

LHRC

Legal and Human Rights Centre

newsletter

Legal and Human Rights Centre,
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Word from the Executive Director



Dear Colleagues,

WELCOME to the April edition of our newsletter. The edition covers what was achieved in the month of April 2014. The month under review saw the LHRC launch of the Tanzania Human Rights Report of 2013, which gives in detail the centre's core work for the year.

The report depicts the human rights situation for the year 2013. Perhaps the most horrifying thing in the report was seeing children's rights more suppressed than ever before, with sexual abuse featuring prominently. The trend is not encouraging at all, and it calls for strategic and prompt intervention to bring to an end the increasing violation of the rights of the children.

According to the report the right to life has continued to be violated due to various reasons one being killings due to witchcraft beliefs, extrajudicial killings, road carnages as well as mob violence against civilians perpetrated by law enforcing organs.

The LHRC is seriously concerned with this trend and feels that something ought to be done to check the situation before our society becomes a society which condones killing.

During the month of April, the LHRC received with shock reports of abduction of over 200 school girls in Nigeria. The centre joined hands with the rest of the CSOs to issue a press statement to condemn the act and at the same time marched peacefully to air its dissatisfaction over the move calling upon the abductors to return the school girls to where they belong to enable them continue with their studies as well as normal life.

So much has been done and happened, but sadly again, the LHRC received yet shocking news concerning a court decision in Egypt which condemned to death more than 600 civilians including a leader of the Muslim Brotherhood group. The LHRC calls upon the Egyptian government to reconsider its decision as killing innocent victims is one of the worst human rights violations one can imagine.

For this and more, kindly read to see what we have in stock and please feel free to comment.

Enjoy your reading.

Dr. Helen Kijo- Bissimba- Executive Director for the LHRC.

Editorial



DEAR colleagues, welcome to the April edition of the LHRC newsletter, which dwells on activities conducted in the month under review. As usual the LHRC's family has been busy all around advocating for the rights of the weak through its legal aid clinics. April also saw the LHRC launching a very important document, the Tanzania Human Rights Report of 2013.

The report calls for the amendment or repeal of the laws governing the media. These laws, according to the report impinge freedom of information which is a basic human right. Among the bad media laws which need to be struck off from the statute books, according to the report, is the Newspaper Act, 1976. This law gives the minister responsible for information powers to prohibit publication of newspaper if in his opinion it is for public interest to do so. This, according to the report, is too much power vested in one person, which he can abuse to impinge the right to information.

LHRC's call for the amendment or repeal of draconian media laws has come at a time when media stakeholders are struggling and lobbying to ensure that decent media laws that would widen the scope of freedom of information are enacted.

So far, efforts seem to reap dividend in a way as at least the draft Constitution has incorporated provisions which, if endorsed by the Constituent Assembly and passed by wananchi through referendum freedom of information and that of the media would be guaranteed.

LHRC calls upon all media stakeholders to keep on pressing for repeal of all draconian media laws as they are in total violation of the basic human rights and of the country's constitution.

Our organization is making a close follow up to ensure that Tanzania adheres to the principles of human rights and good governance, and that the people have access to information without impediments.

Kindly enjoy your reading and please feel free to comment.

Rose Mwalongo- Editor.

LHRC launches the Tanzania Human Rights Report 2013

ONE of the biggest achievements in the month of April, 2014 was the launch of the Tanzania Human Rights Report, 2013 which took place on 23rd April, 2014. The Director of Criminal Investigation Isaya Mngulu who represented Inspector General of Police graced the event. Response of the launch of the report was very positive. Several media outlets reported the findings of the same; and 3800 copies of the report have so far been distributed to several stakeholders including government institutions, embassies, individuals and civil society organisations. Translation of the report in Kiswahili is underway.

Meanwhile the government has been called upon to amend or repeal all oppressive media laws that curtail freedom of the media and expression and instead seek remedies in dispute resolution machineries available such as courts of law or the Media Council of Tanzania whenever it feels offended by media products.

The call is contained in the 2013 Tanzania Human Rights Report which was compiled by the LHRC in collaboration with the Zanzibar Legal Service Centre for the Isles.

