Despite state denial, xenophobia is highly destructive force in SA

JONATHAN CREMER

VIOLENT xenophobia has become a regular feature of South Africa’s life. The City of Johannesburg’s removal of more than 1,000 informal settlements in an attempt to eradicate shack dwellings, the latest in a series of efforts by the authorities to address perceived threats to citizens and xenophobes alike.

The police regularly engage in high-profile, well-publicized operations to remove illegal structures. Residents are often displaced by force, leaving them homeless and destitute.

The NCIP has commissioned the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees to assess the situation and develop guidelines for the handling of xenophobic attacks.

The author argues that xenophobia is not just a problem in South Africa, but a global issue that requires urgent attention from policymakers and civil society organisations.

The author highlights the need for a comprehensive approach to addressing xenophobia, including education, law enforcement, and social programmes designed to address root causes of xenophobia.

The author concludes that by addressing the underlying causes of xenophobia, it is possible to create a more inclusive and equitable society.

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