

LEGAL AND HUMAN RIGHTS CENTRE



Just and Equitable Society

External Newsletter



● **Activists condemn attacks on Lawyers....**

INSIDE STORIES



● **Celebrating 22 years of LHRC**



Legal and Human Rights Centre



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LHRC Tanzania



● **LHRC launches Human Rights and Business Report 2016**



Message from the Executive Director

Dear colleagues,

Welcome to yet another issue of



our quarterly newsletter, with this one compiling stories on activities and interventions undertaken by the LHRC in July to September, 2017.

One of the most memorable events in this quarter is the commemoration of the LHRC's 22 years birthday, an even that was preceded by a visit to the Segerea Prison in Dar es Salaam where some of the LHRC's staff provided legal assistance to prisoners and remandees.

The launch of two human rights reports which is Biannual Tanzania Human Rights Report 2017 and Tanzania Human Rights and Business Report 2016 were also big events.

Subsequently, the LHRC in collaboration with the International Law Development Organization (IDLO) launched the Dreams innovation Challenge Project in Shinyanga with the aim of empowering adolescent girls and young women with legal capability to be able to demand for quality HIV related

health services.

Also, our staff members have been travelling to various places to conduct fact finding missions, training and attending various meetings with other stakeholders just to ensure Tanzania becomes a society which respects the principles of human rights and good governance.

We have confidently continued to raise our voice against violations of rights and rule of law, calling for both duty bearers and right holders to play their roles in protection of human rights. In this quarter we have notably joined efforts with national and international allies to appeal to the government of the United Republic of Tanzania to address issues complicating human rights in the country. Outstandingly, LHRC joined the FIDH an international human rights organisation to write a joint note calling for the government of Tanzania to stop repression of freedom of expression.

We have done so much and we are still doing a lot.

Kindly take your time to enjoy reading through the issue and please don't think twice whenever you feel like commenting on or inquiring about anything.

Dr. Helen Kijo-Bisimba
Executive Director



3,728

CLIENTS PROVIDED WITH LEGAL AID

THE STORY OF ELIZABETH, SURVIVOR OF FGM. PG 15



PROJECT LAUNCH IN SHINYANGA, PG 5.



EDITORIAL

Michael Mallya
Dr. Helen Kijo-Bisimba
Adv. Anna Henga
DESIGN & LAYOUT
Michael Mallya

• Editorial



Challenge Project, as well as launch of the Biannual Tanzania Human Rights Report 2017

Moreover, the Centre successfully conducted trainings to the members of the press from various media houses on African Peer Review Mechanism (APRM). The Centre constantly kept engaging media to advocate for issue across human rights and good governance. In collaboration with likeminded stakeholders, the LHRC convened numbers of press conferences to condemn human rights violations in the country.

On the other hand, the Centre continued with an endeavor to guarantee the deprived part of the society with access to justice by providing people with legal aid.

Kindly enjoy the issue.

Dear colleagues,

Welcome to another issue of our quarterly newsletter, with this one compiling stories on activities done by the LHRC from July to September, 2017.

During this period, the LHRC embarked on numbers of interventions counting; commemoration of its 22nd birthday, launch of the Tanzania Human Rights and Business Report 2016, launch of the Dreams innovation

Michael Mallya
Communication Officer

• Building Capacity of Journalists on APRM



Some of the participants of the training on APRM pose for a group photo with facilitators from LHRC, and APRM Secretariat .

On 15th, September, the LHRC conducted a one day capacity building session on the African Peer Review Mechanism (APRM) to the selected journalists. The session was designed for journalists to familiarize with the mechanism so that they can voluntarily help in pressurizing the Government to ratify and implement recommendations by the African Peer Review Mechanism.

