

Hon. Pholile Dlamini-Shakantu
Minister of Justice and Constitutional Affairs
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Your Excellency,

I write to bring to your attention the unlawful killing of human rights lawyer, activist and former prisoner of conscience **Thulani Maseko**. On 21 January 2023, **Maseko** was shot by unidentified assailants through an open window of his living room. There is reason to believe that **Maseko** was attacked in relation to his work as a human rights lawyer and defender. Prior to his death, he chaired the Multi-Stakeholders Forum, a group of political parties and civil society groups calling for democratic reform in the country. He has previously been targeted by the state for demanding justice and criticizing the country's judiciary. The day before he was killed, King Mswati III reportedly said in a public address that those who are calling for democratic reform in the country would be "dealt with".

I urge you as the Ministry of Justice and Constitutional Affairs to ensure that the unlawful killing of **Thulani Maseko** is promptly, thoroughly, impartially, independently, transparently and effectively investigated and that anyone suspected to be responsible is brought to justice in a fair trial.

Yours sincerely,