

**Refugee Review Tribunal  
AUSTRALIA**

**RRT RESEARCH RESPONSE**

**Research Response Number:** ZAF31927  
**Country:** South Africa  
**Date:** 21 June 2007

Keywords: South Africa – White South Africans – Jewish South Africans – Legal provisions  
– Employment – State protection

This response was prepared by the Country Research Section of the Refugee Review Tribunal (RRT) after researching publicly accessible information currently available to the RRT within time constraints. This response is not, and does not purport to be, conclusive as to the merit of any particular claim to refugee status or asylum.

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**Questions**

- 1. Is there any evidence that white South Africans or Jewish South Africans are discriminated against in relation to matters such as employment?**
- 2. Are there any laws to protect against such discrimination?**
- 3. To what extent do the authorities provide protection against violent crime?**
- 4. Is there any evidence that white South Africans or Jewish South Africans are denied the protection of the authorities?**

**RESPONSE**

- 1. Is there any evidence that white South Africans or Jewish South Africans are discriminated against in relation to matters such as employment?**

A search of the sources consulted found information that indicates that white South Africans continue to hold the majority of senior jobs in South Africa's workforce, although affirmative action laws have helped to increase the percentage of non-white South Africans in such positions.

An undated article on the website of human resources group ORC Worldwide notes that ten years after apartheid ended in South Africa, whites still held "most of the best jobs in the private sector and own most of the assets". It is stated in the article that:

Despite impressive strides by affirmative action, which has been in place since 1994, whites still hold most of the best jobs in the private sector and own most of the assets – including 80 percent of the country's farmland and more than 65 percent of the equity on the Johannesburg Securities Exchange (JSE) (blacks own less than 5%). According to a recent article in South Africa's Business Report, the top 40 companies listed on the JSE had in aggregate 601 directors, only 91 of them black... But, since most of these companies have the majority or at least a significant portion of their assets, sales, and income streams emanating from their South African operations, the fact that at these companies black directors total just 15 percent

has raised some eyebrows. In addition, 2001 census data from South Africa shows that blacks made up 76.7 percent of South Africa's population.

The article also indicates that it appeared "that race issues remain in society at large as well as in the workplaces of South Africa" and that "[a]ffirmative action has been identified as one possible reason for hostile racial attitudes among whites" (MacGillivray, Liz (Undated), 'South Africa Ten Years After Apartheid: Making Progress, But Still Struggling With Racial Integration', ORC Worldwide website <http://www.orcinc.com/readroom/southafrica.html> – Accessed 21 June 2007 – Attachment 1).

A guide to affirmative action on the South African Department of Labour website includes information on which employers are subject to the provisions for affirmative action set out in South Africa's Employment Equity Act. According to the guide, "[e]mployers must make sure designated groups (black people, women and people with disabilities) have equal opportunities in the workplace" ('Basic Guide to Affirmative Action' (Undated), South African Department of Labour website [http://www.labour.gov.za/basic\\_guides/bgguide\\_display.jsp?id=5848&programme\\_id=2670](http://www.labour.gov.za/basic_guides/bgguide_display.jsp?id=5848&programme_id=2670) – Accessed 20 June 2007 – Attachment 2). South Africa enacted the Employment Equity Act in 1998 and the Act prohibits unfair discrimination against employees on a number of grounds, including race, ethnic or social origin and religion. The Act also indicates that it was not unfair discrimination to "take affirmative action measures consistent with the purpose of this Act" (Republic of South Africa 1998, 'Employment Equity Act, 1998', No. 55 of 1998, South African Department of Labour website, Section 6 <http://www.labour.gov.za/report/8276/Act%20-%20Employment%20Equity.pdf> – Accessed 20 June 2007 – Attachment 3).

