginkosi Qunta, said: “We request all such information written or otherwise forming the basis of the complaint and the resultant investigation. We may stress the importance of access to such information because it would enable His Majesty in composition of the committee of those he appoints as his eyes and ears.”

The commission’s spokesman, Isaac Mangena, confirmed that they had received the letter from the royal household.

“As part of the investigation, we will notify the other party (the king) of the allegations against them,” he said.

Asked for comment on how the public had reacted towards the king’s speech, the trust’s chairman, Judge Jerome Ngwenya, said he was unable “at present” to comment, until The Mercury sent him a recording.

He said the speech he was in possession of did not have a section in which the king, as reported, said “all foreigners must pack their belongings and return to their countries”.

“All information I have in this regard does not support or confirm this reporting.”

The Mercury has a recording of the speech in which the king said foreigners must go back to their home countries. Yesterday, King Zwelithini spoke again about foreigners at the Amarula Ceremony, known as Umkhosi Wanganu, at KwaKhangela Royal Palace at Nongoma.

According to the SABC, the king was unrepentant about his remarks about foreigners. He said it was unacceptable that there were almost 5 million foreigners in the country – a ticking bomb that could explode at any time.

The SABC quoted the king as saying yesterday: “Right now we are sitting on a fire. I know I have been accused by others for announcing this, but I am not turning back. I still repeat this, I will not withdraw. Nobody has no home. We are tired of criminals, we are tired of people who sell drugs and sometimes our children are being used to sell drugs. I will not allow this as Zulu king, no matter what. There is no turning back.”

The king also called on the Swazi people to work together with South Africa in stopping foreigners from using the border between the countries as an illegal point of entry to South Africa.

“You people of Swaziland must work together because they use Swaziland to get inside the country.,” the SABC quoted him as saying.

Swaziland Solidarity Network (Johannesburg)

25 March 2015

Swaziland: King Zwelithini Must Deport His Wives, His Son Back From Swaziland and Get a Job

press release

The luxury of living on people's hard earned taxes clearly pollutes one's judgement to the extent of making them talk nonsense. This is the fate that king Goodwill Zwelithini shares with his equally delusional brother in-law king Mswati.

A month after telling Swazis in Swaziland that they should not engage in industrial action, he has come out to declare that all foreigners should be deported from South Africa. His reasoning is that foreigners should not be allowed to compete with South Africans for local economic opportunities. This shocking declaration comes from a man who has in his harem two foreign nationals from Swaziland who live on South Africans' taxes. These are Zola Mafu and Mantfombi Dlamini. As if that was not enough hypocrisy, Zwelithini's son Mandlesizwe Zulu is actually an employee of the Swazi army.

This is not only a case of a South African being allowed to compete with Swazis for jobs but violates South Africa's laws. According to South African law a South African cannot be a member of a foreign country's armed forces. They can only participate in another country's armed forces as deployees of the South African army. Zwelithini's son is not a member of the South African Defense Force and therefore cannot be deployed to any army in any capacity. He is merely breaking the law and ought to be arrested and charged. It is unfortunate that he has not clarified as to which "foreigners" he is referring to because investors from all over the world have been participating in South Africa's economy since the discovery of Gold in the country.

Our guess is that he was referring to the African nationals who have been victims of mob attacks from township dwellers. As to how a grown man of such stature can inflame hatred amongst Africans with such ignorant rhetoric is truly alarming. Perhaps he is too ignorant to know that South Africa is signatory to treaties which allow foreigners to live and work in the country, having fled their politically volatile homes. Unlike him and his harem, these Africans have the dignity to actually work for their income

South Africa: Down With Xenophobia! Say Khayelitsha Organisations

By Tariro Washinyira 23 March 2015

To commemorate Human Rights Day and raise awareness about xenophobia, around 80 South Africans and Somalis marched in Khayelitsha Site C at an event organised by the Social Justice Coalition (SJC).

The participants marched down streets, singing and shouting slogans, "Phantsi nge xenophobia! Pantsi! (down with xenophobia)."

SJC activist Malwande Msongelwa, who has been working in the community since 2009, said the organisation was established in 2008 in response to the xenophobic attacks. The SJC is continuing with its mandate by engaging the police every time there is a xenophobic attack, giving protection to the targeted foreigners, and organising awareness programmes.

"The aim is to stop xenophobic attacks and give awareness to the community, discouraging what happened in Johannesburg and at Marikana in Philippi to happen here."

She said they plan to implement similar activities in other communities, but there was a pressing need to start in Site C since the area has a high crime rate.

A pamphlet with police contact numbers on it was distributed to educate the community to coexist with foreigners, stop looting and vandalising their shops, and to encourage members of the community to phone the police if they came across a foreigner being attacked.

Msongelwa said, "According to South African constitution, foreigners have a right to stay in this country freely. South African citizens should not abuse their rights or discriminate [against] them. Since the inception of this programme, I am receiving positive feedback from the community. The community want foreigners to stay and manage their businesses because they are friendly, they treat customers with respect and sell affordable items. Elderly people are ashamed of their children who get involved in vandalising and looting foreigners' shops."

She said that in response to the recommendations made by the Khayelitsha Commission of Inquiry into policing, the SJC together with other bodies have established eight community forums. From these forums, police take up complaints and suggestions based on research conducted by the civil society organisations and on community needs. Civil organisations are helping to build trust between the community and the police.

On 14 March, a forum in Nkanini was attended by the City of Cape Town, the South African National Civic Organization (Sanco), Community Police Forum, Ndifuna Ukwazi, SAPS, area committees and the Department of Community Safety.

One participant, a 54-year-old woman, said, "I am a mother, I also bore children; I know the pain of bearing a child. I condemn these xenophobic attacks. Somalis are also human beings. They ran from war and are making an honest living for themselves."

A 25-year-old Somali said he is happy with the initiative. He believes the kind of support they are getting from South Africans will help curb such crimes in Site C. Addressing other Somalis in their language, he said, "These South Africans who marched with us today are here to support us. We should not be involved in crime; let's live in harmony. If you have a problem with a South African citizen, do not take the law into your hands, engage community leaders. If it's a customer, tell him or her to go and buy at another shop to avoid the spread of the attacks that spread to Philippi."

<http://allafrica.com/stories/201503231695.html>

King's anti-foreigner speech causes alarm

March 23 2015 at 07:46am

By Bongani Hans [Comment on this story](#)

Durban - Comments by the Zulu king that foreigners should go back to their home countries because they are changing the nature of South African society with their amanikiniki or goods and enjoying wealth that should have been for local people have horrified foreigners who have been dealing with a spate of xenophobic attacks around the country.

King Goodwill Zwelithini made the comments in a "moral regeneration" event in Pongola at the weekend.

The speech was reported in The Mercury's sister newspaper Isolezwe and on radio station Igagasi FM.

Somali Association of South Africa (SASA) chairman Ismail Ahmed said the statements could spark violence that would cause irreparable damage to the relationship between South Africans and the rest of Africa.

Shako Kuminga, who represents the Congolese in Durban, said the king's statement came while Congolese nationals were mourning deaths caused by a series of xenophobic attacks.

His countryman Noel Beya Dinshistia, a bouncer at a local nightclub, was doused in a flammable substance before being set alight while on duty two weeks ago.

He said the attackers were South Africans. Police spokesman Thulani Zwane confirmed the incident, but said no one had been arrested.

"Every week a Congolese is attacked in this city. On Friday a Congolese was attacked while returning from work.

"He was attacked because he worked as security guard.

"My wife (Tina Mwange) was stabbed in the Point area yesterday."

He said a Congolese woman known to the family was kidnapped in 2010 from Che Guevara (Moore) Road in Glenwood and taken to Umlazi where she was raped.

"What the king is saying is not helping the situation," Kuminga said.

Ahmed said Somalis in South Africa also paid allegiance to the king.

"He is also our king and he should be protecting us."

In his speech King Zwelithini said when South Africans were in exile they did not settle in other countries and start trading.

"Instead, when you were in their countries you helped them to get their freedom. I know that other countries were liberated because of liberation armies from South Africa," he was quoted saying.

"(But now) when you walk in the street you cannot recognise a shop that you used to know because it has been taken over by foreigners, who then mess it up by hanging amanikiniki," he said.

The king said foreigners were doing as they pleased because locals were not behaving properly and not respecting their hard-won freedom.

He said foreigners had realised that South Africans were stupid, which was why they were taking over the wealth.

"My ancestor King Cetshwayo fought for this country, which in 1994 was liberated.

"It cannot be that in 2015 the liberation is being damaged by (local) people who are not obeying the law, are thieves, child rapists and too lazy to plough the fields."

Political leaders were too afraid to tell South Africans the truth about their bad behaviour because they were scared of losing votes, he said.

Police Minister Nkosinathi Nhleko and Community and Liaison MEC Willie Mchunu were present during the speech and the king apologised for raising his concerns.

“I have to talk about this because I am the king; I don't have to wait for five years (for votes). As the king of the Zulu nation and among those who liberated this country, the time has come for me to say I'm fed up to be led by people (political leaders) who cannot express themselves.”

The

king's spokesman, Thulani Zulu, said he could not comment as he was not present when the speech was delivered and he did not know who wrote it.

<http://www.iol.co.za/news/politics/king-s-anti-foreigner-speech-causes-alarm-1.1835602>

Foreign owned shops in N West looted

March 15 2015 at 12:12pm

By ANA REPORTER [Comment on this story](#)

File photo

Rustenburg - Police in the North West have arrested 13 suspects for public violence in Stella after a crowd of about 200 people had started looting foreign owned shops.

Police spokesperson Sergeant Kealeboga Molale said the arrests came after violence at Rekgarathile location in Stella on Saturday night.

“It is alleged that about 200 community members started looting two foreign national shops after the police did a tavern raiding and seized the alcohol. It is alleged that this made the community not to be happy.”

The suspects are due to appear in Vryburg Magistrates' Court soon on charges of public violence.

ANA

<http://www.iol.co.za/news/crime-courts/foreign-owned-shops-in-n-west-looted-1.1832112>

Woman flees looters by jumping from window

IOL News 26 February 2015

Cape Town - In a desperate attempt to escape looters pounding at her door, Save September jumped from the window of her first-floor flat

She then turned to catch a six-month-old baby who, for safety sake, was tossed out of the window by her mother.

September and six other people had locked themselves in a room to avoid assault from protesters on the rampage in Marikana in Philippi. Locking themselves in and barring the door was not enough to keep out looters.

Amid a heavy police presence, the looting continued for a second day on Wednesday and spread to the Better Life informal settlement next to Marikana, where two more foreign-owned shops were looted.

On Wednesday, several foreign shop owners, including September and her husband, had closed up shop and fled the settlement. They said they

no longer felt safe doing business in the area.

“The people who looted our shops had no respect for life. I heard that two people were shot dead and I was not going to let them kill me or my baby,” said September, a South African citizen who married shop owner Abed Nduwimana, who came from Burundi four years ago.

Since then, she has been ostracised and physically assaulted by residents who called her a traitor because she had married a foreigner. The couple would seek refuge with family members in Blackheath, September said.

Police spokesman Andre Traut said on Wednesday that 11 people were arrested for public violence.

One person was shot dead and another wounded – allegedly by foreign shop keepers as residents looted foreign-owned shops. Traut said no one had been arrested for the shootings.

Nduwimana’s brother, James, owns a shop nearby. On Wednesday he packed all his belongings and a few food items into his vehicle. He would seek refuge in Mitchells Plain, he said. On Tuesday he had watched the front of his shop go up in flames as protesters rolled burning tyres at his business.

Responding to allegations that the attacks were xenophobic and that Ses’Khona People’s Rights Movement members were responsible, movement leader Loyiso Nkohla rejected the accusations and said the attacks were the actions of a handful of criminals in the area.

He condemned the incidents and urged the community to report attacks on foreign nationals to police.

Abdulkadir Ali, spokesman for Save Somali Community said he believed the attacks were xenophobic like recent attacks in Soweto.

“I believe it is spreading. Can’t they understand that we are African brothers?”

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<http://www.iol.co.za/news/crime-courts/woman-flees-looters-by-jumping-from-window-1.1823860>

Business owners set shops on fire

IOL News 27 February 2015

Johannesburg - A foreigner suffered burns to his arms and torso after angry Soweto business owners lobbed a petrol bomb into his shop in a bid to dislodge him after he refused to get out.

Thursday’s xenophobic eruption followed an outbreak last month sparked by the deadly shooting of a teenager, allegedly by a Somali shopkeeper, in nearby Snake Park, Dobsonville.

The looting and the violence spread like a virus.

From Snake Park, attacks on spaza shops spread to Naledi, Zola, Emndeni and, finally, Bramfisherville.

The shop in Bramfischerville was one of the many stops made by business owners who had gone on a mission to shut down foreign-owned shops on Thursday.

The shopowner dug his heels in and refused to come out even after a petrol bomb was thrown into his store.

A photographer from The Star, Dumisani Dube, witnessed the man being threatened by the young Soweto men, who kept shouting: “We’ll bomb you. Get out! Get out!”

The mob tried to break in by pulling at the burglar bars and smashing them with a panga.

The shopowner screamed for mercy and offered merchandise - a box filled with cigarettes - and money.

While he was in the shop, trying to put out the fire with a blanket, another petrol bomb was thrown inside.

He told the mob he did not have the key, but eventually gave in and ran out of the shop, screaming in pain.

The skin on his back and arms was severely burnt and he had a head injury from a steel rod shoved into his face while he was in the shop.

His blue container shop was also looted.

Earlier, business owners had gathered in Orlando East to discuss closing down foreign-owned shops.

They said they had sent letters on Wednesday to warn the foreigners to close their shops on Thursday.

When the business owners arrived at the police station in Doornkop on Thursday afternoon, some foreigners had gathered there and started throwing stones at the locals.

The business owners then moved towards one of the shops in the area, but the foreigners pushed back, firing warning shots into the air.

Police arrived and cordoned off the scene, arresting the foreigners who had allegedly fired the shots.

The business owners then moved around in a convoy of about 12 vehicles - including cars, bakkies and Kombis - to Dobsonville, Snake Park and Bramfischerville to close down any shops they found open.

Some of the vehicles carried homemade petrol bombs.

About four shops were bombed.

Residents who rent out the space to foreigners were also threatened.

The convoy arrived at another block in Bramfischerville and made a bid to bomb a shop, but the shopowners quickly closed it.

Local residents came to the shop owners' rescue when they saw what was happening and argued with the instigators.

"This is our area. We have the right to defend them," said a resident of Ntabamhlophe, a section of Bramfischerville.

"It's not fair for them to just come here and do as they please when they are not even from here."

People could not simply arrive and start closing businesses without speaking to the leadership in the area, they said.

"It's our responsibility to talk for them (foreigners). They can't come here and kill them. If they want to throw them out, it must be done right," another said.

The residents said they refused to be dragged into a business conflict that did not involve them. The people who had problems with the foreigners must talk to the mayor.

"They're committing a crime. They can't influence people to fight," another resident said.

The police, who were on patrol throughout the day, arrived at the scene and prevented the incident escalating into a fight.

Police spokesman Lieutenant Kay Makhubela said the bombers were people who lived in areas other than the three affected.

“They were armed with petrol bombs and knives, and one foreign national was severely burnt. No arrests have been made,” he said.

Makhubela said four foreigners were arrested earlier in Doornkop when they were found in possession of an unlicensed firearm.

The convoy of local business owners dispersed late in the afternoon and calm was restored.

On Friday morning police continued to monitor the area.

"There were no incidents reported overnight but police will continue to monitor the situation," Makhubela said.

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Cops monitor Doornkop after man set alight

IOL News 27 February 2015

Johannesburg - Police continued to monitor Doornkop in Soweto on Friday after a foreign shopowner was set alight.

“There were no incidents reported overnight but police will continue to monitor the situation,” Lieutenant Kay Makhubela said.

On Thursday, a foreign shopowner was seriously injured after he had paraffin poured on him and was set alight, Makhubela said at the time.

Police officers who rushed to the scene rescued him. He was badly injured and taken to hospital.

A group of people who had been going around Doornkop telling foreigners to leave were allegedly behind the attack. No arrests had been made.

In a separate incident, police arrested four foreigners in the same area when a group of locals tried to loot their shop.

“One of them fired a shot in the air,” Makhubela said of the shopowners.

Police confiscated the weapon. None of the locals were arrested.

Looting of foreign-owned shops in several parts of Gauteng began with the shooting death of 14-year-old Siphwe Mahori on January 19. Mahori was allegedly part of a group who tried to rob a shop kept by Somali national Alodixashi Sheik Yusuf, in Snake Park, Soweto.

The unrest spread from Soweto to Kagiso on the West Rand, Sebokeng in the Vaal, Eden Park in Ekurhuleni, and Alexandra, Johannesburg.

Several people were killed, including a baby trampled during looting of a shop.

