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## Complaints filed against tabloid

A complaint against the Daily Sun's reporting on recent xenophobic attacks was submitted to the Press Ombudsman and the SA Human Rights Commission on Thursday.

The Media Monitoring Project (MMP) and its partner Consortium for Refugees and Migrants in South Africa (CoRMSA) submitted the complaint saying that the Daily Sun's reporting had the effect of supporting the recent violence by perpetuating stereotypes of foreigners.

One of the major complaints concerned the use of the term 'aliens' for immigrants by the newspaper and using alien logos and headlines such as 'War on Aliens'.

The use of this term was inappropriate and discriminatory, MMP said.

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The Daily Sun had failed to clearly condemn the violence, had offered no non-violent alternatives and had been biased and limited in its representation of government.

This was particularly of concern because the newspaper's large market in areas where the xenophobic violence erupted.

"The coverage of non-nationals by the Daily Sun during this period is not in line with its responsibility to fair, balanced, accurate and non discriminatory reporting, contravening several fundamental clauses of the South African Press Code," MMP said in a statement.

It was of "vital importance" that Daily Sun changed this trend in its coverage.

Publisher of the Daily Sun Deon du Plessis did not want to respond to the allegations.

"It's like talking about a court case out of court," he said.

"If the complaint is submitted to the Ombudsman, I will deal with the Ombudsman."  
- Sapa

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