

DEFENDER'S MONTHLY MONITOR

GET THE FIRST ANNIVERSARY OF THE TANZANIA
HUMAN RIGHTS DEFENDER'S DAY
INSIDE DECEMBER'S MONITOR



**UZINDUZI WA SIKU YA WATETEZI WA HAKI ZA
BINADAMU TANZANIA**

**THE LAUNCHING OF THE TANZANIA HUMAN RIGHTS
DEFENDER'S DAY**

**IMEZINDULIWA TAREHE 12/12/2013 NA
JAJI AMIR MANENTO MWENYEKITI WA TUME
ZA HAKI ZA BINADAMU**

**LAUNCHED BY THE CHAIRPERSON OF THE TANZANIA
COMMISSION FOR HUMAN RIGHTS AND
GOOD GOVERNANCE**

1.0 Introduction

The Tanzania Human Rights Defenders Coalition (THRDC-Coalition) is a non-partisan, non-governmental, human rights organization comprised of both individual and organizational memberships. The Coalition has 100 members who are basically human rights defenders in Tanzania (HRDs). Its membership and representation in terms of operation is spread (through designated zone offices/ coordination) all over the United Republic of Tanzania (Mainland and Zanzibar).

The main interest of this coalition is to, inter alia, work towards enhanced security and protection of the HRDs in the United Republic of Tanzania. It also intends to strengthen regional and international interventions towards protection and promotion of the rights and responsibilities of the HRDs. The ultimate result of all these, as this coalition visualizes is a contribution to creation of safer working environment for HRDs. It has been and still intends to work closely with different stakeholders including local, regional and international HRDs' organizations and coalitions; individual HRDs; development partners; United Nations; duty bearers and other relevant stakeholders.

The Defender's Monitor is a monthly publication that will keep you updated with the latest HRDs news, views and developments. It also highlights the work of THRDC and other stakeholders in supporting human rights defenders in Tanzania. The Monitor also contains information about events upcoming opportunities for HRDs in Tanzania.

1.1 The Working Framework or Programs

For the Coalition to realize its main goal and vision the following working areas were identified by the HRDs in Tanzania and adopted as the main programs to be implemented by the secretariat. This working framework aims at giving detailed information specifically to direct people to perform the day to day tasks required in running the coalition for the coming five years. It derives its focus from the Coalition's Five Years Strategic Plan. The strategic plan identifies four areas to be implemented. These strategic areas are; Advocacy, Capacity Building, Protection and Institution Building.

2.0 The essence of Human Rights Defender's Day

This annual and special gathering brings together more than 100 human right defenders (HRDs) from across the country, government officials, the media, development partners, and other international and regional stakeholders in the human rights regime. This special day will be celebrated in Tanzania every December 12. This is an avenue for a diverse of interactions as part of advocacy activities aiming to amplify the recognition and protection of HRDs in this Country. The Coalition strives to find every opportunity to work closely with different stakeholders including local, regional and international HRDs' organizations and coalitions; individual HRDs; development partners; United Nations; duty bearers and other relevant stakeholders as part of its advocacy activities.

2.1 What do we do during Human Rights Defenders' Day?

The Coalition conducts advocacy through networks focusing on and targeting particular audiences in order to gain

support. The THRDC also increases their visibility through documentation, press releases, studies, reports, statements, etc., as well as other actions like country visits and institutional events such as the human rights defender's day.

THRDCs will be discussing frequently with the government and other CSOs in order to let them have a better understanding of what human rights defenders do. There will be a creation of a HRD calendar and human rights defenders' day to enhance the visibility of HRD actions to allow people to be more aware and appreciate their actions. In order to facilitate transnational advocacy networks, the network needs to have common values and principles, access to information and be able to effectively use that information, believe their efforts will cause change and effectively frame their values. By using facts, state and non-state actors can use that viable information to pressure human rights violators. To achieve this aim one, THRDC-Coalition plans to work towards accomplishing the following OUTPUTS:-

- 1.1 Engage the parliament and the government for improvement and enactment of the laws and policies for human rights defenders.
- 1.2 International advocacy for ratification and domestication of international human rights instruments.
- 1.3 Advocacy for strengthening the capacity of law enforcers to address human rights defender according to law.
- 1.4 Improving HRDs solidarity and networking both at National and International levels

The Coalition being an umbrella body has primary role of bringing together HRDs and network among themselves and as well with different relevant stakeholders. During the first anniversary in 12/12/2013, this occasion brought together not only human defenders stakeholders, but also people who have positive interest or influence in the work HRDs such as development partners and state officials. During this day we do the following:

