

# INSIGHTS FROM 2025

Tanzania State of Internet Governance Series

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## Information Integrity and the 2025 General Elections: Power, Regulation, and Public Trust

February 2026



**PRODUCED BY:**

Tech & Media Convergency (TMC)

The study is developed in partnership with the Internet Governance Tanzania Working Group (IGTWG), with support from the U.S. Embassy in Tanzania.



FEBRUARY 2026

#### **About the Tanzania State of Internet Governance Series**

The Tanzania State of Internet Governance Series is a comprehensive monthly and annual initiative that examines the current landscape of Internet governance in Tanzania. It highlights key issues, challenges, and opportunities in digital governance, policy frameworks, cybersecurity, and digital rights. Through expert insights and data-driven analysis, the series aims to inform stakeholders, policymakers, and the public about critical trends shaping the country's digital future and digital economy. It promotes transparency, accountability, and inclusive decision-making in Internet governance. The series is part of the Tanzania Digital Collaboration Program, supported by the U.S. Embassy in Dar es Salaam, in collaboration with the Bureau of African Affairs at the U.S. Department of State.

#### **About the Internet Governance Tanzania Working Group (IGTWG)**

The Internet Governance Tanzania Working Group (IGTWG), led by civil society and coordinated by Tech & Media Convergency (TMC), comprises 25 organizations from Tanzania Mainland and Zanzibar. It promotes data governance, inclusivity, equitable internet access, and responsible usage while advocating policy reforms to shape Tanzania's digital landscape.

#### **About the Tanzania Technical Group**

The Tanzania Technical Group draws from independent Tanzanian ICT experts, lawyers, policymakers, researchers, civil society organizations, and digital governance specialists to foster innovation, ensure sustainable development, and provide knowledge for informed policy briefs.

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# ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

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This report has been made possible through the collaborative efforts of a wide range of stakeholders committed to building a more open, secure, and inclusive digital ecosystem in Tanzania. This report is part of a broader Internet Governance series supported by the Tanzania Digital Collaboration Program, under the auspices of the U.S. Embassy in Dar es Salaam, in collaboration with the Bureau of African Affairs at the U.S. Department of State. We sincerely appreciate their continued support and partnership, which have been instrumental in advancing critical discourse and action around digital governance in Tanzania.

Our heartfelt appreciation goes to the member organisations of the Internet Governance Tanzania Working Group (IGTWG), whose engagement throughout the research and review phases ensured that the study reflects a multi-stakeholder approach and serves as a platform for future advocacy. We also acknowledge and deeply appreciate the contribution of local and national media outlets that continue to hold digital policy, rights, and governance issues as central to the public agenda. We do not take it lightly that these platforms provide a consistent stream of timely reporting and critical analysis, creating a strong base of references and elevating digital governance discourse across the country.

TMC also extends its heartfelt gratitude to its internal team, dedicated researchers, visionary digital experts, and meticulous coordinators. Their unwavering commitment, tireless efforts, and pursuit of excellence have been the cornerstone of a study that intricately captures the nuances of Tanzania's evolving digital governance landscape.

Finally, we acknowledge the individuals and institutions across Tanzania and the region who continue to champion digital rights, innovation, and accountability in the face of rapid technological change. Your efforts not only inform this report but also inspire continued action toward a transformative digital future.

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# LIST OF ABBREVIATIONS

<b>ACT-Wazalendo</b>	Alliance for Change and Transparency –Wazalendo
<b>AI</b>	Artificial Intelligence
<b>AU</b>	African Union
<b>CCM</b>	Chama Cha Mapinduzi
<b>CHADEMA</b>	Chama cha Demokrasia na Maendeleo
<b>CSOs</b>	Civil Society Organizations
<b>EAC</b>	East African Community
<b>EPOCA</b>	Electronic and Postal Communications Act
<b>GDP</b>	Gross Domestic Product
<b>G.N</b>	Government Notice
<b>ICT</b>	Information and Communication Technology
<b>IGTWG</b>	Internet Governance Tanzania Working Group
<b>INEC</b>	Independent National Electoral Commission
<b>ISPs</b>	Internet Service Providers
<b>LHRC</b>	Legal and Human Rights Centre
<b>MICT</b>	Ministry of Communication and Information Technology
<b>NGOs</b>	Non-Governmental Organizations
<b>PDPA</b>	Personal Data Protection Act
<b>PDPC</b>	Personal Data Protection Commission
<b>SADC</b>	Southern African Development Community
<b>SMS</b>	Short Message Service
<b>TCRA</b>	Tanzania Communications Regulatory Authority
<b>TMC</b>	Tech and Media Convergency
<b>TZS</b>	Tanzanian Shillings
<b>UN</b>	United Nations

## EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The Tanzania Internet Governance Series 2025 Report assesses the state of digital governance during a pivotal election year under the theme “*Information Integrity and the 2025 General Elections Power, Regulation, and Public Trust.*” The findings reflect a year defined by visible digital expansion alongside mounting pressure on civic space.

On the positive front, Tanzania demonstrated regional and international digital ambition. The country won three international ICT awards at the WSIS+20 Forum in Geneva (July 2025), conducted its first-ever National ICT (TEHAMA) Awards, and advanced implementation of the Tanzania National Development Vision 2050, which places the digital economy at the center of long-term transformation. The Tanzania Communications Regulatory Authority (TCRA) launched the “*Futa Delete Kabisa*” misinformation awareness campaign and continued publishing quarterly statistics showing sector growth: telecom towers increased to 10,029; mobile subscriptions reached 106.9 million; internet usage rose to 808 petabytes; and 5G population coverage expanded to 30.1%. Zanzibar similarly accelerated digital reforms through institutional strengthening, ICT centers, fiber expansion, and data center development.

However, analysis of digital rights trends in 2025 revealed significant structural strain within Tanzania’s digital ecosystem. Of the 173 documented digital governance incidents, 90 (52%) were classified as regressive, 49 (28.3%) as progressive, and 34 (19.7%) as neutral. Regressive incidents encompassed high-profile cases such as arrests, abductions, internet shutdowns, and suppression of online activism during and after the October 29 elections, alongside broader patterns of content regulation, network disruptions, and intimidation of social media users. These patterns highlight the persistent challenges facing digital freedoms and the securitization of online spaces.

The economic cost was measurable. The restriction of X (Twitter) and the General Election shutdown (29 October–3 November 2025) generated combined losses exceeding USD 250 million, including USD 26,221,071 (TZS 61,724,401,331) attributed to the five-day election blackout alone. These figures illustrate the macroeconomic implications of digital disruption in a high-penetration mobile economy.

Online gender-based violence intensified during the electoral period. Data from WiLDAF an Internet Governance Tanzania Working Group member, documented 3,644 negative mentions targeting a leading female political figure, with an estimated reach of 59.4 million users and nearly one million interactions amplifying harmful narratives. Digital participation for women in politics carried disproportionate exposure to coordinated abuse, undermining both equality and information integrity.

The 2025 evidence reveals a digital paradox: infrastructure expanded and international recognition grew, yet civic digital freedoms narrowed during politically sensitive moments. Moving forward, reform must prioritize regulatory balance, protection of online expression, strengthened safeguards against gender-based digital violence, judicial oversight of any network restriction, and a firm commitment that the Government should no longer shut down the internet. Sustainable digital transformation depends not only on connectivity, but on trust, rights, and institutional restraint.

# PART I: INTRODUCTION

## 1.1 Purpose of the Report

The 2025 Tanzania Internet Governance Series Report serves as a critical forensic audit of the United Republic of Tanzania's digital ecosystem during a watershed historical moment: the 2025 General Election. The primary purpose of this document is to move beyond the cataloging of isolated incidents to provide a structural, root-cause analysis of how internet governance mechanisms were systematically deployed as instruments of state power.

In 2025, the digital domain ceased to be a mere platform for communication and became the central battlefield for political legitimacy. The purpose of this report is to deconstruct the strategies used to conquer this battlefield. It aims to document how the "fragile" ecosystem of 2024 was deliberately broken to serve the "survivalist" imperatives of the ruling elite.

Specifically, this report aims to:

1. **Create an Immutable Record:** In an environment where the state actively seeks to rewrite history through the deletion of evidence and the "AI fake" narrative, this report serves as a permanent archive of the legal, technical, and physical measures used to control the information space.

2. **Analyze State Strategy:** We seek to move beyond describing what happened to explaining why and how it happened. This involves dissecting the state's "cluster" strategy, revealing how disparate laws—from data protection to cybercrimes—were synchronized to neutralize dissent.

3. **Quantify the Unseen Costs:** For too long, digital repression has been treated as a "soft" rights issue. This report aims to harden the debate by rigorously quantifying the economic and social costs of these policies, demonstrating that the government's war on information is also a war on its own economy.

4. **Chart a Path to Reconstruction:** Finally, this report is forward-looking. It seeks to provide actionable, evidence-based recommendations for domestic stakeholders and the international community to begin the arduous process of reconstructing a resilient, rights-respecting digital environment in Tanzania.

## 1.2 Scope and Intended Audience

This report covers the period from 1 January to December 2025, capturing the full electoral cycle and its implications for digital governance in Tanzania. It examines the intersection of law, technology, and politics, analysing legal and regulatory developments, incidents of network interference such as shutdowns and blocking, digital rights violations including arrests and surveillance, and the broader economic effects of repression, including its correlation with national productivity and market stability. Geographically, the report focuses on the United Republic of Tanzania, with particular attention to developments in Mainland Tanzania where enforcement actions were most pronounced, while also acknowledging the distinct regulatory context of Zanzibar. Institutionally, it assesses the roles of key actors such as the Tanzania Communications Regulatory Authority (TCRA), the Tanzania Police Force, the Personal Data Protection Commission (PDPC), Judiciary and private telecommunications operators.

The report is intended for policymakers and regulators, civil society organisations, private sector actors, and regional and international bodies. For decision-makers, it provides evidence on the governance, economic, and reputational consequences of regulatory actions. For civil society and human rights defenders, it offers data-driven analysis to strengthen advocacy and legal interventions. For investors and businesses, it presents an assessment of regulatory and operational risks in a volatile digital environment. For institutions such as the United Nations, African Union, and SADC, it contributes to accountability and policy dialogue by documenting trends that risk normalising digital authoritarian practices in the region.

## 1.3 Methodological Approach

This report adopts a rigorous mixed-methods approach, triangulating quantitative data with qualitative analysis to ensure robustness and depth. The methodology was designed to overcome the challenges of researching a closing civic space where data transparency is low and fear of reprisal is high.

The core dataset is derived from the Digital Rights Monitoring System managed by Tech & Media Convergency (TMC). This system tracks verified incidents of arrest, content takedowns, online harassment, and legal intimidation. In 2025, this data was supplemented by real-time reports from the Internet Governance Tanzania Working Group (IGTWG), a coalition of 25 civil society organizations from Tanzania Mainland and Zanzibar. This coalition provided a critical "ground truth" network, validating incidents that were otherwise suppressed by the media blackout.

To verify connectivity disruptions objectively, the report relies on telemetry data from global internet monitors:

- NetBlocks. We utilized NetBlocks' real-time measurement of web reachability and traffic volume anomalies to pinpoint the exact timing and scope of the election blackout and the X platform suspension.<sup>[1]</sup>
- OONI (Open Observatory of Network Interference). Data regarding the specific blocking techniques (e.g., DNS tampering, IP blocking) used by ISPs was analyzed to understand the technical sophistication of the censorship apparatus.
- Cost of Shutdown Tool (COST). To estimate economic losses, we employed the COST methodology, which integrates development indicators from the World Bank, ITU, and Eurostat to calculate the GDP impact of network disruptions.<sup>[2]</sup>

A team of legal experts conducted a textual and comparative analysis of key legislative instruments. This included a clause-by-clause review of the Electronic and Postal Communications (Online Content) (Amendment) Regulations, 2025, the Personal Data Protection Act (2022), and the 2025 Election Regulations. The analysis focused on identifying "vague provisions," "clawback clauses," and inconsistencies with Tanzania's constitutional obligations.<sup>[3]</sup>

The quantitative data is contextualized we gathered various conducted Key Informant anonymized interviews with journalists, human rights lawyers, opposition figures, and victims of digital repression. These interviews provide the human context to the statistical trends. Additionally, the report incorporates findings from the Media and AI Report and TMC's ongoing surveys on digital censorship, which gauge the "chilling effect" on media practitioners.<sup>[4]</sup>

## 1.4 Context: The 2024 Baseline; From Fragility to Fracture

To understand the gravity of the events of 2025, it is essential to revisit the findings of the 2024 State of Internet Governance Tanzania Report.<sup>[5]</sup>

That baseline assessment described a digital ecosystem that was deeply "fragile," marked by a dangerous tension between the government's rhetoric of digital transformation and its instinct for control. The 2024 report served as a canary in the coal mine. It documented a digital space that was already under siege, characterized by Systemic Regression. The report found that 49% of all documented digital rights incidents in 2024 were categorized as "Regressive".

The Blueprint for Silence through the suspension of Mwananchi and The Citizen in October 2024 for publishing a political cartoon established the precedent that even metaphorical dissent would be criminalized. This was a clear signal of the "zero tolerance" policy that would define 2025. Civic-Tech Disappearances. The 2024 report first sounded the alarm on the "disappearance" of civic-tech actors, including activists like Sativa, Deusedith Soka, and Shadrack Chaula. These early cases were not anomalies; they were the pilot phase of a strategy to physically decapitate the online opposition, and an Economic Warning. The report quantified that internet disruptions in early 2024 cost the economy roughly \$1.4 million.

## 1.5 The 2025 Transformation: The Collapse

The transition from 2024 to 2025 was not a change in kind but a massive escalation in degree and intent. The "fragile" ecosystem did not break naturally; it was deliberately dismantled. The "legal gaps" identified in 2024 were filled not with protections, but with the concrete of repressive regulation.