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Itireleng residents stone madressa

IOL News 27 February 2015

Pretoria - Residents of Itireleng informal settlement near Laudium stoned a madressa after finding the mutilated body of an 8-year-old boy who had gone missing earlier this week.

The boy's body was found behind the building - an institution for the study of Islamic theology and religious law - which also houses a number of foreign nationals.

The child was found behind the building on Tuesday after a frantic search by the community.

The boy's eyes had been gouged out, and his hand and nose cut off.

This angered residents who stoned and vandalised the madressa claiming the foreign nationals were behind the murder.

The foreigners fled.

Lorraine Laka, who lives near the centre, was one of the first on the scene when the boy was found.

She was shocked at the state of the body and took pictures on her cellphone.

"When the community discovered the body, they got angry and blamed foreigners," said Laka.

On Thursday, police returned to the scene when some members of the community returned to the madressa and continued to loot.

When the Pretoria News visited the scene many of the building's windows were broken and rooms had been damaged by fire.

Police were still on the scene to prevent further looting.

A foreign national said angry locals had taken furniture and anything they could get their hands on. He said some of the people living there had lost thousands of rand.

The boy's family declined to speak to the Pretoria News.

"The child's mother identified the body. She had reported him missing earlier this week," said police spokesman Constable Tumisang Moloto.

A 39-year-old man has been arrested in connection with the murder and will appear in the Atteridgeville Magistrate's Court soon, he added.

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Ses'khona crowds go on looting spree

Kieran Legg & Chelsea Geach (IOL News) 25 February 2015

Cape Town - Bouts of xenophobic violence followed Ses'khona People's Rights movement supporters as they clashed with Somali residents in Bellville and Philippi on Tuesday night, following their leaders' appearance in the Bellville Magistrate's Court.

Ses'khona supporters from Marikana informal settlement looted at least four foreign-owned shops in Philippi, and unconfirmed reports suggested that shop owners shot two people dead in retaliation.

Earlier, Bellville's central district erupted into chaos following a brief appearance by the Ses'khona leadership in the magistrate's court. Andile Lili, Loyiso Nkohla and seven others were convicted earlier this month of contravening the Civil Aviation Act after they upended buckets of human waste at Cape Town International Airport.

The organisation's leadership had vowed their fight for decent sanitation facilities, which is at the heart of their so-called "poo protests", would continue even if they had to spend the next 250 years behind bars.

Outside the court, supporters sang and danced; the crowd separated from the courthouse by a line of policemen and two imposing Nyalas parked at the entrance.

However, things turned violent as supporters began making their way back to the train station at around 2pm.

They began throwing stones, allegedly targeting Somali residents in Durban Road. Police, fearing that protesters might loot, responded by setting off stun grenades.

A large contingent of police converged on the crowd and began shepherding them towards the station.

By 3pm, most of the supporters had boarded trains and gone, and police spokesman Lieutenant-Colonel André Traut said there had been no serious incidents of violence to report.

However, when the supporters arrived home, they began looting and rioting in Philippi.

Ses'khona spokesman Sithembele Majova said the movement condemned the looting, but that the Somalis had instigated the conflict.

"The people of Ses'khona condemn the looting that took place. It didn't take place on our behalf," Majova said. "But on the other side, we have to look at what made people angry towards Somalis."

He said that as crowds gathered in Bellville ahead of their leaders' court appearance, Somalis had attacked a woman and thrown bottles at the crowd.

"This was not a xenophobic attack at all, but when the people of Marikana were out to support Ses'khona leaders as they appeared in court today, they were attacked by Somalis in Bellville."

Majova said that Somalis on the upper floors of a building had thrown bottles onto the Ses'khona supporters, as well as targeting a woman. "The Somalis just attacked a lady from Marikana. That lady suffered many dangerous injuries.

"When people got back to the townships, they were so angry. We don't encourage attacks on shops but the Somalis did a very bad thing by attacking that woman. They were the main instigators."

Traut said police were deployed to Lower Crossroads in Philippi East, to "maintain law and order during acts of public violence perpetrated by a group of individuals aimed at foreign-owned shops in the area".

There had been reports of people shot dead, but those could not be confirmed, he said. "Reports of two males who were allegedly shot by foreign shop keepers were received, however the victims are yet to be traced. The exact extent of the situation is yet to be determined and although arrests have been made, the numbers will only be released at a later stage."

Traut said that police would remain on the scene until the situation had stabilised.

Earlier in court, sentencing proceedings continued for the nine members who could face up to 30 years behind bars under the Civil Aviation Act.

Ses'khona's lawyer, Pearl Mathibela, said taking into account the nature of their possible sentence, a pre-sentence report – which requires a correctional services officer to interview the convicted members – needed to be compiled.

The magistrate postponed the case until April 16 to allow for this report to be completed. Lili and Nkohla, who was dressed in the same red camouflage outfit he had worn on Monday, seemed unfazed.

Together with the other convicted members – Yanga Mjingwana, Ben Dyani, Jaji Diniso, Bongile Zanazo, Thembela Mabanjwa, Bantubakhe Mgobodiya and Wandisile Mkapa – they will now have to be interviewed one by one and asked, among other things, how a prison sentence might affect the lives of their families.

They smiled as they emerged from the courtroom where hundreds of supporters had gathered chanting their names. – Additional reporting by

Lenasi looters caught red-handed

IOL News 23 February 2015

Johannesburg - Two people have been arrested for stealing goods from a foreign-owned shop in Thembelihle, Lenasia, on Monday, Gauteng police said.

During what appeared to be a service delivery protest, some residents barricaded roads, while others went to loot foreign-owned shops, Lieutenant Kay Makhubela said.

“We have arrested two people who were caught in the act. They took a lot of things from the shops. They unfortunately fled the scene.”

Police had been monitoring the area from around 3am. No injuries had been reported and no property had been damaged, he said.

The two arrested would face charges of possession of stolen property.

Johannesburg metro police said earlier that residents barricaded the K43 road in the area with burning tyres. The road was closed between Volta Street and Nirvana Drive as protesters threw stones at passing cars, Chief Superintendent Wayne Minnaar said.

By 4pm the streets had been cleared and traffic was moving again.

Earlier, Makhubela said police used teargas to disperse the protesters.

Sapa
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Anger flares during anti-xenophobia march

IOL News 13 February 2015

Members of the African Diaspora Forum and civil society organisations shout at police for stopping them from moving past Claim and President streets yesterday. Metro police said the march was illegal. Photo: Antoine de Ras

Johannesburg - An anti-xenophobia march that started off on a festive note at Pieter Roos Park in Parktown descended into chaos and caused traffic disruptions when the police halted the proceedings on Thursday.

The African Diaspora Forum (ADF), Right2Know and the Workers and Socialist Party were some of the organisations that joined the march, which organisers said was supposed to raise awareness and take a stand against xenophobia.

The marchers first gathered at the park and were treated to traditional African music and dance.

The intention was to move through Hillbrow and Berea to the Carlton Centre, where leaders from the organisations were due to address the crowd.

One of the organisers of the march, Democratic Left Front national secretary Trevor Ngwane, said they had initially got the go-ahead to march from the Joburg metro police department and were told only at the 11th hour that they could gather only at the park. Ngwane said they refused to change their plans.

Metro police spokesman Chief Superintendent Wayne Minnaar denied that permission for the march was given.

“They were not allowed to move beyond the park for security reasons,” he said.

Despite this, the marchers made their way up Empire Road in Hillbrow.

Cosatu general secretary Zwelinzima Vavi, who joined in the first leg, said it was wrong for South Africans to take out their frustrations on foreigners.

“They ran away from their own situations in their own countries under the mistaken belief that there would be milk and honey in South Africa.

“We can’t take our frustrations of unemployment, poverty and inequality against our fellow Africans who are suffering just like we are suffering in South Africa,” he said. “So we’re here to demonstrate our support.”

As the marchers moved on, the metro police and SAPS set up impromptu roadblocks to manage traffic flow.

Motorists were forced to snake through throngs of people as roads were reduced to single lanes.

Pandemonium broke out when police officers - armed with rifles and spray canisters - refused to let them continue past the corner of Claim and President streets.

Marchers grew more agitated and started swearing at the police, demanding to know why they were arming themselves because nothing untoward had happened.

Ngwane had a scuffle with some of the officers and was forced into a police vehicle. He was later released without being charged.

By then, marchers had scattered and agreed to reassemble at the park.

ADF vice-chairman Jean-Pierre Lukumba said the organisation would not give up and would continue to organise marches to speak out against xenophobia.

Minnaar said no arrests were made and no damage to property was reported.

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EFF members burnt municipal property – Mamabolo

City Press 4 February 2015

EFF members set fire to municipal buildings during a protest in Mohlakeng, outside Randfontein, says Gauteng co-operative governance and human settlements MEC Jacob Mamabolo.

“The EFF members went on a rampage and burnt down municipal properties after blockading all roads and entrances into the area, preventing the community to go to work,” said Mamabolo today.

Mayor Sylvia Thebenare’s house and car, the library, municipal offices and hall were among the properties burnt.

Mamabolo said protesters looted shops owned by foreign nationals. He condemned the violence.

“This is a cowardly act and a total disregard for our democracy. In fact the EFF is saying away with democracy and advocating for a chaotic society characterised by violence, civil strife and general disorder.”

Residents embarked on a service delivery protest today, barricading roads and burning tyres.

Mamabolo said the Economic Freedom Fighters were granted permission to march, but did not deliver a memorandum to anyone.

The EFF's West Rand regional chairperson, Christina Mabala, said local African National Congress members started the fires.

"Some people within the ANC decided to use the opportunity to burn properties and loot. We as the EFF distance ourselves from the violent acts and damage to property," she said.

Mabala said the EFF organised a march from Mohlakeng township to Randfontein to hand a memorandum of grievances to Thebenare.

Police fired rubber bullets at the marchers after they stopped next to the traffic department to regroup, she said.

"We also received calls that people were burning buildings in the township after police fired rubber bullets at those who decided to turn back.

"Mamabolo was not there... he should stop making false accusations against the EFF."

The marchers handed a memorandum to municipal officials, said Mabala.

www.citypress.co.za

Mind your own business, minister

30 Jan 2015 00:00| [LISA STEYN](#)

Why is good business sense such a foreign concept, Lisa Steyn asks Small Business Development Minister Lindiwe Zulu.

Dear Ms Lindiwe Zulu,

Many South Africans, including you, have observed the success of foreign-run spaza shops in the townships and think the reasons for their success are a mystery.

But this sector is well studied, and research has revealed many so-called trade secrets, which include hard work and business acumen.

You have called for tougher regulation of foreign businesses in the townships to be fast-tracked, but you have also said that some aspects of the small business regulations are too restrictive.

From your first hours in office as the minister of small business development, you said that South Africans needed to learn from foreigners running successful small businesses. What has been done about that is unclear.

Now that the looting and violence, fuelled by xenophobia, has continued in Soweto and surrounding areas in recent days, your tone has become more demanding. You said (as reported in the press) that foreign business owners in the townships cannot expect to coexist peacefully with local businesses unless they shared their acumen.

Extensive research by several organisations on how foreign-owned spaza shops are run provides a great deal of insight, although I'll admit the picture is not always complete and, at times, contradictory.

The nonprofit organisation Sustainable Livelihoods Foundation is one of them. In its Formalising Informal Micro-Enterprise (FIME) project, it interviewed 950 spaza-shop businesses in eight townships between 2010 and 2013.

The research affirmed that foreign-run shops dominated the market. More than 51.5% of spaza shops in the survey were run by foreigners, and these were often linked to partnerships.

Typically, they were owned by Somalis, Ethiopians and Bangladeshis, although it did note that several South Africans were equally competitive.

One key advantage of these larger partnerships is that, by clubbing together, they had more start-up capital (between R20 000 and R60 000), enabling them to stock their shops well. Each store spent, on average, R7 000 a week on stock.

These larger shops attracted more customers because of longer trading hours (from 6.30am until 10pm) and, most importantly, lower prices.

Through their business networks, the spaza-shop owners were able to buy goods in bulk and get price discounts, and transport costs were shared. They established delivery agreements with suppliers and had access to high-demand products, the FIME research found.

On the other hand, Vanya Gastrow, a freelance researcher and PhD candidate at the African Centre for Migration and Society, said her research found that spaza-shop owners did not buy in bulk.

Instead, individuals shopped around for the lowest prices and specials to be competitive. But shop owners did share transport to reach a wider range of wholesalers, she said.

Tashmia Ismail, the head of the inclusive markets programme at the Gordon Institute of Business Science, has done extensive work on spaza shops in Johannesburg's Diepsloot. She agreed that the success of foreign-owned stores came down to competitive pricing, and some items were even sold at cost to lure foot traffic into the store.

Foreigners own more than half of South Africa's spaza shops ...

Percentage of spaza shops operated by foreigners and South Africans in a survey of eight townships

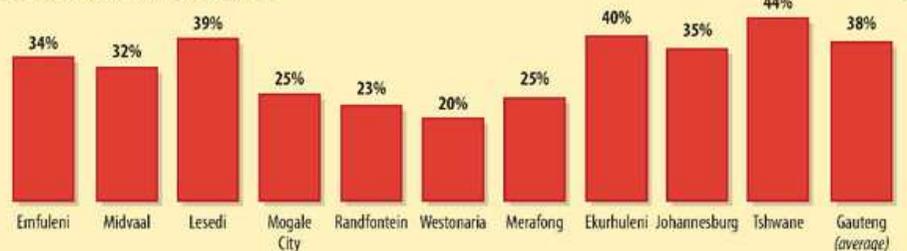
Sustainable Livelihood Foundation survey, 2010 to 2013



... but levels of xenophobia are dangerously high

Percentage of South Africans surveyed in Gauteng who said that all foreigners should be sent home

Gauteng City-Region Observatory survey, 2013



Graphic: JOHN McCANN. Data source: GCRO SURVEY (2013); SLF SURVEY (2010 to 2013)

Ismail said business savvy was just in some people's genes. "If you look at the literature on migrant groups, they seem to have a DNA of business. If you leave home, you have to make it. The stakes are high, you can't afford to fail."

Research has yielded different findings on whether foreign spaza-shop owners hire locals, but Gastrow said South Africans were the biggest economic beneficiaries of the sector, because the vast majority of foreign spaza-shop owners rented premises from them.

Gastrow said: "There are lots of claims that foreign nationals have sophisticated trading methods which South Africans can't adopt but, actually, many of the methods they use to be competitive are not highly complex ... But there is a definite lack of engagement between foreign nationals and South Africans."

Among locals, including you, Ms Zulu, there is a perception that foreign shop owners do not always play by the rules. And, indeed, better access to contraband tobacco, for example, has emerged as a key advantage for foreign-owned shops.

The FIME research found that 37% of the spaza shops surveyed sold contraband tobacco, and the majority of those were foreign owned.

The procurement of supplies requires a network of co-operation and substantial capital. Contraband tobacco is sold mostly in bulk, with orders of R50 000 to R100 000 at a time. But, in a bid to compete, some local shop owners sell liquor, which Muslim traders won't stock. Of the shops surveyed in the FIME project, 82 locally owned, and only 11 foreign-owned, shops sold liquor.

There is also a concern that some foreigners don't register their businesses and apply for permits to trade.

The requirements for informal traders differ between municipalities. No permits are required in Cape Town, but they are required in Johannesburg.

Many informal businesses do not register because, critics claim, of the difficulties involved, including the cost and red tape.

"You're looking at a minimum of R300 to register an entity and then more to reserve your name. It will cost R750 to R1 000, even without permits or factoring in time," Anton Ressel, a senior business consultant at the enterprise development consultancy Fetola, said.

"There is no incentive to register. It is almost a disincentive to be on the radar."

Toby Chance, the Democratic Alliance's spokesperson on small business development, said that, in Johannesburg, informal businesses were not necessarily being registered.

"It's almost certain that many of the police are on the take," he said.

But the city's spokesperson, Virgil James, insisted that regulation was being enforced. He said those running spaza shops had to register their businesses where city planning required it.

"When it [an illegally operating business] comes to our attention, it is closed down. The laws are in force; there are inspectors sent out who check for contravention," James said. "The policy and bylaws are indiscriminate; it doesn't matter if you are local or a foreign national."

But, he added, the city was consulting stakeholders to improve the regulation of informal trade.

Meanwhile, the contentious Licensing of Businesses Bill sits in Parliament, which requires that all businesses must be registered with their municipalities, which will have the power to impose restrictions and conditions.

Detractors argue that additional restrictions, which are aimed at illicit trade, could, in fact, kill legitimate businesses, both foreign and local.

Yours sincerely,

Lisa Steyn

The Mail and Guardian would like to clarify statements made Vanya Gastrow above on trade permits in the correction below:

The article says that permits are not required for informal trading in Cape Town. In fact, informal trading permits are required for informal trading from demarcated trading bays in public spaces like pavements and markets. However, permits are not required for spaza shops because they do not trade from public spaces but from private properties.

