



Genocide Watch Returns South Africa to Stage 5 “Polarization” 12 July 2012

The African National Congress has been South Africa’s governing party since the Presidency of Nelson Mandela 17 years ago, following the end of white minority rule and apartheid. In the years under apartheid, hate speech was used by both supporters and opponents of the apartheid system to stir up their followers. When racial tensions in South Africa ran high, the song “Kill the Farmer, Shoot the Boer” was a revolutionary song of the anti-apartheid movement. However, it is an illustration of the long-term impact that such de-humanizing language can have.

After many years when such songs were no longer sung, in 2010, prominent members of the ANC Youth League, in particular Julius Malema, President of the ANC Youth League, openly sang the “Shoot the Boer” song at ANC Youth League rallies. Not only did revival of the song strike fear into the hearts of Boer farmers, but it has actually been sung during attacks on white farmers. It is an incitement to murder white Afrikaner farmers.

Over 3000 white farmers have been murdered since 1994. The South African police have not made investigation and prosecution of these farm murders a priority, dismissing them as crimes by common criminals. The government has disbanded the commando units of white farmers that once protected their farms, and has passed laws to confiscate the farmers’ weapons. Disarmament of a targeted group is one of the surest early warning signs of future genocidal killings.

A recent outbreak of violent farm invasions has led to casualties among white South Africans. The farm invasions are direct results of calls by Julius Malema and his Deputy, Ronald Lamola for whites to give up their land without compensation, or face violence by angry black youths “flooding their farms.”

In response to Julius Malema, the Freedom Front (FF) cited Section 16.2c of the South African Constitution, which restricts freedom of speech rights by excluding as unprotected speech “advocacy of hatred based on race, ethnicity, gender or religion and incitement to cause harm.” The FF contended that Malema’s singing of the “Shoot the Boer” song was hate speech and therefore a human rights violation. Acting Judge of the South Gauteng High Court, Leon Halgryn declared that the song is hate speech, and it is unconstitutional to either utter or sing “dubul’ibhunu” (“shoot the Boer.”) He issued an injunction against Malema, ordering him to no longer sing the song. The phrase is now considered hate speech.

Julius Malema was shortly thereafter removed as President of the ANC Youth League, and ejected from the ANC. However, Malema’s followers have defied the judgment and continue to sing the song. Even President Jacob Zuma sang “Shoot the Boer” at the ANC Centenary Celebration event in January of 2012. He claimed that its use at the ANC Centenary was not intended as hate speech, but rather to commemorate the struggle against apartheid.

Despite President Zuma’s proclaimed intent, his singing of the song may be contributing to an increasingly hostile environment that threatens the safety of white South Africans. The number of murders of Boer farmers has increased each month in 2012.

For ten years, Genocide Watch has been the only international human rights group willing to declare an Alert about the high murder rate of Boer farmers, perhaps because it is not “politically correct” to defend the rights of people who once supported apartheid. Genocide Watch is opposed to all forms of racism, from whatever the source. The President of Genocide Watch actively supported the anti-apartheid movement in constitutional consultations with the United Democratic Front when he was a Fulbright Professor of Law in Swaziland. He has visited South Africa several times since and will soon visit again.

Genocide Watch measures South Africa at stage 5: Polarization.



South African Farm Invasions Are Threatened by the ANC Youth League 4 July 2012

In 1961 South Africa gained its independence from the British and planning began to redistribute land owned by whites. But Apartheid was the policy of the white run South African government, which wanted to maintain racial separation in ethnic “homelands.” The initial goal was to redistribute at least 30% of the farming land to black South Africans, but distribution of land was to be by ethnic group. South Africa’s white minority population currently owns approximately 87% of the arable farmland, with the black majority owning only 13%.

Following the end of Apartheid, in 1994 the South African government enacted a land reform program in hopes of addressing the longstanding issue of land distribution. Under black majority rule, the South African government’s first attempt at land distribution was through the “willing seller-willing buyer” program, which was a “buy back” program. Through this program the government would purchase land from willing white sellers and redistribute it to members of the black community. It was estimated that the program would cost the government upwards of ten billion dollars to execute, a budget it does not have the funds to meet.

The program was ultimately a failure. To date only 6% of the land has been successfully redistributed. President Jacob Zuma has openly admitted that the “willing seller – willing buyer” model will not work. His administration has since proposed a new plan in “The Green Paper,” which critics have criticized as vague, and avoiding many existing problems.

Unrest is brewing among black South Africans as the land distribution problem remains unresolved. Warnings of “inevitable” farm invasions by the African National Congress Youth League have caused great fear among white farmers, many of whom are Boers, descendants of the original Dutch settlers, who consider themselves Africans because they have lived in South Africa for hundreds of years.

Following Zimbabwe’s hostile land invasions, leaders of the ANC Youth League have promised to follow Robert Mugabe’s example, and forcibly expropriate farms owned by whites. Julius Malema, at the time President of the ANC Youth League, has demanded that expropriation should be without compensation. He urged his followers to “take back the land that was illegally stolen by the white man from the black man.” Malema is a racist Marxist-Leninist, and espouses an ideology contrary to the ANC’s “willing seller-willing buyer” program, which would provide farmers with financial compensation for their land. Malema has since been removed as ANC Youth League President and expelled from the ANC.