In 2025, the state ceased to view the internet as a developmental tool and began to view it primarily as a security threat. The "regressive incidents" of 2024 coalesced into the "Systematic Strategy" of 2025.<sup>[6]</sup> As the country approached the polls, the government shed any pretense of balancing security with rights, opting instead for a doctrine of total information dominance. The "fragility" of 2024 became the "hostility" of 2025, setting the stage for the catastrophic events detailed in this report.

This escalation reflected a fundamental shift in governing doctrine, from reactive enforcement to anticipatory control. The state integrated surveillance, legal deterrence, and technical disruption into a coordinated system designed to preempt dissent. Regulatory ambiguity gave way to expansive discretionary authority, enabling enforcement without meaningful oversight. Digital governance was no longer administrative but strategic, repurposed to secure political stability.

<sup>[1]</sup> Cade Project. [Tanzania's election-period internet shutdown cost over US \\$238 million, report warns](#), accessed December 10, 2025.

<sup>[2]</sup> COST. [The NetBlocks Cost of Shutdown Tool](#), accessed December 12, 2025.

<sup>[3]</sup> Bowmans. [Tanzania: Amendments to the Electronic Postal Communications \(Online Content\) Regulations](#)

<sup>[4]</sup> UNESCO. [Launch of the UNESCO IPDC Supported Tanzania Media and AI Report](#).

<sup>[5]</sup> TMC. [REPORT: The State of Internet Governance and Analysis on Emerging Digital Threats in Tanzania](#).

<sup>[6]</sup> TMC. [ADVOCACY BRIEF: Censorship, Surveillance, and Digital Freedoms: Navigating Tanzania's Online Space Ahead of the 2025 General Election](#).

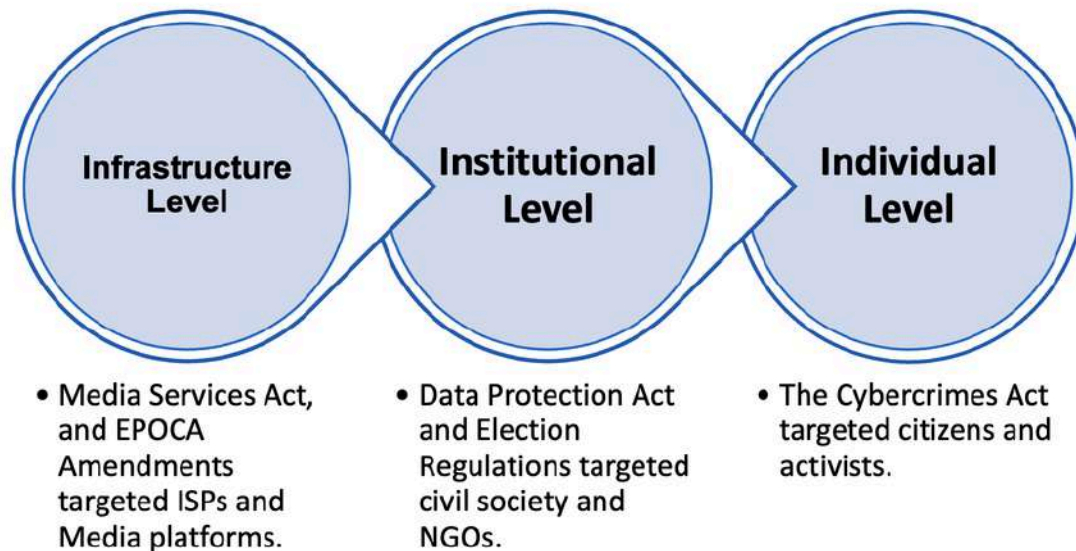
## PART 2: LEGAL, REGULATORY & INSTITUTIONAL LANDSCAPE

### 2.1 Overview

The collapse of information integrity in Tanzania during the 2025 election was not a result of lawlessness or a breakdown of order. Paradoxically, it was the result of hyper-regulation and strict adherence to a carefully constructed legal framework. In 2025, the Tanzanian state perfected the use of "lawfare" the weaponization of the legal code to suffocate the digital sphere. This chapter dissects the key legal reforms and institutional maneuvers that constituted the "Architecture of Control." It reveals how the state utilized a "cluster" of interlocking laws some new, some amended, some repurposed to create a legal environment where digital freedom became effectively illegal.

### 2.2 The "Cluster" Strategy

The state's approach to digital governance in 2025 was characterized by the "clustering" of restrictive laws. No single law bore the entire weight of repression; instead, the government utilized a matrix of regulations that worked in concert to target every level of the digital ecosystem:



Level	Primary Target	Goal	Key 2025 Tactic
Infrastructure	ISPs, Telcos, Platforms	<b>Control Access</b>	Mandatory filtering & total shutdowns.
Institutional	NGOs, Civil Society, Media	<b>Limit Oversight</b>	Weaponizing data laws & revoking accreditation.
Individual	Activists, Journalists, Citizens	<b>Induce Fear</b>	Mass arrests for "false information" & AI satire.

## 2.3 Key Legal and Regulatory Reforms for 2025

The year 2025 saw the introduction of targeted amendments designed to close the final loopholes for independent expression and enforce compliance from the private sector. These legal and regulatory changes expanded state oversight over digital platforms, strengthened surveillance mechanisms, and created a chilling effect that discouraged activism, journalism, and public debate online.

### 2.3.1 The EPOCA 2025 Amendments: Deputizing the Private Sector

On January 28, 2025, the Electronic and Postal Communications (Online Content) (Amendment) Regulations, 2025 (GN No. 57) became operational.<sup>[7]</sup> These amendments represented a fundamental shift in the liability model for online content in Tanzania.

Key Provisions and Implications

#### i. Mandatory Filtering (Regulation 9A & 15A).

The new regulations explicitly obliged Internet Service Providers (ISPs) and social media platform owners to "deploy mechanisms to filter and remove prohibited content".<sup>[8]</sup>

**Analysis:** Previously, takedown orders were primarily reactive authorities would identify content and order its removal. The 2025 amendments shifted the burden to the providers to be proactive censors. This effectively deputized private telecommunications companies (such as Vodacom, Airtel, and Yas) as extensions of the police force. To avoid liability, these companies were compelled to implement intrusive surveillance infrastructure to monitor traffic for "prohibited" material.

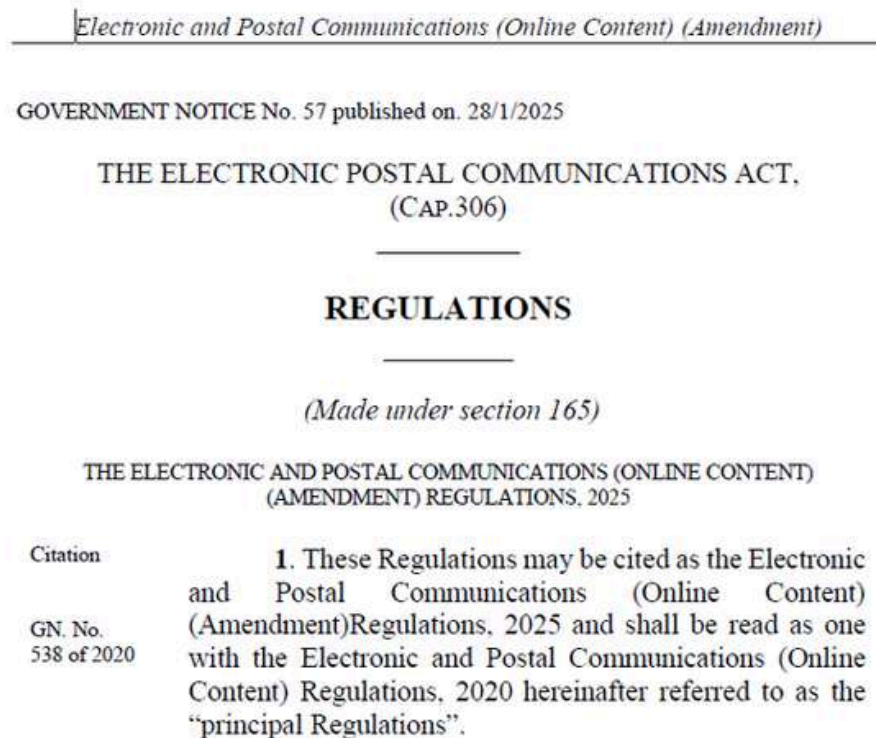


Figure 1: The Electronic and Postal Communications (Online Content) (Amendment) Regulations, 2025 (GN No. 57)

<sup>[7]</sup> [Electronic and Postal Communications \(Online Content\) \(Amendment\) - TCRA.](#)

<sup>[8]</sup> [Ibid.](#)

## ii. Prevention of Access (Regulation 9A).

ISPs were mandated to "establish, adopt, maintain and deploy mechanisms to prevent, restrict and bar access to prohibited content in the Tanzania cyberspace".<sup>[9]</sup>

**Analysis:** This clause provided the legal cover for the wholesale blocking of platforms and the implementation of the election-week internet blackout. By framing platform blocking as a regulatory obligation to "prevent access to prohibited content," the state immunized itself against claims of illegal censorship. The government could argue in court that the shutdowns were not arbitrary executive orders, but mere compliance with established regulations.

## iii. AI and "Fabricated" Content.

The amendments introduced a new category of prohibited content: "unethical, fabricated and artificial intelligence generated content".<sup>[10]</sup>

**Analysis:** While ostensibly designed to combat deepfakes and disinformation, this provision was weaponized to discredit real evidence. By legally blurring the line between "fabricated" and "AI-generated," the state created a pretext to label citizen journalism such as videos of police brutality as "AI fakes." This laid the groundwork for the "Liar's Dividend" strategy observed in the post-election period.<sup>[11]</sup>

## 2.3.2 The Personal Data Protection Act (PDPA): The Registration Trap

The Personal Data Protection Act (PDPA) of 2022 was fully operationalized in 2025, but its implementation revealed a troubling dual purpose. While intended to protect citizen privacy, the administrative mechanisms of the Act were utilized to survey and control data handlers.

### i. Registration as Surveillance

The Personal Data Protection Commission (PDPC) issued deadlines for the mandatory registration of all data controllers and processors. The deadline was extended from January to April 30, 2025.<sup>[12]</sup>

**Analysis:** While registration is standard in many jurisdictions, in the Tanzanian context, it functioned as a census of civil society. The rigorous registration requirements forced NGOs, media houses, and civic groups to hand over detailed operational data to a state commission.

<sup>[9]</sup> Ibid.

<sup>[10]</sup> TMC, [Beyond Fragmentation: Why Tanzania Needs a National AI Strategy for Sustainable Growth](#).

<sup>[11]</sup> The Chanzo New Report Warns of Growing Digital Repression in Tanzania Ahead of 2025 General Election

<sup>[12]</sup> LexAfrica, [Registration for Companies under Data Protection Law Extended](#).

<sup>[13]</sup> Tanzania: PDPC extends deadline for registration of data controllers and processors | News, accessed December 10, 2025, <https://www.dataguidance.com/news/tanzania-pdpc-extends-deadline-registration-data>

<sup>[14]</sup> African Business, [African Union observers slam Tanzania's violent election](#).

The threat of heavy fines (up to TZS 5 million) for non-compliance acted as a tool of coercion, ensuring that any organization operating in the digital space was known, cataloged, and accessible to state regulators.<sup>[13]</sup>

## ii. The "National Security" Exception

Crucially, while the PDPA theoretically protects citizen data, it contains broad exemptions for "national security" and "crime prevention." These exemptions rendered the Act's protections null and void during the election period. The mass [SMS sent by the Police Force to all citizens on November 4, 2025](#), clearly indicated that citizen contact data held by Telecommunications companies was accessed and utilized by state security apparatuses without judicial oversight. This action bypassed the very privacy principles the PDPC was established to enforce, demonstrating that the Act protects data from commercial misuse but not state misuse.

## 2.3.3 The 2025 Election Regulations: The Observer Gag Order

In the lead-up to the vote, the Independent National Electoral Commission (INEC) issued new regulations governing the conduct of election observers.

Restrictions on Commentary. The regulations explicitly "restrict CSOs accredited as election observers from publicly commenting on election irregularities or releasing reports before official approval".

**Analysis:** This was a "pre-emptive gag order." It ensured that when the internet blackout occurred and violence erupted, the only bodies with the mandate to monitor the election were legally silenced. This explains the significant delay in critical statements from local observers and the reliance on regional bodies (AU, SADC) to eventually condemn the process.<sup>[14]</sup> By the time international reports were released, the "facts on the ground" had already been established by the state's narrative.

## 2.4 Institutional Landscape: The Captured Guardians

The institutions designed to govern the internet acted in 2025 not as independent arbiters of the public interest, but as primary agents of regime preservation, deploying regulatory and enforcement powers to constrain digital freedoms, suppress dissenting voices, and align internet governance mechanisms with political imperatives rather than democratic accountability and transparency.

## The Tanzania Communications Regulatory Authority (TCRA)

The TCRA solidified its role as the "enforcer" of the state's digital will. Its actions in 2025 demonstrated a complete abandonment of regulatory neutrality.

- The 90-day suspension of JamiiForums in September 2025, which removed the country's most important platform for civic dialogue right before the election.
- The enforcement of the X (Twitter) block from May 2025 onwards. These actions confirm that the TCRA functioned as a censorship bureau, utilizing its licensing power to discipline the media and enforce the "spiral of silence."

## The Tanzania Police Force

The Police Force moved aggressively into the digital arena. The mass SMS campaign ("strict legal action will be taken") represented a psychological escalation. By broadcasting threats directly to citizens' personal devices, the Police effectively extended their physical presence into the private digital sphere of every Tanzanian.<sup>[15]</sup> This created a "panopticon" effect, where citizens felt watched not just on the streets, but in their pockets. During the 2025 General Election, the Police Force imposed the curfew in major cities, which was later lifted after the swearing in of President Samia Suluhu.

