President Cyril Ramaphosa

Private Bag X463

Pretoria, 0001

South Africa

Email:[president@presidency.govza](mailto:president@presidency.govza)

[presidentrsa@presidency.gov.za](mailto:presidentrsa@presidency.gov.za)

…May 2024

Dear Sir,

Alerted by the ACAT, I wish to bring to your attention the case of **Nomsa Sizani,** a single mother of four surviving children from eKukhanyeni, Marianhill in South Africa’s North-Eastern province of KwaZulu-Natal (KZN). **Nomsa Sizani** is a human rights defender at the Abahlali base Mjondolo movement (AbM), a grassroots movement founded in 2005. She has been facing imminent threats to her life following her questioning officials who were in her community to speak about developments taking place there on 17 March. She received a threatening phone call on 18 March, saying *“If you don’t shut that mouth, we will shut it for you”.* Threats against her have escalatedsince 23 March.

On 31 March, three men arrived at her home looking for her. She has been forced into hiding since. The threats against **Mrs Sizani** are to be regarded against the backdrop of a greater pattern of harassment, intimidation, threats and killings of AbM members and leaders, which AbM counts at 25 over their 18-year existence. One of these killings concerned **Nomsa Sizani’s** son, **Samuel** **Hloele**, allegedly shot by theeThekwini Anti-Land Invasion Unit, according to AbM reports. Leaders of the movement have alleged that the targeted killings are a direct response to the movement challenging the statu quo of the communities which they belong to and within which they operate by speaking out against allegations of corruption at the local government level, through organising themselves independently outside of party politics.

I know you are well aware of the situation AbM is facing, having recently created a task team in KZN to investigate the killings of AbM members.

I therefore call you to take concrete and effective measures to thoroughly, independently, and effectively investigate the death threats against **Nomsa Sizani**

Furthermore I ask you to ensure her safety and security. Anyone suspected to be responsible for the threats should be identified, and brought to justice in a fair trial. I also urge you and your government to protect and ensure respect for the human rights of human rights defenders and to initiate a process to develop legislation for the effective protection of the human rights of human rights defenders in South Africa.

I trust that you will share this call for more humanity.

Yours faithfully

Name

Signature

Address