His Majesty King Mswati III of Eswatini

Private Bag X208

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ESWATINI

Datum

**Mthandeni Dube und Mduduzi Bacede Mabuza**

Your Majesty,

I am writing to bring to your attention the continued arbitrary detention of two Members of Parliament (MPs) *Mduduzi Bacede Mabuza* and *Mthandeni Dube*, both elected Members of Parliament in Eswatini. They have been detained since 25 July 2021 for peacefully advocating democratic reform, including calls for an elected prime minister and the repeal of repressive laws. Their arrest followed nationwide pro-democracy protests triggered by the death of 25-year-old law student Thabani Nkomonye allegedly at the hands of the Royal Eswatini Police officers between 8 and 9 May 2021. Both MPs were convicted and sentenced last July to 85 years (*Mabuza*) and 58 years (*Dube*) imprisonment, respectively—despite the absence of credible evidence and amid serious fair trial concerns.

I urge you to immediately and unconditionally release *Mduduzi Bacede Mabuza* and *Mthandeni Dube* and quash all politically motivated charges against them. Their continued detention solely for exercising their right to freedom of expression violates both Eswatini’s Constitution and international human rights law.

Yours sincerely,