

For Immediate Release:

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CoRMSA Welcomes Court Interdict Against Operation Dudula

The Consortium for Refugees and Migrants in South Africa (CoRMSA) welcomes the recent landmark judgment by the Gauteng High Court in Johannesburg on Tuesday, 04 November 2025, which issued a far-reaching interdict declaring Operation Dudula's actions of harassing, intimidating, and obstructing foreign nationals as unlawful and unconstitutional.

Through this judgment, the Court underscored the supremacy of the rule of law, making it clear that no private individual or group may assume the authority to take the law into their own hands. The Court further affirmed that only duly authorised immigration and police officers, as provided for under Section 41 of the Immigration Act, may lawfully request identification documents from individuals. In essence, the Court has explicitly interdicted Operation Dudula and its leaders from conducting such unlawful activities or engaging in any form of intimidation, harassment, eviction, or hate speech against foreign nationals. This judgment serves as an important reminder that mob justice and vigilantism have no place in a constitutional democracy governed by the rule of law.

The judgment further ordered the government to operationalise the *National Action Plan to Combat Racism, Racial Discrimination, Xenophobia and Related Intolerance* by taking concrete steps to ensure that it achieves its objective of building a non-racial, non-sexist society founded on human dignity, equality, and the advancement of human rights and freedoms.

CoRMSA, with its 33 member organisations across the country, united under a shared mandate to promote and protect the human rights of asylum seekers, refugees, and migrants in South Africa, the region, and globally, believes that this judgment does not just serve access to justice but reaffirms the fundamental rights and inherent dignity of all people living in South Africa, regardless of their nationality or legal status.

Furthermore, this judgment has provided a solid and direct foundation for law enforcement agencies and relevant authorities to use this court ruling as a basis to intervene and prevent Operation Dudula and its affiliates from engaging in unlawful acts of vigilantism against foreign nationals in the country. CoRMSA expects greater proactivity from law enforcement agencies as a result of this court outcome.

CoRMSA commends its allies and all parties involved in this landmark court victory, including Kopanang Africa Against Xenophobia, the South African Informal Traders Forum, the Inner City Federation, and the Abahlali baseMjondolo Movement SA. Their collective efforts and dedication are truly commendable.

CoRMSA remains committed to advancing social cohesion, justice, and the protection of the rights of all who live in South Africa. Together, we can build a society grounded in dignity, equality, and respect for human rights.

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