



**TANZANIA HUMAN RIGHTS
DEFENDERS COALITION**



*"A Human Rights Defender
is Better Alive than Dead"*

2019

**OUR YEAR
OF
SUCCESS**

EDITORIAL TEAM

MAGAZINE EXECUTIVE

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Dear readers,

This is our first print about our success as the Tanzania Human Rights Defenders Coalition throughout the year 2019. We thank God that despite the fact that defending human rights has never been an easy path, its worth taking it. 2019 has been successful not only to the Coalition, but also to fellow Human Right Defenders across the country.

In this newsletter, we have focused on our 2019 success stories. However, I would like to clarify that though there were alot of successful stories, we have only listed the best of the best that were ear-catching and that we believe will be a source of inspiration to other human rights defenders in the future.

And as always, we will always take advantage of the many platforms we have to share and update you on the lessons and best practices we record through our members, partnerships and collaborations with CSOs on one hand, and our Development Partners (DPs), the government and its relevant institutions on the other.

Happy reading and always remember that, “Defending Human Rights is Not a Crime!”

ABDUL NONDO: “I AM AT RISK”

Before March 2018, Abdul Omary Nondo had his life and studies in line, just like any other university student. A third-year Bachelor’s Degree student in Political Science and Public Administration who was also the Chairperson of the Tanzania Students Networking Programme (TSNP) at the time, defended his fellow students’ rights at all levels. He most notably called out the Minister of Home Affairs at the time Dr. Mwigulu Nchemba to resign on 18th February 2018 in TSNP’s Press Statement condemning the heinous shooting of an innocent NIT student Akwilina Akwiline on a bus by police during a political demonstration.

“I am at Risk”

A month later, in the late evening hours on 7th March 2018, student Abdul Nondo was abducted by unknown assailants around Ubungu area in Dar es Salaam as he was crossing the road. As he was being abducted, he promptly sent a text message to one of his friends reading: **“I am at risk”** as an alert of his safety. After questioning the abductors as to where he was being taken, why and under whose orders, he got no response, instead he was beaten up and questioned about his involvement with opposition party leaders (Freeman Mbowe and Zitto Kabwe). After losing consciousness, Abdul Nondo later woke up in a forest seeking help. One samaritan told him that he is in Mafinga – Iringa region.

After Abdul Nondo decided to seek help

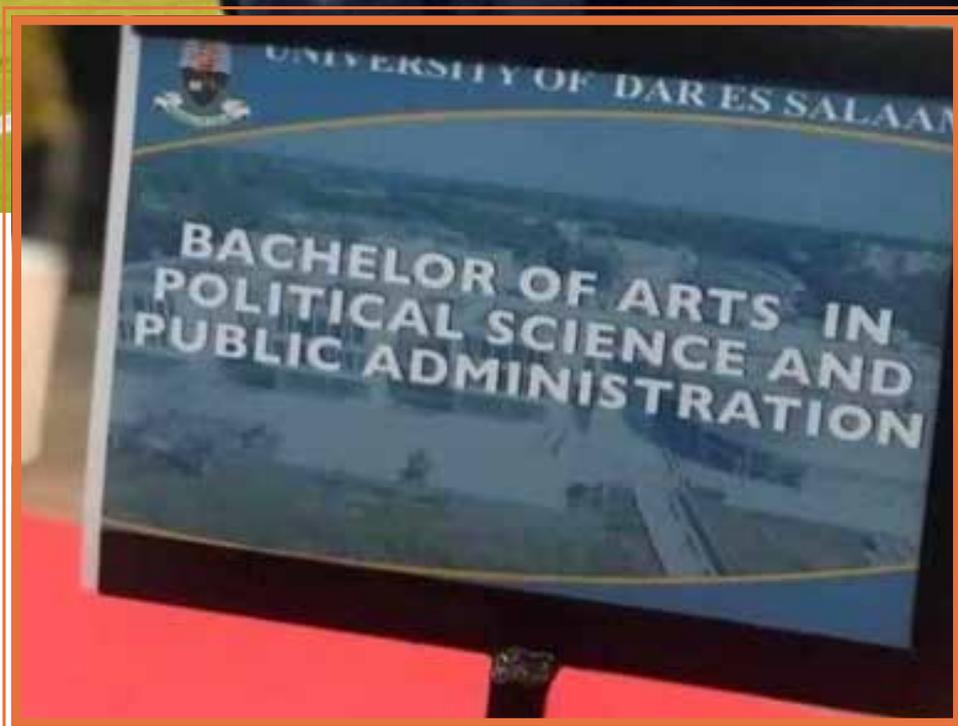
from the nearest police station and report about his abduction, he was surprised how this whole saga took a dramatic turn. The police then treated him as a suspect, and not a victim and charged him on two counts of:

