

HUMAN RIGHTS INDABA STAND UP FOR DIGNITY AND JUSTICE

AMNESTY
INTERNATIONAL



XENOPHOBIC VIOLENCE STILL GOING STRONG IN SOUTH AFRICA

WELCOME!

In this magazine, you can learn about human rights in southern Africa and how you can become a human rights activist by joining Amnesty International.

Amnesty International is a global movement of more than 3 million supporters, members and activists around the world who campaign to end abuses of human rights.

In Zimbabwe, South Africa and other countries in the region, our members and activists work together for justice, freedom and human rights for all. Join us! See inside for details.

WHO IS A REFUGEE?

A refugee is someone who is fleeing torture or persecution.

A refugee is someone who has the right to seek asylum in another country.

A refugee is not a criminal and not an intruder.

Refugees look for shelter in South Africa and other countries because they have no other options. They are being persecuted at home because of who they are, their beliefs or their opinions. They come to South Africa to find safety. Instead, they find closed borders, xenophobia and a hostile living environment.

DID YOU KNOW?

An average of 238 incidents of xenophobia are reported every month to the police in South Africa.

(Lawyers for Human Rights, www.lhr.org.za)



Activists in Tembisa, Gauteng.

Attacks against refugees, asylum-seekers and migrants are widespread and are increasing across South Africa.

When people think of xenophobia in South Africa, they think of the well-documented violence of May 2008, in which over 60 people were killed, more than 600 others were injured and tens of thousands were displaced.

But more people died in 2011 due to xenophobic violence than in 2008.

Since that outburst of violence in May 2008, deaths, destruction of property and displacements of non-nationals continue in all provinces at alarming levels and are generally under-reported by the media and the authorities.

Amnesty International is working tirelessly to promote and protect the rights of asylum-seekers and refugees.

“If someone knocks on your door, you welcome them. This is the spirit of Ubuntu that must be shown to refugees. South Africans are responsible for making sure that refugees and migrants are treated with dignity and respect in our communities.”

“Uma kukhona umuntu onggogqozayo emnyango, mubingelele. Iwo umoya wobuntu okufanele bukhonjiswa kwizifikanamthwalo. Izakhamuzi zaseMzansi Afrika banentshisekelo kanye nobudlelwane kwizifikanamthwalo, lapho bephathwa kahle ngenhlonipho, nentobeko emphakathini esihlala kuwo.”

Mashudu Mfomande, Amnesty South Africa

We work in some communities promoting social cohesion. We also work with others in South African civil society to introduce hate crimes legislation so that the South African authorities can investigate and bring to justice people who commit prejudice-motivated crimes.

Amnesty has joined with partners in a petition urging President Zuma not to overlook the rights of refugees and migrants and to take action that sends a message that intolerance and prejudice of any kind will not be accepted in South Africa.

YOU CAN ACT

How can you show the spirit of Ubuntu to refugees and migrants in your community? What can you do to stop xenophobia in your area?

Share your thoughts with others in your community and plan an event where you can express your views. For advice and tools on how to plan an event, see page 7.

JOIN AMNESTY SOUTH AFRICA AND CAMPAIGN TO END XENOPHOBIA

Call us on 011 339 5505, or email info@amnesty.org.za
[Facebook.com/Amnesty South Africa](https://www.facebook.com/AmnestySouthAfrica)
[Twitter:@AISafrica](https://twitter.com/AISafrica)

TOGETHER WE CAN END FORCED EVICTIONS IN ZIMBABWE

WHAT IS A FORCED EVICTION?

We say people are forcibly evicted when they are forced out of their homes and off their lands, for example by the authorities, against their will, with little notice or none at all, often with the threat or use of violence.

KNOW YOUR RIGHTS

You have a right to protection from forced eviction whether you rent, own, occupy or lease the home or land on which it is built.

The government should give you prior adequate notice, in writing, of the date of your eviction.