Tanzania Human Rights Defenders' Day Provides the Following:

- a) Improving networking and experience sharing among HRDs and relevant stakeholder by providing a venue for direct interaction and in depth discussion between representatives of global civil society, media, government officials, regional and UN human rights bodies.
- b) This is a day where HRDs will show their works to the public and relevant invited guests. During this day HRDs will display different activities relating to human rights promotion. This may also provide a room for the exchange of materials and information, as well as to publicize their activities.
- c) We take this occasion to be a unique avenue to discuss challenges that face (HRDs,) and provide a platform for HRDs to discuss human rights issues in Tanzania.
- d) We provide a room for HRDs networking and engagement with development partners and donors.
- e) This is also an occasion to internalize a New EU Local Implementation Strategies for HRDs in Tanzania.

3.2 About Human Rights Defender's Day

Mr Olengurumwa went on in defining who is a human rights defender and why the THRDC has decided to introduce this day. He emphasized that the main motive was to remind HRDs of their vital role in promoting and protecting rights of the citizenry. Also this is used as an occasion to recognize HRDs who have excelled in their activities in the year, but also to bring on board other stakeholders. Even more is to speak about nasty occurrences which need to be condemned by the strongest terms possible by HRDs in unison. This year then the occasion centred on the death of Dr Mvungi whose traumatic end has left some questions since his death occurred while he was still constructively engaged in the process of formulating a new constitution a zeal which he had stood firm for during his lifetime.

3.3 Human Rights Defender's Day Official Launch

The Special Guest Judge (rtd) Amir Manento the Chairman of the Commission for Human Rights and Good Governance (CHRAGG) was invited to the podium to officially inaugurate the Tanzania Human Rights Defenders Day. Judge Amir Manento launched the day and promised that CHRAGG will work closely with the Coalition in every year to make this event a success



Hon Amiri Manento, Chairperson Tanzania Human Rights Commission making an official inaugural of the Tanzania Human Rights Defenders' Day. With him are; Madam Kabisama Board Chair, Onesmo Olengurumwa National Coordinator THRDC and Absalom Kibanda Chairperson Tanzania Editors Forum on your right.



- f) Recognize and offer awards to the best HRDs
- g) This is the day that aim to give the voice unrecorded incidents towards HRDs through their testimonies
- h) To foster closer collaboration and co-operation among NGOs, and with the Tanzania Commission for human rights

3.0 The Launch of the First Anniversary

Tanzania Human Rights Defenders Coalition (THRDC) on the 12th December 2013 introduced for the first time ever in this country a Human Rights Defenders Day which incorporated a revision of all activities of the HRDs in the past year.



More than 100 HRDs, government officials and development partners attended the first Anniversary of the Tanzania Human Rights Defender's Day -12/12/2013

3.1 Opening Remarks

The Mistress of the Ceremony Ms Vicky Ntetema, former BBC broadcaster and the current Executive Director of the Under the Same Sun (UTSS) introduced the session by demanding attendees to stand in ovation in remembrance of Nelson Mandela, South African Father of the Nation and independent mogul who had passed away few days earlier. Later on she invited Mr Onesmo Olengurumwa the Coordinator of the THRDC to say a few words concerning this auspicious occasion. He subsequently, called for everyone in attendance to ask themselves what they have done in the past year in line with improving the human rights situation in Tanzania. He later invited the chairperson of the board of directors Ms Martina Kabisama to deliver her remarks on the same. She in turn, said that HRDs should emulate good examples of the heroes who had stood high as champions of human rights by mentioning again Nelson Mandela and Dr Sengondo Mvungi who passed away in November 12 after a brutal attack allegedly by thugs. She moved on to say that there are many HRDs by nature of their activities but they have never had an occasion to introduce or recognize themselves that way.

3.4 Awarding Human Right Defenders of the Year 2013.



The Special Guest Judge (rtd) Amir Manento the Chairman of the Commission for Human Rights and Good Governance was invited to the podium to announce the awardees of the year 2013. Consequently the best award of the year for Rural Human Rights Defenders award were awarded to the two HRDs namely Bruno Mwambene who has been imprisoned for four years after a criminal case against him had reached a verdict in Mbozi, he was charged of assault and interception in work to a Police Officer who was on duty. His wife Fane Mwashuiya received a picture of a motorbike (As it appears in the photo) in lieu of the real motorbike which would thereafter be transported to Mbozi, Mbeya region, the residence of the jailed HRD. His brief profile including a range of activities that he has been conducting prior to his arraignment was briefed to the audience by the THRDC Information Officer.