## The Judiciary

Despite calls from civil society to amend EPOCA to require judicial oversight for internet shutdowns, the judiciary remained largely compliant with executive overreach. The courts facilitated "lawfare" by denying bail for "cybercrimes" and entertaining baseless treason charges against opposition leaders for political speech. The lack of judicial intervention to halt the internet blackout or protect the rights of the arrested highlights the institutional capture of the legal system. During the October shutdown the Judiciary was also largely impacted as all the services are now done online via Electronic Case Management System (JoT-eCMS).

## 2.5 Policy Contradictions: The "Digital Irony"

A defining feature of the 2025 landscape was the stark contradiction between the state's economic policy and its security practice.

- The Vision. The National ICT Policy 2016 and the Digital Economy Strategic Framework (2024–2034)

envision Tanzania as a digital economy leader, emphasizing broadband access, e-government, and digital innovation.<sup>[16]</sup> The government promotes a narrative of "Digital Tanzania" to attract foreign investment and drive modernization.

- The Reality. The actions taken in 2025 shutting down the internet, blocking platforms, and criminalizing online speech are fundamentally incompatible with these goals. You cannot build a digital economy on a switch that the government can flip at will. The shutdown of remittance platforms like Nala<sup>[17]</sup> and the massive economic losses incurred expose the "Digital Tanzania" policy as hollow rhetoric when placed against the regime's survival instincts.

The contradiction is not merely philosophical; it produces measurable structural risk. Digital economies depend on predictability, legal certainty, and continuity of service. When access to networks and platforms becomes contingent on political stability rather than governed by transparent, rule-bound procedures, the country introduces sovereign risk into its own digital infrastructure. Investors, platform providers, and financial intermediaries interpret shutdowns and arbitrary platform restrictions as signals of regulatory volatility. This raises the perceived cost of operating in the jurisdiction, discourages long-term infrastructure investment, and incentivizes capital flight toward more stable digital environments.

This instability also directly undermines the government's own fiscal and development objectives. Tanzania's digital economy strategy relies heavily on expanding electronic payments, fintech adoption, cross-border digital services, and platform-mediated commerce. Internet shutdowns and platform disruptions interrupt transaction flows, suppress taxable economic activity, and weaken trust in digital public services.

At a deeper institutional level, the events of 2025 revealed that Tanzania's digital governance architecture prioritizes regime stability over systemic resilience. The same centralized control mechanisms that enable rapid enforcement actions also concentrate discretionary power without meaningful oversight or accountability. This creates an environment in which digital infrastructure functions less as a neutral economic utility and more as an instrument of political leverage.

In summary, the legal and institutional landscape of 2025 was a "closed loop." The laws were written to permit repression; the regulators were appointed to enforce it; and the judiciary was captured to validate it. This architecture left the Tanzanian citizen with no legal recourse and no digital refuge.

<sup>[15]</sup> CIPESA, State of Internet Freedom in Africa 2024.

<sup>[16]</sup> ICT Commission, TANZANIA DIGITAL ECONOMY STRATEGIC FRAMEWORK FINAL.

<sup>[17]</sup> Context by TRF, How an internet blackout affected Tanzania's election.

# PART 3: GENERAL ELECTION: INFORMATION INTEGRITY UNDER SIEGE

## 3.1 Introduction: The Baseline of Digital Repression

The 2025 General Election in Tanzania, and the catastrophic failure of information integrity that defined it, was not an abrupt collapse of democratic norms. It was the calculated culmination of a multi-year strategy to degrade digital rights, silence civic-tech, and weaponize the legal system against dissent. The 2024 [State of Internet Governance Tanzania Report](#) documented a digital ecosystem already in a "fragile" state, marked by "legal and regulatory gaps", persistent "digital repression", and alarming cases of "civic-tech disappearances".

The findings of that 2024 report served as a direct precursor to the events of 2025. The analysis, which found that 49% of all documented digital rights incidents were "Regressive", highlighted a persistent pattern of state-led suppression. The "legal and institutional grey areas" and "vague provisions" in laws like the Cybercrimes Act, which were exploited in 2024, were systematically operationalized in 2025. This transformed a "fragile" environment into a "hostile" one, converting regressive patterns into a systematic state strategy to control the electoral information space.<sup>[18]</sup>

To deconstruct this strategy, this chapter adopts the "[ABCDE](#)" framework for analyzing disinformation and influence operations. The state's 2025 campaign was a full-spectrum operation targeting:

- **Actors:** Opposition leaders (Tundu Lissu, Luhaga Mpina), political parties (CHADEMA, ACT-Wazalendo), media outlets (JamboTV, The Citizen), online platforms (JamiiForums, X), civil society observers, and individual citizens.
- **Behaviours:** Systematic platform blocking, coercive suspension of media licenses, arrests for political speech, "lawfare" (the use of law as a weapon), nationwide internet shutdowns, mass SMS threats, and the physical concealment of evidence.<sup>[19]</sup>
- **Content:** Political slogans (#NoReformsNoElection), calls to action (#OktobaTunatiki, #OktobaTunatoka), calls for electoral integrity (#OktobaLindaKura), critical investigative journalism, and, crucially, all citizen-generated evidence of post-election violence.<sup>[20]</sup>

- **Degree:** The scale of the operation was nationwide, involving a total internet blackout affecting millions, mass text messages sent to all citizens, and the mass prosecution of hundreds of protestors.<sup>[21]</sup>
- **Effect:** The total elimination of viable political opposition, the creation of a "digital blackout" to enable and conceal mass killings, and the consolidation of authoritarian power under the guise of a 97.95% electoral victory.

### Three-phased "cluster" strategy

The 2025 General Election demonstrated a sophisticated, three-phased "cluster" strategy by state actors.

#### 1. Phase 1 (Pre-Election)

The deployment of an "[Architecture of Control](#)" composed of "clustered" laws (Cybercrimes Act, EPOCA, Media Services Act) to legally eliminate and silence all political, media, and civic opposition.

#### 2. Phase 2 (Election Day)

The execution of a nationwide "digital blackout"<sup>19</sup> as a strategic cover to enable a violent physical crackdown on protests, concealed from international observation and documentation.

#### 3. Phase 3 (Post-Election)

The waging of a "narrative war" involving state-led disinformation and population-scale threats to cover up atrocities, while using mass "lawfare" to permanently criminalize dissent.

## 3.2 The Architecture of Control: Weaponizing Law Against Information

The state's strategy to undermine information integrity was not lawless. It was, in fact, meticulously executed through a "veneer of legality" provided by an interlocking set of repressive, vaguely worded statutes. This legal toolkit was "clustered" to ensure that no avenue for dissent individual, community, or professional could legally exist.

Three primary laws formed the core of this "Architecture of Control":

<sup>[18]</sup> Tech & Media Convergency (TMC), [REPORT LAUNCH: The State of Internet Governance and Analysis on Emerging Digital Threats in Tanzania \(2024\)](#).

<sup>[19]</sup> TMC, [ADVOCACY BRIEF: Censorship, Surveillance, and Digital Freedoms](#).

<sup>[20]</sup> CNB AFRICA, [Tanzanian police warn against sharing images following deadly election protest](#).

<sup>[21]</sup> Tanzania charges dozens with treason after disputed election - [YouTube](#).

### ***i. The Electronic and Postal Communications (Online Content) Regulations (EPOCA)***

This was the state's primary tool for platform-level control. Critically, the regulations were amended in January 2025,<sup>[22]</sup> just months before the election's active phase. These amendments (Amended Regulations) introduced new, explicit obligations for internet service providers (ISPs) and social media platform owners to "prevent access to prohibited content" and "implement mechanisms to filter and remove" it.<sup>[23]</sup> These new obligations were layered upon existing 2020 regulations, granting the Tanzania Communications Regulatory Authority (TCRA) sweeping, arbitrary powers to police vague offenses. These included publishing content deemed "misleading", content that "insulted, and disrespected" the Government or the President,<sup>[24]</sup> or content that "threatens... national unity and social peace".

### ***ii. The Cybercrimes Act (2015)***

This law was the state's weapon against individual users. Its broad and ill-defined provisions against "publishing false information" were used to arrest and intimidate activists and content creators. It was this Act that formed the legal basis for charging opposition leader Tundu Lissu with cybercrime offenses, which were later bundled with treason charges.<sup>[25]</sup>

### ***iii. The Media Services Act (2016) & The 2025 Election Regulations***

This legal tandem was deployed to control professional media and independent observers. The Media Services Act grants the government broad, discretionary control over "journalist accreditation".<sup>[26]</sup> This was strategically combined with the 2025 Presidential, Parliamentary, and Local Government Election Regulations, which explicitly "restrict[s] CSOs accredited as election observers from publicly commenting on election irregularities or releasing reports before official approval".<sup>[27]</sup>

This legal framework was not a random assortment of rules but a carefully constructed, three-tiered system of information control.

## **3.3 Case Studies in Regulatory Repression**

The state did not wait for the election to test this architecture. It was deployed throughout 2024 and 2025 to silence the most high-profile and effective critical voices, establishing a clear "climate of fear".

<sup>[22]</sup> Afrivise, [Tanzania: Amendments to the Electronic Postal Communications](#).

<sup>[23]</sup> Ibid.

<sup>[24]</sup> Business & Human Rights Resource Centre, [Tanzania Communications Regulatory Authority suspends JamiiForums licence over 'misleading, insulting content'](#).

<sup>[25]</sup> The Guardian, [Tanzania's Hassan declared landslide winner in election that triggered violent protests](#).

<sup>[26]</sup> Eu SEE, [Enabling Environment Snapshot](#).

<sup>[27]</sup> Ibid.

<sup>[28]</sup> JamiiForums ["The Tanzania Communications Regulatory Authority \(TCRA\) has suspended JamiiForums' Online Content License for 90 days."](#)

### ***Case Study: The Silencing of JamiiForums (September 2025).***

On 6 September 2025, the Tanzania Communications Regulatory Authority (TCRA) suspended the Online Content Licence of JamiiForums for a period of 90 days and directed internet service providers to block access to the platform. The regulator cited violations of the Electronic and Postal Communications (Online Content) Regulations, alleging that the platform had published unverified and one-sided information.

According to TCRA, the suspension followed JamiiForums' publication of statements by Tanzanian politician Humphrey Polepole concerning Rostam Aziz's reported ownership of majority shares in the Ngaka coal mine, as well as reports regarding meetings held at State House between the President of Tanzania and businessman Wicknell Chivayo. TCRA stated that the platform failed to verify the authenticity of images used in its reporting and did not seek comments from relevant authorities, including the President's spokesperson or other government representatives, thereby presenting information without balance.<sup>[28]</sup>



Figure 2: Tanzania Communications Regulatory Authority (TCRA) suspended the Online Content Licence of JamiiForums for a period of 90 days

The Authority further indicated that JamiiForums did not adequately moderate user-generated content that allegedly contained offensive language, slander, and mockery directed at the President, and that such content remained publicly accessible. TCRA argued that this contravened regulatory standards and contradicted Tanzanian traditions, customs, and cultural values, thereby posing a risk to national unity, peace, and the image of the United Republic of Tanzania.

The suspension occurred during a politically sensitive period in the lead-up to the 2025 General Election, temporarily removing one of the country's most prominent online discussion platforms from the public sphere<sup>[29]</sup> The case raises significant questions regarding platform liability, content moderation standards, verification obligations, and the balance between regulatory enforcement and the protection of digital expression in Tanzania's evolving governance landscape in the 2025 Election which was discussed in the TMC Policy brief on Censorship<sup>[30]</sup>

### 3.4 'No Reforms, No Election': Pre-Election Political and Digital Suppression

No Reforms No Election was a slogan reached by the CHADEMA party calling for Tanzanians to demand polls to be held in an environment of freedom and justice rather than an election boycott<sup>[31]</sup> With the legal architecture in place, the state began its next phase: the systematic application of these laws to physically and digitally eliminate the political opposition.

#### Criminalizing the Narrative

The opposition's core campaign was not a call for revolution, but a political demand for electoral reforms, encapsulated by the hashtag #NoReformsNoElection.<sup>[32]</sup> This slogan highlighted the opposition's refusal to participate in a process they argued was inherently skewed by a captured electoral commission.

The state's response was a feat of "lawfare": it legally redefined this political slogan as a criminal act. The Institute for Security Studies (ISS) reported that the #NoReformsNoElection campaign was "interpreted by the courts as an attempt to disrupt the polls".

This legal interpretation was the linchpin. It allowed the state to frame all associated political activity, speeches, and protests not as democratic expression, but as "incitement" and "treason".<sup>[33]</sup>

### 'No Reforms, No Election' Taking Over Tanzania's Social Media (June 6–8, 2025)

In early June 2025, "No Reforms, No Election" (commonly abbreviated as NRNE) evolved from a political rallying slogan into a viral, citizen-driven digital movement that dominated Tanzania's online spaces.<sup>[34]</sup> Originally launched by the opposition party CHADEMA in March 2025 to press for comprehensive electoral reforms before the October polls, the phrase spread rapidly across platforms such as X (formerly Twitter), Instagram, Facebook, TikTok, and YouTube between June 6 and June 8, 2025. Citizens simply began inserting the message into the comment sections of unrelated posts ranging from news articles to entertainment and brand pages signalling a broad and decentralised adoption of the demand for reform, far beyond conventional party audiences.

