



Legal and Human Rights Centre



GREETINGS FROM LHRC

Dear esteemed readers!

With the dedicated efforts of our staff and the generous support of our development partners, including the embassies of Sweden, Norway, and Ireland, LHRC is excited to present the August 2024 edition of the Mlinzi wa Haki Newsletter.

This month, we proudly unveiled two significant reports. The first one is the Legal Aid Report 2023, which highlights our achievements in providing legal aid throughout 2023, and underscores our role in alleviating poverty by ensuring access to justice for individuals and communities grappling with legal challenges.

The second one is the Human Rights and Business Report 2023/24, which marks LHRC's 10th report on business and human rights report in Mainland Tanzania. This comprehensive document delves into critical areas such as labor rights, land rights, tax responsibilities, corporate social responsibility, local content requirements, and more. It reflects our continued commitment to scrutinizing the intersection of business practices and human rights.

Our mission is to uphold and champion human rights, and we are thrilled to share these remarkable milestones with you. The reports, alongside other activities carried out in August, represent our ongoing commitment to driving change and amplifying voices that need to be heard.

However, our work is far from complete. We have observed troubling human rights violations, including reports of abductions, disappearances, kidnappings, and killings of children across various regions. These incidents underscore an urgent need to strengthen protections and ensure the safety and security of every child. Let's continue our advocacy efforts and strive for a just and equitable society.

With sincere gratitude and determination.

Dr. Anna Henga (Advocate)
LHRC Executive Director



LHRC celebrates Legal Aid milestones: Over 29,000 clients served and key legal wins achieved.

In August 2024, the Legal and Human Rights Centre (LHRC) reached a significant milestone with the launch of its first Legal Aid 2023 Report. The event at the Protea Hotel in Dar es Salaam gathered key figures from the legal and human rights sectors. LHRC's Executive Director, Dr. Anna Henga, delivered a powerful speech, reflecting on the organization's significant progress in the past year.

Dr. Henga highlighted how LHRC served an astounding 29,491 clients in 2023, compared to 18,294 in 2022 a 61% increase that underscores the organization's expanding reach as Tanzania's leading NGO legal aid provider. However, she noted a persistent challenge: only 35% of these clients were women, while 65% were men, calling for continued efforts to ensure equitable access to legal services for all, regardless of gender.

One of the most impactful initiatives in the 2023 report was LHRC's mobile legal aid services, which reached vulnerable groups, including prisoners. LHRC provided legal assistance to 864 inmates in prisons across Kisongo, Isanga, Ukonga, and Segerea. Of the inmates served, 87% were men, and 13% were women. Dr. Henga emphasized how these mobile visits provided critical legal advice, helping prisoners navigate complex legal processes and ensuring they had access to court documents that are often difficult to obtain.



Advocate Fulgence Massawe, LHRC's Director of Advocacy and Reforms, focused on the organization's strategic litigation efforts. LHRC has effectively utilized both local and regional courts to challenge laws and practices that violate human rights.

One of the landmark victories was the case of Bob Chacha Wangwe vs. the United Republic of Tanzania, which was heard before the African Court on Human and Peoples' Rights.

This case challenged the National Elections Act, which allowed district executive directors to serve as returning officers in general elections despite not having proper qualifications. The Court ruled that this statute violated the African Charter on Human and Peoples' Rights, marking a crucial step towards fairer electoral processes in Tanzania.

The 2023 report also detailed LHRC's collaboration with the Tanzania Human Rights Defenders Coalition to challenge provisions of Tanzania's Criminal Procedure Act that restricted the right to bail. The African Court ruled that these provisions violated fundamental human rights, including the right to a fair trial and the presumption of innocence. This legal victory was a significant step towards reforming Tanzania's criminal justice system and protecting individuals' rights to be heard.



Land rights were also a major focus of LHRC's legal battles in 2023, particularly in the Loliondo region. The organization represented the Ololosokwan Village Council in a case against the Tanzanian government, challenging the establishment of the Pololeti Game Controlled Area. The Court ultimately ruled in favor of the community, declaring the establishment of the game reserve illegal and securing land rights for local residents.

