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| Congress House, Great Russell Street, London WC1B 3LStelephone: 020 7636 4030 fax: 020 7636 0632 [www.tuc.org.uk](http://www.tuc.org.uk/)General Secretary: *Frances O’Grady* Assistant General Secretary: *Kay Carberry CBE*Assistant General Secretary: *Paul Nowak* |  |
| HE Mrs Dumsile T SukatiHigh CommissionerKingdom of Swaziland20 Buckingham Gate London SW1E 6LB By email to: enquiries@swaziland.org.uk  | our ref swaziland/fog/otdate: 8 August 2014contact: Owen Tudordirect line: +44 (20) 7467 1325email: otudor@tuc.org.uk  |

Dear High Commissioner

Threats made against Vincent Ncongonwe and Sipho Gumedze

As the British affiliate of the International Trade Union Confederation, which represents over 176 million workers in 161 countries and territories - including Swaziland – the Trades Union Congress (TUC) condemns the threat of strangulation made against the above Swazi citizens by the Prime Minister of Swaziland, Sibusiso Barnabas Dlamini.

I would strongly urge you to make the TUC’s condemnation clear to your country’s Government, and to seek as a matter of urgency a public retraction and apology for such an outrageous threat.

Vincent Ncongonwe - my opposite number in Swaziland as the General Secretary of the Trades Union Congress of Swaziland (TUCOSWA) - and Sipho Gumedze of the organisation Lawyers for Human Rights, travelled to Washington DC in the United States of America to take part in the civil society events of the African Leaders’ Summit. I understand that your Prime Minister made his disgraceful remarks during a Parliamentary debate on the entirely justified decision of the US Government to suspend benefits for Swaziland under its African Growth Opportunity Act (AGOA).

These threats are utterly unacceptable from anyone, least of all the Prime Minister of Swaziland, and we will be raising our concerns with the British Foreign Secretary, the Commonwealth Secretary-General and the European Commission Vice-President, Baroness Ashton.

I would be grateful if you could convey the TUC’s outrage at the threats to your government and seek an urgent retraction and apology, and I would be grateful for an early confirmation that you have done this. I would be happy to meet with you to convey our concerns in person and hear your response.

Yours sincerely

**FRANCES O’GRADY**

General Secretary