In the report, LHRC faults the banning of media outlets as an ineffective means to regulate the conduct of media, terming it as an extreme form of prior censorship.

Among the oppressive laws identified in the report is the infamous Newspaper Act of 1976 with its tyrant-like provision which gives the Minister of Information the powers to prohibit publication of newspaper if in his opinion it is for public interest to do so. This, according to the report, is too much power vested in one person, which he can abuse to impinge the right to information.

For more on the report kindly click www.human-rights.or.tz.

The launching of the Tanzania Human Rights Report was done in Tanzania Mainland as well as Zanzibar as depicted in pictures



The Chief Guest who is the Director of Criminal Investigation Isayah Mngulu (Right) unveils the Tanzania Human Rights Report 2013.





A Researcher and Co- author of the Tanzania Human Rights Report 2013 Pasience Mlowe makes a presentation during the launch.



LHRC convenes its Human Rights Monitors

THE Human Rights Monitoring Unit on April 14th and 15th conducted a training session to 87 Human Rights monitors in Morogoro and Dodoma respectively. The session was meant to create awareness to the monitors on human rights and legal issues and thus equip them with expertise to report violation of human rights effectively. Among the topics taught were rules and ethics governing the conduct of monitors and the role/ functions of the monitors. The topics were purposely meant to remind the monitors on how they ought to conduct their duties.

Other topics were on the area of human rights, and this was to help the monitors be able to identify conducts of violation of human rights and differentiate them from other conducts which don't fall in that category.

Also on the list was a topic on law and rights of persons with disabilities purposely meant to widen the scope of the monitors and thus enable them understand the rights of special groups. It is expected that, the monitors would also report on violations of human rights against people with disabilities. The monitors were reminded to play their role to train their communities on the need to take part in the constitution making process, especially to take part in the constitutional referendum to enable the country come up with a people driven constitution.

Election Watch Unit

THE LHRC through its Election Watch Unit and SAHRiNGON held a press conference at LHRC head office – Kijitonyama on April 10, this year to give a report on the Chalinze by-election in which the LHRC had the privilege to observe. The LHRC was accredited by the National Electoral Commission to participate in the Chalinze by-election as an internal observer.

The task was successfully done after LHRC managed to observe 73.3 per cent of the Chalinze constituency. This is the second time, after Kalenga by-election, for the LHRC to observe election without involving TACCEO members.

TUME YA TAIFA YA UCHAGUZI

UCHAGUZI MDOGO WA UBUNGE - JIMBO LA CHALINZE

1. TUMIA HAKI YAKO YA KIKATIBA KUPIGA KURA YA KUMCHAGUA MBUNGE WAKO ILI UKUZE DEMOKRASIA.
2. KUPIGA KURA KUTAKUWEZESHA KUMCHAGUA KIONGOZI UNAYEMTAKA
3. VITUO VITAKAVYOTUMIKA KUPIGA KURA NI VILE VILIVYOTUMIKA WAKATI WA UCHAGUZI MKUU WA MWAKA 2010
4. NI KOSA LA JINAI KUUZA, KUNUNUA AU KUTOA KADI YAKO YA KUPIGIA KURA KWA MTU MWINGINE.
5. KUMBUKA KWENDA KITUONI NA KADI YAKO YA KUPIGIA KURA ILI UWEZE KUPIGA KURA TAREHE 06/04/2014

Imetolewa na Tume ya Taifa ya Uchaguzi. S.L.P. 10923 Dar es salaam

Kituo cha Kupiga Kura
Uchaguzi Mdogo wa Ubunge - Jimbo la Chalinze 06/04/2014

1. Onyesha kadi yako ili ikaguliwe na kuthibitisha taarifa.
2. Chukua karatasi ya kura ya Mbunge.
3. Nenda sehemu ya faragha upige kura yako.
4. Tumbukiza karatasi ya kura katika sanduku la kura
5. Usisahau kupaka wino usiofutika katika kidole cha mkono wa kushoto.

- Mwakala wa Vyama vya Siasa.
- Watazamaji wa Uchaguzi.
- Kisha toka nje.

