

Brussels, 30 July 2014 140730/02

## STATEMENT

by the Spokesperson on the sentencing of the Nation Magazine Editor Bheki

Makhubu and Human Rights Lawyer Thulani Maseko

"We are concerned about the severe punishment of Nation Magazine Editor Bheki Makhubu and Human Rights Lawyer Thulani Maseko for alleged contempt of court.

The charges arise from articles written by them in the February and March 2014 issues of The Nation magazine, in which they questioned circumstances surrounding the arrest of a government official and criticised the lack of impartiality of the Swazi judicial system.

The EU calls upon the Swaziland authorities to respect and promote the freedom of expression, in line with the country's Constitution and international and regional human rights obligations."

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