Thereafter the Special Guest mentioned Eustace Nyarugenda (now deceased) as Women Human Rights Defenders as another HRD of the year. He passed away last year in a complicated situation and his activities as a HRD cannot be ruled out as possible causes of his untimely death. His widow Baseki Thomas (At the middle) received Tsh 800,000 as a support from the THRDC for her children's education. The brief profile of the late Nyarugenda was read by Mr Benedict Ishabakaki the THRDC's Protection Officer as a matter of protocol.



3.5 Special Remarks from THRDC Board Member Dr Helen Kijo-Bisimba

The speaker being the executive director of the Legal and Human Rights Centre (LHRC) said that work of HRDs is always challenging she elucidated this with the imprisonment of Bruno Mwambene just as what happened to Nelson Mandela who had chosen to fight for the rights of his people in South Africa. Further she advanced that every day people's rights are violated therefore calling for HRDs not to give up the fight. She discouraged any kind of fear that can weaken the work of the HRDs; she gave them hope by saying that eventually the culprits will be those who violates human rights and not defenders. She appreciated for the firm stance of the HRDs which led to either death as it happened to the late Daud Mwangosi to the brutal assault to Dr Stephen Ulimboka and the chairman of the Tanzania's Editors Forum (TEF), Mr Absalom Kibanda.



Dr. Helen Kijo- Bisimba holding a placard of the Tanzania Human Rights Defenders' Day with Judge Amir Manento. Behind her is the THRDC Board Chair –Ms Martina Kabisama.

3.6 Live Testimony from a Victim of Assault Absalom Kibanda

Chairman of the Tanzania Editors Forum (TEF), Absalom Kibanda's was attacked and lost one of his eyes. Unknown assailants attacked him brutally outside his home. Kibanda had to receive specialized medical treatment in South Africa and to date no one has been arrested in connection with the crime. He explained how he became a victim of brutal attacks, but also appreciated that this invitation was a good sign of recognizing his role as a defender through his journalistic work. He also counselled fellow journalists to place human rights stories in front pages of their news papers, but also in bold letters, this is because these stories are dealing with human beings so they should be given prominence.



TEF- Chair Absalom Kibanda giving testimony of his brutal attack in 2013

He condemned the violators of human rights in Tanzania by naming them Boers than Boers were during the apartheid regime in South Africa. He further charged that Nelson Mandela remained in jail for 27 years in prison because he thought racism was an evil that must be fought at all cost. He noted that in this country we do have the same Boers like those who had jailed Mandela, and those who curtail the freedom of the press, they violate human rights, and they persecute or jail the defenders.

3.7 Speech by the Special Guest Judge (rtd) Amir Manento

Manento said that Africa is poor because of its bad record in human rights because even corruption is one form of violation as it denies the majority the national cake in favour of a few who are well positioned in the power hierarchy.

He started by revealing that his commission is an independent institution and that its autonomy means that it should not be intervened by anyone in its operation. He further clarified that the mandate of its formulation stems for Section 129 of the constitution of the United Republic of Tanzania of 1977 and that its duties are elaborated in Section 130 of the same law No. 7/2001.

He disclosed that the core duty of his commission is to defend human rights and champion for good governance and that during its operation it has always been working in alliance with individual and institutions that are dealing with defending human rights and therefore its participation in the launching of the Human Rights Defenders Day on December 12, 2013 was justifiable as one of its mainstay business.

Further he noted that the CHRAGG was also is a major stakeholder of the government in regard to human rights and good governance issues. It has the duty of conducting researches and monitor implementation of the government in the covenants that it has signed and consented. However in its operations it has other stakeholders in the form of Civil Society Organisations (CSOs) and the media. He appreciated that the gathering of participants from various circles, the government, CSOs and partners in development during the HRD Day of December was a good sign that human rights issues are getting a close following in Tanzania.

Moreover he acknowledged that human rights defenders are working in diverse forms and they work as individuals or in collaboration with others. Some have chosen to use the judiciary in order to make sure that repressive laws are struck off as in the case of Rev. Christopher Mtikila, some have been using political platforms by condemning openly violations of human rights, yet others have resorted to the use of the pen through either print media, brochures and other publications to electronic media like radio and television.

