

Civic Space, Human Rights & Democratic Participation

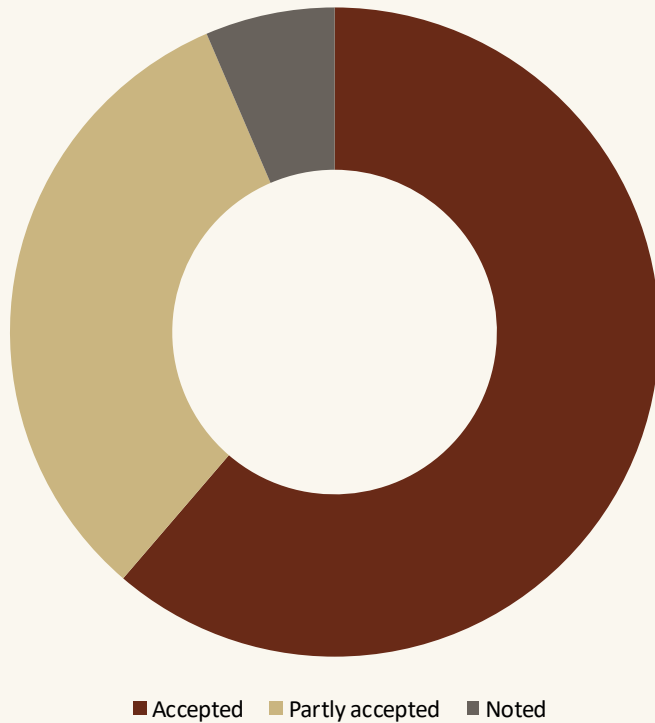
UPR PRE-SESSION • 53RD SESSION
Geneva • August 2026

-  Freedom of expression
-  Freedom of association
-  Protection of HRDs & journalists
-  Peaceful assembly • accountability • rule of law

Where Tanzania stands

THIRD UPR CYCLE • CIVIC SPACE

31 civic-space recommendations



19

accepted

10

partly accepted

2

noted

THE IMPLEMENTATION GAP

- 19 concerned freedom of expression and media freedom.
- 12 concerned peaceful assembly.
- Key areas remain under-implemented.

The 4th cycle should test implementation — not only commitments.

01 • Freedom of expression

LAW + CENSORSHIP + ACCESS TO INFORMATION

80,000+

blogs, platforms, accounts and websites
shut down by TCRA in May 2025

3–5 DAYS

nationwide internet blackout
29 Oct – 3 Nov 2025

RECOMMENDATIONS

- Amend Section 16 of the Cybercrimes Act, Sections 52, 53, 54, 58 and 59 of the Media Services Act, 2016 (Cap. 229), and restrictive media/online-content provisions.
- Prohibit nationwide internet shutdowns and guarantee uninterrupted access to information during elections.

PLATFORM RESTRICTIONS

- ❖ X
- ❖ Clubhouse
- ❖ Telegram
- ❖ Signal

02 • Freedom of association

CIVIL SOCIETY + POLITICAL PLURALISM

375+

opposition leaders, members
& supporters arrested in Aug
2024

RECOMMENDATION

- ❖ Amend the NGO Act Cap. 56 and Regulations to simplify registration and compliance.
- ❖ Guarantee freedom to operate, associate, access funding and engage in advocacy.
- ❖ Release those facing unlawful prosecutions and drop false charges.

POLITICAL PARTICIPATION



APR 2025

CHADEMA disqualified from October elections



2025

ACT-Wazalendo presidential candidate disqualified

03 • Protection of HRDs, journalists & civil society

PROTECTION ENABLES ACCOUNTABILITY

48

abductions / attacks against
activists, HRDs and others
documented in 2024

ATTACKS

48 incidents

FEAR

Self-
censorship

CHILLING EFFECT

Less civic
action

**ACCOUNTABILITY
GAP**

Less
documentation

WHY IT MATTERS

- ❑ Government has yet to adopt a dedicated national policy or legislation for HRD protection.
- ❑ Journalists have faced arbitrary detention and assault.
- ❑ Communities lose access to independent information and avenues for accountability.

RECOMMENDATIONS

- ❖ Investigate attacks, harassment and intimidation impartially and bring perpetrators to justice.
- ❖ Develop and implement a national Human Rights Defenders Policy/Law.
- ❖ Ratify the International Convention for the Protection of All Persons against Enforced Disappearance and domesticate it.

04 • Peaceful assembly, accountability & rule of law

THE 2025 ELECTION CRISIS

518

deaths recorded by the
President's Commission

700+

cases of enforced
disappearances recorded

2,000+

people arrested during
that period

IMPACT

- ❖ Publish the findings of the Presidential Commission of Inquiry into the Incidents of Violence and Breaches of Peace that Occurred During and After the October 2025 General Election.
- ❖ Release unlawfully detained HRDs, journalists, politicians and activists.

THE ACCOUNTABILITY QUESTION

Who killed the 518 people?

What should States recommend?

FIVE CONCISE ASKS FOR TANZANIA

- 1 **Protect freedom of expression and end censorship, including nationwide internet shutdowns.**
- 2 **Reform the NGO framework and guarantee meaningful freedom of association and political participation.**
- 3 **Develop and Implement national Human Rights Defenders Policy/Law.**
- 4 **Ratification of the International Convention for Protection of all Persons against enforced disappearance and its domestication in terms of policies, laws and regulations that reflect the provisions of the convention.**
- 5 **Publish the findings of the Presidential Commission of Inquiry into the Incidents of Violence and Breaches of Peace that Occurred During and After the October 2025 General Election.**

FROM COMMITMENTS → TO IMPLEMENTATION → TO RIGHTS PEOPLE CAN ACTUALLY ENJOY

Thank you

TANZANIA HUMAN RIGHTS DEFENDERS COALITION (THRDC)

**A safe civic space is not a privilege.
It is a condition for democracy, accountability and human rights.**

EXPRESSION

Speak & access information

ASSOCIATION

Organise & participate

PROTECTION

Defend rights without reprisals

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