

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

July 2025

Mduduzi Bacede Mabuza and Mthandeni Dube,

members of parliament in Eswatini

Your Majesty,

Following the death of law student Thabani Nkomonye, allegedly at the hands of the Royal Eswatini Police officers between 8 and 9 May 2021, there were nationwide protests. The protesters peacefully advocated democratic reform, including calls for an elected prime minister and the repeal of repressive laws. They were also joined by two members of the Parliament of Eswatini, Mduduzi Bacede Mabuza and Mthandeni Dube, who were consequently arrested, convicted and sentenced last July to 85 years (Mabuza) and 58 years (Dube) imprisonment, although there had not been any credible evidence. Their trial was most unfair, involving, e.g. charges of murder, although the two had not been anywhere near the place where the crime had been committed.

Their continued detention solely for exercising their right to freedom of expression violates both Eswatini's Constitution and international human rights law, so I urge you to immediately and unconditionally release Mduduzi Bacede Mabuza and Mthandeni Dube.

Yours sincerely,