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GENERAL SECRETARY
SECRÉTAIRE GÉNÉRAL
GENERALSEKRETÄR
SECRETARIO GENERAL

Bd du Roi Albert II 5, Bte 1
B - 1210 BRUXELLES
Belgique

Tel. 32 (0) 22 240 211
Telefax 32 (0) 22 015 815
32 (0) 22 030 756
32 (0) 22 240 297

E-Mail: internetpo@icftu.org
WEB Site: <http://www.icftu.org>

Rt Hon Don McKinnon
Secretary-General
The Commonwealth
Marlborough House
LONDON
England

Fax: +44 (0)20 7930 0827

GS-AF/CTUG

13 March 2006

Dear Mr Secretary-General,

The Commonwealth position on Democracy in Swaziland

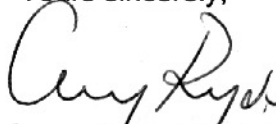
On this auspicious occasion of **Commonwealth Day**, I would like to appeal to you to extend your invaluable support to the widespread call for meaningful democratic changes in Swaziland.

The call comes both from a broad-based civil society in Swaziland and an ever growing number of international organisations. The changes being called for are in line with the Commonwealth values of a constitution that is democratically approved and which guarantees a democratically elected parliament, a transparent and accountable government; provisions for the effective separation of the legislative, judicial and the executive arms of the state and full respect of basic human rights.

Dear Mr Secretary-General, we are bound to join the ever growing number of voices expressing serious concern regarding the position of the Commonwealth Secretariat on Swaziland. May we refer you to the statement issued today by the Commonwealth Human Rights Network (copy attached) in this respect.

We express the hope that the Commonwealth Secretariat will rise up to the challenge posed by the undemocratic Swazi regime and live up to the hope and expectations of millions of citizens across the Commonwealth who look toward your institution as an invaluable instrument for promoting freedom and genuine democracy.

Yours sincerely,


General Secretary