LHRC also made significant strides in advancing political rights through its litigation efforts. In 2023, the East African Court of Justice ruled that sections of the Political Parties (Amendment) Act unjustly restricted the rights to freedom of association and personal security. This victory reaffirmed Tanzanians' rights to participate freely in public affairs without fear of discrimination or government restrictions.

In closing, Dr. Henga expressed optimism about LHRC's future, highlighting how the organization's impact reached beyond Dar es Salaam, with clients coming from regions like Arusha, Kilimanjaro, Morogoro, and more. She reiterated LHRC's commitment to fighting for justice and ensuring that legal aid services reach every corner of Tanzania, regardless of gender, socioeconomic status, or location. Through strategic litigation, mobile legal services, and ongoing advocacy efforts, LHRC remains a key player in advancing human rights and access to justice for all Tanzanians.



LHRC's 10th Human Rights and Business Report exposes persistent labor and environmental challenges in Tanzania.

On August 27, 2024, the Legal and Human Rights Centre (LHRC) reached a monumental milestone by launching its 10th Human Rights and Business Report for Mainland Tanzania.

This 2023/24 edition delves deep into the complex relationship between human rights and corporate responsibility, addressing key concerns such as labor rights, land ownership, environmental protection, and corporate social responsibility (CSR).

LHRC has championed human rights within Tanzania's business sector for over a decade. Their advocacy aligns with the UN's 2011 Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights, which rest on three pillars: "Protect, Respect, and Remedy." These principles emphasize the government's duty to protect human rights, the corporate sector's responsibility to respect them, and the importance of providing remedies for violations.

In her address, LHRC Executive Director Dr. Anna Henga reiterated the Centre's commitment to holding businesses accountable. "The government must ensure policies and institutions are in place to protect human rights," Dr. Henga noted. "Businesses, in turn, have a duty to respect these rights, while remedies must be available for any violations."



The report sheds light on critical issues faced by local communities, including labor rights, CSR practices, and corporate accountability. One of the key findings was a modest improvement in formal employment contracts, with 69.4% of workers reporting contracts in 2023—up from 64.6% the previous year. However, challenges remain.

Unfair terminations dominate labor-related complaints, accounting for over 50% of grievances, while trade union participation remains alarmingly low, with only 37% of workers reporting union presence at their workplaces.

Women, especially in small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs), continue to face discrimination, particularly due to pregnancy or maternity leave. Despite existing legal protections, many women report being dismissed or demoted for being pregnant. Meanwhile, corporate recognition of trade unions has dropped drastically, from 60% in 2022 to 39% in 2023.

The report also paints a sobering picture of land rights issues. Delayed compensation and unfair land valuations were major concerns raised by affected communities, reflecting ongoing challenges in the exploitation of natural resources and fair compensation practices.



Environmental neglect emerged as a pressing concern, with 60% of businesses lacking clear environmental management policies. Harmful practices such as pollution continue to plague local communities, contributing to public health concerns.

One of the most significant revelations was the decline in corporate social responsibility (CSR). Only 50% of community members felt they had benefited from CSR initiatives, down from 60% in 2022. These findings reflect a broader trend of declining trust in corporate accountability and commitment to the communities in which they operate.

In her closing remarks, Dr. Henga emphasized that LHRC will continue to hold businesses accountable and push for stronger regulatory oversight. “This report is not just a record of violations,” she said. “It is a call to action for businesses, the government, and civil society to build a more just and inclusive business environment in Tanzania.”

As LHRC launches this milestone 10th report, it serves as a powerful reminder of the ongoing need for reform. The fight for human rights in the business sector is far from over, and this report highlights the need for continued vigilance, advocacy, and action to ensure that Tanzania’s economic development is inclusive and just.



