

Introduction

1. CSW UK (Christian Solidarity Worldwide, UK) is a human rights organisation specialising in the right to freedom of religion or belief (FoRB). CSW Nigeria advocates for FoRB in Nigeria by documenting human rights violations, capacity building, and providing emergency assistance and psychosocial support for survivors.
2. This submission seeks to draw the Council's attention to human rights violations in the United Republic of Tanzania ahead of the state's fourth Universal Periodic Review (UPR).
3. During its third UPR cycle, Tanzania received one recommendation pertaining to the protection of religious minorities. The recommendation, from Italy, called on the state to ensure that the right to freedom of expression is duly respected, and 'intensify efforts to protect the rights of persons belonging to religious minorities.'¹ Tanzania noted this recommendation, but supported another from Montenegro to 'adopt a national strategy and action plan for the prevention of radicalization and violent extremism.'²
4. Regarding freedom of expression, Tanzania supported 11 recommendations. Several related to creating an enabling environment for political parties and civil society³, including a recommendation from the Republic of Korea to 'create and maintain a safe and conducive environment where all political parties and civil society organizations can exercise their rights to freedom of peaceful assembly and of political participation without fear of reprisal'.⁴ Notably Tanzania also agreed to release 'political activists, lawyers and journalists detained on abstract grounds'.⁵ However, the state noted almost all recommendations calling for specific legislative changes aimed at upholding freedom of expression, with one recommendation from Czechia to ensure 'full compliance of the Media Service Bill of 2015 with the right to freedom of expression and [implement] the necessary legislative changes' being the sole exception.⁶
5. Tanzania supported recommendations pertaining to free and fair elections as well as 'reforming election observation and voter education programmes and by preventing political violence'⁷ and to take steps to promptly and effectively investigated and provide information on cases of arbitrary arrest and detention

of political opponents, activists, protestors and dissenting journalists.⁸ Despite these commitments made during the third UPR cycle, the country witnessed widespread repression leading up to, during and after the October 2025 elections, including worrying levels of enforced disappearance, arbitrary detention, torture and extrajudicial killing of political actors, activists, journalists and unarmed protesters.

6. While Tanzania noted six recommendations to ratify the International Convention for the Protection of All Persons from Enforced Disappearance (CED), and noted 21 recommendations to ratify the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment (CAT) during the previous UPR, support was paradoxically given to broader recommendations calling on the state to combat impunity for forced disappearance,⁹ protect journalists and the media from enforced disappearances¹⁰, and to take steps towards/strengthen efforts/consider the ratification of CAT and 'strengthen the fight against torture and ill-treatment'¹¹ The lack of implementation of these supported recommendations, including progress towards the ratification of CAT and CED and protections for civilians and members of the political opposition, who have been so brutally targeted in recent years remains deeply concerning.

Human rights violations prior to October 2025 elections

7. President Samia Suluhu Hassan took power in March 2021 following the death of President John Magufuli, and initially appeared more progressive than her predecessor. However, her tenure will ultimately be defined by the unprecedented repression that undermined Tanzania's accepted UPR undertakings to create an enabling environment for political opposition and civil society, ensure free and fair elections, and combat the impunity surrounding enforced disappearances.
8. In July 2021 senior members of the main opposition Chama Cha Demokrasia Na Maendeleo (Chadema) party, including party chairperson, Freeman Mbowe, were arrested in night raids ahead of a public rally for constitutional reforms. The leaders were remanded in custody on terrorism charges. Mr Mbowe and three co-defendants were detained until March 2022, when charges were dropped without explanation.

1 United Nations, 'Report of the Working Group of the Universal Periodic Review: United Republic of Tanzania', A/HRC/49/13, 29 December 2021, https://docs.un.org/en/A/HRC/49/13_Recommendation_147.90

2 *Ibid*; United Nations, 'Views on conclusions and/or recommendations, voluntary commitments and replies presented by the State under review', A/HRC/DEC/49/13/Add.1, 29 March 2022, https://docs.un.org/en/A/HRC/DEC/49/108_Recommendation_145.28