Observers noted that this trend did not remain confined to explicitly political spaces. Instead, users flooded comment threads under institutional posts, influencer content, and commercial advertisements with #NoReformsNoElection, effectively "taking over" the digital public sphere and forcing the message into mainstream visibility. Even high-profile figures unconnected to politics, such as visiting Nigerian artist Chellaboi, found their comment sections inundated with the slogan, underscoring the depth and saturation of the campaign online.<sup>[35]</sup>



Figure 3: Some comments on No Reforms No Election Photo by The Citizen

<sup>[29]</sup> See: TMC, [IGTWG Statement On The Suspension Of Jamii Forums By TCRA: Calls For Dialogue And Protection Of Press Freedom](#).

<sup>[30]</sup> See: [ADVOCACY BRIEF: Censorship, Surveillance, and Digital Freedoms: Navigating Tanzania's Online Space Ahead of the 2025 General Election](#).

<sup>[31]</sup> The Chanzo August 27, 2025 "[CHADEMA: No Reforms, No Election is a Fight for Fairness, Not a Boycott](#)".

<sup>[32]</sup> IssaAfrica, [October elections will reveal the extent of Tanzania's democratic decline](#).

<sup>[33]</sup> Polity Org, [Tanzanian opposition leader's treason trial opens weeks before election 2025](#).

<sup>[34]</sup> The Chanzo Initiative "[No Reforms, No Election Takes Over Tanzania's Social Media](#)".

<sup>[35]</sup> The Citizen, "[No Reforms, No Election' campaign grips social media in Tanzania, Govt dismisses it](#)".

Authorities responded unevenly, for instance Government spokesperson Gerson Msigwa, commenting on the trend in an interview with [Mwananchi News](#), dismissed the online engagement as nonsense.<sup>[36]</sup> Some public institutions and influencers temporarily disabled comment features to stem the tide of political slogans, while the campaign continued to spread unabated on platforms like TikTok, complicating moderation efforts and revealing both the power and fragility of digital spaces as arenas of political expression. Analysts observed that the rapid spread of NRNE was a reflection of widespread frustration with the electoral system and a creative digital mobilisation strategy that harnessed everyday interactions to amplify calls for accountability and reform.

This episode illustrates how digital platforms can be repurposed in politically sensitive contexts to broadcast collective demands. The virality of the slogan between June 6 and June 8, 2025, marked an inflection point in Tanzania's online political discourse, transforming what began as an opposition demand into a diffuse, citizen-led digital phenomenon that highlighted the intersecting dynamics of electoral discontent, information integrity, and digital activism.

### 3.5 'Lawfare' Against the Opposition

The 2025 electoral cycle was marked by the strategic deployment of criminal law and procedural mechanisms against opposition actors, a pattern that reflects the consolidation of what scholars increasingly describe as lawfare: the use of legal instruments to neutralize political competition.

#### 3.5.1 The Prosecution of Tundu Lissu

The most consequential case involved Tundu Lissu, leader of CHADEMA and the most prominent challenger in the 2025 general elections. Lissu, who survived an assassination attempt in 2017, was arrested in April 2025 and subsequently charged with treason and cybercrime-related offences arising from his public speeches and advocacy linked to the “No Reforms, No Election” campaign.<sup>[37]</sup> The treason charge, non-bailable and carrying the possibility of capital punishment under Tanzanian law, effectively removed him from active political participation during the decisive pre-election period. On 3 June 2025, during committal proceedings before the Resident Magistrate's Court at Kisutu, Dar es Salaam

Lissu's case was broadcast live—an unprecedented development in Tanzania's judicial history. The live stream attracted 674,711 viewers, reflecting intense national and international interest.

The scale of online engagement was such that it dominated digital discourse across platforms and temporarily displaced other trending issues. However, the Judiciary subsequently suspended further live broadcasts of the proceedings, citing procedural considerations.<sup>[38]</sup> As proceedings progressed, reports emerged of alleged police brutality and excessive force against supporters and observers at the court premises, raising concerns about access to justice and the securitization of judicial space.<sup>[39]</sup> The resumption of the treason trial before the High Court was marked by procedural disputes, courtroom tensions, and vigorous exchanges between the defence and prosecution.<sup>[40]</sup> During cross-examination, Lissu personally questioned police witnesses in what observers described as a heated and highly scrutinized phase of the trial.<sup>[41]</sup>

On 18 August 2025, the High Court formally banned live broadcasting of the treason trial, reversing the earlier transparency experiment.<sup>[42]</sup> The prohibition significantly reduced public visibility into proceedings of substantial public interest, reinforcing concerns regarding judicial openness in politically sensitive cases.

#### *Institutional and Party-Level Pressures*

Beyond individual prosecution, legal pressures extended to opposition institutions themselves. CHADEMA faced separate High Court proceedings relating to allegations of mismanagement of party funds, where the Court have stopped the parties activities for unknown time. In addition, an application seeking to imprison senior CHADEMA leaders—including Vice Chairman (Mainland) John Heche—for alleged contempt of a June 10, 2025 court order in an asset division dispute was ultimately dismissed by the High Court in Dar es Salaam.<sup>[43]</sup> The ruling temporarily averted the incarceration of key party officials in the lead-up to critical political timelines.

#### *Exclusion from the Electoral Process*

With their leaders jailed or disqualified, the electoral commission ultimately barred the two largest opposition parties, CHADEMA and ACT Wazalendo, from participating in the election. This "severe democratic regression" ensured President Samia Suluhu Hassan faced "no serious opposition".<sup>[44]</sup>

<sup>[36]</sup> See: The Chanzo Initiative “[No Reforms, No Election Takes Over Tanzania's Social Media](#)”; See [Msigwa Instagram Post Congratulating UDOM Students](#).

<sup>[37]</sup> TheCitizen (2025). “Chadema's “No Reform, No Election” slogan sparks debate ahead of 2025 polls”.

<sup>[38]</sup> TMC Internal Documentation on file “Committal proceedings live broadcast statistics, Resident Magistrate's Court at Kisutu, 3 June 2025”.

<sup>[39]</sup> The Chanzo, 15 September 2025 “[Tanzanian Court Paves Way for Tundu Lissu's Treason Trial Amidst Complaints of Police Brutality at the Court](#)”.

<sup>[40]</sup> The Chanzo, 7 October 2025. “[Chaos and Legal Wrangling Mark Tundu Lissu Treason Trial Resumption](#).”

<sup>[41]</sup> The Chanzo, 7 October 2025. “[Tundu Lissu Grills Police Witness as Treason Trial Cross-Examination Turns Fiery](#).”

<sup>[42]</sup> The Chanzo, 18 August 2025 “[Tanzanian Court Bans Live Broadcast of Treason Trial Against CHADEMA Leader Tundu Lissu](#)”.

<sup>[43]</sup> The Chanzo, X (formerly Twitter), [post on High Court dismissal of contempt application against CHADEMA leaders, 2025](#).

<sup>[44]</sup> Business Human Rights, [Tanzania: Government imposes nationwide internet restrictions amid election day protests](#).

### 3.5.2 The ACT-Wazalendo Case (Luhaga Mpina)

The contraction of political competition in 2025 did not end with the prosecution of CHADEMA leadership. Legal and administrative measures were similarly deployed against ACT-Wazalendo's presidential hopeful, Luhaga Mpina, reinforcing the narrowing of the electoral field.

#### From CCM Dissident to Opposition Candidate

Luhaga Mpina, a former CCM Member of Parliament, joined ACT-Wazalendo in August 2025 after reportedly being excluded during CCM's internal nomination process.<sup>[45]</sup> His defection signaled an attempt to consolidate opposition participation in the presidential race and positioned ACT-Wazalendo as a potential alternative platform for reform-oriented voters.

Shortly thereafter, however, the Registrar of Political Parties nullified ACT-Wazalendo's nomination of Mpina as its presidential candidate on 26 August 2025.<sup>[46]</sup> The decision triggered immediate legal and political contestation. ACT-Wazalendo challenged the disqualification before the High Court, arguing procedural irregularities and constitutional violations.<sup>[47]</sup> Regional and national media framed the development as a significant escalation in the management of electoral competition.<sup>[48]</sup>

#### Judicial Reinstatement and Administrative Defiance

On 8 September 2025, the High Court scheduled a ruling on Mpina's candidacy ban, signaling judicial scrutiny of the Registrar's action.<sup>[49]</sup> On 11 September 2025, the Court reinstated Mpina as a presidential candidate, holding that the disqualification had been unconstitutional.<sup>[50]</sup> The ruling was widely interpreted as a rare judicial intervention in favour of opposition participation.

Yet the reinstatement did not settle the matter. Despite the High Court's decision, the Independent National Electoral Commission (INEC) proceeded to disqualify Mpina again, effectively neutralizing the practical effect of the court order.<sup>[51]</sup> This sequence; administrative disqualification, judicial reinstatement, followed by renewed administrative exclusion; illustrated a troubling dissonance between judicial authority and electoral administration.

#### A Competitive Field in Form, Not in Substance

The Mpina episode underscores a broader structural reality: even opposition actors who opted to participate

in the electoral process encountered procedural obstacles that rendered participation uncertain and precarious. ACT-Wazalendo entered the 2025 race with mobilizing slogans such as #OktobaLindaKura ("Protect the Votes in the October Election") and #MhuniHasusiwi (loosely translated as "One does not retreat from the fight"). These messages projected resolve and electoral vigilance.

However, the party's inability to secure and retain its own presidential candidate exposed the fragility of opposition participation under prevailing institutional conditions. The outcome was an election environment in which the appearance of pluralism persisted, but substantive competition was progressively diminished. Taken together with parallel developments affecting other opposition actors, the Mpina case reinforces the conclusion that the 2025 electoral framework was structurally skewed legally complex, administratively restrictive, and ultimately inhospitable to credible political contestation.<sup>[52]</sup>

### 3.5.3 The Digital-Physical Pincer Movement

The state's pre-election strategy was a 'hybrid pincer movement,' synchronizing digital censorship with physical violence to create an overwhelming "chilling effect."

#### The Digital Arm

Authorities blocked access to X (formerly Twitter) nationwide starting in May 2025. This was a strategic move, as X was the "vital tool for political discourse" and the primary platform for organizing the #NoReformsNoElection campaign. This was compounded by intermittent disruptions to other services like YouTube

#### The Physical Arm

Concurrently, a "wave of terror" was unleashed against activists and critics. This was not random violence, but a targeted campaign of abductions and enforced disappearances. TMC Digital Rights Incidents Report have documented numerous cases. In October 2025 alone, human rights groups documented 52 abductions, "mostly affecting CHADEMA members and supporters".<sup>[53]</sup>

<sup>[45]</sup> The Chanzo, 5 August 2025 "CCM Dissident Luhaga Mpina Joins ACT-Wazalendo After Exclusion in Party Primaries".

<sup>[46]</sup> The Chanzo, 26 August 2025, "Registrar of Political Parties Nullifies ACT Wazalendo's Presidential Nominee Luhaga Mpina".

<sup>[47]</sup> ACT-Wazalendo Challenges Mpina's Disqualification at the High Court, Daily News.

<sup>[48]</sup> The EastAfrican, "ACT-Wazalendo's Mpina Disqualified".

<sup>[49]</sup> Court to Rule on Luhaga Mpina's Presidential Candidacy Ban on September 11, The Chanzo, 8 September 2025.

<sup>[50]</sup> High Court Reinstates Opposition Presidential Candidate, Citing Unconstitutional Disqualification, The Chanzo, 11 September 2025.

<sup>[51]</sup> INEC Disqualifies Mpina Again Despite Court Order, The Chanzo, 2025.

<sup>[52]</sup> JURIST - News, Rights group warns of serious rights violations amid post-election crackdown in Tanzania.

<sup>[53]</sup> International Commission of Jurists, Tanzania: ICJ joins other CSOs to raise concerns about the escalating human rights crisis in Tanzania following the 29 October 2025 elections.

This hybrid pincer movement was devastatingly effective. The X block (the digital arm) crippled the mass organization of dissent. The abductions (the physical arm) neutralized individual acts of bravery. A citizen who might have used a VPN to bypass the X block would be terrified to post, knowing that the real-world consequence, as seen in the cases of Humphrey Polepole, was not just censorship but physical disappearance. The digital block managed the volume of dissent; the physical terror managed the will to dissent.

### 3.6 The 'Digital Blackout' and Information Vacuum

As Tanzanians went to the polls on October 29, 2025, the state's information control strategy shifted from suppression to total elimination. "As polling stations opened", authorities imposed a "deliberate and coordinated restriction" on all networks.<sup>[54]</sup>

This was not a slowdown or a platform-specific block; it was a "nationwide internet outage". Internet observatory NetBlocks confirmed a "significant drop in national connectivity", which was later described by the African Commission on Human and Peoples' Rights (ACHPR) as a "digital blackout". The shutdown was total and sustained, lasting 5 days and 6 hours, from 9:00 UTC on October 29 to 15:00 UTC on November 3, 2025.

This act was a flagrant violation of regional and international law. The ACHPR immediately issued a press release stating that the shutdown "undoubtedly constitute[s] a violation of Article 9 of the African Charter on Human and Peoples' Rights", which guarantees the right to receive and disseminate information.<sup>[55]</sup>

The strategic purpose of the "digital blackout" extended far beyond mere censorship. It was a tactical enabler of state violence. Protests against the sham election erupted on election day in Dar es Salaam, Mwanza, and other cities. Citizens, spurred by slogans like #OktobaLindaKura (Protect the Vote) and #OktobaTunatoka (We are Turning Out), took to the streets.<sup>[56]</sup>

The state's response was brutal and immediate. Security forces and the military were deployed, and reports emerged of "lethal force",<sup>[57]</sup> "tear gas and live ammunition" being used on crowds. The shutdown created an "information vacuum" that effectively concealed this violent crackdown. It prevented citizens from documenting the violence, journalists from transmitting reports, and observers from conducting "real-time vote monitoring".<sup>[58]</sup>

The blackout was, in effect, a digital cover for physical atrocities. While the internet was dark, hundreds, and possibly thousands, were killed. The opposition party CHADEMA claimed to have verified 1,000–2,000 deaths. The United Nations Human Rights Office later stated that its information "suggests hundreds of protesters and other people were killed". The shutdown ensured that the graphic, real-time video evidence of this massacre could not be attached to hashtags like #OktobaLindaKura and broadcast to the world.

