

BREAKING BORDERS & BINARIES

...

WITH
TALENT
MAKANGA
HE/HIM

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Talent Makanga is a transgender man from Zimbabwe who arrived in South Africa around 2019 after being persecuted on the account of his gender identity. From 2020 until 2022, Talent could not lodge an application for asylum because the Refugee Reception Offices were closed for people who recently arrived in South Africa. In 2022, Talent used the Department of Home Affairs' (DHA) email system to request an appointment to lodge an application for asylum, however, he has not received any response from DHA yet.

This renders Talent undocumented and has placed him at risk of arrest, detention, and deportation back to a country where he faced persecution. Talent has further faced harassment and extortion from law enforcement agents in South Africa and has unfortunately had his employment contract terminated for failing to present his employer with a valid document. Talent hopes for the Refugee Reception offices to fully open and effectively cater services to asylum seekers who are in desperate need of legal recognition.

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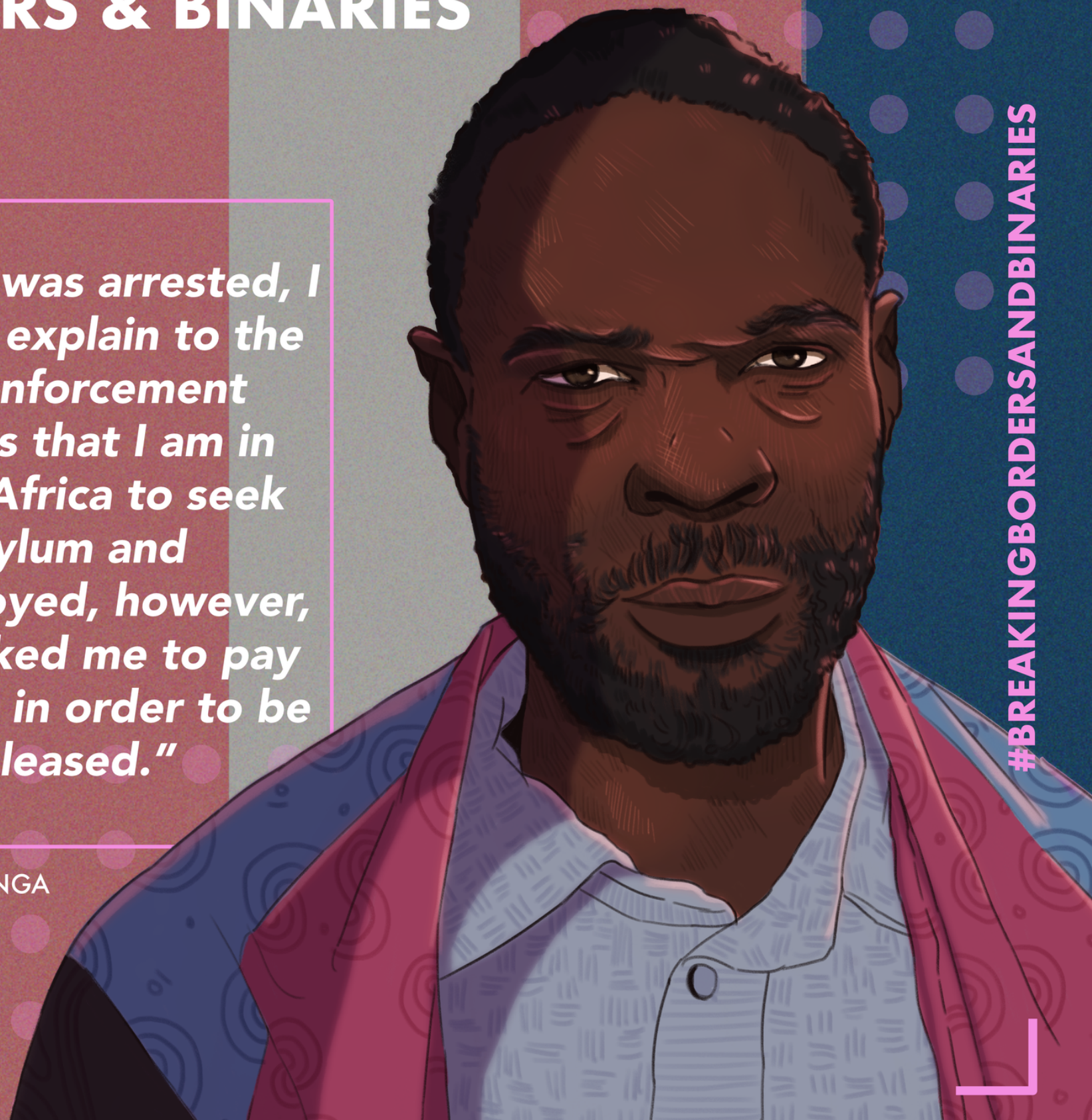


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“When I was arrested, I tried to explain to the law enforcement officers that I am in South Africa to seek asylum and unemployed, however, they asked me to pay R500,00 in order to be released.”

- TALENT MAKANGA

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Focus: Transgender and Gender non-conforming people have a right to freedom of torture and not to be exploited by law enforcement officers.

Foreign nationals in South Africa are often targeted by corrupt police officers who solicit bribes in exchange for avoiding arrest or detention. In addition to soliciting bribes, corrupt police officers also engage in the arbitrary arrest and detention of foreign nationals who may not have proper documentation, most times, due to no fault of their own.

The closure of Refugee Reception offices has made it even harder for foreign nationals to apply for asylum and other forms of protection in South Africa. While a new online application system has been introduced, it is simply not functioning properly, leaving many asylum seekers vulnerable to exploitation by corrupt police officers such as Talent.

The mistreatment of foreign nationals by police in South Africa is a serious problem that undermines the rule of law and the country's commitment to human rights and justice.

Where to Report Corruption by police officials

The Independent Police Investigations Directorate (IPID) is an independent institution established under the Constitution. It investigates any person's complaint against both the South African Police and Metro Police Services. The IPID investigates the involvement of any SAPS members in criminal activities such as corruption. For more information visit : www.ipid.gov.za

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