

AGENDA ITEM 6: UPR OUTCOMES UNITED REPUBLIC OF TANZANIA

ORGANISATION: JUBILEE CAMPAIGN

SPEAKER: MS SINI MARIA HEIKKILÄ

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Thank you Mr President.

Jubilee Campaign together with Christian Solidarity Worldwide is concerned about continuing restrictions on the right to freedom of religion or belief, and the lack of recommendations relating to this right as part of Tanzania's second UPR cycle.

CSW has received credible reports of restrictions on freedom of religion or belief both on Tanzania's mainland and the Zanzibar Archipelago.

On the mainland, where Christians and followers of traditional beliefs constitute a majority, there is a reported rise in discrimination and religiously-motivated violence. For example, in 2015 19 churches were burned down in the north-western Kagera region, leaving 850 Christians without places of worship. In February 2015 the Roman Catholic Church at Rulongo-Kanazi parish was attacked, causing damage worth USD4,500. In October 2014 a Christian teacher was killed by unknown assailants while attending evening prayers at a Pentecostal Assemblies of God (TAG) church in Kagera region. No one has been prosecuted in connection with the murder.

The Muslim community has also been targeted with violence. On 19 May 2016 three people, including an imam, were killed in an attack on the Masjid Rahmani mosque in Mwanza. The attack was conducted by 15 individuals using improvised explosives, machetes and axes.

In the semi-autonomous Zanzibar Archipelago the minority Christian community continues to experience repression, discrimination and violence. At least 20 churches have been looted, burnt or demolished, allegedly by supporters of Islamist separatist group Uamsho. Perpetrators have not been brought to trial and police investigations are often extended indefinitely. Many churches, including several possessing all necessary permissions, are embroiled in endless court cases relating to church buildings and other properties, with hearings repeatedly postponed. Some churches continue to be denied permission to erect church buildings.

Attacks on churches, mosques and religious leaders violate the right to freedom of religion or belief which is guaranteed by the constitution of Tanzania. We urge the government of Tanzania to investigate incidents of violence and discrimination, bring to justice those responsible for such acts, and ensure that adequate security is deployed in areas where there is a history of religiously-motivated attacks.

Thank you Mr President.