Another Act enacted in January 2004 with the aim of increasing the participation of Africans, Coloureds and Indians in the South African economy, includes the objective of "achieving a substantial change in the racial composition of ownership and management structures and in the skilled occupations of existing and new enterprises" (Republic of South Africa 2004, 'Broad-Based Black Economic Empowerment Act, 2003', Act No. 53, 2003, Department of Trade and Industry Republic of South Africa website, 7 January, Section 2 <http://www.dti.gov.za/bee/BEEAct-2003-2004.pdf> – Accessed 20 June 2007 – Attachment 4).

The US Department of State report on human rights practices in South Africa for 2006 notes that "Blacks" – including "Africans," "Colored," and "Asians" – were "underrepresented, particularly at the professional and managerial levels" of the workforce, and made up "76 percent of the workforce in unskilled, low-paid jobs." It is stated in the report that:

The law requires employers with 50 or more employees to ensure that previously disadvantaged groups – defined for legal purposes as "Blacks" – including "Africans," "Colored," and "Asians" – are represented adequately at all levels of the workforce." According to the Department of Labor's 2005 "Employment Equity Analysis," Blacks, while not a minority, remained underrepresented, particularly at the professional and managerial levels.

Notwithstanding the country's antidiscrimination legislation, the 2005 "Employment Equity Analysis" reported that racial imbalances in the workplace still exist and that only 28 percent of positions at the top management level in 2005 were held by Blacks. According to 2005 data, approximately 53 percent of professionals were Black. The report makes it clear that

Black women by far remained the most disadvantaged in terms of the number and quality of management or skilled jobs. Employers cited a lack of training and development, poor recruitment processes, and an antagonistic corporate culture as the main impediments to affirmative action.

Blacks constituted 76 percent of the workforce in unskilled, low-paid jobs. In occupations such as newspaper vendors, garage attendants, car washers, gardeners, and garbage collectors, Blacks accounted for 98 percent of the workforce.

In the armed forces, the officer corps remained predominantly white.

The continued killings of mostly white farm owners by black African assailants created concern among white farmers that they were being targeted for racial and political reasons (see section 1.a.). There also were reports that white employers abused and killed black African farm laborers, and complaints that white employers received preferential treatment from the authorities (see section 1.a.) (US Department of State 2007, *Country Reports on Human Rights Practices for 2006 – South Africa*, March, Section 5 – Attachment 5).

The 2006-2007 annual report of South Africa's Commission for Employment Equity indicates that there had been a decrease in the percentage of Whites in top management and senior management positions between 2000 and 2006, and an increase in the percentage of Whites in professionally qualified management positions during that period. Overall, Whites still held the majority of jobs in these areas. The report notes that the percentage of Whites in top management positions "decreased by 4.0% from 78.9% in 2004 to 74.9% in 2006 and by 12.6% from 87.5% in 2000 to 74.9% in 2006." At the same time, "Black representation in all Top Management positions increased by 1.1% from 21.1% in 2004 to 22.6% in 2006 and increased by 9.5% from 12.7% in 2000 to 22.2% in 2006." At senior management level, White representation fell by 3.5% between 2004 and 2006 to 70.9% and by 10.7% between 2000 and 2006. Black representation in senior management positions increased by 1.2% to 26.9% between 2004 and 2006, and increased by 8.4% between 2000 and 2006. The figures for all professionally qualified management positions show that the percentage of Whites increased by 13.3% to 62.2% between 2004 and 2006, and by 6.1% between 2000 and 2006. Black representation decreased by 14.7% to 36.5% between 2004 and 2006 and by 7.6% between 2000 and 2006. The report also indicates that "Blacks (i.e. Africans, Coloureds and Indians) represented 90% of all employees at the Unskilled level." The report comments that "[t]he progress towards the achievement of employment equity continues to be woefully slow" (Commission for Employment Equity 2007, 'Commission for Employment Equity Annual Report 2006 – 2007', South African Department of Labour website, pp. 10 & 48-54 [http://www.labour.gov.za/calendar/event.jsp?calendarEvent\\_id=12266](http://www.labour.gov.za/calendar/event.jsp?calendarEvent_id=12266) – Accessed 20 June 2007 – Attachment 6).