● We stand with President Magufuli against the Death Penalty

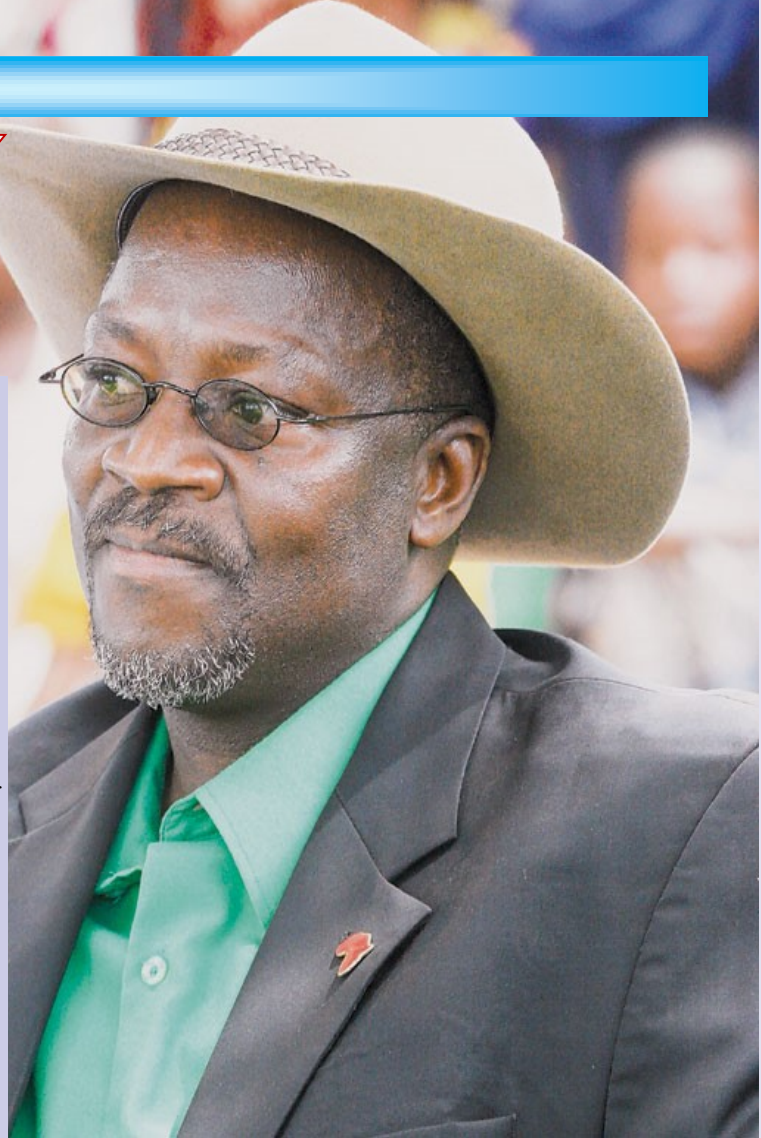
On September 12th, 2017, the Legal and Human Rights Center (LHRC) took a statement to the media to positively respond to the president Magufuli's stance over death penalty. The response resulted from the revelation by president Magufuli that he is not going to sign any death warrant during his presidential term which means he is openly against death sentence.

President Magufuli made the statement early on September 11, 2017 during the swearing in of the Chief Justice (CJ) Prof Ibrahim Juma at the State House.

In response to media a day after the President made a

statement, the LHRC's Dr. Hellen Kijo-Bisimba, said the Head of State's statement compliments the efforts by human rights activists who are totally against the inhuman and cruel sentence which snatches the basic right to live. Dr. Bisimba further expanded that the president should walk his talk by influencing change of all laws that provides death penalty.

Legal and Human Rights Centre is an active member of the World Coalition Against the death Penalty. LHRC has been campaigning against the sentence since its establishment in 1995.



President Dr. John Pombe Magufuli

● Legal Aid provision to Mbinga residents

legal-related social and economic problems. On 17th to 23rd, September 2017, LHRC graced Mbinga district residents with its mobile legal aid clinic service providing legal assistance to 133 residents being 88 male and 45 females. Simultaneously 139 various cases were attended.

Together with the LHRC team were representatives from the Swedish Embassy and the Royal Norwegian Embassy who were interested to learn how LHRC interacts with locals specifically in legal aid services.

LHRC has two model legal aid clinics, one in Kinondoni, Dar es Salaam and another in Arusha. The Centre conducts mobile legal aid clinic to reach out to the people who cannot access the service from the said two clinics.



The team from LHRC, Norwegian Embassy & Swedish Embassy in a group photo with Mbinga paralegals

One of the LHRC's core objectives is to guarantee access to justice to every individual in Tanzania. To realize this objective, LHRC delivers legal assistance especially to the disadvantaged group of population to make sure the group can solve

● Legal empowerment to AGYW to combat HIV/AIDS



On September 14th and 15th, 2017, Legal and Human Rights launched the Dreams Innovation Challenge Project in Shinyanga and Kahama respectively. The project aims at Strengthening Capacity of Communities to Improve Quality HIV-related Health Services for Adolescent Girls and Young Women (AGYW) by means of Legal Empowerment and Social Accountability Strategies.

