



LEGAL AND HUMAN RIGHTS CENTRE

Justice Lugakingira House, Kijitonyama, P. O. Box 75254, Dar es Salaam, Tanzania

Telephone: 2773048, 2773038, Fax: 2773037, E-mail:

lhrc@humanrights.or.tz

Website www.humanrights.or.tz

LAUNCH OF THE TANZANIA HUMAN RIGHTS REPORT 2023

-Press Release-

Dar es Salaam, 24 April 2024.

Legal and Human Rights Centre (LHRC) launched its Tanzania Human Rights Report 2023, today on Wednesday, 24th April 2024. The report is LHRC's 22nd since 2002 and highlights the situation of human rights in Tanzania, both Mainland Tanzania and Zanzibar, touching on the positives and the negatives that transpired throughout the year. It has been prepared in collaboration with the Zanzibar-based Zanzibar Fighting Against Youth Challenges Organization (ZAFAYCO).

The report is the outcome of LHRC's assessment of human rights situation in Tanzania in line with domestic, regional, and international human rights standards, including human rights conventions ratified by Tanzania and the Constitution of the United Republic of Tanzania of 1977.

This was made possible through use of various data sources, both primary and secondary, including field data and internal data generated through LHRC's programmes such as the Legal Aid Programme. Secondary data included reports, speeches, and statements by Government and Non-Government actors and institutions. LHRC's media survey also provided an important data source for this report, enabling triangulation of data, and laying a foundation for further research.

The 2023 edition of annual human rights report touches on some key issues around the three generations of human rights, namely: the civil and political rights; economic, social, and cultural rights; and collective rights. There are chapters for each of these three generations and additional chapters on introduction; rights of special groups such as women, children, persons with disabilities, and the elderly; human rights mechanisms available at domestic, regional, and international levels and their role in human rights protection; and status of implementation of recommendations made in previous reports.

Board of Directors:

Hon. Chief Justice (Ret'd) Barnabas A. Samatta - Chairperson, Ms. Anastazia Rugaba - Vice Chairperson,
Ms. Anna Aloys Henga (Adv.) Secretary, Ms. Rebeca Z. Gyumi - Member,
Ms. Sophia M. Komba - Member, Dr. Abdullah H. Mohammed - Member, Ms. Josephine A. Zimba - Member,
Ms. Lutgard Kokulinda Kagaruki - Member, Dr. Ally Hussein Laay - Member

The report also contains recommendations within specific chapters covering the human rights situation. In total, the report has seven chapters in both Part One (Mainland Tanzania) and Part Two (Zanzibar). Some of the new additions in the report include issues such as artistic freedom, climate change concerns, and status of recommendations implementation in Zanzibar.

The theme for the 2023 human rights report is “Constitution: A Pillar for Accountability and Rights Protection” considering the calls and debates around accountability and the need for a new constitution to in 2023. **Accountability** is the cornerstone of the human rights framework, without which rights holders cannot hold duty bearers to account in accordance with their obligations. This makes this human rights principle such an important tool for enforcing human rights.

In recent years, stakeholders in Tanzania have repeatedly voiced their concerns over lack of accountability, including for corruption and mismanagement, misuse, and embezzlement of public funds, revealed in CAG reports. A new, people-centred Constitution is therefore needed now more than ever, to enhance human rights accountability. This Constitution shall also strengthen existing accountability mechanisms and, where necessary, create new ones.

Key issues highlighted in the report include mob violence; witchcraft-motivated killings; intimate partner homicide (IPH); press freedom; economic violence against women; criminal justice challenges and recommendations, including those highlighted in the Presidential Commission on Criminal Justice Reforms; violence against the elderly; mental health; violence against children; political participation; quality education and health services; economic empowerment of women, youth, and persons with disabilities; and corruption, embezzlement, accountability, and development, in relation to human rights.

Like it was the case in 2022, in the year 2023 the most reported and documented human rights issues were violations of civil and political rights, including right to life and violence. Different forms of violence against women, children, PWDs, and the elderly were the most reported issues and incidents. These contributed to intimate partner homicides, witchcraft-motivated killings, denial of property and inheritance rights, and physical and psychological harm.

Criminal justice issues were also widely reported, debated, and discussed as many accused persons continue to languish in prisons because of deficiencies in the criminal justice system, as also highlighted in the report

Board of Directors:

Hon. Chief Justice (Ret'd) Barnabas A. Samatta - Chairperson, Ms. Anastazia Rugaba - Vice Chairperson, Ms. Anna Aloys Henga (Adv.) Secretary, Ms. Rebeca Z. Gyumi - Member, Ms. Sophia M. Komba - Member, Dr. Abdullah H. Mohammed - Member, Ms. Josephine A. Zimba - Member, Ms. Lutgard Kokulinda Kagaruki - Member, Dr. Ally Hussein Laay - Member

of the Presidential Commission on Criminal Justice Reforms. Budgetary allocation and constraints also continued to be a key concern for realization of key social and economic rights, such as the right to education and right to health. These issues, violations, and challenges can be attributed to several factors, including gaps in laws and policies, inadequate legal protection, poor enforcement of laws, inadequate budget allocation for key sectors, lack of oversight and accountability, and lack of political will.

Other key human rights issues for the year 2023 included violations of rights of journalists, violations of fair trial rights (especially due to lengthy pre-trial detention), human and child trafficking, child neglect, child labour and exploitation, child marriage, privacy, and personal security, FGM, and violations of property and inheritance rights of women (including widows).

Children (45%) and women (30%), accounted for three quarters of the victims of human rights violations. Other victims were elderly (12%), men (10%), and persons with disabilities (3%). Five most violated rights were right to life, freedom from violence, right to equality before the law, right to liberty and personal security, and freedom from torture. Some of the regions where most of the human rights violations and issues were reported included Dar es Salaam, Njombe, Geita, Arusha, Kilimanjaro, Mara, Kigoma, and Dodoma.

Based on the assessment of human rights issues vis-à-vis international human rights standards, LHRC observed that the overall situation of human rights deteriorated in 2023 compared to the previous year of 2022. Nevertheless, there were some few positives, including lifting of the ban on political rallies and enactment of the Universal Health Coverage (UHC) law.

Issued by:



Dr. Anna Henga

Executive Director,

Legal and Human Rights Centre.

Board of Directors:

Hon. Chief Justice (Ret'd) Barnabas A. Samatta - Chairperson, Ms. Anastazia Rugaba - Vice Chairperson, Ms. Anna Aloys Henga (Adv.) Secretary, Ms. Rebeca Z. Gyumi - Member, Ms. Sophia M. Komba - Member, Dr. Abdullah H. Mohammed - Member, Ms. Josephine A. Zimba - Member, Ms. Lutgard Kokulinda Kagaruki - Member, Dr. Ally Hussein Laay - Member