TANZANIA HUMAN RIGHTS
DEFENDERS COALITION

NI

Newsletter





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A WORD FROM THE THRDC-ZANZIBAR COORDINATOR

I am happy to introduce you to our Newsletter, and take you through our journey of protecting Human Rights Defenders in Zanzibar. I greatly appreciate invaluable support and continued cooperation we have been receiving from various stakeholders including our members, partners and government officials. We have always enjoyed working as a team and cherished whenever we reached a milestone while working together to cope with the challenges we have been facing in the course of our duties.

In September 2021, Tanzania Human Rights Defenders Coalition (THRDC) registered its Branch in Zanzibar. This follows several initiatives taken by THRDC to improve the working environment of Human Rights defenders (HRDs) across Tanzania since its establishment in 2012.

It should be noted that, the operating context of Human Rights Defenders in Zanzibar differs to some extent with that of Tanzania Mainland. This due to the fact that Zanzibar has its own laws and policies that govern the operation of CSOs in Zanzibar. Also the level of understanding among HRDs, Government officials and the general public on issues affecting HRDs might be different compared to the Tanzania mainland.

As defenders of human rights, THRDC-Zanzibar will always strive to protect the rights of Human Rights Defenders by ensuring that they work in a safe and secured environment. As a start of our work in Zanzibar, through our members and partners, the coalition has managed to engage various human rights defenders.

THRDC-Zanzibar is deeply committed to protect and build capacities of the Human Rights Defenders so that they can better serve the society through the civil society sector. We are always striving to establish and maintain good will and mutual understanding with all our stakeholders. Through our various initiatives, we have been able to empower, protect, respect, recognize and reach out to many Human Rights Defenders including Judges and Magistrates of the Judiciary of Zanzibar.

We are constantly making some changes on our approach to human rights defense, with the view to improve and strengthen the performance of our organization and how it engages numerous government officials through meetings and round table discussions.

This newsletter is aiming to shed some light on various activities undertaken by THRDC's branch in Zanzibar. The role of Civil Societies under the coordination of THRDC-Zanzibar in defending civic space in the past six months since it's registration in 2021 is highly exploited here.

Enjoy the reading!

THRDC INKS DEAL WITH ZANZIBAR'S JUDICIARY

The Tanzania Human Rights Defenders Coalition (THRDC) through its Zanzibar branch, has in early January this year, signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the Judiciary of Zanzibar to improve justice delivery system and human rights in the spicy archipelago.

The signing ceremony was witnessed by the Acting Chief Justice of Zanzibar, magistrates, the THRDC's National Coordinator as well as THRDC-Zanzibar Coordinator, some of the board members of the THRDC from Zanzibar, judicial officers, THRDC staff, and journalists.

Speaking shortly after the signing in ceremony, THRDC's Zanzibar Coordinator, Abdallah Abeid thanked the judiciary administration for seeing the importance of formalizing the existing cooperation for the benefit of the wider Zanzibari society.

"This event comes after a good work which we had already begun by cooperating with the judiciary, and we have seen it is bearing fruits, therefore, we decided to formalize it. Let me emphasize that this MoU is going to build a stronger justice system and the direct beneficiaries are the people of Zanzibar" said THRDC's Zanzibar coordinator.

Moreover, Mr. Abeid added THRDC is determined to work closely with the judiciary and the government, in general, to ensure that Zanzibari society is better served.

"THRDC has decided to directly cooperate with the Zanzibar judiciary to ensure that the justice system is working properly in

the Zanzibar islands, we hope that this cooperation will bear the fruits and we are proud of this three-year cooperation agreement. We thank the judiciary for trusting us, cooperating and working together to ensure that we strengthen the justice system here in Zanzibar" Abeid said.

Meanwhile the THRDC National Coordination, Onesmo Olengurumwa thanked the President of the Revolutionary Government of Zanzibar, Dr. Hussein Mwinyi for creating better environment for the government and its institutions to work closely with Civil Society Organisations (CSOs).

Olengurumwa said that within a short period since the registration of the THRDC's Zanzibar branch, Tanzania Human Rights Defenders Coalition has established and sustained better working relations with various government institutions and is hoping to continue doing so to support the cause for human rights in the spicy island.