Speaking on behalf of LHRC Executive Director, LHRC's Director of Finance and Administration, Mr. Ezekiel Massanja noted that "Tanzania Human Rights Report 2016 depicts rapid increase in GBV acts against girls and women counting domestic violence, sexual violence, early and forced marriage as well as teen pregnancies. All these acts have been directly or indirectly leading to HIV infection to girls and young women". Together with an increase in GBV acts against the

group, the community has been reluctant in holding the perpetrators accountable and fails to curb health related shortfalls of GBV; this is because the society is lacking legal competence on how to address matters related to GBV and HIV. The project is up for this gap and at the end of it we expect to see empowered girls and young women with ability to demand for their rights and call for social accountability.

Speaking during the launch of the project in Shinyanga, the district administrative officer Mr. Charles Maugila said the targeting of the project in the district is very ideal because of the fact that Shinyanga is one of the regions with highest prevalence of HIV infection especially to the girls and young women.

"There has been numbers of interventions in the districts but this one is of its kind because it is dedicated to empowering girls and

young women with legal capabilities for improved quality of HIV – Health related services in Shinyanga". – noted Maugila.

The district administrative secretary for Kahama complimented the effort by LHRC and IDLO calling on Kahama community to accord the project implementation team full cooperation for the smooth implementation of the project and hence achievement of the expected outcomes.

The project is one of many Dreams Innovation Challenge Projects with this one focused in Integrating Legal Empowerment and Social Accountability for Quality HIV Health Services for Adolescent Girls and Young Women (AGYW) through the use of Legal Empowerment and Social Accountability Strategies.

● Everyone should join the fight against FGM

As part of its campaign to eradicate female genital mutilation in Tanzania, LHRC has successfully reached more than 5500 beneficiaries and stakeholders in Serengeti district of Mara region with an assortment of methodologies including; public meetings, dialogue sessions and training sessions. Through the anti-female genital mutilation school clubs established in all schools in the district, a total number of 3427 students (2039 females and 1388males) were reached with dialogue sessions on impacts of FGM and how to combat the practice. The dialogues were facilitated by officers from Police Unit, District Medical Office, Serengeti District Council, Serengeti Legal and Human Rights Unit (WASHEHABISE) and Safe House.

In the same development, 100 villagers were engaged in a dialogue to discuss on how to combat FGM. Also, 1636 women and young girls were involved in the ten days sensitization activities involving effective approaches like use of drama, road show and cinema. Moreover the use of experts from the office of Serengeti District Medical Officer, District Community Development, Safe House, Imara Foundation, Serengeti Legal and Human Right Unit, BAKWATA, Right to Play, District Executive Director and District Administrative Secretary was adopted to compliment the aforementioned approach.

Again LHRC successfully conducted training and sensitization to a total number of 148 women with disabilities on health effects of female genital cuts and the laws criminalizing the same. The said women were selected from all 30 wards of Serengeti district council. 11 women out of 148 who were trained during the none-judgmental discussion forum volunteered to be project ambassadors working so closer especially on report any human right violation issues.

Alongside trainings and dialogues, LHRC organized public meetings gathering traditional leaders, circumcisers, local government leaders and the community to talk about war against FGM. Public meetings were convened as a result of the MOU signed by the Serengeti



A snapshot of one of the village based mixed dialogue as captured at Kwitete Village in Serengeti



Nyamakobiti Anti-Female Genital Mutilation School Club in Serengeti take part in a dialogue

District Council and the traditional leaders. The said meetings were organized by leaders in charge of the clanship. The facilitators for these meetings were traditional leaders themselves and the local government officials who clarified and what was said by the traditional leaders.

Is the government solving or intensifying land disputes?



One of victims of land eviction at Bujombe village in Tanganyika District, Katavi establishes a temporal shelter

In response to the public outcry and an increase in cases of land eviction and land conflicts especially in areas neighboring wildlife conservation areas, along road reserves and farming regions, LHRC conducted several fact findings to unveil the truth and suggest the best redress measures.

The fact findings were conducted in Katavi, Dar es Salaam, Morogoro and Arusha as elaborated here under:

Katavi fact finding; during the fact finding mission in Katavi LHRC found out that about 250 households were evicted from alleged Wildlife Management Area land in Katavi due to community trespass to the Wildlife Management Area, wildlife corridors and Katavi National Park. However the land eviction was conducted without public notice.

The two (2) districts of Tanganyika and Mpanda were affected with household demolished with total of 9 villages (Iwea, Bujombe, Katambike, Kapalamsenga village in Tanganyika district and Katambike, Kamini, Kamini-A and Kamini-B, Nsimbo Municipal in Mpanda district).