In relation to Jewish South Africans, a search of the sources consulted found no specific information regarding discrimination against Jewish South Africans in relation to matters such as employment. An article dated 4 August 2005 on the Jewish South Africa website refers to South African Jews "playing a prominent role in the political, economic and cultural life of the country." According to the article:

South African Jews established themselves as a visible and successful sub-group of the broader European population, playing a prominent role in the political, economic and cultural life of the country. The leader of the opposition Democratic Alliance, Tony Leon, is Jewish and there is one Jewish Cabinet Minister, Ronnie Kasrils, who is Minister of Intelligence. A number of Jews occupy senior positions in the judiciary (Judge Arthur Chaskalson was Chief

Justice in the years 2003-2005) and the civil service. Apart from Kasrils, there has been one other Jewish Minister (Joe Slovo, Minister of Housing) and two Deputy Ministers since the 1994 election ('Present – Overview of the South African Jewish Community' 2005, Jewish South Africa website, 4 August <http://www.jewish.org.za/index.asp?itm=4> – Accessed 20 June 2007 – Attachment 7).

Although not specifically in relation to employment, the country report on anti-Semitism and racism in South Africa for 2004 by the Stephen Roth Institute for the Study of Contemporary Antisemitism and Racism at Tel Aviv University indicates that:

A comprehensive Bill of Rights, incorporated within the Constitution and adopted in 1996, ensures adequate protection for all citizens, including members of religious and ethnic minorities. The relatively low level of antisemitism in South Africa can in part be attributed to the strong non-racist ethos that has prevailed in the country since the demise of white minority rule (The Stephen Roth Institute for the Study of Contemporary Antisemitism and Racism (Undated), 'South Africa – Country Report 2004', The Stephen Roth Institute for the Study of Contemporary Antisemitism and Racism website <http://www.tau.ac.il/Anti-Semitism/asw2004/sth-africa.htm> – Accessed 20 June 2007 – Attachment 8).

An earlier country report on anti-Semitism and racism in South Africa for 1999/2000 refers to there being “widespread black support for the Palestinian cause” in South Africa, “but black anti-Semitism, with a few individual exceptions (usually related to labor issues), has not emerged as a problem in South Africa to date” (The Stephen Roth Institute for the Study of Contemporary Antisemitism and Racism (Undated), *Anti-Semitism Worldwide 1999/2000 – South Africa* – Attachment 9). However, the 2006 country report on anti-Semitism and racism in South Africa indicates that there had been an increase in anti-Semitic incidents in South Africa during 2006 (The Stephen Roth Institute for the Study of Contemporary Antisemitism and Racism (Undated), 'South Africa – Country Report 2006', The Stephen Roth Institute for the Study of Contemporary Antisemitism and Racism website <http://www.tau.ac.il/Anti-Semitism/asw2006/sth-africa.htm> – Accessed 20 June 2007 – Attachment 10).

## **2. Are there any laws to protect against such discrimination?**

Sources indicate that South Africa has enacted laws that prohibit discrimination against persons on a variety of grounds. Section 9(1) of the 1996 South African constitution indicates that “[e]veryone is equal before the law and has the right to equal protection and benefit of the law.” Pursuant to Section 9(3) of the constitution, “[t]he state may not unfairly discriminate directly or indirectly against anyone on one or more grounds, including race, gender, sex, pregnancy, marital status, ethnic or social origin, colour, sexual orientation, age, disability, religion, conscience, belief, culture, language and birth” (Republic of South Africa 1996, 'Constitution of the Republic of South Africa', No. 108 of 1996, South African Government Information website, 18 December <http://www.info.gov.za/documents/constitution/1996/a108-96.pdf> – Accessed 20 June 2007 – Attachment 11).

