

# LEGAL AND HUMAN RIGHTS CENTRE

**Mlinzi wa Haki  
Newsletter**

**April - June 2025 Edition**





# LHRC

## *Esteemed Readers,*

Legal and Human Rights Centre (LHRC) is pleased to present the Second Quarter (April–June) 2025 edition of the Mlinzi wa Haki Newsletter. This quarter has been marked by impactful advocacy, bold reporting, and tireless action to protect human dignity, justice, and the rule of law across Tanzania.

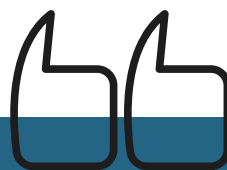
LHRC extends its heartfelt gratitude to its cherished development partners: the Embassies of Sweden, Norway, and Ireland, as well as the Ford Foundation and the Wellspring Philanthropic Fund for their continued support in advancing human rights and access to justice.

Throughout the months of April to June 2025, LHRC has demonstrated commitment to its mission by engaging in initiatives such as the powerful launch of its 23rd Tanzania Human Rights Report entitled “The Resurgence of Unknown Assailants” to its active participation in CSO Week 2025 in Arusha,

Furthermore, LHRC issued a series of press statements on urgent human rights concerns, supported victims through legal aid at Integrated Justice Centres, and expanded its public awareness campaigns focusing on the abolition of the death penalty and promotion of consumer rights. LHRC also collaborated with stakeholders to commemorate the Day of the African Child and advocate for policy reforms that uphold the rights of women and children.



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LHRC remains at the forefront of national dialogue on civic space, accountability and freedom – resolute in its commitment to amplifying the voices of the marginalised, building a more just society, and defending the values of democracy, equity, and human rights for all.

## **Mr. Fulgence Massawe (Advocate)**

Acting Executive Director,  
Legal and Human Rights Centre



## ➤ LHRC Announces New Chair of the Board.

During this quarter, LHRC proudly announced the appointment of Justice (Ret'd) Dr. Fauz A. Twaib as the new Chairperson of the Board of Directors.

Simultaneously, LHRC expressed its heartfelt gratitude to Hon. Chief Justice (Ret'd) Barnabas A. Samatta for his exceptional leadership and dedication to the promotion of justice and human rights in Tanzania during his six-year tenure as Chairperson of the LHRC Board of Directors. His commitment and guidance have been pivotal to LHRC's progress, and his legacy will remain fundamental in LHRC's continued efforts to protect and promote the rights and freedoms of all Tanzanians.

Justice (Ret'd) Dr. Twaib brings with him a wealth of experience and deep expertise in the Tanzanian legal and judicial landscape. He is a distinguished legal practitioner and currently serves as a Partner at Rex Advocates in Dar es Salaam, where he leads the Litigation and Arbitration Practice.



His areas of specialisation include Litigation and Arbitration, Land Law and Conveyancing, Criminal Practice & Forensics, and Tax Law. He is an Advocate of the High Court of Tanzania Mainland and Zanzibar, a Commissioner for Oaths, a Notary Public, and a certified Arbitrator.



Introductory meeting with Justice (Ret'd) Dr. Fauz A. Twaib, the new Chairperson of the LHRC Board of Directors, held at the LHRC offices in Kijitonyama, Dar es Salaam.





His appointment, thus, marks the beginning of a new chapter for LHRC. The organisation warmly welcomes Justice (Ret'd) Dr. Twaib and looks forward to his leadership in furthering its mission to create a just, equitable, and rights-respecting society. With his vision and expertise, LHRC is confident it will continue to thrive as a champion of human rights and the rule of law in Tanzania.



Justice (Ret'd) Dr. Fauz A. Twaib, the new Chairperson of the LHRC Board of Directors, with Acting Executive Director Fulgence Massawe during his first official visit to LHRC for an introductory meeting.