Unheard cries: Tanzania's struggle with femicide in a legal vacuum

The fight against femicide in Tanzania faces significant challenges due to the lack of specific laws addressing gender-based violence (GBV), particularly femicide. Instead, various legal mechanisms, including constitutional guarantees and sectoral laws, are utilized to address violence against women. However, these frameworks are often applied to broader categories like murder and general GBV rather than targeting femicide directly.

A heart-wrenching example of this issue is the tragic story of Fausta Raymond Tesha from Moshi, Kilimanjaro, and Mecktrida Simon Mabula from Katoro Ward, Geita District.

Fausta, born in 1997, met a horrifying fate in 2023 at the hands of her estranged husband, Agust Johnbosco Matem. After their separation, Fausta returned to her parents' home with her newborn. Agust, enraged by Fausta's new relationship and her pregnancy by another man, broke into her parents' house one night and brutally murdered her and her one-week-old baby.

Despite immediate medical attention, Fausta and her infant succumbed to their injuries. The tragedy was compounded by the indifference of Agust's family, who neither supported the victims nor participated in their mourning. August later died in police custody after fleeing into the forest. Fausta's mother, Ezra Raymond Tesha, now faces the daunting task of raising Fausta's surviving children alone, without support from her son-in-law's family.

Similarly, Mecktrida Simon Mabula's story from Geita District adds another layer to the narrative. Born in 1986, Mecktrida was killed by her husband in early 2024 due to jealousy and disputes over their property.

Despite running a food business to support her family, her death has left her six children in a precarious situation. With their father imprisoned and no support from relatives, the children are struggling, reliant on the charity of a neighbor who is also a widow.

Jackson Vales Sungura, Mecktrida's eldest son, shared the painful truth about his father's actions and the family's struggle. He recounted his father's jealousy and the violent incident that led to his mother's death, revealing the underlying issues that contributed to the tragedy.

In response to such dire situations, Adv. Getrude Dyabene from the Legal and Human Rights Centre (LHRC) has advocated for comprehensive policies to prevent violence against women. She emphasizes the need for stronger programs and coordination among state agencies to eliminate violence, establish support systems, and implement early detection measures. Additionally, she calls for the collection of official data on femicide to better track and address these crimes.

Dyabene also underscores the importance of training public servants involved in violence cases, ensuring ethical media coverage, and possibly creating a femicide watch to monitor and respond to intimate partner violence and femicide more effectively.



Jackson Vales Sungura, the eldest, is sitting on the couch with his younger brother on the left, Elias Vales Sungura, in Geita Region, Katoro Ward, Geita District.

As Tanzania confronts the ongoing challenge of addressing femicide without specific legislation, the heartbreaking stories of Fausta and Mecktrida reveal the urgent need for stronger legal frameworks, comprehensive support systems, and proactive prevention strategies to protect women and end the cycle of gender-based violence



Ezra Raymond Tesha and Raymond John Tesha from Moshi, Kilimanjaro, stand proudly with their grandchildren, symbolizing hope and resilience.

The Carter Center pays a courtesy visit to LHRC.

from The Carter Center, a nongovernmental organization based in Atlanta, Georgia. The visit marked an important milestone in the growing collaboration between these two organizations, both of which are deeply committed to advancing human rights and democracy.

The Carter Center, known for its work in over 80 countries, focuses on conflict resolution, promoting democratic values, preventing diseases, and improving mental health care. This visit provided an opportunity for representatives from both organizations to engage in meaningful discussions about shared goals and potential future initiatives.



The exchange of ideas during the visit highlighted the common ground in their missions and reinforced the importance of collaboration in the fight for human rights and the strengthening of democratic principles. More than just a formal meeting, the visit reaffirmed the partnership between the two organizations, with the aspiration of making a positive impact by championing justice, equality, and the protection of fundamental rights.



The Carter Center delegates during their visit to the LHRC Headquarters in Kijitonyama.

Dr. Anna Henga: 'TLS should lead in upholding Tanzania's Rule of Law in Tanzania.'

