African Policing Civilian Oversight Forum

And

Invitation to a round table discussion on the
APPLICATION OF THE SOUTH AFRICAN LEGAL FRAMEWORK ON ARREST AND DETENTION AND IT'S IMAPCT ON MIGRANTS

The 1996 South African Constitution's Bill of Rights gives all persons (documented and undocumented foreigners as well as citizens) fundamental and procedural protections and expansively delineates the rights of immigrants, protecting them from unconstitutional conduct and human rights violations. These include rights to life, dignity, equality before the law, administrative justice, basic education and health care, and labour rights. South Africa has also signed a number of international treaties guaranteeing additional rights to migrants. Overall, South Africa's constitutional guarantees of basic rights are among the most expansive and progressive in the world.

Despite this legal framework, many of South Africa's policies and actions to control immigration have been inhumane and unconstitutional, leading legal organizations to turn to the courts to ensure that migrants' rights are realised. Since the mid-1990s, international migrants have encountered an unwelcome environment while public discourse continues to focus on the economic impact and increase in crime

associated with migration. Non-nationals are remarkably vulnerable to socio-economic exclusion, corruption and violence.

Unnecessary and arbitrary use of arrest and detention violates the right to liberty and poses a risk of other human rights violations. Restrictive policy frameworks and unlawful practices by government officials contribute to the marginalization and exclusion of foreign nationals, making them particularly vulnerable to victimization at a time when anti-foreigner sentiment is rife and violence against them is increasing.

APCOF and ACMS have been undertaking research to assess the nature and extent to which national and international procedural and conditional safeguards are being upheld during the arrest and detention of non-nationals in South Africa.

The round table will discuss the outcomes of the research and specific recommendations aimed at strengthening the protections for arrest and detention of migrants as well as strengthening the monitoring and oversight of migration detention.

Date:	Friday 23 June 2017 10.00 am - 12.00pm
Venue:	Graduate Seminar Room Southwest Engineering Building East Campus, University of the Witwatersrand Braamfontein, Johannesburg, 2050

Please complete and return the attached reply form if you are interested in attending.

Kind Regards

Sean Tait
APCOF

Agenda

10.00	Registration and Welcome
10.30	Opening Remarks
11.00	Migration and Detention – Dr. Alexandra Hiropoulos - ACMS followed by question and answer session
12.00	Close and Light Lunch