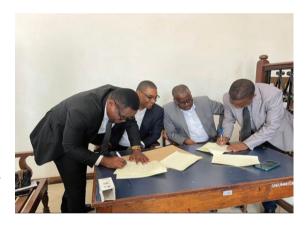
Speaking to reporters, Acting Zanzibar Chief Justice Khamis Ramadhani Abdallah explain various strategies set up by the Judiciary to improve public services including human rights.

"The judiciary is determined to improve its performance. As I have explained the judiciary has been facing many challenges, therefore we have decided to eliminate them so that the people can benefit from the various services offered by the judiciary and help reduce public woes, "he said.



THRDC-Zanzibar
Coordinator, Mr.
Abdalla Abeid (left)
together with the Chief
Court Administrator
of Zanzibar, Hon.
Kai Mbarouk
(right) signing a
Memorandum of
Understanding (MoU)

A photo of THRDC
National coordinator
and THRDC-Zanzibar
coordinator together
with the Chief Court
Administrator of Zanzibar
Hon. Kai Mbarouk
(second from right)
signing a Memorandum of
Understanding (MoU)





A group photo Judicial officers, THRDC secretariat from Tanzania mainland & Zanzibar and THRDC board members from Zanzibar

In order to ensure reforms in the Judiciary, various committees have been formed by the Acting Chief Justice. Those committees include the Committee for Judicial Reform which is under the chairmanship of Hon. Judge George Kazi, ICT and Statistics Committee, Research and Coordination committee, Legal and Directives Committee, and Training Committee all of which are tasked to ensure that the judiciary can resolve all the challenges it has been facing.

"The Judiciary cannot walk on its own, we are under the government but there are other partners we closely work with to ensure that we attain our objectives to improve service delivery, one of our partners is the Tanzania Human Rights Defenders Coalition (THRDC) which through its Zanzibar Branch they have come and started working with us," said Khamis Ramadhani Abdallah, Acting Zanzibar Chief Justice

He observed that the cooperation would help to improve various areas such as;

- "To build capacity and to dispense justice in the society, "We will cooperate in various aspects such as to start doing research and to draft a document which would spell out various challenges the judiciary face and how to resolve them."
- 2) To research in various areas including Gender-Based Violence, "we can research to establish the root cause of GBV, a rampant problem in our society and how to resolve it."
- 3) Case Management, "we know that there is a problem with case management, there are several complaints that the cases are not speedily processed, the verdict

is not expediently executed, 'proceedings' are not released faster, therefore in our MoU, we will find a way to improve case management."

4) To cooperate in conducting various seminars and refresher courses to improve judicial services, said Act Chief Justice.

This step is the continuation of the THRDC's resolve to forge cooperation with various authorities to ensure that human rights are upheld as well as improvement in the services related to human rights in various parts of the country. This MoU opens a room for THRD's members and its partners across the country to cooperate with the Zanzibar's judiciary to advance justice delivery.



The Acting Chief Justice of Zanzibar, Hon Khamis Ramadhan Abdalla Shaaban addressing participants of a refresher workshop.





Judicial Officers, Representatives of THRDC and Consultants captured during an inception meeting of the Needs Assessment



Adv. Clerence Kipobota presenting key areas of the Needs Assessment Survey

JUDGES, MAGISTRATES TRAINED TO HANDLE HUMAN RIGHTS CASES

The Tanzania human rights defenders Coalition (THRDC-Zanzibar) in collaboration with the Judiciary of Zanzibar organized a two-day refresher workshop which involved Judges and Magistrates from Unguja and Pemba Islands. The objective of the workshop was to refresh memories of the Judges and Magistrates of the Judiciary of Zanzibar on how to effectively handle/adjudicate human rights case based on standards as provided under Article 10(9) of the 1984 Constitution of Zanzibar and other local and international laws.

The workshop brought together 50 Judiciary senior officials from the High Court of Zanzibar, Magistrates, Attorney General - Zanzibar, Acting Chief Justice of Zanzibar, Director of Public prosecution-Zanzibar, Deputy Commissioner of Police- Zanzibar, and Commission of Human Rights and Good Governance, with the aim of adding value to step towards improving the capacity of the Judiciary in resolving human rights cases in Zanzibar in an effective manner.

