

# Xenophobia

**Xenophobia** is a fear or contempt of that which is foreign or unknown, especially of strangers or foreign people. It comes from the **Greek** words ξένος (*xenos*), meaning "foreigner," "stranger," and φόβος (*phobos*), meaning "fear." The term is typically used to describe a fear or dislike of or of people significantly different from oneself.

Source [Wikipedia](#)



Read more blogs about [Xenophobia](http://www.mydigitallife.co.za) at <http://www.mydigitallife.co.za>

## Table of Contents

.....	2
<b>Mbeki says xenophobia a syndrome, not a phobia</b>	
<b>Written by Charmed</b>	
<b>Wednesday, 21 May 2008.....</b>	<b>3</b>
<b>Xenophobia: Take me to your leader</b>	
<b>Written by tally1302</b>	
<b>Tuesday, 20 May 2008.....</b>	<b>5</b>
<b>FAITH FOR OUR COUNTRY vs UHURU .....</b>	<b>7</b>
<b>Written by gonzobabe</b>	
<b>Tuesday, 20 May 2008.....</b>	<b>7</b>
<b>Civil action</b>	
<b>Written by Paralyzer</b>	
<b>Tuesday, 20 May 2008.....</b>	<b>8</b>
<b>XenophoBITCH .....</b>	<b>9</b>
<b>Written by OS GIKEN</b>	
<b>Monday, 19 May 2008.....</b>	<b>9</b>

## **Mbeki says xenophobia a syndrome, not a phobia**

Written by [Charmed](#)  
Wednesday, 21 May 2008

*OMG !!!*

JOHANNESBURG. As a wave of anti-immigrant violence sweeps through Johannesburg's townships, President Thabo Mbeki has warned his critics not to exaggerate the crisis. Speaking to the media this morning, Mbeki said that xenophobia was a syndrome and not a genuine phobia. He added that he has never personally known anyone with xenophobia.

Over 22 people have been killed in the escalating violence, with mobs of South Africans apparently trying to purge foreigners from the townships around Johannesburg. However Mbeki told the press not to jump to conclusions.

Citing "exhaustive research done on the Internet last night", Mbeki explained that the word 'xenophobia' was wildly inaccurate and was leading to a misdiagnosis of the current violence.

"We need to be less eager to believe in this thing called xenophobia," he said. "Arachnophobia, yes. Spiders are horrible. But what is a xeno? There is no such thing."

However he added that the word was most commonly used in an African context.

"This makes me wonder whether in fact 'xeno' isn't perhaps some sort of racist codeword for an African," he said. "I ask you. Just because there is an X in front of a word, does that make it automatically African?"

Mbeki was also quick to reassure the international community, specifically world football governing body FIFA.

"I want to tell all those players, administrators and fans who are coming here in 2010, please do not worry.

"By all accounts the violence is being fuelled by criminal elements, and by the belief that foreigners are stealing our jobs and our women."

He said that as long as international visitors stayed away from criminals and did not ask out local girls or set up discount spaza shops in townships, they were "unlikely to be set on fire".

Opposition parties have been calling on Mbeki to enforce law and order by sending the South African National Defence Force into the townships, but Mbeki dismissed this out of hand.

"This is not an acceptable solution. The SANDF has spent the last ten years training for African peacekeeping missions. Our soldiers are totally focused on only one thing, and that is shooting at small groups of Burundians and so forth who are running away with their possessions on their heads.

"There would be a bloodbath, and FIFA have insisted that we keep bloodbaths to a minimum before 2010."

However he said that his government was setting up a task team whose role would be to "ask difficult questions".

"For example, if you set a Zimbabwean on fire and there's no-one from FIFA around to see it, did it really happen? And more importantly, if it did happen, how is it my problem?"

# Xenophobia: Take me to your leader

Written by [tally1302](#)  
Tuesday, 20 May 2008

I wrote this back in 2005 but I think it's even more relevant now considering the recent xenophobic attacks

## **Take me to your leader**

Why are there different kinds of people? I don't believe that's right. I don't believe that there are supposed to be different kinds of people. There are different shades of people, different religions of people, different societies of people but I don't believe that there are supposed to be different kinds of people. I believe there is supposed to be one kind of people: the human being kind of people. Will it take an alien invasion for us to realize this?

