

UNITED FOR A JUST FUTURE

IndustriALL Global Union 3rd Congress
14-15 September 2021

Resolution on the demands for democratic reforms in Eswatini

Trade unions, social movements and political parties have been calling for democratic reforms, the unbanning of political parties and freedom of speech for decades in the Kingdom of Eswatini.

It is a country where people live in abject poverty, way below the poverty line, extremely high unemployment, no freedom of speech, evictions from their land when the king decides he wants that piece of land, and the use of state apparatus are used to suppress and silence people.

It is a country where the king and his family live a lavish lifestyle of opulence at the expense of the people of Eswatini, where a pensioner gets a mere R400 (\$27) every three months if they are lucky.

The last few weeks have seen intensified protest actions that led to the death of more than 70 unarmed protesters and many others seriously injured at the hands of the police and defence forces.

Arbitrary arrests, detention, intimidation, threats, and acts of violence against peaceful protesters, exercising their rights to freedom of expression, assembly, and association are the order of the day.

Recalling IndustriALL Global Union's longstanding commitment to respect and protection of workers and human rights and the rule of law.

- We condemn the violent and brutal attacks meted against unarmed pro-democracy protesters.
- We commit ourselves to support the people of Eswatini as they continue to fight for democratic reforms.
- We demand respect and protection of human rights including the right to life, rights to freedom of expression, assembly, and association, and the rule of law.
- We will join hands with all organizations in their solidarity actions in support of the people of Eswatini.
- As workers of the world, we shall stand in firm solidarity with the workers and people of Eswatini.

- We call for national dialogue for democratic reforms that will allow for the democratic election of the Prime Minister and to review the country's constitution to allow for the transfer of executive powers from the king to a democratically elected leadership.
- Hold King Mswati accountable for the cruel and barbaric torture, killing and persecution of more than 70 people in such a small population.
- Call on the International Criminal Court to conduct its own investigation on the senseless killing of peaceful protesters and arrest all perpetrators, including the king under whose command these killings took place.
- Call for the UN Human Rights Commission to execute its mandate and act against the human rights violations in Eswatini.

IndustriALL will do all in its power to support the People of Eswatini.

Recalling that freedom of peaceful assembly and freedom of opinion and expression are essential for human and trade union rights and that the government of Eswatini must adhere to United Nations conventions that it has ratified, including the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, IndustriALL Sub Saharan Africa region calls upon the government of Eswatini to:

1. Respect and facilitate democratic spaces for the people of Eswatini to make their demands through protests.
2. Stop gross human rights violations and the use of excessive and lethal force against protestors by the police and the army, which has resulted in the death of over 70 people with several others, missing. Law enforcement must provide safety and security and not be used to harm and injure unarmed civilians.
3. Facilitate a United Nations investigation into the death of civilians as demanded by trade unions and civil society organizations.

