



Mswati's autocratic regime declares **SWAZI STUDENTS GUILTY**

**for calling for free, quality, and relevant education and jobs for all,
for calling for quality life for the people, for calling for democracy!**

STUDENTS VOW TO CEASELESSLY FIGHT ON!

On Friday 30 September 2022, police in Swaziland violently crushed a students' protest in the capital city, Mbabane.

The **Scholarship & Jobs for All** campaign was organised by the Swaziland National Union of Students (SNUS), supported by the Communist Party of Swaziland (CPS) and the entire mass democratic movement.

The students met a hostile environment where Mswati's police denied the students their right to peacefully march to deliver petitions to the Ministry of Labour and Social Security, Ministry of Education & Training and the Prime Ministers offices.

It is now the autocratic regime's modus operandi to unleash its security forces upon the people whenever they march for their rights.

Mswati's police forces were seen firing live ammunition on the protesting students, some of whom had no alternative but to flee to the nearest Mbabane government hospital and the Mbabane campus of the University of Swaziland.

As if that was not enough, the police fired teargas into the hospital while pursuing the students.

The students, however, did not want to be mere victims of the regime's forces of brutality. They fought back, even returning some of the fired teargas canisters to the police.

Amid the skirmishes, a police vehicle caught fire.

As the students dispersed, some were heavily assaulted while others arrested.



Kwanele Fakudze being carried by students and comrades outside the Mbabane Magistrate's Court, following his release on Monday.

One of those who were arrested was Kwanele Fakudze, a student at the Vocational and Commercial Training Institute – Matsapha (VOCTIM).

Kwanele Fakudze is a member of SNUS. He is also a member of the CPS, serving as one of its organisers under the Party's Youth and Students Commission.

Kwanele was later charged with possession of a dangerous weapon, under the colonial-era Crimes Act of 1889. He gained his release on Monday 3 October 2022, after paying a fine at the Mbabane Magistrate's Court.

The police prepared for their violence by first placing barricades on strategic positions on all routes leading to Mbabane, where the students had scheduled to have the protest.

Despite the barricades, students were able to manoeuvre and reach the capital city.

The protest was staged in consideration of the government's declaration to drastically trim the number of scholarship recipients to an estimated 50% of the total



Kwanele Fakudze (red T-shirt), flanked to his right by SNUS Secretary General Wakhile Lukhele, and to his left SNUS Deputy President Philile Mavuso, as they walk out of the Mbabane police station. They were joined by other students who brought solidarity. This was on Saturday. Kwanele was released and ordered to appear on Monday 3 October at the Mbabane magistrate's court to answer to a charge of possession of a dangerous weapon, charged under the colonial Crimes Act of 1889.



A student from the Swaziland College of Technology who was heavily assaulted by the police.

population of admitted undergraduate students.

Over the years, the Swazi government, while channelling more millions towards the extravagant royal family, has drastically cut down on public education and health. Its Scholarship Policy, first introduced in 2009, was its first official declaration meant to cut on scholarship spending, particularly at higher education. The regime went on to implement this regressive policy from 2011.

Before that, in 2006, the regime had come up with a "high priority, low priority" policy. That policy was outrightly rejected by students countrywide. It was thereafter refashioned into the scholarship policy in 2009.

Swazi students call for the awarding of scholarship to every undergraduate student, increment of the little allowances which do not match the rapidly rising standard of living, among other demands. The demands amount to the call for free quality education for all, including in basic education.

About 70 percent of the people of Swaziland live below the poverty line and cannot afford basic necessities. Without the provision of free education, the situation will only worsen. The ruling regime is incapable of resolving all these and other issues.

A student who was part of the march on Friday, commenting on condition of anonymity, said, "As stu-

dents in this country, we endure worse experiences. The allowance we are given by the government does not match our expenses. We are given only R1690.00 each month, accounting for 10 months. However, we have to pay almost E800.00 for rent per month, and also pay for food and other basic needs. This is in addition to conducting research for our studies."

"It is indeed crystal clear that this government does not consider nor prioritise our education as the budget allocated for our education is far less, relative to the budget allocated for the royal family," continued the student.

The student added that the current government is incapable of resolving their issues.