On August 1, Dr. Anna Henga, Executive Director of the Legal and Human Rights Centre (LHRC), addressed the Tanganyika Law Society (TLS) Annual Conference and General Meeting, held at the Jakaya Kikwete Convention Center in Dodoma. Her presentation, titled "The Role of TLS in Promoting the Rule of Law and Good Governance," emphasized TLS's vital role in safeguarding legal integrity and ensuring that governance in Tanzania remains transparent and accountable.

The TLS's three-day Annual General Meeting also featured the election of new leadership, with Advocates Sweetbert Nkuba, Paul Kaunda, Revocatus Kuuli, Emmanuel Muga, Ibrahim Bendera, and Boniface Mwabukusi competing for the presidency. The event served as a platform for key discussions and marked a critical leadership transition within the society.

All candidates showcased their commitment to upholding the values of good governance, professional excellence, and rule of law advocacy. As TLS transitions to new leadership, its members look forward to continued influence in shaping Tanzania's legal landscape, ensuring that TLS remains a powerful force for legal advocacy and reform.

This three-day AGM served as a platform for important dialogues and marked a pivotal moment for TLS as it renewed its leadership and reinforced its mission to promote justice and human rights across the country.



LHRC proposes key amendments to the Child Protection Act Bill, 2024.

The Legal and Human Rights Centre (LHRC), working together with civil society groups and international organizations focused on child welfare, has played an active role in suggesting improvements to the Child Protection Act Bill, 2024. Their proposals specifically target updates to the Cyber Crimes Act (CAP.443) and the Child Act (CAP.13). These recommendations were presented to the Parliamentary Standing Committee on Social Welfare and Community Development in Dodoma.



A Call for Justice: LHRC condemns brutal assault in Yombo, Dar es Salaam.

The Legal and Human Rights Centre (LHRC) has condemned a horrific incident that shocked the nation. In Yombo, Temeke District, Dar es Salaam, a young girl was brutally gang-raped and sexually abused by five men, where one of them reportedly as a member of the Tanzania People's Defence Force (TPDF). Disturbingly, the perpetrators recorded the assault and shared the video across various online platforms, further intensifying the trauma inflicted on the victim.

Dr. Henga from LHRC revealed that the group acted on orders allegedly given by a female military leader, seeking revenge on the girl for her involvement in a personal relationship. The assailants, as seen in the video, reportedly confirmed that their actions were driven by this directive, sparking public outrage.

"We are deeply saddened by this brutality," Dr. Henga stated. "We demand that the five men and their commander be swiftly apprehended and face the full force of justice."

Dr. Henga also highlighted that the reputation of the Tanzanian military, known for its discipline and respect across Africa, is now at stake. He called on the military to publicly distance itself from the scandal and ensure that the perpetrators are identified and held accountable. If found guilty, they should face both military and civilian punishment to restore trust in the country's defense forces.

The LHRC extended its call for justice to President Samia Suluhu Hassan, appealing to her not only as a leader but also as a mother. The organization urged her to condemn this heinous act, reinforcing her responsibility to protect Tanzanian citizens.

Dr. Henga stressed the need to confront such issues directly: "If we turn a blind eye to these atrocities, they will continue to grow, feeding a culture of abuse where people misuse their positions to harm and humiliate others."

The LHRC pointed out that this incident is not isolated, but part of a troubling trend of brutality. Article 12 of the Tanzanian Constitution guarantees the dignity and humanity of all citizens, while the 1979 International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW) and the Maputo Protocol emphasize the need to protect women's dignity.

The criminal nature of this attack cannot be overstated. According to Section 131A of the Tanzanian Penal Code, the punishment for gang rape is life imprisonment. Additionally, the assailants face charges of sodomy and distributing obscene materials online, violations that fall under Tanzania's strict cybercrime laws.

The LHRC urged the Tanzanian public to demand justice, calling on citizens to raise their voices until the perpetrators are brought to account. They also asked the public to stop sharing the disturbing video to protect the young victim from further humiliation.