So spaza shops do not require informal trading permits. However informal traders trading from demarcated trading bays do need permits.

<http://mg.co.za/article/2015-01-29-mind-your-own-business-minister>

Four held for teen looter's death

January 30 2015 at 06:38pm

By SAPA [Comment on this story](#)

Pretoria - Four people were arrested for the murder of a teenager in Atteridgeville, west of Pretoria, national police said on Friday.

"Four Somalians aged between 25 and 40, have been arrested in Atteridgeville," Lt-Gen Solomon Makgale said.

"They are charged with murder and will appear in court on Monday."

The 19-year-old was shot dead during looting on Thursday. Makgale said Atteridgeville residents protested on Wednesday about land grabs, which continued into the early hours of Thursday, when they damaged a councillor's house.

"After that they went on a rampage, looting spaza shops throughout Atteridgeville township."

On Friday, a South African was arrested following accusations that he shot a Somali on Thursday.

"When he went to one of the spaza shops this morning, a Somali identified him as one of the looters who shot and wounded a Somali."

Residents started attacking the man, but then called the police to deal with him.

He would appear in Atteridgeville Magistrate's Court on Monday to face a charge of attempted murder.

Makgale said the looting was indiscriminate and not necessarily aimed at foreign shop owners. It was during the looting that the teenager was killed.

This brought the death toll in violence between foreigners and locals over the past two weeks to nine. The violence began when 14-year-old Siphwe Mahori was shot dead in Snake Park, Soweto, last Monday. He was allegedly part of a group trying to rob a Somali man's shop.

Over 180 people have been arrested in connection with public violence and possession of stolen property.

<http://www.iol.co.za/news/crime-courts/four-held-for-teen-looter-s-death-1.1811550>

Teen killed in looting

January 30 2015 at 11:49am

Pretoria - A teenager was killed during looting of a spaza shop in Atteridgeville, west of Pretoria, national police said on Friday.

"In that commotion a 19-year-old was killed, he was shot," Lt-Gen Solomon Makgale said of the youth's death on Thursday.

Makgale said Atteridgeville residents protested over land occupations on Wednesday. This continued into the early hours of Thursday, when they damaged a councillor's house.

"After that they went on a rampage looting spaza shops throughout Atteridgeville township."

Makgale said the looting was indiscriminate and not necessarily aimed at foreign shop owners.

It was during the looting that the teenager was killed, bringing the death toll in violence between foreigners and locals over the past two weeks to seven, by the police's count.

"There are allegations that it was one of the foreign nationals that did it, but we want to make sure that when we arrest people that we have positive evidence linking them to the alleged crime."

No arrests had been made, but police were investigating.

"Atteridgeville remains tense, but we've deployed police officers. There haven't been any reports of looting this morning (Friday)."

At least nine people have been killed following the shooting of 14-year-old Siphwe Mahori in Snake Park, Soweto, last Monday. Mahori was allegedly part of a group trying to rob a Somali's shop.

Police did not link two of the deaths to the backlash against foreign shop owners that followed Mahori's death.

Makgale said there was a difference between the looting, such as in Soweto, and other crime that happened daily.

"There is normal criminal activity throughout the year that involves foreign nationals, so do we then add all those names also?"

The list of those killed is:

- 1) Siphwe Mahori, 14, shot dead in Snake Park last Monday after a foreign shop owner shot into a group allegedly trying to rob him (confirmed by police);
- 2) Nhlanhla Monareng, 19, was shot and killed in Naledi (confirmed by the police);
- 3) A 61-year-old bystander shot and killed in Swaneville, on Gauteng's West Rand, when a foreign-owned shop was being stoned;
- 4) A one-month-old baby boy was trampled by looters in Kagiso (confirmed by police);
- 5) and 6) Two suspected looters killed in Langlaagte (confirmed by police);

7) Malawian shopkeeper Dan Mokwena, 74, attacked and killed as he slept;

8) A Somali businessman in eNhlugwane, KwaZulu-Natal, was killed by an intruder in his shop. KwaZulu-Natal safety MEC Willies Mchunu said a man burst into his shop, opened fire, and ran away without taking anything.

9) The 19-year-old shot dead, allegedly by a foreign national, during looting in Atteridgeville.

The deaths of the bystander and Mokwena were not included in the police's count as they said these were not directly related to the looting.

Last week violence, labelled by some as xenophobic, and looting of foreign-owned shops spread from Soweto to Kagiso on the West Rand, Sebokeng in the Vaal, Eden Park in Ekurhuleni and Alexandra, north of Johannesburg.

Somali national Alodixashi Sheik Yusuf has appeared in court charged with Mahori's shooting. He will return to court on February 4.

Over 150 other people have been arrested in connection with public violence and possession of stolen property.

<http://www.iol.co.za/news/crime-courts/teen-killed-in-looting-1.1811245>

Tshwane Somali traders attacked

January 30 2015 at 10:29am

By Goitsewang Tlhabye

Pretoria -

Tensions flared as Somali shop owners in Brazzaville in Atteridgeville and residents clashed on Thursday.

Community members stood outside shops swearing and hurling stones at passing trucks hired to remove the goods from the stores.

During the altercation between shop owners and residents, six stores in the area were broken into and looted.

Station commander of the Atteridgeville SAPS, Brigadier Fred Kekana, said in a meeting with shop owners last Friday they had advised them to close up temporarily, citing possible tension that could spill over from the Soweto attacks.

"We told them to close up for their own safety but within an hour of that meeting they insisted on reopening."

He said they then warned the shopkeepers to close up should there be any rumour of a pending attack.

"We have assisted them by ensuring there is visible policing constantly. There are many foreign shops around here. We don't have enough manpower to protect all of them," said Kekana.

The station commander said even though they had tried their best they were also dealing with land-grabs and still had to provide services to the rest of Atteridgeville.

He said the entire issue was started as 200 illegal shacks were demolished by metro police and 100 from the group decided to loot the nearby shops in retaliation.

"They wanted to speak to the councillor and when they were blocked they turned on the nearby shops."

While police kept watch as shop owners loaded up stock, residents pounded their vehicles with stones as they were escorted to safety.

Kekana said another problem was that four to five shops were attacked at once.

“The truth of the matter is we are over-stretched.”

Arab Hassan said they were helping his cousin move his stock because he had been attacked four months before the current attacks.

“They assaulted him badly. He had to spend a month in Kalafong hospital.

By evening a covered-up body of a young boy lay in a passage.

Distraught family members refused to speak to the media and residents threatened to harm reporters if they did not leave.

Meanwhile, two Somalians were apparently injured and taken to Kalafong hospital for treatment. Ibrahim Shuriye, head of the Social Service Somali Association of SA, said: “Two Somalian shop owners were beaten and some shot by the community.”

<http://www.iol.co.za/news/crime-courts/tshwane-somali-traders-attacked-1.1811155>

Somalis in Soweto recall days of terror

By Ntando Makhubu January 28 2015 at 11:59am

Johannesburg - Sheer terror is what some Somalis say they felt when frenzied mobs stormed their shops in Soweto last week, saying the well-stocked shelves were what saved their lives.

Deeq Abdul and fellow Somalis Adbinu Yusuf and Ahmed Abdi on Tuesday said so wild was the crowd that hit their Orlando supermarket last Monday that if they had been in the way, they would have been killed.

“We were in the shop going about our business when we became aware of the sounds of a big crowd. It was immediately followed by our doors being forced open and thousands of people just pouring in,” 26-year-old Abdul said.

Their initial shock was replaced by panic and horror.

“They burst into the shop and we knew that if they touched us we would die.”

But the mob of men and women, old and young, went for the shelves.

“They were all over the place, and as we ran for the back exit, we saw them pulling everything off the shelves,” Abdul said.

They hid in a neighbour’s house until the frenzy died down and the mob had left.

“They took everything. They took six huge fridges and a few smaller ones, they took the shelves and counters. They left the shop totally bare,” Yusuf added.

The trio fled to Pretoria, where they took refuge in the Pretoria West house of a Somali who has always opened his doors to countrymen seeking a place to stay during similar attacks on them and their property.

Masid Yussuf also fled for Pretoria West after his shop was looted of more than R70 000 worth of supplies and severely damaged by a large crowd.

He had been away from the shop when the looting took place that afternoon. He rushed back when his workers phoned to tell him what was happening.

“The sight that confronted me was the stuff of nightmares. I found thousands and thousands of people outside the shop, walking and running and standing around, all with their arms full of stuff from the shop.

“It was unbelievable. Most carried more than humanly possible and what fell on the floor was immediately retrieved even as they ran in the direction of the houses,” Yussuf said.

He had come from Port Elizabeth in 2013, two years after being shot at four times and hit twice during an ambush at his shop.

“I was in hospital for four months for treatment on my leg and hip,” he said.

He had never fully recovered from the attack, so when he was confronted by the sight of armed youth and looters, he was overcome by anxiety and rushed for the safety of a group of police officers who were at the scene.

The shop was wrecked.

The attack had been so violent that the open doors had been pulled off their hinges, windows were smashed and parts of the walls brought down with hammers.

The Somalis said they would return to their communities when the chaos died down, because of the good relationships they had built with their customers.

“Ignorance is what is killing our people,” said the chairman of the Gauteng Somali Association of South Africa, Abdirahman Ismail.

The fact that people were not well informed about the plight of fellow Africans and did not understand the circumstances under which they lived in South Africa instead of being at home was the root of the problem, he said.

“Criminal activities are commonplace, and because foreigners are vulnerable, they easily become targets,” he said.

Ismail said that if they left, South Africans would attack other South Africans in the vicious cycle of crime.

<http://www.iol.co.za/news/crime-courts/somalis-in-soweto-recall-days-of-terror-1.1810162>

Two held for Langlaagte looting

January 28 2015 at 08:04am

Johannesburg - Two men have been arrested in connection with the looting of a Somalian-owned shop in Langlaagte, south of Johannesburg, at the weekend, Gauteng police said on Wednesday.

“We arrested two people on Monday who were in possession of a gearbox which was from a vehicle owned by the foreign national whose spaza shop was looted on Sunday night in Langlaagte,” Lt-Gen Solomon Makgale said.

On Sunday, two people who were part of a group that went to the shop with an intention to loot it were shot and killed.

A building next to the shop was set alight, Makgale said on Monday.

During the commotion, shots were fired and the two men were killed. A case of arson and murder was being investigated, he said.

No reported incidents of looting had taken place over Tuesday night.

The number of people arrested in connection with the looting and violence across Gauteng now stood at 180, Makgale said.

The unrest, which spread from Soweto last week to Kagiso on the West Rand, Sebokeng in the Vaal, Eden Park in Ekurhuleni and Alexandra, north of Johannesburg, has been labelled by some as xenophobic.

It was sparked by the shooting of 14-year-old Sipiwe Mahori last Monday.

Mahori had allegedly been part of a group who allegedly tried to rob a shop kept by Somali national Alodixashi Sheik Yusuf on Monday. He was shot dead when Yusuf allegedly shot at the group.

The shooting was followed by a wave of looting of foreign-owned and run shops causing several deaths, including a baby who was trampled by a group of people running.

Sapa

<http://www.iol.co.za/news/crime-courts/two-held-for-langlaagte-looting-1.1809945>

Looting: 'situation is still volatile'

By Getrude Makhafola January 27 2015 at 04:27pm

Johannesburg -

Foreign shopowners displaced by violence and looting in Gauteng should not return to their businesses yet, the Somali Community Board said on Monday.

"The situation is still volatile... it is not yet time for reintegration into the communities. We appeal to our members to wait for government to give us a directive," chairman Amir Sheikh said in Soweto.

He arrived with Gauteng community safety MEC Sizakele Nkosi-Malobane in Snake Park, Soweto, to visit the family of Sipiwe Mahori, 14.

Mahori was shot dead, allegedly by Somali shopowner Alodixashi Sheik Yusuf, in Snake Park, last Monday. He allegedly fired at a group of people trying to rob his shop.

Sheikh said residents drove out a shopowner who tried to return to Tshepisong on Monday.

Groups of criminals were looting from foreigners, he said.

"I am not saying this is purely driven by xenophobia, but criminals have actually come together and attacked shops to steal," he said.

Gauteng premier David Makhura had assured the traders at a meeting that government would ensure their safe return to communities, said Shaik.

A distraught Daniel Mahori, Sipiwe's father, said he was happy the Somali organisation came to support the family.

"They are not the killers. We are grateful that they can assist us however they can," he told journalists.

Meanwhile, residents of Snake Park said they would not let foreign shopowners return.

“They must never return...what happened was horrible. How do you shoot an unarmed child?” said Zwelakhe Dlamini, 67, who lives in the same block as the Mahoris.

Lebohang Mohau, 40, said residents now preferred to go shopping at major retailers in the township.

“I arrived here in 1991 and we used to buy from big retailers and local small businesses. We do not have a problem with returning to the olden days,” she said.

Yusuf appeared in the Protea Magistrate's Court on Monday on charges of murder, attempted murder, and illegal possession of a firearm.

He is expected to be back in court next week to apply for bail. - Sapa

<http://www.iol.co.za/news/crime-courts/looting-situation-is-still-volatile-1.1809801>

‘Foreigners’ safety not yet guaranteed’

By SAPA January 27 2015 at 03:12pm

Johannesburg - The safety of foreign shopowners in Soweto is not guaranteed as fundamental issues have not yet been addressed, Soweto Business Access (SBA) said on Tuesday.

“They should not open their businesses yet as the core issues raised by local residents have not been resolved,” chairman Mphuthi Mphuthi said in a statement.

He said problems commonly heard about entrepreneurs from Somalia, Pakistan and Bangladesh included not employing locals, not ploughing money back into the township economy, being rude, and not paying taxes.

“It is for this reason that we at Soweto Business Access call on all South Africans who have suggestions and solutions to come forward,” Mphuthi said.

“We believe that we must first listen to South Africans. Let South Africans come up with solutions on things like how jobs can and will be created from local small businesses.”

The SBA, an umbrella body of professionals that help small enterprises in Soweto, said it hoped that in talks with influential business bodies, business-friendly solutions could be found for “this economic problem”.

“Thereafter, we can engage the foreign nationals. But it is the interests of South Africans which must be prioritised,” Mphuthi said.

“If they come back, their safety is not guaranteed as these fundamental issues would still be outstanding. We want Soweto to set the benchmark that will improve businesses in other townships.”

A week of unrest and looting of foreign-owned shops began in Soweto last Monday, when a foreign shop owner shot dead 14-year-old Sipiwe Mahori. He was apparently part of a group trying to break into his shop.

The looting then spread to other parts of Gauteng, including Diepsloot in the north of Johannesburg, and Kagiso on the West Rand.

On Sunday, in an open letter to President Jacob Zuma, the African Diaspora Forum (ADF) said government continued to deny xenophobia in South Africa.

“Despite the escalation of violence over the past six years causing numerous deaths, the government has denied that there is xenophobia... always questioning the nature of this violence and attributing it to ‘crime’, instead of recognising it for what it is, xenophobic violence,” ADF chairman Marc Gbaffou wrote.

“This attitude, from our perspective, has condoned the violence and allowed it to reach institutional heights, making things even more difficult for foreign nationals living in South Africa, but also for South Africans wishing for social peace and integration.”

The letter, dated January 24, was also addressed to Home Affairs Minister Malusi Gigaba and Police Minister Nkosinathi Nhleko.

At least seven people, including a one-month-old baby boy, have died in Gauteng since violence broke out between locals and foreign nationals last Monday.

Sapa

<http://www.iol.co.za/news/crime-courts/foreigners-safety-not-yet-guaranteed-1.1809758>

Looting death toll at five: police

By SAPA January 27 2015 at 03:10pm

Johannesburg - National police on Tuesday put the official death toll during the past week's looting and violence directed at foreign-owned shops at five.

This is despite their own reports in the past week saying seven people were killed in violence involving foreign nationals in Gauteng. The killing of a Somali businessman in Nhlungwane, KwaZulu-Natal, was also not included in the death toll.

“It is five,” Lt-Gen Solomon Makgale said. He also claimed there was a distinction between deaths directly related to looting, and the unrest.

“No one has been killed outside Gauteng,” he said.

The list of those killed in Gauteng is:

- 1) Siphwe Mahori, 14, was shot dead in Snake Park after a foreign national shop owner shot into a group believed to be trying to rob him (confirmed by the police);
- 2) Nhlanhla Monareng, 19, was shot and killed in Naledi (confirmed by the police);
- 3) A 61-year-old bystander was shot and killed in Swaneville, on Gauteng's West Rand, when a foreign-owned shop was being stoned;
- 4) A baby was trampled by looters in Kagiso (confirmed by police);

5) and 6) Two suspected looters killed in Langlaagte (confirmed by police) and;

7) Malawian shopkeeper Dan Mokwena, 74, was attacked and killed as he slept.

