

POLICE HIELD UP JAIL VISIT TO ESSOP

THE STAR FROM NOVEMBER 12 1971
Pretoria Bureau

A COURT OFFICIAL was prevented for nine days from serving a copy of an interdict on the Security Police detainee Mohamed Essop.

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 Schepel, the officer in charge of the prison.

The return of service document signed by Mr van Zyl says that Captain Schepel 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 Schepel accepted service of the interdict for and on behalf of the detainee.

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."

THE STAR Detainee MURPHY, NOV 15 released by police

MR HASSEN JOOMA (30), a Pretoria schoolteacher was released on Friday night after almost three weeks in Security Police detention at John Vorster Square.

A relative said today that police took him by car from Johannesburg to his Pretoria home.

Mr Jooma, a married man who teaches at Laudium High School, spent the weekend at Brits and left for Pretoria today to write his examinations for a 11b degree.

He was arrested in the nation-wide swoop that preceded the death of Mr Ahmed Timol.

He was the first detainee to be released in Johannesburg since the release early last week of Mr Joergen Wagner, a German photographer.

British and Australian authorities confirmed today that the position of the two Britons and the Australian, who shared a studio with Mr Wagner, was unchanged.

All three were still in detention and no further action had been taken by their countries since they were visited in detention last week.