3 *Ibid*, Recommendations 147.105; 147.101; 147.102

4 *Ibid*, Recommendations 147.105; 147.101; 147.103; 147.89

5 *Ibid*, Recommendations 147.69; 147.86

6 *Ibid*, Recommendation 147.85

7 *Ibid*, Recommendations 147.106; 147.107

8 *Ibid*, Recommendation 147.69

9 *Ibid*, Recommendation 147.67

10 *Ibid*, Recommendation 147.83

11 *Ibid*, Recommendations 147.68; 147.28; 147.21; 147.24; 147.20

9. In June 2022 83-year-old Baraka Mohamed Shamte, a veteran party cadre from the ruling Chama Cha Mapinduzi (CCM) party, was abducted and tortured by masked men referred to locally as 'zombies' or 'Janjaweed', days after criticising the president of Zanzibar and being charged with sedition.
10. In 2023 President Hassan lifted a ban on opposition party rallies imposed by her late predecessor; however, she proceeded to stall on initiating the broader reforms that would underpin democracy, including a new constitution and amendments to the electoral law and media regulations.
11. In 2024 over 500 Chadema leaders and supporters were arrested and briefly detained ahead of a 12 August demonstration, inspired by events in neighbouring Kenya in June and July, calling for independent oversight of the country's local government and general elections. The event was subsequently banned by the police, who claimed it was intended to 'breach the peace.'
12. The months leading up to the October 2025 elections saw increasing repression. On 9 April 2025 Tundu Lissu, the Chadema presidential candidate, was arrested after calling for electoral reform, charged with incitement and treason - which carries a death sentence - and held on remand. Mr Lissu remains detained at time of writing, amid allegations of a plan to assassinate him reportedly 'designed to be carried out outdoors following Lissu's release from Ukonga Maximum Security Prison on a court appearance or supervised movement.'¹² On 10 March 2026 Mr Lissu filed a Certificate of Urgency before the Court of Appeal of Tanzania, citing permanent injuries from a 2017 assassination attempt and the serious risk to his health and recovery occasioned by his inability to attend scheduled medical appointments as grounds for an urgent judicial intervention after close to a year in pre-trial detention.
13. Days after Mr Lissu's arrest, on 12 April 2025 the Elections Director at the Independent National Elections Commission, Ramadhani Kailima, announced that the Chadema Party was barred from participating in elections after failing to sign up to a code of conduct. Later, the second largest opposition party was also barred, ensuring there was no credible opposition.
14. Reports increased of enforced disappearances, torture and arbitrary arrests and detentions of journalists, activists, and opposition leaders and supporters. Foreign human rights defenders were not exempt: Kenyan activist Boniface Mwangi and Ugandan journalist Agather Atuhairi travelled to Tanzania to observe Mr Lissu's court hearing on 19 May, and were abducted from their hotel rooms on 18 May, subjected to physical, psychological and sexual torture, and deposited at the borders of their respective countries on 22 May 2025 with transportation money. Their detention highlighted a

degree of coordination between authorities in Tanzania, Kenya and Uganda to repress the rights of activists in the region.

15. The activists were among several abductees to be released with severe injuries. Many remain missing, with some presumed dead. Ally Kibao, 69, a member of the Chadema Party Secretariat who was seized from a bus travelling from Dar es Salaam to Tanga in the north-east by two armed men, was found dead on the outskirts of Dar es Salaam a day later with acid poured on his face to obscure his identity, and signs of a severe assault on the rest of his body. The Tanganyika Law Society confirmed 83 abductions since President Hassan came to power in 2021. Fifty-two occurred in October 2025 alone, including the enforced disappearance of former ambassador to Cuba Humphrey Polepole on 6 October, who had resigned from the ruling party and criticised it. The doors of his house had been broken, and a large pool of blood was found on the floor.

Human rights violations pre and post October 2025 elections

16. Election day saw the largest protests since independence led primarily by Gen Z, to which the government responded with a six-day internet shutdown - which was later condemned by the African Commission as a violation of Article 9 of the African Charter on Human and People's Rights (ACHPR) - and extraordinary brutality. Credible reports indicate that upwards of 5,000 protestors were killed by police and masked agents on the streets, in house to house raids, and even in bars, as videos and pictures emerged of victims in the streets of towns and cities amid reports of overflowing morgues and bodies being seized and dumped in secret mass graves to obscure the true death toll.
17. On 3 November 2025 the president was sworn in at an army base amid tight security, having been declared to have received 97.66% of the vote. The Southern African Development Community (SADC) observation team concluded in its preliminary report that Tanzanians had not been able to 'express their democratic will' and that the elections 'fell short' of the organisation's 'Principles and Guidelines Governing Democratic Elections.' Similar sentiments were eventually expressed by the African Union, whose observers concluded that the polls 'did not comply with AU principles, normative frameworks, and international obligations and standards for democratic elections.'
18. The excessive crackdown continued, with at least 641 individuals charged with treason and hundreds more held on charges of armed robbery, arson, and destruction of property. Many reportedly showed signs of having been tortured at their respective arraignments. According to local reports, a small cabal surrounding the president is overseeing this repression, including

