

Newsletters

This section details TAC's attempts to overcome the information vacuum that existed in the camps and community sites. This is our effort to relay information to displaced people about the political, legal and other developments relating to the xenophobic crisis. The newsletters were each designed with content input from civil society stakeholders as well as refugee leadership about what information is needed and wanted within their sites.

[Newsletter #10](#) (17 October 2008)

[Newsletter #9](#) (3 October 2008)

This newsletter recaps the DHA Rapid Status Determination process as well as carefully explaining the appeals process for both unfounded and manifestly unfounded decisions. It explains the rights of IDPs in the appeals process. It further discusses the situation in Gauteng and updates on the conditions in the camps in the Western Cape.

[Newsletter #8](#) (19 September 2008)

This newsletter covers the reports written by civil society released at a press conference on Thursday 18 September 2008, the current role of civil society and TAC in the camps, the Rapid Status Determination planned by the Department of Home Affairs for next week, and some other general updates and information.

[Newsletter #7](#) (8 September 2008)

This newsletter described the damage to the camps as a result of the intense weekend of storming in the Western Cape in which community halls and camps were scheduled to be consolidated. It discusses the ill-preparedness of government for not only the storms but the consolidation process in general. It also discusses the site assessments done in Gauteng (to mirror what has been done in the WC) as well as the need for increased involvement of the UNHCR in the South African situation.

[Newsletter #6](#) (30 August 2008)

This newsletter discusses the most recent information regarding the closure of community halls and selected camps. It gives a list of questions to consider for IDPs during this "consolidation process" as well as a list of useful contact numbers. It also includes a list of contact numbers for various African country embassies in South Africa.

[Newsletter #5](#) (18 August 2008)

This newsletter discusses the closure of the community halls and some camps at the end of August, the information that TAC has regarding options displaced people have and the reasons TAC is not satisfied with the notice given to displaced people. The murder on 13 August of a displaced person who reintegrated is dealt with as well as TAC's announcement of a victory in its legal case for norms and standards. The newsletter also gives updates from important meetings from the previous week.

[Newsletter #4\(8 August 2008\)](#)

This newsletter discusses the launching of TAC's court case against the government, what TAC knows about the different closure dates announced by Government, as well as report backs from various meetings that took place.

[Newsletter #3 \(1 August 2008\)](#)

The newsletter details the week of protest that was declared and spearheaded by the joint Refugee Leadership Committee. It included memorandum handovers to the Department of Home Affairs, the Department of Education, a City representative and the new Premier, Lynne Brown. The JRLC met with WC MEC for Education, Cameron Dugmore to discuss their memorandum and the hand over to Premier Brown and the City representative was accompanied by a picket. It announces the release of a comprehensive follow-up assessment report produced by TAC as well as a report from the Human Rights Commission on the five camps. Finally, it announces that TAC is running out of money for the provision of humanitarian aid after spending over 2.7 million Rands on direct aid.

[Newsletter #2 \(16 July 2008\)](#)

This second newsletter covers some of the important issues that arose in the previous week. This includes a discussion of the unlawful eviction notice put up in various community halls and camps, forced evictions, the ANC's decision to dismiss Premier Rasool, conditions at the camps update, the need for education for displaced children and the civil society press conference and quotes from that press conference.

[Newsletter #1\(9 July 2008\)](#)

This newsletter described the updates in camp conditions, humanitarian aid provision, the Departments of Health (City and Province) letters which explicitly says that no displaced person can be turned away from accessing services, as well as explains what is understood about the Home Affairs temporary permits being issued. It further outline some questions which are useful to ask when a person is deciding whether or not to register for the cards. Lastly it described the legal registration process that was being done by the Legal Resources Centre and TAC volunteers.

["What is TAC" handout for IDPs\(for French version, click \[here\]\(#\)\)](#)

This document was created to explain to displaced people exactly who TAC is, what their role in the xenophobia crisis is as well as the principles along which TAC operates. It was produced at a time when there was large amounts of distrust and rumors spreading among displaced people, particularly in the isolate camps, of any organization involved in the crisis. Again, TAC felt it was important to increase the information coming back to the displaced people.

- [Immigrants and Refugees](#)
- [Immigrants and Refugees](#)