You should have a chance to appeal.

The government should offer you compensation if you lose property or goods.

The authorities must ensure that you are not left homeless.

LEARN MORE

Go to the internet to learn more about your rights and about forced evictions in Zimbabwe and in Africa: <http://bit.ly/11mpBzX>

Find out how people in Kenya are fighting forced evictions in WIRE, Amnesty International's global magazine. You can find it on the internet livewire.amnesty.org

“Through Amnesty Zimbabwe, we have seen slum dwellers claim their rights.”

Amnesty Zimbabwe member

In May 2005, the government of Zimbabwe embarked on a programme of mass forced evictions, called Operation Murambatsvina, which left about 700,000 people without a home, a livelihood, or both.

This is the story of Moreblessing G (right), aged 27, from Hatcliffe Extension, Harare, Zimbabwe:

“Our house was destroyed a month after Operation Murambatsvina began. The police made us destroy our own house. As the eldest son I had to stand on top of the roof [and demolish it]. The police said ‘faster, faster’. They started to beat me. I reported to the head of police but he said I must have provoked them.

“We stayed for one month just with plastic sheets for shelter. We were then ferried to a transit camp. There was only one toilet and one well. The government had not [adequately planned] for this. We had no income or economic activities. No [schools]. Many children lost out [on their education]. Armed policemen patrolled the camp and there was no freedom.

“The government asked us where our rural areas were so they could send us back there. We would watch the trucks coming and people being loaded onto them, often at night. You would wave goodbye and see the tears on people's cheeks.

“Then it was announced that people could go back to Hatcliffe Extension. There was much jubilation and celebrating. We were given four poles and asbestos sheeting. This was how we began [to rebuild this settlement].

“If we were not forcibly evicted in the first place, [the settlement] would have been more developed. Our schools are makeshift. The teachers are not qualified, there is no electricity. We are living [on] an island. We are not connected to the world.

“Most of us have never lived in proper shelter. We are born, grow up and die in a shack. We are always homeless. We are denied our right to housing. The community deserves to be compensated but this has not happened. The government should facilitate support.

“At first I got involved in activism with [a community-based youth group]. I was scared about it. Talking about human rights in my community was taboo. Working with Amnesty I have had an opportunity to address people. In February 2012, I [addressed] policy makers in parliament about our housing situation. There were four of us young men and women from Hatcliffe Extension and Amnesty Zimbabwe.

“Today I am proud to be a human rights defender.”



Amnesty International has called on the government to urgently address the plight of survivors of forced evictions. Amnesty Zimbabwe works at community level with people who were affected by Operation Murambatsvina and with survivors of forced evictions to demand their rights, particularly access to basic services including maternal health care and education for children in these communities.

JOIN AMNESTY ZIMBABWE AND HELP END FORCED EVICTIONS

SMS your name and JOIN to 0773 108 677
call us on 0772 163 544-6 or email amnestyinternational.zimbabwe@gmail.com

THE STORY OF SILVA ALVES KAMULINGUE AND ISAÍAS SEBASTIÃO CASSULE

Silva Alves Kamulingue (pictured in orange shirt), 31, is from **Angola**. He is married and has two children. His family has not seen or heard from him since 27 May 2012.



That day, Silva was helping to organize a demonstration in Luanda, the capital of Angola, by former soldiers who demanded payments owed to them. But before the demonstration started it was violently suppressed by the police and the demonstrators dispersed.

Silva was abducted from the street. Amnesty International believes that the people who abducted him were related to the government, and are colloquially referred to as “Kaenches”.

Isaías Sebastião Cassule (above right) is also from Angola. He was also involved in organizing the demonstration. On 29 May 2012, he and a friend went to meet a person who claimed that he had a video recording of the abduction of Silva.

The friend reported that 15 minutes later, a car arrived and several men, whom he believed to be “Kaenches”, got out. The friend ran away. Isaías has not been seen or heard from since.

