

We demand a democratically elected National Constitutional Forum!

-- Unban political parties NOW!

Today, a brutal and repressive regime:

The people of Swaziland live under a state of emergency. The state bans political parties and outlaws all forms of political activity. The majority of people are denied the freedom to organise, associate and speak out. Only members of the royal family and the elite minority enjoy these rights in Swaziland. The majority of the people live and work under the tinkhundla system, where royal rule and economic exploitation wield power under the name of "Swazi culture and tradition".

Demand a democratic Swaziland:

The people of Swaziland have taken up the struggle for a society based on respect for human dignity, democracy and social justice. Through their representative organisations, the workers, youth, political movements, women, churches, and rural landless masses together call for a free and democratic society.

The Swazi rulers have responded to these demands with extreme police brutality and torture, state violence, and daily persecution. Activists have been arrested, forced into exile, thrown out of their land of birth; some have lost their jobs and other means of livelihood.

Forward to a democratically elected National Constitutional Forum:

Swaziland's present constitution was imposed by the Mswati regime, accompanied by massive arrests and torture, particularly of PUDEMO and SWAYOCO members; and the repression of rural landless people in places like Kamkhweli and Macetjeni. The media and judiciary still remain controlled by the king. Security forces intimidate, harass, and terrorise political activists. As members of the international community, we join hands with the people of Swaziland to demand a democratically elected National Constitutional Forum.

Stand in solidarity:

Freedom-loving South Africans can not stand by and watch the brutality of the Mswati regime. We stand in solidarity with the people of Swaziland in their quest for democracy, economic justice and social progress for all. We call for a Swaziland free from royal monopoly, built upon the participation of all people in the country's affairs. We call upon the international community to isolate Mswati's regime at all international forums. We call for international business to stop investments that support the Swazi royal elite on the back of massive poverty.



We support the demands of the people of Swaziland:

- ★ **Convene a democratically elected National Constitutional Forum**
- ★ **Unban all political parties**
- ★ **Release all political prisoners unconditionally, and let all exiles return**
- ★ **Remove all laws that prohibit free political activity – all people must have the right to associate, organise and speak freely**
- ★ **Recognise and protect workers rights to form unions, to bargain, and to strike**
- ★ **Isolate Mswati's oppressive regime from international forums; stop international business from supporting the Swazi regime and benefitting from workers' misery.**

