

Minister, police to be sued

2 get R10 000

Essop

claim

THE family of a former Terrorist Act detainee, Mr. Mohamed Essop, 21, who was held incommunicado for 137 days, is to sue the Minister of Police, Mr. Louwrens Muller and Colonel P. Greyling, head of the Security Police in Johannesburg, for R10 000.

THE STAR WEDNESDAY
Detainee freed
after 133
MARCH 9 1972

days

MR. KANTLAL NAICK, an Indian schoolteacher, was released by Security Police yesterday after being detained for 133 days under section 6 of the Terrorism Act.

Mr Naick was unavailable for comment today. Friends said he had gone to stay with his parents in Roodepoort.

The released detainee was among the original group arrested on the weekend of October 23 and 24 last year. He is believed to be a close friend of Mr Mohammed Essop, who was held at the same time.

Mr Naick was studying part-time for his BEd degree at Wits University, but a friend said he had registered from prison to continue his studies full-time this year. He already has a BA degree from Wits.

His cousin, Mr Dennis Naick, was detained on November 11 and is still being held. The number of people in detention is at least 13.

Mr. Mohamed Essop, a second-year medical student who was detained on October 23, was charged under the Terrorism Act and the Suppression of Communism Act on March 8. The hearing was postponed, and he was remanded in custody.

Last month Mr. Justice Marais and Mr. Justice Theron confirmed a Supreme Court order restraining the Security Police from assaulting Mr. Essop, interrogating him unlawfully or applying undue pressure on him.

Shortly after the court order was confirmed, the Commissioner of Police, General G. J. Joubert announced that the police had lodged an appeal.

Yesterday his father, Mr. Ismail Essop, of Roodepoort, released a statement through his attorneys which read: "I have given instructions to my legal representative to claim damages against the Minister of Police and Col. P. Greyling for R10 000, arising out of the treatment of my son Mohammed Salim Essop while in the custody of the Security Police."

"Even though the details are known to me I have been advised it would not be correct to disclose them at this stage." He said the details of the action will be disclosed to the court at the proper time.

According to affidavits before the Supreme Court last month, Mr. Essop was admitted unconscious to the Johannesburg General Hospital on October 26 last year.

The same day he was removed to the H. F. Verwoerd Hospital, where his father tried to see him, but was told he was not there.

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prison hospital, the court was told.

Affidavits by counsel for the Essop family alleged that, according to nurses at the H. F. Verwoerd Hospital, he was in a critical condition on the night of October 26 and it was feared that he would not pull through.

Conflicting medical evidence about Essop's condition was given at a subsequent hearing of the interdict with the State alleging that he was simulating hysteria.

Mr. Essop's two sisters, Miss Fatima Essop, 28, and Miss Hafiza Essop, 21, were also detained under the Terrorism Act and held in solitary confinement. The elder sister was detained for 74 days and her sister for 60 days before being re-

leased. Neither was charged.

Attorneys for Mr. Essop senior (Mr. M. S. H. Kachalia and Mr. M. A. Loonard) confirmed last night that a letter to the Minister of Police giving notice of the action was served at his Pretoria office on Thursday.

A similar letter was served on Colonel Greyling, head of the Johannesburg Security Police, at John Vorster Square on Friday.

Mr. Mohamed Essop was detained on October 23. Since his detention he has been the subject of a long detailed court action which had several return dates and was reported on prominently by the English-language Press.

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