



## **STATEMENT CONDEMNING THE ABDUCTION OF EDGER EDSON MWAKABELA**

The Tanzania Human Rights Defenders Coalition (THRDC) is deeply saddened and condemns the brutal abduction and torture of Edger Edson Mwakabela, also known as Sativa. Sativa was reported missing on the evening of June 23, 2024, in the Ubungu area, Dar es Salaam.

Sativa was found on June 27, 2024, in Katavi National Park with severe injuries in different parts of his body. In a video circulated online after his discovery, Sativa was seen bleeding with swollen legs, complaining of being severely beaten, and claiming that he was held at a workshop at the Oysterbay Police Station in Dar es Salaam. THRDC strongly condemns this abduction and torture as it violates Article 13(6)(e) of the Constitution of the United Republic of Tanzania and the International Convention Against Torture.

After being found in Katavi National Park, Sativa was taken to a health center in Kibaoni, then to the Mpimbwe District Hospital, and finally transferred to the referral hospital in Mpanda, Katavi. According to a doctor at the hospital on June 28, Sativa underwent tests and was found to have injuries to his jaw and legs, but his condition was improving compared to before. A police statement on June 27, 2024, indicated that investigations are ongoing in collaboration with other investigative bodies. We regret that none of the abduction cases in this country have been addressed, and this is because we lack an independent investigative body to oversee allegations against security agencies.

On June 31st, 2024, after Sativa being transferred to Dar es Salaam for further medical attention, five police officers visited Sativa at the hospital, with the intention of conducting more interrogation to him. However, we urged them to use the statement that he already made in Katavi. The policemen added that Sativa's statement may be used as an evidence in their ongoing investigation.

Our call:

- The Tanzania Human Rights Defenders Coalition (THRDC) advises Hon. Samia Suluhu Hassan, President of the United Republic of Tanzania, to form an independent committee to investigate this incident because Sativa has accused the police of being involved in his abduction. We believe the police cannot investigate a matter in which they are implicated.
- We propose establishing a permanent independent commission to investigate such incidents and any allegations against the police and other security organs.
- THRDC will continue to closely monitor this issue to ensure justice is served and that Sativa receives the best and fastest medical services.
- We urge all Tanzanians, especially human rights activists, to be vigilant at all times and not to accept invitations from unknown persons or go to unfamiliar places.

Over the years, THRDC has become a trusted point for human rights defenders in Tanzania. Recently, THRDC has provided significant support for Sativa's wellbeing, including medical assistance to ensure his swift recovery. The Coalition will continue to closely monitor his condition until his health fully improves and his environment is safer for him as a human rights defender.

We strongly urge other human rights activists and institutions to join the movement and ensure enough resources are secured for his medical support. The funds that will be raised may be used for his future wellbeing and endeavors.

#### Sativa's Status

Sativa's health is getting better as his Doctor told us. He was operated today, July 2nd, 2024 and we are yet to know how the operation went. However, we believe that he is in safe medical hands.

Issued by,  
**The Tanzania Human Rights Defenders Coalition (THRDC)**  
**July 2nd, 2024, Dar es Salaam, Tanzania.**