PRESS STATEMENT BY ACCA ON XENOPHOBIA IN SOUTH AFRICA
10 September 2019

The African Coalition for Corporate Accountability (ACCA) notes with great concern the ongoing spate of xenophobic attacks on African foreign nationals in South Africa, as well as the widespread looting and burning of foreign shops. ACCA vehemently condemns such criminal and human rights encroachments.

As a coalition of civil society organisations (CSOs) focussed on human rights in general (and business and human rights specifically), ACCA advocates for respect for life, human rights and supports non-discrimination on the basis of national or social origin.

ACCA notes with dismay that the founding values of the African Union have been undermined and the spirit of Ubuntu (togetherness) disregarded.

ACCA appeals to the South African government to take bold and decisive steps to end the xenophobic violence and hold perpetrators to account. Aside from criminal sanctions, victims and their families should be remediated for damage to properties and other economic losses.

ACCA calls on the South African government to deter future outbreaks and implement its regional commitments to promote peace and security, as established in the framework of the AU’s long-standing principles of continental solidarity.

ACCA calls on CSOs and other relevant actors to support migrant communities affected by this violence; and reiterates its stance against xenophobia.

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