The eviction process involved demolition of the houses and left behind more than 600 families with total number of more than 1000 people homeless most of them being women and children which is grievous violation of human rights.

The eviction was also due to WCS signing of a 5-year cooperative agreement with USAID (The Southern Highlands and Ruaha-Katavi Protection Program- SHARPP).

It was found that communities' properties such as cows, motorcycle and money were confiscated.

It is recommended that the community be compensated on loss incurred during eviction and review of the existing village boundaries and conservation areas.

Ifakara fact finding; In Ifakara, Morogoro, LHRC found out that on 23rd December 2016 villagers at Chita village were alleged to have murdered one army officer of the Chita JKT (Military Camp No.837 KJ) and more than twenty people were reported to have been involved and were arrested, and twenty one villagers are still under custody for further legal procedures for the murder case, criminal case No. 1 of 2017) at Kilombero District Court-Ifakara.

Majority of the people living at Ikule village nearby Chita JKT have lost their lands and properties after their crops and land plots were confiscated by Chita JKT resulting to majority of the dwellers suffering lack of food and means of production to earn their daily bread.

LHRC on behalf of its clients appeals to the court with an assistance of the Morogoro Public Prosecutor Zonal in-charge to speed up the proceeding bearing the interests of the entire Ikule residents. Also the LHRC calls for all other responsible stakeholders to look for a long-term means of disputes resolution between villagers and the militias as well as the endless land conflict between farmers and pastoralist in Kilombero district and other districts in Morogoro.



The LHRC's Ally Seif (in a black suit) interviews some of Ikule villagers during the fact finding mission in Ifakara, Morogoro.

Put more efforts in planning not demolition, government urged



The excavator in the process of demolition of the houses at Kimara

Ubungu, Dar es Salaam land eviction that is triggered by extension of Morogoro road has been reported severally to have been carried out without abiding by legal procedures in place. In media reports and information obtained from the victims the said eviction was conducted despite of a court order that required TANROADS to

stop the eviction process until the ruling by the court.

In the press statement issued on August 24, 2017, the Register of the High Court Land Division confirmed that, the said demolition was against the court order and those who were implementing should go and provide reasons to the court why they should not be charged for contempt of court.

In response, the LHRC issued a press statement calling for TANROADS to respect the court order by recessing the demolition process. In the same statement, the LHRC advised the ministries responsible for land use and settlements planning to proactively set proper land use and settlements plans to avoid getting people into risks of losing their properties unreasonably.

LHRC and Amref donate 84 bicycles to health workers in Serengeti

LHRC in collaboration with Amref Health Africa has given away bicycles to 84 (52 female: 32 male) community health workers. Bicycles were proposed to be the paramount equipment to facilitate movements of health workers in remote areas especially house hold sensitization and awareness rising in the communities.



Serengeti District Commissioner gives one of bicycles to the district medical officer

Loliondo pastoralists deserve better treatment

On August 13th and 14th, 2017 game rangers and the police burnt to ashes 77 homesteads in Ololosokwan Village, 14 Kirtalo Village, 94 Arash and Piyaya Village in Ngorongoro District, Arusha. A homestead has about 6 houses on average and about 4 people dwell in a house. Approximately 6,800 people were rendered homeless and some including Mamayo, Kukutia, Laanyu Keko, Ndikale, Kerewa and Salangat Moti were arrested and even held in custody.

In response to activists and media, park rangers claimed to be expelling people dwelling within restricted areas in Serengeti National Park; although the current trend shows the intention is to force out Maasai pastoralists from the entire 1,500 square kilometers area neighboring the park since all of the burnt home

steads are in the village land freestanding from the park. The eviction denied about 118,213 (as per 2010/2011) livestock access to water in Olosai, Ilmolelian, Esiteti, Edarpoi, Olembuya, Kirung'a, Pololet and Oloirien Rivers and pastures in the 1,500km².

The eviction repudiates about 60% of the population of Loliondo Division that stood at 63,288 in 2010 access to land, water and shelter. It creates food insecurity and in effect leads to impoverishment.

The livelihood of Maasai pastoralists who depend on mobility of their livestock as a way to mitigate shocks of climate change is at stake.

Keeping up with a campaign for the new constitution

In its moves to attain the citizen centered constitution, LHRC has continued to identify and engage strategic partners for the constitutional reform movement. One of the engagements that LHRC embark is an official visit to the Tanzania Law Reform Commission aiming at making a follow-up on the steps that has been taken by the commission on the amendment of laws including the Constitutional Review process laws.



