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THE STAR JOHANNESBURG

POLICE HELD UP JAIL VISIT TO ESSOP

Pretoria Bureau

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On October 29 Mr Ismail Essop obtained a temporary order in the Supreme Court in Pretoria prohibiting the police from interrogating his 21-year-old Witwatersrand University student son in any way other than prescribed by law.

In terms of the temporary order granted by Mr Justice Margo, the detainee was to be served with a copy of the interdict.

The first attempt to do so by an officer of the Supreme Court failed. On November 2 the Assistant Deputy Sheriff, Mr H. P. N. van Zyl, visited the Pretoria Central Prison, where he served a copy of the interdict on a Captain Schnepel, the officer in charge of the prison.

The return of service document signed by Mr van Zyl says that Captain Schnepel refused to allow the Deputy Sheriff to see the detainee personally in order to serve a copy of the interdict on him. His reason was that he was under instructions to allow no one to see Mr Essop. According to the return of service document, Captain Schnepel accepted service of the interdict for and on behalf of the detainee.

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Nearly a week later, on November 8, it has been reliably confirmed, the Sheriff of the Supreme Court, Mr J. J. Myburgh, was successful in serving a copy of the interdict on Mr Essop personally.

Telephoned for comment at his office in Pretoria this morning, General P. J. Venter, head of the Security Police, said: "I have nothing to say about anything, you will get nothing out of me. My door is closed."