Makgale said the Swaneville bystander was not added to the police's death toll as he was not involved in looting. He was killed as a foreign national allegedly fired at a crowd stoning his shop on Thursday night. He was in a tavern with a friend when they heard noises outside and went to investigate. This was when he was shot.

Makgale said Mokwena's death was not linked to looting. The Star reported that he was attacked and killed as he slept in his shop in Soweto in the early hours of Wednesday.

KwaZulu-Natal Safety MEC Willies Mchunu said a Somali businessman in eNhlugwane was killed on Saturday.

"It alleged that an unknown man burst into the shop, opened fire, killing the shop owner. The suspect fled and no goods were stolen," Mchunu said.

Makgale said there was a difference between the looting, such as in Soweto, and other crime that happened daily.

"There is normal criminal activity throughout the year that involves foreign nationals, so do we then add all those names also? There was no looting in the KZN incident."

Sapa

<http://www.iol.co.za/news/crime-courts/looting-death-toll-at-five-police-1.1809757>

Prosecute xenophobic violence - Sonke

By SAPA January 27 2015 at 03:06pm

Johannesburg - Government must protect all people in South Africa and prosecute those perpetrating violence, including non-South Africans, Sonke Gender Justice said on Tuesday.

"There is no space for any violence against people based on their race, nationality, gender, sexual orientation or identity, ethnicity, disability, religion or creed," it said in a statement.

A week of unrest and looting of foreign-owned shops began in Soweto last Monday, when a foreign shopowner allegedly shot dead 14-year-old Sipiwe Mahori. The boy was apparently part of a group trying to break into his shop.

The looting then spread to other parts of Gauteng, including Diepsloot in the north of Johannesburg, and Kagiso on the West Rand.

Sonke spokeswoman Czerina Patel said during apartheid, neighbouring countries gave refuge to those fighting for freedom.

"All South Africans have a responsibility to speak out against violence meted out against vulnerable or marginalised people," said Patel.

"But also, to ensure that South Africa's international reputation as a country that embraces equality and human rights is not damaged by those who seek to oppress on the basis of difference."

Sonke said the looting and violence drew attention to ongoing levels of xenophobia in South Africa. At least 62 people were killed during widespread xenophobic attacks in May 2008.

The organisation cited research by the African Centre for Migration and Society at the University of Witwatersrand that xenophobic attacks did not stop in May 2008.

“In fact more people have died in attacks against foreign nationals every year than in 2008. Many reports cite government inaction as one reason for the continued violence,” Sonke said.

It called on government to increase efforts to protect everyone within South Africa's borders, and to provide leadership to stop the violence.

Saint Expedit Ondzongo, a trainer with Sonke's refugee health and rights programme, said often misunderstanding or misinformation, such as the belief that foreigners came to South Africa to take local jobs, led to xenophobia.

“This violence and hostility hurts South Africans and non-South Africans,” he said.

<http://www.iol.co.za/news/crime-courts/prosecute-xenophobic-violence-sonke-1.1809755>

Police search shacks for loot

By Anna Cox January 27 2015 at 09:28am

Johannesburg - “No, we are not looting,” joked policemen as they walked out of shacks at the Zamimpilo squatter camp in Industria, loaded with groceries.

The public order police raided the camp on Monday, going shack to shack to look for goods that were stolen on Sunday evening from a Somali-owned spaza shop opposite the camp.

The heavily armed SAPS members removed a large number of cool drinks, toilet paper, mealie meal, paraffin burners and other goods.

In the early hours of Monday morning, two men were killed in a fight between looters and a Somali shopowner.

The stories differ - the Zamimpilo residents blamed the foreign owner and witnesses said he had shot the two when they started looting his shop. But police believe the looters were to blame.

After the looters emptied the shop, they threw petrol bombs into the factory next door, owned by a Muslim family.

The looters entered the factory and stole office equipment, a fax machine and chairs.

Family members spoke to The Star but would not give their names because they feared for their safety.

The owner, identified only as Mohammed, said his factory had been operating across the road from the squatter camp for the past 16 years and there had never been problems.

“We are great friends with many people who live there, often handing out food to the needy. In fact, a few of them came to assist us to put out the fire. I really wonder if the stolen food will nourish them - in our religion it is forbidden to eat food that is stolen,” he said.

His wife was in tears.

“We are the victims. My son died a year ago, and they stole a whole lot of his possessions. We are very scared,” she said.

Mzoxolo Mankankwa, the brother of one of the victims, Nzimande Nicholas Msizeni, 25, said his brother was walking home from work. "He was not looting. These foreigners can never work here again. They must go back," he said.

Several residents were angry, saying they would not stop.

"We want these foreigners out," they said.

Police spokesman Lieutenant-General Solomon Makgale said arson and murder were being investigated and that it looked like the mob had fired the shots that killed the looters.

He also confirmed two incidents of looting in Alexandra on Monday morning.

"There were no reported incidents of looting overnight," Makgale added.

On Monday, Makgale said 178 people had been arrested in the violence, labelled by some as xenophobic, sparked by the fatal shooting of 14-year-old Siphwe Mahori last week.

The boy had allegedly been part of a group who set upon a shop kept by Somali national Alodixashi Sheik Yusuf on Monday. He was shot dead when Yusuf allegedly shot at the group.

Yusuf's murder case was postponed to February 4 so Yusuf's status in the country could be established.

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The Star and Sapa

<http://www.iol.co.za/news/crime-courts/police-search-shacks-for-loot-1.1809466>

Looting spreads to Ekurhuleni

By SAPA January 26 2015 at 07:20pm

Johannesburg - The looting of foreign-owned shops spread to Eden Park, Ekurhuleni on Monday, Gauteng police said.

"We received a report that at around 10am on Monday morning, a group of some 20 people was trying to loot spaza shops in Eden Park," said Lt-Gen Solomon Makgale.

The group dispersed when police arrived on the scene.

Earlier on Monday morning, a spaza shop was torched in Alexandra, Johannesburg.

Makgale said police were called and informed that people were attempting to loot a foreign-owned shop in the area.

"When police arrived, 1/8th the looters 3/8 fled and left the scene empty-handed," he said.

"Shortly thereafter, we were informed of a spaza shop that was set alight in another area of Alexandra."

Meanwhile, two suspected looters were found shot dead in Langlaagte on Sunday night.

The pair was allegedly part of a group that went to a Somali-owned shop with the intention to loot it on Sunday night, said Makgale.

A building next to the spaza shop, an engineering firm, was set alight, said Makgale.

“During the commotion, shots were fired and the two males were killed,” he said.

Police presumed the shots were fired by the group.

Police managed to recover some of the goods that were looted in the area on Sunday night.

This was done using Section 20 of the Criminal Procedure Act which provides for searching without a warrant under certain circumstances.

“Several shacks were searched and goods including groceries, fridges, generator and drums were recovered,” said Makgale.

“A vehicle belonging to the owner of the looted spaza shop was recovered but it had been set alight.”

Makgale said no arrests had been made but investigations were continuing.

Looting across several townships began last week following the shooting of 14-year-old Siphwe Mahori in Snake Park, Soweto.

Somali shop owner Alodixashi Sheik Yusuf appeared in the Protea Magistrate's Court on Monday morning in connection with Mahori's murder.

He allegedly fired at a group of people trying to rob his shop.

The shooting sparked a wave of looting of foreign-owned shops, which spread from Soweto to Kagiso on the West Rand and Sebokeng in the Vaal, causing several deaths, including a baby.

The Star reported that Zanele Majozi, 19, was allegedly running out of a vandalised shop in Kagiso with a bottle of cooldrink, with her month-old baby Nqobile strapped to her chest. People noticed blood on her top, where his face had been resting, and his hand facing the wrong way round. When she unstrapped him she saw he was dead.

Thirty alleged looters were due to appear in the Protea Magistrate's Court on Monday, on charges including possession of stolen goods and public violence.

Makgale said police would continue monitoring the affected areas, and urged the public to report looting.

<http://www.iol.co.za/news/crime-courts/looting-spreads-to-ekhuruleni-1.1809293>

Murder accused shopkeeper's trial delayed

January 26 2015 at 02:54pm

By SAPA

Johannesburg - The trial of a foreign shopowner was delayed in the Protea Magistrate's Court on Monday due to the unavailability of a Somali interpreter.

Magistrate Herman Badenhorst said the matter would stand down until the interpreter arrived.

There was confusion over the man's name. Last week he was identified in court as Senosi Yusuf. Prosecutor Simphiwe Mthethwa identified him as Alodixashi Sheik Yusuf in his court papers.

He is accused of fatally shooting Siphwe Mahori, 14, in Snake Park, Soweto, last week. He allegedly fired at a group of people trying to rob his shop.

Members of the police's tactical task team were in the courtroom.

The shooting sparked a wave of looting of foreign-owned shops, which spread from Soweto to Kagiso on the West Rand and Sebokeng in the Vaal.

Thirty alleged looters were due to appear in the same court on Monday. They face charges including possession of stolen goods and public violence.

<http://www.iol.co.za/news/crime-courts/murder-accused-shopkeeper-s-trial-delayed-1.1809197>

Suspected looters shot dead

By SAPA January 26 2015 at 07:53am

Johannesburg - Two suspected looters have been shot and killed in Langlaagte, south of Johannesburg, police said on Monday.

The pair was allegedly part of a group that went to a Somali-owned shop with an intention to loot it on Sunday night, said Lt-Gen Solomon Makgale.

A building next to the spaza shop, which is an engineering firm, was set alight, said Makgale.

"During the commotion, shots were fired and the two males were killed," he said.

Police presume the shots were fired by the group.

A case of arson and murder was being investigated.

Meanwhile a spaza shop was torched in Alexandra, north of Johannesburg, police said.

Police were called and informed that people were attempting to loot a foreign-owned shop in the area, said Lt-Gen Solomon Makgale.

"When police arrived, [the looters] fled and left the scene empty-handed," said Makgale.

"Shortly thereafter, we were informed of a spaza shop that was set alight in another area of Alexandra."

Police had since been deployed to the area.

Looting across several townships began last week following the shooting of 14-year-old Siphwe Mahori in Snake Park, Soweto.

The boy had allegedly been part of a group who set upon a shop kept by Somali national Senosi Yusuf last Monday. He was shot dead when Yusuf allegedly shot at the group.

Yusuf was set to appear in the Protea Magistrate's Court on Monday, on a charge of murder.

Another 19-year-old youth was shot in Naledi on Wednesday and was declared dead on arrival at hospital.

According to The Star, Nhlanhla Monareng was killed when police fired into a crowd gathered at a Pakistani-owned shop. He was a bystander.

The newspaper reported that 74-year-old Malawian shopkeeper Dan Mokwena was also attacked and killed as he slept in his shop on Wednesday.

On Friday, a baby was trampled to death when a crowd fled from a shop they had just looted.

Makgale said police would continue monitoring the affected areas, and urged the public to report looting.

Over 90 people are expected to appear in the Kagiso Magistrate's Court on Monday on charges of public violence and being in possession of stolen property.

Makgale said 178 people have been arrested in the violence, labelled by some as xenophobic.

He said 83 people had already appeared in the Protea Magistrate's Court and their cases were remanded to January 28 and 29.

Six of those were children who were released to the custody of their parents.

Deputy Minister in the Presidency Buti Manamela asked people to take responsibility for events of the past week.

"Crime is crime - you cannot justify it," he said.

He condemned the looting, saying those leading it would turn against their neighbour once there were no foreigner-owned shops to loot.

"They will look next door and say 'you are Venda therefore you must go to Venda', or, 'you are a Xhosa you must go to Pondoland'."

A group called the Africa Diaspora Forum said the attacks were xenophobic and not simply "crime".

Some reports have suggested that use of the drug Nyaope may also be a factor in the violence.

<http://www.iol.co.za/news/crime-courts/suspected-looters-shot-dead-1.1808861>

Baby killed in looting stampede

By SAPA January 25 2015 at 01:45pm

Johannesburg - A baby was killed in Kagiso on the West Rand when it was trampled by a mob of stampeding looters, national police said on Saturday.

"A 13-month old baby died during a looter's raid stampede at Kagiso yesterday (Friday) afternoon," said Lt-Gen Solomon Makgale.

Looters who were robbing a spaza shop allegedly scattered when police arrived, he said.

The mob ran into a young mother who was carrying the baby.

“In that commotion the baby fell and was trampled by the fleeing mob.”

The baby was certified dead on the scene by paramedics.

A case of murder had been opened.

Twenty-four people were arrested in Kagiso on Friday night following violence and looting of foreign owned shops.

Looting of foreign-owned shops in Soweto began on Monday when a Somali man allegedly shot dead a 14-year-old boy accused of being part of a group trying to break into his store.

Gauteng police commissioner Lt-General Lesetja Mothiba said the looting had since spread to Diepsloot, north of Johannesburg, and Kagiso.

Sibiya said a 61-year-old bystander died when a foreigner fired at a crowd stoning his shop in Swaneville on Thursday night.

The man was shot in the chest and died on arrival at hospital.

No arrests had been made and a murder case had been opened.

Also on Thursday, in Tshepisong, a man was wounded while allegedly trying to break into a spaza shop belonging to a foreigner. –

<http://www.iol.co.za/news/crime-courts/baby-killed-in-looting-stampede-1.1808723>

Mom of crushed baby ‘not a looter’

By ANNA COX AND BOTHO MOLOSANKWE January 26 2015 at 01:28pm

Johannesburg - A Soweto teenager who was allegedly looting when her baby – who was strapped to her chest – died said she did not notice there was anything wrong with him until neighbours alerted her.

Looting across several townships began last week following the shooting of 14-year-old Siphwe Mahori in Snake Park, Soweto.

Zanele Majozi, 19, was allegedly running out of a vandalised shop in Kagiso with a bottle of cooldrink over the weekend when neighbours noticed blood on her top, where her one-month-old baby's face was resting.

They said the baby's tiny hand was facing the wrong way around.

They told Majozi to unstrap him. When she did, they saw he was dead.

“She screamed, cried and collapsed. She would hold the baby to her chest crying and then fall on the ground, on top of the baby. She would get up, cry again then collapse on top of the baby again,” said a witness, Phindile Shabangu.

Majozi's family denied that she was part of the looting.

She was returning from a clinic, they said, when a looter running from the police tripped her.

Her grandmother, Beauty, said Majozi had tried to get up, but other looters had trampled her as they fled. That was how the baby died, she said.

However,

Shabangu, Gugu Maphumulo and a 22-year-old man who declined to give his name said they saw Majozi approach with the mob.

Shabangu said when the mob arrived at the shop, the men broke down the door. The women, some of them in their nighties, started screaming in excitement.

The baby against her chest, Majozi disappeared into the shop with the looting mob, they said.

Later, Maphumulo saw her running out of the shop. A few moments later, she saw Majozi crying and collapsing on top of her dead child.

The 22-year-old man said Majozi was aware that something was wrong with her baby's arm. But it was his mother who noticed that the baby, bleeding from his nose and ears, was dead.

Shabangu said she and the other women followed Majozi to the clinic to beat her for being an irresponsible parent after they cleaned the shop and hid the remaining goods.

The security guards locked them out.

The looting of foreign-owned shops appears to be spreading across Johannesburg with two men killed in Langlaagte on Sunday night and a spaza shop set alight in Alexandra this morning.

The police have been deployed to Alexandra to monitor the situation.

On Sunday night at about 7.30, a group of people went to a shop owned by a Somali in Langlaagte and looted it. An engineering firm next to the shop was set alight.

Police spokesman Lieutenant-General Solomon Mokgale said during the commotion, two men were killed.

"It appears the looters fired the shots, but police are investigating a case of arson and murder," he said.

At 2.40 this morning, the police were called out to Alexandra where people were trying to loot a foreign-owned spaza shop.

"When police arrived, they fled the scene empty-handed. Shortly thereafter, we were told of another spaza shop that was set alight in another part of Alexandra. We will have the police there today to keep a check on the situation," he said.

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<http://www.iol.co.za/news/crime-courts/mom-of-crushed-baby-not-a-looter-1.1809168>

Calm restored to Soweto

By SAPA January 25 2015 at 01:02pm

Johannesburg - Calm had been restored in Soweto following days of violence and looting of foreign-owned shops, national police said on Saturday.

“The situation in Soweto and other affected areas is fairly quiet,” said Lt-Gen Solomon Makgale.

“Given the situation, we decided that we must arrest the individuals who were seen in videos looting shops.”

Police in Dobsonville arrested 15 people during raids on houses on Friday night, he said.

This brought the number of arrests during the week to over 170.

The unrest began on Monday when 14-year-old Sipiwe Mahori was shot dead, allegedly by a Somali shopkeeper, as he and a group tried to rob his shop in Snake Park.

The shop owner, Senosi Yusuf, is expected to appear in the Protea Magistrate's Court on a charge of murder on Monday.

