



ALL AFRICA CONFERENCE OF CHURCHES (AACC) CONFERENCE DES EGLISES DE TOUTE L'AFRIQUE (CETA)

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A PASSIONATE APPEAL FOR AFRICA'S COMMON HUMANITY, DIGNITY AND SOLIDARITY

5th September 2019

The All Africa Conference of Churches (AACC) is deeply saddened by the seemingly intractable **xenophobic attacks** in some parts of South Africa against fellow African sisters and brothers. Electronic and print media have continued to publish videos of the sordid actions of some South African sisters and brothers brutalizing their own kind in the pretext of territorial protection and struggle against imaginative occupation. These have then caused reprisal attacks from other African Countries such as Nigeria and Zambia. The AACC and well-meaning institutions are profoundly disturbed by these inhuman acts against innocent people created in the image and likeness of God. These heinous attacks are highly condemnable. The attacks jettison cultural and ideological philosophies of **UBUNTU** and **UJAMAA**. This **culture of violence** must be rejected by all with accompanying actions of entrenching a **culture of hospitality**

The AACC passionately calls on:

- The government of South Africa, member churches of AACC and South Africa Council of Churches to deliberately work to address this recurring menace of **needless attacks against fellow Africans**, who find South Africa as a safe-space to thrive and to contribute to its well-being.
- Churches in South Africa to open their doors to those seeking protection and shelter, and to provide humanitarian assistance and psycho-social support.
- The African Union and the Southern Africa Development Community (SADC) to urgent action in order to salvage the obtaining situation in South Africa in line with the AU agenda 2063 which speaks to a peaceful and secure Africa, that is integrated, politically united and based on ideals of Pan-Africanism which has a strong cultural identity, common heritage, shared values and ethics

AACC is a fellowship of 155 member Churches and 25 Christian Councils in 42 African countries.

La CETA est une communauté de 155 églises et 25 conseils chrétiens dans 42 pays d'Afrique.

PRESIDENT: Rt. Rev. Arnold C. Temple • **GENERAL SECRETARY:** Rev. Dr. Fidon Mwombeki

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The AACC commits to accompany all stakeholders in South Africa and the continent at large to bring to halt all acts that project Africa as a continent that eats its own, but a continent that strives to create spaces where lives flourish and hospitality demonstrated based on the notions of Ubuntu and Ujamaa.

The AACC prays for the repose souls of those killed in all the attacks and speedy recovery to those injured. For those who lost their sources of livelihood we pray God and the government of South Africa to intervene in ways that are live-giving, Amen.

The All Africa Conference of Churches (AACC), a continental communion of 193 churches and councils in 42 African countries with a shared vision of "...Life, Peace, Justice and Dignity" for all people and creation. The AACC has continued to initiate and support well intentioned efforts that aim at fullness of life for all God's creation in Africa in particular and in the world in general. We have not relented in our accompaniment initiatives to member churches and councils toward the realization of the mental image of an Africa that humanity flourishes without impinging on the inherent dignity as given by God at creation and continuing incarnation. This astute commitment of the AACC will not be distracted in any way or form by negative actions of some groups of human agencies. The AACC remains firm to the common dream of **"Africa: My Home, My Future"** and realizing AU Agenda 2063: **The Africa We want.**

May PEACE that Christ gives prevail in our continent, Africa.

Sincerely,

Rev. Lesmore Gibson EZEKIEL PhD FICA
Director for Peace, Diakonia and Development

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