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## Bid to keep refugee camps open fails

The Consortium for Refugees and Migrants in SA and the Wits Law Clinic have vowed to approach the constitutional court to keep Gauteng's refugee shelters open.

This was after Pretoria High Court Judge Ephraim Makgoba on Tuesday dismissed an urgent application to keep the shelters open, pending the introduction of a proper re-integration plan.

One of the legal representatives of the applicants, Stuart Wilson, said they were "very disappointed" with the ruling.

He contended the judgment did not sufficiently address the constitutional rights of their clients - people who had been treated in the "most shocking and disgusting way" in their own countries and South Africa.

Wilson said the ruling had been wrong in law, and they intended lodging an urgent appeal in the constitutional court on Wednesday.

Judge Makgoba earlier said the government was not violating any rights of the more than 4 000 refugees housed in temporary refugee shelters and was under no obligation to come up with a re-integration plan.

The ruling meant the government would be able to go ahead with its plans to dismantle the camps by Friday.

The judge said it was not as if the government had not been managing the disaster, which followed in the wake of widespread xenophobic attacks on foreigners in the country, but said "it had to end somewhere". - Sapa

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