



'Nothing' done to help refugees reintegrate

The government had done nothing to help victims of xenophobic violence be reintegrated into communities, the Constitutional Court heard on Monday.

All it had done was extend the deadline for the closure of the shelter camp to give refugees more time to make their own arrangements, the Court was told by Advocate, Nadine Fourie.

It was only after a High Court ruling last week that the government undertook to help those who approached it with specific needs, she submitted.

Fourie was appearing for foreign nationals Odinga Mamba, Vasch Mitabelee, Kiza Milinga Issa, Davidzo Aabidah Maduviko and the Consortium for Refugees and Migrants in South Africa.

They have asked the Constitutional Court to compile and publish a plan for the reintegration of the victims of xenophobic violence within 30 days.

They have also asked the Court to order the government to implement such a plan within 60 days.

The court action has given occupants of the camps a reprieve.

The shelters were to have been dismantled on Friday, however the Gauteng Department of Local Government has undertaken not to close down any of the six shelters in the province until the court action is finalised.

The hearings on Friday were to determine whether the case should indeed be considered by the Constitutional Court, which is the highest court in the land, instead of on appeal in a lower court.

It is also hearing arguments on whether it should grant the foreign nationals interim relief, even if it does not hear their appeal. - Sapa

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