The previously mentioned Employment Equity Act of 1998 prohibits unfair discrimination against employees on a number of grounds, including race, ethnic or social origin and religion. It was not unfair discrimination to “take affirmative action measures consistent with

the purpose of this Act” (Republic of South Africa 1998, ‘Employment Equity Act, 1998’, No. 55 of 1998, South African Department of Labour website, Section 6 <http://www.labour.gov.za/report/8276/Act%20-%20Employment%20Equity.pdf> – Accessed 20 June 2007 – Attachment 3).

A summary of the Employment Equity Act indicates that:

The purpose of the Act is to achieve equity in the workplace, by

- a. promoting equal opportunity and fair treatment in employment through the elimination of unfair discrimination; and
- b. implementing affirmative action measures to redress the disadvantages in employment experienced by designated groups, to ensure their equitable representation in all occupational categories and levels in the workforce (‘Summary of the Employment Equity Act, 55 of 1998, issued in terms of Section 25(1)’ (Undated), South African Department of Labour website [http://www.labour.gov.za/report/8477/Act Summary – Employment Equity.doc](http://www.labour.gov.za/report/8477/Act%20Summary%20-%20Employment%20Equity.doc) – Accessed 20 June 2007 – Attachment 12).

The ‘Promotion of Equality and Prevention of Unfair Discrimination Act, 2000’ prohibits unfair discrimination against any person. Pursuant to Section 7 of the Act, unfair discrimination “on the ground of race” is prohibited, including “the denial of access to opportunities, including access to services or contractual opportunities for rendering services for consideration, or failing to take steps to reasonably accommodate the needs of such persons” (Republic of South Africa 2000, ‘Promotion of Equality and Prevention of Unfair Discrimination Act, 2000’, Act No. 4, 2000, South African Government Information website, 2 February, Sections 6 & 7 <http://www.info.gov.za/gazette/acts/2000/a4-00.pdf> – Accessed 20 June 2007 – Attachment 13).

According to the US Department of State report on human rights practices in South Africa for 2006:

The constitution and law prohibit discrimination on the grounds of race, disability, ethnic or social origin, color, age, culture, language, sex, pregnancy, sexual orientation, or marital status. However, entrenched attitudes and practices, as well as limited resources, restricted the practical effect of these legal protections in some cases. The Promotion of Equality and Prevention of Unfair Discrimination Act places a responsibility on the state and any person in the public domain to promote equality. The act addresses discrimination in a broad context in the workplace, health care, education, services, pensions, and other socioeconomic areas (US Department of State 2007, *Country Reports on Human Rights Practices for 2006 – South Africa*, March, Section 5 – Attachment 5).

### **3. To what extent do the authorities provide protection against violent crime?**

An *Agence France-Presse* article dated 8 June 2007 indicates that “South Africa is one of the most crime-ridden countries in the world. With around 50 murders committed are [sic] each day, violent crime is a particular concern.” The article also notes that “the safety and security ministry and Prime Media group” had set up a new scheme whereby “[c]itizens in crime-ridden South Africa will be able to use text messages to anonymously tip-off the police”. People would be able “to send an SMS to a commercial radio station, which will then pass the message onto the police without the contact’s details.” The project’s coordinator said that “[w]e have crime problems in South Africa and we cannot continue to sit back and watch

things degenerate further” (‘S. Africa launches new scheme: tip off the police by SMS’ 2007, *Agence France-Presse*, 8 June – Attachment 14).

An article dated 28 April 2007 refers to South Africa’s President Thabo Mbeki “making crime the key focus of his Freedom Day address and urging law-abiding citizens to turn in criminals and report them to the police.” According to the article:

Mbeki, who has often been criticised for not giving crime its due attention, urged South Africans to unite against the scourge as they renewed their pledge for a better life for all.

Responding to his critics, Mbeki said he, as well as the rest of the country, was “aware” that there was a minority who made crime their businesses and who used “unimaginable violence on law-abiding citizens”.