A snapshot of houses set afire during Loliondo eviction

Similarly, LHRC in collaboration with the Tanzania Constitution Forum (TCF) convened a 2 days workshop to revisit and revise the CSO's advocacy strategies in a thrust to drive the government to proceed with the Constitutional Review process.

Furthermore, the LHRC joined the Tanzania Human Rights Defenders Coalitions (THRDC) and other like-minded Civil Society Organizations to engage in a Second Civil Society Consultative National Dialogue on Revitalizing the Constitution making process in Tanzania. During the dialogue most if not all CSO's and stakeholders vowed to perpetually carry on with the campaign to attain citizen centered constitution.

Meanwhile, the LHRC has re-strategized its strategies and plans to deploy a huge amount of effort to the public through mass education so that it can buy in more public support in a bid to revamp the new constitution making process.

Legal and Human Rights Centre produces human rights report to depict the situation of human rights in the country. The famous annually produced report is known as Tanzania Human Rights Report while the first six months of the year report is named Bi-Annual Tanzania Human Rights Report.

On July 31st, 2017, LHRC released its Bi-Annual Human Rights Report which reveals human rights situation in Tanzania Mainland for a period of January to June, 2017 to be worse compared to the same period in 2016.

Among major issues highlighted to have made worse the situation include; violations of civil and political rights, particularly the right to life, an increase in violence against children, restrictions on and threats to freedom of expression and freedom of assembly, restrictions teenage mothers' right to education, just to mention.

Speaking to the media during the launch, LHRC's Dr. Helen Kijo-Bisimba noted that within a period of first half of 2017 there have been many incidents that contradicts principles of human rights and good governance counting invasion of Clouds Media, ban of newspapers, arrest of journalists in Arusha, arrest of opposition politicians and restriction on political assemblies as well as an increase in violence against women and children.

On the other hand, the report reveals some improvements specifically on the right to life for people with albinism, right to education which has been improved by the introduction of free basic education.

Apart from depicting the situation, the report also gives recommendations to all responsible stakeholders

Bi-Annual Tanzania Human Rights Report 2017: the situation is horrible



Dr. Helen Kijo-Bisimba (C) presents findings of the Biannual Human Rights Report, 2017 before members of the press (not in a picture) . She's flanked by the LHRC's Fundikira Wazambi (l) and Felista Mauya (r)

in redressing human rights situation. The government is advised to abide by rule of law and stop to arbitrarily interfere freedom of expression and freedom of assembly.

Dr. Bisimba extended that the government should declare a state of moratorium and abolition of the death penalty. The police also should promptly respond to mob violence and witchcraft-related killings and bring perpetrators to justice.

She pointed out that teenage mothers should also be allowed back to school after delivery as the re-entry policy is finalized and adopted, adding that Bills to amend the Law of Marriage Act, 1971 should drop all sections allowing child marriage and the anti-gender based violence (GBV) law should be prepared and tabled in Parliament.

Stakeholders get empowered on Human Rights and Business

Soon after launching of the Tanzania Human Rights and Business Report 2016, that took place in the end of July 2017, the LHRC organized two seminars to present the findings and make businessmen/women, owners of companies and regulators from regulatory authorities aware of the finding and recommendations by the report. In a mid of September 2017, the LHRC has successful gathered representatives from trade unions, corporates/ companies and regulatory authorities in a seminar held in Dar es Salaam to ponder the findings of the report and empower the group with knowledge on principles of Human Rights and Business in general. The team from LHRC empowered the group on how human rights issues in relation to corporate activities and the significance of the companies, state parastatals and civilians adherence to the principles of Human Rights and Business.

Building capacity of the community through paralegals

In its endeavors to empower Tanzanians with legal and human rights awareness, the LHRC has been training various groups in the society so that they can relay the knowledge to the larger mass.

Within a period of July to September, LHRC facilitated human rights trainings to paralegals from Kigamboni and Ilala districts in Dar es Salaam as a pilot implementation of the Urban Legal Empowerment Project.

Paralegals trainings were separately conducted in these two districts five days each starting on September 25th to 30th, 2017, in Kigamboni as well as on October 1st to in Ilala.

The Urban Legal Empowerment Project is a one year project aiming at building capacity of the community on legal and human rights through paralegals, local government officials and social welfare officers. The project which is supported by the Legal Services Facility is designated to be implemented in Dar es Salaam.