### 3.7 The Post-Election Narrative War: Disinformation, Denials, and Threats

When the internet was restored on November 3, 2025, a flood of delayed, horrific images and videos began to emerge. The state, anticipating this data dump, immediately launched a three-pronged "narrative war" to suppress, discredit, and control the post-election information space.

#### 3.7.1 Prong 1: Coercive Suppression (The Police SMS)

Upon restoration of service, the Tanzania Police Force sent a mass text message "to all Tanzanians". This SMS constituted a direct, nationwide threat: "Avoid sharing pictures or videos that cause panic or degrade a person's dignity. Doing so is a criminal offense, and if identified, strict legal action will be taken". This was an act of "coercive content moderation" at a population scale. It explicitly weaponized the Cybercrimes Act to preemptively suppress the very citizen-generated evidence of violence that the internet blackout had temporarily contained. It was a direct threat to all citizens, warning them not to bear witness to the state's atrocities.

#### 3.7.2 Prong 2: Active Disinformation and Denials

Simultaneously, the state deployed an active "counter-narrative" campaign to muddy the waters and discredit emerging evidence. **Official Denials.** Government Spokesperson Gerson Msigwa went on the offensive, "denied the allegation"<sup>[59]</sup> of wrongdoing, and stated the opposition's death toll was "exaggerated". President Hassan herself blamed "foreigners" for the deadly protests.<sup>[60]</sup> The "AI Fake" Narrative. Most insidiously, the government and Police began to actively claim that the graphic images and videos of the violence were "AI created or fake".<sup>[61]</sup> This is a modern, potent form of state disinformation. By leveraging global anxieties about deepfakes,<sup>[62]</sup> the state sought to create a "liar's dividend" a scenario where it becomes easier to dismiss all genuine, citizen-generated evidence as "fake," thereby rendering accountability impossible.

<sup>[54]</sup> Business Human Rights, [Tanzania: Government imposes nationwide internet restrictions amid election day protests](#).

<sup>[55]</sup> AU, [ACHPR Press release on the Nationwide Internet Outage on Election Day](#).

<sup>[56]</sup> CNBC Africa, [Protests in Tanzania's main city during poll expected to return Hassan to power](#).

<sup>[57]</sup> Indian Express, [UN believes hundreds were killed in Tanzania election protests](#).

<sup>[58]</sup> Mashariki RPC, [Tanzania's 2025 Elections and the Future of Democracy in the EAC](#).

<sup>[59]</sup> Business & Human Rights Resource Centre, [Tanzania Communications Regulatory Authority suspends Jamiiforums licence over 'misleading, insulting content'](#)

<sup>[60]</sup> AP News, [Tanzania's president blames foreigners for deadly protests after disputed election](#).

<sup>[61]</sup> AP News, [Tanzanian opposition claims security forces are secretly dumping bodies after election violence](#).

<sup>[62]</sup> PBS, [Tech giants sign voluntary accord to combat election deepfakes generated with AI](#).

### 3.7.3 Prong 3: Passive Censorship (Closing Comments)

Faced with an unmanageable deluge of "negative comments" and public frustration on their official channels, state institutions deployed "passive censorship." Official social media accounts for the Tanzania Police ("Polisi"), the State House ("Ikulu"), and even President Samia Suluhu Hassan ("@SuluhuSamia") were observed closing or limiting their comment sections.

This tactic represents a "performance of transparency." It allows the state to continue its "broadcast" (posting official announcements) while completely "preventing accountability" (blocking citizen feedback). This effectively hides public anger from the official state record, allowing the government to manage the appearance of dissent while ignoring its substance.

### 3.7.4 The Cover-Up Parallel

This post-election narrative war revealed a chilling parallel between the state's digital and physical actions. The entire strategy was one of "evidence concealment," waged on two fronts.

#### The Digital Cover-Up

The Police SMS and the "AI fake" claims were an attempt to remove digital evidence (videos, photos) from the public sphere and discredit what remained.

Mon, Nov 3 at 16:46

Epuka kusambaza picha au video zenye kuleta taharuki au kutweza utu wa mtu. Kufanya hiyo ni kosa la Jinai na ukibainika hatua Kali za kisheria zitachukuliwa.

#### Translation:

Avoid distributing images or videos that cause panic or degrade a person's dignity. Doing so is a criminal offense, and if you are identified, strict legal action will be taken against you.

#### The Physical Cover-Up

This ran in precise parallel to the physical cover-up. UN Human Rights Chief Volker Türk issued a harrowing statement, citing "disturbing reports that security forces

have been seen removing bodies from streets and hospitals and taking them to undisclosed locations in an apparent attempt to conceal evidence".<sup>[63]</sup> The same was reported in [the CNN Report](#).

The state's strategy was brutally simple and consistent: they physically removed the bodies from the streets to hide the crime, while digitally threatening citizens to remove the videos of those same bodies.

### 3.8 Securing Authoritarianism: Post-Election Legal Reprisals

The final phase of the state's strategy was the "legal" consolidation of its power. Having "won" the election with an announced 97.95% of the vote, the state used the full force of the law to permanently criminalize the dissent that had challenged it.

This post-election phase was characterized by selective prosecution, retrospective investigations, and the strategic deployment of broadly framed statutory offences; particularly those related to cybercrime, sedition, publication of false information, and threats to public order.

Legal instruments were not applied as neutral mechanisms of accountability but as tools of deterrence and exemplary punishment. Activists, opposition figures, journalists, and ordinary digital users were subjected to arrests, prolonged investigations, and burdensome bail conditions designed to exhaust financial and psychological resources.

### 3.8.1 Mass 'Lawfare' Against Protestors

The state's response to the protests was not just violence, but systematic legal reprisal. Mass arrests were conducted, with "hundreds arrested across multiple regions".

This culminated in a wave of "Post Election Treason" trials. Court filings revealed that "76 suspects" were accused of attempting to "obstruct the vote" and "criminal conspiracy".<sup>[64]</sup> These arrests included over 400 youths who had engaged in the demonstrations.<sup>[65]</sup>

These mass treason trials are the final act of "[lawfare](#)". They legally transform "protestors" into "traitors." They convert political dissent, including the use of hashtags like #NoReformsNoElection (#NRNE) and #OktobaLindaKura, into "criminal conspiracy", punishable by life imprisonment or death.

<sup>[63]</sup> OHCHR, [Tanzania: Election-related killings and other violations must be investigated](#).

<sup>[64]</sup> Tanzania charges dozens with treason after disputed election - [YouTube](#).

<sup>[65]</sup> PBS, [Tanzanian President Hassan forms inquiry commission to probe election protests killings](#).

### 3.8.2 The State's "Reconciliation" Narrative

Faced with widespread international condemnation—from the Southern African Development Community (SADC), the African Union (AU), the UN, and a damning [statement from the Tanzanian Catholic Church](#) President Hassan's administration initiated a "reconciliation" narrative.

In a parliamentary address, the president announced the formation of an "inquiry commission" to probe the killings. She stated that "as a mother," she had "forgiven" and ordered the release of some youths who had joined the protests out of "peer pressure".<sup>[66]</sup> This narrative serves as a classic "authoritarian relief valve." The "inquiry" is a public relations gesture designed to absorb domestic and international pressure, not a genuine mechanism for accountability.<sup>[67]</sup> The "forgiveness" narrative is a calculated political maneuver: it re-frames the state as a benevolent "mother" and the protestors as wayward "children," effectively "de-politicizing" their demands for democratic rights.

The disingenuousness of this narrative is proven by the facts: while this "forgiveness" was being offered, the primary opposition leader, Tundu Lissu, remained in prison on treason charges, and the mass treason trials against hundreds of other protestors continued.

### 3.9 Black and White?

The 2025 General Election was not a failed democratic process; it was the successful performance of an authoritarian consolidation. The state demonstrated a sophisticated, "clustered" strategy to achieve total information control. It used "lawfare" to pre-empt the election by eliminating all opposition.

It deployed a "digital blackout" to provide a cover for state-sponsored mass violence. Finally, it waged a "narrative war" and used "legal reprisals" to conceal the atrocities and permanently cement its victory. The war against information integrity, and against citizen demands for reform, was won by the state at the cost of hundreds, possibly thousands, of lives<sup>17</sup> and the very foundations of Tanzania's democratic space.

By neutralizing digital channels that traditionally enable transparency, collective action, and accountability, the state effectively fragmented public visibility and weakened both domestic and international scrutiny. The digital ecosystem, once a critical arena for civic participation and democratic engagement, was transformed into a controlled and high-risk environment, reinforcing a climate of fear, self-censorship, and enforced silence that extended well beyond the immediate electoral period.

## PART 4: ECONOMIC, SOCIAL & INFORMATION RISKS

The state's strategy of "total control" came at a devastating price. The decision to sever Tanzania's digital connection to the world precipitated a multi-dimensional crisis that extended far beyond the political sphere. The collateral damage of the 2025 election strategy was the destabilization of the national economy, the traumatization of the social fabric, and the long-term degradation of the information ecosystem.

### 4.1 Economic Risks: The Price of Silence

In 2025, the Tanzanian government engaged in an act of massive economic self-sabotage. For a nation striving to achieve middle-income status and position itself as a regional tech hub ("Silicon Zanzibar"), the internet shutdowns and platform restrictions were catastrophic. By disrupting financial flows, eroding investor confidence, and signaling that digital infrastructure remained subordinate to political imperatives, the state undermined the structural conditions necessary for sustained technological growth, capital formation, and long-term digital competitiveness.

#### 4.1.1 The \$238 Million Loss

According to rigorous analysis using the NetBlocks Cost of Shutdown Tool (COST) and data from Paradigm Initiative (PIN), the total economic impact of the internet disruptions in 2025 exceeded \$238 million USD (approx. TZS 560 billion). This figure is not an abstraction; it represents a massive hemorrhage of value from an economy already facing inflationary pressures. These losses translated directly into reduced business revenues, suppressed household incomes, disrupted remittance flows, and diminished government tax receipts, amplifying both private and public sector financial strain.

<sup>[66]</sup> Ibid.

<sup>[67]</sup> Ibid.

**Table: Estimated Economic Loss Due to Internet Disruptions (2025)**

Disruption Event	Duration	Daily Loss Rate	Total Estimated Loss (USD)
Election Internet Blackout	Oct 29 – Nov 3 (5 days, 6 hours)	~\$13.8 Million / Day	\$72.3 Million
Suspension of X (Twitter)	May 21 – Dec 2025 (Ongoing)	~\$1 Million / Day	\$224,752,038
Total Estimated Loss	2025 Election Cycle		\$250,973,109

Figure 4: Source - NetBlocks Cost of Shutdown Tool / Paradigm Initiative.

## 4.1.2 Sectoral Impact Analysis

The aggregate figure masks the granular devastation inflicted on specific sectors of the economy:

### *Fintech & The Informal Economy*

Tanzania's economy is powered by mobile money. Services like M-Pesa, Mix by Yas, and Airtel Money are the lifeblood of the informal sector, used for everything from buying vegetables to paying school fees. The 5-day blackout caused a liquidity crisis. Vendors could not accept payments; boda-boda drivers could not receive fares; and rural families could not receive urban transfers. The shutdown effectively demonetized the most vulnerable segments of the population for nearly a week.<sup>[68]</sup>

### *Remittances and the Diaspora*

The digital blockade severed the financial lifeline between the Tanzanian diaspora and their families. Remittance platforms like Nala, which rely on internet connectivity to process cross-border transfers, were forced to shut down operations during the blackout.<sup>[69]</sup> This occurred precisely when families needed funds the most during a period of national instability and potential emergency.

### *Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) & Reputation*

The "risk premium" for investing in Tanzania has skyrocketed. The government's willingness to sacrifice the digital economy for political control signaled to international investors that Tanzania is a high-risk jurisdiction.

The arbitrary nature of the shutdowns violates the predictability required for long-term capital deployment. As noted in the 2024 baseline, such disruptions "damage investor confidence"<sup>[70]</sup> but the sustained 2025 blackout has likely entrenched this negative perception for years to come.

## 4.2 Social Risks: The Trauma of Disconnection

The social impact of the 2025 repression was profound, creating a "psychological siege" on the population that will have lasting mental health consequences.

### 4.2.1 The "Digital Trauma" of the Blackout

The internet shutdown during the election violence created a unique and harrowing form of collective trauma. In modern society, the phone is a safety tether. When violence erupted when shots were fired and tear gas filled the streets, citizens reached for their phones to check on loved ones, only to find dead signals.

This enforced isolation amplified panic. Parents could not reach children in schools; families could not coordinate safety. The "digital blackout" was not just an inconvenience; it was a psychological weapon designed to induce a sense of helplessness and terror. It stripped citizens of their agency and their ability to witness, leaving them alone in the dark with the state's violence<sup>[71]</sup>

<sup>[68]</sup> Context by TRF, [How an internet blackout affected Tanzania's election](#).

<sup>[69]</sup> Ibid.

<sup>[70]</sup> TanzanialInvest, [Tanzania's 2024 Internet Governance Report Reveals \\$1.4M Loss, Damage to Investors' Confidence and to Growth of Digital Economy](#).

<sup>[71]</sup> Mishcon de Reya, [Tanzania's internet blackout and the risks of controlling the narrative](#)

## 4.2.2 The Chilling Effect and Self-Censorship

The abductions of civic-tech actors (i.e. Mdude, Polepole) and the targeted economic reprisals against cultural figures (like cartoonist Masoud Kipanya) created a pervasive climate of fear. This resulted in a "spiral of silence" where the cost of expression became too high for the average citizen.

