

Blacks thrown out of flat in Albert Park

Catherine Ensor

A BLACK Durban couple are set to spend the weekend on the streets after being thrown out of their flat in whites-only Albert Park.

Mr Thula Mchunu, a final year computer science student, and Miss Eunis Ntlemo, an education student, returned to their flat in Ruslynn Court to find their possessions had been dumped in the corridor and the locks on the door had been changed.

Mr Mchunu said this was the second time they had been thrown out of a flat in a white area in three months.

"We have no place to stay and we tried in vain to secure the services of a lawyer. Eventually we turned to the Durban Central Residents' Association."

The general co-ordinator of the DCRA, Mr O.K. Moodley, said: "You can't take the law into your own hands and this is exactly what the landlord has done".

The regional director of Lawyers for Human Rights, Mr Churton Collins, said that as there was no court order authorising the eviction, the action was illegal and he added that unless possession of the flat was restored, an action for damages would be instituted.

The Democratic Party MP for Umbilo, Mrs Carol Charlewood, said the eviction was a "most inhuman way for people to be treated" and said her party would investigate the matter.

According to the owner of the flat, Mrs Charlotte Crafford of Amanzimtoti, the flat was leased out in a verbal agreement to Ms Christina Scott of Durban. She added that Ms Scott had never occupied the flat and had sublet it illegally without her permission.

Mrs Crafford said she was initially not aware that the flat was being occupied by blacks but had asked Ms Scott to vacate the premises by the end of December because it was needed by a family member.

Ms Scott denied that she had agreed to vacate the flat.



THULA MCHUNU and Eunis Ntlemo, thrown out of their flat in Albert Park, Durban.