The unique thing about HRDs is the fact that they operate within the legal framework, and by abiding to the Universal Declaration on Human Rights Defenders of 1998. He noted that of recent HRDs in Tanzania have been facing stiff challenges by being branded as instigators, as agents of the opposition and trouble makers. This has gone to the extent of fabricating cases against them, being intimidating and even being tortured physically. Therefore the meeting in mention was a good opportunity in order to bridge the gap between them and putting together their ideas on how to forge ahead. Incidentally he appreciated that this

day was the one to announce the HRD of the year as this will inspire others for further improvement in their activities. He asked HRDs to make sure that they learn from visitors who had attended in the occasion from various places of the globe to as far as Europe. In that way the THRDC will make its Five Years Strategic Plan a success.

He thanked all attendees from various walks of life who had sacrificed their normal duties so as to attend in this maiden day for HRDs in Tanzania. He also asked every one of them to give their positive contributions to the Coalition so that it can realize its goals while also promising that CHRAGG will remain a dire supporter of the Coalition and especially the commemoration of the Tanzania Human Rights Defender's Day.

4.0 The Second Anniversary of the Tanzania Human Rights Defenders' Day

To make the 2014 Tanzania HRDs Day a success, the doors are open to all interested stakeholders from different parts of the world to come in with moral, material and financial support. The THRDC expects to bring together about 200 HRDs from across the country, development partners, government officials, regional and international human rights actors to form part of the second anniversary. We would finally like to thank our sponsor, the Open Society Initiative for Eastern Africa (OSIEA), whose financial support made the launching of Tanzania Human Rights Defenders Day a remarkable achievement in the field of human rights.

During the forthcoming celebrations, best HRDs will be selected according to their thematic groups and geographical locations. Human Rights Defenders award is granted annually to a person or organization with an exceptional record of fighting against human rights violation. Awards for HRDs are a key event during defenders' day that shows solidarity, admiration and support for the defence and promotion of human rights and fundamental freedoms. The awards and prizes are also given to HRDs as a consolation to those HRDs who risked their lives at the expense of other people's rights.

The award seeks to draw public attention on the human rights defender's work and their security. The total of \$2000 is awarded to each award recipient in an effort to support the continuation of human rights work and the family.

5.0 The Most Globally Celebrated Human Rights Days

Unlike other human rights days marked globally, there has been no any day officially set by UN for HRDs. Tanzania might be the only Country in the World that officially introduced this unique and important day for HRDs to meet and interact. It's our call that the same energy used to come up with Human Rights Day, Women HRDs International Day and many other human rights days to be used as well to introduce International Human Right Defenders' Day. Defending Women Defending Rights is an international campaign launched in 2004 for the recognition and protection of women human rights defenders who are activists advocating for the realization of all human rights for all people. Below are some of the key and most celebrated world human rights days.

6.0 What Does Tanzania Chief Justice Says About HRDs

SPEECH BY THE GUEST OF HONOUR CHIEF JUSTICE OF TANZANIA



MOHAMED CHANDE OTHMAN

IN THE LAUNCHING CEREMONY OF THE SECURITY NEEDS ASSESSMENT REPORT BY THE TANZANIA HUMAN RIGHTS DEFENDERS COALITION (THRDC)

26th November, 2013
At the Hyatt Regency Hotel/Kilimanjaro

Distinguished Participants, We are gathered here today to witness the launching of a widely surveyed and the only report addressing the security, safety and protection of Human Rights Defenders in Tanzania. Being the first of its type and unique in certain ways, it should enliven dialogue, debate and most important, concrete action in favour of and towards increased respect for the rights of Human Rights Defenders. A core finding of the Report, Security management for Human Rights Defenders in Tanzania as is the situation in many other countries, face obstacles and challenges. It has been recognized that Human Rights Defenders are susceptible to serious risks, including attacks on their physical integrity by States, Non State actors, and even unknown persons. At times, they are confronted with threats, life threatening experiences and many other forms of intimidation and obstacles in their work. The Report certifies that the HRD'S right to be protected is one of the most violated rights at present.

Hon Participants, the Report being officially launched today is thought provoking, and it must be, as it originates from Human Rights Defenders themselves as sources. It provides grass-root views that are to form part of the implementation road-map for their Coalition's Five Years Strategic Plan. The Report is very revelatory. It provides detailed information from a representative group of HRDs from across the country, on their safety and security in regard to the risk they face in their work on human rights. The document has also assessed the capacity and vulnerabilities of HRDs in relation to existing threats.