# ➤ 'The Resurgence of Unknown Assailants': LHRC Launches its 23rd Human Rights Report.



This quarter, Legal and Human Rights Centre (LHRC) successfully launched its 23rd edition of the Tanzania Human Rights Report (THRR) for the year 2024.

The 2024 report was released under the alarming theme, "The Resurgence of Unknown Assailants." It reflects a disturbing increase in abductions, forced disappearances, and violent attacks carried out by unidentified individuals. These incidents have led to widespread fear and concern given their direct impact on civil and political freedoms.

In particular, the shocking abduction and brutal killing of Ali Mohamed Kibao, a veteran cadre and leader of the CHADEMA opposition party stands as a reflection of a trend that has gripped the nation.

Apart from reports of abductions and forced disappearances, findings in this year's report illustrate that children remain the most affected by human rights violations, making up 41% of victims. Women follow at 29%, while men, the elderly, and persons with disabilities make up the remaining percentages. These figures reflect a deeply rooted vulnerability among groups that highlights a need for stronger legal protections and policy attention.



Mr. Nyanda Shuli, Commissioner, Commission for Human Rights and Good Governance (CHRAGG) launching the LHRC's 2024 Human Rights Report on May 5, 2025.

The launch of LHRC's 2024 THRR was a continuation of its long-standing work in documenting, analysing, and advocating for human rights protection in Tanzania. Drawing from both primary data collected through LHRC's Legal Aid and Human Rights Monitoring programmes and field documentation, and secondary sources such as media reports and official statements, the 2024 report paints a sobering picture of the current human rights landscape.

Thus, this report serves as both a warning and a call to action. LHRC, through a message that resonates beyond the report's pages, urges government officials, civil society organisations, media, and Tanzanian citizens to reflect deeply on these findings and work collectively to protect the democratic values and freedoms that are continuously threatened. The 2024 THRR report can be found here <https://tinyurl.com/52s3swvb>



*LHRC's Acting Executive Director, Mr. Fulgence Massawe (Fourth from right) along with LHRC's development partners and board members, holding the launched report.*



Media stakeholders reporting live during the launch of LHRC's Human Rights Report.



# ➤ Pathways to Progress: LHRC Engages in CSO Week 2025.



As an organisation that serves the community, LHRC actively engaged in the Civil Society Organizations (CSO) Week held at Mount Meru Hotel in Arusha. This annual gathering brought together civil society actors, government representatives, development partners, and the media to reflect on the state of civic space, accountability, and human rights in Tanzania.

The 2025 CSO Week's theme was "Pathways to Progress- Civil Society's True Calling in Times of Poly Crisis," underscoring the CSO's

commitment to collaborative, inclusive, and sustainable development.

During this week, LHRC collaborated with stakeholders to organize three sessions: a dialogue session with WAJIBIKA aimed at re-evaluating the core value-proposition of civil society in a changing geopolitical landscape; a discussion with Legal Services Facility (LSF) and Care Tanzania aimed at exploring actionable solutions to minimize dependency on external aid; a session with BBC Media Action, Jamii Africa and Tanzania Bora initiative aimed to spark dialogue on how ethical, inclusive, and evidence-based media can amplify civil society efforts, foster accountability, and support citizens in making informed decisions.



The team of organizers of the session on rethinking sustainability models for CSOs in the access to the justice sector beyond donor dependency along with senior officers from MoCLA and PO-LARG.



Through its engagement, one key takeaway resonates with LHRC: for CSOs in Tanzania to thrive and fulfill their mission, they must center people's voices, deepen community accountability, foster inclusive partnerships, and embrace cross-sector collaboration – this is essential in driving democratic, equitable, and sustainable development.

Moreover, to ensure wider public participation and awareness, LHRC extended its presence beyond the conference venue through live coverage of sessions on Haki TV's YouTube channel. These efforts created an interactive space for citizens and followers from across the country to engage with the key messages and discussions from Arusha.