In another incident, a 19-year-old youth was shot in Naledi on Wednesday and was declared dead on arrival at hospital.

According to The Star, Nhlanhla Monareng was shot dead in Naledi when police fired into a crowd gathered at a Pakistani-owned shop.

He was a bystander and reportedly friends with the Pakistanis.

The Star also reported that 74-year-old Malawian shopkeeper Dan Mokwena was attacked and killed as he slept in his shop in the early hours of Wednesday.

Gauteng police provincial commissioner General Lesetja Mothiba said youth addicted to drugs were identified as those looting shops. - Sapa

<http://www.iol.co.za/news/south-africa/gauteng/calm-restored-to-soweto-1.1808709>

'Lack of compassion for foreigners'

January 24 2015 at 04:39pm

Johannesburg -

The unrest that flared up in Soweto and other areas this week showed a lack of compassion for foreign nationals trying to make a living in South Africa, Lawyers for Human Rights (LHR) said on Saturday.

“The LHR is shocked and disappointed by the blatant disregard for human life in these attacks and calls for a swift and efficient end to the violence,” said LHR attorney Patricia Erasmus in a statement.

“Although any situation of violence is complicated and a multitude of factors (including ordinary criminal elements) contribute to the chaos, an overwhelming number of victims are foreign shop owners - giving the attacks an apparently xenophobic appearance.”

The unrest in Soweto began on Monday when 14-year-old Sipiwe Mahori was shot dead allegedly by a Somali shopkeeper, as Mahori and a group tried to rob his shop in Snake Park.

The shop owner, Senosi Yusuf, was expected to appear in the Protea Magistrate's Court on a charge of murder on Monday.

In another incident, a 19-year-old youth was shot in Naledi on Wednesday and declared dead at hospital. According to reports, the youth, Nhlanhla Monareng, was shot when police fired into a crowd gathered at a Pakistani-owned shop. He was a bystander.

Gauteng police commissioner Lt-General Lesetja Mothiba said the looting had since spread to Diepsloot, north of Johannesburg, and Kagiso, on the West Rand.

In Swaneville, a 61-year-old bystander was shot and killed when a foreigner fired at a crowd stoning his shop on Thursday night.

On the same day in Tshepiso, a man was wounded while allegedly trying to break into a spaza shop belonging to a foreigner.

“These deaths were all avoidable tragedies,” said Erasmus.

“These latest attacks demonstrate the continuing intolerance of foreign nationals in the country and the opportunistic crime that follows through the looting of their stores when they flee to safety.”

The LHR was also appalled by reports that some police officers stood by and did nothing to stop the violence and looting.

“However, we are pleased by the overall action by police to quell many of the attacks and making more than 120 arrests,” said Erasmus.

“It is now important that police conduct a proper and thorough investigation to ensure that justice is served.”

She said the LHR would be speaking to victims for statements to draw up a full account of the situation.

The African Diaspora Forum (ADF) said the violence made South Africa's reputation as “a united and rainbow nation” questionable.

“We are deeply worried about the current course of violence across the country and the lack of effective response from the government to deal with xenophobia,” it said in an open letter to President Jacob Zuma.

“Although the police were deployed and are working tirelessly to restore peace, there are no accountability structures for perpetrators. We appeal to you Zuma to assist in building structures that can restore cohesion and peace.” – Sapa

<http://www.iol.co.za/news/south-africa/gauteng/lack-of-compassion-for-foreigners-1.1808649>

Foreign-owned Soweto shops abandoned

Mpho Raborife January 24 2015 at 04:25pm

Several foreign-owned shops in Soweto were abandoned on Saturday following a week of violence and looting.

Packets littered the streets, ransacked shops were empty, and broken windows could be seen.

In Dobsonville, Meadowlands and Mofolo North shops were closed and police visibility was low.

Some empty shops were scattered with empty bottles, boxes, bed sheets, pillows and clothing.

The unrest in Soweto began on Monday when 14-year-old Sipiwe Mahori was shot dead, allegedly by a Somali shopkeeper, as Mahori and a group tried to rob his shop in Snake Park.

The shop owner, Senosi Yusuf, was expected to appear in the Protea Magistrate's Court on a charge of murder on Monday.

In another incident, a 19-year-old youth was shot in Naledi on Wednesday and was declared dead on arrival at hospital. According to reports, the youth, Nhlanhla Monareng, was shot when police fired into a crowd gathered at a Pakistani-owned shop. He was a bystander.

On Saturday, a group of Somali nationals stood outside their closed store near Mashaba centre in Dobsonville. They had come to check on the shop after fleeing the area on Wednesday night.

They returned on Thursday with metro police to retrieve the remaining stock in their shop but had found that everything was taken. An open safe was lying nearby.

In the same area, children were seen inside another shop that had been ransacked..

A shop rented by Bangladeshi nationals, that was looted on Thursday, remained empty on Saturday.

The shop is in a building owned by a South African. The owner's son, Bongani Nyathi, said locals knew the building was owned by a South African but despite this vandalised the store.

“People from the township, you can't tell them anything. Once they don't want you, they don't want to listen to any reason,” he said.

“My father owns the building so we are going to take over the shop, the Bangladeshi came earlier to leave the keys today.”

Meanwhile, Gauteng Premier David Makhura on Saturday addressed hundreds of foreign business owners in Mayfair, Eyewitness News reported.

“Locals have told me they benefit hugely from you, so you guys are an asset to our communities,” Makhura was quoted as saying.

“You add value to our economy, share your business ideas with local business owners, you can learn from each other ...We protect honest business human beings ... Work with us so we can protect you.”

Makhura handed out relief parcels to the business owners, many of whom had lost everything following violent attacks on their shops this week.

He urged them not to buy guns or break the law.

“Government is working to find a sustainable solution so that you can be reintegrated back into the community,” he reportedly said.

At least three people have been killed and 162 arrested since the unrest began.

The Star reported that Malawian shopkeeper Dan Mokwena, 74, was also attacked and killed in his shop in the early hours of Wednesday.

Gauteng police commissioner Lt-General Lesetja Mothiba said the looting had since spread to Diepsloot, north of Johannesburg, and Kagiso, on the West Rand.

In Swaneville, a 61-year-old bystander was shot and killed when a foreigner fired at a crowd stoning his shop on Thursday night.

On the same day in Tshepisoong, a man was wounded while allegedly trying to break into a spaza shop belonging to a foreigner. – Sapa

<http://www.iol.co.za/news/crime-courts/foreign-owned-soweto-shops-abandoned-1.1808633>

It's 'apartheid in Soweto'

Sheree Bega January 24 2015 at 02:46pm

Johannesburg -

Ijigu Blaxe broke out in a terrified sweat. He had to pack up his life. Fast. The mob was coming.

Inexpensive tins of baby formula, bags of maize meal and tins of pilchards flew from his hands into empty boxes.

“You must hurry,” a police officer, standing sentry, urged the Ethiopian shopkeeper.

“They are coming. You have to leave now.”

“Get all your stuff out of this shop, onto your van, quickly,” advised another police officer.

Blaxe’s hands shook. He couldn’t believe it.

In the two years that the 58-year-old had run his neat spaza shop in Bramfischerville, he had tried to work hard to cultivate a good relationship with his customers.

But everything changed this week. Now neither he nor his staff were safe.

Since the deadly shooting of a teenager, allegedly by a Somali shopkeeper in nearby Snake Park on Monday, the looting and the violence had been spreading like a virus. In the outbreak of violence, xenophobia festered, like an open sore.

From Snake Park, attacks on spaza shops spread to Naledi, to Zola, Emndeni, and now Bramfisherville.

Soweto was burning.

Blaxe now knew, like some of his compatriots, that he had no choice but to flee.

“This is not good,” he muttered.

“I won’t sleep tonight. My mind is not making sense,” the heavysset Ethiopian said in broken English.

“I have a big problem here.”

“Relax. Don’t panic,” a police officer comforted Blaxe.

“Don’t give yourself high blood pressure over this. Everything will be okay.”

That’s when police, covering the street outside his small shop, received an urgent call. Looters had struck another Somali-owned store a few streets away.

“These people are not safe here in Soweto,” remarked another officer.

“Even when we escort these foreigners here, we have community members jumping on their vans, trying to steal more stuff.”

In the crumbling ruins of Yusuf Ahmed’s spaza shop, an angry crowd shouted: “You must go, you must go.”

Julia Mhlabo, a resident of Bramfisherville, spat: “We want these foreigners gone. They are shooting our children. Selling them drugs. We are fed up, we are tired. They must go.

“If my child is stealing from you, you don’t shoot him. You talk to me as a mother.”

Another laughed: “We want what’s in that shop, we want our food, our money, on behalf of the child who died. We are not working. They are giving jobs to their brothers from Pakistan, from Somalia.”

Earlier, the police arrested Ahmed's brother for illegal possession of a firearm. That's when the crowd struck, emptying the shop of almost everything on its shelves, tearing through its fragile exterior.

Ahmed looked hurt.

"Without reason, these people can do this to us at any time. We are feeling scared. These people stole our stuff. We are not safe. Yes, I know my brother shouldn't have had an illegal weapon, but we need it for our protection.

"Here in South Africa, the people always do this to Somalis. We came here because we thought we would be safer than (in) Somalia."

Ahmed said he planned to return to his native country this year as he feared for his safety.

"They looted my shops in Cape Town. It feels like it's apartheid here in Soweto, that I'm not a human being. We are all targets for them."

Zodwa Manana had little sympathy for the shopowner.

"They are helping us when we have no money, they give us credit, but here they are shooting our kids. They came here to make a business. Now we want them to go back to their own country."

As she watched Ahmed and a small group of Somalis packing what little remained intact, Manana became even more outraged. "They run their spazas like a family. They buy goods in bulk and sell them cheaper than us. Do you know how much they sell matches for? 50c. We sell for R1. Who do you think will buy from us?"

A policeman, standing guard, monitored the ever-growing crowd suspiciously.

"These people, ah, they just want groceries for mahala," he said, gesturing towards trampled loaves of bread.

"If we weren't here, these shopkeepers would be hurt."

Still, there was a semblance of fragile peace. "Wait for tonight," said the officer. "That's when we're going to be really busy. None of these foreign-owned shops will be safe."

<http://www.iol.co.za/news/crime-courts/it-s-apartheid-in-soweto-1.1808613>

Nyaope-high youths play deadly looting game

By Thabiso Thakali January 24 2015 at 11:12am

Johannesburg -

Smashed windows, broken burglar bars, looted shops, anger, terror and a grieving family of a 62-year taxi owner who was hit by a stray bullet.

These were the disturbing scenes of devastation that littered the streets of Kagiso on Friday.

The unrest in the townships that began on Monday spread to the West Rand and police officers battled to keep up with the crowds of youngsters, allegedly high on drugs, as the wave of pillaging of foreign-owned shops progressed unabated.

As the looting continued in Kagiso, a high-powered delegation including the Gauteng premier, David Makhura, and Joburg mayor Parks Tau toured Soweto.

The looting followed the fatal shooting of Sipiwe Mahori, 14, in an incident in which he and others allegedly tried to rob a Somali-owned store in Snake Park.

The shop owner, Senosi Yusuf, is expected to appear in the Protea Magistrate's Court on a charge of murder on Monday.

In Kagiso, when a group of brazen youths could not break down the burglar-proof doors to gain entry into South Supermarket in Extension 12, they attempted to break through a brick wall by smashing it with hammers and rocks.

Some residents claimed the mayhem was caused by frustration at the lack of jobs created by the foreign shop owners, mostly Somali, Pakistani and Bangladeshi, that left the youths with nothing to do.

Many of the rioters were teenagers and it seemed that the whole scene was a game for them as they looted shops, smashed windows and ran to the veld laughing when police arrived.

The vandalism and looting in Kagiso followed incidents in several Soweto locations throughout the week in which two people were confirmed to have been killed by bullets from foreign shop owners.

In Swaneville, the family of a third victim, a taxi owner Hendrik Zamani Manye, 62, wept inconsolably after he was killed by a stray bullet that was apparently fired by Somali shop owners from across the street where he lived with his live-in partner Adelaide Tsotetsi.

Tsotetsi said Manye had just arrived at home at about 8pm when he saw the rioters gather at the shop across the road from his home and decided to check out what was happening.

Then several shots rang out as the youngsters began hurling rocks at the shop window and the Somali owners were stuck inside, she said.

"I heard someone screaming and when I went outside I found him lying down on the floor with his hand below the left arm where he was hit," she said.

"He didn't deserve to die this way. He loved the Somalis and they called him daddy because he regularly supported their business."

Manye was confirmed dead on arrival at Leratong Hospital with his family.

Tsotetsi said the painful part of Manye's death was that he was still alive when police arrived but, instead of helping him first, they rushed to rescue the Somali shop owners and escort them to safety.

"There was not a drop of blood from him. He bled inside and I can imagine the pain he was going through," she said.

"The government must do something about the illegal guns or else the Somalis will finish us all."

Police confirmed the shop owner was arrested over Manye's death.

In Kagiso Extension 12, the rioters continued to outmanoeuvre the police, leaving a trail of destruction in their tracks.

Every time a police van pulled up at a new shop being attacked, the youngsters simply dashed through narrow paths and hid away from cops firing rubber bullets.

At one point, police officers chased three teenagers in Extension 8, who ran towards a hostel carrying 2-litre bottles of cooldrink in their hands from a looted shop.

The police officers fired live ammunition into the air in a desperate bid to stop them but it was all in vain.

In Senqobile, police arrested an elderly woman who had stacked up groceries of maize meal, beverages and sacks of diapers.

The woman lived just across the road from a shop that had been looted.

As police retrieved the stolen goods from her home, residents begged for mercy insisting: “She was too old to have possibly carried all that by herself.”

Terrified residents who mulled around the township urged a few remaining shop owners to pack up their stock and leave before falling victim to the looters.

Others vowed to defend the foreign shop owners with their own lives, accusing the teenagers driving the chaotic scenes in their area of being high on “nyaope”, a white powdery street drug.

Resident Ellen Mofokeng said: “Foreign shop owners help us a lot. We love them, but we can’t do anything to stop this madness”.

A community leader in Swaneville, Golo Keilelwang, blamed foreign shop owners for failing to contribute to the development of locals by creating job opportunities to help the local youths.

“We are not saying we don’t need foreign-owned shops in our community but how will our lives be improved if our government doesn’t help us by insisting that these shop owners contribute to the human development of the communities where they trade?” he asked.

“I am not condoning crime or xenophobia, but I am saying let’s look at the root of the problem.”

<http://www.iol.co.za/news/crime-courts/nyaope-high-youths-play-deadly-looting-game-1.1808574>

Winnie visits looting victim’s family

January 24 2015 at 10:03am

Johannesburg -

ANC veteran Winnie Madikizela-Mandela has visited the family of a bystander who was killed during an attack on a foreign-owned shop in Swaneville, SABC News reported on Saturday.

Madikizela-Mandela said it did not make sense for South Africans to attack shops owned by foreign nationals, who they accused of taking away jobs.

She visited Hendrick Manye's family on the West Rand on Friday afternoon.

Warrant Officer Solomon Sibiyi told Sapa the 61-year-old man was killed on Thursday when a group of people threw stones at the shop.

“A man who alleged that he was with the deceased during the shooting told the police that they were playing snooker at a nearby tavern when they heard noise outside,” said Sibiyi.

“They then went out to investigate and that is when they noticed members of the community stoning the shop. During the stoning the shopowner allegedly fired shots through the window in the direction of the crowd.”

Manye was shot in the chest and died on arrival at hospital. No arrests had been made and a murder case was opened.

Looting of foreign-owned shops in Soweto began on Monday when a Somalian man shot dead a 14-year-old boy who was allegedly part of a group trying to break into his store.

Gauteng police commissioner Lt-General Lesetja Mothiba said the looting had since spread to Diepsloot, in the north of Johannesburg, and Kagiso, on the West Rand. - Sapa

<http://www.iol.co.za/news/south-africa/gauteng/winnie-visits-looting-victim-s-family-1.1808558>

Reject stolen goods: Makhura

By Moloale Montsho January 23 2015 at 07:58pm

Johannesburg - Parents who allow stolen property into their houses are a curse to the community, Gauteng premier David Makhura said in Soweto on Friday.

“Shame unto you! How are going to raise your child while you show them how to steal?” he asked residents at a meeting in Doornkop, following five days of looting of foreign-owned stores.

“Parents, when your child brings stolen goods into your house what are you saying?”

He said if parents allowed their children to steal from foreigners, next time the children would steal from them.

He was part of a delegation of religious and government leaders in Doornkop to appeal for peace. At least three people have been killed and 162 people arrested since the unrest started on Monday.

It was sparked when Siphwe Mahori, 14, was shot dead when he and others allegedly tried to rob a Somali-owned store in Snake Park. The shop owner, Senosi Yusuf, is expected to appear in the Protea Magistrate's Court on a charge of murder on Monday.

