



## **STATEMENT ON THE GROWING THREATS TOWARDS THE LEGAL FRATERNITY IN TANZANIA**

Tanzania Human Rights Defenders Coalition (THRDC) is deeply shocked and disturbed by the reports of the killing of a District Court Magistrate in Masasi District- Mtwara Region, attacks on a Retired Major General and the office of Prime Attorneys in Dar es Salaam. According to Tanganyika Law Society, the late Halfan Ulaya who was a District Court Magistrate was attacked by unknown people on the 14th of August, 2017 when he was at home causing grievous injuries over his body. He was admitted to several hospitals before his death on the 7th of September, 2017 at Muhimbili National Hospital in Dar es Salaam.

We are saddened by the news on the attack of the retired Major General Vicent Mribata who was gunned by unknown people in Tegeta in the outskirts of Dar es Salaam. Major General Mribata was shot when he was at the gate of his home on the 11th of September 2017. He was rushed to the hospital and according to the reports, he is now recovering his wounds.

The Coalition is also shocked by the attack on the office of Prime Attorneys in Dar es Salaam which occurred on the 12th of September 2017 (Prime Attorneys is a Law Firm based in Dar es salaam). The attack of Prime Attorneys follows another attack on IMMA Advocates on Saturday 26th of August, 2017, and several other attacks on human rights defenders in our country. We recognize good work of Advocates and Magistrates as Human Rights Defenders and thus they deserve protection and security in their daily work. As an umbrella to Human Rights defenders in Tanzania, the THRDC urges the Government to take strong measures against the perpetrators of such illegal and unbearable acts. An independent committee should be established by the government to investigate these incidences of human rights violation.

The THRDC would like to express sincere condolences to the family of the Deceased Magistrate, the Judiciary and all Tanzanians for the loss. We also sympathize with the family of the Retired Major General Mribata and also all staff members of the Prime Attorneys, the Tanganyika Law, Society and entire Legal Fraternity in this difficult time.

**Issued on this 12<sup>th</sup> day of September 2017,**

By:

**Tanzania Human Rights Defenders Coalition (THRDC)**