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UCT's Safety and Violence Initiative to host panel discussion on xenophobic violence

Please cite Ms Patricia Lucas, Manager: Media Liaison & Communication, UCT

The University of Cape Town's Safety and Violence Initiative (SaVI) will hold a panel discussion this week on 'Understanding, responding to, and preventing xenophobic violence in South Africa'. on Thursday, 23 April, 2015, from 12h30 to 14h00 in Lecture Theatre 3 of the Kramer Law Building on UCT's Middle Campus.

Speakers will include Dr Gilbert Lawrence, the outgoing Head of the Western Cape Department of Community Safety; Major-General Jeremy Vearey, the South African Police Services' Head of the Anti-Gang Strategy in Western Cape; Dr Roni Amit of the African Centre for Migration and Society at Wits University; and Mr Chris Giles from Violence Prevention through Urban Upgrading.

The aim of the panel discussion is to consider the nature of xenophobic violence and how the government and the people of the Western Cape and elsewhere have and should respond to incidents of such violence. The panel will discuss the violence prevention lessons that were identified during the 2008 xenophobic violence and how these lessons could have been applied to the xenophobic violence that has taken place over the past few weeks.

SaVI is one of the strategic initiatives founded by Vice-Chancellor Dr Max Price to expand and enhance UCT's contribution to South Africa's development challenges. SaVI comprises a core group of researchers with a mandate to focus on understanding and intervening in the promotion of safety and the reduction of violence (in particular criminal violence) in the country.

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