

Communiqué to African Union Heads of States on the Xenophobic attacks on fellow Africans living in South Africa.

We the 2008 Pan African Youth Leadership Forum held in CAIRO, June 16–20, 2008 write to the 2008 African Union Heads of States Summit to condemn the xenophobic attacks on fellow Africans in South Africa.

We remind our leaders and fellow young Africans that we are in the 60th year of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and the first article states that “All human beings are born free and equal in dignity and rights, they are endowed with reason and conscience and should act towards one another in a spirit of brotherhood.” In this regard, everyone has the right to freedom of movement and residence within borders of each state including South Africa. Everyone has the right to leave any country, including his/her own, and return to his/her country.

We would also like to remind the young people that during the apartheid government in South Africa, African countries supported them to claim their rights. People lost their lives in the fight for justice in South Africa, and this should not be undermined.

Therefore, we call on the government of South Africa and other African States to educate their young people on the history of African Continent and its peoples in order to prevent this attack from occurring in another African country. We also urge the South African government and other African Union states to continue to support the affected young people and families victimized by the xenophobic attacks.

Done this 19th day of June 2008

Signed:

Onyeka Obasi

On behalf of Youth delegates from AU member countries present at the 2008 PAYLF II in CAIRO-EGYPT.