Azad Essa
By Leigh Hermon
Some of us have already met Azad...
The Basics

• Born in Durban
• Currently living in Doha, Qatar while working for Al Jazeera.
• Has reported from all over Africa.
• He has lectured at UKZN and completed his Masters with the Global Studies Programme.
• Won Best Political Blog of the year in 2009.
• Published 2 books before he turned 30.
Books

- First book: *Zuma’s Bastard: encounters with a desktop terrorist*

Collection of blog posts in 2009.
Books...

- *The Moslems are coming: encounters with a desktop terrorist*

  Is an updated version of his first book.
The winning blog

- *The Accidental Academic*
  - Winner in 2009 for Best Political Blog
  - One of my favourite posts: ‘*Between impotency and bosoms: the other news*’
My Thought Leader blog, being a vehicle of the Mail & Guardian, is censored now and again (“We will get sued, Azad”), but the rules are still irrevocably different to the mainstream. – Interview with Leadership magazine.
His writing

- Provocative blog posts and titles:
  - ‘The blacks have f***** it up haven’t they?’
  - Extra! Extra! Screwing Indians wholesale
  - Maybe the Holocaust was not enough
- Edgy
- Fun
- Not apologetic
- Offensive
Maybe the Holocaust was not enough.

In an instant, Germany’s dramatic apologies turned hollow. It suddenly felt like a charade; just an ingredient contributing to the melancholic texture of Germany’s dark 20th century history.

...

The xenophobic violence in South Africa didn’t emerge from thin air. South Africans were speaking a language of xenophobia for some time before someone lit the first match.