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COI QUERY RESPONSE

SOUTH AFRICA - FOREIGNERS

A report issued in September 2024 by *Amnesty International* states that: “South Africa has a strong legal and human rights framework on refugees and asylum seekers’ rights. However, the failed asylum management process, which has been well documented over the years, shows that the implementation of existing laws and policies, as well as court orders, is starkly lacking...The rights of asylum seekers and refugees, which are prescribed in law and policy, are being denied in various ways.”¹

This document also states that: “Institutional xenophobia and anti-migrant bias are rife, exacerbating the vulnerable position of asylum seekers...”²

Agence France Presse in August 2024 points out that: “Hostility towards foreigners has increased in recent years, as South Africans tire of unwavering unemployment.”³

In May 2024 *Reuters* comments: “...on the dire conditions endured by many Africans who arrive here searching for of a better life in the continent’s most advanced economy, and the hostility they say they’ve encountered from South African authorities as well as bands of vigilantes who blame foreigners for taking jobs and services away from local people.”⁴

¹ Amnesty International (16 September 2024) South Africa: Submission to the UN Human Rights Committee 142nd Session, 14 October- 7 November 2024, List of Issues Prior to Reporting,p.4

² Ibid, p.4

³ Agence France Presse (2 August 2024) Miss S.Africa contestant faces xenophobic attacks over Nigerian father

⁴ Reuters (23 May 2024) Mandela's vision of Black unity fades as South Africa closes door to migrants, p.2

Al Jazeera in May 2024 comments on: "...xenophobia and flare-ups of violent attacks against foreign nationals in South Africa..."⁵

A report issued in May 2024 by *Human Rights Watch* states that: "...xenophobic violence, including lethal violence, has been a persistent problem..."⁶

References

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Internal Displacement Monitoring Centre

International Crisis Group

Lexis Nexis

⁵ *Al Jazeera* (15 May 2024) *Anxious Zimbabwean migrants, smugglers watch South Africa's election*, p.2

⁶ Human Rights Watch (6 May 2024) *South Africa: Toxic Rhetoric Endangers Migrants*

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Refugee Documentation Centre Query Database
Reliefweb
United Kingdom Home Office
UNDP
UNHCR Refworld
UN Treaty Body Database
United States Department of State
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