The “Kaenches” are a kind of militia group. They suppress the demonstrations that have been taking place in Luanda since March 2011. This is when students and young activists started protesting against more than three decades rule of President José Eduardo dos Santos.

Enforced disappearance is the arrest, detention or abduction of someone by people working on behalf of the state, who then deny any knowledge of the person who has disappeared. Enforced disappearances are against international law. They violate human rights such as the right to life, and the right not to be subjected to torture and other cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment.

Amnesty International believes Silva Alves Kamulingue and Isaías Sebastião Cassule have been subjected to an enforced disappearance.

We want the government of Angola to reveal what happened to Silva Alves Kamulingue and Isaías Sebastião Cassule. We want the government to release them immediately or give them a fair trial.

YOU CAN ACT

Go to Facebook and share the pictures of Silva and Isaías with friends to show solidarity with their story. <http://on.fb.me/1ap9o5u>

Explain to people in your community about enforced disappearances and tell them what is happening in Angola.

30 August is International Day of the Victims of Enforced Disappearances. See calendar and advice on how to plan an event on pages 7-8.

THE STORY OF HORTÊNCIO NIA OSSUFO

The police came to the home of Hortêncio Nia Ossufo in Muatala, Nampula province, **Mozambique** on Saturday 5 March 2011. They wanted to make an arrest, but Hortêncio’s relative later claimed that the police mistook Hortêncio for another relative, Frederico, who had fled the house. The police handcuffed Hortêncio and demanded he came to the police station. Hortêncio insisted that he was not the man they were looking for, and an argument started. The police then shot and killed Hortêncio.

The police say that Hortêncio was a criminal. But to Amnesty International’s knowledge, he had never been found guilty of a crime by a court of law. Everyone is innocent until proven guilty in a court of law. Even if he had committed a crime the police cannot just shoot people, especially since the death penalty is prohibited in Mozambique. Anyone suspected of having committed a crime must be taken before a court of law for a trial and not shot by the police.

Police in Mozambique regularly use extreme violence and kill people unlawfully. Most of the time, these cases are not investigated.

Amnesty International is campaigning for unlawful killings by the police to be investigated properly and for justice to be done.

DID YOU KNOW?

Enforced disappearances are still carried out in many countries around the world. All too often those suspected of criminal responsibility are never brought to justice.

Amnesty International has documented cases of disappearances in every continent and has ongoing work on the issue in Algeria, the Americas, the Balkans, Indonesia, Libya, Mauritania, Mali, Pakistan, Russia, Sri Lanka and Syria, among other countries.

DID YOU KNOW?

Since 2001, thousands of families in **Angola** have also been forcibly evicted from their homes. People have been left homeless and pushed deeper into poverty. The authorities regularly beat or shoot the residents during the eviction.

Amnesty International is campaigning and acting to end forced evictions in Angola.

“Never ever underestimate the power that your voice can make in your community. That is the heart of activism: standing up for what you believe. Chances are that there is someone else who is waiting to come forward. So don't be afraid to be bold because someone is behind you!”

Karabo, Amnesty South Africa

JOIN THE CONVERSATION

To find out more about human rights in Africa, and to share your thoughts, join Amnesty Africa online community on www.facebook.com/amnestyafrica

FIGHT WITH FLOWERS! NO TO SEXUAL VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN AND GIRLS IN SOUTH AFRICA

DID YOU KNOW?

Last year the South African police said that over 64,000 sexual offences were reported.

These offences include more than 48,000 cases of rape.

WHAT ARE SEXUAL AND REPRODUCTIVE RIGHTS?

- The right to make decisions about your own health
- Ask for and get info about health services
- Decide if and when to have kids
- Choose whether or not to marry
- Access sexual and reproductive health care
- Live free from rape and other sexual violence

THE SOUTH AFRICAN CONSTITUTION

“(2) Everyone has the right to bodily and psychological integrity, which includes the right to make decisions concerning reproduction; [and] to security in and control over their body”.