Imetolewa na Tume ya Taifa ya Uchaguzi. S.L.P. 10923 Dar es salaam

The LHRC's team managed to capture all moments including campaigns of all political parties, the voting, counting and announcement of results as captured in these images.



The Constitution Desk

THE LHRC in April, 2014 compiled reports on the upcountry Big Bang Campaign with findings indicating that the organization had managed to reach people in various wards. Among the people reached 11,552 were females, 25,047 were males, 10,847 were youth and children whereas 47 were people with disabilities.

The Big Bang Team was able to reach 10 regions and these are; Dar es Salaam, Coast, Morogoro, Dodoma, Singida, Shinyanga, Tabora, Kigoma, Mtwara and Lindi.

Residents of 53 districts, 159 wards were empow-



The LHRC's Executive Director looks unto the multitude during the launch of the Big Bang Campaign in the Central Zone.

ered through 159 public meetings whereas 90,000 brochures, 12,000 popular versions of the draft constitution, 6,000 memory cards, 4000 flash disks, 4 Braille and 4,000 CDs were distributed. The LHRC is planning to embark into yet another session to educate the public not only on the draft constitution but also on the importance of taking part in the constitutional referendum.

Meanwhile, on 20th April 2014, the LHRC trained 865 Tanzania Youth Catholic Students (TYCS) at an Easter conference held at Mount Everest School. The topics were The Role of Youths on the Constitution Building Process in Tanzania. Among them were 392 female and 473 males



Dodoma residents who turned out pay attention during the day.

LHRC colours graduation ceremony

ON April 12, 2014 the LHRC Executive Director Dr. Helen Kijo- Bissimba had the privilege to grace a graduation ceremony at the Rosmine Secondary School in Tanga. She used the opportunity to educate the guests and the students alike on the constitution review process.

Furthermore, the Executive Director distributed 25 memory cards, 10 flash disks and 400 popular version of the draft Constitution. Each of the graduants was given a book with a certificate. Notably, students at the school reiterated their commitment to establish a human rights association.

the LHRC's Executive Director hands over Certificates to students at Rosmine Secondary School (in a batik dress) as other students gesture.



Kinondoni Legal Aid Clinic

THE LHRC through its legal aid clinic in Kinondoni attended 1355 clients in April, with 12 of its clients winning their cases in various courts of law. One lost.

At least four 4 reconciliations were conducted in April whereas 288 self help kits with different titles were distributed to clients.

LHRC through its legal aid clinic has continued to counsel and advice clients in legal, psychological, human rights and social related problems. In April, 2014 a total number of 25 clients (19 males and 6 females) received psychotherapy treatment.

In the same month of April, the LHRC through its Directorate of Advocacy and Reforms in collaboration with the Tanganyika Law Society conducted a Continuous Legal Education to 125 advocates from different law firms and organisations. Out of whom 63 were women, accounting for 50.4 per cent of the participants.

From the Arusha Legal Aid Clinic

THE Arusha legal aid clinic managed to attend to 597 clients (390 male and 207 female) and assisted clients to draft 96 legal documents and letters which were filed in various courts/tribunals and administrative authorities. Additionally the office continued to pursue strategic and public interest cases, follow- up of client's issues in courts of law and tribunals as well as distribution of self help kits to new clients.

At least 12 cases with total of 16 clients were represented in courts as indicated in the annexed list of clients represented for the month of April, 2014. Thirteen of its clients had their cases decided on their favour.

The Arusha sub office also managed to empower 6034 male students and 26 female at Kikatiti Secondary School on the genesis of human rights with some showing interest to join the anti death penalty crusade. The students promised to establish a human rights club to enhance human rights work.

LHRC trains small scale entrepreneurs on hr, Constitution

THE LHRC on April 14th, 2014, mounted a major campaign to train women and youths on the Constitution review process, life skills, human rights, business registration and basic principles of entrepreneurship. The training took place in Arusha, Arumeru and Babati districts respectively under a

project dubbed 'Fit for Life Project.' During the session, the LHRC's team managed to come out with several pertinent issues in need of advocacy and there after issued a press conference. Among issues mentioned as financial companies lending money at a high interest rate making the poor fail to access it.



