TANZANIA • 4TH UPR CYCLE

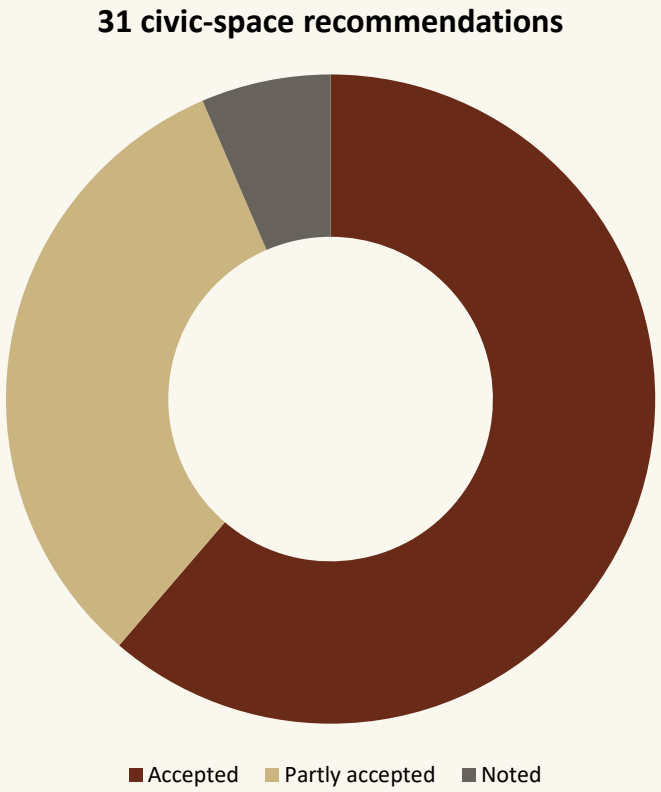
Civic Space, Human Rights & Democratic Participation

UPR PRE-SESSION • 53RD SESSION
Geneva • August 2026

- **Freedom of expression**
- **Freedom of association**
- **Protection of HRDs & journalists**
- **Peaceful assembly • accountability • rule of law**

Where Tanzania stands

THIRD UPR CYCLE • CIVIC SPACE



19
accepted

10
partly accepted

2
noted

THE IMPLEMENTATION GAP

- 19 concerned freedom of expression and media freedom.
- 12 concerned peaceful assembly.
- Key areas remain under-implemented.

The 4th cycle should test implementation — not only commitments.

01 • Freedom of expression

LAW + CENSORSHIP + ACCESS TO INFORMATION

80,000+

blogs, platforms, accounts and websites shut down by TCRA in May 2025

3–5 DAYS

nationwide internet blackout 29 Oct – 3 Nov 2025

RECOMMENDATIONS

- **Amend Section 16 of the Cybercrimes Act, Sections 52, 53, 54, 58 and 59 of the Media Services Act, 2016 (Cap. 229), and restrictive media/online-content provisions.**
- **Prohibit nationwide internet shutdowns and guarantee uninterrupted access to information during elections.**

PLATFORM RESTRICTIONS

- **X**
- **Clubhouse**
- **Telegram**
- **Signal**

02 • Freedom of association

CIVIL SOCIETY + POLITICAL PLURALISM

375+

opposition leaders, members & supporters arrested in Aug 2024

RECOMMENDATION

- Amend the NGO Act Cap. 56 and Regulations to simplify registration and compliance.
- Guarantee freedom to operate, associate, access funding and engage in advocacy.
- Release those facing unlawful prosecutions and drop false charges.

POLITICAL PARTICIPATION

APR 2025 — CHADEMA disqualified from October elections

2025 — ACT-Wazalendo presidential candidate disqualified

03 • Protection of HRDs, journalists & civil society

PROTECTION ENABLES ACCOUNTABILITY

48

abductions / attacks against activists, HRDs and others documented in 2024

ATTACKS

48 incidents

→

FEAR

Self-censorship

→

CHILLING EFFECT

Less civic action

→

ACCOUNTABILITY GAP

Less documentation

WHY IT MATTERS

- ❑ Government has yet to adopt a dedicated national policy or legislation for HRD protection.
- ❑ Journalists have faced arbitrary detention and assault.
- ❑ Communities lose access to independent information and avenues for accountability.

RECOMMENDATIONS

- ❖ Investigate attacks, harassment and intimidation impartially and bring perpetrators to justice.
- ❖ Develop and implement a national Human Rights Defenders Policy/Law.
- ❖ Ratify the International Convention for the Protection of All Persons against Enforced Disappearance and domesticate it.

04 • Peaceful assembly, accountability & rule of law

THE 2025 ELECTION CRISIS

518

deaths recorded by the President's Commission

700+

cases of enforced disappearances recorded

2,000+

people arrested during that period

IMPACT

- Publish the findings of the Presidential Commission of Inquiry into the Incidents of Violence and Breaches of Peace that Occurred During and After the October 2025 General Election.
- Release unlawfully detained HRDs, journalists, politicians and activists.

THE ACCOUNTABILITY QUESTION

Who killed the 518 people?

What should States recommend?

FIVE CONCISE ASKS FOR TANZANIA

1. Protect freedom of expression and end censorship, including nationwide internet shutdowns.
2. Reform the NGO framework and guarantee meaningful freedom of association and political participation.
3. Develop and Implement national Human Rights Defenders Policy/Law.
4. Ratification of the International Convention for Protection of all Persons against enforced disappearance and its domestication in terms of policies, laws and regulations that reflect the provisions of the convention.
5. Publish the findings of the Presidential Commission of Inquiry into the Incidents of Violence and Breaches of Peace that Occurred During and After the October 2025 General Election.

FROM COMMITMENTS → TO IMPLEMENTATION → TO RIGHTS PEOPLE CAN ACTUALLY ENJOY

Thank you

TANZANIA HUMAN RIGHTS DEFENDERS COALITION (THRDC)

A safe civic space is not a privilege.
It is a condition for democracy, accountability and human rights.

EXPRESSION

Speak & access information

ASSOCIATION

Organise & participate

PROTECTION

Defend rights without reprisals

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