



*****PRESS STATEMENT*****
TAC RESPONDS TO CITY EVICTION NOTICE, CAMP MISMANAGEMENT
06 AUGUST 2008

On the 1st August, 2008, Councillor Shehaam Sims, Mayoral Committee Member: Amenities and Sport, circulated an eviction notice on behalf of the City of Cape Town to displaced people living in community halls. (See attached notice and response from TAC).

These halls belong to the City of Cape Town, and, according to the notice, 'need to be repaired in time for the November to January high season'.

Those staying at the halls were 'requested to vacate... by 31 August 2008': Such a request without alternative provision of accommodation amounts to an unjust eviction. As the City did not circulate a plan for accommodation or reintegration into communities of those displaced people staying at the halls, the TAC is concerned that on this date these people will be evicted, and thus further displaced.

The TAC calls on the City of Cape Town to

1. retract this date for eviction, or, alternatively
2. provide alternative accommodation with acceptable provision of humanitarian aid,
3. to cease from publishing dates for eviction without alternative accommodation plans, and
4. to liaise directly with all parties, including displaced people's representative leadership, civil society and all other organisations concerned with such plans.

CAMP MISMANAGEMENT AT HARMONY PARK CAMPSITE

A TAC volunteer based at Harmony Park, a campsite in Somerset West housing displaced people, reported a disturbing incident that reflects the ongoing concerns for the safety and security of displaced people in the camps and 'safety sites'. According to the volunteer, who documented the incident in detail, the camp manager allegedly assaulted a Burundian man at the camp, when the man complained that his family, including his pregnant wife, had no mattresses. The

manager was subsequently relieved of his duties by the provincial Joint Operations Centre, only to be reinstated by the City of Cape Town.

Tensions between residents of the camp and management have continued, including in incident where residents were teargassed by law enforcement officials over a misunderstanding. The manager has been unable to maintain relations between officials and displaced people at the camp, and does not have the ability to diffuse tensions created by his inability to manage the camp, according to the volunteer.

We call for the removal of this disruptive individual with immediate effect.

Contact Scott Dunlop

TAC Communications Officer

(021) 021) 422 1490

084 719 8258