Advocate Flaviana Charles (in black suit) issues a press statement. She is flanked by head of the Fit for Life Project, Hussein Sengu (1st left) with beneficiaries who gave a testimony over their success.



The Human Resource Unit

THE Unit attended 13 visitors (nine males and four females) in search of employment, internship program, volunteering and procurement matters, and market for their products/services to LHRC.

The LHRC through the HRO unit received eight applications for internship program from different universities/students from within and outside the country of which five were male applicants and three females.

Four students were accepted for internship program and research program whereas two were assisted to acquire information/data for their research work

Furthermore, the unit received five applications for volunteering post. Among these applications two came from male applicants while three were females. However, no one was recruited as there was no vacancy. At least two applications for permanent employment were received for the month of April 2014.

5,086 copies of publications distributed in April 2014

The LHRC's resource centre received 117 visitors in May seeking resource materials for their various research. At least 3800 copies of the Tanzania Human Rights Report were distributed in the reported month with beneficiaries ranging from SIDA, Germany Embassy, Act, The European Union, the British High Commissioner as well as the Netherlands.

Other copies were also distributed to the Tanzania Prisons Services, Embassy of Japan as well as Oxfam. Some reports were also distributed to higher learning institution such as Tumaini University, the human rights association at the University of Dar es Salaam and, Muslim University in Morogoro. Others were distributed to secondary schools, such as Kibasila.

The resource centre also distributed 835 copies of the Human Rights and Business Reports. A total of 451 copies on legal and human rights issues were distributed up to paralegals and monitors in Makete, Ludewa, Kilwa, Tandahimba, Newala and Masasi districts.

Gender Unit

The LHRC deployed volunteers to eight regions to conduct a mapping and verification of key stakehold-

ers for the UN Women Election project. Upon return a feedback session was conducted and a number of things were highlighted in regard to women, youth and people with disabilities' participation in election processes. Majority of the findings indicated that the number of women in elective posts and in the political arena is still very minimal due to traditions and customs that prohibit women and youth from participating in leadership positions.

Mass Education Unit

The LHRC through its Mass Education Unit aired one live and nine recorded programs attracting a total of 1468 messages from viewers and listeners as well as 84 calls. On the other hand, there were 78 missed calls, with only five calls being clarified.

On April 15, the LHRC conducted training on Annual Capacity Building to monitors and paralegals. The training was held in Dodoma and was attended by 44 participants (15 females and 29 males). The topics covered were: Constitution Review process: Constituent Assembly and Referendum processes).

The Corporate and Government Unit

The LHRC has been receiving different calls from different organizations immediately after the launch of the Human Rights and Business Report. Various media outlets and NGOs have been requesting for more information as well as more copies of the report. Some of these institutions include the Trade Union Congress of Tanzania (TUCTA), Haki Madini, CESOPE, the Guardian Limited and the Ministry of Labour.

Furthermore, TUCTA has agreed to convene a round table discussion with the LHRC to discuss on issues pertaining to workers' rights.

On the other hand, the LHRC managed to mediate two sides who are workers and employers of Shoprite to settle their difference following a long time labour wrangle.

Meanwhile, a Mini research on the right to education has begun with deployment of research assistants in identified regions of Coast, Mtwara, Kilimanjaro, Iringa and Dodoma. This goes hand in hand with the preparation of training of councillors which will take place in Masasi, Newala and Mtwara.

Other activities conducted

- April 14, 2014- LHRC attended a meeting in Dar es Salaam to ponder over the Legal Aid Bill.
- April 15, 2014 – Editorial Board sat to edit the Right to Health Report.
- April 16, 2014 – Guests from Human Rights Watch paid a courtesy call at the LHRC
- April 16, 2014 – LHRC’s Executive Director Dr. Helen Kijo- Bisimba took part in a radio program at East Africa Radio. The LHRC’s Executive Director was also part of the key guests who sat for a discussion on the ongoing Constitution Draft.
- April 17, 2014 – Editorial Board sat to work on the late Dr. Sengondo Mvungi’s Book.