



SOUTH AFRICAN EMBASSY
AMBASSADE D'AFRIQUE DU SUD
59, quai d'Orsay - 75343 Paris Cedex 07 - Tél. : 01 53 59 23 23
www.afriquesud.net

2 November 2016

UNESCO

7, place de Fontenoy

75352 Paris 07 SP France

Dear Director-General Bokova,

**THE MURDER OF FREELANCE PHOTOJOURNALIST, MR MICHAEL TSHELE,
13 January 2014**

The above-mentioned subject refers. I hereby acknowledge receipt of your letter dated the 7th of September 2016, pertaining to the status of the judicial enquiry into the unfortunate murder of a South African photojournalist, Mr Michael Tshele, who died while covering a protest in the town of Mothutlung (Brits), South Africa on the 13th of January 2014.

Subsequently, to that incident, the South African Independent Police Investigative Directorate (IPID) conducted a thorough investigation on the murder of Mr Tshele and of two other persons, namely Merssrs Enock Seimela and Oshiah Rahube, as it involved a policeman. On the 21st of January 2016, the High Court in Pretoria found a former public order unit policeman, Mr Hyde Mophosho, guilty of murder of Mr Tshele, the two protestors and for attempted murder of two other protesters.

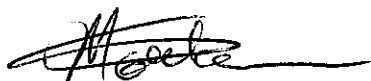
In June 2016, the North Gauteng High Court sentenced Mr Mophosho to 15 years for each of the murder charges, ten years for the attempted murder and five years for the illegal possession of ammunition.

Director-General, let me reiterate South Africa's commitment to freedom of expression and the safety of journalists, including support for UNESCO's efforts in tackling the impunity of crimes against journalists. The Constitution of the Republic of South Africa of 1996 - Chapter 2, Article 11 and Article 16 of the Bill of Rights on the right to Life and Freedom of Expression, respectively, is unambiguous. These two articles guarantee everyone's right to life and freedom of expression, including freedom of the press and media. It is in this vein, that no energy was spared to ensure that the perpetrator of this crime was arrested and duly sentenced.

In conclusion, on behalf of the Government of the Republic of South Africa, I do not have any objection to the publishing of this information on UNESCO website, as proposed by the IPDC: Decision on the Safety of Journalists and the Issue of Impunity.

Please accept, Director-General, the assurances of my highest consideration.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Molekane', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Rapulane Molekane
Ambassador and Permanent Delegate