¹² Ujasusi Blog, 'Assassination Intelligence: The imminent threat against Tundu Lissu, Tanzania's detained opposition leader', 25 March 2026, <https://www.ujasusi.com/p/tundu-lissu-assassination-threat-tanzania>

her son, Abdul Halim Hafidh Ameir, who is implicated in enforced disappearances and torture; her private secretary Waziri Salum; Suleiman Abubakar Mombo, head of the intelligence service; and Angela Kizigha, a Member of the East African Legislative Assembly, who was formally appointed as a nominated Member of Tanzania's Parliament by a 2 April State House communiqué issued from Zanzibar.

19. Serious concerns have also been expressed about the national Commission of Inquiry, announced on 18 November 2025 by President Hassan. The Commission's terms remain unclear, and it appears to lack the mandate to address the root causes of the human rights crisis or to include representation of civil society, including religious leaders, survivors and victims' families.¹³ Additionally, the commissioners include the former Inspector General of Police and the Minister of Defence who was in office at the time of the violence, calling into question the legitimacy of the inquiry.
20. Chaired by retired Chief Justice Mohamed Chande Othman, the Commission was meant to produce its initial submission by 20 February 2026, but had already missed two successive extensions at time of writing. The official gazette notice of a further extension of the deadline – from 3 April to 24 April – cited four primary reasons for the delay, highlighting in particular a reportedly higher than anticipated number of submissions of evidence, statements, and opinions by citizens necessitating more time for analysis.
21. Concerns regarding transparency were heightened in late January, when the Commission barred the media from attending witness testimonies, ostensibly to ensure privacy for witnesses. 'More recently, the Tanzania Communications Regulatory Authority (TCRA) suspended local broadcaster Jambo TV just days before the previous April 3 deadline, a move condemned by the opposition ACT Wazalendo party as a continuation of the ruling party's suppression of press freedom.'¹⁴
22. Working with several human rights groups the Madrid Bar Association petitioned the ICC prosecutor to open a formal investigation into what they describe as a state-engineered assault on civilians, including murder, extermination, torture and enforced disappearances. The petition asserts that Tanzanian security forces 'murdered thousands of civilians, subjected hundreds to enforced disappearance, tortured thousands in detention facilities, committed sexual violence against detainees, forcibly displaced tens of thousands of indigenous Maasais, and employed cyber-enabled repression affecting millions.'¹⁵

23. On 8 March 2026, the police of Musoma Municipality in the Mara Region detained 27 members of BAWACHA, the women's wing of the CCM, after tear gassing women who had gathered to mark International Women's Day. The tear gas attack and arrests began immediately after a Catholic Mass attended by participants of a planned march. The violence and arrests violated Tanzania's obligations under Articles 18 and 20 of the Constitution (covering the freedoms of expression and association respectively), the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW) and the Maputo Protocol to the African Charter on Human and Peoples Rights on the Rights of Women in Africa.

