



**PRESS STATEMENT: CESSATION OF TAC PROVISION OF HUMANITARIAN AID TO DISPLACED PERSONS/COURT CASE UPDATE AND PICKET MONDAY 4<sup>TH</sup> AUGUST 2008**

**On Monday 11 August 2008 TAC will stop providing humanitarian relief to displaced people who were victims of xenophobic violence.**

- On 22 and 23 May 2008 violence against foreign nationals broke out in the Western Cape. The TAC immediately mobilised and by the night of Friday 23 May had established a 24-hour call centre. One of the central elements of our early involvement was humanitarian aid. By mid-way through the first week we had set up a fully-fledged distribution centre and were providing food, sanitary products, baby food, blankets and other necessities to approximately 8 000 each day at 84 sites around Cape Town.
- Within the first 7 days of the disaster the TAC had spent over a million rand and distributed another half a million rands' worth of donated goods. At the end of the first week the TAC assumed that the government and government-funded agencies would sufficiently cover the material needs of the displaced persons, we therefore scaled back our aid. In the middle of June it became clear that government was not adequately catering for the needs of those displaced.
- For the last six weeks the TAC has continued to supply food, baby food, baby products, sanitary products, blankets and other basics. At the peak of our operation we were receiving requests from and dispatching deliveries to 103 sites housing displaced persons.
- As of 30 July 2008 the TAC has spent R 2,744,891.50 on direct humanitarian assistance. The funds will run out on or before Monday 11 August 2008.

- The concern is that government will continue to ignore specific requests for food and supplies. Our monitoring project has included the collating of requests for material goods. TAC will continue to immediately log all requests received with the camp/'site' managers and the provincial Joint Operations Centre (JOC) as we are made aware of them, and make them public on the [TAC website](#), including information about whether or not government has fulfilled these requests.
- There are still organisations providing humanitarian aid within the camps and safety sites, and TAC fully supports people, organisations and companies giving supplies to these organisations while government is failing to provide adequate relief.
- Following the filing of papers at the Cape High Court on Tuesday 29 July, the first appearance of the court case on conditions in camps and safety sites housing displaced people in the Western Cape will appear before the Cape High Court on Tuesday 5 August at 10am. The intended outcome being a court order that forces government to implement a list of norms and standards for humanitarian aid. **There will be a public demonstration outside the Cape High Court from 10am, Tuesday 5 August.**
- Various statements quoted in the press recently indicate that government will cease to provide humanitarian aid on the 3rd September 2008. TAC has notified the JOC, Provincial Government and the City of Cape Town of the pending deadline, and we assume that they will use the notice period to ensure that government is able to take over the provision of aid currently supplied by TAC.

TAC remains concerned that the constitutional rights of those displaced continue to be violated and will continue to be involved in the displaced people's crisis by monitoring, public pressure, advocacy and legal action if necessary. A full reconciliation of TAC's expenditure and a list of goods delivered will be available on the TAC website, [www.tac.org.za](http://www.tac.org.za) by Friday 8 August 2008.

**5000 people remain displaced in consistently poor conditions.**

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