Hon Participants, A human rights defender is any individual, groups and organs of society which seek to promote and protect universally recognized human rights and freedoms. Human rights defenders include lawyers, journalists, Academia, students, trade unionists, Women HRD and anyone who genuinely sign-up and is engaged in a peaceful matter in the fight against human rights abuses. Included, are professional and non-professional human rights workers. The ingenuity of human rights defenders is that they do not expect any recompense or reward. It is as if they were working as a duty call. I would doubt if there was a PHD in HRD. The most common categories of Human Rights Defenders are those whose daily work specifically involves the promotion and protection of human rights, for example human rights monitors working with national human rights organizations and many others in our Country who are at the frontline in defense of human rights.

Let me mention others. Civil society Organizations press Governments to take action whenever there discrepancies in its performance; journalists and the media expose corruption, embezzlement of public funds, conflicts of interest and other abuses of offices by persons in high office, authority or command. Human rights NGOs compile and disseminate reports on human rights violations. Often, Social activists, the Academia and other interested stakeholders are the ones that call for and urge improvements in the weakness and effective functioning of law enforcement agencies.

Role of Human Right Defenders

Hon Participants, it is not known to many, be it the general public or public officials and many others that Human Rights Defenders have been officially recognized by the United Nations, Regional Organizations like the African Union and its organ, the African Commission on Human and Peoples' Rights; the European Union and States. They have a legitimate function to perform. A title to be officially acknowledged. A right to a lawful exercise of their occupation or profession as HRD. A status and right to effective and meaningful protection.



Holding copies of the Needs Assessment Report during the launch at the Hyatt Regency Kilimanjaro Hotel on November 26, 2013. From left Mr Tom Vens European Union representative, Mr Onesmo Olungurumwa, Tanzania Human Rights Defenders Coalition, Ms Martina Kabisama, Board Chairperson, Hon. Chief Justice Othman Chande, Antila Sinnika Finish Ambassador to Tanzania, Ms Agnes Hant –Tanzania Programme Officer for Open Society Initiative for East Africa

Hon Participants, I would suggest that the moment is long over-due in recognizing the pivotal role played by Human Rights Defenders in the promotion and protection of human rights in Tanzania. Their role needs to be acknowledged publicly by authorities. As non-judicial and independent mechanisms for accountability and for effective implementation of rights based approaches to socio-economic development and growth they need to be better recognized. Yet they continue to face, as says the Report illuminates, political related challenges, including stigmatization, branding and wrong perception. It is on record that one of the main threats is in labeling them as anti –Government or trouble mongers or puppets of foreign interests. In some countries they have even been branded "enemies of the state". HRDs are neither touts (Wapiga Debe) nor "busy bodies". The wrong perceptions needs to be corrected by the dissemination of relevant information on what their role and function is and is not.

Hon Participants, while generally it can be said that Women Human Rights Defenders are confronted with risks faced by all other human rights defenders, they as women are more exposed. This is because of who they are and for what

they do particularly in the fight against gender based violence. The Report is edifying that Women Human Rights Defenders in Tanzania have been branded “Women without Families”, “marriage slayers” and “cultural traitors”. Those engaged in the struggle against harmful practices to the enjoyment of human rights, including the elimination of FGM have faced the wrath of elected politicians and traditional leaders in some areas of the country.

Recognition of the rights of HRD

Hon Participants, it has to be recognized by Authorities at National, Regional and Local levels that human rights defenders have rights which include the right to meet and assembly freely; freedom of opinion and expression; right to protest; right to develop and discuss human rights ideas; right to an effective remedy, and right to access funding and to receive resources from internal and external or the purpose of promoting and protecting human rights.

Hon Participants, it has been suggested by some that while Tanzania is enjoying a competitive political environment with strong multiparty democracy, one is to predict an increase in more subtle forms human rights violations as the next elections in 2015, ensues. As a barometer that reading may or may not be a valid prophecy. What can be proposed, however, is that as our democracy deepens, multi-party activities mushroom, political campaigns intensify, public space is narrowly regulated and if intolerance is allowed to extend and law and order are undermined, the probability of a heated political environment arising cannot be excluded. In such a scenario, HRDs who stand up for duty may face increased exposure and risks. These may be direct or collateral, but the hazard may be there. The Reports calls on them to be more conscious of the environment in which they operate.

