

From:

Date:

His Royal Highness King Mswati III
The King's Office, P.O. Box 1
Kwaluseni
Kingdom Of Swaziland

Your Royal Highness,

I am writing to You with due respect to express my concern about the fate of one of Your Kingdom's citizens, kindly asking you to make sure he is dealt with in a fair manner by Your police and prison officials. I take this liberty as a supporter of Amnesty International, the worldwide impartial organization which since 1961 has been working in defense of Human Rights all over the World.

My concern is for the rights of Mr. Wandile Dlodlu, who was allegedly subjected to unlawful detention and torture by police officers on 4 Sep. 2009. He was arrested without charge and there was no warrant for his arrest. He was held at Mbabane police station and then taken to a forest where he was severely tortured. He was later released without being charged with any crime. On 21 Sep. 2009 Mr. Dlodlu, along with a group of unarmed activists and journalists, was waiting in front of Matsapha prison for the release of Mario Masuku who that day had been found not guilty of breaking the anti-terror law of 2008. Prison officers attacked the group without any warning. Mr. Dlodlu was kicked and beaten to the ground. Again, on 1 May 2010, during a lawful and peaceful rally, Mr. Dlodlu, along with a group of other activists, was arrested, apparently without a warrant, held for questioning for most of that day, and released without charge.

I welcome the fact that Swaziland has made voluntary commitments to protect and promote the right of freedom of expression, association and peaceful assembly. I also note that Swaziland has made commitments under international and regional human rights treaties to ensure that no-one shall be subjected to torture or other forms of cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment.

I am therefore highly confident that You will understand my concern and that with Your sense for justice and fairness You will consider my following requests:

1. I appeal on You to give orders for a thorough, impartial and independent investigation into the allegations of torture against Mr. Dlodlu and into the attack on him by prison guards.
2. Please bring to justice any law enforcement officials found to be responsible directly or indirectly for the torture or ill-treatment of Wandile Dlodlu on 4 or 21 September 2009.
3. I suggest that to take immediate steps to ensure that police and Correctional Services officers are fully trained and supported in the implementation of the country's human rights obligations under Human Rights treaties and standards.

I would very much welcome if I could be informed about the steps taken with respect to my concerns.

I thank You in advance for Your Generosity,

Yours respectfully