Penalising church involvement in national affairs

24. Article 21 of the Constitution of the United Republic of Tanzania of 1977 guarantees the right of citizens to participate in public affairs. However, religious leaders, particularly Christians, were targeted specifically in the lead up to the elections, as the government attempted to prevent clergy from speaking on significant national concerns.
25. On 15 February 2021 Bishop Emmaus Mwamakula of the Moravian Renewal Church was arrested and held for seven days. The bishop, who was part of Tundu Lissu's presidential campaign team in 2020, was detained the day before the commencement of demonstrations he had organised to call for an independent electoral commission and new constitution. He was interrogated over social media posts; his home was searched, and he was eventually released on police bond.
26. Father Charles Kitima, the Secretary General of the Tanzania Episcopal Conference (TEC – the conference of bishops of the Roman Catholic Church in Tanzania), was brutally attacked on 30 April 2025 and hospitalised with serious head injuries. The authorities falsely claimed he had been drunk. Nevertheless, he continues to be a vocal critic of Tanzania's deteriorating human rights climate. In December 2025, amid an abiding repressive post-electoral climate, Father Kitima spoke of ongoing threats to his life, stating he was living in 'great fear' because he was 'being hunted,' and 'they already came here to kill me'.
27. On 2 June 2025 the Registrar of Societies revoked the registration of the Glory of Christ Tanzania Church less than 24 hours after its founder and leader, Bishop Josephat Gwajima, Member of Parliament for Kawe who belongs to the ruling party, announced a seven-day prayer campaign for justice and peace, repeating earlier condemnations of the abductions and enforced disappearances plaguing the country that had elicited a

13 Joint civil society letter to the UN Human Rights Council, 'Tanzania: multilateral engagement is key to preventing a further deterioration of the human rights situation and ensuring accountability for the post-election crackdown', 5 December 2025, <https://defenddefenders.org/wp-content/uploads/2025/12/HRC-Civil-society-letter-on-TANZANIA-December-2025-ENGLISH.pdf>

14 The Chanzo, 'Second extension granted for Tanzania's post-election violence inquiry', 7 April 2026, <https://thechanzo.com/2026/04/07/second-extension-granted-for-tanzanias-post-election-violence-inquiry/>

15 Citizen Digital, 'Suluhu under scrutiny as human rights groups petition ICC to probe Tanzania post-election killings', 25 November 2025, <https://www.citizen.digital/article/suluhu-under-scrutiny-as-human-rights-groups-petition-icc-to-probe-tanzania-post-election-killings-n373589>

warning from the president about the ‘Gwajimanisation’ of the party.

28. Pastor Elias Samweli Domisiani of the Highway of Holiness Church in Morogoro was reportedly abducted on 4 October 2025, after being lured to a meeting by a person posing as a solar panel supplier.
29. Father Camillus Aroni Nikata of the Archdiocese of Songea, a lecturer in the Department of Public Communication at St. Augustine University of Tanzania (SAUT) in Mwanza and founder of Radio Maria Tanzania, went missing during a retreat on 7 October 2025. Ten days later, police announced that he had been found alive but extremely weak and needing a wheelchair. Earlier, Fr Nikata had described the electoral process as unfair and condemned abductions and enforced disappearances. However, the police claimed his disappearance was due to financial strain and a relationship breakdown – a narrative that was disputed, given his poor physical condition.
30. Pastor Eleth Mtaita of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Tanzania (ELCT) in Babati District was arrested on 24 October 2025, allegedly for telling church members not to take part in the elections, which was deemed ‘incitement’. Eyewitnesses said that armed men had stormed his house and taken him away in a vehicle without licence plates.
31. There are also indications that Tanzania’s vice president, Emmanuel John Nchimbi, is being isolated deliberately, due to his membership of the Catholic Church. Following the election, the president of the TEC, Bishop Wolfgang Pisa, released a statement on behalf of the 41 Catholic Bishops condemning the inequity and violence of the electoral process and calling for an independent unbiased investigation. The Catholic Church is also amassing documents for submission to an ICC preliminary inquiry. On 2 December 2025, President Hassan directly attacked on the TEC during a public meeting with Dar es Salaam elders in which she defended the post-election massacres stating, among other things, that ‘Tanzania will continue to be governed according to its Constitution, not on religious doctrines.’
32. Thus, the vice president is possibly viewed with suspicion on account of his connections to Catholic networks that are documenting civilian deaths, and his reported opposition to political violence. Efforts to isolate him have been accompanied by divisive sectarian narratives emanating from Muslim clerics aligned with President Hassan, who reportedly accused Vice President Nchimbi of conspiring with the Catholic Church to remove the Muslim president.
33. Other issues adding to the vice president’s isolation are removals and sudden deaths of his political allies both before and after the electoral massacre. Three senior ruling party officials with direct institutional knowledge

of security operations have died since the 29 October mass killings in what have been described as sudden deaths, despite no previous reports of their health deteriorating.

