



**Tanzania Human Rights Defenders Coalition [THRDC]**

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## **PRESS RELEASE TO CONDEMN THE KILLING OF POLICE OFFICERS IN KIGOMA REGION**

The Tanzania Human Rights Defenders Coalition (THRDC), which is comprised of more than 150 organizational members working on the protection and promotion of Human Rights in Tanzania has received with shock the information about the killing of three Police Officers in Kigoma region. The THRDC strongly condemns these brutal and inhuman acts against the Police officers.

According to the information, three Police Officers including the Head of Nguruka Police Post at Uvinza in Kigoma region (Ramadhani Mudimi) was seriously attacked by civilians who were armed with traditional weapons resulting to the death of three police officers. The reports from various news outlets show that the murders took place in the area which has a land dispute in Mpetu village in Kigoma Region on 16 October 2018.

It should be noted that Police Officers are human rights defenders and therefore the whole Tanzanian community has the responsibility to cooperate with them in the implementation of their responsibilities. The THRDC working as an umbrella of human rights defenders in the country has been in a frontline to recognize and defend the Rights of Human Rights Defenders, including Police Officers. For example, on the 28<sup>th</sup> of April 2017, the THRDC awarded a prize to the family of the late Immanuel Swai who was the police officer murdered when he was carrying out his duties in Dodoma Region. The Coalition also has denounced the acts of murders including the killing of police and civilians which took place in Kibiti (Coastal Region of Tanzania) during 2017. These and many other efforts have been made by the THRDC in recognising and defending the police officers who play a key role in protection of people and their properties.

The Coalition would like to express deepest condolences to IGP Simon Siro, the Police Force in general, the families of those who lost their lives, and all Tanzanians for losing the national manpower in this brutal action. The coalition strongly condemns these acts of violence against police officers because by virtue of their work (That is protection of people and their properties), all Police Officers are Human Rights Defenders.

**Issued Today on 24<sup>th</sup> October 2018**

**By Tanzania Human Rights Defenders Coalition on Behalf of its Organisational Members.**

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