



Statement on Human Rights Situation In Tanzania: 65th Ordinary Session of The African Commission on Human And Peoples' Rights, Banjul Gambia

Your excellence representatives of the Government of The Gambia, Hon. Madam Chairperson, State delegates, diplomatic core, dear participants and guests.

Hon. Chairperson.

It is our deep appreciation to the esteemed government of Gambia for a warm welcoming and the hospitality that you have shown from the first day we arrived till today, we hope that this joyful spirit will continue to last. Secondly, we further extend our gratitude to the steering committee for a tireless preparation and a warm welcome you have shown to us.

Legal and Human Rights Centre, in particular, is delighted to attend the 65th Ordinary Session of the African Commission on Human and Peoples Rights (ACHPR).

Hon. Chairperson, we appreciate initiatives and commitments of the Commission towards promotion and protection of human and people's rights in the African continent, we are typically indebted to declare our many thanks to you and your esteemed Commission for your good leadership, motivation and delightful commitment placed ahead of you.

Furthermore, we extend our heartfelt acknowledgement to the Government of the United Republic of Tanzania for her continuous commitments and roles in championing for development to her people.

Hon. Chairperson, with a due respect LHRC would like to address briefly the state of human rights in Tanzania in the period of one (1) year.

Hon. Chairperson, considering the existence of a peaceful environment in promoting human rights, Tanzania is still facing some challenges which indeed need to be addressed with the emphasis from the Commission.

Hon. Chairperson, Firstly, the emergence wave of enacting new laws and amending other existing laws which to our opinion have been contrary to the basic human right guaranteed under the Charter. Hon. Chairperson, we call for the Commission through special rapporteur on the freedom of expression to conduct a special mission to the Republic of Tanzania and assess the situation and report to your Commission.

Secondly, continuous of arbitrary statements issued by government officials and presidential decree which accelerate the deterioration of principles of human rights and good governance. If such a situation is not jointly condemned, to our opinion would late influence extrajudicial killings and mob violence in the state. The continuation of an arbitrary statement would place a country to be taken as a lawlessness state. We call for the Commission to address this with a pecunious view.

Thirdly, we are concerned with the welfare and access to education by girls following the banning of pregnant girls students from returning to school as issued by the President of the United Republic of Tanzania his Excellence Dr John Joseph Pombe Magufuli. LHRC has been tirelessly advocating for the uplift of such ban to allow pregnant girl students to continue with their education. We call the Commission to urge the government to reconsider such a ban.

Hon. Chairperson. In note of the above, our long and continuous demand for a citizen-centred constitution remains valid, to our opinion lack of robust constitutional legal framework open gaps of legislating laws which in a wider perspective do not conform to the African Charter, 1985 as well as other international accepted standards as stipulated in various documents such as International Convention on Civil and Political Rights, 1966. We, therefore, appeal before the Commission to urge the government of the United Republic of Tanzania to revive the Constitution-making process.

Thank you very much for listening.! We humbly submit our statement

October 24, 2019

Legal and Human Rights Centre