"We strongly condemn the perpetrators of this horrific act and urge the community to unite in support of justice," Dr. Henga concluded. "Only through collective action can we ensure that justice prevails and protect the dignity of every Tanzanian citizen."

LHRC calls for revisions to the proposed Amendment to the Immigration Act.

The Legal and Human Rights Centre (LHRC) has reviewed the Bill for Amendments Act No. 2, 2024, tabled in Parliament on February 15, 2024, to amend the Immigration Act, Chapter 54, and the Land Act. The proposed Miscellaneous Amendments (No. 2) Act, 2024, seeks to revise sections of both the Immigration Act, Cap 54, and the Land Act, Cap 113.

Dr. Anna Henga, Executive Director of LHRC, highlighted that Article 18 of the Constitution of the United Republic of Tanzania, 1977, guarantees the right to freedom of expression. She noted that this public statement aims to inform the general public about the bill's details and LHRC's perspectives, thus facilitating public participation in the legislative process. The statement also offers recommendations to the government and Members of Parliament.

Dr. Henga outlined that the bill proposes amendments to 17 sections of the Immigration Act to establish a "Special Status." LHRC acknowledges that the bill addresses long-standing grievances from the Tanzanian diaspora regarding their birthright, dual nationality, citizenship, property ownership rights, and recognition as individuals of Tanzanian descent who hold foreign citizenship.



Dr. Anna Henga during a press conference at LHRC Headquarters.

Quoting Article 13(2) of the 1948 Universal Declaration of Human Rights, Dr. Henga explained that "everyone has the right to leave any country, including their own, and to return to their country." The bill proposes introducing "Special Status," which would allow individuals to enter and exit Tanzania without restrictions and to own or sell inherited or purchased land. This status would be granted to those who were Tanzanian citizens by birth but later renounced their citizenship.

However, after analyzing the bill, LHRC identified several legal challenges impacting human rights, the Tanzanian Constitution, and court decisions. One major concern is the broad authority granted to the Commissioner General of Immigration to grant and revoke this "Special Status."

The bill permits the Commissioner to revoke this status based on acts deemed disloyal to the United Republic of Tanzania, including statements considered disloyal. Dr. Henga pointed out that this provision could negatively impact freedom of expression, as individuals with "Special Status" might fear expressing opinions critical of the government, risking the loss of their status.

Another challenge the bill raises is its provision for revocation of "Special Status" based on "immoral acts." LHRC warns that this vague criterion could be subject to various interpretations, potentially putting the diaspora at risk, as the law lacks a clear definition of immorality. Additionally, the bill does not include procedures or the right to be heard before revocation, contravening natural justice principles.

Dr. Henga also highlighted concerns over the bill's requirement for applicants to demonstrate "good moral character" to qualify for "Special Status." The term "good moral character" is subjective and open to interpretation, potentially leading to biased decisions influenced by personal views. LHRC believes this requirement contradicts international human rights standards and the Tanzanian Constitution, which prohibits discrimination.

A further concern is the bill's inclusion of Section 36B, which grants the Commissioner authority to award "Special Status" based on special circumstances, such as an individual's talent or skill. LHRC views this as discriminatory compared to the requirements under Section 36A, which mandates that an applicant demonstrate good morals and loyalty.

Dr. Henga also criticized the bill for its use of a provision nullified by the High Court of Tanzania. Section 23 of the bill proposes amending Section 37 of the Immigration Act, which outlines the appeal process for individuals dissatisfied with the Minister's decision regarding their application.

However, the High Court nullified this section in 2023, asserting that only the courts have final authority in the administration of justice. LHRC expressed concern that the bill's continued use of this nullified section shows contempt for the court's ruling.

LHRC noted that the bill fails to recognize and protect the inherent right of birth and demonstrates the government's reluctance to grant dual citizenship, despite numerous efforts to advance the rule of law in Tanzania.

