**MEDIA STATEMENT**

**29 JUNE 2012-06-28**

**Swaziland’s neighbouring teacher unions condemn the violation of trade union rights of Swaziland teachers.**

Teacher union leaders under Education International Region Africa (EIRAF) Zone VI countries comprising of Angola, Swaziland, South Africa, Zambia, Zimbabwe Mozambique, Botswana, Namibia and Lesotho have noted the brutal violation of trade union rights of teachers by the Swaziland government.

Teachers in Swaziland have been intimidated, harassed and wrongfully arrested for refusing to accept the teachers’ and public service unions’ 4,5% salary increase demand. The government is also planning to cut the salaries by 10% as per IMF recommendations. The Trade Union Federation of Swaziland (TUCOSWA) has been banned.

At a two day meeting of the Education International (EI) Zone VI held in Johannesburg, South Africa from 26 until 28 June, the leaders called for the immediate cessation of violence and intimidation of teacher unions by the government of Swaziland.

**ISSUED BY: Education International (EI) Zone V1**

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