Hon Participants, in dealing with public safety, law and order, and managing the relative peace Tanzania has enjoyed over the years, a conflux of a number of basic civil and political rights and duties enshrined in our Constitutional, and laws come into play. Under Article 18(a) of the Constitution every person has freedom of opinion and expression of his ideas. By Article 16(1) every person is entitled to respect and protection of his person, the privacy of his person and private communications. Under Article 20(1) everyone has a freedom to freely and peacefully assemble and for that purpose, express views publicly.

Hon Participants, those Constitutional and legal guarantees are not in doubt. It is their organization, management, control and regulation that must be delicately shaped by all concerned, including the public. With regard to freedom of speech, Lord Justice Sedley in *Redmond V DPP (1999)* EWHC Adm 732 said it best:

“Freedom of speech could not be limited to the inoffensive but extended to also to the irritating, the contentious, the eccentric, the heretical, the unwelcome and the provocative, so long as speech did not tend to provoke violence”. “Freedom only to speak inoffensively, he eloquently said, “is not worth having”!

Here, it is relevant to underscore that HRDs have a right in, strongly if need be, reacting against or opposing, through peaceful means, acts or omissions attributable to the State that results in violation of human right. However, as a matter of duty, they must conduct their activities peacefully. And in doing so their opinions must not be silenced. They provide a voice to the voiceless victims of human rights abuses who are in dire need of protection.

Hon Participants, one of the findings of the Reports that the right to access, seek, receive and hold information relating to human rights as well as the right to freedom of assembly and protest are some of the most violated rights of HRDs in Tanzania. Now, the Declaration on Human Right Defenders seeks to protect the monitoring and advocacy functions of journalists and media workers by recognizing in Article 6, their right to obtain and disseminate information relevant to the enjoyment of human rights.

In her Report on the situation of HRD (UNDoc AIHRC/19/55 para 55, 21/12/2011), the UNHRC’s Special Rapporteur found out that in Africa, the type of activities carried out by Journalists and media workers targeted, were monitoring demonstrations, exercising their right to freedom of opinion and expression, or working on impunity, corruption, women’s rights, human rights committed by the State, environment issues and democracy.

Hon Participants, I think it is pertinent to note what that report States: (para 19)

“The monitoring role of Journalists and media workers during demonstrations is essential, as it can provide an impartial and objective account of conduct of both participants and law enforcement officials”.

No one can agree less.

Hon Participants, Journalist and Media workers, and I would stress journalists, who are HRDs have responsibilities arising out of the ethics of their profession and other essential values to: adhere to truth finding, independence, transparency, integrity and engaging of the community and the public. In ‘Journalism Ethics: A Casebook of Professional Conduct for News, Media (Revby Fred Brown & Others(Ed.), Sigma Delta Chai Foundation and Society of Professional Journalist, 4th Ed.) it has been succinctly put this way:

“Mainstream media will survive only if they provide accurate, reliable and fair information. Let others give readers what they want to see. The ethical journalist’s duty is to give them information they need to make good decisions- information that may challenge assumptions rather than simply affirm prejudices. That sense of responsibility is what divides an ethical journalist from a careless polemist”.

The plea I make it is for journalists and more so, journalist Human Rights Defenders to be and to remain professional. It is not that by being non professional and non ethical one loses his or her right to protection. That protection is a matter of right. It is not a condition precedent. Being professional adds value to human rights protection and goes to correct the wrong public perception held by the public on HRDs, a finding that the Report itself affirms.

Hon Participants, the report indicates that new strategies must be adopted. HRDs need to be more organized and better prepared to meet any hard challenges that may be unleashed by human rights violators. They require early policy recognition and legal protection. This can only be possible if the HRDs security and safety needs assessed in the report can be appreciated by the diversity of stakeholders concerned. Human Rights Defenders themselves need to be more aware of the risks, sometimes grave around them. Today, the majority are not even aware of one of the key instruments in their favour: The Declaration on the Rights and Responsibilities of Individuals, Groups and Organs of Society to Promote and Protect universally recognized Human Rights and Fundamental

Freedoms (commonly referred to as The Declaration on Human Rights Defenders) adopted in 1998 by the UN General Assembly by the consensus of its Member States. Nor are they aware of the Special Procedures mechanism of the United Nations Human Rights Council, including the mandate of the Special Rapporteur on Human Rights Defenders.