- **Publication of False Information contrary to section 16 of the Cyber Crime Act, No 14 of 2015.**
- **Giving false information to the person employed in the public service contrary to section 122(a) of the Penal Code, CAP 16R.E 2002.**

Following these charges, Abdul Nondo was suspended from campus because of an on-going criminal case against him. The Tanzania Human Rights Defenders Coalition (THRDC) supported Abdul Nondo throughout his case proceedings. After several case hearings in Iringa region, having a team of advocates from THRDC involved, Abdul Nondo was finally acquitted of all charges on 5th November 2018.

A cheering cry

After winning his case, Abdul Nondo got back to school and has now successfully completed his Bachelor’s Degree in Political Science and Public Administration at the University of Dar es Salaam. His efforts in defending human rights in Tanzania remains unwavered.



The greatest cheer comes after the hardest cry! A proud family!



A group photo of THRDC members together with the consultant (first from right, seated) and National Coordinator of THRDC (third from left, seated) during the Financial management workshop

PAVING WAY FOR FINANCIAL SUPPORT TO THRDC's 17 MEMBER ORGANIZATIONS

On July 2, 2018 the Tanzania Human Rights Defenders Coalition (THRDC) prepared questionnaires to assess its members' organizational governance and institutional management. This aimed at identifying its members' organizational strengths and weaknesses. Following this assessment, the Coalition engaged a consultant to conduct a survey on the Financial Management Capacity to 17 THRDC members. The main role of the consultant was to review the financial and managerial capacities of selected THRDC member organizations and empower them on the same.

Members from the following Zones were visited and assisted: Lake Zones, Zanzibar (Pemba and Unguja) and Dodoma Central Zone. A total of 17 Members were Evaluated namely; New Hope New Winners Foundation (NHNWF), Peoples Health Movement, Tanzania Widows Association, Association for Non-Governmental Organization Zanzibar (ANGOZA), ZAFAYCO, Zanzibar Children Rights Forum, PEMCO, Mtwara NGOs Network (MTWANGONET), Door of Hope to Women and Youth in Tanzania, Tunduru Paralegal Centre (TUPACE), Paralegal Primary Justice (PPJ), Sauti ya Haki Tanzania, Tanzania Peace Legal Aid Justice, CESOPE, Laredo-Le-Sheria na Haki za Binadamu, Ngoro Ngoro (LASHEHABINGO), Civic and

Legal Aid Organization (CiLAO), Umoja wa Vikundi vya Uzalishaji Mali na Uelimishaji.

Understanding the existing gap, THRDC organized a special training to the selected member organizations as a means of improving their organizational management capacity. This training covered topics on;

- *Financial management and control mechanisms that will strengthen the capacity of members in financial management systems and compliance.*
- *Fundraising/Resources mobilization skills.*
- *Emphasis to THRDC members on the need to comply with the CSOs/NGOs operational manuals.*

In the end, the consultant managed to develop Strategic Plans for each of the 17 member organizations. 6 of them successfully solicited project funds from the Foundation for Civil Society (FCS) in 2019; after having Strategic Plans as a prerequisite for the fund.

RAMLA'S VICTORIOUS BATTLE OVER TELEZA: A RURAL WOMAN HRD LIBERATES HER FELLOW WOMEN FROM SAVAGE RAPE ATTACKS

Just some few kilometres outside Kigoma Ujiji municipality, Watetezi TV uncovered a series of vicious rape incidents in Mwanga Kusini ward, dating as far back as 2014. In May 2019, Ramla Hassan, a rural woman human rights defender from Mwanga Kusini ward in Kigoma region, finally decided to stand up for women, girls, widows and even old women; victims of TELEZA attacks. TELEZA which roughly translates to 'slippery', was a nickname notoriously given to rapists who break in naked into female-only households at night, covered in grease or oily substance holding machetes and force helpless women to give in to rape. And in the event that their victims would try to grab hold of them, they would slip away and ran, leaving their victims fatally wounded

most of the times.