34. Job Ndugai, 66, died on 6 August 2025, two days after winning the nomination to contest for the parliamentary seat he had held since 2000. In January 2022 he had been forced to resign as Speaker of the National Assembly after warning that Tanzania risked being ‘auctioned off’ due to excessive foreign debt at a public event in Kongwa on 27 December 2021, which the president viewed as a direct challenge. On 3 January 2022 Speaker Ndugai issued a public apology, which the president rejected publicly, occasioning his resignation on 6 January 2022. ‘His sudden death... has left many questions unanswered.’¹⁶
35. On 7 December 2025 former minister Geoffrey Mwambe was detained on sedition charges, and four days later Jenista Mhagama, 58, who was Tanzania’s Minister of Health from 15 August 2024 until November 2025, died suddenly on 11 December. As health minister she controlled access to hospital and morgue admission records, and casualty reporting channels across the public health system. In a new cabinet was announced on 17 November 2025 she was replaced by President Hassan’s son-in-law Mohammed Mchengerwa, and died 24 days later.
36. William Lukuvi, a serving Tanzanian cabinet minister and veteran parliamentarian, died on 25 March 2026, reportedly of a heart attack, aged 70. In January 2022 he had been removed in a cabinet reshuffle that effectively eliminated potential presidential rivals. He had been appointed Presidential Adviser on Political Affairs in June 2023, before returning to the cabinet as a Minister of State in the Prime Minister’s Office for Policy, Parliament and Coordination on 14 August 2024.

Freedom of religion or belief: legal framework and broader concerns

37. Broader FoRB concerns continued during the reporting period, despite both the Tanzanian and Zambian constitutions stipulating equality, regardless of religion, prohibiting discrimination on the basis of religion, and specifying freedom of conscience and choice in matters of religion, including the freedom to change one’s faith. Tanzania is a signatory to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (ICCPR), and has ratified the African Charter on Human and Peoples’ Rights (ACHPR).
38. Article 125 of the Tanzanian Penal Code prohibits the intentional destruction, damage or defilement of any place or object of worship. Article 127 forbids the intentional wounding of religious sentiments or insulting of any person’s religion, trespassing in any place of worship ‘or in any place of sepulchre or in any place set apart for the performance of funeral rites or as

16 The Tanzania Times, ‘Former Tanzanian Parliamentary Speaker Job Ndugai died after paying tribute to his late mother’, 11 August 2025, <https://tanzaniatimes.net/former-tanzanian-parliamentary-speaker-job-ndugai-is-dead/>

a depository for the remains of the dead, or offers any indignity to any human corpse.' It also prohibits causing a disturbance to people assembled for funerals. These crimes are also articulated in Zanzibar's Penal Decree Act of 2004, which stipulates a punishment of up to two years imprisonment and/or a fine (Articles 27 and 117-119).

39. Article 129 of the Tanzanian Penal Code punishes uttering words, writing words, making gestures or placing objects in front of others with the intention of wounding a person's religious sentiments with one year in prison. Zanzibar's code echoes both the stated crimes and the stipulated punishment. Thus, both penal codes effectively contain blasphemy provisions in all but name. While such provisions are often defended as being necessary for maintaining public order, they regularly infringe excessively on freedom of expression. In 2022, acting on a recommendation by the Tanzania regulatory body of music and arts (BASATA), the Tanzania Communication Regulatory Authority (TCRA) banned a song by local musician Diamond Platnumz pending amendments to its music video, which was deemed blasphemous due to a disrespectful portrayal of a Christian choir girl.¹⁷
40. On the mainland all religious organisations are required to register with the Office of the Registrar of Societies, while those in Zanzibar must register with the Office of the Registrar General. Registration must be renewed every five years, and any organisation judged to have violated registration procedures can be fined or even closed down. For example, in July 2024 the Registrar of Societies de-registered the Christian Life Church in Dar es Salaam for allegedly charging members TZS 500,000 (around US\$ 183.00) for spiritual services, and for sermons that were deemed contrary to the values, traditions, customs and culture of Tanzania. The church's Congolese leader left the country soon thereafter.
41. Shari'a law applies to all Muslims in Tanzania, and courts can apply it to matters of succession in communities that generally follow Shari'a law. Zanzibar is subject to the Tanzanian constitution but has a judicial system that may apply Shari'a law in certain cases. Muslims in Zanzibar have the option of bringing cases before an Islamic court. All cases tried in Zanzibar's courts, apart from those involving Shari'a law and constitutional matters, may be appealed at the Union Court of Appeals on the mainland. Zanzibar also has its own president, court system, legislature and penal code.
42. However, non-Muslims in Zanzibar are expected to follow Islamic practices, including Christian schoolgirls

who are obliged to wear the hijab. In March 2024 the Zanzibar Tourism Commission fined the company Organisateur Francophone around US\$ 500 for allowing tourists to eat in public during Ramadan.