Paralegals from Kigamboni and Temeke in a group photo with the LHRC's Anna Henga (seated center) and other staff members after a training session in Kigamboni

Celebrating 22 years of envisioning a just and equitable society



Dr. Helen Kijo-Bisimba cuts a cake in front of the LHRC's staff members to celebrate 22nd LHRC birthday

On September 26, 2017, the Legal and Human Rights Centre marked its 22 years of advocacy for a just and equitable society in Tanzania. As part of commemoration, the LHRC visited Segerea Prison and provide remandees and prisoners with legal aid and take their issues for further follow up.



Head of Segerea prison , ACP Godfrey Kavishe (right) chats with the LHRC's Dr. Helen Kijo-Bisimba (center) and Theresia Kinabo during a visit paid by LHRC to the prison on September, 2017

CSO's raise alarm over status of peace in Tanzania

To commemorate international day of peace on September 21st, 2017, a coalition of more than 100 human rights organizations in Tanzania came together to call for maintenance of peace following an increase in number of human rights violations in the country.

The statement released by the coalition highlights number of incidents that threaten the status of peace in Tanzania. Incidents cutting across restriction to freedom of expression and freedom of assembly, abuse of power and violation of right to life were highlighted. Part of the statement reads:

“Recently there have been a number of incidents of violation of human rights which go hand in hand with acts of murder, kidnapping, and abuse of human rights defenders, political leaders, police officers, and civilians. Unusual incidents like massive killings of civilians and government officials in Kibiti, Pwani, the bombing of attorneys’ offices, the attempted assassination of Hon. Tundu Lissu, kidnapping and harassment of human rights defenders, politicians and civilians. All these incidents are intensifying the sense of fear among the people and stir the sense of insecurity in the country”.

Apart from cautioning, the coalition highly praised

the serenity shown by the people of Tanzania which has been a significant weapon in maintaining peace and tranquility in the country.

“We specifically acknowledge the serenity shown by the people of the United Republic of Tanzania in maintaining the peace they have been embracing since independence. Peace has triggered the wellbeing of the nation and its people, socially, politically and economically” –reads the statement.

To address the uncertainties in the country, the coalition calls for all actors counting the government and all its responsible organs, religious leaders, CSO's and all members of the public to come together and demonstrably play their role in protecting Tanzania from all forms of insecurity.

The International Day of Peace ("Peace Day") is observed around the world each year on 21 September. Established in 1981 by unanimous United Nations resolution, Peace Day provides a globally shared date for all humanity to commit to Peace above all differences and to contribute to building a Culture of Peace. The theme for 2017 is “Together for Peace: Respect, Safety, and Dignity for All”.



The LHRC's Dr. Kijo-Bisimba addresses media (not in a picture) on the International day of Peace. She is flanked by the LHRC's Felista Mauya and a representative from Tanzania Human Rights Defenders Coalition (THRDC)

FIDH joins LHRC to demand freedom of expression in Tanzania

Paris - Dar Es-Salaam, August 1st, 2017.

A few days before the hearings of the Jamii Media trial, an online forum known for its freedom of tone, FIDH and the Legal and Human Rights Centre (LHRC) alert in a note about the war on information the authorities have been leading for the past two years. The document presents the implementation of repressive laws that allowed the ban of eight media houses and the arrest of more than twenty-seven journalists and human rights defenders. Social media are also targeted, with at least 32 arrests of persons who criticized the government. FIDH and LHRC call the Tanzanian authorities to put an end to this negative trend by guaranteeing the full respect of the rights to freedom of information, of private life, and of expression.

The trial of Maxence Melo, creator of Jamii Media, will take place on August 7 and 10, 2017. Jamii Media is the most used forum in Tanzania, with 2.4 million users who can express themselves anonymously and freely. Relying on a provision of the Cybercrimes Act, the police made several requests for information about users of the forum who denounced corruption scandals or criticized the government. The police wanted the IP address for identification. Having refused to accede to these demands, Maxence Melo then experienced persecution and harassment from the authorities.

Far from being an isolated case, this trial is part of a larger repressive action, affecting media, bloggers, and civil society organisations for the past two years. Between 2015 and 2016, four repressive pieces of legislation have been adopted: the Cybercrimes Act (2015), the Statistics Act (2015), the Media Services Act (2016), and the Access to Information Act (2016).

The Cybercrimes Act allows the authorities to arrest any citizen publishing “false, deceptive, misleading or inaccurate” information. It also allow them to sue persons who post comments criticizing the government on private networks or social media like Facebook or WhatsApp. These overly broad provisions have been the weapon of the ongoing repression against dissenting voices.

