



AFRICA SOLIDARITY NETWORK

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ASONET Press Statement

General Secretary of Africa Solidarity Network Court Appearance 03 February 2016

ASONET is an African led network encompassing nationals of different countries including South Africans working for the well-being of Africans especially the migrant communities in the African continent. We work on issues of African migration with the aim of integrating, building a nation and creating a peaceful country for all to live in. We are the only registered organization that gathers different African nationals and dealing with migrants issues. Other existing structures are mostly individual-run organization.

During the xenophobic violence that erupted last year, ASONET General Secretary Daniel Byamungu was arrested on charges of intimidation and later amended to Incitement to murder. After several times appearing in court, where not once was he asked to plead his case and present his side and in the absence of the 'victims' he was found guilty. This is an injustice to Daniel as the same scenario of judgment proceedings in South African court happens to many African immigrants in the country. With the inhumanity and sufferings Daniels experienced during the Xenophobia attacks and while at the camps having to fight for basic necessities and understanding for the victims, he now has to fight for justice for himself where the law has found him guilty before he is given the right to testify for himself on the charges leveled against him.

The denied justice to xenophobia victims that Daniel was and still is fighting for is still not over. Other Africans are still suffering under the attacks of our own African brothers and sisters in townships where Ethiopians and Somalians continue to brutally killed and burnt in their shops. One of the incidents of an Ethiopian burnt in his shop at Clermont is however proof that not all is lost. We must applause the South African Police Services of KwaDabeka for managing in a short space of time to bring 2 of the murder suspects down and we wait to see the progress in this and many other unsolved cases.

ASONET have been playing a huge role in ensuring peace and stability while integrating the affected communities working with other stake holders. Xenophobia has cooled down but a number of people were left homeless. It will be remembered that there were only 3 possible solutions that were undertaken to assist the affected immigrants: Reintegration, Repatriation and Resettlement, some were reintegrated and those that have to be repatriated and resettled are from the DRC and Burundi which are politically unstable so there has been little progress

made so far in doing the latter. It was the assistant of the Hope Farm owners who assisted those from Burundi and DRC who had nowhere to go and after all the camps was closed. The Farm owners went to negotiate that they be released and have been accommodated at the farm to date.

With conflict and tension mounting at the Hope Farm due to a number of sensitive issues, it is disappointing and disheartening that while we have the crisis of the aftermath still pending. Due to the number of civil society and religious groups that are assisting on a daily basis by providing basic human needs while engaging with relevant stakeholders who will assisting in this issue, ASONET remains a neutral body who want to bring peace and stability within this community. We have embarked on the mediation process and will push until we get the desired results. Daniel has also been playing a leading role in this mediation, as the person who has stayed with the refugees from the onset of the xenophobia until the closing down of all camps.

Tomorrow Daniel will be appearing in the Durban Magistrate Court at 8:30am in L court 6th floor. After court we will be going to Cato Ridge, Hope Farm to continue with the mediation.

ASONET will be supporting Daniel tomorrow in court.

Africa for all Africans!

For more information please contact

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