ACT NOW

Sign an online petition calling on world leaders, including the South African government, to prioritize the health and human rights of young people, particularly young women and adolescent girls.

www.amnesty.org/mybodymyrights

This August, Women’s Month in South Africa, we are asking:

Why are so many women and girls being raped and sexually abused in South Africa?

Why are some women and girls denied the choice to be HIV free?

Why are so many not able to make their own decisions about their bodies, their lives and their sexual and reproductive health?

Why do women who suffer abuses and sexual violence often feel they don't get the protection they deserve?

We say “enough”. We say violence against women and girls needs to stop. We are making a stand.

This August we will have a public art installation of origami (paper folded) flowers, titled Cry of Iris, displayed at the Union Building in Pretoria. There will be similar installations in other provinces. Join us!

WHAT YOU CAN DO

Make sure your voice is heard! Come to our Cry of Iris events. Go to [facebook.com/Amnesty South Africa](http://facebook.com/AmnestySouthAfrica) for updates and information on where they are taking place. If you cannot join us in person, then:

1. In your school, or in your community, come together and make origami flowers. You can learn how to make origami flowers by going to <http://bit.ly/1a6C8RT>
2. “Plant” your flowers in your area and make your own “garden”. Use this as an opportunity to tell people in your community about sexual and reproductive rights and about sexual violence in South Africa.
3. Share pictures of your flowers and your garden. Add them to our virtual garden on [facebook.com/Amnesty South Africa](http://facebook.com/AmnestySouthAfrica)
4. We will print your pictures and add your flowers to our art installation in August, so your voice and the voices of your community are represented!



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A school in Pretoria, South Africa, planting flowers.

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“Sexual and Reproductive rights are not just an issue for women. What affects women, affects the family and the whole community. If it takes a village to raise a child, it should take a nation to protect women from sexual violence.”

Glenda Muzenda, Amnesty South Africa

HOPING FOR FREEDOM OF EXPRESSION DURING ELECTIONS IN ZIMBABWE

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Zimbabwe is set to go to elections this year.

A new constitution was signed into law by Zimbabwe's President Robert Mugabe on 22 May, paving the way for final steps leading to a general election. On 31 May, President Mugabe announced 31 July as election day without consulting other government coalition partners.

Local and international human rights groups are calling on Zimbabwe's authorities to take measures to combat state-sponsored political violence during the general elections.

The last second-round of presidential elections, held in June 2008, was marked by unprecedented levels of political violence.

More than 200 people died, over 10,000 were injured and over 28,000 were internally

Zimbabweans wait in line to vote in the presidential runoff election, on 27 June 2008.

displaced. Many people had to flee Zimbabwe.

Numerous human rights defenders were subject to harassment and intimidation. Very few of the perpetrators of the violence have been held to account and many of the victims therefore live in fear of a repeat in 2013.

Throughout this year, Amnesty International has been calling on the Zimbabwean authorities to respect and protect the rights to freedom of expression and assembly. The government can do this by ending harassment and intimidation of human rights defenders, respecting the rights to peaceful protest, freedom of assembly and association and ensuring police respect for human rights and the rule of law.

3 REASONS TO END THE DEATH PENALTY

1

The death penalty does not contribute to a safer society

There is no scientific proof to show it offers a solution to the problem of crime. Instead, crime may be reduced through having better trained and equipped police officers, an effective justice system and better education, for example.

2

The death penalty violates rights

The Universal Declaration of Human Rights states that everyone has the right to life and the right not to be subjected to cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment. The death penalty violates these rights.

3

The death penalty is irreversible

Every justice system in the world makes mistakes, and there is always a risk of executing an innocent person. Once a person is executed, it cannot be undone.

Message from Guatemala:

“Human Solidarity is the best shield against aggression”

Iduvina Hernández,
Human rights defender

DID YOU KNOW?

