

South Africa accused of ‘horrific’ crackdown as 78 corpses pulled from illegal mine

STILFONTEIN, South Africa, Jan 15 (Reuters) – At least 78 dead bodies have been pulled from an illegal gold mine in South Africa where police cut off food and water supplies for months, in what trade unions called a “horrific” crackdown on desperate people trying to eke out a living.

A total of 246 survivors, some of them emaciated and disorientated, have been brought to the surface and immediately arrested for illegal mining and immigration since a court-ordered rescue operation began on Monday.

Volunteers who went down to the mine, located 2 km (1.5 miles) underground near Stilfontein, southwest of Johannesburg, told police late on Wednesday they could not see anyone left in the tunnels, a police spokesperson told reporters at the site.

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Source:

<https://www.reuters.com/world/africa/body-count-south-african-mine-rescue-operation-rises-60-2025-01-15/>

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