Key facilitators of the workshop included among others, Hon Ret. Judge of high Court, Judge Joaquine De Melo, Hon Ret. judge Awadhi Bawazir, Dr. Clement Mashamba from the Law school of Tanzania and Prof. Chris Maina Peter from University of Dar es Salaam.

The Judiciary in Collaboration with THRDC-Zanzibar decided to organize this refresher workshop after it had identified gaps in handling human rights cases, mostly, gender-based violence (GBV) cases, which have been reported in an alarming rate in Zanzibar. According to reports victims of such violations (often women and children) often face minimal sentencing of perpetrators, corruption, and judgements taking too long to be concluded which resulted to social ostracism and secrecy among the victims who are often financially incapable to get competent legal representation.

GBV is a serious problem in Zanzibar whereby the reports show that, in 2018, a total of 942 GBV cases were reported to the Police Gender and Children's Desks (According to UNFPA, 2019) report. According to another recent report from the Office of the Chief Government Statistician, Zanzibar (OCGSZ) recorded 108 incidents of abuse against women and children in July 2021 which is higher compared to 97 cases recorded in June. (All Africa Reports, 2021).

During this workshop the Judges and Magistrates refreshed their minds on areas of Regional and International Human Rights Standards, Human Rights and Sexual Gender Based Violence (SGBV). In addition to that they also focused on Fair Trial Rights and Access to Justice in Zanzibar, Human Rights Practice and Procedure, and how to Handle SGBV Cases in Zanzibar. The participants shared knowledge and experiences on how to handle human rights cases.

Human rights defenders believes that it is important for judges as human rights defenders to exercise a liberal approach by applying human rights principles and norms when it comes to adjudicating human rights cases in ensuring justice and reparation for victims of human rights abuses.

This workshop marked the start of continuous activities of the Tanzania Human Rights Defenders Coalition in collaboration with the Judiciary, to facilitate workshops for Judges and magistrates to meet and refresh on how to handle human rights cases including public interest cases, this is to make sure there is human rights adherence in court proceedings especially on how human rights cases are handled.



The Acting Chief Justice of Zanzibar, Judge Khamis Ramadhan (middle) together with the National Coordinator of the Tanzania Human Rights Defenders Coalition (THRDC)- Onesmo Olengurumwa (left), and THRDC Zanzibar Coordinator Mr. Abdallah Abeid (right) when they visited his office for the purpose of discussing possible areas of cooperation including the provision of various Human Rights refresher courses to Judges and Magistrates in Zanzibar

ZANZIBAR REVAMPS JUDICIARY AND JUSTICE SYSTEM

In 2021, the Acting Zanzibar Chief Justice of Zanzibar, Hon Khamis Ramadhan Abdalla Shaaban formed five (5) Committees for the purpose of advising him on reforms that need to be done in the judiciary. Those committees are as follows:

- 1. Reform Committee
- 2. Research, Monitoring and Evaluation Committee
- 3. Statistics and Information Technology Committee
- 4. Judiciary procedure Committee
- 5. Training and Capacity Building Committee.

A total of fifty five (55) court officials comprising Judges, Magistrates and other court officials were appointed as members to serve in those committee.

As a starting point in the reforms, the Judiciary of Zanzibar in collaboration with the Tanzania Human Rights Defenders Coalition (THRDC-Zanzibar) conducted a one day workshop with Judges and Magistrates in Zanzibar for the purpose of making a reflection on possible reforms in the Judiciary and justice delivery system. The workshop was held at the Madnat Al Bahar Hotel in Zanzibar.



A Group Photo of Zanzibar Judges during the Training

The training was facilitated by a Judge from the High Court of Tanzania Hon. Judge Zahra Maruma. Judge Maruma shared with the participants various best practices and lessons learnt from Tanzania Mainland. Some of key areas for reform include case management in the courts, the use of information technology, ethics of judicial officers, human resource, infrastructure of the judiciary and many other relevant issues that will increase efficiency in the Judiciary.

During the workshop, the Acting Chief Justice of Zanzibar thanked the judges, Magistrates and Kadhies for their readiness to participate in the training.