Around 140 countries in the world had abolished the death penalty in law or practice by 2012.

The top five executing countries in 2012 were China, Iran, Iraq, Saudi Arabia and the USA.

TIME TO END THE DEATH PENALTY EVERYWHERE

We at Amnesty International oppose the death penalty in all circumstances. We believe the death penalty has no place in today's criminal justice system.

More and more countries in the world are ending the use of the death penalty. Angola, Mauritius, Mozambique, Namibia, Seychelles and South Africa have already abolished the death penalty for all crimes.

Since 2011, we have been campaigning for Zimbabwe to abolish the death penalty. The new constitution in Zimbabwe limits the scope of the death penalty, which was inherited from colonial Rhodesia. But that is not enough.

FIND OUT MORE

Find out why we are against the death penalty, and help us end it in Zimbabwe, by contacting Amnesty Zimbabwe. Phone: 0772 163 544-6 or email amnestyinternational.zimbabwe@gmail.com

“The death penalty is a violation of the right to life which is recognized in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. It is the premeditated and cold-blooded killing of a human being by the state.”

Noel Kututwa, Amnesty International

WHAT DOES IT MEAN TO BE AN AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL MEMBER?

JOIN AMNESTY SOUTH AFRICA

Call us on 011 339 5505, or email info@amnesty.org.za
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If you live outside South Africa or Zimbabwe, go to the internet and join: www.amnesty.org/en/join

If you are on facebook, join our African online community on: www.facebook.com/amnestyafrika

JOIN AMNESTY ZIMBABWE

SMS your name and JOIN to 0773 108 677
Call us: 0772 163 544-6
Email us: amnestyinternational.zimbabwe@gmail.com

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54 Midlothian Avenue
Eastlea
Harare
www.amnesty.co.zw

Message from Egypt:

“The more we support each other, the stronger we are.”

Azza Hilal Suleiman, activist

Selloane, Amnesty South Africa member since February 2013:

“I feel empowered as a human being because of my activism. I feel it is important to change how we think about ourselves and about other people. I went to schools in Soweto to talk to teenagers about how we need to protect women’s rights to health. They wrote letters to Jacob Zuma, the South African President, and asked him to make sure that women have affordable transport to hospitals. At first, the students didn’t understand how they can write to a minister. But it made them feel empowered. Before, they didn’t know about their human rights. But they started knowing more.

“Come and join Amnesty South Africa, you can understand how important our human rights are. You can bring change to people’s lives!”



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Zebbies, Amnesty International member since 1991:

“I first attended a meeting with an Amnesty group in the mining town in Copperbelt province in Zambia. I coordinated human rights training workshops in schools and churches. I believe that human rights enlightened communities will claim for their rights to access education, health services, employment, clean and safe drinking water, a non-polluted environment and all that goes with living a dignified life. We also collected over 300 for victims of human rights abuse. We had participants from schools, business communities and other civil society groups in the district.

“I get joy from speaking for the voiceless as member of a global movement. I feel others will speak for me when I am in dire need of support.”

Mabel, Amnesty Zimbabwe member since 1992:

“The first time I heard of Amnesty International I was a teacher, but I joined when I came to Harare. I decided to become an activist because I was also a member of a trade union and I was seeing the wrongs around me and the need for them to be righted.

“In March, we commemorated International Women’s Day. Men participated. It was right that they were included so we understand each other and see the value of each other’s contribution. The Ministry of Women’s Affairs and the local council were there. There was singing, dancing and discussing.

“Human rights means you have respect for others’ views even if you don’t agree. It is about valuing yourself and others. Discussing the issues can make them more alive to the other person, so that person can understand me and I understand them.”



WHAT ARE HUMAN RIGHTS? TEACH YOURSELF, TEACH OTHERS

Human rights are those basic standards without which people cannot live in dignity as human beings. Human rights are the foundation of freedom, justice and peace. When human rights are respected, the individual and the community can develop fully.

