

THULANI MASEKO

KILLED FOR SPEAKING TRUTH

TO POWER

Eswatini

WRITE
FOR
RIGHTS

AMNESTY
INTERNATIONAL



ABN: 64 002 806 233



CHALLENGE
INJUSTICE.



Centre for
Human Rights
UNIVERSITY OF PRETORIA

VERA CHIRWA

THULANI MASEKO

Eswatini

Thulani Maseko (he/him) was a loving father and husband. He was a committed member of the Methodist church, a devoted human rights defender, and an ally to LGBTQIA+ people. People who knew Thulani described him as humble and friendly, with an incredible sense of humour.

After qualifying as a lawyer, Thulani fought tirelessly for the people of Eswatini, a country ruled by a wealthy absolute monarchy, and where approximately 60% of the population live under the poverty line. Thulani was openly critical of the country's repressive laws and excessive state violence used to silence peaceful protest.

Thulani knew the risk of speaking out was high. In 2014 he was arrested and charged with criminal contempt of court after writing two news articles denouncing the lack of judicial independence and integrity in Eswatini. He spent over a year in prison. Undeterred, Thulani continued his human rights work, stating in 2016: "We shall never surrender, for we know there is a price to pay for the truth."

On 21 January 2023, Thulani paid the ultimate price. He was shot dead at close range, through the window of their home, in front of his wife, Tanele. Just hours earlier the king gave a speech stating that those calling for democratic reform would be "dealt with" and "people should not shed tears and complain about mercenaries killing them." To date no one has been held accountable for Thulani's killing.

Demand justice for Thulani Maseko.



December 2023

Index: AFR 55/7022/2023 English

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ACT NOW

Contact the King of Eswatini and demand the unlawful killing of Thulani Maseko is effectively investigated, the people suspected of responsibility are brought to justice in a fair trial and that Thulani's family is provided access to effective remedies.

Grab a petition and start collecting names and emails. There is also a template letter if you prefer.

You can also send the authorities a message on social media:

FACEBOOK: www.facebook.com/EswatiniGov/

TWITTER / X: @EswatiniGovern1

HASHTAGS: #JusticeForThulaniMaseko, #W4R23

SHOW THULANI'S FAMILY THAT THEY ARE NOT ALONE

Print off the solidarity letter template and send Thulani's wife, Tanele, messages of hope and support.

You can also send Tanele a message of solidarity on Instagram:

INSTAGRAM: @Tanele70

HASHTAGS: #JusticeForThulaniMaseko, #W4R23

Post your petitions, letters and solidarity letters to:

Amnesty International Australia,
Locked Bag 23,
Broadway NSW 2007
Australia

Please send them to us by 31 January 2024.

We'll post them to the target, include them in the handover in March 2024 and make sure that Thulani's family gets your solidarity messages.