At a Youth League Policy workshop, Ronald Lamola, declared, “If they don’t want to see angry black youths flooding their farms they must come to the party....Whites must volunteer some of the land and mines they own.” Lamola explained, “But white South Africans must continue to participate, they remain relevant to this process and will continue to do so.” His comments were followed by warnings of a “Zim-style takeover.” The ANC Youth League demands that the South African Constitution be amended to permit state approved uncompensated land expropriations.

Gwede Mantashe, the general secretary of the ANC, has openly rebuked the ANC Youth League saying “This is not the policy of the ANC.... It is not the ANC policy to expropriate land without compensation and personally I don’t think it will work.”

Genocide Watch considers land redistribution to be a ticking time bomb in South Africa. If the wealthy countries of the world do not assist South Africa in resolving it by financing compensation of land-sellers, the “rainbow nation” could descend into violence and go the way of Zimbabwe.

Genocide Watch rates South Africa at Stage Five: Polarization, just at the edge of Stage Six, Preparation.



Genocide Watch Returns South Africa to Stage 5 “Polarization” 2 February 2012

After upgrading South Africa to stage 6 “preparation” in September 2011 due to the increasing power of Julius Malema, then the Marxist racist President of the African National Congress Youth League, two quite significant developments have occurred. The first was a South African court’s ruling that Malema’s singing of the “Shoot the Boer” song constitutes “hate speech” in violation of South African law. The court issued an injunction prohibiting Malema from singing the song. The second development is the suspension of Julius Malema from the African National Congress (ANC) and his removal as President of the ANC Youth League.

Stage 5 of the eight stages of genocide is “polarization”. Given the history of Apartheid in South Africa, there is deep-rooted polarization between whites and black in the nation. Part of the polarization in South Africa is the legacy of Apartheid and the continuing dominance in the economy of white owned businesses and farms. There is also polarization from the black population, who feel excluded from real power and jobs, even though the ANC now controls the government.

A response to this black polarization was Julius Malema’s call for redistribution of wealth from the white population to the black population, which Malema claimed to be a “correction of the injustices of Apartheid.” The current socio-economical inequalities in South Africa are leading to an increasing, rather than decreasing polarization. Since poverty and unemployment among black youth remains, tensions between impoverished blacks and wealthier whites is likely to increase.

This general polarization, which is normally non-violent, created a fertile ground for political radicalization. That was the case with the rise of Malema, former President of the ANC Youth League, when he and his followers sang the old anti-Boer song: “Kill the Boer” at rallies of the Youth League. Malema called for expropriation of white owned land when he was in Zimbabwe visiting Robert Mugabe and called Botswana’s racially harmonious society “neo-colonial”. These practices of Malema, and the slowness of the leadership of the ANC to discipline him, made Genocide Watch upgrade South Africa to stage 6 in September 2011. But now that Malema has been removed from his position of growing power, Genocide Watch is returning South Africa to stage 5.

It is very important to note that downgrading Genocide Watch’s risk assessment, does not mean that the situation is safe now in South Africa. Unfortunately, we still think Malema has a large following among unemployed youth, and tensions between black and white people are still high.

Genocide Watch continues to be alarmed at hate crimes committed against whites, particularly against Boer farmers, an important early warning sign that genocide could occur. Those who commit such crimes must be promptly brought to justice, and denounced by the political leaders of South Africa. Genocide Watch’s first six stages do not constitute genocide. Genocide Watch does not believe that genocide is currently underway in South Africa. Nevertheless, Genocide Watch will keep a watchful eye on the situation.



Genocide Watch Upgrades South Africa to Stage 6 “Preparation” 15 September 2011

Genocide Watch placed South Africa at stage 5 (polarization) from 2001 - 2011 because the country's racial divisions continued, there was a high level of youth unemployment in the black population, and the country had an appalling crime rate, including one of the world's worst rape rates against all groups in the country.

Genocide Watch has been particularly concerned for over ten years at the hate crimes perpetrated against Boer farmers and other whites -- bodies of murder victims disemboweled and disfigured, old women raped in front of their husbands, and other strong evidence of racially targeted crimes. However, we had no evidence that these crimes were being encouraged by the South African government or that they were organized by an organized hate group.

Now we have evidence of organized incitement to violence against white people. It began with the rise of Julius Malema, President of the African National Congress Youth League, who began singing the old anti-Boer song: "Kill the Boer" at rallies of the Youth League, then called for expropriation of white owned lands while he was in Zimbabwe visiting Robert Mugabe, and has most recently called Botswana's racially harmonious society "neo-colonial," and has called for the overthrow of Botswana's government.

Malema is a racist Marxist-Leninist. The failure of the leadership of the ANC to discipline him and remove him from the Presidency of the ANC Youth League, and his recent reelection to the Presidency of the ANC Youth League (despite his age of 30), have led Genocide Watch to conclude that violence against whites is now being planned and incited by one of the most important leaders of the new South Africa.

Malema has considerable support among young black South Africans, and ANC leaders are afraid to discipline and remove him from his position. Genocide Watch will keep South Africa at Stage 6 - Preparation, until Julius Malema is removed from his position of growing power. South Africa has not yet reached actual genocide, which is Stage 7, but the preparations for it are ominous. Xenophobic riots and murders of foreign refugees as well as continuing hate crimes against Boer farmers and other whites have caused dark storm clouds to form over the "rainbow nation."