

**CoRMSA calls for the involvement of the UNHCR in the investigation of the stampede incident at Tshwane Refugee Reception Centre that left one dead and many injured.**

Our deepest condolences go to the family and relatives of the victim who died on Tuesday 20th August 2024 at the Tshwane Refugee Reception Office. Our hearts sympathise with all those who were injured as a result of this incident. We wish them a swift and full recovery.

The Consortium for Refugees and Migrants in South Africa (CoRMSA) is devastated and deeply saddened to hear through Media reports on the passing of a non-national who was seeking Asylum at the Tshwane Refugee Reception Centre on Tuesday 20th of August 2024. 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 these media reports with attentiveness and interest of wanting to monitor and follow the South African police reports on their investigation.

In light of the above, CoRMSA strongly calls and recommends that the South African Police Service invite the Office of the United Nations High Commission for Refugees (UNHCR) to participate in and monitor all the processes of this incident investigation as the office tasked to protect and promote the affairs of the forced migrants (asylum seekers and refugees) in the country. The involvement of the UNHCR will ensure that the investigators are informed and are aware of, and act on, their State's obligations to protect refugees and persons seeking asylum in South Africa without any form of discrimination based on one's nationality status. CoRMSA respects and appreciates the role that UNHCR play in engaging in asylum seeker and refugee affairs. However, we are convinced that this is the opportune time for the office of the UNHCR to be involved in a monitoring role on matters affecting asylum seekers and refugees.

In the interest of access to justice and respect for human dignity, CoRMSA and its member organisations have been advocating for better service delivery at all Refugee Reception Centres around the country by engaging, and addressing the systematic, administrative, and inhumane attitudes when processing and administrating asylum related matters. This incident reflects the growing frustrations among asylum seekers, who have endured months of uncertainty and hardship while attempting to secure the documentation necessary to live with dignity in our country. CoRMSA will continue to stand in solidarity and work to protect the human rights of asylum seekers, refugees, and migrants in South Africa while watchfully waiting for the outcome of the SAPS investigation into this death of



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an innocent human seeking protection from the South African government through asylum process.

**Refugee Rights Are Human Rights Too.**

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