43. While the population of Tanzania is majority Christian, Zanzibar has a significant Muslim majority, and its Christian community can face discrimination, including restrictions when seeking to establish places of worship, and in an extra-legal practice, the erection of a church building can be dependent on permission from the local community, which is rarely granted due to societal hostility. In September 2022 Muslims on Pemba Island in the Zanzibar Archipelago held public demonstrations against the construction of a Seventh-day Adventist church, leading to reports of intimidation against the minority faith.
44. During an event celebrating the Silver Jubilee of his Episcopate in May 2022 that was attended by the Zanzibari president, the Bishop of the Catholic Diocese of Zanzibar Rt. Rev. Augustino Shao said: 'The issue of land ownership in Zanzibar has become difficult. Often we Christians from all denominations seem to have no right to own land. Land disputes and land grabbing are rampant, and much of that is towards Christianity. ... Our request today is that when your Land Ministry surveys residential plots, they have to consider various religious denominations.'¹⁸ The president responded by stating: 'everyone deserves to be treated fairly so we will make sure we address these challenges as soon as possible so that you can get your rights.'

Violations of indigenous rights

45. During its third UPR cycle Tanzania noted a recommendation calling on the state to 'clarify land rights and safeguard indigenous culture, including traditional livelihoods, especially for indigenous peoples, and adopt positive measures to protect them.'¹⁹ The state's lack of consideration for indigenous rights continued during the reporting period.
46. On 6 June 2022, and without consultation, the government announced it was designating 1,500 sq. kms of land in Liliondo, Ngorongoro District as a game reserve. The authorities subsequently set about preventing the primarily pastoral Maasai residents from living on, grazing cattle on, or seeking water in the demarcated area, comprehensively violating their rights using such tactics as sexual and physical violence, extrajudicial killing, forcible eviction, and cattle theft.
47. Over the next three years the government also suspended all social services in Ngorongoro, including healthcare

17 The Citizen, 'Diamond's banned 'Mtasubiri' video was blasphemous authorities say', 12 May 2022, <https://www.thecitizen.co.tz/tanzania/news/entertainment/diamond-s-banned-mtasubiri-video-was-blasphemous-authorities-say-3812912>

18 AMECEA, 'Tanzania: Bishop Shao Mark's Episcopal Silver Jubilee, Asks Government to Consider Christians on Land Issues', 13 May 2022, <https://communications.amecea.org/index.php/2022/05/13/tanzania-bishop-shao-asks-the-president-to-issue-christian-denominations-land-ownership-documents/>

19 United Nations, 'Report of the Working Group of the Universal Periodic Review: United Republic of Tanzania', A/HRC/49/13, 29 December 2021, <https://docs.un.org/en/A/HRC/49/13>; United Nations, 'Views on conclusions and/or recommendations, voluntary commitments and replies presented by the State under review', A/HRC/DEC/49/13/Add.1, 29 March 2022, <https://docs.un.org/en/A/HRC/DEC/49/108>; Recommendation 147.131

and education, to pressure the Maasai to leave their land. As local and general elections loomed, the authorities effectively disenfranchised the community by removing the Maasai area from the list of polling centres used in voter registration updates. The government eventually conceded following five days of protest by the Maasai in August 2024, restoring their water, education, healthcare services, freedom of movement and their ability to vote in upcoming elections.