“Together, let us identify those who steal and sell stolen goods; let us expose those who sell and use drugs; let us expose those who rape and abuse women and children. And then let us report them to the police,” he told thousands of people who arrived to hear him speak in Bisho.

“If the police do not act, then the community should contact the provincial and even the national police commissioners, the MECs for safety and security liaison and the national minister of safety and security for immediate action,” he added, offering his entire crime fighting structure in the service of the communities (Webb, Boyd 2007, ‘Violent Crime – Mbeki Hits Out’, *allAfrica.com*, source: Cape Argus (Cape Town), 28 April <http://allafrica.com/stories/200704290091.html> – Accessed 20 June 2007 – Attachment 15).

An earlier article dated 7 March 2007 notes that President Mbeki had “recently declared that crime is not out of control” and that “[s]hortly afterwards, the African National Congress (ANC) supported this view.” According to the article:

Mbeki added that the public, instead of merely blaming the police and government for failing to act effectively against crime, should rather ask themselves what they themselves were doing about it. In the same statement, the president was again supported by his party.

One could expatiate on what the public is in fact already doing to fight crime: on the enormous amounts spent on private security, on high walls and razor-wire fencing, burglar-proofing, alarm systems, fenced residential compounds, private security guards at business centres, suburbs patrolled by private security guards, and many other things and would then clearly be justified to ask the president, what else, short of assuming the actual police function, the public can do to combat crime.

The article refers to “present-day SA” being “beleaguered by the ferocity of endemic violent crime” and indicates that:

The point is that when the state through its agencies increasingly fails to keep violent crime at bay and senior government spokesmen even call upon individuals to assume more responsibilities in combating crime, the state is in fact failing fatally on two fronts. It defaults on its most basic responsibility to protect its citizenry against violence and to protect our lives and physical integrity. But even more than that since the effective discharge of this responsibility is the crucial reason for its existence and survival it erodes the very conditions upon which the existence of the state depends, thus causing its own retreat and demise (Malan, Koos 2007, ‘In the absence of state prosecution’ 2007, *Business Day (South Africa)*, 7 March – Attachment 16).



A MRT research response dated 14 February 2007 provides general information on the level of crime in South Africa (MRT Country Research 2007, *Research Response ZAF31347*, 14 February, (Question 7) – Attachment 17).

A *BBC News* article dated 9 February 2007 indicates that “[e]very day, more than 300 murders and violent attacks take place in South Africa. Together with Iraq and Colombia, it is one of the three most dangerous countries on earth.” The article notes that three weeks after insisting “that most South Africans did not think the crime rate in their country was getting out of hand”, President Thabo Mbeki, “in his annual State of the Nation address to parliament... has admitted that people live in fear. He has promised an increase in police numbers.” The article also notes that “[i]ncreasing police numbers will not do it alone. The police are poorly paid, poorly trained, and easily corrupted. Society itself has to rise up against the criminals” (Simpson, John 2007, ‘South Africa faces crime challenge’, *BBC News*, 9 February <http://news.bbc.co.uk/2/hi/africa/6347717.stm> – Accessed 21 June 2007 – Attachment 18).

The Human Rights Watch 2007 world report on South Africa indicates that the South Africa Law Commission had “found that only five percent of adult rape cases and nine percent of cases involving children end in conviction” in South Africa. According to the report:

Between April 2005 and March 2006, 54,926 rapes and attempted rapes and 9,805 indecent assaults were reported to the South African Police Services (SAPS). While the national statistics for reported rapes are slightly lower than for 2005, some provinces experienced dramatic hikes. In Eastern Cape, for example, reported rapes increased by 21 percent and there was an 11.7 percent increase in indecent assaults. However, SAPS itself has observed that sexual violence is largely underreported throughout South Africa, suggesting that the numbers of reported rapes in the last year underestimates the extent of the problem. Of those cases that are reported, the South Africa Law Commission found that only five percent of adult rape cases and nine percent of cases involving children end in conviction (Human Rights Watch 2007, *World Report 2007 – South Africa*, January – Attachment 19).

