

Prime Minister of the Kingdom of Eswatini

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Driebergen-Rijsenburg

Dear Honourable Prime Minister,

I am writing to express my concern for the ongoing arbitrary detention of two former Members of Parliament, Mduduzi Bacede Mabuza and Mthandeni Dube. They were arrested on 25 July 2021 amid a wave of "pro-democracy" protests and after almost two years of arbitrary detention, convicted of trumped-up charges of terrorism, sedition and murder. In July 2024, Mabuza and Dube were sentenced to 85 years and 58 years respectively, with effective sentence terms of 25 years and 18 years respectively due to concurrent sentences.

I urge you to immediately and unconditionally release them and quash the convictions against them as their prosecution stems from the exercise of their human rights, calling peacefully for political reform in Eswatini. Pending their release, they must be protected from torture and other ill-treatment, given regular and unfettered access to their families and lawyers and access to adequate health care, food and clean drinking water.

Thank you for your attention.

Yours sincerely,

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The Netherlands