



**PRESS STATEMENT ON THE BRUTAL KILLING OF A LAND RIGHTS DEFENDER
MR GODFREY LUENA**

Tanzania Human Rights Defenders Coalition (THRDC) pathetically condemns the killing of a Human Rights Defender Mr. Godfrey Luena. Mr Luena was working on the promotion and protection of land rights in Morogoro region. He was killed yesterday 22nd of February 2018 in the evening at his home in Morogoro.

Mr, Luena had really devoted his life as a Human Rights Defender working in cooperation with Human Rights Organizations such as the Legal and Human Rights Centre (LHRC) and HAKIARDHI advocating for the protection of land rights. For several years he has been fighting against injustice.

Recently, there has been an increase of acts of grave Human Rights violation, leading to missing and deaths of Human Rights Defenders, politicians and normal citizens. Few days ago, CSOs issued a joint statement on the current situation of Human Rights and rule of Law in the country. The statement addressed various violations of human rights including the atrocious killing incident of the student of the National Institute of Transport (NIT) Akwilina Baftah who was shot dead by police officers dispersing peaceful demonstrations of Chama cha Demokrasia na Maendeleo (CHADEMA) supporters.

It should be noted that, Article 14 of the Constitution of the United Republic of Tanzania provides for everybody's right to life and to the protection of his life by the society in accordance with the law. The state is therefore obliged to ensure protection of life of all its citizens.

Our Call:

- i. A special committee should be formed to investigate all these atrocious killings.
- ii. State Organs i.e; the Police force should ensure safety and protection of all human rights defenders in the country
- iii. We urge all CSOs, State actors, Parliamentarians, politicians and other Human Rights stakeholders to continue raising their voice and join together to fight for justice, rule of law, democracy and peace mostly at this time when the state is undergoing massive human rights violations and impunity.

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Acting Coordinator, THRDC- 23/02/2018