In relation to the South Africa Police Service (SAPS), the US Department of State report on human rights practices in South Africa for 2006 provides the following information:

#### Role of the Police and Security Apparatus

The SAPS, under the Department of Safety and Security, has primary responsibility for internal security. The SANDF [South African Defence Force], under the Department of Defense, is responsible for external security but also has domestic security responsibilities. The National Prosecuting Authority’s (NPA) Directorate of Special Operations – the “Scorpions” – coordinates efforts against organized crime and official corruption.

SAPS continued its major restructuring and transformation from a primarily public order security force to a more accountable, community service oriented police force; however, it remained ill equipped, overworked, and poorly trained. As of November, there were 125,521 police officers and 32,948 civilians working in SAPS. The majority of police resources and law enforcement attention remained focused on wealthy residential and business areas.

SAPS continued to create partnerships between local police forces and the communities they served. Municipalities also maintained metropolitan police forces in major cities under local control, such as in Johannesburg, Durban, Pretoria, and Cape Town. SAPS continued to have

deficiencies in mid level leadership and institutional memory that inhibited its overall performance.

During the year the ICD received 1,643 allegations of criminal offenses committed by police and 2,855 complaints of misconduct, representing a 5 percent decline in allegations of criminal offenses and a 16 percent decline in complaints of misconduct compared to the previous year.

Broad efforts to reform police practices continued; the ICD investigated reports of police misconduct and corruption. Reports of police killings, criminal offenses, and misconduct all decreased. The government made efforts to address abuses with an official antitorture policy and training programs for police and SANDF officers that included a focus on human rights.

The report also indicates that although the constitution and law prohibit torture and other such practices, “some police officers reportedly tortured, beat, raped, and otherwise abused suspects. Police torture and abuse occurred during interrogation, arrest, detention, and searches of persons’ homes.” The report notes that:

There were no politically motivated killings by the government or its agents; however, police use of lethal force during apprehensions resulted in a significant number of deaths, and deaths in police custody were a problem. The government investigated and punished some abusers.

According to the governmental Independent Complaints Directorate (ICD), there were 621 deaths in police custody or as a result of police action during the period from April 1, 2005, to March 31, 2006, a 5 percent decrease from the previous year; 267 of the deaths reported were identified as the result of natural causes, suicide, or from injuries sustained prior to detention.

The ICD reported “a worrying trend of on-going misuse and abuse of service issue firearms” by off-duty South Africa Police Service (SAPS) members “in disputes and circumstances totally unrelated to the business of the SAPS.” ICD’s 2006 Report also noted a number of incidents resulting in deaths due to “excessive use of force by members of SAPS in which some of the suspects were unarmed and attempting to flee from arrest” (US Department of State 2007, *Country Reports on Human Rights Practices for 2006 – South Africa*, March, Sections 1(a), (c) & (d) – Attachment 5).

#### **4. Is there any evidence that white South Africans or Jewish South Africans are denied the protection of the authorities?**

The *BBC News* article dated 9 February 2007 indicates that the high level of crime in South Africa “is not a question of black versus white. Far more black people than white people are affected by crime, though the white population is certainly suffering heavily.” According to the article:

The government often suggests that only white people are worried about crime.

“They should get out if they don’t like it,” one minister said recently.

Our experience showed that black people are just as frightened by it.

Every day, more than 300 murders and violent attacks take place in South Africa. Together with Iraq and Colombia, it is one of the three most dangerous countries on earth (Simpson, John 2007, ‘South Africa faces crime challenge’, *BBC News*, 9 February <http://news.bbc.co.uk/2/hi/africa/6347717.stm> – Accessed 21 June 2007 – Attachment 18).



