

In camps where petty and organized crime flourishes, camps can become zones of drug smuggling, human trafficking, illegal logging, and gun running. As in any high crime area, the non-criminal population is subject to more generalized violence, which leaches out into the surrounding community. In most camp situations crimes go unpunished because there is no adequate force to back up what rule of law does exist. Perpetrators are able to elude justice by hiding amongst the refugee population, or camps fall under the control of political or military elements, and civilian authority and sources of law and order are undermined. Refugees are then more likely to be deprived of their rights, and subject to violence and intimidation.

Finally, clashes between refugees and locals constitute a widespread security problem that usually occurs outside the camps, and sometimes in situations of self-settlement. This often arises when there is resentment by locals towards refugees for perceived wrongdoings, such as theft or immoral acts, or for inequities resulting from refugees' access to relief resources, or because refugees are blamed for other problems (including security ones) in the RPA and locals want to pressure refugees to leave.