



JOINT PRESS STATEMENT ON THE MURDER OF EWSATINI HUMAN RIGHTS LAWYER THULANI MASEKO

Lusaka, 27th January 2023

Members of the Press,

Ladies and Gentlemen,

Greetings to you all

On the evening of 21st January 2023, human rights lawyer and pro-democracy activist, Thulani Maseko, was assassinated at his home in Eswatini. The undersigned organisations would like, first of all, to offer our deepest condolences to Thulani's wife, Tanele, his two children, his wider family, and the human rights community of Eswatini.

We further express our revulsion at the brutality of a regime that finds the lives of citizens who speak up in defence of democracy dispensable. We stand in solidarity with the efforts of Swazi citizens to hold their government to account and insist that power should always be exercised in the best interests of the people.

Thulani was a consummate human rights actor who travelled the continent to offer solidarity to anyone facing trouble from the kind of tyrannical regimes that took his own life. He travelled to Zambia to offer solidarity to civic actors when they were in trouble with an intolerant government. His death is therefore a great loss not only to Eswatini, but also to the African and global human rights community.

We end our statement by encouraging civic actors in Eswatini to remain resolute in their fight for democracy and human rights. Yours is a difficult fight; but it is a good fight. Your comrades in Zambia are holding you in their hearts. We also call on all organisations in the region and wider Africa who promote Human rights to stand together in solidarity with Eswatini Human Rights Defenders.

Issued for/on behalf of the following undersigned organizations and individuals:

Signed by

Laura Miti

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Laura Miti". The signature is written in a cursive style with a long horizontal line extending from the end.

**Executive Director
Alliance for Community Action**

On behalf of

Africans Raising Zambia Chapter

Alliance for Accountability Advocates Zambia

Bloggers of Zambia

Council of Churches Zambia

Centre for Trade and policy Development

Chapter One Foundation

Fighting Inequality Zambia Chapter

Non-Governmental Gender Organisations' Coordinating Council (NGOCC)

Oxfam Southern Africa

PANOS Institute for Southern Africa

Peoples Action for Accountability and Good Governance in Zambia (PAAGGZ)

Transparency International Zambia

Zambia Council for Social Development

Human Rights Defenders

Engwase Mwale

Eugene Kalibika

Maiko Zulu

Nalucha Ziba

Pamela Chisanga