

CIVIL SOCIETY MEETING
TAC OFFICES, CAPE TOWN.

31ST MAY 2008

Evan Abrahamse from COSATU opened the meeting, calling for all the groups and individuals present to work together to respond to the xenophobia crisis.

Zackie Achmat, TAC

Introduced 6 principles they had developed on behalf of civil society to bring everyone together to emphasise the need to make morality a human rights morality.

Principles of Operation:

1. Everyone has the right to human dignity, right to life, right to freedom from violence.
2. In crisis, the war against refugees and immigrants there is a need for more – focus on protection, shelter, food, health care, and reintegration.
3. Operate under International Humanitarian Law and policy. Against internment camps as they represent a victory of thugs over vulnerable people and undermine refugee laws. *Look for solutions including reintegration and resettlement where possible under international law.*
4. (Need a) ‘Marshal Plan’ for development in South African and Southern Africa. Need to have jobs and development.
5. Support and cooperate with Government where they have done the right thing but be a strong independent voice where they have failed or done the wrong thing.
6. Support community efforts, especially refugee and immigrant leadership.
7. *Compensation for loss, goods, property and pain.*

The principles were translated into French and Somalian for those present.

Refugee Representative from the Congo requested addition of 2 further principles:

Resettlement to a 3rd Country (*added under 2.*)

Compensation for lost property (*added as point 7*)

Felt that he and others had been insulted by some NGO's as they didn't want to go to any of the camps. Suggested that, if the situation had happened against American or European citizens, then their countries would have come to help but that they are being treated inhumanly. They would continue to resist going to camps.

Displaced people had lost money and work and structures but still have talent and energy. Should be able to try and move somewhere else (outside SA) they are not interested in trying again here, it will be impossible to work again here. Felt the Government had stolen their money.

Zackie Achmat added the points (*as above*).

Another Speaker representing displaced people noted that some people do want to stay and recognised that for those people there was an ID problem here, some had been here years and yet still could not open bank accounts. If people are to stay then they need documents to allow them to be free.

Zackie Achmat expressed thanks to all refugee leaders.

Called for local level coordination on following areas:

- Legal and Human Rights
- Health and mental health
- Housing and shelter, immediate and long term
- Sanitation at the sites
- Food and water
- Information for people – rights education, international law and what is happening in the cities
- Security and protection
- Transport – getting to schools, clinics, etc.
- Education – children in sites need to go back to school.

Identified these as targets for advocacy – the government should be delivering on these areas.

Divided the Metro area into 8 sub-district tasks-teams to focus on:

- Monitoring
- Advocacy
- Coordinating
- Mobilizing

Aim of the task-teams:

Task-teams to have organisational capacity, need to ensure substantial work going on. A working group which includes both local and displaced groups. Identify where capacity is missing.

Subdistricts identified:

- Khayelitsha (incl Overstrand delegation)
- Klipfontein
- Northern/Tygerberg
- Western
- Southern
- Mitchell's Plain

- **Sub -districts meetings planned at civil society meeting in Cape Town – ALP Offices¹**

– 31 May 2008

Notes taken at meeting to address the issues arising out of the refugee crisis in Cape Town
This week meetings are planned for:

- Khayelitsha (incl Overstrand delegation): Monday 2 June after TAC march at Sonke/TAC/ALP offices, 122 Longmarket Street, Cape Town);
- Klipfontein: Tuesday 3 June 10h00 at Bonne Esperance, 4 Lower Ottery Road, Philippi
- Northern/Tygerberg: Tuesday 3 June 17h00, Scalabrini Refugee Centre (47 Commercial Street, Cape Town)
- Western: Wednesday June 4 17h00, Sonke offices (122 Longmarket Street)
- Southern: Tuesday 3 June 17h00 University of Cape Town, Upper Campus, Steve Biko Building
- Mitchell's Plain: Monday 2 June 19h00 Mitchells Plain Police Station Eastern

and ALL non-Metro (rest of province): contact Fredalene Booyesen, TAC Provincial Co-ordinator at fredalene@tac.org.za

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| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • There will be a meeting of representatives from all subdistricts NEXT SATURDAY 7 June at NOON at 122 Longmarket Street, Cape Town. |
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Reminder from the discussion this past Saturday:

What Are the Key Elements of the Response to the Crisis?