The US Department of State report on human rights practices in South Africa for 2006 notes that “[t]he majority of police resources and law enforcement attention remained focused on wealthy residential and business areas” in South Africa. The report also indicates that “[k]illings and other violent crimes against farmers and, on occasion, their families continued in rural areas”, generally by “common criminals motivated by financial gain.” The number of farm killings was similar to previous years. It is stated in the report that:

Killings and other violent crimes against farmers and, on occasion, their families continued in rural areas. Despite concern among white farmers that they were targeted for racial and political reasons, studies indicated that the perpetrators generally were common criminals motivated by financial gain. According to the 2005-06 SAPS report, there were 636 farm attacks and 88 farm killings in the 12 months prior to March 31. These figures have been similar for several years.

In relation to Jewish South Africans, the US Department of State report indicates that “[w]hile anti-Semitic acts were rare, a few incidents were reported during the year.” The report notes that in June 2006, a court convicted a man “of a hate crime for painting a swastika and the phrase “spiteful Hebrew bastard” on the home of the son of a Holocaust survivor”, and a Muslim radio station was reprimanded for broadcasting “hate speech, including Holocaust denial programs.” According to the report:

There were occasional reports of desecration and vandalism or verbal or written harassment directed against religious minorities during the year.

There were approximately 90,000 Jews in the country. While anti-Semitic acts were rare, a few incidents were reported during the year. For example, on January 8, approximately 30 gravestones were desecrated at the West Park Jewish cemetery in Johannesburg. The police questioned five suspects, but no arrests were made. In June a court convicted Gerhard Barkhuiz of a hate crime for painting a swastika and the phrase “spiteful Hebrew bastard” on the home of the son of a Holocaust survivor. Barkhuizen was ordered to remove all slogans and words from the wall and required to pay \$285 (R2,000) to a charity of his choice.

On May 18, the SABC [South African Broadcasting Corporation] ruled that Muslim radio Station 786 aired hate speech, including Holocaust denial programs. The station was reprimanded and warned of more severe consequences if it engaged in further such activities (US Department of State 2007, *Country Reports on Human Rights Practices for 2006 – South Africa*, March, Sections 1(a) & (d) & 2(c) – Attachment 5).

As previously mentioned, the country report on anti-Semitism and racism in South Africa for 2004 by the Stephen Roth Institute for the Study of Contemporary Antisemitism and Racism at Tel Aviv University indicates that:

A comprehensive Bill of Rights, incorporated within the Constitution and adopted in 1996, ensures adequate protection for all citizens, including members of religious and ethnic minorities. The relatively low level of antisemitism in South Africa can in part be attributed to the strong non-racist ethos that has prevailed in the country since the demise of white minority rule (The Stephen Roth Institute for the Study of Contemporary Antisemitism and Racism (Undated), ‘South Africa – Country Report 2004’, The Stephen Roth Institute for the Study of Contemporary Antisemitism and Racism website <http://www.tau.ac.il/Anti-Semitism/asw2004/sth-africa.htm> – Accessed 20 June 2007 – Attachment 8).

The earlier country report on anti-Semitism and racism in South Africa for 1999/2000 notes that the Jewish Board of Deputies in South Africa (SAJBD) had “good relations with the ruling African National Congress (ANC), which won 66 percent of the vote in the 1999 election. The new president, Thabo Mbeki, and the ANC are firmly committed to a non-racial and democratic society and have generally been sympathetic toward the concerns and fears of the local Jewish community” (The Stephen Roth Institute for the Study of Contemporary Antisemitism and Racism (Undated), *Anti-Semitism Worldwide 1999/2000 – South Africa – Attachment 9*).

However, the 2006 country report on anti-Semitism and racism in South Africa indicates that there had been an increase in anti-Semitic incidents in South Africa during 2006. According to the report:

In 2006 South Africa recorded its highest number of antisemitic incidents since the commencement of detailed record keeping two decades ago. The prevalence of strong anti-Israel sentiment within the mainstream South African political, media and NGO culture clearly contributed to a more hostile atmosphere toward Jews and Jewish institutions and was the obvious motivation for at least half the incidents recorded.