***Adv. Fulgence Massawe, LHRC's Acting Executive Director, in a panel on protection of consumer rights during CSO Week in Arusha.***







Mobilization becomes clear that sustainability for CSOs begins with reimagining their resource base, moving away from dependence on external donors toward local solutions such as community giving, strategic resource mobilization, and income generating initiatives, which enhance financial independence and community ownership. These efforts must be accompanied by communication that is inclusive, well-informed, and accessible. LHRC is committed to centering these lessons in its service.



# ➤ Responding to Injustices: LHRC's Efforts to Monitor and Address Human Rights Violations.

As a strategy to address the increasing scale of human rights abuses in the country, LHRC has continued to monitor and respond to incidents across the country. Nine (9) strategic press releases and public statements addressing key issues in the human rights landscape have been released. These timely statements covered critical issues such as politically motivated violence, unlawful arrests, attacks on civic and religious leaders, digital repression, and violations of regional legal norms. The purpose of the press statements was not only to demand accountability but also to raise public awareness and influence national discourse on human rights and justice.

Key highlights include:

- Condemnation of the unlawful arrest, torture, and mistreatment of opposition politicians, journalists, and civilians who attended hearings related to the Tundu Lissu Case.
- A widely shared press statement demanding the release of Mr. Tundu Lissu.
- A public statement condemning the abduction and assault of political activist Mdude Nyagali, which sparked conversations about political repression in Tanzania.
- Condemnation of the violent attack on TEC Secretary General, Father Dr. Charles Kitima, which prompted police response and broad solidarity from religious and human rights communities.
- A high-profile press conference condemning the unlawful detention and deportation of Hon. Martha Karua and legal observers from Kenya, which elevated the issue to regional prominence.
- A press release commemorating the International Day in Support of Victims of Torture, calling for the ratification of OPCAT

and reinforcement of anti-torture safeguards.

- A statement opposing the government's decision to block access to Platform X (formerly Twitter), advocating for the restoration of digital rights and freedom of expression.

All statements were disseminated through LHRC's digital platforms and media networks, which allowed for significant engagement and public dialogue. Notably, posts concerning Hon. John Heche and Hon. Martha Karua gained significant momentum, indicating strong public interest in real-time advocacy around controversial national issues.

Engagement metrics from this quarter reaffirm that the public responds most strongly to statements on politically sensitive issues. This trend offers valuable direction for future content and advocacy strategies.



***Mr. Fulgence Massawe, Acting Executive Director of LHRC, addressing the media during one of this quarter's press statements on human rights violations.***



# ➤ Empowering the Public in the free market economy: LHRC Leads the Fight for Consumer Rights



***Clay Mwaifwani, Business and Human Rights Officer at LHRC, speaking on Crown Radio about the rights and protection of consumers as provided under various Tanzanian laws.***

During the second quarter of the year 2025, LHRC started its campaign to promote and protect consumer rights by utilising the power of mainstream and digital media. As part of a broader public education initiative, LHRC conducted a series of media engagements under the theme of “Haki za Walaji” (Consumer Rights Awareness).

The programs aired on Crown TV, Clouds TV, UFM, Crown FM, and Mjini FM, and covered a range of important topics: consumers’ rights under Tanzanian law, how to report unfair practices, the risks associated with digital transactions, and the importance of demanding quality and safety in goods and services.

Each program was designed to make legal information accessible to all regardless of location or background.

This initiative reflects LHRC’s broader commitment to building a rights-aware society where citizens are informed, protected, and able to hold service providers and institutions accountable. By using mainstream media and social platforms, LHRC ensures that vital information reaches a wide and diverse audience across the country.



# ➤ LHRC's Tireless Advocacy for the Abolition of the Death Penalty in Tanzania.



LHRC has remained unwavering in its advocacy against the death penalty in Tanzania. For years, LHRC has consistently called upon the government to ratify international protocols aimed at abolishing the death penalty.

In the spirit of this ongoing commitment, on June 26th, 2025, LHRC collaborated with Women Aid and Criminal Justice (WACJ) and the Tanzania Ex-Prisoners Foundation (TEPF) to organise a discussion surrounding the proposed abolition of the death penalty in Tanzania.



