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President: Jörg Hofmann  
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Geneva 22 September 2021

H.E. Michelle Bachelet  
United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights  
[mbachelet@ohchr.org](mailto:mbachelet@ohchr.org)

## IndustriALL Global Union calls on Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights to conduct an investigation into the death of civilians in Eswatini

Dear Madame High Commissioner,

I am writing to you as the new general secretary of [IndustriALL Global Union](https://www.industriall-union.org), representing over 50 million workers in the mining, energy and manufacturing industries in 140 countries. We condemn the violent and brutal attacks against unarmed pro-democracy protesters, and we urge the Government of the Kingdom of Eswatini to respect and protect human rights, including the right to life, rights to freedom of expression, assembly, and association, and the rule of law.

IndustriALL Global Union held its third congress, which brought together 3,000 participants online, on 14-15 September 2021. At this congress, delegates from 434 organizations and coming from 111 countries adopted unanimously a resolution, which expresses deep concern about the continuing violence in Eswatini, and calls for democratic reforms in the country.

Furthermore, this resolution demands an end to gross human rights violations and the use of excessive and lethal force against protestors by the police and the army, which has resulted in the death of over 70 people with several others missing. In addition, the resolution calls on the government to facilitate a United Nations investigation into the death of civilians as demanded by trade unions and civil society organizations.

The full text of the resolution is available at  
<https://www.dropbox.com/sh/8dy54t25iisqvo3/AAA0RTGpUDVuKFNBSNEc3EwHa?dl=0>

We are encouraged to note that [the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights \(OHCHR\)](https://www.ohchr.org/) is committed “to working with the Government of Eswatini to strengthen human rights promotion and protection, including support and guidance in implementing recommendations by UN human rights mechanisms, including guaranteeing the rights to freedom of expression, of peaceful assembly and to freedom of association, as well as the right of people to participate in the conduct of public affairs.”



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In this regard, we call on the OHCHR to conduct a thorough investigation into the death of civilians and the fate of the missing, and recommend that the Human Rights Council consider this matter.

I look forward to hearing from you.

Yours sincerely,

Atle Høie  
General Secretary  
IndustriALL Global Union