President Cyril Ramaphosa

Private Bag X1000

Pretoria, 0001

**SÜDAFRIKA**

Dear President

I am writing to you in regards to Human rights defender Thapelo Mohapi, the General Secretary of Abahlali baseMjondolo (AbM), a grassroots movement that originated in eThekwini in the KwaZulu-Natal province in 2005. Thapelo is currently in hiding after facing ongoing threats and intimidation for his activism work. These threats have intensified in the lead up to South Africa’s national election this year. Under Thapelo’s leadership, the AbM movement has grown from 13,000 to 115,000 members nationally who fight for human rights for all, particularly with respect to access to land and adequate housing. Most importantly, AbM reports that 25 of its activists, members and supporters have been killed in their 18-year existence, some in relation to their human rights work.

I therefore kindly call on you to ensure thorough, timely, impartial and effective investigations are carried out into killings of AbM members, with suspected perpetrators held to account. I also ask you to take measures such as passing adequate laws to ensure the protection of human rights defenders in South Africa.

By accepting your position as President you have made an unconditional commitment to the service of justice and peace in South Africa. May your efforts lead to the betterment of the country safeguarding the rights and standard of living of all the citizens.

Sincerely