***Participants from LHRC, Women Aid and Criminal Justice (WACJ), and Tanzania Ex-Prisoners Foundation (TEPF) in a group photo during the meeting on the abolition of the death penalty in Tanzania, held in Dar es Salaam.***

The dialogue followed the recent appointment of Chief Justice George Masaju, during which President Samia Suluhu Hassan called on the judiciary to prioritise the implementation of the Commission's reform recommendations. LHRC played a central role in drafting proposals from the Presidential Commission on Criminal Justice Reform.

The meeting brought together a broad mix of stakeholders, including lawyers, civil society representatives, government officials, and academicians. The discussions addressed the need for Tanzania to move toward a justice system that upholds the right to life and reflects evolving legal and social values. Through this engagement, LHRC continues to prove itself as an organisation that is attentive to Tanzanian society and to the growing consensus that the death penalty has no place in a modern justice system rooted in dignity and fairness.





# ➤ LHRC Resolves Family Disputes Through Mediation at Judiciary Integrated Justice centers.

In addition to its commitment to promoting human rights and offering legal assistance to marginalized communities, LHRC actively provides legal support within the Judiciary's Integrated Justice Centre's (IJC's).

LHRC's legal officers stationed at Dodoma IJC offer legal aid and help resolve various disputes for clients seeking justice. Most people who seek LHRC's legal services in its Dodoma office are struggling with family and marital disputes. Many of the cases involved separation, child custody, and spousal support. These kinds of disputes continue to be some of the most common legal challenges facing vulnerable citizens such as women and children.

Through its mediation efforts, LHRC provides a safe, affordable, and efficient alternative to court proceedings. This approach helps clients reach amicable resolutions, avoid delays, and preserve dignity in sensitive matters.

In this fashion, LHRC remains committed to making justice more accessible to ensure that every person, regardless of status or income, can receive legal support when they need it most.



Antony Samanyi, Legal Officer at LHRC Dodoma, offering child custody mediation support to parents who came to the Integrated Justice Centre (IJC).



# ➤ Partnering for Progress: LHRC Strengthens Strategic Collaborations for protection of women's and Child rights.

During this quarter, LHRC strengthened strategic partnerships and coalition engagements to advance women's and children's rights. In collaboration with CAMMAC members, LHRC co-hosted the Annual Directors Meeting, fostering consensus on key priorities and enhancing directors' understanding and commitment to eliminating maternal morbidity and mortality from unsafe abortion.

LHRC also deepened collaboration with key partners, including the Centre for Reproductive

Rights (CRR) and Médecins du Monde (MdM), to review projects for better alignment with legal and human rights frameworks.

Staff from CRR visited LHRC during this quarter as part of efforts to strengthen strategic collaborations for the protection of women's and children's rights.



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Quarterly coalition meetings enhanced transparency and intensified commitment to the cause and to smooth coordination of projects.



***CRR staff in a joint meeting with LHRC staff during their visit this quarter to discuss ways to strengthen strategic collaborations for the protection of women's and children's rights.***

Through active participation with the Coalition to Address Maternal Mortality and Morbidity (CAMMAC), Mwongozo Wa Uratibu Wa Mpango Kazi Wa Taifa Wa Kutokomeza Ukatili Dhidi Ya Wanawake Na Watoto (MTAKUWWA) Phase II, Tanzania Ending Child Marriage Network (TECMN), and the Coalition for Women Human Rights Defenders Tanzania (CWHRDST), LHRC contributed its legal expertise, shared its progress, and supported collective advocacy and coordination.



Getrude Dyabene, Capacity Development and Community Engagement Manager at LHRC, delivering a training session on the Law of the Child and the National Plan of Action to End Violence Against Women and Children (MTAKUWA 2024/25–2028/29)

# ➤ **Championing Children's Rights: LHRC commemorates the Day of the African Child**

The Day of the African Child is commemorated annually on June 16 to reflect on the rights and well-being of children across the continent. While the Tanzanian government allocates only one day for this national holiday, Legal and Human Rights Centre (LHRC) took a unique approach in its commemoration.