The Acting Chief Justice also thanked THRDC-Zanzibar and the High Court of Tanzania for facilitating the workshop











ZANZIBAR REVIEWS **ANTI- CORRUPTION AND ECONOMIC CRIMES LAW**

STAKEHOLDERS' LAW REVIEW MEETING ON ZANZIBAR ANTI-CORUPTION AND **ECONOMIC CRIMES ACT**







GOLDEN TULIP AIRPORT HOTEL ZANZIBAR

08:00AM - 05:00PM 18[™] DECEMBER 2021

The Tanzania Human Rights Defenders Coalition through its Zanzibar branch (THRDC-Zanzibar), and Zanzibar Association of Non-Governmental Organizations (ANGOZA), in collaboration with the Revolutionary Government of Zanzibar through the Zanzibar Law Reform Commission and Zanzibar Anti- Corruption Bureau, jointly organized a Law review session for collection recommendations on the Zanzibar Anti-Corruption and Economic crimes Act No. 1 of 2012.

The workshop, was held on 18th December, 2021, at Golden Tulip Hotel Zanzibar. Various stakeholders including the Zanzibar Anti-Corruption and Economic Corruption Authority, the Zanzibar Law Reform Commission, various lawyers, and civil society Organization's stakeholders were brought together for that purpose. This workshop provided a room for collective review of the corruption laws in Zanzibar and document potential areas of improvements.

Moreover, the participants had time to learn best practices from other countries around the world on how they fight against corruption and economic crimes. The idea is to modernize Zanzibar anti-corruption strategies to suit the needs of society and integration of human rights based approaches given the fact that corruption is the cross border crime.





Photo: On the right is the facilitator of the meeting -THRDC's Head of Protection Programs, Leopold Mosha (Adv.) and on the right is the Chairperson of the Zanzibar Law Reform Commission Ms. Khadija Mzee addressing the participants during the law review session

This initiative was a continuation of the efforts initiated by the Tanzania Human Rights Defenders Coalition (THRDC-Zanzibar) in collaboration with various authorities in the Revolutionary Government of Zanzibar to ensure there is improvement in various laws for crime prevention and human rights adherence in all aspects of life.



A group photo during the consultative meeting to review and collect opinions on the Zanzibar Anti-Corruption and Economic Crimes Law.

THRDC HOSTS GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS, STRATEGIC PARTNERS

Since its registration, THRDC-Zanzibar was delighted to be visited key government officials and partners. The first guest was the Registrar of Non-Governmental Organizations (NGO) in Zanzibar Mr. Ahmed Khalid. The Registrar visited THRDC-Zanzibar Offices at Mbuyu Mnene as one of the implementation of the NGOs Act No. 6, 1995 which requires the Registrar to be aware of the existing Organizations and activities carried out by these Organizations.



A photo of
THRDC Zanzibar
Coordinator Mr.
Abdalla Abeid
THRDC, National
Coordinator
Mr. Onesmo
Olegurumwa
and Zanzibar
NGO Registrar
Mr.Ahmed Khalid
during visit
THRDC-Zanzibar
office

Swedish Embassy Deputy Chief visits THRDC-Zanzibar office.

On 1st March 2022, THRDC was delighted to be visited by the Deputy Head of Mission and Development Cooperation (Swedish Embassy) in Tanzania, Ms. Sandra Diesel. During the meeting with the THRDC Zanzibar, Ms.Sandra and THRDC-Zanzibar Coordinator discussed the situation of Human Rights Defenders in Zanzibar and how Human Rights Defenders can partner with the Embassy in the protection of human rights in Zanzibar.

THRDC has for the past 10 years been closely working with the Swedish Embassy in ensuring a safe and friendly environment for Human Rights Defenders in Tanzania.



A photo of Ms. Sandra Diesel signing visitor book during visit at THRDC-zanzibar office



A group photo of THRDC secretariat, board member with a visitor from Swedish embassy at THRDC-Zanzibar office

Constitutional and legal affairs Public Service and Good Governance PS visits THRDC-Zanzibar office

On March 4 2022, The Tanzania Human Rights Defenders Coalition THRDC-Zanzibar hosted Hon. Seif Sh. Mwinyi, the Permanent Secretary of the President's Office, Constitution and Legal affairs, Public Service and Good Governance. The Permanent Secretary was accompanied by Ms. Zaina Daudi, the Director of the President's Office Department of Good Governance.

