

ONLY THE RICH ARE VISIBLE

Strained Karana-Madagascan relations

Of **25,000 Indo-Pakistani Karana**, about **5,000 are stateless** and predominantly poor. Other Karana are citizens of Madagascar or other countries.

The Karana are seen as **very well-off** and are said to control 50 to 60 percent of the national economy. That is unlikely in a country with 27 million people.

In 2017, Forbes named **five Karana among ten multi-millionaire Madagascans**, including Ylias Akbaraly, owner of the conglomerate Sipromad, the country's largest private firm.

Since the 1980s, Karana neighbourhoods have been **devastated**, possibly targeted to distract from home-grown economic crises.

Since about 2010, **over 100 Karana, adults and children**, have been kidnapped and released in exchange for high ransoms, including by gangs with police contacts. Many cases go unreported. Other Madagascans are also kidnapped for financial, business and political reasons.

The **economic position** of the Karana and xenophobic public opinion about them make attempts to improve the legal status of stateless persons unpopular.