

Hundreds flee as South Africa anti-migrant mobs go door-to-door

Deaths are linked to protests by fringe groups that accuse undocumented foreign nationals of crime

● Ghana has already flown home 300 of its citizens, with hundreds more due to leave this weekend

● Mostly nationals of Malawi and Mozambique, many told AFP they had fled their homes at the weekend and spent nights in the mountains and bush

● Mozambique also said around 300 of its citizens fled back across the border

AFP | Gansbaai, South Africa

Hundreds of foreigners fearing for their lives have taken shelter in community halls on South Africa's south coast, saying mobs of locals were going door-to-door telling them to leave the country. Mostly nationals of Malawi and Mozambique, many told AFP they had fled their homes at the weekend and spent nights in the mountains and bush, before making their way to the small-town community centres.



Immigrants carrying their belongings walk on a street in Stanford, about 120km from Cape Town, after they were threatened in the communities in which they live.

"They said 'you are a foreigner, you don't belong in South Africa, so you must go'," Mozambican Thomas Vincent Baloyi told AFP in Gansbaai, around 110 kilometres (70 miles) southeast of Cape Town.

"I said, 'no, I got documents to be here in South Africa'. They didn't want to know," said Baloyi, who has been in the country for nearly 16 years working in construction and gardening.

"They just chased us away like dogs... that is unfair because, actually, I'm a human being," the 32-year-old said. "We just stayed in the bush until six in the morning."

Weeks of mostly small protests across South Africa against illegal foreign nationals exploded into violence at the weekend in the town of Mossel Bay, 250 kilometres up the coast, where 55 shacks were torched.

The South African police said two people from Mozambique were killed "during activities associated with antforeigner demonstrations".

They rejected a statement by the Mozambique government that five of its citizens were killed as a "direct consequence of the xenophobic attacks".

Mozambique also said around 300 of its citizens fled back

across the border on Saturday and hundreds more would follow. The deaths are the first linked to a new wave of anti-migrant protests by fringe groups that accuse undocumented foreign nationals of crime and taking scarce jobs and resources away from locals.

After one anti-illegal migrant group set a June 30 deadline for undocumented migrants to go home, small bands of people brandishing whips, sticks, wooden clubs and sometimes axes are reported to have taken to the streets in various places to reinforce the ultimatum.

Ghana has already flown

home 300 of its citizens, with hundreds more due to leave this weekend, and Nigeria has also announced emergency repatriation flights.

'Dragged out'

"They were dragging people out of their houses... whether you are legal or illegal, they say they don't want any foreign nationals in the township," local councillor Msa Nomatiti told AFP.

Locals turned on foreigners in an informal settlement in Gansbaai on Monday, he said, alleging some of the groups going door-to-door to search for foreign nationals were accompanied by the police.

More than 500 people had fled their homes Monday, he said.

By late Tuesday, small groups could still be seen walking out of informal settlements in the area, hauling their belongings in the dark night and soft rain as they made their way to places of safety. "Some of them lost their passports because of the beatings and being dragged out of their houses," Nomatiti said. Government officials were sent to help with documentation and voluntary repatriations.

Around 50 people huddled over large buckets of food at the tiny Gansbaai mosque, which was crammed with people and belongings, sharing one toilet

and a single tap.

'Better to go home alive'

In the small coastal town of Kleinmond, 40 kilometres closer to Cape Town, nearly 100 foreigners, most of them Malawian, sought shelter at a local community hall.

Large bags of clothing and blankets lined the walls and chairs were the only furniture. Volunteers served warm meals and donations from local residents trickled in.

Landlords told non-South Africans on Saturday to leave immediately as locals were going door-to-door in search of foreign nationals, Malawian Michael Markson told AFP.

"So we came out in the night hours, we went to the bush. There's a mountain up there, we slept there," said the 31-year-old, his eyes bloodshot.

"They're taking pangas... dangerous tools. They can hunt someone," he said.

In the town of Stanford less than 20 kilometres inland, another Malawian national, Talibo Mbewe, said he had been sheltering at the community hall for two days.

"The thieves, they have already taken all our stuff at home, so we don't have anything. But it's better to go home without anything than to lose our lives," he said.



Around 4 million immigrants

Estimates suggest South Africa hosts about 4 million immigrants, many of them from neighbouring countries such as Zimbabwe, Mozambique, Lesotho and Malawi.

South Africa's unemployment rate remains above 30%, leading some citizens to blame migrants for job shortages and pressure on public services.

Anti-immigrant violence has erupted periodically since 2008, when attacks killed dozens of people and displaced thousands. Similar incidents occurred in 2015, 2019 and again in 2026.

In 2026, several African countries warned their citizens in South Africa to remain cautious following anti-migrant attacks and protests. Some governments organised repatriation flights for their nationals.

Venezuela's Rodriguez arrives in India

● Her five-day visit comes as India, the world's third-largest oil importer, ramps up purchases of Venezuelan crude.

● Rodriguez would meet with Prime Minister Narendra Modi today.

AFP | New Delhi, India



Venezuela's interim President Delcy Rodriguez

productive agenda, and I hope to discuss areas of cooperation that can help address the most pressing needs of the Venezuelan people," she said, speaking on Venezuelan television.

New Delhi's foreign ministry said Rodriguez, who was given a red carpet welcome, would meet with Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Thursday.

Ministry spokesman Randhir Jaiswal said in a statement that "the visit will further deepen India-Venezuela ties."

Rodriguez has led Venezuela, which accounts for around 17% of global crude reserves, since January, when US forces captured former socialist president Nicolas Maduro.

Rodriguez was originally scheduled to be in New Delhi this week to participate in a summit on the conservation of big cat species.

But the conference was postponed to ensure the participation of African nations grappling with an Ebola outbreak.

Enriched uranium key issue in Iran talks, no deal yet: Rubio

● "We're no longer conducting sustained strikes inside of Iran to degrade their military, because Epic Fury is over," Rubio told the panel

AFP | Washington, United States

The fate of Iran's highly enriched uranium stockpiles is at the center of talks with Washington, and Tehran has not yet agreed to a peace deal, US Secretary of State Marco Rubio said yesterday.

Washington insists that Iran must turn over its near-weapons-grade enriched uranium, agree to curb its nuclear activities and re-open the Strait of Hormuz for any peace agreement to take hold.

"I think now, in some of the papers that have been exchanged back and forth, it's



U.S. Secretary of State Marco Rubio arrives to testify

clearly addressed, but we...still don't have final sign off from their system as of this morning," Rubio told the House Foreign Affairs Committee.

Rubio also doubled down on his assertion that the war in Iran was over, even as Iran attacked Kuwait's airport, killing one and wounding 63 people on Wednesday, in a significant escalation.

"We're no longer conducting sustained strikes inside of Iran to degrade their military, be-

cause Epic Fury is over," Rubio told the panel, asserting that the United States has scored a victory.

"We define victory as destroying their defense industrial base, significantly reducing the number of missile launchers that they possess, significantly reducing their stockpile of drones," Rubio said. "And we achieved all those, in addition to destroying what they had left of an air force and wiping out their entire conventional navy."