

'No one can see Essop'

THE Commissioner of Police, General Gideon Joubert, confirmed today that no outsider would be permitted to see Mr Mohamed Essop, the Security Police detainee, in the Pretoria prison hospital.

Asked whether any independent doctors would be allowed to examine the detainee, as suggested by Mr Justice Margo in the Pretoria Supreme Court on Friday, General Joubert said: "For the present nobody will be permitted to see him."

He added that Mr Essop was free to lay charges against the Security Police, but had not done so.

INQUEST

"I have no evidence whatsoever that Mr Essop was treated unreasonably or was assaulted. But if he submits a charge of assault, this will be dealt with in the customary manner and presented to the Attorney General or his representative."

As far as he was concerned, there was "nothing the matter" with Mr Essop apart from what emerged from medical evidence which was placed before Mr Justice Margo on Friday.

About the investigation into the circumstances surrounding the death of Mr Ahmed Timol, General Joubert said: "The investigation is being expedited to allow an inquest at the earliest opportunity."

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