



M. Barnabas Sibusiso Dlamini  
Prime Minister  
Prime Minister's Office  
Hospital Hill  
Off Mhlambanyatsi Road  
Mbabane  
Swaziland

Fax: 00 00 263.4.70.38.58

Stockholm April 18, 2011

Dear Prime Minister,

The Union of Civil Servants in Sweden, ST, hereby denounces the violence and arrests with which pro-democracy demonstrations were met on Tuesday 12 April. The protests that were announced correctly and well in advance were conducted in a peaceful and organised manner and expressed legitimate demands for democratic rights. Despite this, protestors were met by heavily armed police and military using teargas and arresting hundreds of people.

Among these arrested were at least eight trade union leaders as well as democracy activists and journalists. Several of these are still under arrest or placed in house arrest. The police also raided the office of the Swazi Federation of Trade Unions (SFTU) and harassed the staff. For at least one day, SFTUs office was surrounded and staff and leaders were not allowed to exit.

Repression of peaceful protests was particularly hard in the city of Manzini where military forces were armed with tear gas, shields and rifles. There have been reports of gunfire and there were clashes between security forces and protestors on several occasions. In Manzini the police eventually declared a curfew.

Prime Minister, The Union of Civil Servants in Sweden expresses its deep concern over the behaviour of Swazilands authorities toward peaceful pro-democracy protestors an trade unionists. It reinforces the criticism that the ILO has already voiced concerning the application of ILO Convention 87 on Freedom of Association.

We urge your government to immediately consider the Swazi Trade Unions' legitimate demands and to respect the rights enshrined in ILO Convention 87, which was ratified by your country, and to free all detained union leaders and members. Unionists should be able to operate in your country without fear of detention or violent reprisals. Trade union rights are fundamental human rights.

Yours Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Annette Carnhede', written in a cursive style.

Annette Carnhede  
President  
The Union of Civil Servants in Sweden