

Media Notice from the Swaziland Vigil – 14th May 2012

Swazis in London protest at visit by playboy king Mswati III

Exiled Swazis living in the UK are to protest outside the Savoy Hotel in London on Wednesday 16th May when their king Mswati III is due to arrive to attend a diamond jubilee banquet for the world's monarchs hosted by the Queen at Windsor Castle on Friday 18th May.

The protest is organised by the Swaziland Vigil which stages regular demonstrations outside the Swaziland High Commission in London in protest at the king's autocratic rule. He is Africa's last absolute monarch and has, at the last count, 13 wives – although there are reports that some of them have fled. Forty-four year old Mswati III, educated at Sherborne public school in Dorset, is said by Forbes magazine to have a fortune of more than \$100 million while his people live in poverty.

Let them eat cow dung

Written by Administrator

Wednesday, 16 May 2012 19:27 - Last Updated Wednesday, 16 May 2012 19:27

The co-ordinator of the Swazi Vigil Thobile Gwebu said people in Swaziland had been reduced to eating cow dung so that they could fill their bellies as required for the AIDs medicines provided by NGOs. She said the king had recently taken delivery of a DC-9 twin-engine aircraft claiming it was a gift from 'anonymous sponsors'.

Ms Gwebu said she understood the king was travelling with the entourage of 30, staying at the Savoy where room prices start at £400 a night.

She said Swazis in the UK didn't want to spoil the Queen's Jubilee celebrations and had written to her explaining that, as Queen of the Commonwealth, perhaps she could have a word with Mswati so that they could return home to a country where human rights were respected. For text of the letter see: <http://www.zimvigil.co.uk/vigil-news/campaign-news/397-swaziland-vigil-letter-to-the-queen>

The Swaziland Vigil is also planning to picket the Swaziland High Commission on Saturday

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May when king Mswati is due to hold a dinner.

Savoy Protest

Date: Wednesday 16th May from 12 noon – 3 pm

Venue: Savoy Hotel, Strand, London WC2R 0EU

Swazi High Commission Protest

Date: Saturday 19th May from 6.30 pm

Venue: Swazi High Commission, 20 Buckingham Gate, London
SW1E 6LB

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