



PRESS STATEMENT

Diakonia Council of Churches condemns the ongoing attacks and targeting of homes, property and lives of members of Abahlali baseMjondolo

Last night, the homes of members of Abahlali baseMjondolo (AbM), two of the original Kennedy Six, were attacked and demolished by the same mob of people who continuously and repeatedly perpetrate these deeds on known members of the organisation.

Despite many phone calls to the Sydenham Police Station to intervene, not one person has been arrested for the attacks.

Diakonia Council of Churches condemns these ongoing attacks in the strongest possible terms. The Council furthermore condemns the inaction of the police, and the silence from our government on this issue.

The Council, along with numerous church leaders, activists, academics, other faith groups and partner organisations, and sympathetic voices around the world, have repeatedly called for an independent judicial inquiry to be established into the events around 26 September when members of AbM were attacked and thousands displaced. This call has, to date, not been heeded by government.

The Council now calls upon our elected leaders to immediately intervene and to halt all further targeting of AbM; to immediately establish a judicial inquiry comprising independent voices, including representatives of the faith community and other civil organisations; and to immediately commence with investigations and the prosecutions of those who continue to harass, attack and threaten the lives and property of members of AbM.

The Council notes with deepest dismay the silence and inaction of government, of our city officials and of the local ANC leadership, and remain unconvinced that the same are not complicit in the orchestration and execution of the ongoing terrorisation, eviction and destruction which is being perpetrated in our informal settlements, including Kennedy Road, Motala Heights, Amaoti and Pema Ridge, where AbM have established themselves democratically.

The Council is committed to the preservation of our democracy, for the sake of all South Africans.

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