Hon Participants, the success of the implementation of the recommendations of the Report will not only depend on HRD. It will need the added and welcomed support of Local, Regional and International partners the availability of sufficient human and financial resources, capacity building and trainings, legal support and equally important an enabling environment. Interested stakeholders must be a part of that process. Unavoidably, these would include Law Enforcement Agencies. A healthier understanding by the public of their role is also required to erase the wrong perception. To support their words while cause. Urgent action is needed and time may not be always an advantage, if opportunity is not seized now. Having shared those observations, I now proceed to declare that this Security Needs Assessment Report is officially launched.

7.0 Speech by H.E. Sinikka Antila, Ambassador of Finland during the launch of the Needs Assessment Report November 26, 2013



She appreciated that Tanzania has ratified most of the conventions on human rights and for the fact that it has avoided conflicts that have been happening elsewhere.

She also earmarked areas of achievements as the justice sector, the Constitutional Review Process whereby the Government has been working with the CSOs through the Constitutional Forum “Jukwaa la Katiba” and that this forum has been recognized as an important partner by the Government.

She admitted that protecting human rights requires constant attention, and that there is a need to put an emphasis on the security of those who promote and protect human rights. This is through collaboration of the CSOs and media in order to raise awareness of rights. She reiterated that Finland will continue to support the disadvantaged group in order to protect their basic rights.

The Ambassador was proud that her embassy has been supporting the THRDC from the beginning to date and for the fact that it has made a contribution even to this report which is the first of its kind in Tanzania.

8.0 Speech by Inspector General of Police -IGP



The speech of Inspector General of the Tanzania Police Force was read by Deputy Commissioner of Police, SSP Abdulrahman Kaniki has appreciated for the fact that the Needs Assessment document of the THRDC is a working tool for the Police Force as well. He was speaking during the launch of the Needs Assessment

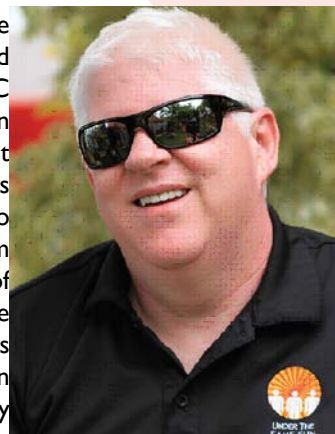
Report before his recent promotion into this new post.

He mentioned that human rights NGOs are stakeholders of the Police Force in protecting human rights in Tanzania. He boasted of major reforms in his Force including the introduction of the gender desk and that these developments are calculated to go up to the grass root level.

He also counseled that observation of human rights is a joint effort and not the question of directing accusing fingers towards one institution. He admitted that violations of human rights by the Police Force in some cases as it has been revealed by the THRDC report is a product of lack of knowledge from some officials although there are many efforts to eliminate this trend.

9.0 Speech by Peter Ash-Under the Same Sun

Peter Ash, UnderThe Same Sun (UTSS), CEO supported earlier stance by the THRDC coordinator that election times are always unpleasant to not only the human rights NGOs and journalists but also to the Persons With Albinism (PWAs). This is because of witchcraft practices by people seeking for political positions during elections not only in Tanzania but also in many other parts of the world.



He supported this stance boldly because his organization has conducted many researches which have proved this theory. He narrated how the Tanzania’s CEO of his organization, Ms Ntetema endangered her own life after she was engaged in reporting on the killings of the PWA while still working with the BBC.

10. Remarks by Ms Agnes Hanti Programme Manager- OISEA



She advanced that human rights are part and parcel of the democratization process, and that every change must start by an individual. In the same mood she promised for continued support to the THRDC as it has done from its beginning.

The Open Society Initiative for Eastern Africa (OSIEA), enabled the Coalition to visit 16 regions in Tanzania Mainland and in Zanzibar and the printing of the report. Under OSIEA financial support the Coalition also managed to develop its five years strategic plan that started from 2013 to 2017.

The Most Celebrated World Human Rights Days

1. International Migrants Day

18 December 2013 -- International Migrants Day, designated in 2000 by the UN General Assembly, commemorates the adoption of the International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families on 18 December 1990. The Day recognises the contributions of millions of immigrants worldwide and promotes respect for the rights of migrant workers and their families.

2. International Day of Persons with Disabilities

December 2013 -- The annual observance of the Day aims to increase awareness and understanding of disability issues and trends, and to mobilise support for practical action at all levels. This year's theme of removing barriers to create an inclusive and accessible society is a reminder of how much needs to be done to ensure that people with disabilities can live an independent and active life.

3. International Women Human Rights Defenders Day

Defending Women Defending Rights is an international campaign launched in 2004 for the recognition and protection of women human rights defenders who are activists advocating for the realization of all human rights for all people.

