



**Southern Africans  
Peoples Solidarity  
Network**

**17 July 2025**

**CC:**

SADC Secretariat  
African Union Commission

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**SAPSN CONDEMNS US THIRD-COUNTRY DEPORTATIONS TO ESWATINI AS A VIOLATION OF AFRICAN SOVEREIGNTY AND HUMAN RIGHTS**

The Southern African Peoples' Solidarity Network (SAPSN) unreservedly condemns the United States government's deportation of migrants from Vietnam, Jamaica, Laos, Yemen, and Cuba to the Kingdom of Eswatini. This action, executed under the "third-country deportation" policy, constitutes a grave assault on the sovereignty of Southern Africa, international law, and the fundamental rights of refugees and displaced people. This covert agreement between the US and Eswatini governments epitomizes neo-colonial exploitation, treating Africa as a dumping ground for the Global North's political failures. Migrants—none with ties to Eswatini—were forcibly relocated without transparency, legal safeguards, or consent from the people of Eswatini. Reports that deportees are detained in correctional facilities further expose the brutality of this scheme.

**IMMEDIATE REGIONAL THREAT**

Eswatini's status as a landlocked nation with 13 official border gates and 15 highly active informal crossings creates acute vulnerability for Southern Africa. Deportees abandoned without support or legal pathways risk spilling into neighbouring SADC states—including South Africa and Mozambique—through porous borders. This threatens regional stability, strains social services, and violates SADC's founding principles of collective security and solidarity.

1. **Erosion of Sovereignty:** Eswatini's involuntary role as a deportation site violates SADC principles of mutual respect and self-determination.
2. **Breach of Non-Refoulement:** Forcing migrants into a country lacking protection capacity flouts the UN Refugee Convention.
3. **Regional Destabilization:** Unmonitored border crossings export humanitarian crises across Southern Africa.
4. **Criminalization of Migration:** Warehousing migrants in prisons perpetuates stigma and dehumanization, directly contradicting Africa's ethos of *ubuntu*.
5. **Secret Diplomacy:** Concealed agreements undermine democratic accountability.



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**Reclaiming SADC for People's Development**

*Building People Power, Voice, and Agency towards Democracy and Inclusion*

## **SAPSN Calls for:**

- **IMMEDIATE SUSPENSION** of all deportation flights to Eswatini.
- **FULL DISCLOSURE** by the Eswatini Government of all discussions and agreements with the US.
- **SADC SUMMIT ACTION:** The forthcoming SADC Heads of State Summit must table this crisis, investigating its legality and regional fallout.
- **INDEPENDENT AU/SADC PROBE:** Scrutinize violations of refugee law and sovereignty.
- **REGIONAL BORDER SAFEGUARDS:** Neighbouring states must strengthen monitoring to contain spillover.

SAPSN contends that the US government's actions threaten peace in Eswatini and Southern Africa, setting a dangerous precedent for imperialist exploitation. The Chairperson of SADC's Organ on Politics, Defence and Security must urgently convene a special session.

## **WE CALL ON ALL PROGRESSIVE FORCES TO:**

- Reject the weaponization of African sovereignty through economic coercion.
- Demand the US and Eswatini governments uphold international law and human dignity.
- Protect the right to seek asylum—anywhere, everywhere.

Our message is clear:

**Africa is not a dumping ground for unwanted citizens of the global north. The continent has been robbed, looted and exploited enough. Respect for Africa!**

**-ENDS -**