The report indicates that the SAJBD met “regularly with key political leaders from across the political spectrum and has been successful in forging a strong relationship with the ruling party at all levels of government.” The SAJBD and Community Security Organization cooperated “in monitoring antisemitism and taking appropriate action wherever possible, including lodging complaints with the police and following them up.” It is stated in the report that:

The South African Jewish Board of Deputies (SAJBD) is the central representative organization and civil rights lobby of the Jewish community, with most of the country’s Jewish communal organizations being affiliated to it. The SAJBD meets regularly with key political leaders from across the political spectrum and has been successful in forging a strong relationship with the ruling party at all levels of government. The Community Security Organization (CSO), which operates under the auspices of the SAJBD, ensures security at Jewish communal functions and at Jewish installations. The SAJBD and the CSO cooperate in monitoring antisemitism and taking appropriate action wherever possible, including lodging complaints with the police and following them up (The Stephen Roth Institute for the Study of Contemporary Antisemitism and Racism (Undated), ‘South Africa – Country Report 2006’, The Stephen Roth Institute for the Study of Contemporary Antisemitism and Racism website <http://www.tau.ac.il/Anti-Semitism/asw2006/sth-africa.htm> – Accessed 20 June 2007 – Attachment 10).

### **Internet Sources:**

The Stephen Roth Institute for the Study of Contemporary Antisemitism and Racism website <http://www.tau.ac.il/Anti-Semitism/default.htm>

### **Government Information & Reports**

Immigration & Refugee Board of Canada <http://www.irb-cisr.gc.ca/>

UK Home Office <http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/>

US Department of State <http://www.state.gov/>

### **United Nations (UN)**

UN High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) website

<http://www.unhcr.org/cgi-bin/texis/vtx/rsd>

### **Non-Government Organisations**

Human Rights Watch <http://www.hrw.org/>

Amnesty International <http://www.amnesty.org>

### **International News & Politics**

*BBC News* <http://news.bbc.co.uk>

### **Region Specific Links**

South African Government Information website <http://www.info.gov.za/>

South African Department of Labour website <http://www.labour.gov.za/index.jsp>

Department of Trade and Industry Republic of South Africa website  
<http://www.dti.gov.za/>

Jewish South Africa website <http://www.jewish.org.za/index.asp?itm=1>

### **Search Engines**

Copernic <http://www.copernic.com/>

### **Databases:**

FACTIVA (news database)

BACIS (DIMA Country Information database)

REFINFO (IRBDC (Canada) Country Information database)

ISYS (RRT Country Research database, including Amnesty International, Human Rights Watch, US Department of State Reports)

RRT Library Catalogue

### **List of Attachments**

1. MacGillivray, Liz (Undated), 'South Africa Ten Years After Apartheid: Making Progress, But Still Struggling With Racial Integration', ORC Worldwide website  
<http://www.orcinc.com/readroom/southafrica.html> – Accessed 21 June 2007.

2. 'Basic Guide to Affirmative Action' (Undated), South African Department of Labour website  
[http://www.labour.gov.za/basic\\_guides/bgguide\\_display.jsp?id=5848&programme\\_id=2670](http://www.labour.gov.za/basic_guides/bgguide_display.jsp?id=5848&programme_id=2670) – Accessed 20 June 2007.

3. Republic of South Africa 1998, 'Employment Equity Act, 1998', No. 55 of 1998, South African Department of Labour website  
<http://www.labour.gov.za/report/8276/Act%20-%20Employment%20Equity.pdf> – Accessed 20 June 2007.

4. Republic of South Africa 2004, 'Broad-Based Black Economic Empowerment Act, 2003', Act No. 53, 2003, Department of Trade and Industry Republic of South Africa website, 7 January <http://www.dti.gov.za/bee/BEEAct-2003-2004.pdf> – Accessed 20 June 2007.

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