"It is an indisputable fact that for resolution of our challenges, even for the next generation, the priority should be on getting rid of the current regime together with its parasitic monarchy", added the student.

Kwanele Fakudze appeared at the Mbabane Magistrate Court on Monday 3 October 2022, where he was charged with possession of a dangerous weapon.

On Sunday, SNUS leadership rebuked the charge, and asked, "What weapon can a student carry that is more dangerous than the ones the police officers invariably hold during peaceful marches?"

After his release, SNUS's Legal Affairs officer and the union's National Executive Committee member,



Vuyiswa Maseko, addressed members of the mass democratic movement who came to support Kwanele Fakudze in his court appearance at the Mbabane Magistrate Court. Vuyiswa Maseko is also a CPS Central Committee Member

In his address, he urged students to continue organising themselves in the quest for free, quality and relevant education in Swaziland.

He also assured students and the mass democratic movement that the union intends to continue with its march and deliver their petition in the coming days.

He added, “We should not stop here. We should continue organising each other. We must go back to the streets and demand our rights. The struggle must continue!”

Meanwhile, the fight against the Mswati autocracy has intensified. On Friday, students painted “MSWATI MUST FALL” slogans on the paving and building walls at the Kwaluseni Campus of the University of Swaziland.

This was ahead of the university graduation ceremony, which was to be held on Saturday 8 October 2022, to be attended by Mswati as its Chancellor. The writings were at the graduation arena, easily visible to anyone entering the university.

To avoid embarrassment and in fear of a revolt

THE WRITING IS ON THE WALL (AND THE FLOOR) FOR MSWATI AND HIS AUTOCRATIC REGIME!

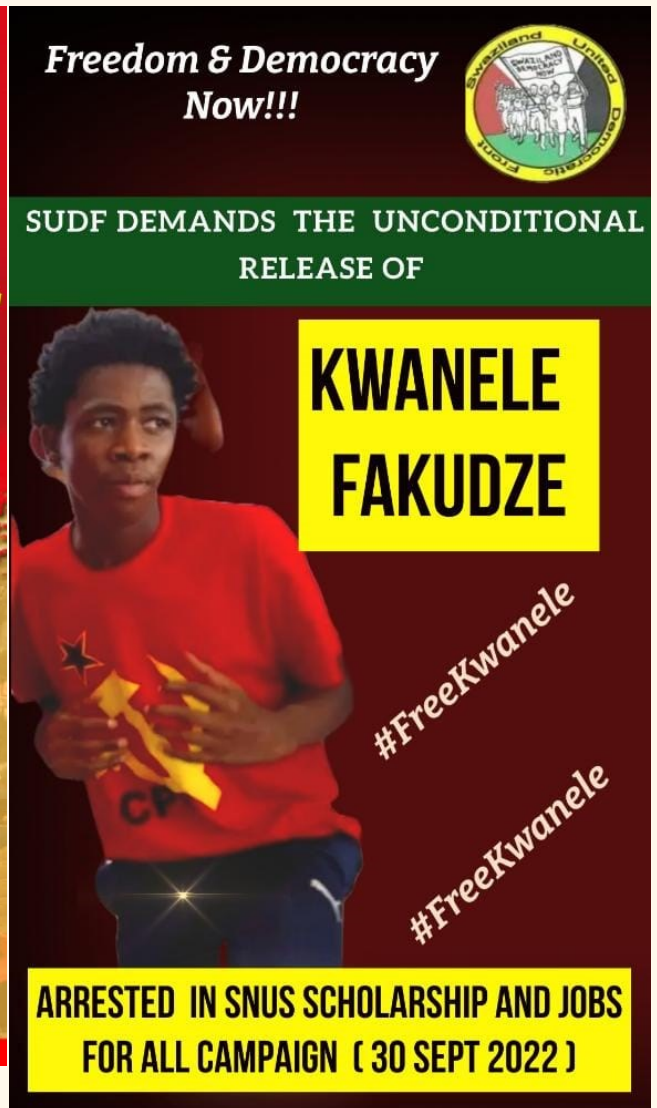
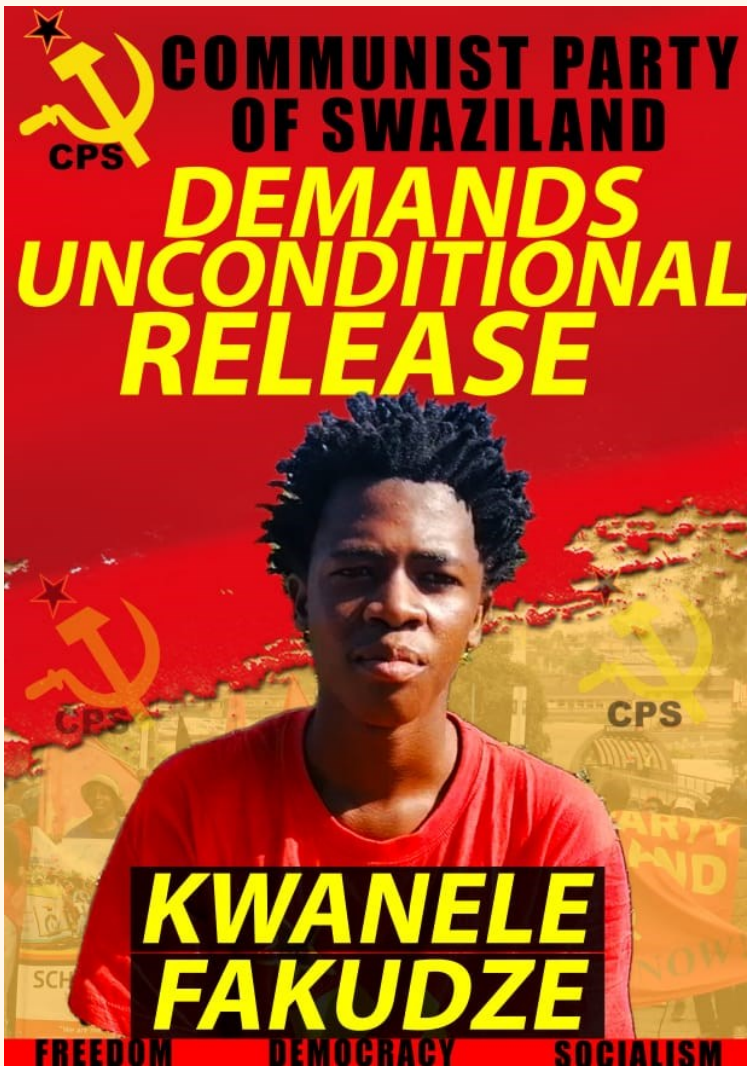


