



Indian Diaspora Council

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Shared heritage, aspirations and interests

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Press Statement

IDC Condemns the Ongoing Violence in South Africa

The **Indian Diaspora Council International** (IDC) joins in solidarity with IDC South Africa chapter and with other organizations, agencies, institutions and individuals in South Africa and other countries in expressing strong and unequivocal condemnation of the ongoing violence, attacks and killings in South Africa. IDC considers these actions as senseless, brutal, inhuman and despicable acts perpetrated against innocent people, and resulting in deaths and destruction, as well as widespread fear among innocent citizens in Africa and elsewhere.

While recognizing that the violent attacks are directed against all South Africans, IDC also expresses concern about the wellbeing and safety of the descendants of Indian Indentured labourers, now over 1,400,000 in South Africa who have progressed in all segments of South African society, many of whom have been targets during this and other instances of violence.

IDC fully supports all measures by South Africa police and armed forces to bring security, calm and confidence to the people of South Africa, and we urge all efforts to prevent similar attacks in the future. We share in the belief that such callous and uncivilized crimes perpetrated against innocent people cannot diminish the desire and courage to co-exist and live peacefully with dignity and assurances of safety after many decades of struggles and hard won freedoms.

IDC expresses deep concern for the families of this tragedy and other criminal acts which cause tremendous distress, fear and anxiety. While expressing our outrage and condemnation, and seeking more protection and assurances against such attacks in the future, we are hopeful that the people of South Africa will endure and overcome these violent attacks. We urge others to join in solidarity in voicing their outrage and seeking quick and peaceful resolution to the disputes.

“The situation in South Africa is very serious and frightening. We are in a Covid-19 lockdown here and violent protests are also taking place. We cannot leave our homes. Please watch the news for updates and please keep us in your prayers” - *Rita Abraham, Chair of IDC Women’s Forum, South Africa.*

“We are shocked and dismayed at the situation in South Africa and we urge a quick return to calm and peaceful discussions to resolve their disputes” – *Jean-Régis Ramsamy, IDC Coordinator, Reunion Island.*

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Indian Diaspora Council International (IDC), established in 1997, is an international non-profit organization with global affiliates and membership in 21 countries with the objective to embrace, engage and enhance the shared heritage, aspirations and interests of persons of Indian origin with optimum inclusivity.