Terrorism-related violations

48. During the third UPR cycle, Tanzania supported a recommendation to 'adopt a national strategy and action plan for the prevention of radicalization and violent extremism'.²⁰ While efforts have been made to develop a National Strategy and Action Plan for Preventing Violent Extremism (PVE), nothing has been published to date and incidences continued in the reporting period.
49. In May 2022 Tanzanian authorities arrested 30 terrorists who were attempting to cross the border. A September 2022 investigation by the Chanzo Initiative exposed clandestine efforts to radicalise young Zanzibari men, several of whom subsequently 'disappeared', leaving behind anxious families. One left a letter for his mother stating he had become a jihadi. Others, who had not left, spoke of recruiters frequenting areas where youth gathered to pass the time, attempting to persuade them to join terrorist factions. On 16 December 2022 six men accused of being members of a group linked to al Shabaab, were each sentenced to 50 years' imprisonment for terrorism. Three were from the same family.
50. CSW is concerned at the progressive politicisation of the security services under President Hassan that increased following the presidential elections as she continues to consolidate power and their co-option under the leadership of her son for internal repression, which risk widening intelligence and security gaps, and undermining efforts to address terrorism effectively and prevent violent extremism.
51. On 18 January 2026 Puntland Counter-Terrorism Operations captured multiple Tanzanian foreign fighters during the ongoing Al-Miska'at offensive, with Puntland authorities publicly displaying captured combatants in Bosaso. In addition, two Tanzanians were among 13 suspects arrested by Kenya's National Intelligence Service in Kajiado County on 17 February 2026 for planning al Shabaab attacks on Nairobi over Ramadan. Such captures appear to confirm Tanzania's emergence as a recruitment reservoir for violent jihadi networks, including Islamic State Somalia Province (ISSP), Islamic State Central African Province (ISCAP, which includes fighters from Mozambique) and al Shabaab.

Recommendations to the government of Tanzania

52. *End the practice of enforced disappearances, torture and*

arbitrary arrest and detention, releasing all currently held on excessive charges in connection with the marred presidential elections, and ensuring those responsible for extrajudicial killing, torture and mistreatment prior to, during and following the electoral period are brought to justice.

53. *Respect the fundamental rights and freedoms of journalists, political opponents, and religious leaders, including to freedom of expression, peaceful assembly, and a fair trial.*
54. *Review and revise vague and broadly worded legislation that could infringe unduly on the right to freedom of expression, including Articles 127 and 129 of the Penal Code, ensuring laws, policies and practices conform with international standards.*
55. *Ratify the International Convention for the Protection of All Persons from Enforced Disappearance and address all cases of abduction, holding perpetrators accountable.*
56. *To restore legitimacy, enact reforms to ensure subsequent elections are free and fair, and that no citizen is deprived of their constitutionally stipulated right to participate in public affairs.*
57. *Support the establishment of an independent international or regional investigation into the extrajudicial killing and alleged mass burials of protestors to ensure accountability for perpetrators, justice for victims, and the identification and return of those buried in mass graves to their families.*
58. *End all harassment of and interference with religious institutions, including the issuing of politically motivated arrest warrants, and unwarranted withdrawals of registration, or threats thereof. Ensure that any investigation into pre and post-electoral violence includes an assessment of violations committed against religious institutions and individuals, and remove all undue restrictions on their constitutionally-guaranteed right to participate in public affairs.*
59. *In Zanzibar, align laws, policies and practices with constitutional and international obligations regarding freedom of religion or belief, including in the right to own, use, dispose of and bequeath lawfully acquired property, and prohibit the enforcement of shari'a stipulations on non-Muslims, and guarantee due process in legal cases involving churches and their adherents.*
60. *Ensure full enjoyment of the right to FoRB for religious minorities, and end informal practices whereby church construction is dependent on permission from local communities in Zanzibar, and investigate without bias any cases of religion-related violence, ensuring perpetrators are prosecuted regardless of creed.*
61. *Respect the rights of indigenous communities, recognising their right to own, use, and manage their traditionally occupied lands, and in particular, ending all*

²⁰ *Ibid*, Recommendation 145.28

actions that violate the rights of indigenous Ngorongoro Maasai communities, including the designation of land without consultation.

62. *Restore and compensate the Ngorongoro Maasai community who were unable to access healthcare, education, water, restore voting rights to the disenfranchised, and ensure members receive justice for violations suffered during the campaign of forced evictions.*
63. *Expedite investigations into any incidents of religion-related violence, ensuring perpetrators are brought to justice.*
64. *In collaboration with UN entities and other stakeholders, formulate programs and projects targeting youth to promote peaceful coexistence and interreligious dialogue, while addressing social, economic, and political grievances that render them susceptible to radicalisation.*
65. *Issue a standing invitation to UN Special Procedures, allowing unhindered access to all areas of the country, including the Special Rapporteur on freedom of religion or belief.*