Rather than commemorating on a single day (16<sup>th</sup> June), LHRC ran a month-long mainstream and social media campaign, using various platforms to advocate for the rights of children and to call for stronger actions against child abuse. Recognising the alarming rise in cases of violence against children, LHRC dedicated the month of June to a sustained awareness campaign. The initiative's key focus was to amplify the voices of children and draw national attention to the urgent need for protection of their rights.



LHRC released three dramatised videos, featuring students from Jangwani Secondary School, Ifunda Girls Secondary School, and the Institute of Social Work, to share data from LHRC's 2024 Human Rights Report on child abuse and labour. These clips promoted vibrant online conversations, with viewers emphasising the urgent need to protect children's rights.



## ***Children who participated in the National Children's Council General Meeting ahead of the Day of the African Child.***

Additionally, LHRC coordinated and participated in the National Children's Council General Assembly held in Dar es Salaam in preparation for the Day of African Child - where students from different regions in Tanzania were invited to share their perspectives and drive national dialogue on child rights.



Simultaneously, a series of visually engaging posters circulated across LHRC's digital platforms highlighting critical statistics on child rights violations, reinforcing the call to action.





Concurrently, LHRC made efforts to amplify the voices of children through mainstream means; LHRC's officers attended media houses such as Azam TV, TBC Radio,

and Clouds Media to raise awareness around violence against children and women. Through media discussions informed by the 2024 Tanzania Human Rights Report, LHRC urged communities to reject harmful disciplinary practices, champion constructive parenting, and stand united against Gender-Based violence.

These combined efforts, drama, dialogue, and data driven advocacy significantly raised awareness of children's rights, inspired youth participation in policymaking, and reinforced LHRC's commitment to safeguarding the dignity and safety of Tanzania's most vulnerable.



# ➤ LHRC submits recommendations to improve the Finance Bill 2025.

Law advocacy is one of the core mandates at the heart of Legal and Human Rights Centre (LHRC). In fulfilling this role, on June 20th, 2025, LHRC presented its official analysis of the proposed Finance Act 2025 (Special Bill Supplement) before the Permanent Parliamentary Budget Committee in Dodoma.

LHRC's submission urged lawmakers to adopt a legislative framework that upholds the Tanzanian Constitution, integrates standards set by the World Health Organization (WHO), and reflects Tanzania's obligations under ratified international human rights conventions. Emphasis was placed on the impact of the proposed law on marginalised and vulnerable groups.

LHRC's analysis covered proposed amendments to five key laws: The Public Service Social Security Fund Act, The Excise (Management and Tariff) Act, The Insurance Act, The Universal Health Insurance Act, and The Mining Act of 2010. One of the major concerns raised was the increase in excise duty on electronic communication services, with proposed rates moving from 17% to 17.5% and from 5% to 10%. LHRC cautioned that such increases could make internet and mobile services unaffordable for many Tanzanians, limiting access to information and undermining the right to freedom of expression.

LHRC also strongly opposed the sharp reduction in excise duty on locally produced energy drinks, arguing that this change risks weakening the protection of the right to health. In addition, in its analysis of proposed changes to the Public Service Social Security Fund Act, LHRC expressed concern about granting the Minister discretionary powers to "increase, vary or modify" retirement benefits without clear legal safeguards.

On the Mining Act, LHRC supported new levies aimed at funding public health while simultaneously emphasising that these contributions should not replace existing Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) commitments by mining companies.



LHRC called on Parliament to take these human rights implications seriously and adopt a Finance Act that not only advances national economic goals but also safeguards the dignity, well-being, and fundamental rights of all Tanzanians - this high-level intervention reflects LHRC's unfaltering commitment to ensuring that Tanzania's fiscal legislation upholds human rights standards and fosters inclusive development.