Many TELEZA victims and survivors were hesitant to come out about these violations, but that was not the case for Ramla Hassan, who despite facing obvious threats from the perpetrators, ran a local campaign to seek help from authorities and raised awareness about TELEZA in an exclusive interview with Watetezi TV. Fearing for her life and safety, Ramla sought relocation support from the Tanzania Human Rights Defenders Coalition (THRDC). THRDC temporarily relocated her and after the situation stabilized, she returned back home and continued with her work. As we speak, Ramla is safe and the TELEZA saga is history.



Ramla Hassan shedding tears during her interview on TELEZA with Watetezi TV

THRDC INTERVENES THE AMENDMENT OF RESTRICTIVE LAWS

The year 2019 witnessed amendments of laws that have direct impacts on CSOs operations in Tanzania. These laws include the NGOs Act, The Companies Act, the Societies Act, The Trust Incorporation Act, and The Statistics Act among others. All of the laws were collectively amended through a Miscellaneous Amendment Act number 3 of 2019.

The stated mischief behind amendments of these laws was to better coordinate all CSOs in Tanzania. However, the nature of the changes made in the amendments proposed a serious curtailment of the CSOs right to operate freely. In the proposed schedule of amendments that the government shared with stakeholders for inputs, the definition of NGOs did not include those dealing with human rights, advocacy and good governance.

The Tanzania Human Rights Defenders Coalition (THRDC) therefore, intervened and coordinated an urgent joint stakeholders' meeting together with civil society organizations and THRDC members to discuss the proposed amendments and afterwards came up with recommendations. The recommendations were submitted to the Parliament of Tanzania in Dodoma in June 2019. One of the notable achievements from THRDC/CSOs intervention is that, two of the stakeholders' recommendations were accepted by the government regarding the removal of the criminality aspect under the Statistics Act and that the definition of Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs) should also include institutions dealing with human rights, law and good governance. Therefore, had these recommendations not been taken, today THRDC wouldn't be in existence and criticizing official statistics under the Statistics Act would be a criminal offence.

AFTER A 30-YEAR PRISON SENTENCE, THRDC OFFERS A LIFELINE TO 4 JOURNALIST HUMAN RIGHTS DEFENDERS

Journalists and Human Rights Defenders Christopher Gamaina, Zephania Mandia, Wilfred Makuna and Manga Msalaba were arrested and charged with theft under criminal case No. 11 of 2018. Shortly after the hearing of their case at Magu District court on 18th April 2019, the Magistrate convicted and sentenced 3 of them to 30 years imprisonment and 4 years for Zephania Mandia. To add salt to their wounds, they were also ordered to pay an equivalent amount of three million Tanzanian Shillings (TZS 3,000,000/-) alleged to have been stolen by them.

Shortly after they had started serving their time, the Tanzania Human Rights Defenders Coalition (THRDC) intervened their case. THRDC instructed its Advocate Amri Linus, to appeal the District Court's judgement to the High Court of Tanzania in Mwanza. The several irregularities in the case proceedings drew the High Court's attention of which then convinced the Judge to quash and nullify the decision previously made by the District court and ordered retrial of the case. As of now, the four journalists are free and their Case has been dismissed.

“When the judgment was delivered to the effect that I am going to jail for 30 years I had lost all hope and thought that was the end of my career and that my family is doomed. I thank THRDC for their tireless help and encouragement that I am now out of prison and have new hope.”;-
Christopher Gamaina



A group photo of Christopher Gamaina and his fellow journalists together with Watetezi TV reporter Edwin Soko outside Magu District Court right after their case had been dismissed on 20th December 2019

STRATEGIC RESOURCE MOBILIZATION: THRDC's DRIVE FOR STRONGER PARTNERSHIPS

Vested with the mandate to protect Human Rights Defenders at the national level; 7 years running, the Tanzania Human Rights Defenders Coalition (THRDC) is gaining more trust and support from local and international development partners year after year. THRDC's impact across the United Republic of Tanzania (Tanzania Mainland and Zanzibar) since its inception in 2012, is undeniable. Evidenced by the increasing amounts of project funds solicited from our new partners in 2019 i.e. Foundation for Civil Society (FCS), Pact-Tanzania, Civicus-VUKA Partners, FIDH and TWAWEZA, but also managing to retain support from majority of our previous partners i.e. Embassy of Sweden (SIDA), Open Society Initiatives for Eastern Africa (OSIEA) and American Organization, with a focus on improving human rights standards and Civil Space in Tanzania.