Makhura said all those who wanted to do business in townships were welcome, provided they obeyed the law and did not sell drugs.

“They must not sell nyaope. We want proper business.”

Some locals have claimed the foreign shop owners sold drugs to children.

Makhura said Gauteng had a programme to grow township businesses.

“We have no problem with anyone doing business legally,” he said.

He appealed to youth to stop looting spaza shops.

“We do not want you to steal. You are disappointing us.”

<http://www.iol.co.za/news/crime-courts/reject-stolen-goods-makhura-1.1808526>

Church leaders call for peace in Soweto

By SAPA [Comment on this story](#) January 23 2015 at 07:11pm

Johannesburg - Religious leaders on Friday appealed for peace in Soweto.

"It is just one year after the death of Tata Nelson Mandela. Let us not disappoint his spirit," Gift Moerane, on behalf of the religious leaders, told a residents' meeting.

Religious and African National Congress leaders were in Doornkop to appeal for peace.

Moerane thanked Doornkop residents for remaining calm after a teenager was shot dead on Monday.

"We are grateful that you listen and restore calm," he said.

At least three people have been killed since looting and unrest began in Soweto on Monday. Sipiwe Mahori, 14, was shot dead when he and others allegedly tried to rob a Somali-owned store in Snake Park. The shop owner, Senosi Yusuf, is expected to appear in the Protea Magistrate's Court on a charge of murder on Monday.

The looting spilled over to Kagiso in the West Rand and Sebokeng in the Vaal.

Johannesburg mayor Parks Tau appealed to residents to restore law and order. ANC secretary general Gwede Mantashe was expected to address residents later.

<http://www.iol.co.za/news/crime-courts/church-leaders-call-for-peace-in-soweto-1.1808506>

Woman held for West Rand looting

By SAPA January 23 2015 at 06:55pm

Johannesburg - A woman was arrested on Friday for possession of stolen groceries in Kagiso, where a man was shot dead and another wounded following attacks on foreign-owned shops, Gauteng police said.

The 46-year-old was arrested by police acting on a tip-off that she had goods stolen from a spaza shop in Sinqobile, on the West Rand, Warrant Officer Solomon Sibiyi said. She lives next door to the shop.

"The 1/8 police 3/8 proceeded into a certain house and upon arrival they met a woman in her early 30s leaving the place. She told the police that there was no other person in the house," Sibiyi said.

"The police then proceeded to the back yard shack where they found the 46-year-old suspect hiding with groceries worth thousands of rands."

A second load of groceries was found in the house.

The woman is expected to appear in the Kagiso Magistrate's Court on Monday. It was not clear whether the looting was related to the unrest in Soweto.

Looting of foreign-owned shops in Soweto began on Monday when a Somali man allegedly shot dead a 14-year-old boy accused of being part of a group trying to break into his store.

Gauteng police commissioner Lt-General Lesetja Mothiba said the looting had since spread to Diepsloot, north of Johannesburg, and Kagiso, on the West Rand.

Sibiya said a 61-year-old bystander died when a foreigner fired at a crowd stoning his shop in Swaneville on Thursday night.

“A man who alleged that he was with the deceased during the shooting told the police that they were playing snooker at a nearby tavern when they heard noise outside,” he said.

“They then went out to investigate and that is when they noticed members of the community stoning the shop.

“During the stoning the shopowner allegedly fired shots through the window in the direction of the crowd.”

The man was shot in the chest and died on arrival at hospital. No arrests had been made and a murder case had been opened.

Earlier on Thursday, in Tshepisoong, a man was wounded while allegedly trying to break into a spaza shop belonging to a foreigner.

“It is alleged that a group of youths attacked a spaza shop and started to break in. They allegedly tried to force open the garage roller door whilst the shop owner was inside,” he said.

“As soon as they managed to open the roller door, the owner came out with a firearm in his hand. He then fired shots directed at the crowd.”

The group scattered. Sibiya said one of them was wounded in the upper body. He was taken to hospital in a stable condition. Sibiya was unable to provide the injured man's age.

“The foreign national... was arrested and detained at Kagiso police station. The firearm used was also confiscated.”

<http://www.iol.co.za/news/crime-courts/woman-held-for-west-rand-looting-1.1808499>

Soweto looting claims three lives

By SAPA January 23 2015 at 06:52pm

Johannesburg - At least three people have died since looting started in Soweto, south of Johannesburg, on Monday, police said.

One of them was a 19-year-old youth who was shot in Naledi at 7pm on Wednesday, Lt-Gen Solomon Makgale said on Friday. He was declared dead on arrival at hospital.

“As a precautionary measure, we have confiscated all the firearms which were carried by the police officers who attended to the looting scene and were present when the 19-year-old was shot,” he said.

“We have also informed the Ipid 1/8 Independent Police Investigative Directorate 3/8. Investigations into who shot and killed the teenager are continuing.”

The Star reported on Thursday that Nhlanhla Monareng, 19, was shot dead when police fired into a crowd gathered at a Pakistani-owned shop in Naledi on Wednesday night. He was a bystander and reportedly friends with the Pakistanis, according to the newspaper.

The first victim was 14-year-old Siphwe Mahori. He was shot dead, allegedly by a Somalian shopkeeper, when he and a group tried to break into his shop in Snake Park on Monday.

The Star reported that 74-year-old Malawian shopkeeper Dan Mokwena, was attacked and killed as he slept in his shop in the early hours of Wednesday morning.

Makgale said police were still deployed in Soweto.

“Members are sent to scenes as the complaints come in.”

He said there had been no reports of school pupils' involvement in the looting in Soweto.

“There were incidents at Langlaagte and Eldorado Park. A group of boys tried to loot a Pakistani shop in Eldorado Park, but the police were quick to respond and the teenagers dispersed before they could cause damage,” he said.

In Langlaagte, school children allegedly attacked Pakistani shops and looted them on their way to board trains home.

In Kagiso, on the West Rand, a wall was broken to gain access to a shop, but members of the public order policing unit responded and the looters fled empty-handed, said Makgale.

He said nine people were arrested and charged with public violence and possession of suspected stolen property. A woman was arrested after half of the property allegedly stolen from a spaza shop was found in her house.

“She will be charged with possession of stolen goods,” he said.

Makgale said the 10 would appear in the Kagiso Magistrate's Court on January 29.

They are among 162 people arrested in connection with the unrest so far.

Makgale said 44 of them appeared in the Protea Magistrate's Court on Friday morning. The case was postponed to January 29.

“We urge the community to remain calm and we want to assure the citizens of this province that every effort is being made to ensure law and order prevails,” he said.

<http://www.iol.co.za/news/crime-courts/soweto-looting-claims-three-lives-1.1808498>

Two shot during West Rand looting

SAPA January 23 2015 at 03:44pm

Johannesburg - A man was shot dead and another wounded following attacks on foreign-owned shops on Johannesburg's West Rand, Gauteng police said on Friday.

A 61-year-old bystander died after a foreign national allegedly fired at a crowd stoning his shop in Swaneville on Thursday night.

Earlier on Thursday, in Tshepisoong, a man trying to break into a spaza shop belonging to a foreign national was wounded, Warrant Officer Solomon Sibiyi said.

“It is alleged that a group of youth attacked a spaza shop and started to break in. They allegedly tried to force open the garage roller door whilst the shop owner was inside,” he said.

“As soon as they managed to open the roller door, the owner came out with a firearm in his hand. He then fired shots directed at the crowd.”

The group scattered. Sibiyi said one of them was wounded in the upper body. He was taken to hospital in a stable condition. Sibiyi was unable to provide the injured man's age.

“The foreign national... was arrested and detained at Kagiso police station. The firearm used was also confiscated.”

In Swaneville, a 61-year-old man was shot and killed as a group of people throwing stones at a foreign-owned shop. Sibiya said police were alerted around 11.30pm.

“A man who alleged that he was with the deceased during the shooting told the police that they were playing snooker at a nearby tavern when they heard noise outside,” said Sibiya.

“They then went out to investigate and that is when they noticed members of the community stoning the shop. During the stoning the shopowner allegedly fired shots through the window in the direction of the crowd.”

The man was shot in the chest and died on arrival at hospital. No arrests had been made and a murder case was opened.

It was unclear if the looting was related to the unrest in Soweto.

Looting of foreign-owned shops in Soweto began on Monday when a Somali man shot dead a 14-year-old boy who was allegedly part of a group trying to break into his store.

Gauteng police commissioner Lt-General Lesetja Mothiba said the looting had since spread to the Diepsloot, in the north of Johannesburg, and Kagiso, on the West Rand.

<http://www.iol.co.za/news/crime-courts/two-shot-during-west-rand-looting-1.1808426>

Outrage over Soweto looting

By SAPA January 23 2015 at 03:42pm

Cape Town - A number of organisations and political parties expressed outrage on Friday at the continued looting of foreign-owned shops in Soweto, south of Johannesburg.

Both the Democratic Alliance and African National Congress in Gauteng condemned the looting, calling for order.

DA MP Zak Mbhele called on the SA Police Service to dedicate enough officers and resources to the area to restore peace.

He said he would write to Police Minister Nkosinathi Nhleko to demand better early warning systems and plans to prevent and combat xenophobic violence.

“Prevention is always better than cure,” he said.

The Jesuit Refugee Service SA (JRS) said foreigners and refugees were legally entitled to live in the country and contributed to the economy.

“Any xenophobic attack is an attack on this country and its people,” JRS regional director David Holdcroft said.

He asked for dialogue between church and community leaders, local businesses and foreigners.

“We ask the community to be wary of being used as pawns by some local business owners. Let us look for ways of working together and peaceful co-existence.”

In Soweto, shops owned by foreign nationals were looted following the shooting of Sipiwe Mahori, 14, in Snake Park, on Monday. The boy was apparently part of a group trying to rob the shop.

According to The Star another local teenager, Nhlanhla Monareng, 19, was shot dead, and a Malawian shopkeeper, 74-year-old Dan Mokwena, beaten to death. Monareng was shot dead when police fired into a crowd gathered at a Pakistani-owned shop in Naledi on Wednesday night. He was a bystander and friends with the Pakistanis, according to the newspaper.

The Gauteng branch of the National Association of School Governing Bodies was saddened by the deaths.

It called on all relevant parties to ensure children avoided criminal conduct during and after school hours.

Gauteng police provincial commissioner General Lesetja Mothiba on Friday said youth addicted to drugs were identified as those looting shops.

“They targeted specific items such as prepaid airtime vouchers, cigarettes and cash,” he said.

Gauteng police said on Friday said they had arrested 153 people on charges including murder, attempted murder, possession of suspected stolen property and fraud. They had retrieved 11 guns, 10 of which were seized from foreigners.

The looting has since spread to Diepsloot, in the north of Johannesburg, and Kagiso, on the West Rand.

President Jacob Zuma had instructed the security cluster in Cabinet and provincial and local leaders to bring the situation under control.

<http://www.iol.co.za/news/crime-courts/outrage-over-soweto-looting-1.1808423>

No justification for looting: Makhura

January 23 2015 at 02:12pm

Johannesburg - The looting taking place in Soweto, south of Johannesburg, is a criminal act, Gauteng premier David Makhura said on Friday.

“Any looting cannot be justified. It has to be stopped by the police,” he told reporters outside the Moroka police station in Soweto.

“We do not want a situation where being a foreigner is a crime,” he said.

Makhura and religious leaders were walking about the areas in Soweto affected by looting. He said he would not leave Soweto until quiet was restored.

Makhura said the provincial government had a plan to assist township businesses.

He said foreigners were welcome to do business in Gauteng, but they had to follow due process and regulations.

Gauteng police provincial commissioner General Lesetja Mothiba said youth addicted to drugs were identified as those looting shops.

“They targeted specific items such as prepaid airtime vouchers, cigarettes and cash,” he said.

Mothiba said 153 people have been arrested since the looting started on Monday in Snake Park, near Dobsonville, after a foreigner allegedly shot dead a teenager who was in a group of people apparently trying to rob his shop.

He was arrested and will appear in the Protea Magistrate's Court on Monday to apply for bail.

The looting spread to other part of Soweto, and has since spilled over to Sebokeng in the Vaal and Kagiso on the West Rand.

<http://www.iol.co.za/news/crime-courts/no-justification-for-looting-makhura-1.1808346>

Sanef condemns reporter's treatment

By SAPA January 23 2015 at 01:57pm

Johannesburg - The SA National Editors' Forum on Friday condemned the police's behaviour towards a Sapa reporter who was forced to delete photos of the looting in Soweto from her cellphone.

"Sanef is perturbed by these actions that are in contravention of police standing orders which prohibit police officers from deleting journalists' pictures at crime scenes," it said in a statement.

"This, particularly as it comes despite promises by senior police officers, including the national commissioner, that such illegal behaviour would be stopped."

Reporter Mpho Raborife was forced by three police officers, not in uniform, to delete cellphone pictures taken outside a Somali-owned shop on Thursday.

Raborife was driving to work when she passed three Somali-owned shops.

Three marked police vehicles were parked outside. Two men were loading items, including packs of cold drinks, into a white van.

She pulled over, put on her hazard lights and ran to the area to take several photos. Afterwards she got back into her car and drove for about 700m, before being flagged down by police.

They forced her to delete the photos on her cellphone, even though she showed them her press card indicating that she is a reporter.

They gave back her phone and her press card after she deleted the photographs.

A policeman took down Raborife's details, and another photographed her car.

Sanef said Eyewitness News reporter Leeto Khoza was hit on the head with a rock while covering the unrest. Khoza is in intensive care in hospital.

"As protesters were throwing rocks at police and shop owners, they turned their attention on journalists, claiming they would reveal their identities.

"Khoza was hit on the head with a rock and lost consciousness for some time. He is still in hospital receiving intensive care," Sanef said.

"Sanef calls on the public to respect the right of journalists to do their work and to actually protect them against those who may not wish for the truth to be known."

"Sanef also calls on community leaders to inculcate understanding of the role of the media within their communities."

<http://www.iol.co.za/news/crime-courts/sanef-condemns-reporter-s-treatment-1.1808340>

Cop accused of looting in Soweto

By SAPA January 23 2015 at 08:43am

Johannesburg - Police vowed on Friday to take strong action against a policeman who allegedly took part in the looting of foreign-owned shops in Soweto.

Gauteng police commissioner Lt-General Lesetja Mothiba warned other police officers to be careful they did not find themselves on the wrong side of the law.

“They must resist from turning into criminals themselves,” Lesetja said.

He was speaking at a press briefing held at the Moroka police station on Friday morning.

The police officer was apparently filmed participating in looting in Dobsonville earlier in the week in clashes between foreigners and locals that have killed two people - a local teenager and a foreign national.

Gauteng's community safety MEC Sizakele Nkosi-Malobane on Thursday said the officer, who was stationed Dobsonville, had been identified from the clip and would be formally charged.

A total of 121 people had been arrested since the looting began in Soweto on Monday and were expected to appear in courts around Soweto on Friday, said police.

The looting came after a foreigner allegedly shot and killed 14-year-old Mthetheleli Siphwe Mahori who he claimed was part of a group that tried to rob his shop.

Looting had since spread to the Diepsloot, north of Johannesburg, and Kagiso on the West Rand with dozens of foreigners being taken for refuge by police.

He said the police were managing the situation.

<http://www.iol.co.za/news/crime-courts/cop-accused-of-looting-in-soweto-1.1808059>

'Youth the instigators in Soweto looting'

By Mpho Raborife January 23 2015 at 06:20am

Johannesburg - The youth are the instigators behind the looting of foreign-owned shops in Soweto, Gauteng police commissioner Lt-Gen Lesetja Mothiba said on Thursday.

He said the youngsters were grouping themselves and looting stores across the township.

“We do not believe that this looting can just take place unco-ordinated,” he said at the Moroka police station on Thursday night.

“We want to bring this situation under control as soon as possible but most importantly, we need to identify the instigators.”

Earlier, store owner Obakeng watched as his neighbours looted a shop owned by a Pakistani national down the street from his yard in Meadowlands zone three.

"I saw a group of people going in one direction and coming back with bags of maize meal, some with canned foods. Some guy was carrying three bags of maize meal, he then went back for more."

He said police arrived shortly after the looting had started.

"You could hear whistles and shouting. Then we heard police sirens from a distance. About 10 minutes later we started hearing gunshots and that is when people started sprinting down the streets and some went back into their yards."

He said most of the looters were teenagers, some still in their school uniforms.

"It is actually more kids than adults."

Shortly after the sounds of sirens and what sounded like gunshots, people allegedly returned to the scene and were casually observing and chatting about what had happened earlier, he said.

Lt-Gen Solomon Makgale could not confirm or deny the shooting allegations.

In another part of Meadowlands, a small crowd of people threw stones at the van of four Somali nationals who had packed up their shop following clashes between locals and foreigners.

A crowd stood around the van, which the men were loading with stock, in Heald street, Meadowlands.