Human rights are proclaimed in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and in the African Charter on Human and Peoples' Rights. Documents such as the international covenants on human rights set out what governments must do and also what they must not do to respect the rights of their citizens.

Many countries in Africa have also included reference to respect and protection of human rights in their constitutions.

We all have three types of human rights:

1. Civil and political rights. These include the rights to: life, liberty and security of the individual; freedom from torture and slavery; political participation; freedom of opinion, expression, thought, conscience and religion; freedom of association and assembly.
2. Economic and social rights: for example, the rights to work, education, a reasonable standard of living, food, shelter and health care.
3. Environmental, cultural and developmental rights. These include the right to live in an environment that is clean and protected from destruction, and rights to cultural, political and economic development.

Human rights are inalienable, indivisible and interdependent. What does this mean?

"Inalienable" means that human rights cannot be taken away under any circumstances, including in wars or emergency situations. "Indivisible" means that all human rights are equally important. No one can decide that certain rights matter more than others. "Interdependent" means that when one right is abused, it has a negative impact on other rights. Similarly, when a certain right is realized, it contributes to other rights being fulfilled.

What does discrimination mean?

Discrimination means being excluded, restricted or treated differently, in a way that denies people their human rights. Discrimination increases social exclusion, marginalization and access to resources – including money, housing and work – and services such as education and health care. Ending all forms of discrimination is essential to enabling people to exercise and claim their human rights.

ACT NOW

1. Set up a human rights group at school or in the community to discuss and learn about human rights issues.
2. Find creative ways to share this information and your reflections with friends, family, community, through discussions, debates, art, or making a song, play or dance and performing it.
3. Take part in campaigns promoted by Amnesty International and other organizations. Contact Amnesty International South Africa or Zimbabwe. If you don't live in these countries go to <https://www.facebook.com/amnestyafrika>

DISCUSS WITH YOUR COMMUNITY

What are basic human needs?

Who in your community faces discrimination?

Why are they being discriminated against?

What can you do to end it?

Message from Somalia:

"when we defend one another, our own lives have value"

Abukar Albadri,
human rights activist



Amnesty South Africa stall, Soweto, Gauteng. 2012.

PLAN YOUR ACTIVISM - KEY DATES

AUGUST 2013



A South African student planting flowers.

WOMEN'S MONTH IN SOUTH AFRICA

HUMAN RIGHT ISSUES:

Ending violence against women and girls, promoting sexual and reproductive rights.

EVENTS: CRY OF IRIS

Planting a flower garden in Limpopo, Senekal, KwaZulu-Natal and Pretoria.

WHAT CAN YOU DO?

Join the events in person or on social media. See **page 4** for details.

FOR MORE INFORMATION:

Amnesty South Africa
Tel: 011 339 5505
Email: info@amnesty.org.za
Facebook.com/Amnesty South Africa
Twitter:@AISafrica

YOUR NOTES:

12 AUGUST: INTERNATIONAL YOUTH DAY

Why not organize an event for young people in your community and discuss the issues raised in this magazine?

30 AUGUST: INTERNATIONAL DAY OF THE VICTIMS OF ENFORCED DISAPPEARANCES

Show solidarity with victims of enforced disappearances in Angola <http://on.fb.me/1ap9o5u>
See **page 3**.

For more information, visit <http://bit.ly/demand-justice-now>

YOUR NOTES:



Zimbabwean survivors of forced evictions show solidarity with the Roma people in Italy. The Roma people are a minority in Italy, Europe, and they have also been forcibly evicted from their homes.

A boy taking part in Amnesty 'Week of Action to Stop Forced Evictions' in Harare, Zimbabwe, 2012.

GET INVOLVED!

Plan your own human rights indaba where you can discuss the issues in this magazine. For tips, see **page 7**.

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