His Majesty King Mswati III of Eswatini
Private Bag X208, Lozitha Royal Palace
Lobamba, H106
**ESWATINI**

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 came amid 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.

The two men were convicted under Section 5(1) of the Counter-Terrorism Act and Section 4(b) of the Subversive and Subversive Activities Act. Both MPs were sentenced last July to 85 years (Mabuza) and 58 years (Dube) imprisonment—despite the absence of credible evidence and amid serious concerns regarding the fairness of the trial.

I urge you to immediately and unconditionally release Mduduzi Bacede Mabuza and Mthandeni Dube and revoke the 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.  As the King of Eswatini you are to care and protect all your subjects equally and these two men deserve to be treated as such, with fairness above all.

Yours sincerely