

URGENT ACTION

EXILED JOURNALIST RECEIVING DEATH THREATS ONLINE Exiled investigative journalist Keiso Mohloboli has been receiving death threats and intimidation online after publishing a Facebook post.

Keiso Mohloboli, an exiled Lesotho investigative journalist, received death threats on Facebook on 10 June. Keiso Mohloboli published a post on Facebook and a Facebook account user operating under the name "Lawrence Kori" commented on her post threatening her and explicitly saying that death was very near to her and she would die soon. The account is believed to be operated by Lesotho's National Security Services (NSS) and is used to monitor Facebook posts of people considered to be *persona non grata*. Sources in the Lesotho Military Intelligence have confirmed that the account is operated by the NSS and that the threats should be taken seriously.

Keiso Mohloboli has been extremely hesitant to report the death threats and intimidation to authorities given that she has been in exile in South Africa since July 2016. Keiso Mohloboli fled Lesotho after being arbitrarily arrested and interrogated in relation to an article she published in the *Lesotho Times* and after her editor was shot and seriously injured.

Please write immediately in English, or your own language:

- Urging the Lesotho authorities to take immediate measures to end continuing death threats and intimidation against Keiso Mohloboli and to ensure her safety and protection;
- Calling on them to conduct thorough, impartial, independent and effective investigations into the allegations of death threats and intimidation against Keiso Mohloboli and bring those suspected to be responsible to justice in trials which meet international standards of fairness;
- Calling on them to ensure that journalists and other media workers are able to carry out their work without fear of threats, intimidation, and harassment and guarantee the integrity of journalists and media workers against attacks or threats.

PLEASE SEND APPEALS BEFORE 26 JULY 2017 TO:

The Principle Secretary for the Ministry
of Defence and national Security

Dr Mampho Molaoa

Ministry of Defence and national Security
Along Kingsway, Opposite national
Library

P/Bag A166

Maseru 100, Lesotho

Fax: +266 22-310518

Email: ntebalenghae@gmail.com

Salutation: Dear Principle Secretary

Principal Secretary for the Ministry of
Justice, Human Rights and Correctional
Services

Ms Mapulumo Mosisili

Ministry of Justice, Human Rights and
Correctional Services

LNDC Block C, Level 3

Kingsway

Maseru 100, Lesotho

Fax: +266 22310365

Salutation: Dear Principle Secretary

And copies to:

Office of the Government Secretaries

Ms. Lebohang Ramohlanka

Phase I Government Complex P.O. Box
527

Maseru 100

Lesotho

Fax: +266 22 310 102

Also send copies to diplomatic representatives accredited to your country.

High Commission of the Kingdom of Lesotho, 7 Chesham Place Belgravia SW1X 8HN, 020 7235 5686 Fax 020 7235 5023
hicom@lesotholondon.org.uk www.lesotholondon.org.uk

Please check with your section office if sending appeals after the above date.

**AMNESTY
INTERNATIONAL**



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ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

Keiso Mohloboli worked as an investigative journalist for the Lesotho Times newspaper, the only independent investigative journalism publication in the country. In Lesotho, the right to freedom of expression is under attack. Journalists working in broadcast, print and social media in particular are facing physical attacks, arbitrary arrests and harassment. Lesotho has been characterized by consistent insecurity and political crises.

On 23 June 2016, after publishing an article in the *Lesotho Times* which alleged that Lesotho Defence Force head Tlali Kamoli was to receive an exit package of R50 million, Keiso Mohloboli was interrogated at Maseru police headquarters and asked to disclose her sources. The following day she was arrested and interrogated along with the newspaper's editor, Lloyd Mutungamiri. On 5 July 2016, Lloyd Mutungamiri and *Lesotho Times* publisher Basildon Peta were interrogated. Basildon Peta was charged with criminal defamation. The charges arose from a column that satirized Tlali Kamoli. On 9 July 2016, unidentified gunmen attacked and seriously injured Lloyd Mutungamiri in his driveway. Lloyd Mutungamiri had been charged with criminal defamation in September 2014 for reporting police corruption. Keiso Mohloboli fled Lesotho, fearing for her life.

Name: Kesio Mohloboli

UA: 142/17 Index: AFR 33/6483/2017 Issue Date: 14 June 2017