Two police vans were on the scene and officers stood close to make sure the crowd did not intimidate the foreign businessmen.

A boy in school uniform shouted: "They must leave, they want to kill us."

One of the Somali men, Shineh Farrah Abdillah, responded: "Why would I want to kill you, you are my brother", to which the boy answered: "You are not my brother".

The crowd became impatient and as the men finished packing their van and started the vehicle, people began throwing stones as they drove away.

Abdillah, who said he had been in South Africa since 2011, said: "The police were trying to help us but now I'm worried about myself because of these people."

Earlier on Thursday, Winnie Madikizela-Mandela was reportedly in Meadowlands to try speak to the people.

Police were on high alert in Soweto, the third day of clashes that left at least two people dead.

Several shops owned by Ethiopians, Pakistanis and Somalis were closed in Snake Park following the attacks.

Residents went on a rampage looting shops and attacking foreigners after a teenager was shot dead in Snake Park. Mthetheleli Siphwe Mahori, 14, was shot dead, allegedly by a foreign shop owner on Monday. He was apparently part of a group that tried to rob the shop.

The violence spilled over to Braamfischerville, Dobsonville, Emdeni, Zola and Protea Glen.

The number of people arrested for looting in several areas around Soweto has risen from 68 to 121, Gauteng police said on Friday.

They faced charges ranging from murder, attempted murder, possession of suspected stolen property and fraud, said provincial police commissioner Lt-General Lesetja Mothiba, in a press briefing held at the Moroka police station in Soweto.

Police had also retrieved 11 guns, ten of which were seized from foreign nationals.

Cops accused of intimidating reporter

By SAPA January 23 2015 at 06:28am

Johannesburg - The National Press Club on Thursday condemned in the strongest terms the manner in which a Sapa reporter was handled by the three police officers in Dobsonville, Soweto.

Reporter Mpho Raborife was forced by three police officers, not in uniform, to delete pictures from her cellphone she took outside a Somali-owned shop.

“Our journalists cannot be expected to carry out their work professionally when we still have police officers who are a law unto themselves. What happened to Mpho should never be allowed to happen again in a democratic country like ours, “ chairman Jos Charle said in a statement.

“We hope the three police officers will be dealt with in the appropriate manner and that journalists can continue to do their job of informing the community at large about the daily happenings in our society, without fear or favour.”

Raborife earlier said that one officer stood over her shoulder as she deleted the pictures one by one.

“Then he told me that I am not allowed to take a photo of that scene because it was a public violence matter so that area was part of their jurisdiction,” she said.

Raborife was driving to work when she passed three Somali-owned shops.

Three marked police vehicles were parked outside. Two men were loading items, including packs of cold drinks, into a white van.

Raborife pulled over, put on her hazard lights and ran to the area to take several photos. After she got back into her car and drove for about 700m, a police vehicle flagged her down.

“They drove next to me and one rolled down the window and told me to pull over. I pulled over and they asked me where the photos were that I took as I was not allowed to take pictures of a police scene,” Raborife said.

“I told them I was a journalist and they said that they had no proof of that and I then showed them my press card.

“Then they said either way I am not allowed to take pictures because I did not ask permission, and that I can't just show up at a scene and take photos and leave.”

Another officer told Raborife they wanted to see the photos. He took her press card and her cellphone. They said they had to take her to their station commander.

She told them she was running late for work, and asked if she could use her phone to inform her bosses. They said no.

Raborife offered to delete the photographs and to call her boss, but the officers insisted she accompany them to the Dobsonville police station.

On the way there the officers stopped and told her that going to the police station would take a long time, but if she deleted the pictures they would let her go.

“I told them that it was a open place, a neutral zone and a public area and the cop insisted that I was not allowed to take pictures there and 'leak them to the public'.”

They gave her back her phone and press card after she deleted the photographs.

An officer took down Raborife's details while another officer took a photo of her car.

Sapa editor Mark van der Velden said the reporter identified herself with a press card and while the police were in a police van, they were in plain clothes and did not identify themselves as required.

“On the facts available so far, this amounts to grossly unprofessional and unprocedural behaviour by police officers who clearly knowingly went out of their way to intimidate a working journalist to suppress public interest information on a very topical news story on xenophobia.

“Well-known standing orders for any police dealing with media specifically prohibits forcing them to delete photos, and they know this very well,” he said.

Van der Velden said this was another incident of police officers ignoring firm standing orders from their own commanders because they get away with it.

Sapa will, also through the SA National Editors' Forum, lodge a formal complaint with the police commissioner's office and follow up with enquiries as to what action was taken, he said.

“What happened is unfortunate,” Gauteng police spokesman Lieutenant Kay Makhubela said.

“Let her open a case so we can investigate. I don't think it's necessary to delete the photographs because the reporter was doing her job,” he said.

“A journalist must ask permission when they arrive at a crime scene. For now she must open a case because an allegation is an allegation. If she opens a case, it is based on the case not a rumour.”

Raborife was expected to open a case.

<http://www.iol.co.za/news/crime-courts/cops-accused-of-intimidating-reporter-1.1808001>

Heavy police presence in iKwezi

By Mpho Raborife January 22 2015 at 09:03pm

Dozens of police cars surrounded a supermarket near the iKwezi train station in Soweto following attacks and looting of foreign-owned shops on Thursday.

The Bangladeshi owners of the supermarket had packed five trucks with their goods.

One of the workers at the shop said he had lived in South Africa for six years. When asked whether he and his colleagues had an alternative place to stay overnight, he lifted his shoulders and said he did not know.

One big truck was loaded with Coca Cola refrigerators.

The glass windows of the shops were broken. More goods were still on the floor and on some of the shelves inside the store.

More than a hundred people stood watching and chatting as the owners emptied the large store.

They cheered and whistled as each truck left the area.

One police officer warned the store owners to empty the store as fast as they could before the sun went down.

A small group of people in orange overalls with 'Siyabangena

Crew' written on them were helping the owners with the move.

Earlier on Thursday, Winnie Madikizela-Mandela was reportedly in Meadowlands to try speak to the people.

Police were on high alert in Soweto, the third day of clashes that left at least two people dead.

Several shops owned by Ethiopians, Pakistanis and Somalis were closed in Snake Park following the attacks.

Residents went on a rampage looting shops and attacking foreigners after a teenager was shot dead in Snake Park. Mthetheleli Siphwe Mahori, 14, was shot dead, allegedly by a foreign shop owner on Monday. He was apparently part of a group that tried to rob the shop.

The violence spilled over to Braamfischerville, Dobsonville, Emdeni, Zola and Protea Glen.

<http://www.iol.co.za/news/crime-courts/heavy-police-presence-in-ikwezi-1.1807986>

Somali businessmen's car stoned

By Mpho Raborife January 22 2015 at 08:23pm

Johannesburg - People threw stones at the van of four Somali nationals who had packed up their shop in Soweto on Thursday following clashes between locals and foreigners.

A crowd stood around the van, which the men were loading with stock, in Heald street, Meadowlands.

Two police vans were on the scene and officers stood close to make sure the crowd did not intimidate the foreign businessmen.

A boy in school uniform shouted: "They must leave, they want to kill us."

One of the Somali men, Shineh Farrah Abdillah, responded: "Why would I want to kill you, you are my brother", to which the boy answered: "You are not my brother".

The crowd became impatient and as the men finished packing their van and started the vehicle people began throwing stones.

Abdillah, who said he had been in South Africa since 2011, told Sapa: "The police were trying to help us but now I'm worried about myself because of these people."

Earlier on Thursday, Winnie Madikizela-Mandela was reportedly in Meadowlands to try speak to the people.

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The violence spilled over to Braamfischerville, Dobsonville, Emdeni, Zola and Protea Glen.

<http://www.iol.co.za/news/crime-courts/somali-businessmen-s-car-stoned-1.1807971>

No excuse for Soweto attacks: Cosatu

By SAPA January 22 2015 at 08:00pm

Johannesburg - There is no excuse for assault, killings and looting of foreign-owned shops in Soweto, Cosatu said on Thursday.

“The police must take action, but in an even-handed way, treating all people equally,” the Congress of SA Trade Unions' spokesman Patrick Craven said in a statement.

“The problems we face - unemployment, poverty and crime - must never be blamed on people on the basis of their country of origin.”

The trade union federation condemned the violence. It called on the alliance, which was made up of Cosatu, the African National Congress and the SA Communist Party, and civil society in Gauteng, to campaign in the affected areas to help stop the violence.

Police were on high alert in Soweto on Thursday, the third day of clashes between locals and foreigners that left at least two people dead.

Two local teenagers have been shot dead and two injured since violence broke out between locals and foreigners in Snake Park on Monday.

Nearly 70 people have been arrested on charges including murder, robbery, public violence, and illegal possession of firearms. Eight of them were foreign nationals allegedly found in possession of unlicensed firearms.

One was a policeman caught on camera allegedly taking part in the looting.

The looting started on Monday after 14-year-old Mthetheleli Siphwe Mahori was shot dead, allegedly by a foreign shop owner in Snake Park. He was apparently part of a group that tried to rob the shop.

On Thursday, Senosi Yusuf appeared in the Protea Magistrate's Court accused of killing Mahori. His case was postponed to January 26 for a bail application.

The Star reported on Thursday that a second teenager, Nhlanhla Monareng, 19, was shot dead when police fired into a crowd gathered at a Pakistani-owned shop on Wednesday night. He was a bystander and reportedly friends with the Pakistanis.

A 74-year-old Malawian shopkeeper, Dan Mokwena, was attacked and killed as she slept in his shop in Durban Deep, Roodepoort, in the early hours of Wednesday morning, The Star reported.

Four foreigners charged with possession of unlicensed firearms and ammunition appeared in court on Thursday. Their bail applications were postponed to January 29.

The Ahmed Kathrada Foundation expressed concern at the spate of attacks on foreign business owners in Soweto. It said the attacks formed a pattern similar to the 2008 xenophobic violence.

“We consider these attacks to be xenophobic and condemn them as such. We urge all community leaders to rally residents around the ideals upon which our Constitution and democracy is founded,” the foundation said.

The National Education Health and Allied Workers Union condemned the attacks and called on police and government to take action against the perpetrators.

<http://www.iol.co.za/news/crime-courts/no-excuse-for-soweto-attacks-cosatu-1.1807966>

Cops force journo to delete pics

By SAPA January 22 2015 at 06:27pm

Johannesburg - A Sapa reporter was forced by three police officers, not in uniform, to delete pictures from her cellphone she took outside a Somali-owned shop in Dobsonville, Soweto, on Thursday.

“The one officer stood over my shoulder as I deleted them one by one,” Mpho Raborife said.

“Then he told me that I am not allowed to take a photo of that scene because it was a public violence matter so that area was part of their jurisdiction.”

Raborife was driving to work when she passed three Somali-owned shops.

Three marked police vehicles were parked outside. Two men were loading items, including packs of cold drinks, into a white van.

The journalist pulled over, put on her hazard lights and ran to the area to take several photos. After she got back into her car and drove for about 700m, a police vehicle tried to flag her down.

“Then they drove next to me and one rolled down the window and told me to pull over. Then I pulled over and they asked me where the photos are that I took as I was not allowed to take pictures of a police scene,” Raborife said.

“I told them I was a journalist and they said that they had no proof of it and then I showed them my press card.

“Then they said either way I am not allowed to take pictures because I did not ask permission, and that I can't just show up at a scene and take photos and leave.”

Another officer told Raborife they wanted to see the photos. He held on to her press card and took her cellphone. Then said they had to take her to their station commander.

She told them she was running late for work, and asked if she could use her phone to inform her bosses. They said no.

Raborife offered to delete the photographs and to call her boss, but the officers insisted she accompany them to the Dobsonville police station.

On the way there the officers stopped and told her that going to the police station would take a long time, but if she deleted the pictures they would let her go.

"I told them that it was a open place, a neutral zone and a public area and the cop insisted that I was not allowed to take pictures there and 'leak them to the public'."

They gave her back her phone and press card after she deleted the photographs.

An officer took down Raborife's details while another officer took a photo of her car.

Sapa editor Mark van der Velden said the reporter identified herself with a press card and while the police were in a police van, they were in plain clothes and did not identify themselves as required.

"On the facts available so far, this amounts to grossly unprofessional and unprocedural behaviour by police officers who clearly knowingly went out of their way to intimidate a working journalist to suppress public interest information on a very topical news story on xenophobia.

"Well-known standing orders for any police dealing with media specifically prohibits forcing them to delete photos, and they know this very well," he said.

Van der Velden said this was another incident of police officers ignoring firm standing orders from their own commanders because they get away with it.

Sapa will, also through the SA National Editors' Forum, lodge a formal complaint with the police commissioner's office and follow up with enquiries as to what action was taken, he said.

"What happened is unfortunate," Gauteng police spokesman Lieutenant Kay Makhubela said.

"Let her open a case so we can investigate. I don't think it's necessary to delete the photographs because the reporter was doing her job," he said.

"A journalist must ask permission when they arrive at a crime scene. For now she must open a case because an allegation is an allegation. If she opens a case, it is based on the case not a rumour."

Raborife would open a case later on Thursday.

Police commissioner Riah Phiyega's spokesman Lt-Gen Solomon Makgale was not immediately available for comment.

<http://www.iol.co.za/news/crime-courts/cops-force-journo-to-delete-pics-1.1807950>

Foreigners flee Soweto violence

By Molaole Montsho January 22 2015 at 06:04pm

Johannesburg - Many foreigners have left Soweto following attacks and looting of their shops, they said on Thursday.

"We have moved out the area. It is not safe. We are now living at a safe place in Johannesburg," said Temesgon Worku, from Ethiopia.

"We are trying to make an honest living, but we are blamed for single incidents happening in the community."

He said residents attacked them and looted their shops on Monday in Snake Park.

"They called us makwerekwere and said we must leave."

Makwerekwere is slang for foreigner.

Several shops owned by Ethiopians, Pakistanis and Somalis were closed in Snake Park following the attacks.

Residents went on a rampage looting shops and attacking foreigners after a teenager was shot dead in Snake Park. Mthetheleli Siphiwe Mahori, 14, was shot dead, allegedly by a foreign shop owner on Monday. He was apparently part of a group that tried to rob the shop.

The violence spilled over to Braamfischerville, Dobsonville, Emdeni, Zola and Protea Glen.

“They attacked us and say we do not have to defend ourselves or our businesses because we are foreigners.

“The government must help us. We have been attacked and left with nothing,” he said.

“Our brothers have no food or clothes. If the government does not want us they must tell us. We will go to countries that will accept us.”

Worku said two of his relatives were arrested while trying to defend themselves.

“They had a panga and their attackers were armed with guns. The police arrested them and left the armed attackers.”

Senosi Yusuf, who was arrested for the murder of Mahori, appeared in the same court where his case was postponed to January 26.

Local residents were divided on foreigners leaving the area.

“They were helping us. They allow us to buy on credit when we did not have money compared to South Africans who refuse us credit,” said Anniki Meleleke.

She appealed for calm saying she did not believe the violence was sparked by the shooting of a teenager.

“It must have been pre-planned and this unfortunate incident is used as a scapegoat.”

She said apart from offering residents credit, foreigners rented shops from locals.

Paul Mogale said foreigners helped pensioners by giving them groceries on credit.

“They provide a service for pensioners, but for young people they ruin their lives by selling them drugs,” he claimed.

Mogale alleged he had seen boys as young as 14 buying drugs from foreigners.

“The boys are regulars at their shop.”

Gauteng police said nearly 70 people had been arrested on charges including murder, robbery, public violence, and illegal possession of firearms. Eight of them were foreign nationals allegedly found in possession of unlicensed firearms.

One was a policeman caught on camera allegedly taking part in the looting.

<http://www.iol.co.za/news/crime-courts/foreigners-flee-soweto-violence-1.1807948>

Act against Soweto mob: union

By SAPA January 22 2015 at 04:36pm

Johannesburg - Nehawu on Thursday condemned the attacks on foreign nationals in Soweto and called on police and government to take action against the perpetrators.

“Nehawu condemns the looting of shops and the killing of foreign nationals in Soweto by some criminal elements,” National Education Health and Allied Workers Union spokesman Sizwe Pamla said.

“Our union demands drastic government intervention to snuff out this problem before it becomes a spreading cancer.”

Nehawu said the country should have learnt a lesson from the 2008 xenophobic attacks.

Two local teenagers have been shot dead and two injured since violence broke out between locals and foreigners in Snake Park on Monday. Eighty-one foreign-owned shops have been looted and 68 people had been arrested during the week.

The looting started on Monday after 14-year-old Mthetheleli Sipiwe Mahori was shot dead, allegedly by a foreign shop owner in Snake Park. He was apparently part of a group that tried to rob the shop.

On Thursday, Senosi Yusuf appeared in the Protea Magistrate's Court accused of killing Mahori. His case was postponed to January 26 for a bail application.

