



**NEWSLETTER TO DISPLACED
PEOPLE #2: NEW DEVELOPMENTS
AND OTHER INFORMATION
THURSDAY 17 JULY 2008**

This second newsletter covers some important issues that have arisen over the past week. Including forced evictions, the ANC decision to dismiss the Premier, education for displaced children and the civil society press conference. Any additional information will be covered in other newsletters.

“EVICTIONS” ARE UNLAWFUL.

- A “notice” was put up in some halls and camps around Cape Town. It reads:
- “**URGENT NOTICE: On the 22nd July all displaced people if not yet reintegrated will be taken by the United Nations. As from the 23rd July there will be no displaced people in community halls...**”
- False reports were also made about an interdict brought by the City of Cape Town to force people to leave halls. Despite the City and Province denying that such an interdict exists, rumours have spread to other sites.
- TAC has approached the Provincial Government, the City and the UN, and none of them have issued this notice. This notice is completely untrue. If you see this notice, report it to the site manager or representative leader.
- Some halls in Khayelitsha have had people evicted, these evictions are unlawful and have not been authorised by either the city or the province. No city officials or police can forcibly evict people from the halls and camps without due process. TAC is against forced removals.
- No date for the closing of camps has been confirmed by any government agencies. Government claims that no forced removals will take place. If we hear of any plans to close the camps, we will communicate this to you.
- TAC will insist that displaced people staying in halls and camps may not be forcibly evicted.

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AFRICA

URGENT NOTICE:

**ON THE 22ND OF JULY 2008 ALL
DISPLACED PEOPLE IF NOT
YET REINTERGRATED WILL
BE TAKEN BY THE UNITED
NATIONS.
AS FROM THE 23RD OF JULY
2008 THERE WILL BE NO
DISPLACED PEOPLE IN THE
COMMUNITY HALLS.**

**THANK YOU FOR YOUR CO-
OPERATION**

THE ANC DECISION TO DISMISS THE PREMIER OF THE WESTERN CAPE

- On Saturday 12 July 2008 it was announced that the Premier of the Western Cape, Ebrahim Rasool, would be dismissed with immediate effect.
- This decision was taken at a meeting of ANC officials. Rasool has yet to be replaced, and continues in his position.
- This situation should have little effect on TAC's call for Provincial Government to improve conditions in camps, and for their involvement in resolving the displaced people's crisis
- Should Rasool be replaced, his successor will be equally accountable.
- As it stands, Rasool has committed to meeting with the Joint Refugee Committee (made up of refugee representative leadership) on Monday 21 July to hear their demands, complaints and questions.

CONDITIONS IN CAMPS

- On Friday 11 July, 2008, TAC sent a letter to the Premier repeating concerns about conditions in camps, and also the lack of action on commitments made, such as taking over humanitarian assistance and providing a list of norms and standards to which humanitarian relief would be matched. There has been no response to this letter.
- Daily requests are still submitted to the Provincial Government for specific relief needs.
- We have been told that they will respond to the issue of norms and standards by Thursday 24 July 2008.



Left: Young child at Soetwater camp after rains

EDUCATION FOR DISPLACED CHILDREN

- On 11 July 2008 TAC sent a letter to the Ministers of Education, both National and Western Cape. In it, TAC expressed concerns regarding the situation of children in camps and halls. The letter called on the minister to make sure that all displaced learners have access to education, a right provided in the Constitution.
- It asked that transport be provided to schools, and that displaced learners be supported in their return to school, both in terms of personal safety and reintegration.
- The letter also called on the minister to arrange classes and workshops for educating all learners about xenophobia and hate-crimes.
- The school term started on Monday 14 July 2008. All children have a right to education. Call Christina at the Cape Town Refugee Centre (021) 762 9670, for assistance with issues regarding displaced children gaining access to education.

JOINT PRESS CONFERENCE OF CIVIL SOCIETY

- On Thursday 10 July 2008 a joint press conference of civil society with some refugee leaders was held in Cape Town. The response BY the media was excellent; several articles were written, and some radio broadcasts were made. In particular, the representatives from the camps gave very strong arguments for better conditions and government involvement at all camps and halls. A follow-up press conference will be held shortly. All efforts will be made to continue involving the media in our work.

FORTHCOMING INFORMATION:

- In the next issue of the newsletter, we will provide contact numbers for relevant embassies and consulates. Other information will include safety reports from camps, a legal update and a general update of meetings held and actions taken. A list of agencies and organisations that can help with various issues will be published.

Complaints	Human Rights Commission Judith Cohen: 021 426 2277 083 284 1115
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SELECTION OF QUOTES FROM PRESS CONFERENCE

- **Kebal Fumu, DRC, Bluewaters**

“Our main concern is the children who are not attending school. They are in the same routine, they just play and run around outside and in this rain they are getting ill. They are bored and are not being helped.”

- **Mustafa Maalim, Somalia, Soetwater**

“We have children there but they do not have enough milk or enough money to buy milk. They do not give us proper babies milk, rather they give us long life milk which is too strong. There is not enough porridge for the babies also.”

- **Zahran Sadii, Tanzania, Bluewaters**

“The food is horrible: a quarter litre of juice and half a loaf of bread to share amongst four people. It’s not human to feed people like that. We get this for both breakfast and lunch. Dinner is mashed lentils and rice and this is not nutritious for us.

- **Kennedy Buswa, DRC, Soetwater**

“Living only in a tent isn’t human because there is no privacy or separation between men and women. Even married couples do not have privacy. The bathrooms are not hygienic at all. There is no electricity and it is not clean for the children.”

- **Muhammad Ahmad, Somalia, Chrysalis**

“They don’t allow people to come in and visit us. If someone is sick, we are not provided with transportation to help us. The government has even allowed volunteers to come in and help us. It is important that people get the freedom to come in- we are not in jail. If we try to tell them our problems, the person in charge calls the police who have come many times. “