



LEGAL AND HUMAN RIGHTS CENTRE

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PUBLIC STATEMENT

Update on Security Incident Involving LHRC Staff at White Sands Hotel

Legal and Human Rights Centre (LHRC) wishes to inform the public that on **12th November 2025 at around 2100hrs**, a security incident occurred at White Sands Hotel where our staff were engaged in routine work. During the night, the entire hotel was placed under siege, and our team was subjected to harassment and intimidation. Their equipment, including laptops, identification cards, and mobile phones were confiscated, and they were instructed to report to the Zonal Crimes Office (ZCO), Dar es Salaam, at **1000hrs** the following morning for interviews and further investigation.

As directed, our staff reported to the Dar es Salaam Central Police Station, ZCO office. LHRC report that, following the interviews, all devices were returned without condition. However, we cannot confirm the security and integrity of the laptops and phones. While the devices have been returned, we remain deeply concerned about the circumstances of this incident and its implications for the safety and security of LHRC staff as human rights defenders whose existence and mandate are well known to the public and government, including the police.

We are particularly concerned that this incident occurred at a time when the Tanzania Police Force has been associated with unnecessary and excessive use of force and intimidation against members of the public now extending to our staff. LHRC does not claim to be above the law; however, we strongly condemn the abuse of police power, which has reached alarming proportions.

LHRC reiterates its commitment to promoting and protecting human rights in accordance with its mandate, international instruments, the Constitution of the United Republic of Tanzania, and all relevant legislation. We call upon the relevant authorities to operate strictly within the framework of the law to guarantee the safety of all individuals nationwide, including those engaged in this civic work.

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