***Hidaya Haonga, Advocacy Officer at LHRC, presents the Centre's analysis of the proposed Finance Act 2025 (Special Bill Supplement) before the Permanent Parliamentary Budget Committee.***



# ➤ Nurturing agents of Change: Imparting Human Rights Knowledge to youth.

In its ongoing mission to build a culture of human rights in Tanzania, LHRC has continued to invest in empowering young people with knowledge on human rights, gender, and civic responsibility.

During this quarter, LHRC has conducted an interactive empowerment session with students from Kairuki University focusing on human rights, gender equality, and cross-cutting social justice issues. The session laid the foundation for a strategic partnership between LHRC and the university, with future collaboration envisioned in areas such as youth-led accountability initiatives and inclusive civic engagement.



***A group photo of LHRC's staff with leaders and members of the University of Dar es Salaam Human Rights Association during the Annual General Meeting, which included the election of new leaders.***

In addition to working with university students, LHRC also reached younger audiences by engaging pupils from Joyful Pre & Primary School, Zawadi Secondary School and Ifunda girls' high school.



Ally Seif, Youth and Children Officer from LHRC, speaking during the Annual General Meeting of the University of Dar es Salaam Human Rights Association (UDHRA), where LHRC provided human rights education.





***Ally Seif Ramadhani, Youth and Children Officer at LHRC, in a group photo with students from Joyful after a human rights session.***

These sessions introduced foundational concepts of peace, equality, and rights, planting seeds of awareness and activism at an early age.

By equipping youth across all educational levels with knowledge and tools to understand and defend human rights, LHRC continues to nurture a generation that is informed, empowered, and ready to hold duty bearers accountable for a just and inclusive Tanzania.





# Justice in Action: LHRC Facilitates Release on bail of 150 Victims of Unlawful Detention.

From April to June 2025, LHRC provided legal support in 150 cases where individuals were unlawfully detained by police, without being granted bail as required under Tanzanian law. These violations largely stemmed from restrictions on the freedom of worship, freedom of expression, and blatant abuse of power by law enforcement agencies. Legal and Human Rights Centre (LHRC) has not remained silent in the face of this growing injustice.

Beyond raising public awareness concerning the right to bail, LHRC took direct action, physically visiting police stations and securing the release of individuals - among them politicians, human rights activists, and ordinary citizens - who had been unlawfully denied bail. These efforts were part of a broader campaign to ensure that justice is accessible, especially for the most vulnerable.

In all the 150 cases, bail was secured unconditionally, and no formal charges were

filed, except in one case: the “Wachokonozi” group in Arusha, who were later charged under Section 16 of the Cybercrimes Act and the Online Content Regulations 2022.

This success story reflects LHRC’s tireless commitment to promoting and defending constitutional rights, including the right to bail as guaranteed under Article 13(6)(b) of the Constitution of the United Republic of Tanzania, as well as under international human rights instruments ratified by Tanzania.

LHRC has stood firm in its stance that bail is a human right and took an active role in ensuring that the right to bail was not just a legal theory, but a lived reality.



Advocate William Maduhu presenting a report on LHRC’s successful intervention in securing bail for 52 members of the Church of Resurrection and Life, who were arrested by the police on 29th June 2025 in Dar es Salaam.

## Our development partners.



EMBASSY OF SWEDEN



Wellspring  
Philanthropic Fund 



Ambasáid na hÉireann  
Embassy of Ireland

**Ford  
Foundation**



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**Mlinzi wa HAKI**  
English Version



**SUPPORT  
OUR  
CAUSE**



To Improve  
Legal and  
Policy  
Environment



To Reduce  
Incidences of  
Violence and  
Discrimination  
Against Women,  
Children and  
PWDs



To Enhance  
Accountability  
of Duty Bearers  
to Address  
Citizen Needs  
and Concerns.



To make  
LHRC more  
Efficient,  
Effective,  
and  
Sustainable.