In a bid to protect Human Rights Defenders, the Coalition has been working in collaboration with various government institutions including the Office of the Zanzibar Registrar of Societies, the Judiciary, Police, Prisons, ZAECA, the Law Reforms Commission, Public Prosecutor's office, The Commission of Human Rights and Good Governance, the Office of the Attorney General, and Ministry of Finance and Planning.

During the meeting, Hon. Mwinyi urged the Coalition to continue working with HRDs by providing legal assistance, resources and capacity building. Moreover, the Director, Ms. Daudi, hailed the Coalition for working closely with the government and requested the Coalition to visit the Department of Good Governance for more familiarization with areas of possible joint interventions.





A photos of Hon. Seif Sh. Mwinyi, and Ms. Zaina Daudi with secretariat during their visit at the THRDC-Zanzibar Office

BRIDGING PARTNERSHIP AND COLLABORATION DEVIDE



Introducing THRDC to the Ministry of the President's office, Constitutional and legal affairs Public Service and Good Governance in Zanzibar. Above is a picture of the Minister of Constitutional and Affairs, Public Service and Good Governance, Hon. Haroun Ali Suleiman together with the THRDC National Coordinator (Onesmo Olengurumwa) and the THRDC Zanzibar-Coodinator Abdallah Abeid.

Visit to the Zanzibar Planning Commission





In the photo above is the Acting General Secretary of the Zanzibar Planning Commission Dr. Rahma S. Mahfoudh with the THRDC National and Zanzibar Coordinator.

"We recognize the fact that Civil Society Organisations have been doing a commendable job to support the government in various services including Health, Education and even Human Rights, where Civil Society Organizations have largely been working and reaching large numbers of citizens. The Zanzibar Planning Commission is ready to work with the Tanzania Human Rights Defenders to ensure that the contribution of CSOs is widely recognized" Dr. Rahma S. Mahfoudh.



THRDC Meets the Minister of State, President's Office, Regional Administration, Local Government and Special Departments of the Government of Zanzibar

The National Coordinator of the Tanzania Human Rights Defenders Coalition (THRDC), Onesmo Olengurumwa accompanied by the THRDC-Zanzibar Coordinator Mr. Abdallah Abeid visited the Minister of State, President's Office, Regional Administration, Local Government and Special Departments of the Government of Zanzibar, Hon. Masoud Ali Mohammed. This is the ministry that is responsible with coordinating the affairs of civil society organizations in Zanzibar

During the meeting with the minister, THRDC expressed its commitment to collaborate with the Ministry in order to achieve specific objectives in human rights and development of the people of Zanzibar.

The Minister commended THRDC for its efforts to collaborate with the Government in supporting various human rights programs and development activities. He promised that his Ministry through the Office of the Registrar will work closely with CSOs to ensure their contribution is visible and recognizable.

"I congratulate you very much, fortunately I have been receiving information about THRDC. At some point we needed Government support you helped us so we as the Government need you very much and so you need the Government. to recruit, build the foundations of good governance and even the fight against corruption "Minister Mohammed.

Below are some of pictures depicting THRDC Representatives and the Minister during the visit











THRDC Visits Zanzibar Law Review Commission

The THRDC Coordinator Onesmo Olengurumwa in October 27, 2021 visited the Chairperson of the Zanzibar Law Reform Commission Ms. Khadija Mzee. Among others, the duo discussed how THRDC will co-operate with the Zanzibar Law Review Commission to make various legislative improvements to protect the interests of Civil Society Organizations in the Isles.



The National Coordinator of the Tanzania Human Rights
Defenders Coalition (THRDC), Onesmo Olengurumwa (Right),
Coordinator THRDC-Zanzibar Mr. Abdallah Abeid (Left) in a
Group photo with the Chairperson of the Zanzibar Law Reform
Commission Ms. Khadija Mzee.

Zanzibar Police Officers attend fresher course to hone human rights skills

THRDC and the Police force in Zanzibar have agreed to continue conducting training to police officers to promote respect for Human Rights and Good Governance in the semi-autonomous islands and Tanzania in general.

The two parties reached a consensus during the meeting between the THRDC National Coordinator Onesmo Olengurumwa with his Zanzibar counterpart, and Zanzibar Police Force Commissioner CP Mohamed H. Hassan at the Police Force Headquarters in Zanzibar.