Media stations/houses have been particularly affected, with the ban – sometimes temporary – of 8 Tanzanian media stations/houses. The country’s biggest investigative newspaper, Mawio, was banned for two years in June 2017. Several radio stations have also been affected. The Media Services Act, enacted in 2016, provides for the licensing of journalists to be granted and regulated by a government authority, in violation of international standards. The Act also provides for fines, bans and jail terms for media practitioners.

In this context of war on information, political opponents continue to be the target of harassment, arrests and even disappearances, such as the arrest in July 2017 of Halima Mdee and Tundu Lissu, both leaders of Chadema, the main opposition party. Ms. Halima Mdee was charged with insulting the president, and M. Tundu Lissu with hate speech.

In conclusion, FIDH and LHRC call on the Tanzanian authorities to put an end to the ongoing repression by taking measures to ensure full respect for the rights to freedom of expression, information and private life in accordance with its obligations under international instruments to which it is a party.

FGM SUCCESS STORIES



Elizabeth's photo taken during an interview with the LHRC evaluation team.

Elizabeth is a Form Four student at Mugumu Secondary School in Serengeti, Mara, she looks happy and energetic but there are so many that slowing her psychological advancement. Elizabeth is happily living as an orphan at the Anglican Church's Safe House in Serengeti despite the fact that all of her two parents are alive. Elizabeth ran away from home to the safe house back in 2014 protecting herself from FGM.

“What brought me here is my decision to avoid genital mutilation, when I was enjoying my December school leave back in 2014 my dad approached me and required me to get prepared for the FGM ceremony. I tried to contradict with my father's decision but because of our customs and traditions a girl is not allowed to dispute with elders therefore running away was the only decision I had to rely on”. Elizabeth told the LHRC's FGM Campaigns Evaluation team.

But why should Elizabeth run away from their cherished tradition? How did she come to understand the effects of FGM? How did she know about safe house?

The story of Elizabeth, SURVIVOR OF FGM

“I came to know about FGM and its effects from when I was in primary school. Our science subject teacher taught us about health impacts of FGM and made me understand its impacts. Apart from learning in school there were organizations such as CCT and Anglican Church creating awareness to the people in villages, from these awareness forums I was able to gain knowledge on FGM and its effects. During these awareness sessions Anglican Church promised to institute a refuge where girls can run to in case of any threat of GBV. When the situation roared at me I recalled and run away to the Anglican Church and became the first girl at the center. I remember in 2014 when I came here the construction of the center was in progress hence I was hosted by the pastor in charge. Currently I am happy because the center offers me all the basic needs and off course I am happy that the center has created conducive environment for me to keep up with my studies” –says Elizabeth.

The story of Elizabeth teaches and encourages other girls a lot but at the same time tells how initiatives by stakeholders can bring a smile into faces of oppressed and perhaps marks an end to GBV. Awareness campaigns have saved Elizabeth and other girls at the center.

However Elizabeth's father is a portrayal of those unconverted given the fact that he is not ready to accept her daughter back home even after several attempts by the center to reconcile them.

“My father has been sending people to intimidate me saying that he does not want to even see my face again and he will never recognize me as his daughter. Unfortunately I have nowhere to run to because my parents parted ways way back when I was standard four and my mother got married to another man. I love my family and sometimes I get affected psychologically when I think about them. I wish I could join my father anytime but my father is not ready and it really feels bad”- says Elizabeth.

Is it possible to let go of FGM? A story of Gisamwe Getaland



Ms. Gisamwe Getaland's photo taken during an interview with LHRC evaluation team.

A female Genital Mutilation practice in Hanang is more prevalent than in any other part of Manyara and Tanzania. The dominant Barbaig tribe is strictly enduring their culture of female genital cut. The fact that FGM is a tradition; many have been accusing elders to be the custodian of the practice.

Gisamwe Getaland is a 75 years old woman living at Balangdalalu in Hanang; she has been a mutilator for more than 20 years before she made up her mind and decides to restrain from the traditional function and become a traditional midwife. Gisamwe decided to change after series of awareness sessions from paralegals in Hanang.

When probed by the evaluation team, Getaland confessed that: "I decided to abandon the role of mutilator because of the awareness I gained on the effects of FGM. Before I couldn't allow myself to get exposed into any kind of campaign against FGM, I turned a deaf ear and blind eye, neither ready to hear nor listen to anything unpleasant about FGM. But now I know and I can neither perpetrate nor convince anyone to practice such a dreadful practice".

