

# Swaziland: A Kingdom in Crisis

Wednesday, 5 September, 2012, 6.00-7.30pm

**Committee Room 7, Houses of Parliament, SW1A 0AA**

**Public meeting, Admission free**

Nearest tube Westminster, enter via Cromwell Green Visitor Entrance

The 6<sup>th</sup> September is Swaziland's Independence Day. It should be a day for celebration but for most Swazis it is a time of crisis. Swaziland is Africa's only absolute monarchy. Two thirds of the population live in absolute poverty, hit hard by massive cuts to jobs, education and health; worsened by the highest HIV and TB rates in the world. The King and his friends live in immense luxury, protected by a vast military might.

Political parties and the Trade Union Congress of Swaziland have been banned and protestors beaten with batons and teargas. The growing movement for democracy, rights and decent pay is being met with brutal repression.

Hear about the deepening crisis in Swaziland, the campaign for democracy and rights and what unions, NGOs and parliamentarians are doing and what we can do, in solidarity with the people of Swaziland.

## Speakers:

**Ivan Lewis**, Shadow Secretary of State for International Development

**Dave Prentis**, General Secretary, UNISON (invited)

**Thobile Gwebu**, Swaziland Vigil

**Tony Dykes**, Director, Action for Southern Africa

For further info and to register contact ACTSA

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