

Categories and social cohesion:

Countering xenophobia by silencing difference?

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Institute for Security Studies 6th International Conference

The Maslow Hotel, Sandton

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A close-up photograph of King Goodwill Zwelithini, an elderly Black man with a white beard, wearing a dark suit jacket, a white shirt, and a patterned tie. He is looking upwards and to the right, speaking into a microphone. The background is blurred, showing what appears to be a building facade.

“We are requesting those who come from outside to please go back to their countries . . . I know you were in their countries during the struggle for liberation. But the fact of the matter is you did not set up businesses in their countries”

King Goodwill Zwelithini
The Citizen, 23 March 2015

March - April 2015



REUTERS



“Once you start talking about xenophobia and Afrophobia, you are talking about semantics. It is crime disguised under xenophobia”

Police Spokesman Zweli Mnisi – police spokesperson.
Sunday Independent (21 June 2011)

“The looting and violence that erupted in Soweto was not a result of xenophobia. It was a result of pure criminality.”

- Johannesburg Mayor Parks Tau, 11 April 2015

XENOPHOBIA



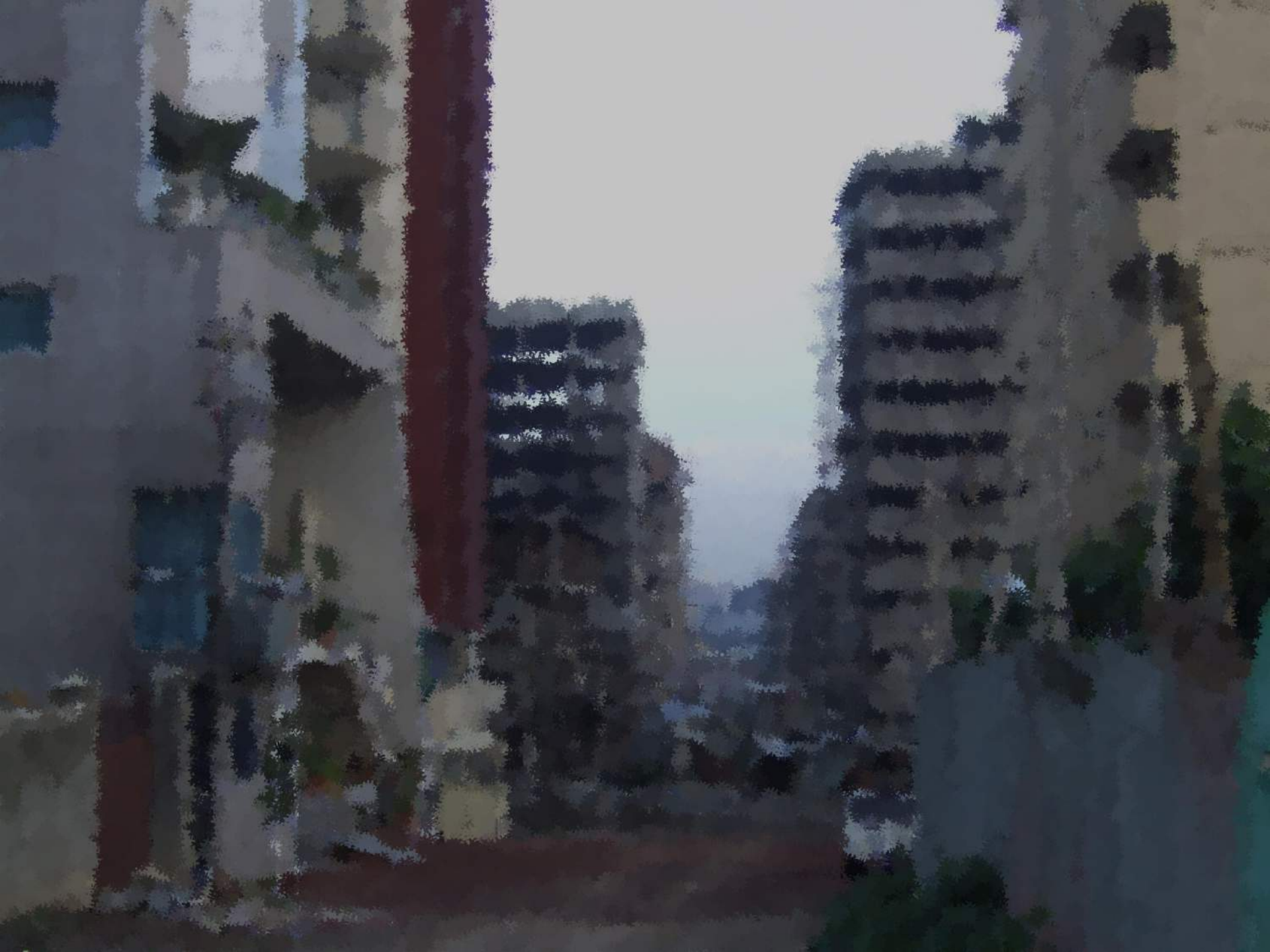
Media condemned

“Publishing pictures of mutilated bodies might end up perpetuating violence”

- South African President Jacob Zuma

“What I see in newspapers is that people are fed lies”

- King Goodwill Zwelithini



The xenophobic discourse current in South Africa today represents the authentic effort of the subaltern classes to make sense of their condition: nor is their reading irrational. They are struggling for scarce urban resources and there can be little doubt that immigrants are competing for those resources. The belief that such competition exists is not an instance of false consciousness.

*- Daryl Glaser 2009
Go Home or Die Here*

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