The Police SMS threat ("if identified, strict legal action will be taken") formalized this fear. It turned every smartphone into a potential liability. Citizens began scrubbing their devices, leaving WhatsApp groups, and avoiding online discourse entirely. The social fabric of the digital public sphere was shredded, replaced by a cautious, fearful silence.

## 4.3 Information Risks: The "Splinternet" and the Crisis of Truth

Perhaps the most enduring damage of 2025 is to the integrity of the Tanzanian information space itself. The state has engineered a crisis of truth that will be difficult to reverse. By normalizing censorship, coercive information controls, and the selective suppression of dissenting narratives, it has eroded public trust in digital platforms, media institutions, and the credibility of official information itself.

### 4.3.1 The "Liar's Dividend": Weaponizing AI Narratives

The state's strategy to dismiss genuine, citizen-generated evidence of atrocities as "AI-generated fakes" is a dangerous evolution in propaganda. By exploiting the public's lack of AI literacy and global anxieties about deepfakes, the government has created a "liar's dividend."

If any video of police brutality can be dismissed by a government spokesperson as a "deepfake," then no evidence is ever sufficient. This strategy inoculates the regime against accountability and erodes the foundational trust required for a society to function. It creates a cynical, post-truth environment where citizens cease to believe in the possibility of objective fact.<sup>[72]</sup>

### 4.3.2 The Balkanization of the Tanzanian Web

The prolonged block of X (Twitter) and the suspension of JamiiForums effectively decoupled the Tanzanian conversation from the global sphere.

- Loss of the "Town Square". JamiiForums has historically functioned as the "digital parliament" of Tanzania, a space for anonymous, critical oversight. Its removal forced political discourse into fragmented, unmonitored, and easily manipulated silos.
- VPN Dependency and Security Risks. The blocking forced millions of Tanzanians to rely on Virtual Private Networks (VPNs) to access basic information<sup>[73]</sup>. While this allowed some access, it also exposed citizens to security risks (via malicious free VPNs) and slower connection speeds. It effectively imposed a "tax" on access to information, only those with the technical literacy and financial means to use VPNs could participate in the national conversation.

### 4.3.3 The Destruction of Institutional Memory

The combination of the "Right to be Forgotten" mandates in data laws and the active deletion of content by fearful users means that the history of the 2025 election is being erased in real-time. The digital evidence of the protests, the violence, and the dissent is vanishing, creating a "memory hole" that allows the state to rewrite the narrative of the election without contradiction.

## 4.4 Risk Analysis

The risks taken by the Tanzanian state in 2025 were calculated but reckless. By trading economic stability (\$238m loss) and social cohesion for short-term political control, the government hollowed out the institutions necessary for its own "Digital Tanzania" vision. The country effectively exited 2025 with a "hollow internet" technically functional, but legally broken, socially traumatized, and economically devalued. The "Silicon Zanzibar" dream has been deferred, replaced by the reality of a Digital Iron Curtain.

By demonstrating a willingness to suspend or weaponize digital access, the state introduced a permanent uncertainty into the operating environment. This uncertainty alters behavior at every level: citizens self-censor, businesses limit digital dependence, innovators relocate or withhold investment, and international partners reassess risk exposure. In this way, the damage is not episodic but cumulative, eroding the foundational trust upon which a competitive and resilient digital economy must be built.

<sup>[72]</sup> Reuters Institute for the Study of Journalism, [How AI-generated disinformation might impact this year's elections and how journalists should report on it](#).

<sup>[73]</sup> Top10VPN, [VPN Demand Surges Around the World](#)

## PART 5: INCIDENTS ANALYSIS — THE ANATOMY OF A CRACKDOWN

### 5.1 Introduction: Understanding the Distribution of Incidents

The analysis of Internet Governance incidents recorded in 2025 demonstrates a pronounced imbalance in Tanzania's digital rights environment. Out of 173 documented incidents, 93 (53.8%) were classified as Regressive, 47 (27.2%) as Progressive, and 33 (19.1%) as Neutral. These findings indicate that over half of all recorded developments during the year negatively impacted digital freedoms, civic participation, or institutional safeguards. While reform-oriented and rights-strengthening actions were observed, they were substantially outnumbered by restrictive measures, resulting in a net contraction of the digital rights landscape.

#### Distribution of 2025 Digital Rights Incidents

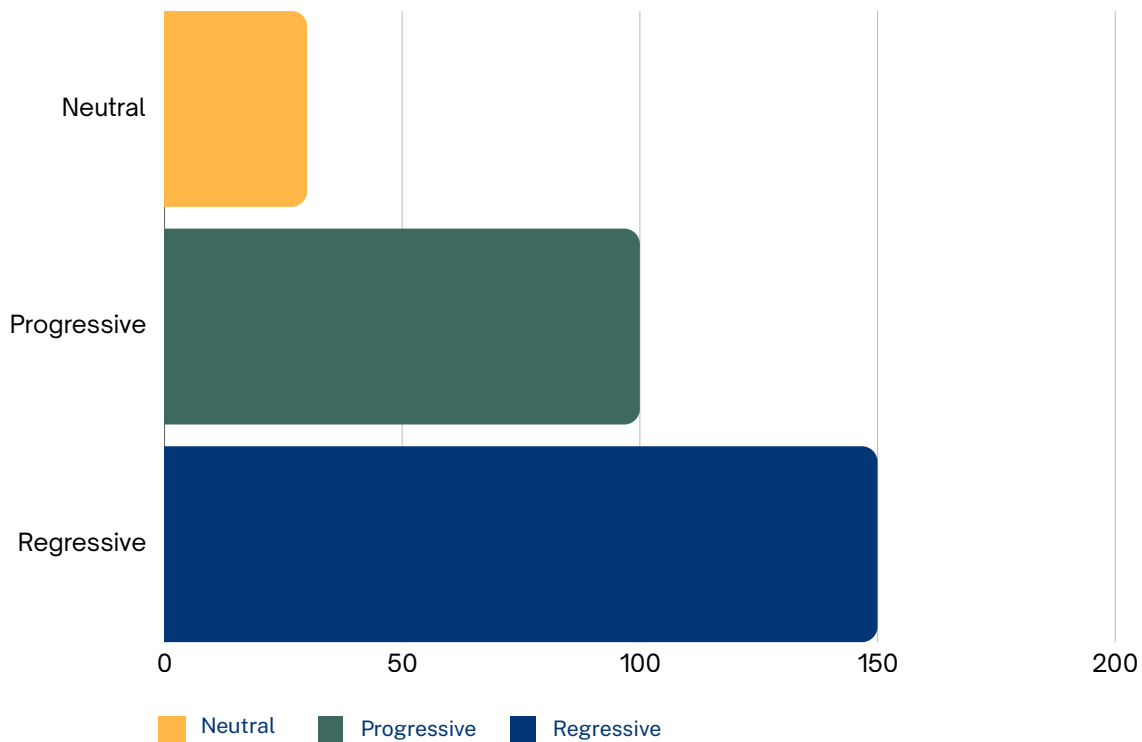


Figure 5: Summary of the analysis of the 2025 Digital Rights Incidents

This distribution does not suggest the absence of reform or positive initiatives. Rather, it demonstrates that progressive developments while present were outweighed by restrictive actions. The predominance of regressive incidents points to sustained pressure on civic space and information flows, particularly within politically sensitive periods such as the 2025 General Elections.

Beyond the numerical categorisation, the report logged unique incidents, offering detailed qualitative context. These ranged from digital literacy initiatives and regulatory pronouncements to arrests, prosecutions, and public condemnations of rights violations. The nature of these incidents shows that 2025 was not defined by a single policy shift, but by a complex interaction between enforcement actions, regulatory developments, and political contestation within the digital sphere.

Several incidents reflected a deterioration of civic and political space. The arrest of opposition leader Tundu Lissu, the application of charges under the Cybercrimes Act, and the detention of a citizen for criticising the arrest of a political figure through a YouTube video illustrate how digital expression became closely scrutinised and, in certain instances, criminalised. These developments were accompanied by statements from Civil Society Organisations condemning widespread human rights violations reported before, during, and after the elections.

At the same time, the record includes governance-related initiatives such as the President’s cautionary directive regarding the use of Artificial Intelligence during the election period and the launch of the “NI RAHISI” campaign aimed at strengthening digital literacy and public awareness of cybercrime risks. While these actions fall within governance reform narratives, their coexistence with enforcement-heavy measures reflects the complexity of Tanzania’s 2025 digital landscape. Taken together, the data portrays a year characterised by tension between regulatory ambition and rights protection. The following sections of this chapter examine key incidents in detail, analysing how legal instruments, enforcement bodies, civic actors, and digital platforms interacted to shape the trajectory of Internet governance in Tanzania during 2025.

## 5.2 Case Studies of Critical Incidents

### 5.2.1 Progressive Case Studies

#### *Case Study 1: The Tanzania National Artificial Intelligence Strategy Framework- Draft*

2025 was meant to be the year Tanzania embraced the Fourth Industrial Revolution.<sup>[74]</sup> The National AI Strategy Framework (Draft), circulated earlier in the year, outlined an ambitious vision for utilizing Artificial Intelligence to drive agriculture, health, and administrative efficiency. The strategy emphasized "ethical AI," "data sovereignty," and building a "trustworthy AI ecosystem." It positioned Tanzania as a forward-looking nation ready to integrate global standards of AI governance.<sup>[75]</sup>

To translate this vision into lived reality, the Government should now move decisively from aspiration to implementation. Operationalising the National AI Strategy requires clear institutional ownership, an implementation roadmap, and dedicated budgetary allocations across key sectors. This includes establishing a functional national AI coordination mechanism, integrating the strategy into existing digital government and industrialisation frameworks, and prioritising capacity-building for public servants, regulators, and local innovators. If executed properly, the strategy can strengthen service delivery, improve agricultural productivity, and enhance public sector efficiency while safeguarding national interests and citizens’ rights.

Equally important, the Government should anchor implementation in public trust, transparency, and accountability. Ethical AI principles must be translated into enforceable standards, impact assessments, and oversight mechanisms that protect fundamental rights, including privacy, freedom of expression, and non-discrimination. By engaging academia, civil society, the private sector, and regional partners, Tanzania can

cultivate an inclusive AI ecosystem that supports innovation while mitigating risks. Done well, operationalising the National AI Strategy would reaffirm Tanzania’s commitment to responsible technological progress and position the country as a credible African leader in AI governance.

#### *Case Study 2: The African IGF in Dar es Salaam – The Diplomatic Facade*

In a display of supreme irony, Tanzania hosted the 15th African Internet Governance Forum (AfIGF) in Dar es Salaam in 2025. The event was marketed as a showcase of Tanzania’s "digital maturity" and its leadership in regional connectivity. Delegates from across the continent gathered to discuss critical issues like "digital inclusion" and "universal access."

#### *The Reality Behind the Curtain*

While the government touted its fiber optic infrastructure to international delegates, it was simultaneously enforcing the block on X and preparing the regulatory framework for the election blackout. The hosting of the African IGF was a key component of the state’s "image management" strategy. It was designed to provide international cover—a certificate of "good digital standing"—that could be used to deflect criticism from Western donors and human rights bodies.<sup>[76]</sup>

Local digital rights activists reported being marginalized during the event. Critical voices were denied accreditation or sidelined in favor of "GONGOs" (Government-Organized Non-Governmental Organizations) that praised the state’s digital policies and most of the sessions were cancelled or removed to filter the discussions. The event serves as a classic example of "digital washing" using international forums to mask domestic repression. It highlights the "Diplomatic Paradox" where authoritarian regimes eagerly host global tech forums to whitewash their human rights records.<sup>[77]</sup>

<sup>[74]</sup> Tanzania introduces first Draft of National AI Strategy.

<sup>[75]</sup> For Context See: Draft Tanzania AI Strategy. The document outlines the draft strategy for the responsible use of Artificial Intelligence (AI) in Tanzania, emphasizing its potential to drive socio-economic development and modernization

<sup>[76]</sup> TMC, IGTWG Statement on Cyber-Attacks and Unlawful Blocking of Access to X Platform in Tanzania.

<sup>[77]</sup> See TMC & PIN, Paradigm Initiative and Tech & Media Convergency (TMC) Raise Concerns Over Digital Rights Ahead of Tanzania’s October 2025 General Elections.

### Case Study 3: Tanzania National Development Vision 2050 – The Digital Dream

#### The Vision

The Tanzania National Development Vision 2050 places "Digital Transformation" at its core. It envisions a knowledge-based economy where digital services contribute significantly to GDP, and Tanzania serves as the "ICT Hub of East Africa". The document speaks of a "Silicon Zanzibar" and a digitally literate workforce driving middle-income growth.<sup>[78]</sup>



Figure 6: President Samia Suluhu launching the Tanzania Development Vision 2050 in Dodoma on 20th July 2025

#### The Economic Sabotage

The events of 2025 have rendered the digital pillar of Vision 2050 effectively void. The estimated \$238 million loss due to shutdowns in 2025 is just the immediate operational cost. The long-term cost is the "risk premium" now attached to Tanzania. No major tech multinational will situate its regional headquarters in a jurisdiction where the internet can be switched off by executive fiat for five days.<sup>[79]</sup>

The crackdown on platforms like Nala (remittances) and the unpredictability of connectivity have imposed an "authoritarian tax" on every digital business. Entrepreneurs must now price in the risk of shutdowns, making Tanzanian startups less competitive than their Kenyan or Rwandan counterparts. The political imperative of regime survival has cannibalized the economic imperative of Vision 2050. The government has effectively chosen to be "Kings of the Ashes" rather than leaders of a digital economy.

