



Public Service Alliance of Canada
Alliance de la Fonction publique du Canada

By fax 011 268 404 3943

April 27, 2011

Prime Minister
Dr. Barnabas Sibusiso Dlamini
P.O. Box 395
Mbabane
SWAZILAND

Prime Minister Barnabas Sibusiso Dlamini:

On behalf of the Public Service Alliance of Canada, a national union made up of over 180,000 members, we would like to express our strong condemnation for the recent clampdown on trade unionists and other pro-democracy campaigners in Swaziland. We are concerned about media reports of student and union leaders arrested; beating and battering of peaceful and defenseless protesters; detention without trial and legal representations; marshal law style clamp-down on activities; abduction and forced displacement of people; and mass forceful closure of trade union offices.

Unionists such as Barnes Dlamini, President of the Swaziland Federation of Trade Unions (SFTU); Vincent Ncongwane, Secretary General of the (SFTU); Muzi Mhlanga, Secretary General of the Swaziland National Association of Teachers (SNAT) ; Sibongile Mazibuko, President of the SNAT; Nomkhosi Dlamini Gumedze, Secretary of the SFTU Women's Committee; Quinton Dlamini, President of the National Public Services and Allied and Workers Union (NAPSAWU) and SFTU Central Executive Committee; Bheki Mamba, President of the Swaziland National Nurses Association, and Phumelele Zulu, executive member of the Swaziland Federation of Labour were arrested, detained and subjected to verbal and physical abuse. We also understand that a number of pro-democracy activists were treated in the same manner. While most of the union leaders were later released, others were detained following their release, and others are under house arrest.



We urge your government to immediately take the Swazi workers' legitimate demands into account and to respect the rights enshrined in ILO Convention 87 which was ratified by your country. Unionists should be able to operate in your country without fear of detention or violent reprisals.

We call upon the government of Swaziland to peacefully begin dialogue with all the stakeholders of the country.

Sincerely,



John Gordon
National President

c.c. Police Commissioner Isaac Magagula
Mbabane, SWAZILAND

Kwasi Adu-Amankwah
General Secretary, ITUC-Africa

Kamalesh Sharma
Secretary General of the Commonwealth

J Mucunguzi
Commonwealth Africa

Swaziland High Commission of Ottawa.

Ken Georgetti, President
Canadian Labour Congress