

POLICE WILL NOT SAY IF ESSOP IS STILL IN HOSPITAL

By JENNIFER MILES

THE FAMILY OF MR. MOHAMED ESSOP, the detainee who was taken to hospital a few days after being detained by Security Police, have not received any news of his condition since October 29, when Mr. Justice Margo granted an interdict in the Pretoria Supreme Court restraining the police from assaulting him.

Medical affidavits from doctors who had examined Mr. Essop were presented at the hearing and this is the only information the family has as to what is wrong with him.

"This is the last news we heard of Mohamed's condition," said Mrs. Essop at her Rooderpoort home this week.

"We have tried to find out from the police how he is and whether he is still in hospital but have not been successful. Our daughter Fatima is being held as well. We have heard nothing about her.

"We are beside ourselves with worry. Each night we hold a prayer meeting for them. Prayer is the only comfort we have."

Granting the interdict, Mr.

Justice Margo ordered that a copy of the interdict be served on Mr. Essop.

But the court records show that Mr. H. N. P. van Zyl, the assistant deputy sheriff charged with executing this service, was refused access to Mr. Essop.

Police captain

The return of service filed by Mr. Van Zyl in accordance with legal requirements reads:

"On this 2nd day of November, 1971 at 9.30 am. I duly served a copy of the annexed order of court upon Captain Schnepel personally, the officer in charge of the section of the prison in which the detainee is held, and then requested per-

mission to serve a further copy upon the detainee, Mohamed Salim Essop.

"Capt. Schnepel refused to allow me to see the detainee personally, stating that his instructions were to the effect that no one was to be allowed to see the detainee.

"I thereupon served the order of court upon the said detainee by delivering a copy thereof to Capt. Schnepel who accepted service thereof for and on behalf of the said detainee."

A further return of service, dated November 8, states that a copy of the court order was served personally on Mr. Essop on that day by the Registrar of the Supreme Court, Mr. J. J. Myburgh.