#### Case Study 4. Infrastructure Expansion and Sector Transparency (TCRA 2025)

In 2025, TCRA strengthened sector transparency through consistent quarterly communications statistics alongside measurable infrastructure expansion<sup>80</sup>.

By December 2025, telecom towers had increased from 9,745 to 10,029, supporting a rise in mobile subscriptions to 106.9 million (a 7.7% increase). Internet subscriptions reached 58.1 million (up 3.2%), while internet usage grew significantly to 808 petabytes, reflecting a 9.5% increase in data consumption. Mobile penetration stood at 87.11%, 5G population coverage expanded to 30.1%, and smartphone penetration reached 41.82%.

These figures demonstrate that infrastructure growth translated into higher connectivity uptake and greater reliance on data-driven services, with broadband accounting for 56% of internet subscriptions. The routine publication of quarterly statistics strengthened regulatory accountability and provided an important evidence base for policymakers, investors, and civil society particularly significant during an election year when digital access carries governance implications.

However, structural gaps remain. Smartphone penetration below 42% highlights persistent affordability and device-access constraints, while largely aggregated reporting limits visibility into rural access disparities and demographic usage patterns. Infrastructure expansion is evident, but inclusive digital participation will depend on closing affordability gaps and deepening data transparency.

#### Case Study 5. The First TEHAMA Awards (National ICT Awards), 21 February 2025

On 21 February 2025 Tanzania staged its inaugural National ICT Awards (TEHAMA Awards) in Arusha, officiated by the Minister for Information, Communication and Information Technology. Organised by the Ministry in partnership with the ICT Commission, Soft Ventures, and TISPA, the awards recognised innovation across e-services, start-ups, public sector digitalisation and citizen-facing solutions. Public recognition mechanisms such as TEHAMA create incentive structures that reward local innovators, attract private investment attention, and generate national pride in digital entrepreneurship.

The Awards had immediate signalling value: they positioned Tanzania as an ecosystem that celebrates domestic digital success and helps bridge the reputational gap between policy ambition (Vision 2050, Digital Economy Framework) and demonstrable local innovation. For SMEs and young tech founders, the TEHAMA spotlight can catalyse customer acquisition, investor interest, and partnership opportunities.

<sup>[78]</sup> The Tanzania National Development Vision 2050.

<sup>[79]</sup> TMC 2025. ADVOCACY BRIEF: THE DIGITAL BLACKOUT: State Control, Violence, and the Silencing of Tanzania's 2025 General Election.

<sup>[80]</sup> TCRA Quarterly Reports. (March | June | September | December 2025).

Yet the ceremony's strategic benefits will depend on follow-through. Awards risk becoming symbolic if not linked to tangible incubation, market access, procurement pipelines, or regulatory simplifications for innovators.

### **Case Study 6. Tanzania Wins Three International ICT Awards (WSIS+20, Geneva, July 2025)**

Tanzania's technology ecosystem received international recognition at the WSIS+20 forum in Geneva (July 2025), where three national initiatives were honoured: the PharmAccess Zanzibar e-Health project (e-Health Award), the e-Mrejesho citizen feedback platform (e-Government Award), and the STEM 4 All project from St. Joseph University (e-Science Award).<sup>[81]</sup> These accolades validate applied innovation across public health, citizen engagement, and STEM education – areas critical to long-term inclusive development.

International awards deliver more than prestige; they function as external validation signals for donors, regional partnerships, and multinational collaborations. The wins reflected tangible outcomes: Zanzibar's PharmAccess showed digital pathways for health access; e-Mrejesho evidenced improvements in citizen-government feedback loops; STEM 4 All demonstrated scalable education models. Collectively, these projects strengthen Tanzania's comparative credentials in digital public goods and build case studies that can guide national scaling. Nevertheless, awards capture only part of the picture. Scaling these pilots requires sustainable financing, interoperable standards, and institutional buy-in beyond the project teams.

### **Case Study 7. TCRA “Futa Delete Kabisa” Misinformation Campaign**

In 2025 the Tanzania Communications Regulatory Authority launched “Futa Delete Kabisa” (Delete it Completely), a national counter-misinformation campaign aiming to raise public awareness about false content, urge verification before sharing, and promote digital literacy.<sup>[82]</sup> The campaign combined broadcast messaging, social media content, and partnerships with civil society to reduce the velocity of viral falsehoods an important public-interest effort given the surge of politically sensitive disinformation in the election cycle. Public awareness campaigns are a low-cost, scalable tool to shift social norms around sharing behaviours. TCRA's campaign explicitly recognised that technical or regulatory responses alone cannot eliminate falsehoods; behavioural interventions matter. Early monitoring suggests the campaign reached broad audiences and provided a common public narrative that news consumers could use to evaluate suspicious content.

<sup>[81]</sup> Ministry of Communication “Tanzania Wins Three International ICT Awards Recognition.”

<sup>[82]</sup> See: TCRA has launched a national awareness campaign titled “Futa Delete Kabisa” (Delete it Completely). TCRA <https://www.tcra.go.tz/tcra-news/kampani-ya-futa-delete-kabisa-yazinduliwa-kutokomeza-upotoshaji-mtandaoni>; [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=FVv\\_ZQcreoE](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=FVv_ZQcreoE); <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=QpBfGLapXYE>.

<sup>[83]</sup> AFP, Tanzania charges hundreds of people with treason after disputed election.

<sup>[84]</sup> Ministry of Communication “Tanzania Wins Three International ICT Awards Recognition.”

<sup>[85]</sup> CIVICUS, Tanzania's Post-Election Crackdown: Widespread Violence, Arrests, and Suppression of Civic Freedoms.

## **5.2.2 Regressive Incidents**

### **Case Study 8. The Trial of Tundu Lissu – The Weaponization of Lawfare**

The arrest and subsequent trial of Tundu Lissu, the Vice Chairman of CHADEMA and the opposition's primary presidential candidate, represents the apex of “lawfare” in 2025. While Lissu has faced legal harassment for years, the 2025 charges marked a critical escalation in how the state utilizes digital evidence to construct capital offenses. For more details on this case see Chapter 3.

### **Case Study 9. Post-Election Violence and the ‘More than 400 Treason Charges**

Following the fraudulent election of October 29, massive protests erupted across major urban centers, driven by the hashtags #OktobaTunatoka (October We Go Out) and #OktobaLindaKura (October Protect the Vote). The state's response was a campaign of mass arrests unprecedented in scale. Reports indicate that over 400 youths were arrested and subsequently charged in mass trials.<sup>[83]</sup>

These 400+ protestors; many of them university students and first-time voters were not charged with “unlawful assembly” or “disturbing the peace.” Instead, they faced charges of treason and economic sabotage. This legal framing was deliberate. By invoking the Economic and Organized Crime Control Act, the state categorized the protests not as civil disobedience but as an attack on the nation's economic sovereignty.

Opposition figures and legal practitioners reported that these treason charges were broad and applied to many young protestors and activists following the unrest. The arrests of key CHADEMA figures such as its deputy secretary-general Amani Golugwa alongside scores of others reflect a systematic escalation of legal action against dissent after the disputed election.<sup>[84]</sup>

These patterns charging protestors with treason rather than lesser public order offenses indicate how state mechanisms were used to criminalize widespread civic protest and suppress dissent, with digital evidence such as hashtags, social media posts, and communication logs reportedly leveraged to implicate large numbers of individuals.<sup>[85]</sup>

This strategy illustrates the state's move from individual targeting to collective criminalization, designed to break the generational spirit of Gen Z.

### Case Study 10. Civic Engagement – Gen Z, TikTok, and the 'Wakislamu' Factor

With X (Twitter) blocked since May 2025 and Jamiiforums suspended in September<sup>1</sup>, the center of gravity for civic engagement shifted to platforms that the state had historically underestimated: TikTok and Instagram.



Figure 7: Image showing a Christian and Muslim praying together in the wave of 'Wakislamu' online consciousness PHOTO Credit by Gabriel and BBC Swahili.

The 2025 election saw the emergence of a distinct "Gen Z" political consciousness in Tanzania. Unlike the older generation of activists who relied on long-form text analysis on Jamiiforums or threads on X, this demographic utilized short-form video, memes, and visual storytelling. When the internet blackout hit, reports suggest that youth networks utilized Bluetooth-based mesh messaging apps (like Bridgefy) and sneakernets (sharing files via USB) to circulate information locally. This adaptability rendered the state's traditional URL-blocking techniques less effective, forcing the eventual total shutdown.

#### The 'Wakislamu' Factor: Intersectionality in Digital Dissent

In the tense aftermath of Tanzania's 2025 election, online debates over religion began to intensify, fueled by statements from some religious leaders linking faith to political protests. Rather than allowing these discussions to deepen divisions, Tanzanian Gen Z responded with creativity and humor, turning potential conflict into a platform for unity.

Through social media campaigns across X (formerly Twitter), Instagram, Facebook, and Threads, young people blended religious greetings—such as the Islamic "Asalaam Aleykum" and Christian "Shalom"—into playful combinations like "Shalom-Aleykum" and "Jumapili Mubarak". These posts, accompanied by videos, illustrations, and witty captions, conveyed a clear message: faith differences should not divide Tanzanians.<sup>[86]</sup>

The displayed become popular as "Wakislamu" is a social media-driven concept among Tanzanian Gen Z that creatively merges elements of the country's two main religions; Christianity and Islam to signal unity and shared identity. It is not a formal religious group, but rather a symbolic engagement where young people combine greetings, symbols, and cultural expressions from both faiths in posts, videos, and memes. Through this practice, Gen Z aims to transcend sectarian divisions, promoting social cohesion, digital solidarity, and a sense of collective citizenship in times of political tension.

By leveraging humor, creativity, and digital culture, Gen Z successfully reframed a charged discourse into a unifying narrative. Their approach demonstrates how intersectional digital activism can counter attempts to exploit religious identity, emphasizing shared citizenship and collective peace over sectarian tension.

### Case Study 11: Surveillance and Closure of Activists' Accounts

#### Targeted Digital Decapitation

Beyond general shutdowns, 2025 saw the highly specific targeting of "influencer" accounts. The state recognized that figures like Mange Kimambi, Maria Sarungi, and the collective behind the SATIVA account served as "information nodes." They were not just commentators; they were aggregators of dissent who could bypass traditional media censorship.

#### The Mechanism of "Request-Based" Closure

Utilizing the amended EPOCA Regulations, the TCRA issued direct orders to platforms (Instagram, Twitter/X) to close these accounts on "national security" grounds.

#### Mange Kimambi: Money Laundering Charges and Extradition Pressure

Known for her "app" and massive Instagram following, Kimambi has been a thorn in the government's side for years. In 2025, the state moved beyond geoblocking her content to actively request that META to disable the accounts.

In Criminal Case No. 000021172 of 2025, the alleged offence falls under Sections 12(1)(d) and 13(a) of the Anti-Money Laundering Act, Cap 423 of 2019, read together with the Economic and Organised Crime Control Act.

<sup>[86]</sup> BBC, [Gen Z Tanzania wanavyozima udini kwa utani na ubunifu.](#)

Additionally Mange Kimambi, a prominent Tanzanian activist and social media figure based in the United States, faces criminal charges in Tanzania brought by the state in 2025.<sup>[87]</sup> The prosecution filed Criminal Case No. 000021172 of 2025 at the Kisutu Resident Magistrate's Court in Dar es Salaam, charging her with money laundering involving approximately Tsh 138.5 million (about USD 56,000), alleging the funds were proceeds of crime from unaccredited journalism and intimidation.<sup>[88]</sup> Kimambi confirmed the charges in a video shared on social media. The court proceedings have been adjourned repeatedly, with the next scheduled mention in January 2026 as investigations remain incomplete.<sup>[89]</sup>

Tanzanian authorities, including the Attorney General, have publicly stated they are examining possible extradition arrangements with the United States so that Kimambi can face prosecution in Tanzania, citing cooperation frameworks and the Extradition Act.<sup>[90]</sup> This has been publicly linked to her alleged role in mobilising protests and exposure of government abuses, though formal extradition requests are contingent on inter-governmental processes and have not been concluded.

### ***Maria Sarungi-Tsehaj: Targeted, Harassed, and Restricted Online***

Maria Sarungi-Tsehaj is one of Tanzania's most prominent human rights defenders and independent media figures, known for her outspoken critique of governance practices, documentation of abuses, and advocacy for democratic freedoms. Her activism has made her a consistent target of repression and digital suppression over the course of 2025.

In January 2025, while in Nairobi, Sarungi was abducted by armed men who forced her into a vehicle, confiscated her phone, and held her for several hours before releasing her on the outskirts of the Kenyan capital.<sup>[91]</sup> She later described the ordeal, recounting that her abductors warned her against speaking about the incident and that they had targeted her mobile communications, an act she attributed to her criticism of the Tanzanian government and her human rights work.

Later in the year, as nationwide discontent intensified following Tanzania's disputed October 2025 general election and associated protests, the digital repression of dissent expanded. In December 2025, Meta (the parent company of Instagram) publicly confirmed that it had restricted access to Sarungi's Instagram account within Tanzania following a legal order from Tanzanian regulatory authorities, effectively limiting her ability to

reach her audience inside the country.<sup>[92]</sup> This compliance with a state directive was one of the rare occasions Meta acknowledged government-ordered restrictions on an activist's account and was widely condemned as a form of censorship that suppresses critical voices ahead of December 9 planned protests and ongoing political unrest.

Sarungi herself condemned the restriction as tantamount to enabling state repression, arguing that shielding reports of alleged abuses and curtailing the free flow of critical information served to protect the government from scrutiny. She demanded greater transparency from Meta, including an open hearing explaining why these actions were taken against her account.

