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Mr Jurie De Wet
Western Cape Department of Home Affairs
National Immigration Branch, Cape Town
Per Fax: 021 462 1148

Ms Martha Mgxashe
Provincial Manager, Western Cape
Department of Home Affairs
Per Fax: 021 426 1329

Mrs Nosiviwe Mapisa-Nqakula
Minister of Home Affairs
Per Fax: 012 323 7312

Dear Mr De Wet, Ms Mgxashe and Mrs Mapisa-Nqakula:

"REGISTRATION PROCESS" FOR DISPLACED PERSONS IN CAPE TOWN

1. We note that the Department of Home Affairs has commenced a registration process in the Western Cape pursuant to a decision to grant a 6 month moratorium/permit to all victims of xenophobic violence.
2. For the purposes of this letter, "registration" includes the granting of the moratorium/permit in the form of a temporary card.
3. The commencement of "registration" at Youngsfield on 8 July, 2008 and the lack of communication regarding same has caused much confusion among displaced persons there and elsewhere.

4. We have accordingly been instructed to request clarification from you on the following issues:
- 1 We are now in receipt of a copy of the "Operational Plan for the Registration of Internally Displaced Persons," obtained from the Western Cape Provincial Disaster Management Centre on 16 July, 2008. What steps are being taken to inform all displaced people of this plan?
 - 2 We are concerned about reports that "registration" commenced at Youngsfield on 8 July, 2008 and ceased 11 July, 2008 despite the fact that not everyone who wanted to "register" was able to do so. It is unclear when the remaining Youngsfield residents will be able to "register." When will this happen?
 - 3 What steps are being taken to "register" people who miss "registration" at their site, such as people who must work during the day?
 - 4 What will happen to people who are "registered" through this process but are unable, due to no fault of their own, to regularize their status before the 6 month period expires? Will it be possible to renew the temporary card?
 - 5 Many people have not been able to apply for or renew their documents due to the extremely long queues and current inability of the Department of Home Affairs to process all asylum-seeker applications and applications for document replacement. What steps are being taken to remedy this situation?
 - 6 According to Shaun Fontein, a government official, the temporary cards will be issued to those "directly affected by the [xenophobic] violence." How are affected persons who have found alternative shelter or have been reintegrated expected to prove that they have been "directly affected," and what steps are being taken to "register" these persons?
 - 7 Please clarify what the consequences are for persons who are unable to "register" during the 6 month period.

Nature of the Permit

- 8 Please explain why the card distinguishes between "persons with documentation" and "those without" if everyone affected by the xenophobic violence is granted a 6 month moratorium.

Access to Sites

- 9 We have also been advised that the "registration" will be used to control access to the camps. Is this true? If yes, why?

Use of Information Collected through Registration

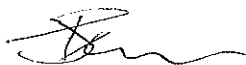
- 10 Will the information on the individual data collection form, which people are required to complete prior to being "registered," be used for any other purpose than to grant foreign nationals documentation to enable them to regularise their stay in South Africa?

We look forward to your urgent response.

Sincerely,



Zackie Achmat
Deputy General Secretary, Treatment Action Campaign



Fatima Hassan
Senior Attorney, AIDS Law Project