



For Immediate release:

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CoRMSA condemns the nationality motivated killing in Diepsloot Township.

The Consortium for Refugees and Migrants in South Africa (CoRMSA) is devastated and deeply saddened to hear through Media reports on the brutal killing of Mr Elvis Nyathi which was motivated by xenophobia and nationality status. CoRMSA sends its heartfelt condolences to the Nyathi family on the untimely passing of their family member. May the soul of Mr Nyathi rest in peace. This is indeed terrible news to hear as CoRMSA, working on the protection and promotion of human rights for asylum seekers, refugees and migrants in South Africa, the region and globally. CoRMSA read with sadness the media reports with attentiveness and interest on the intervention outcome of the law enforcement agencies and the relevant authorities on this matter. CoRMSA will monitor the South African Police Service (SAPS) 's investigation on this sad matter to see that perpetrators involved are brought to book to account for their murder actions. No one, regardless of the position that he/she holds in the community, is allowed to take one's life, whether a non-national or local citizen.

With regard to access to justice, equality and the respect for human dignity, CoRMSA calls upon the community of Diepsloot Township and other surrounding areas not to take the law into their own hands but to respect the rule of law and to work with the law enforcement agencies in uprooting any criminal activities in their areas and allow the Home Affairs Immigration Officials to perform their work of verifying the documentation status of any migrants in the country. Constitutionally and legally, no ordinary citizen is permitted to invade one 's residential area and forcefully request documentation except the mandated and authorised officials. CoRMSA further submits that any form of crime should be dealt with as crime without even attaching the nationality aspect as that causes division and misrepresentation on what needs to be addressed between crime and nationality. Ignoring this has now led to the death of an innocent soul.

CoRMSA further believes that Mr. Nyathi did not deserve to die like he did in the name of documentation and gross xenophobic actions. Therefore, the rule of law must be observed and take its course in Diepsloot and other surrounding areas and we call upon the Department of Justice and Constitutional Development and Justice to monitor the situation and make it a point that justice is served to the Nyathi family by making sure that perpetrators are held accountable. The Nyathi family deserves equal protection and the benefit of law.

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