

Ayuba Wabba

President
Président
Präsident
Presidente

Themba N. Masuku
Acting Prime Minister
c/o Embassy of eSwatini
Avenue Winston Churchill,188
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Brussels

By email

Sharan Burrow

General Secretary
Secrétaire générale
Generalsekretärin
Secretaria General

HTUR/ZM

1 July 2021

The ITUC condemns state repression against protesters

Dear Prime Minister,

On behalf of the ITUC, representing 200 million workers in 163 countries including eSwatini, we condemn the recent surge in violence and repression against peaceful protesters by the security forces in your country.

The ITUC has been following the developments in your country and is reliably informed that the protests that started on 26 June 2021 were caused by your government's decision to ban delivery of petitions by protesters. The petitioners are demanding a constitutionally established democracy in which the people elect their government representatives in full freedom. Mass protests calling for democracy have persistently arisen since the promulgation of the 1973 decree that banned multipartyism. We believe that they will continue as long as your government does not respond to the will of the people.

in addition to injuries being caused by the security forces, thousands of workers are not able to report for duty as a consequence of the violent crackdown against peaceful protesters. The ITUC is extremely concerned that, in the absence of any social or employment protection, these workers are likely to lose their incomes without any compensation from your government, resulting in abject poverty faced by thousands of poor households.

Prime Minister, the ITUC implores your government to respect workers' rights and the people of eSwatini's rights to freedom of association and peaceful assembly. Your government must ensure that protesters are not punished for claiming their rights or expressing political views. We demand the immediate and unconditional release of all those arrested and a stop to the repression. We call upon your government to engage in meaningful dialogue with the protest leaders to resolve the impasse and start building towards a democratic and resilient society.

Yours sincerely,



General Secretary