The International Union Socialist Youth (IUSY), call on for the democratization of Swaziland. The people of Swaziland have been denied their freedom for too long since political parties were banned in 1973 by the monarchy. The absolute monarchy run by King Mswati does not espouse to the values of freedom, human rights which the world cherishes so much.

Swaziland remains the only state ruled by an absolute monarchy with the king having total control over all the three arms of government. More than 60 per cent of the population live below the poverty datum line, while the king spends most of the countries economy on himself. Swaziland has the highest infection rate of HIV and AIDS in the world, with 26 % of people living with HIV/AIDS. Swaziland also has a very high unemployment rate, and more than 200 000 orphans and vulnerable children are forced to head their families as there are no adult care givers in their families. The vicious cycle of poverty, hunger and sickness, has seen the life expectancy drop to 48 years, according to the World Health Organization (WHO).

The people of Swaziland are fully committed to a peaceful transition in societies facing political, social and economic challenges. With the current form of government the inequalities, violations of fundamental human rights, poverty and disease are continually rising. Our member organization the Swaziland Youth Congress (SWAYOCO) is advocating for change to transform people’s lives. Student members are currently facing arrests, torture and detainment for protesting the lack of democracy.
IUSY calls for:

1. Unbanning of all political parties,
2. Removal of all legislations that are meant to oppress political parties and labour unions,
3. End the systematic harassment, intimidation and incarceration of political activists,
4. Unconditional release of political prisoners and return of exiles,
5. Introducing a constitutional multi party democracy.

We continue to appeal to democratic governments, regional bodies, and multilateral institutions to raise the issue of Swaziland and hold the authoritarian regime accountable. We call for political and economic pressure on the regime. We appeal to our international bodies to apply smart sanctions on the royal family and its cronies to members until democracy is instituted in Swaziland.

The people of Swaziland deserve freedom and democracy the world needs to show solidarity with them in this hour of need.