

President Cyril Ramaphosa
Private Bag X1000
Pretoria, 0001
SÚDAFRIKA

Berlin, 2024

THAPELO MOHAPI

Dear President,

I am much concerned about the South African human rights activist Thapelo Mohapi, who is currently in hiding after facing ongoing threats and intimidation. These threats have intensified in the lead up to South Africa's national election this year. Thapelo Mohapi is the General Secretary of Abahlali baseMjondolo (AbM), a grassroots movement, whose supporters fight for human rights for all, particularly with respect to access to land and adequate housing. The movement started in 2005 in eThekweni in KwaZulu-Natal province and has grown from 13,000 to 115,000 members under Thapelo's leadership. They try to fight corruption, to improve schools, and they run community kitchens and gardens. Regrettably, 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 ask you to take measures towards parliament passing adequate laws to ensure the protection of human rights defenders in South Africa. I also call on you to ensure that impartial and effective investigations are carried out into killings of AbM members, with suspected perpetrators held to account.

Yours sincerely,