



## PRESS RELEASE

**3<sup>rd</sup> Degree: Xenophobia in Alexandra**  
**TX: Tuesday 20 May at 8pm**

This week saw a spate of attacks on foreign nationals in the Johannesburg township of Alexandra. Houses were looted, women were raped and a number of people were killed. 53 people have so far been arrested for crimes directed at foreign nationals living and working in the area

The community is incensed and so far all appeals for calm have fallen on deaf ears. The community wants the foreigners out, yet the Ministry of Home Affairs is adamant that they're not going anywhere. Locals say the foreigners are involved in crime, that they get the jobs and that they are being given RDP houses.

The hate and distrust has been further fuelled by a variety of civic organisations doing little or nothing to quell community fears. There is also a very real threat from criminals, just waiting to capitalise on the vulnerability of the displaced people.

The Alex uprising follows similar attacks on Somalis, Zimbabweans & Pakistanis in the Eastern Cape, Western Cape and Atteridgeville, Pretoria. There have also been reports of copycat attacks in Diepsloot and Ivory Park, where local communities have turned to violence and looting to drive foreigners away.

3rd Degree looks at what is driving the attacks and what can be done to stop the hatred.