Getaland story tells everybody that it is possible to let go of any senseless traditions, no matter how long the society has been holding them.

Serengeti is winning a war against FGM

FGM is a common practice to some communities in Serengeti district, Mara, Tanzania. Some of the cultural reasons that has been footnoted by communities practicing FGM in Serengeti are not far from other nomadic societies reasons that is FGM is meant to reduce women's sexual desire for them to be resilient especially when their husbands are away searching for pasture and water for their cattle, another reason is that FGM is a rite to passage to girls. [Continues page 17.](#)

Serengeti is winning a war against FGM

From page 16.

As far as the FGM exists in the district, the war against the practice has been on since then. So many national and international organizations have been deploying various campaigns in the district to see off the practice. Diversification of methods of addressing the problem has to some extent proved to be successful. According to the Serengeti's District Executive Director Eng. Juma Hamsini, FGM is diminishing in the district because of collaborative efforts between organizations and government authorities in the district. Speaking to the evaluation team Eng. Hamsini said, "As a district council we have been and we are working hand in hand with nongovernmental organizations like Amref, Right to Play, and LHRC to bring together Serengeti communities through their traditional and religious leaders to fight FGM. The joint efforts have proved to be fruitful and helpful in eradicating FGM in our district because everyone feels to be part of the campaign".



Serengeti District Executive Director, Eng. Juma Hamsini (left) poses in a photo with the LHRC's Michael Mallya after a discussion on the status of FGM and GBV in the district.

Despite of joint efforts by stakeholders there are few people who are rigid to let go of the barbaric culture and here is what Eng. Hamsini had to say: "Personally I think the best way that can save not only Serengeti but all other communities practicing FGM is for them to be ready to learn and understand how other societies are surviving without barbaric practices and try put themselves in a way that they can fit in any civilized society".

Since its establishment, Legal and Human Rights has been striving to eradicate FGM in Tanzania. Currently the Centre is implementing numbers of projects in the regions with high prevalence of the practice including Mara, Singida, Manyara, and Dodoma.

Recently the Centre conducted evaluation in six districts of three regions, two districts from each regions that is Kiteto and Hanang in Manyara; Serengeti and Tarime in Mara as well as Ikungi and Manyoni in Singida to measure the effectiveness of the work that has been done by different actors in FGM.

PICTORIAL



Students from St. Joseph Millennium Secondary School in Dar es Salaam in a group photo during their learning visit to the LHRC on 29th July, 2017.

**ACTIVISTS CONDEMN
ATTACKS ON LAWYERS**



The LHRC's Dr. Helen Kijo-Bisimba stresses a point to the media during a press conference to condemn the bombing attack on IMMMA Advocates offices. Next to her is Tanganyika Law Society (TLS) President, Mr. Tundu Lissu and Tanzania Human Rights Defenders Coalition (THRDC) national coordinator, Mr. Onesmo Olungurumwa.

During a press conference held on August 29, 2017, lawyer dressed in black and displayed placards painted with various messages to condemn the attack as a sign of solidarity to IMM advocate lawyers.

SABA SABA EXHIBITION



The President of United Republic of Tanzania Hon. Dr. J. P. Magufuli shakes a hand with the LHRC's Ms. Theresia Kinabo when visited the LHRC booth during Saba Saba exhibitions 2017.

STRENGTHENING MOU WITH POLICE FORCE



The police spokesperson, ACP Barnabas Mwakaluka chats with LHRC staff members during his visit to the Centre early on August 2017.

CONSOLATION



The LHRC's Rodrick Maro signs the book of condolence at the Hon. Harrison Mwakyembe residence in Kunduchi, Dar es Salaam . LHRC joined the mourners to console the Minister for Information, Arts and Sports following the loss of her beloved wife.

Hon. Mwakyembe is one of the founders of the LHRC.

HUMAN RIGHTS AND BUSINESS REPORT LAUNCH



The LHRC's Board Chairperson Prof. Geoffrey Mmari (seated 3rd from right) with some of LHRC staff and board members display a copies of Human Rights and Business Report, 2016 after launching of the report.

- ⇒ Commemoration of the 15th WORLD DAY AGAINST DEATH PENALTY
- ⇒ Commemoration of the International Day of the Girl Child
- ⇒ 16 Days of Activism Against Gender Based Violence
- ⇒ Commemoration of International Human Rights Day

UPCOMING ISSUE

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