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**WORKER RIGHTS
AND THE
GENERALIZED SYSTEM OF
PREFERENCES**

SWAZILAND

**The AFL-CIO Petition to the
Office of the United States Trade
Representative**

June 16, 1998

97-2001 REV
2002 → 2005 REV
2005 end (TS)

UPDATE FOR SWAZILAND PETITION

The Kingdom of Swaziland continues to violate internationally recognized trade union rights. The current industrial relations act is not in compliance with internationally recognized worker rights. In practice as well, the Kingdom of Swaziland denies workers their rights.

Freedom of Association

The Kingdom of Swaziland has, in principle, agreed to amend the Industrial Relations Act passed in 1995. The Labor Advisory Board, after months of work, reached consensus on a proposed draft industrial relations bill in March of 1998. To our knowledge, this draft bill has not yet been submitted to the Parliament for action. And, even if the bill is submitted, it is our understanding that Parliament will adjourn early this session and that the next session has been substantially shortened. This would, of course, reduce the possibility that the consensus bill could become law. FWA

Workers also must be guaranteed their rights to organize and bargain collectively in practice. The Kingdom of Swaziland appears to be continuing its policy of intimidating and harassing trade unionists. It has been reported that government harassment of trade unionists was increasing at the end of 1997.) no we

Conclusion

The Kingdom of Swaziland should be removed from the list of eligible beneficiaries of the Generalized System of Preferences.