LHRC believes that the bill, in its current form, raises significant legal and human rights concerns that need to be addressed to align with Tanzania's Constitution and international human rights conventions.

LHRC's RECOMMENDATIONS

1. The Parliament of the United Republic of Tanzania restricts the absolute powers of the Commissioner General to prevent the revocation of "Special Status" once it has been granted.
2. Eliminate the discretionary powers of the Commissioner. The Court should be the final authority in the administration of justice.
3. Establish a legal procedure and the right to be heard in cases where there is intent to revoke special status, and this responsibility should be under the court.
4. Establish equal criteria for granting "Special Status" to avoid creating a perception of discrimination against certain groups or individuals.
5. Repeal the entire section 37 as ordered by the High Court in the case of Prisca Chogero v. Attorney General No. 17 of 2023.
6. Remove the criteria of good moral character, loyalty, and immorality as conditions for granting "Special Status."
7. The Tanzanite Card should have no expiration. The Tanzanian origin of the diaspora should not be disregarded.
8. The necessity to own a company with minority Tanzanian citizen stakeholders should be removed, as it diminishes the significance of special status for those of Tanzanian descent.
9. The diaspora should have equal land ownership rights as any other Tanzanian citizen. The diaspora has the same ancestral origin as the locals.

MKUKI and TANAHUT demand justice and accountability for 17-year-old victims of gender-based violence.

The Network for Combating Gender-Based Violence (MKUKI) and the Network for Combating Human Trafficking (TANAHUT) have joined Tanzanians and human rights defenders in condemning the gender-based violence committed against a 17-year-old girl.

The incident, involving five youths, has caused significant fear and alarm in the community. MKUKI and TANAHUT express their dismay at how the relevant authorities, including the Police Force and the National Prosecution Office, have handled the case.

Accountability of the Police Force: MKUKI and TANAHUT call for action against the officer alleged to have been involved in directing the youths to commit this atrocity. They emphasize that, according to Article 13 of the Constitution of the United Republic of Tanzania, 1977, all individuals are equal before the law, and no one is above it. The police's silence on this matter casts a negative image on their integrity.

Safety and Dignity of the Victim: The networks advise the lawyers representing the accused to avoid causing further harm to the girl and instead uphold justice and human dignity in their defense.



Charges Against the Accused: MKUKI and TANAHUT are concerned that the charges are insufficient despite video evidence showing more offenses, including gang rape, human trafficking of a minor, sodomy, conspiracy to commit a crime, kidnapping, and assault. They demand that all these charges be included in the indictment.

Other Suspects Not Yet Arrested: There is another suspect believed to be a key figure in this violence. The networks demand that this suspect, who had a relationship with the minor, and the officer involved, be arrested and charged with rape and sexual trafficking under the Anti-Trafficking in Persons Act, No. 6/2008, and the Written Laws (Miscellaneous Amendments) (No. 2) Act, 2022.

Transparency of the Involved Parties: MKUKI and TANAHUT insist that all suspects be publicly identified by name and photograph to eliminate any doubts about their identities in court.

Legal Cooperation: The networks request that their lawyers be allowed to join the government's legal team to observe the proceedings and protect the victim's interests. They also urge the Police Force to permit representatives from MKUKI and TANAHUT to visit the girl to provide her with legal, psychological, and other necessary support.

Criticism of RPC Theopista Mallya: The networks criticize the transfer of RPC Theopista Mallya as a solution, viewing it as an attempt to evade accountability. They call for further disciplinary measures against her and all officers involved in this case.

Call to the Community: MKUKI and TANAHUT commend Tanzanians who are condemning gender-based violence. They urge journalists to report professionally and avoid language that degrades the victim. They stress the importance of community unity in addressing gender-based violence and human trafficking.



LHRC expresses concerns over escalating incidents of child disappearances

The Legal and Human Rights Centre (LHRC) has expressed grave concern over the alarming increase in cases of missing children, leaving families devastated and communities in turmoil. LHRC asserts that this crisis extends beyond individual tragedies, raising critical questions about the safety and security of children in our society.