PHOTO: The National Coordinator of the Tanzania Human Rights Defenders Coalition (THRDC), Onesmo Olengurumwa (Left), Coordinator THRDC-Zanzibar Mr. Abdallah Abeid (Right) poses for a group photo with Zanzibar Police Commissioner, CP Mohamed H. Hassan during a visit to his office



THRDC coordinators in a group photo with the Commissioner of the Tanzania Revenue Authority (TRA) Mr. Juma Bakari Hassan together with the Senior Taxpayer Education and Services Officer Dr. Shuweikha Salum Khalfan during a visit to the Authorities' offices in Zanzibar.

THRDC Zanzibar Coordinator, gets Degree on Climate change

The Tanzania Human Rights Defenders Coalition (THRDC) congratulates the THRDC-Zanzibar Coordinator, Mr Abdallah Abeid on his graduation with a Master's Degree in Climate Change and Natural Resources.

It is our hope that this degree will enhance effective functioning of our Coordinator on the Zanzibar side, particularly improve human rights advocacy in Tanzania including the fight against climate change.







THRDC WINS ACCOLADES ON ZANZIBAR'S LAW DAY

Tanzania Human Rights Defenders Coalition (THRDC) attended the commemoration of the Law Day in Zanzibar. During the event Hon. Khamis Ramadhan, Acting Chief Justice of Zanzibar delivered his speech and introduced to the President of Zanzibar Dr. Hussein Ali Mwinyi the existing partnership between THRDC and the Judiciary of Zanzibar.

"Honorable President, I have partnered with the Tanzania Human Rights Defenders Coalition (THRDC) who have helped us conduct a 'Need Assessment' of the Judiciary... We have already formed a team that will collect recommendations from the citizens for possible reforms of the Judiciary" said Hon. Khamis Ramadhani.



A photo of THRDC Zanzibar Coordinator Mr Abdalla Abeid, President of Zanzibar Law Society (ZLS) Mr. Slim Abdullah and National Coordinator Mr. Onesmo Olegurumwa during Zanzibar Law day

ZANZIBAR ANNUAL NGOS FORUM (ZANGOF) 2022



THRDC-Zanzibar was among the organizations and event sponsor that participated in the Zanzibar Civil Society Organizations (CSOs) Annual Forum. The event was held at Golden Tulip Hotel on 12th to 14th March 2022 and was officiated by Hon. President of Zanzibar and Chairman of the revolutionary council Dr. Hussein Ally Mwinyi.

The Annual Forum of CSO's was organized by the Zanzibar Association of Non-Governmental Organization (ANGOZA), PACSO and the Organizing Committee in collaboration with the Office of the President Regional Administration, Local Government and Special Departments in Zanzibar. The event was aimed at strengthening cooperation between Government and NGOs in Zanzibar.

The meeting was also a forum for discussion of issues that affect Human Rights Defenders/CSOs and also for networking. Through the exhibitions, THRDC raised awareness about the laws governing CSOs and how to comply with them.

A photo of THRDC officer Advocate Nuru Maro presenting before Hon. President of Zanzibar Dr. Hussein Mwinyi an First lady Maryam H. Mwinyi when visited THRDC exhibition booth during ZANGOF



Moever, during Zanzibar Annual NGOs Forum (ZANGOF) 2022, THRDC together with other CSOs had the opportunity to discuss on how to strengthen partnerships between CSOs and Government for the development of Zanzibar.



A photo of CSO Representatives in a short meeting during Zanzibar Non-Governmental Organizations Forum (ZANGOF)

ZANZIBAR'S CSOs TRAINED ON BEST PRACTICES FOR WIDENING CIVIL SOCIETIES SPACE

On the 15th and 16th March 2022, Tanzania Human Rights Defenders Coalition (THRDC) conducted a training on how CSOs in Zanzibar can work to widen the space of Civil Society Organizations in the Isles.

The capacity building session focused on how best to monitor and compile human rights reports. Also through session participants were able to discuss the challenges affecting Civil Society Organization (CSOs) in Zanzibar and develop strategies on how best to address those challenges for the well-being of civil society.



A group photo of some representatives of CSOs together with the Guest of Honor at during the training



A photo of THRDC national coordinator during the event

A group photo of delegates at high table during CSOs training for Widening Civil Space in Zanzibar

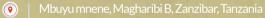


Participants following presentations from facilitators and contributing during the training











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