Something amusing happened to me the other day. I was sitting in my room studying History (or Hamlet in the way that I was procrastinating studying History...) when my mom suddenly yelled from the balcony outside: "Come out here, you have to see this!" To which I replied with the typical "But I'm busy studying..." However, she was adamant and eventually I found myself dragged outside, convinced that she had spotted some strange star in the sky or light on the mountain (which has been known to happen in the past) and was simply letting her imagination get the better of her. Low and behold... there were *five* strange lights in the sky! Huge lights. Hanging there right above my head, eerily. Just hanging in the sky like five gigantic stars of Bethlehem. And I can tell you, I thought it was the end of the world. I thought that the aliens had well and truly come for me...

Until I heard the drone of helicopters and realized that they were actually human aircraft of some kind. As it turned out, that shock effect was part of some advertising gimmick to announce the arrival of a new 'five star' airline.  
Ha ha ha. Clever.

The point is, however, that I felt first hand what it would be like if aliens attacked. I felt powerless, vulnerable and absolutely, completely alone. For those brief moments before I heard the sound of the propellers, I imagined I understood what it must have felt like for Jews to be discovered hiding in Nazi Germany, for black people to be discovered in white homes after curfew during apartheid, for the passengers on the 9/11 planes just before they were crashed into the twin towers, for Zimbabweans to be discovered illegally hiding in the bushes near the Zimbabwean border they had just crossed in order to get to our beautiful country: the land of the free. Of course, the threat to my life turned out to be non-existent and I felt pretty stupid when I realized that!

However, the threat to all those other human beings was and is very real. Everyday in other countries bloody civil wars are being fought and people are being killed. Children, elderly, innocent bystanders like you and me. And the worst part is that, in the real world, these atrocities are not being done by aliens. They are being done by human beings made of the same flesh and blood and with the same psyche as their victims! If the aliens did decided to arrive at the Whitehouse (Independence Day style) and blow up the USA,

would we really care? Would we even feel sad? Or would we just say "Yay! Bush is gone!" If the aliens attacked Zimbabwe or the Congo, would we even notice? If the aliens wiped out Palestine would Israel say, "Oh, thank God all those Arabs are gone!"

The sad thing is, I can really imagine these reactions. If not spoken, then thought. It's a sad state of affairs if you think of it. A really sad state of affairs when we care so little about our fellow man that we wouldn't even shed a tear if they were wiped out. It's easy to blame it on the leaders of the countries, to say that we can't do anything. But the question you have to ask yourself is, "would I help if I had the chance?"

I'm sure you can imagine yourself bravely fighting off an alien invasion, why then is it so difficult to imagine yourself boarding a plane to Zimbabwe to fight Magabe? Or going to Israel to help with peace talks? Or going to your local informal settlement and offering to tutor at the school or coach soccer or build houses? I guess it's difficult because in the alien scenario, we're defending our families, our loved ones, our community, our kind of people. In the real world we don't have to do that because our kind of people are safe and sound and that's all that matters.

**The recent xenophobic attacks did not come out of nowhere. As can be plainly seen by the fact that I wrote this three years ago when I was still in school. It's been building up for a long time... South Africa has had a xenophobic problem for a long time. After writing that piece above my friends mocked me, said I was concerned about nothing... or worse that foreign people got what they deserved. Something is seriously wrong with the world where our own nationality comes before our awareness of human suffering.**

**It's not ok to say "don't go near the blacks" or "beware of the muslims". Why is it ok to say "don't trust the nigerians"? It was ok for us to go into their countries during the struggle for help... and now somehow it's not ok for them to come crawling to us? They can't help the fact that they were born on the other side of an imaginary line called a border. They didn't choose to be there and if they had a choice they wouldn't be here begging either. Fine, be Proudly South African. But for God's sake... give us something to be proud of.**

---

*Got an email now about an initiative at Rhodes. I urge you all to take it to your own communities:*

*" On Friday 23 May we will be distributing a pledge against xenophobia which will be available in dining halls and in the library quad. After signing the pledge signatories will be issued with printed "Africa" symbols which should be displayed on your bags, cars and office and residence room doors.*

*The symbol will not only be a sign of African solidarity and an affirmation of ubuntu, but will serve to transform our community, identifying allies and safe spaces. The success of this initiative depends on all members of the community taking ownership of this idea. Should any member of the community be the target of xenophobia, they will be surrounded by allies and safe spaces, identifiable by the prominently displayed Africa symbols on doors and windows throughout our community."*

## FAITH FOR OUR COUNTRY vs UHURU

Written by [gonzobabe](#)  
Tuesday, 20 May 2008

I was not going to give these SIENER/UHURU COWARDS more exposure, but last night someone said to me "the night of the long knives is coming". This was not a way-out right-wing religious nut, but a friend of mine for whom I have quite a bit of respect, an intelligent and educated man !!!! I was furious. I am still furious.

