

THAPELO MOHAPI AND

THE ABahlALI BASEMjONDOLo MOVEMENT

THREATENED FOR DEFENDING HIS COMMUNITY

South Africa

WRITE
FOR
RIGHTS

AMNESTY
INTERNATIONAL



CHALLENGE
INJUSTICE.



THAPELO MOHAPI

AND THE ABAHLALI BASEMJONDOLU

MOVEMENT

South Africa

Thapelo Mohapi (he/him) loves listening to jazz and supporting his favourite football teams, the Mamelodi Sundowns and Manchester City. But right now he can't enjoy these things like he used to. Since 2021, he has been forced to live in hiding because of threats to his life.

As general secretary of Abahlali baseMjondolo (AbM), a vibrant and courageous grassroots movement, Thapelo has dedicated his life to fighting for the rights of people across South Africa, particularly in areas suffering economic hardship.

One such place is eKhenana, in the province of KwaZulu-Natal. Most residents are economic migrants from rural South Africa who have moved to seek a better life. They cannot afford the high costs of living in the area and often end up making homes from tin, with little to no access to water or sanitation. They also face police brutality, forced evictions and poor public services, amongst many other challenges.

Determined to improve lives in the community, AbM members in eKhenana have spoken out against cases of local government corruption and worked hard to improve life in their community by starting a school, farm, communal kitchen and shop. In return, they have been met with not just resistance but threats, harassment and intimidation from state officials who have incited violence against them. They have been victims of attempted and actual murders, violence, harassment, and damage to their homes. In 2022 alone, three AbM members were killed in eKhenana.

Tell the police to thoroughly and effectively investigate the harassment and killings of AbM members.



ACT NOW

Contact the South African Police Service and demand a thorough, impartial, independent, transparent and effective investigation into the harassment and killings of AbM members, bringing suspected perpetrators to justice in fair trials and an end to the attacks against AbM members.

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

You can also send a message to the South African Police Service on social media:

TWITTER / X: @SAPoliceService
FACEBOOK: <https://www.facebook.com/SAPoliceService>
INSTAGRAM: @sapoliceservice_za
HASHTAGS: #ProtectThapelo; #ProtectAbM; #W4R23

SHOW THAPELO AND ABM YOU'RE WITH THEM

Print off the solidarity letter template and send your messages of friendship and hope, so they can keep up their fight for their communities.

You can also send a message of solidarity on social media:

TWITTER / X: @abahlalibm
FACEBOOK: <https://www.facebook.com/abahlalibasemjondolo>
INSTAGRAM: @abahlalibasemjondolo
HASHTAGS: #ProtectThapelo; #ProtectAbM; #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 Thapelo and AbM get your solidarity messages.



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