4. World Aids Day

December 2013 -- "Getting to zero: zero new HIV infections. Zero discrimination. Zero AIDS-related deaths" is the theme for World AIDS Day 2013, which has become one of the most recognised international health days and a key opportunity to raise awareness, commemorate those who have died of HIV/AIDS, and celebrate victories such as increased access to treatment and prevention services.

5. International Day for the Elimination of Violence Against Women

25 November 2013 -- Violence against women and girls is a problem of pandemic proportions. At least one in three women in the world has suffered from violence. November 25th was declared an International Day by the UN General Assembly in 1999, but its origins go back to 1960, when the three Mirabal sisters from the Dominican Republic were violently assassinated for their political activism.

6. International Day of the Disappeared

30 August 2013 -- This Day draws attention to the fate of individuals imprisoned at places and under poor conditions unknown to their relatives. The Day was inspired by the work of various organisations in Latin America that challenged disappearances under the military dictatorships in the region in the 1970s and 1980s.

7. World Refugee Day

20 June 2013 -- There were 45.2 million forcibly displaced people worldwide at the end of 2012, including 15.4 million refugees. 81% of the world's refugees are in developing nations, as are the vast majority of internally displaced people. The purpose of World Refugee Day is to draw attention to the plight of refugees, celebrate their courage and resilience and renew commitment to solving refugee problems.

8. World Human Rights Day

December 2013 -- On this day in 1948, the United Nations adopted the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, which has become a universal standard for defending and promoting human rights. Every year on 10 December, Human Rights Day commemorates the adoption of the Universal Declaration and recognises that "All human beings are born with equal and inalienable rights and fundamental freedoms.

9. World Day of Social Justice- 20 February

Social justice is an underlying principle for peaceful and prosperous coexistence within and among nations. We uphold the principles of social justice when we promote gender equality or the rights of indigenous peoples and migrants. We advance social justice when we remove barriers that people face because of gender, age, race, ethnicity, religion, culture or disability.

10. The World Day for Safety and Health at Work

Is an annual international campaign to promote safe, healthy and decent work. It is held on 28 April and has been observed by the International Labour Organization (ILO) since 2003.

11. International Day for the Right to the Truth concerning Gross Human Rights Violations and for the Dignity of Victims-

On 21 December the United Nations General Assembly proclaimed 24 March as the International Day for the Right to the Truth concerning Gross Human Rights Violations and for the Dignity of Victims. The purpose of the Day is to: Honour the memory of victims of gross and systematic human rights violations and promote the importance of the right to truth and justice and pay tribute to those who have devoted their lives to, and lost their lives in, the struggle to promote and protect human rights for all.

12. World Press Freedom Day

World Press Freedom Day celebrates its 20th anniversary in 2013. The Day was proclaimed by the UN General Assembly in December 1993, following the recommendation of UNESCO's General Conference. Since then, 3 May, the anniversary of the Declaration of Windhoek is celebrated worldwide as World Press Freedom Day. It is an opportunity to: celebrate the fundamental principles of press freedom; assess the state of press freedom throughout the world; defend the media from attacks on their independence and pay tribute to journalists who have lost their lives in the line of duty.

11. World Day Against Child Labour

The International Labour Organization (ILO) launched the World Day Against Child Labour in 2002 to focus attention on the global extent of child labour and the action and efforts needed to eliminate it. Each year on 12 June, the World Day brings together governments, employers and workers organizations, civil society, as well as millions of people from around the world to highlight the plight of child labourers and what can be done to help them.

12. International Day of the World's Indigenous People

The International Day of the World's Indigenous People (9 August) was first proclaimed by the General Assembly in December 1994, to be celebrated every year during the first International Decade of the World's Indigenous People (1995 – 2004).



TANZANIA HUMAN RIGHTS DEFENDER'S DAY

**UZINDUZI WA SIKUYA WATETEZI
WA HAKI ZA BINADAMU TANZANIA**

**THE LAUNCHING OF THE TANZANIA
HUMAN RIGHTS DEFENDER'S DAY**

**IMEZINDULIWA TAREHE 12/12/2013
NA JAJI AMIRI MANENTO MWENYEKITI WA TUME YA
HAKI ZA BINADAMU**

**LAUNCHED BY THE CHAIRPERSON OF THE
TANZANIA COMMISSION FOR HUMAN RIGHTS AND
GOOD GOVERNANCE**