Hits on my previous blogs about these f\*\*krs are constantly growing, (especially lately, coincidence ?) and I hope the people reading those blogs realise that there has been no response to my very reasonable questions from these Siener/UHURU people. No reply on to how they get to their "prediction". They seem to be too busy talking to, and hearing from, God. The website is really really whacky. I bet they are happy with what is happening, but they are cuckoo. That God of theirs chooses one group of individuals over another.

This xenophobia thing is awful and horrifying, but it is a symptom !!! These people (the perpetrators, the mob) have always been with us, and the bubble had to burst, it doesn't mean the whole country is going anarchic. WE MUST STAY CALM, WE MUST RETAIN PERSPECTIVE, we must try to impact our fellow citizens positively. I trust that we are still some way from losing the dream of a functioning rainbow nation, and losing the spirit of ubuntu.

We need to restore confidence to the poor and disenfranchised, and we can't rely on the government for that. We CAN and WILL mutate into a homogeneous nationhood. The leaders will come from the people, the ordinary man on the ground. I refuse to give up hope. I choose to donate some money to the School Feeding Fund, and help where I can. I choose to love my neighbour and to stay positive.

## Civil action

Written by [Paralyzer](#)  
Tuesday, 20 May 2008

If the attacks on foreign nationals have shown is that time of decrying the situations is over, and a time for action has come. By action, I do not mean, send in the army to bulldoze the unruly hooligans . but I believe a time has come where a new set of voice(s) need to be heard, the one set of voice , that of hate and anger has been heard for far too long. Now its time for the other set to be heard, the voice that cares , the voice of the average South African that is willing to make a difference by either going to places like the methodist church helping out to donate food, clothing or lending a sympathetic ear to those who need one. We've had hordes marching in the street and terrorising the street , i think its time we have good old south africans going into the streets and reclaiming them and marching against Xenophobia, hatred and violence. We as average south africans (especially those in gauteng) need to make a stand and to show our fellow south africans and fellow africans that we do not support these type of incidents. This morning Tumisho Masha was talking about organising a march, im in total support of it and im definitely going to be the one of the many who will be there to support it. But my pleas is for all of those of us in jozi, lets do our bit to end this situation by showing some compassion to those who need it in these makeshift shelters. Some good people have already started the work, by feeding and housing these displaced people, lets also do our bit.

# XenophoBITCH

Written by [OS GIKEN](#)  
Monday, 19 May 2008

Alexandra and now Gauteng. I have more immigrant friends than I have South African counterparts. It totally disgusts me to see BLACK people attacking other BLACK people just because the ones being attacked are from another country, which they left because they were attacked!

Xenophobia is something Eskimo's should worry about. We have influx of foreigners living in our domains, some more productive to our GDP than others. But it pains me to listen to people talk like we only have BLACK foreigners. We have white foreigners as well, and Indian ones too, and the nice ones, the Brazilian ladies!

Back to the point, why do these attackers not go to the WHITE foreigners and attack them and take all their belongings? It comes to show the stupidity of many, I repeat many South Africans living below the breadline. Who do we blame; educated people would not make this mistake? Too many South Africans are just plain DUMB. The worst is when they would recall apartheid years and want to get all entitled! Now they are driving out people who get money and jobs because they can actually speak and write English, they actually have a working sense, they actually want to work, and most of all, they are not lazy like many South Africans.

Why oh why do these dumb people think that the foreigners get jobs that allow them to put food on the table and clothes on their backs? Because they are people who know of poverty, and who has seen disaster, and who made a conscious decision to look for a better life!

It reminds me of a "woman dog" when she gets her puppies she wants no one to come near them, but when the puppies want the milk they have become used to, she would bark and sometimes bite at them to get off her case! So too with these people, when foreigners came into South Africa we would enjoy different variety of people, they lived together for years in the same area, now they want to get rid of the very people that deliver a service to them!

How dumb can they get?