At the 6th Tanzania Human Rights Defenders' Day on 28th April 2019, H.E. Hon. Anders Sjöberg - Ambassador of Sweden to Tanzania commended THRDC's work and hoped for better future collaborations

To a large margin, our success in improving donor relations and access to additional funds is imperative and can be attributed to the Coalition's strategic decision to develop a five-year Resource Mobilization Strategy (2018 - 2022) in 2018. In January 2019, THRDC officially began implementing its Resources Mobilization Strategy with 6 months of close guidance from Mr. Bernard Kindoli, a consultant from Frontline Development and Consulting Agency who had previously helped develop it.

Throughout the initial implementation phase, the consultant honed the secretariat's skills and knowledge in effective fund-raising for non-profits, proper management of the available fund, and strategies to improve relationships with development partners. In the long run, adaption of the strategy has proved efficient in mobilizing the coalition's funds compared to previous years. Thanks to our new Resource Mobilization Strategy, 80% of our planned activities this year have been successfully funded



In January 2019, the Tanzania Human Rights Defenders Coalition (THRDC) received a TZS 1.6 Billion boost from the Foundation for Civil Society (FCS) for its advocacy work.

THRDC's MEANINGFUL ENGAGEMENT WITH THE AFRICAN COMMISSION ON HUMAN AND PEOPLES RIGHTS (ACHPR)

Tanzania Human Rights Defenders Coalition (THRDC) has been coordinating civil society organizations and its member organizations in engaging in different national, regional and international human rights forums. The African Commission on Human and Peoples Rights (ACHPR) being one of the forums that Tanzania CSOs have been engaging in and results of the engagement have been vivid. Attending the 65th Ordinary Session of the African Commission on Human and Peoples Rights, the Coalition in its Statement managed to share the situation of human rights defenders in the country. The situation showed that human rights defenders have continued to work under restrictive environment because of state impunity, enactment of draconian laws, violations of the right to freedom of expression, association and assembly and many others.

As part of its advocacy campaigns, THRDC also organized a side event which was participated by various regional and international organizations. The theme of the side event was to discuss the continuous shrinking civic space in Tanzania focusing of the situation of HRDs, freedom of expression, association and assembly. Participants were enlightened on the violations happening in the country which led to a discussion and buy-in of

Tanzanian CSOs agenda to the regional and international community. Therefore, a lot of regional and international CSOs raised the Tanzanian situation as they read their statements before the African Commission on Human and Peoples Rights.

During the NGOs Forum which was fully participated by CSOs from Tanzania and also coordinated by Tanzania Human Rights Defenders Coalition, a Resolution on Tanzania was adopted to the effect that the Tanzanian government need to take note of human rights violations and improve the same. In the same spirit, the African Commission on Human and Peoples Rights (ACHPR) wrote a Statement condemning the deteriorating human rights situation in Tanzania with specific highlights on freedom of expression, assembly and association as well as the rights of girls to get back to school after delivery. The Commission urged the government of Tanzania to adopt positive measures to ensure the protection and promotion of human rights. We are glad that our engagement with the African Commission has at least prompted the Commission to take actions. We hope that the government of Tanzania will take note of this and ensure positive measures are taken as we are approaching another Session in April 2020. Interestingly, the Chairperson of the African Commission on

Human and Peoples Rights who was just elected in 65th Ordinary Session is the responsible commissioner who oversees human rights situation in Tanzania. Therefore reluctance by the government of Tanzania in implementing Commission's directions will remain to be a subject of discussion in the next session which is not good for the image of the country.



Panel Discussion during the side event organized by Tanzania Human Rights Defenders Coalition in Banjul the Gambia on 22nd October,2019

THRDC STEERS THE TANZANIA REVENUE AUTHORITY'S COLLABORATION WITH TANZANIA CSOS TO DEVELOP A 'CSOS TAX COMPLIANCE TOOL-KIT'

During the 4th Tanzania CSOs Directors' Reflection Meeting (13th – 14th October 2018) organized by the Tanzania Human Rights Defenders Coalition (THRDC) in Tanga, Executive Directors resolved to take deliberate steps in order to support Civil Society Organizations to effectively improve internal governance and compliance with the legal requirements governing the Civil Society sector in Tanzania. They agreed to develop simplified documents analysing legal challenges affecting CSOs in Tanzania and disseminating them to CSOs. Directors also agreed that matters relating to taxation should be given high priority and measures should be taken to improve tax awareness and compliance among Civil Society Organizations.

