



## Xenowatch Factsheet: 1

### Incidents of Xenophobic Violence in South Africa: January – September 2019

Xenophobic violence (or violent attacks targeting foreign nationals and other outsiders because of their origin) has intensified in the past few months, particularly in Gauteng and KwaZulu Natal provinces. The violence continues to result in loss of lives and livelihoods (of both foreign nationals and citizens), substantial damage to property and displacement.

This factsheet provides a numerical summary of xenophobic violence incidents that occurred across South Africa between January 2019 and September 2019. It is important to note that the numbers provided here are those of incidents reported to, verified and recorded on the **Xenowatch** platform.<sup>1</sup> Due to underreporting, these may be an underrepresentation. In total, Xenowatch recorded **68** incidents of xenophobic violence which have resulted in 18 deaths, at least 43 physical assaults, 1449 displaced and an estimation of at least 127 plus shops looted in the period of January to September 2019. Gauteng and KwaZulu Natal were the most affected provinces. Table 1 below provides details.

*Table 1: Incidents of xenophobic violence and type of victimization: January 2019 – September 2019*

| Category of Victimization | Total in 2019 (Jan-Sept) | Sept 2019 alone |
|---------------------------|--------------------------|-----------------|
| Total number of incidents | 68                       | 28              |
| Persons Killed            | 18                       | 12              |
| Displacement              | 1449                     | 800+            |
| Physical assaults         | 43                       | 14              |
| Shops looted              | 147 <sup>+2</sup>        | 49+             |

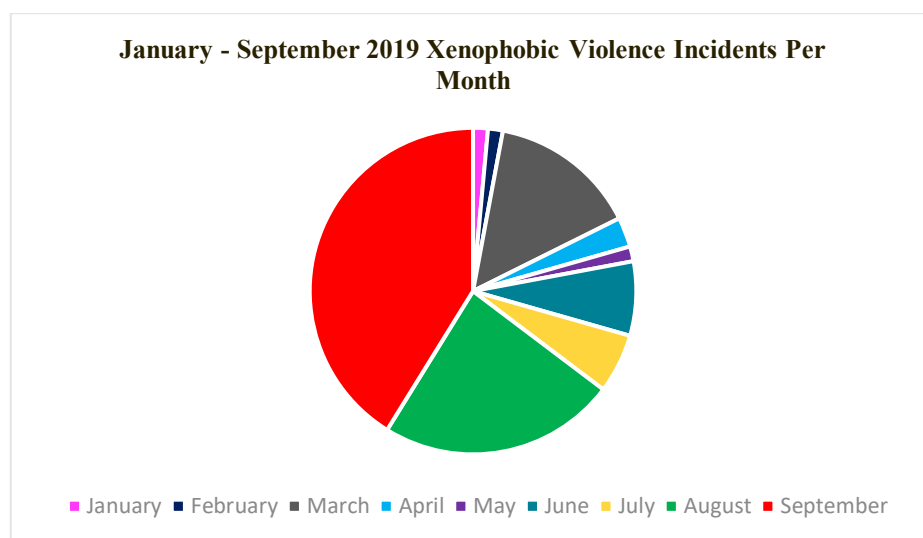
<sup>1</sup>Xenowatch is an open source platform to monitor xenophobic threats and violence across South Africa. It collates, visualizes and shares data collected through media reports, original research, and crowd sourcing. Activists, victims, and observers can report threats and attacks using the following channels: free SMS, WhatsApp, email, mobile app, and the website ([www.xenowatch.ac.za](http://www.xenowatch.ac.za)).

<sup>2</sup>Received reports often indicate, 'several shops looted' instead of providing accurate numbers. Such cases have been counted as 2 shops for now until accurate figures are determined.

According to [official statistics](#), 10 out of the 12 people that died in the violence in September were South African nationals.

Figure 1 below provides a break-down of 2019 incidents to date per month. As shown, the month of September has recorded the highest number of **28** incidents, followed by August with **16** incidents, March with **10** incidents and June with **5** incidents. The lowest incidents were recorded in July with **4**, April **2** and January, February and May with **1** each.

*Figure 1: January - September 2019 xenophobic violence incidents per month*



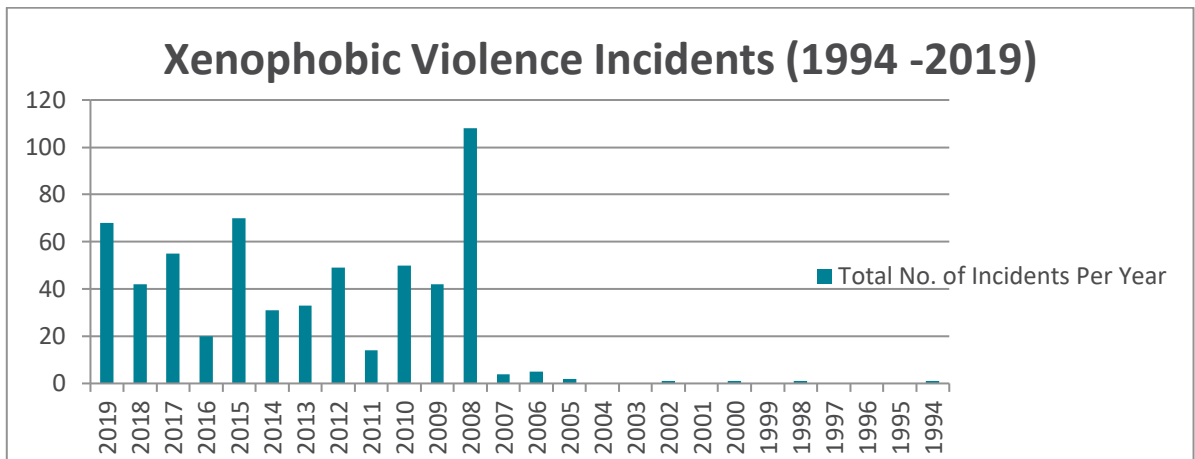
As Table 2 below indicates, Gauteng and KwaZulu Natal provinces are the most affected by xenophobic violence this year.

*Table 2: Xenophobic violence incidents per province: January – September 2019*

| Province      | 2019 Incidents |
|---------------|----------------|
| Gauteng       | 44             |
| Western Cape  | 3              |
| KwaZulu Natal | 16             |
| Limpopo       | 1              |
| Eastern Cape  | 0              |
| Mpumalanga    | 4              |
| North West    | 0              |
| Free State    | 0              |
| Northern Cape | 0              |
| <b>Total</b>  | <b>68</b>      |

The figures presented above indicate that 2019 has thus far recorded the third highest number of xenophobic violence incidents since 2008. Indeed, of the 598 verified incidents, **108** occurred in 2008, **70** in 2015 and **68** in 2019. Figure 2 below provides details.

*Figure 2: Number of xenophobic violence incidents per year: 1994 - September 2019*



For details on the figures presented in this factsheet and xenophobic violence in South Africa generally, please visit [www.xenowatch.ac.za](http://www.xenowatch.ac.za)

Prepared by: Silindile N. Mlilo  
Xenowatch Project Manager

Source : [www.xenowatch.ac.za](http://www.xenowatch.ac.za)

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Contacts : [info@xenowatch.ac.za](mailto:info@xenowatch.ac.za); 011 717 4017/060 794 9882