



TANZANIA – FOURTH UPR CYCLE (2026)

Advocacy Fact Sheet for the UPR Pre-Session

August 2026

Civil and Political Rights

Focus: Implementation of recommendations accepted during the 2021 UPR cycle

A. Key Message

Tanzania has maintained some institutional and legal frameworks relevant to human rights protection. However, implementation of civil and political rights recommendations remains partial.

Civic space, freedom of expression and assembly, media freedom, political participation, and the protection of human rights defenders (HRDs) remain constrained.

The 2025 general elections were accompanied by reported violence, restrictions on assembly, killings, internet shutdowns, intimidation and arrests, highlighting persistent gaps in accountability and democratic governance.

B. Key human rights concerns

1. Restrictions on civic space and fundamental freedom

The Media Services Act, 2016, Cybercrimes Act, 2015 and Political Parties Act 1992 have not undergone major reforms sufficient to bring them into line with international standards. Restrictions on public gatherings, online expression and media activities continue to constrain freedom of expression, association and peaceful assembly. There has been suspension of some online media for 90 days ahead of the General Election.

2. Prolonged pre-trial detention and non-bailable offences

For instance, in *Republic v Alex Manyanza & 3 Others*, accused persons reportedly spent nearly ten years in remand before release. Non-bailable offences have also been used against activists, journalists and opposition actors. The current pattern shifted from not only non-bailable offences but application of serious offences including treasons and terrorism.

3. Electoral violence and accountability

The 2025 general elections were followed by reports of violence, mass arrests, killings, property destruction and restrictions on political activities and independent monitoring. More than 2,045 people were reportedly arrested or detained, with some charged with non-bailable offences including treason and armed robbery, while official report of the Inquiry Commission stated about 508 persons were killed including women and children.

4. Enforced disappearances, torture and impunity

Reports indicate a pattern of abductions, torture and enforced disappearances, with more than 200 cases of enforced disappearance reported over the preceding four years. The submission notes the absence of credible investigations and accountability despite sustained public demands.

C. Priority UPR Advocacy areas

States participating in the pre-session should urge Tanzania to;

1. Ensure independent investigations, prosecution and effective remedies for human rights violations connected to the 2025 electoral period.
2. Guarantee peaceful assemblies and political gatherings without undue restrictions.
3. End arbitrary suspension and closure of media outlets and online platforms and ensure independent regulation.
4. Prevent, investigate and eradicate enforced disappearances, cooperate fully with the UN Working Group on Enforced or Involuntary Disappearances, and ratify the relevant convention.
5. Ratify the African Charter on Democracy, Elections and Governance and implement relevant African Court decisions concerning



5. Ratify the Convention against Torture and its Optional Protocol, and domesticate their provisions.
6. Abolish the death penalty in law and practice and ratify the Second Optional Protocol to the ICCPR.
7. Amend or repeal restrictive provisions in the Media Services Act, Electronic and Postal Communications Act and Regulations, Cybercrimes Act and Political Parties Act to guarantee freedom of expression, assembly and association.
8. Abolish non-bailable offences and guarantee the right to bail, while addressing prolonged pre-trial detention.
9. Undertake comprehensive electoral and political reforms to enable political parties, candidates, observers and CSOs to operate freely and safely throughout the electoral cycle.
10. independent candidates and challenges to presidential election results.
10. Revise the NGO policy and regulatory framework to ensure NGOs can operate and access funding without undue administrative interference.
11. Establish an independent, impartial and transparent mechanism to investigate arbitrary arrests, enforced disappearances, torture and threats against critics, journalists, political actors, and civilians with immediate issuing of report to public.
12. Strengthen judicial independence and due process, including by limiting prolonged pre-trial detention and ensuring timely, fair and public hearings for HRDs and political activists.

Relevant 3rd Cycle UPR recommendations;

145.18, 145.27, 145.49, 145.50, 147.2, 147.24, 147.28, 147.33, 147.37, 147.39, 147.68, 147.69, 147.75, 147.76, 147.78, 147.81, 147.82, 147.83, 147.84, 147.86, 147.87, 147.88, 147.89, 147.91, 147.92, 147.93, 147.95, 147.96, 147.97, 147.98, 147.101, 147.102, 147.104, 147.105, 147.106, and 147.107.

Our organization

Legal and Human Rights Centre (LHRC) is a non-governmental organization engaged protecting and promoting human rights through advocacy for legal and policy reforms, providing legal aid and monitoring human rights violations.

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