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EPRP PROTESTS AGAINST AFROPHOBIA AND KILLINGS IN SOUTH AFRICA

The EPRP strongly protests the ongoing Afrophobia campaign and the brutal killings of refugees in Durban and other places in South Africa. It is shameful to note that Afrophobic radio programs, the son of Jacob Zuma and even the King of Zulu, Goodwill Zwelrthini, have sprinkled petrol over the fire (demanding that the refugees leave, accusing the refugees of every ill of South Africa, of being dirty, causing car accidents and of even plotting a coup d'état) and sent the mobs on a killing spree against Africans. At least six (of whom two Ethiopians petrol bombed in their sleep in a container) have been brutally killed. Somalis, Congolese, those from Malawi and Zimbabwe, in short Africans, are the targets of this ugly and gruesome openly Afrophobic rampage.

It is sad and also shameful to note that this vile hatred and violence against Africans comes from a country that was ruled by Apartheid and enjoyed the solidarity and support of almost the whole of Africa and its people. Over the years, the EPRP and others have been protesting against the violence against refugees and the convenient way that refugees have been made to serve as scapegoats for the political and economic problems of South Africa ranging from the rising unemployment rate to the inflation and social ills. The ruling ANC that criticizes Zimbabwe for its handling of whites needs a strong criticism against its treatment of Africans. The government should adequately protect the African refugees and take sanctions against the officials who spread hatred and Afrophobia.

The EPRP calls on all Ethiopians in the Diaspora to stage protest demonstrations outside of the South African embassies and consulates.

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