against Africa’s last absolute monarch, the university senate has since decided to postpone the graduation indefinitely.

In its [statement](#) condemning the police brutality, SNUS emphatically stated that the struggle for freedom continues. The student union said:

“Regardless of the brutality, harassment, and repression, from the state police whose sole purpose now is to protect an already ailing and ‘bucket kicking’ regime which has already overstayed its welcome, we as the students of this country remain resolute, focused and more determined to challenge the status quo so that the students can learn in a conducive environment and be better equipped to transform their lives and develop our beloved country.”

It is clear that there is no more turning back for the people of Swaziland. The masses of Swaziland continue to organise themselves under the “Democracy Now” campaign, launched by the CPS in 2019 and now having nationwide presence. The people fight for the unbanning of all political parties and the ushering of the country into a democratic dispensation under people’s power.



Posters released by the Communist Party of Swaziland (left) and the SUDF calling for the release of Kwanele Fakudze. Kwanele Fakudze was released on Monday 3 October 2022 after conviction and fine at the Mbabane magistrate's court.

COMMUNIST PARTY OF SWAZILAND

<https://cp-swa.org>
cpswa.org@gmail.com

Thokozane Kenneth Kunene
General Secretary
ken.manze@gmail.com
(+27)72 594 3971

Pius Rinto Vilakati
International Secretary
rintopius@gmail.com
(+27)81 353 3383

Simphiwe Dlamini
National Organising Secretary
dlaminisimprraa220995@gmail.com
(+268)7627 9355/7947 9946

Communist Party of Swaziland -CPS

@CPSwaziland

1st Floor unit 9, 96 Jorissen street, Braamfontein, Johannesburg 2001