For monitoring?

For providing services?

As targets for advocacy?

(i.e. legal; public health/medical; mental health; housing; sanitation; food and water; information provision; security and protection; transport; education)

What Are We Asking You to Do?

1. Establish Sub-District Task Teams;
 - Setting up time and place for sub-district meeting;
 - Assigning tasks;
 - Figuring Out How to Structure Local Follow-Up Activities;
2. Develop Sub-District Action Plans, which include:
 - Monitoring the situation on the ground and the response;
 - Identifying resources and gaps at a local level;
 - Prioritizing activities and setting timelines;
 - Co-ordinating among local actors and government officials and service providers;
 - Mobilizing and educating communities;
 - Gathering information, reporting to your communities and among all of us;
 - Involving local communities AND refugees.

Khayelitsha Group (including Overstrand)

Organisations represented – TAC; Mamelani; City of Cape Town; Black Sash; Cape Town Refugee Centre; Gender Justice; SHAWCO; Zwelihle Community Leadership (Hermanus); Grail Center

¹ Notes taken from email of Gregg Gonsalves – Monday 2 June 2008

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Subdistrict Task Team – set up time and place to meet again

Notes for facilitators

Please ensure that your group:

1. Establishes a Sub-District Task Team
 - Sets up a time and place for sub-district meeting;
 - Figures out how to structure local follow-up activities;
2. Begins to develop a sub-district action plan, which includes how you plan to:
 - Monitor the situation on the ground and the effectiveness of the response;
 - Identify resources and gaps at a local level;
 - Prioritize activities and set timelines for getting them done;
 - Co-ordinate among local actors and government officials and service providers;
 - Mobilize and educate communities on the key issues;
 - Gather information, report back to your communities and get information to us;
 - Involve local communities and refugees.

This will be a difficult task, so keep what you're planning to do, doable and please make sure your activities are smart:

Specific
Measurable
Achievable
Realistic
Time-Bound

Overview of situation in Khayelitsha and work of organisations there:

- Khayelitsha – checking on sick; needs of babies, urgent issues

- Stoves organized – refugees cooking themselves
- Security is tight – Bambanani and SAPS
- Worked with Councillor – tried to organize community members to get goods back – from 3 sites.
- 9 clinics in area working together – previously chased away – now resolved to sort this out – nurses and sisters in charge are working together well
- Media to help spread story on how they got goods back
- Food – given to NGO's to coordinate – Mustafadien and other churches
- Focus now is to do door-to door – campaigning to reintegrate – as TAC members

Monitoring:

- How to meet – identify gaps, resources needed
- Govt officials; service providers
- Gather info, get info back to task team
- Keep what you are doing – doable – make it SMART
- For arrests – monitoring – nb to get affidavits for recording testimonies for people
- NGO's and CBO's – security issues and access – prevented by security from coming in – needs liaison – nb role for Bambanani
- Monitoring of perpetrators, and establishing the health needs of affected people
- Virginia of City Health – no need for EXTRA monitors
- Mental Health – a primary concern – lots of psychologists
- Normal Health Needs – as under these conditions
- Humanitarian and Emergency Relief
- Security and identification
- Education/Security
- Information needs
- Needs of Access – from 7 sites in Khayelitsha - community clinic/camp
- Jonathan – nb! To work together with community structures to help us. Confirmed good example with City

Brief overall Feedback:

Carly reported on - Khayelitsha and Overstrand Cluster : see notes above

Klipfontein:

- Curriculum – “I am an African” - through the City – get book in curriculum
- Transport – schools and taxi – children to school
- Workshops – working with SANCO
 - Interim CoOrdinators – SK, Nkwazi – Bonne Esperance

Northern and Tygerberg:

- Arts project – helping people not get bored – art therapy

Eastern area:

As above – similar commitments
meetings – get authority ; defuse political issues