

**ADDRESS AT THE ICPRA CONFERENCE ON
POLICE DEPLOYMENTS IN THE UNITED
NATIONS BY POPCRU GENERAL
SECRETARY CDE ABBEY WITBOOI ON 19TH
OCTOBER 2008.**

POPCRU President Cebekhulu
President of ICPRA
Revolutionary leaders of the Trade Union Movement
Distinguished Guests
Comrades

South Africa experienced great changes following the demise of Apartheid in 1994 when Nelson Mandela became the President of the country and ushered the country into a peaceful transitions towards non-racial and non-sexist democracy. Following the changes that took place, SA occupied its space among democratic nations taking part in multilateral institutions like the United Nations and was instrumental in the formation of the African Union which seeks the revival of the continent for development, peace and prosperity.

South Africa also for the first time started taking an active part in peace keeping missions under the supervision of the United Nations and the African Union.

Comrade Chairperson, please allow me to extend my revolutionary greetings to all comrades attending this august conference from all countries across the world. It is my firm view that this gathering will definitely produce workable solutions to all the challenges that we continue to grapple with on police deployments to United Nations missions.

I think we all know that South Africa has become a relatively new member of the U.N after the country was expelled in the 1970's for the Apartheid system's being declared a crime against humanity. We know that SA has participated in the resolution of many conflicts in the African Continent such as the DRC, Burundi, Sudan (Darfur), Cote Divoire, Ethiopia and Eritrea.

We know that most of the deployments in these conflict-ridden countries have been military personnel because of the nature of these conflicts. It should be mentioned that police deployments have been limited but the country's police service does have a presence in Sudan, DRC and Mozambique and other countries. Below find some of the examples:

- In the DRC members of the South African Police Service were involved in the preparations of the General elections
- Members of SAPS were also part of the civilian police structure built into the program of the AU mission in Sudan to maintain peace in the country. There were other police involved from 16 other African countries. Their role was confined to technical assistance to the Sudanese government and its police structures
- SAPS is also part of the 182 countries that form part of Interpol to deal with cross border crime
- Their mission has also been part of the effort to destroy weapons and ammunition in Mozambique and the DRC
- Moreover, they are involved in border control as a new role that they have taken over from the Defence Department

If there is a need for police deployments in the U.N, there are instructions from police management to those police officer that are going to be deployed for a specific assignment.

POPCRU, as a progressive labour union, is very critical of those countries that use the police to

perpetuate and legitimize oppression, repression and subjugation of the masses. We will continue to speak harshly against those countries that abuse the police in furthering despotic and tyrannical regimes in the African Continent and other countries across the globe.

VIVA POPCRU VIVA!!!!!!!!!!

VIVA ICPRA VIVA!!!!!!!!!!

WORKERS OF THE WORLD UNITE!!!!!!!!!!