Dr. Henga, a spokesperson for LHRC, highlighted the recent surge in missing children cases, underscoring significant deficiencies in the current system meant to protect vulnerable populations. Despite ongoing efforts by authorities, responses to these incidents have often been inadequate, resulting in unresolved cases and growing community unrest.

Dr. Henga emphasized that these incidents not only violate basic human rights enshrined in the Constitution—under Articles 14 and 15—but also contravene international standards, including the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC), the African Charter on the Rights and Welfare of the Child (ACRWC), and the Universal Declaration of Human Rights (UDHR). These instruments guarantee critical protections for children, including their right to life, survival, and development.

In response, LHRC is calling on authorities to conduct thorough and timely investigations into the rising cases of child disappearances. Dr. Henga stressed the need for authorities to address the broader societal implications of these incidents and work towards restoring order and confidence within affected communities.

To improve collaboration, LHRC urges authorities to establish clear communication channels between law enforcement and affected families. This will ensure transparency and keep families informed about the progress of investigations. Additionally, an immediate response system is crucial; Dr. Henga noted that the current 24-hour waiting period before initiating investigations must be eliminated to increase the likelihood of safely recovering missing children.

Dr. Henga also called for the development of sustainable interventions to address the escalating crisis. He warned that current inadequacies in handling these cases could lead to mob justice and societal disruption. Authorities must address public concerns transparently and avoid dismissing or concealing critical details. Transparency is essential for calming public fears and preventing unrest.

Additionally, LHRC calls for prompt action against witch doctors and traditional healers who perpetuate harmful practices, such as encouraging or mandating the abduction, killing, and mutilation of children.

These practices, which violate national and international human rights standards, must be eradicated through strict law enforcement, public awareness campaigns, and community engagement.

LHRC remains committed to monitoring the situation and holding authorities accountable for reducing the number of missing children cases. Protecting children is a fundamental societal obligation, and LHRC calls on the government and all relevant authorities to act with urgency and unwavering commitment to ensure every child's safety and well-being.

LHRC urges Tanzania to ratify key International conventions to enhance citizens' protection

On the International Day of Victims of Enforced Disappearances, the Legal and Human Rights Centre (LHRC) calls on Tanzania to take decisive steps to strengthen human rights protections by ratifying key United Nations conventions. This day serves as a solemn reminder of the countless individuals who have vanished without a trace and the ongoing suffering endured by their families.

Dr. Anna Henga, Executive Director of LHRC, highlighted the troubling rise in enforced disappearances in Tanzania, including abductions and mysterious vanishings. Some victims have been found severely injured or killed, leading to heightened anxiety and public unrest in several regions.



Dr. Henga emphasized that the United Nations adopted the International Convention for the Protection of All Persons from Enforced Disappearance in 1994, which provides a comprehensive framework for addressing such human rights violations. However, Tanzania has yet to ratify or incorporate this convention into its national laws. Given the increasing number of abductions, there is an urgent need for Tanzania to ratify the convention to offer stronger protection to its citizens.

"The convention's Articles 1 and 2 explicitly prohibit arbitrary detention and abduction, while Articles 3 and 6 require thorough investigations and legal action against those responsible for concealing the fate of abducted individuals. Additionally, Article 24 mandates reparations for victims, including medical expenses, compensation, and psychological support," Dr. Henga added.

LHRC calls on the Tanzanian government to:

1. Ratify the International Convention for the Protection of All Persons from Enforced Disappearance (1994): This will enhance legal protections and demonstrate Tanzania's commitment to human rights.
2. Strengthen Community-Level Security and Protection Systems: Collaborate with citizens to implement preventative measures and control incidents of abduction and disappearance.
3. Direct Security and Law Enforcement Agencies: Ensure thorough investigations into recent cases, particularly those affecting children, women, and communities.

LHRC believes that by taking these actions, Tanzania can better protect its citizens and uphold its human rights commitments.

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