

Human rights, media freedoms being violated in Tanzania

The Committee to Protect Journalists and 29 other civil society groups have written to the member and observer states of the United Nations Human Rights Council, urging them to address the deteriorating situation for human rights, including freedom of the press, in Tanzania, during the upcoming 39th session of the council in September.



Tanzanian police stand guard outside a vote counting center at a school in Dar es Salaam, Tanzania, on October 28, 2015. Credit: AP Photo/Khalfan Said/CPJ.

Since 2015, journalists and bloggers in [Tanzania](#), as well as human rights defenders and members of the political opposition, have been targeted with draconian legislation and both legal and extra-legal measures by the government.

Under these conditions, freedoms of expression, peaceful assembly, and association have been deeply eroded.

The letter reads:

“Considering the rapidly declining environment for human rights defenders (HRDs), civil society, journalists, bloggers, the media and dissenting voices in Tanzania, we, the undersigned non-governmental organisations (NGOs), make a joint appeal to Member and Observer States of the Council.

“At the 39th session, States should urge the Tanzanian Government to change course, cease any form of intimidation, harassment and attacks against HRDs, journalists, bloggers, and opposition members and their supporters, and amend restrictive laws and regulations with a view to bringing them in line with international human rights standards.

"Since 2015, Tanzania has implemented newly-enacted draconian legislation and applied legal and extra-judicial methods to harass HRDs, silence independent journalism and blogging, and restrict freedoms of expression, peaceful assembly, and association.

"We call on your delegation to... raise concern, jointly and individually, and to engage in a constructive dialogue with the Tanzanian authorities..."

The full transcript of the letter can be read [here](#).

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