



LEGAL AND HUMAN RIGHTS CENTRE

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LAUNCH OF THE TANZANIA HUMAN RIGHTS REPORT 2024

-Press Release-

On Monday, 5th May 2025, the Legal and Human Rights Centre (LHRC) launched its Tanzania Human Rights Report 2023. The report is LHRC's 23rd 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 using various data sources, both primary and secondary, including field data and internal data generated through LHRC's programmes such as the Lega Aid Programme and the Human Rights Monitoring 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 2024 edition of the 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. The report also contains recommendations within specific chapters covering the human rights

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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 a wave of reported abductions and disappearances in recent years, predatory lending and its impact on human rights, and civic space for human rights defenders.

The theme for the 2024 edition of the report is “THE RESURGENCE OF UNKNOWN ASSAILANTS,” inspired by widespread reports of abductions and disappearances of people believed to be orchestrated and carried out by unknown assailants. These incidents present a serious threat to fundamental human rights such as the right to life and right to liberty and personal security.

Key issues relating to civil and political rights highlighted in the report include mob violence; witchcraft-motivated killings; intimate partner homicide; abductions and disappearances; attacks and killing of persons with albinism (PWAs); arbitrary restrictions on freedoms of expression and assembly; limited access to justice; violations of rights of accused persons; and gaps in laws and policies.

Regarding economic, social, and cultural rights, some of the key issues that are discussed in the report include budgetary constraints; delays in disbursement of funds; poor working conditions; unemployment; shortages of workers; labour rights violations; land disputes; predatory lending practices; mental health issues; and different forms of violence, especially against children, women, and PWDs. Addressing these challenges is key to improving the situation of these rights, including the right to education, the right to health, the right to work, the right to adequate standard of living, and the right to social security.

Other key issues discussed in this report include predatory lending and its impact on human rights, civic space for human rights defenders, mental health issues, violence against the elderly, stigma and discrimination of persons with disabilities (PWDs), human and child trafficking, child neglect, child labour and exploitation, child marriage, privacy, and personal security, FGM, health insurance, and violations of property and inheritance rights.

The report shows that children constituted the majority of victims of human rights violations (41%), as was the case in 2023 whereby 47% of the victims of human rights violations were children. Women took the second place with 29%, followed by men (15%), the elderly (11%), and PWDs (4%). The percentage of women victims decreased by 1%, while the percentages for men, the

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elderly, and PWDs slightly increased by 5%, 1%, and 1% respectively. This suggests that special attention and increased investment are needed to safeguard the rights of special groups.

According to the report, the five most violated human rights in 2024 were the right to life, freedom from violence, the right to liberty and personal security, the right to equality before the law, and the right to participate in governance. All of these rights are civil and political rights, which suggests that most of the violations and issues of human rights concern in the country are related to this category of human rights.

Based on the assessment of human rights issues vis-à-vis international human rights standards, LHRC observed that the overall situation of human rights slightly deteriorated in 2024 compared to the previous year of 2023. This was mainly attributed to violations of civil and political rights, especially the right to life, the right to freedom from violence, the right to liberty and personal security, and the right to equality before the law.

Mr. Fulgence Massawe (Advocate)
Ag. Executive Director,
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