



## Eswatini

### Thulani Maseko

*Killed for speaking truth to power*

Thulani Maseko was a loving father and husband. He was a committed member of the Methodist church, a devoted human rights defender, and an ally to LGBTI 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.

Thulani Maseko was a loving father and husband who dedicated his life to the people of Eswatini, a country ruled by a wealthy absolute monarchy and where approximately 60% of the population live under the poverty line. Openly critical of the country's use of repressive laws and state violence, on 21 January 2023 Thulani was shot dead in front of his wife. To date no one has been held accountable.

## Take Action: Demand justice for Thulani Maseko

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.

### Write to:

His Majesty King Mswati III  
Office of the King  
Lozitha Palace  
PO box 1  
Kwaluseni  
Eswatini

Email: [clerktoparl@swazi.net](mailto:clerktoparl@swazi.net)

Salutation: Your Majesty

Facebook: [www.facebook.com/EswatiniGov/](http://www.facebook.com/EswatiniGov/)

Twitter / X: @EswatiniGovern1

*Note: Eswatini does not have diplomatic representatives in Canada.*

Hashtags: #JusticeForThulaniMaseko #W4R23 #W4RCanada

## Show Thulani's family that they are not alone

Send Thulani's wife, Tanele, messages of hope and support.

Tanele Maseko  
c/o Amnesty International Southern Africa Office  
97 Oxford Road  
Saxonwold  
Johannesburg  
2196  
South Africa

Instagram: @Tanele70