The Star reported on Thursday that a second teenager, Nhlanhla Monareng, 19, was shot dead when police fired into a crowd gathered at a Pakistani-owned shop on Wednesday night. He was a bystander and reportedly friends with the Pakistanis.

A 74-year-old Malawian shopkeeper, Dan Mokwena, was attacked and killed as she slept in his shop in Durban Deep, Roodepoort, in the early hours of Wednesday morning, The Star reported.

Four foreigners charged with possession of unlicensed firearms and ammunition also appeared in court on Thursday. Their case was postponed to January 29, for their bail applications.

<http://www.iol.co.za/news/crime-courts/act-against-soweto-mob-union-1.1807931>

Snake Park murder case postponed

By SAPA January 22 2015 at 02:35pm

Johannesburg - A foreign national accused of murder appeared in the Protea Magistrate's Court on Thursday.

The case against Senosi Yusuf was postponed to January 26 for bail application.

He is accused of shooting Sipiwe Mahori, 14, to death in Snake Park, Soweto, on Monday afternoon. He allegedly fired at a group of people attempting to rob his shop.

After the shooting foreign nationals' shops were looted and they were chased out of the area.

Four other foreigners charged with possession of unlicensed firearms and ammunition also appeared in court. Their case was postponed to January 29 for bail applications.

Gauteng police said over 60 people were arrested since the violence started on Monday.

Their cases were underway in several courts set aside for the large number of people expected to appear.

The Star reported on Thursday that a second teenager, Nhlanhla Monareng, 19, was shot dead when police fired into a crowd gathered at a Pakistani-owned shop on Wednesday night.

<http://www.iol.co.za/news/crime-courts/snake-park-murder-case-postponed-1.1807868>

Soweto violence: 68 arrested to date

By Gabi Falanga January 22 2015 at 02:06pm

Johannesburg - Sixty-eight people have been arrested in Soweto this week for looting and violence, Gauteng's police commissioner said on Thursday.

"Police have arrested a total of 68 people and recovered eight unlicensed firearms during public violence and looting of foreign nationals in Soweto," Lt-Gen Lesetja Mothiba told reporters in Johannesburg.

Eight of those were foreign nationals who were found in possession of seven unlicensed firearms.

Charges against those arrested included murder, attempted murder, public violence, and robbery.

Two people have been shot dead and two injured since violence broke out between locals and foreigners in Snake Park on Monday. Eighty-one foreign-owned shops have been looted.

The looting started on Monday after 14-year-old Mthetheleli Siphwe Mahori was shot dead, allegedly by a foreign shop owner in Snake Park. He was apparently part of a group that tried to rob the shop.

"One of the boys was fatally shot and another injured," said Mothiba.

"It's alleged that the members of the community staged revenge (attacks) and started looting foreign shops in the area."

Foreigners fired shots to defend themselves and their property, he said.

"The guy who shot the boy has been arrested and charged with murder, attempted murder, possession of an illegal firearm and ammunition."

He would appear in the Protea Magistrate's Court on Thursday.

The second person killed was shot dead during looting in Zola on Wednesday night.

Gauteng community safety MEC Sizakele Nkosi-Malobane said all cases had been moved to the Protea Magistrate's Court.

The State would oppose bail against all 68 who had been arrested, she said.

Dobsonville station commander, Brigadier Azwindini Nengovhela, said many foreigners had left the area for their own safety.

"All those others who were owning tuck shops voluntarily decided to leave."

Police had helped them leave the area.

<http://www.iol.co.za/news/crime-courts/soweto-violence-68-arrested-to-date-1.1807856>

Looting cop to face charges

By SAPA January 22 2015 at 01:53pm

Johannesburg - A police officer filmed participating in looting in Dobsonville, Soweto, will be formally charged, Gauteng's community safety MEC said on Thursday.

"We have already acted against the individual that's identified in the clip... He's definitely going to be formally charged," Sizakele Nkosi-Malobane told reporters in Johannesburg.

She said the officer had been stationed in Dobsonville.

Two people have been shot dead and two injured since violence broke out between locals and foreigners this week. The looting of foreign-owned shops started on Monday after 14-year-old Mthetheleli Siphwe Mahori was shot dead, allegedly by a foreign shop owner in Snake Park.

The boy was allegedly with a group that tried to rob the shop.

"We suspect that it is a revenge attack, they're responding to the boy that was killed," Nkosi-Malobane said.

Eighty-one foreign shops had been looted since Monday and 68 people arrested

<http://www.iol.co.za/news/crime-courts/looting-cop-to-face-charges-1.1807848>

Soweto violence 'not xenophobic' - MEC

By SAPA January 22 2015 at 01:05pm

Johannesburg - This week's violence and looting against foreign shop owners in Soweto was not xenophobic, Gauteng's Community Safety MEC said on Thursday.

Two people have been shot dead since violence broke out between locals and foreigners in Snake Park on Monday.

"The actions are pure criminality... For now we won't declare it xenophobic attacks," Sizakele Nkosi-Malobane told reporters in Johannesburg.

Nkosi-Malobane said the attacks were sporadic and being carried out by a group of young people who moved from area to area.

"Unfortunately sometimes they're joined by adults," she said.

Earlier, Gauteng provincial police commissioner Lt-Gen Lesetja Mothiba said reinforcements had been sent to control the situation.

An operations centre had been established to co-ordinate police operations in the area.

Police were working with community policing forums and other government leaders to calm the situation.

The looting of foreign shops started on Monday after 14-year-old Mthetheleli Sipiwe Mahori was shot dead, allegedly by a foreign shop owner in Snake Park.

Eighty-one foreign shops had been looted since Monday.

<http://www.iol.co.za/news/crime-courts/soweto-violence-not-xenophobic-mec-1.1807818>

Foreigners in Soweto ask state for help

Molaole Montsho January 22 2015 at 12:23pm

Johannesburg - Foreign nationals want the South African government to help them following attacks and looting of their shops in Soweto, they said on Thursday.

“The government must help us. We have been attacked and left with nothing,” said Temesgon Worku, from Ethiopia.

“Our brothers have no food or clothes. If the government does not want us they must tell us. We will go to countries that will accept us.”

He said locals had robbed them and chased them out of the area.

“They called us amakwerekwere and said we must leave. We do not feel safe anymore,” he said.

Amakwerekwere is slang for foreigner.

Foreign-owned shops were looted on Monday after a shopkeeper allegedly shot dead 14-year-old Mthetheleli Sipiwe Mahori, who was part of a group allegedly robbing foreign-owned shops in Snake Park.

The violence spilled over to Braamfischerville overnight.

Worku said two of his relatives were arrested while trying to defend themselves.

“They had a panga and their attackers were armed with guns. The police arrested them and left the armed attackers.”

A local resident, Paul Mogale, said foreigners helped pensioners by giving them groceries on credit.

“They provide a service for pensioners, but for young people they ruin their lives by selling them drugs,” he claimed.

Mogale claimed he had seen boys as young as 14 buying drugs from foreigners.

“The boys are regulars at their shop.”

Gauteng police said over 60 people had been arrested in connection with the violence. Some of them would appear in the Protea Magistrate’s Court on Thursday.

At the court, foreign nationals stood in groups under trees in the courtyard. Locals filled the two court rooms where the cases were being heard.

<http://www.iol.co.za/news/crime-courts/foreigners-in-soweto-ask-state-for-help-1.1807776>

Old shopkeeper gutted, set alight in Soweto

By LERATO MBANGENI AND SHEREE BEGA January 22 2015 at 07:48am

Johannesburg - When they found him, his intestines were hanging out and his penis had been doused with paraffin and set alight.

The 74-year-old whom the residents of Durban Deep, Roodepoort, affectionately called M'dala (Old Man) had the wooden door hacked off his meagre shop and was murdered as he slept in the early hours of Wednesday morning.

Dan Mokwena, who has lived in the area for 16 years, spoke fondly of the Malawian shopkeeper. "He was a good man who lived alone. All he had was his small shop, where he sold paraffin, sweets and some biscuits and the small corn garden he'd planted," Mokwena said.

He was blind in one eye and partially deaf. He was an old man. There was no need to kill him like that," said Mokwena, who added that some residents had heard the sound of someone hacking wood at about 2am.

"We feel unsafe now, because we don't know who would do such a thing."

The community was so shocked by the brutal murder of M'dala that they have started patrolling in groups, and held a meeting to see how they could make their area safer.

In Bramfischerville and Snake Park, looting and violence began in earlier this week after foreign nationals allegedly shot dead a teenager and injured another when a group of boys attempted to rob their shop.

The shooting sparked protests and forced some foreign shop owners to flee the area.

Groups of young men could be seen walking around and pulling at the burglar bars of locked shops, checking how strong they were. The shops with weaker bars were looted. Such was the case with Yusuf Ahmed.

The rain falling on Ahmed's face looked like tears.

The Somali shopkeeper stood helpless in the ruins of his store as the angry mob across the road bayed for his blood. "You must go! You must go! You must go!" they chanted in unison at Ahmed and his relatives.

Around his African Supermarket store, tucked alongside the squatter homes in Braamfischerville, loaves of bread lay squashed, like his dreams.

Moments before, police responding to the xenophobic outbreak raging through Soweto arrested his brother for possession of an unlicensed firearm.

Unprotected, his neighbours struck: pummelling concrete slabs through the shop, eventually looting it. He and his colleagues were hurriedly packing what little was left.

Ahmed has been here before.

In Motherwell, Khayelitsha, people had looted his shops. He narrowly escaped with his life.

He has lived in the country for 11 years, but believes his time is running out.

"Maybe I will leave this country this year for my own security. We fled from Somalia because we feared for our safety. Now, in South Africa, we are again worried about our safety. We are not safe.

“These people,” he said, gesturing towards the crowd, “they make us feel like we are not human.

“Like it’s apartheid in Soweto. We thought we had a good relationship with the community,” he said, a look of dismay on his face.

For Julia Nhlapo, there is no space for foreign-owned shops in Soweto, particularly after the shooting of a teenage boy, allegedly by a Pakistani shopkeeper, earlier this week.

“They must just leave,” she shouted in Ahmed’s direction.

“They are killing our children. We don’t want them here.”

Another, Zodwa Manana, spat: “They must go. We don’t want them in South Africa. They buy goods in bulk, sell them cheaply and our own tuckshops don’t survive. We will make sure they go.”

Constance Dhlamini refused to join some of her neighbours.

“These people are only trying to make a living,” she said, gripping her little daughter’s hand.

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<http://www.iol.co.za/news/crime-courts/old-shopkeeper-gutted-set-alight-in-soweto-1.1807533>

39 held after Soweto looting and violence

By SAPA January 22 2015 at 06:25am

Johannesburg - Twenty-nine more people have been arrested in Bramfischerville and Snake Park in connection with the looting and violence which began earlier this week, Gauteng police said on Wednesday.

This brings number of people arrested to 39, Lieutenant Kay Makhubela said on Wednesday night.

The group of 29 was arrested for looting shops owned by foreign nationals in both areas, he said.

He said members of the communities were allegedly breaking into closed shops owned by foreign nationals.

“They are continuing to loot but we are busy trying to escort those who want to leave the area.”

By 10pm some calm had been restored to the areas, Makhubela said. However the number of arrests could increase as the night progressed.

Earlier on Wednesday three Somali nationals were arrested in Bramfischerville phase two for being in possession of three unlicensed firearms.

“They were shooting at the community as the community was attacking them and looting their shops and demanding they leave the area,” Makhubela said.

The trio was also found in possession of fake South African identity documents.

The looting had spread to Mapetla, Dobsonville, Emdeni, Zola and Protea Glen overnight following a shooting in Snake Park, near Dobsonville.

On Monday foreign nationals allegedly shot dead a teenager and injured another when a group of boys attempted to rob their shop. The shooting sparked protests and forced some foreign shop owners to flee the area.

The Star identified the teenager, who died after being shot in the neck, as Mthetheleli Sipiwe Mahori, 14.

Two people were arrested in Jabulani earlier on Wednesday when they were found looting a shop owned by a foreign national.

Five other Somali nationals were arrested on Tuesday in Snake Park for shooting at the community, which was allegedly looting their shops.

The group of five was arrested for possession of unlicensed firearms, Makhubela said.

<http://www.iol.co.za/news/crime-courts/39-held-after-soweto-looting-and-violence-1.1807512>

10 arrested for Soweto looting, violence

By SAPA January 21 2015 at 07:07pm

Johannesburg - Ten people have been arrested in connection with the looting and violence throughout Soweto which began earlier this week, Gauteng police said on Wednesday.

Three Somali nationals were arrested in Bram Fischer Phase two on Wednesday afternoon for being in possession of three unlicensed firearms, Lieutenant Kay Makhubela said.

“They were shooting at the community as the community was attacking them and looting their shops and demanding they leave the area,” he said.

The trio was also found in possession of fake South African identity documents.

Earlier Makhubela said the looting had spread to Emdeni, Zola and Protea Glen overnight following a shooting in Snake Park, near Dobsonville.

On Monday foreign nationals allegedly shot dead a teenager and injured another when a group of boys attempted to rob their shop. The shooting sparked protests and forced some foreign shop owners to flee the area.

The Star identified the teenager, who died after being shot in the neck, as Mthetheleli Sipiwe Mahori, 14.

Two people had been arrested earlier on Wednesday in Jabulani when they were found looting a shop owned by a foreign national. They were being held at the Jabulani police station, Makhubela said.

Five other Somali nationals were arrested on Tuesday in Snake Park for shooting at the community, which was allegedly looting their shops.

The group was arrested for possession of unlicensed firearms, Makhubela said.

<http://www.iol.co.za/news/crime-courts/10-arrested-for-soweto-looting-violence-1.1807473>

Xenophobic attacks after teen's killing

By Botho Molosankwe January 21 2015 at 11:34am

Johannesburg - Soweto's Snake Park was on the boil on Tuesday as police swarmed the area to protect terrified foreigners who had come under attack from a restive community.

On Wednesday morning Gauteng police said the looting of shops owned by foreign nationals had spread to other areas in Soweto.

As the foreigners left under police escort on Tuesday, fear etched on their faces and their vehicles filled to the brim with groceries and fridges, some residents standing on the side of the road watching them jeered.

With glee on their faces, the residents waved at them sarcastically and laughed. An elderly woman shouted: "Go, dogs!"

It started on Monday night, when a group of boys high on nyaope – a cocktail of drugs with a heroin base – attempted to rob a local shop.

The owner, a foreigner, took out his gun and – panicked – the would-be attackers fled.

The assailants retreated into the community and accused the shopkeepers of owning guns.

This precipitated a series of events that saw a teenager shot dead and foreigners driven out of the area.

The boys omitted to say how they had found out about the guns.

Enraged, the residents had marched to the shops and accused the foreigners of having guns and started vandalising their shops after hearing from the boys.

Mthetheleli Sipiwe Mahori, 14, was with the mob that went to one of the shops.

A resident, who preferred to remain anonymous, said that when the mob arrived at the shop, it was late at night and the owner, who was asleep at the time, thought the people outside wanted to be served. He asked them to return in the morning.

The mob apparently started stoning the shop and tried to break in. They also lifted the corrugated iron on the roof in an attempt to get in.

"The owner fired a warning shot and they fled. They returned, and continued to try to break in, and that's when he shot again," he said.

Mthetheleli was shot in the neck and died on the scene.

Mthetheleli's sister, Nonhlanhla, said their father had sent the teenager on an errand that evening. But he didn't go to where he was sent.

Nonhlanhla said Mthetheleli saw a group of people and followed them.

A while later, people knocked on their door to tell them that Mthetheleli was dead.

Another local, Lebogang Ncamla, 23, was shot three times in the left arm. He said he was returning from work when he saw a group of people fleeing. He ran with them and suddenly felt bullets piercing his skin.

On Tuesday afternoon, police officers saturated Snake Park.

Law enforcement officers were having difficulty controlling out-of-control residents who were using the boy's death as an excuse to loot foreign-owned shops.

The police had to keep watch over the terrified foreigners as they hastily packed their goods and got out of the volatile area.

On the other side of the township, Moden Faris was packing his goods under the watchful eye of the police. The 34-year-old Ethiopian had been in his shop for only five days.

When he opened for business on Tuesday morning, he saw people passing by with goods they had just looted from shops nearby.

He quickly closed his shop. People rushed to the door, pulling at the security door, but the police arrived.

“I was so scared,” Faris said, adding he would wait until the situation calmed down before returning. “I want to work here.”

Police spokesman Lieutenant Kay Makhubela said Mthetheleli’s killer would face murder and attempted murder charges.

He added that police had arrested four foreigners found in possession of unlicensed firearms.

“We also arrested seven people who were looting the shops and vandalising them,” he added.

Makhubela said police were monitoring other areas as a precaution.

<http://www.iol.co.za/news/crime-courts/xenophobic-attacks-after-teen-s-killing-1.1807219>