With this backdrop, the Directors Forum under the coordination of the Tanzania Human Rights Defenders Coalition (THRDC) jointly decided to dedicate the next CSOs Directors Forum to raising awareness and compliance of tax laws. Implementing this resolution, THRDC with the collaboration of WAJIBU Institute of Public Accountability and Accountability in Tanzania Program assessed most common taxation compliance challenges for CSOs and the underlying causes.

The assessment was undertaken between

September and October 2019 and its findings were discussed with stakeholders from Civil Society fraternity. In two specific occasions during the 5th Tanzania CSOs Directors Forum on 13th October 2019 in Mwanza and the CSO Week in Dodoma on 5th November 2019, representatives from the Tanzania Revenue Authority (TRA) were invited to clarify questions, explore solutions and propose concrete action points to address the compliance challenges identified during the previous assessment.

Among the agreed action points included; the continuous capacity building to CSOs on tax issues to provide guidance and enhancing voluntary tax compliance, and consolidating all tax laws relevant to CSOs to ensure there is one reference document in order to ensure a fair and consistent application of tax laws. To this effect, the Tanzania Revenue Authority (TRA) and CSOs jointly agreed to develop a specific CSO tax tool-kit that indicates the taxes payable, governing laws and the compliance procedures.

This is a huge step towards realizing the objective of providing guidance and enhancing voluntary tax compliance and a way to ensure a clear understanding, fair and consistent application of Tax laws by CSOs.



Panelists leading a discussion on Taxation of CSOs at the 5th CSOs Directors Reflection Meeting in Mwanza on 13th October 2019



**ON THE INTERNATIONAL HUMAN RIGHTS DAY
ON 10TH DECEMBER 2019, THRDC
CONGRATULATED ITS MEMBERS WHO RECEIVED
HRDs AWARDS AND RECOGNITION
THROUGHOUT 2019**



MS. VICKY NTEHEMA
THRDC-Board of Directors
Chairperson

Received an award for the 2019
Powerful Queen Award



JAMIIFORUMS

THRDC recognized and
awarded Jamiiforums as the
"Distinguished General Digital
Rights Defender", also awarded
the 2019 Daudi Mwangosi
Award



MR. MAXENCE MELO
Executive Director-Jamiiforums

Received the '2019 International
Press Freedom Award' by the
Committee to Protect
Journalists (CPJ)



EQUALITY FOR GROWTH

Received the 'Outstanding
Performance on Enhancing
Gender Equality Award



MS. SALMA SAID
Journalist

Received an award as the
Distinguished HRD through
Facebook Platform, handed to her
by Mr. Mulembwa Munaku, the ICT
Director from the Ministry of Works
Transport and Communications



ADV. LAETITIA PETRO
Executive Director
Sauti ya Haki Tanzania (SHT)

Received an award on
self-employment and woman
value on 1st May 2019



ANNA HENGA
Executive Director - LHRC

Awarded the 2019 International
Women of Courage Award



HAKIELIMU

Received an award as Overall
Winner of the African CSO
Excellence Awards 2019



MR. KENNETH SIMBAYA
Journalist

Awarded the 2019 AMNH
Excellence in Health Journalism
Award



MS. REBECCA GYUMI
Executive Director
Msichana Initiatives

Ms. Rebecca Gyumi won the
case against early marriages in
Tanzania



**LEGAL AND HUMAN
RIGHTS CENTRE (LHRC)**

Received an award from the
World Justice Forum on
advancing access to justice in
Tanzania.



MS. GLADNESS MUNUO
Coordinator of Crisis
Resolving Centre (CRC)

A Human Rights Defender of
the Month of October 2019 and
the Voice and Choice Sexual
and Reproductive Health and
Rights Award



SIKIKI

Awarded the Outstanding
Impact in Social Service
Delivery Award



WOTE SAWA TANZANIA

Awarded the Outstanding
Performance on Cooperating
with the Government in
Bringing Social Change to the
Society Award



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