International advocacy and public pressure later contributed to Meta restoring Sarungi's account access in mid-December 2025, but the episode illustrates how digital platforms can be leveraged, under legal orders and regulatory pressure, to curtail activist voices.<sup>[93]</sup>

Taken together, Maria Sarungi's experiences in 2025; from abduction and intimidation to targeted online restrictions; provide concrete evidence of the mechanisms by which state actors and affiliated entities can attempt to silence civil society and digital dissent. These incidents underscore the broader climate of digital suppression and political repression confronting activists in Tanzania's contested political landscape.

### ***Case Study 12: Civic Tech Disappearances – The Physical Cost of Digital Speech***

#### ***From Online to Missing***

The most harrowing aspect of the 2025 crackdown was the translation of digital tracking into physical disappearance. The 2024 report warned of "Civic-Tech Disappearances"; 2025 confirmed them as a systematic policy.

#### ***Abduction and Disappearance of Former Ambassador Humphrey Polepole***

On 6 October 2025, Humphrey Polepole a former Tanzanian ambassador and outspoken critic of the government was reportedly abducted from his residence in Dar es Salaam by unidentified individuals.<sup>[94]</sup> According to his family, they were alerted to a violent break-in at his home, where they discovered the front

<sup>[87]</sup> The Citizen, "Activist Mange Kimambi charged with money laundering in Tanzania."

<sup>[88]</sup> Daily News/The Citizen, reporting court adjournment and prosecution position in Kimambi case.

<sup>[89]</sup> Ibid.

<sup>[90]</sup> The Extradition Act, [Cap 368 R:E 2023].

<sup>[91]</sup> Defend Defenders "Amnesty International and related documentation of Maria Sarungi's abduction in Nairobi, January 2025."

<sup>[92]</sup> East African Herald, December 2025. "Reports confirming Meta restricted Maria Sarungi's Instagram account in Tanzania on government orders".

<sup>[93]</sup> Coverage of Sarungi's account restoration following public pressure, December 2025.

<sup>[94]</sup> Amnesty International, "Tanzania: Fears mount over disappearance of government critic Humphrey Pole Pole," 8 October 2025.

door broken, electrical wiring cut, and bloodstains indicating a struggle. Since that night, Polepole's whereabouts have remained unknown, and despite statements by authorities that investigations were ongoing, no public confirmation has been provided about his fate or custody status.<sup>[95]</sup>

Polepole's disappearance occurred amid a heightened political climate in Tanzania, with the country preparing for its general election scheduled for 29 October 2025. Prior to his disappearance, Polepole had resigned from his diplomatic post earlier in 2025 after publicly criticizing the government and the ruling party, Chama Cha Mapinduzi (CCM), for undermining justice, restricting civic space, and limiting political freedoms. His statements included pointed critiques of the government's leadership and the electoral process, which rights advocates and observers have noted likely contributed to his targeting.

The reported abduction has drawn international concern, with human rights organisations describing the incident as a possible enforced disappearance and calling for transparency and accountability from Tanzanian authorities. Amnesty International urged the government to disclose Polepole's fate and whereabouts, ensure his safety if in custody, and hold those responsible for the abduction to account through fair and transparent legal processes. Critics argue that this case fits within a broader pattern of crackdowns on dissenting voices in the country ahead of the elections.

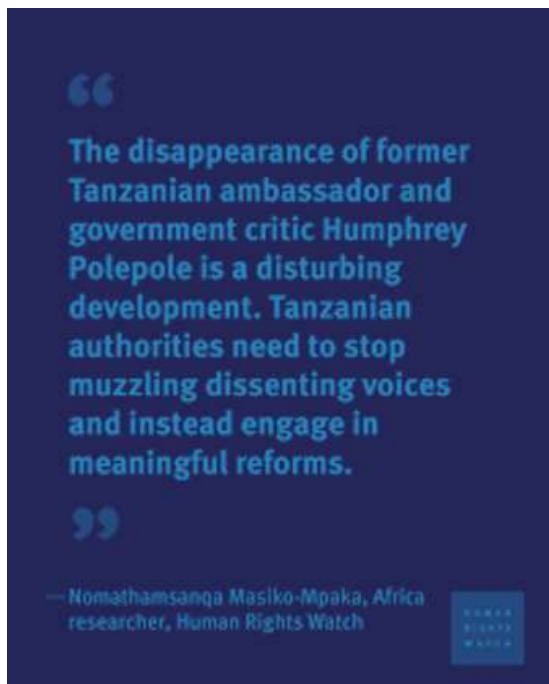


Figure 8: A quote from Nomathamsanqa Masiko-Mpaka, Africa Researcher, Human Rights Watch

In response to the disappearance, Polepole's legal team filed a habeas corpus petition to compel authorities to produce him before the courts. However, the High Court dismissed the petition on 24 October 2025, ruling that there was insufficient evidence to directly link state actors to his disappearance, a decision that has been challenged in the Court of Appeal as an urgent matter involving his unknown whereabouts.<sup>[96]</sup>

At the time of writing, Polepole's fate remains unresolved, and his case continues to feature prominently in discussions about political freedoms, human rights, and the rule of law in Tanzania as the nation navigates its electoral cycle.<sup>[97]</sup>

### ***Mdude Nyagali: Reported Abduction and Ongoing Disappearance***

In the night of 2 May 2025, Tanzanian activist Mpaluka Said “Mdude” Nyagali, a well-known human rights defender and member of the opposition party Chama Cha Demokrasia na Maendeleo (CHADEMA), was reportedly abducted from his residence in Mbeya by individuals who identified themselves as police officers.<sup>[98]</sup> The incident followed a pattern of intimidation directed at opposition members and critics of the government in the lead-up to the 2025 general elections. According to reports, witnesses and family members allege that Nyagali was violently intercepted at his home in Lwambi, Mbeya City, beaten, and taken away without official justification or due process, after which his whereabouts became unknown despite extensive public concern and official complaints.<sup>[99]</sup>

Mdude Nyagali's disappearance quickly triggered significant domestic and political pressure. The CHADEMA party, along with civil society groups, staged protests and sit-in demonstrations in Mbeya, demanding that Tanzanian authorities disclose his fate and release him if in custody. These actions underscored growing fears among opposition figures and rights advocates that enforced disappearances and unaccountable detentions were being used as tools to silence dissent in the critical months before the national elections.<sup>[100]</sup>

In late June 2025, Nyagali's wife filed a habeas corpus petition at the High Court in Mbeya, seeking orders compelling the police and senior law enforcement officials to either produce her husband before the court or provide proof of lawful detention. The petition was heard on 30 June 2025, with several of Nyagali's colleagues appearing in solidarity, although the outcome did not resolve the central question of his location or legal status.

<sup>[95]</sup> Amnesty International (Urgent Action Report), “Whereabouts of government critic unknown: Humphrey Polepole,” 21 November 2025

<sup>[96]</sup> The Citizen, “Tanzania's High Court dismisses Habeas Corpus case for ex-envoy Humphrey Polepole”.

<sup>[97]</sup> For more information see: The CHRAGG and Members of the European Parliament (MEPs) Post: Amnesty Eastern Africa;

<sup>[98]</sup> The Chanzo, 1 July 2025, Report on the petition hearing for Mdude Nyagali's disappearance before Mbeya High Court.

<sup>[99]</sup> DefendDefenders, October 2025. “DefendDefenders bi-annual human rights report noting abductions including Mdude Nyagali in May 2025”.

<sup>[100]</sup> The Citizen, May 2025. Protest actions over the missing activist Mdude Nyagali reported in Mbeya.

Despite persistent efforts by his family and associates, governmental authorities have not publicly accounted for his disappearance, and Nyagali remains missing to date.

International attention was drawn to Nyagali's case as part of broader concerns over human rights and political repression in Tanzania. Monitoring groups and, more recently, [the United Nations Human Rights Council](#) have referenced his ongoing disappearance alongside other instances of enforced disappearances, urging Tanzanian authorities to uphold fundamental human rights and clarify the circumstances surrounding missing activists. The case of Mdude Nyagali exemplifies the critical issues facing political activists in Tanzania's increasingly fraught environment, where allegations of abductions and unresolved disappearances raise serious questions about accountability, rule of law, and the protection of civil liberties in a period of electoral contestation.

### 5.3 Online Harassment and Hate Speech Against Women in Politics

Between 02 August and 28 October 2025, monitoring conducted by the WiLDAF Digital Team using Brand24 social listening analytics documented sustained and gendered online attacks targeting women participating in Tanzania's General Elections.<sup>[101]</sup> Additional data from the IGWGW Digital Rights incidents were considered. The findings confirm that women candidates across party lines were not merely subject to political criticism, but to systematic abuse grounded in gender stereotypes, moral policing, and sexualized narratives.<sup>[102]</sup> The monitoring focused exclusively on negative online mentions relating to women in politics during the election period. The objective was to: Identify the types and language of harassment; Map the platforms and sources amplifying harmful content; Generate evidence to inform digital safety advocacy and response strategies.

Among presidential contenders, Samia Suluhu Hassan, Mwajuma Noti Mirambo, and Devotha Minja were primary targets of negative online narratives. The harassment frequently focused on personal morality, perceived competence, and gender roles rather than policy positions. This pattern reflects a broader effort to delegitimize women's leadership in the public sphere. At the parliamentary level, candidates including Catherine Ruge, Salma Kikwete, Ester Bulaya, Rahma Mwita, Tulia Ackson, and aspirants such as Umy Mwalimu and Shilole (Zuwena Mohammed) experienced similar forms of online hostility. Abuse ranged from direct insults and coordinated defamation to sexualized commentary and intimidation.

Quantitative data underscores the scale of the phenomenon. During the monitoring period alone, Samia Suluhu Hassan recorded 3,644 negative mentions, reaching an estimated 59.4 million users. Of these, 2,940 mentions occurred on social media platforms, generating approximately 55 million reach and nearly one million interactions. X/Twitter accounted for 45.6% of the mentions, followed by news sites (14.6%), video platforms (13.7%), TikTok (9.7%), and Instagram (5.8%). The breadth of circulation demonstrates that gender-based abuse was not marginal but widely amplified across mainstream digital spaces.

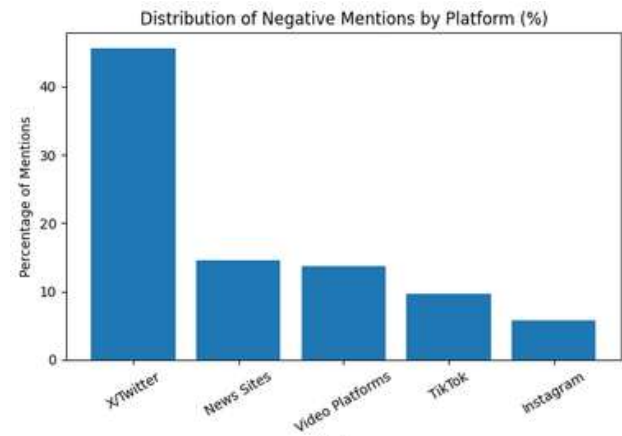


Figure 9: A summary of online gender-based violence

The types of abuse documented included verbal attacks, psychological intimidation, cyberbullying through false or manipulated narratives, and explicit sexual harassment. These patterns are consistent with gender-based online violence frameworks and illustrate how digital platforms are weaponized to silence or discourage women from political participation.

The evidence confirms that online gender-based harassment remains a structural barrier to equal political engagement in Tanzania. When digital discourse shifts from policy debate to gendered attack, it undermines both information integrity and democratic participation. Addressing this challenge requires coordinated action, stronger enforcement against online abuse, platform accountability, and targeted digital safety protections for women in politics.

### 5.4 Post-Election Police Violence and International Concerns

Following the October 29, 2025 general election in Tanzania, which the ruling Chama Cha Mapinduzi (CCM) party won with an overwhelming vote share, widespread protests erupted across major cities.<sup>[103]</sup> Demonstrators took to the streets to protest the exclusion of leading opposition candidates and alleged electoral irregularities.

<sup>[101]</sup> See: WiLDAF Digital Monitoring Report "Online Harassment and Hate Speech Against Women in Politics – Tanzania Monitoring Period: 02 August 2025 to 28 October 2025".

<sup>[102]</sup> Ibid, see: [African Women Politicians Decry 'Scourge' of Online Gender-based Violence](#).

<sup>[103]</sup> See: [Tanzania's 2025 Election Marred by Nationwide Protests and Internet Shutdown. Day-to-Day Rundown From October 29 to November 03](#).

Verified video footage circulated online showing security forces firing live ammunition, using tear gas, and clashing with largely unarmed protesters. Independent investigations, including by CNN's Larry Madowo, found forensically verified videos and eyewitness accounts indicating that police shot at protesters and that morgues were overwhelmed with dead bodies.<sup>[104]</sup> Satellite imagery also showed areas consistent with freshly disturbed soil where possible mass graves may exist, suggesting an attempt to conceal the scale of the crackdown.<sup>[105]</sup>

CNN's investigation, that relied on geolocated video analysis, audio forensics, witness testimonies and satellite data reported that Tanzanian police forces killed protesters and used excessive force during the post-election unrest. The network documented graphic footage of unarmed civilians being struck by gunfire and large numbers of bodies in hospitals, while satellite evidence pointed to disturbed sites consistent with burial activity outside Dar es Salaam.

The Tanzanian government responded by criticising the report as biased and unverified, accusing international media of failing to follow professional standards and alleging that journalists did not seek or include sufficient government responses in their reporting.<sup>[106]</sup> In addition to CNN's findings, BBC coverage, including verification of videos against satellite imagery corroborated aspects of the violence, showing security forces firing at civilians in Dar es Salaam, Mwanza and other cities. These BBC-verified videos showed women and young people being pursued and shot by heavily armed officers at close range. Despite this, government statements continued to dismiss claims of widespread killings, downplaying fatalities and disputing opposition figures' reported death tolls.<sup>[107]</sup>

### **Government Response: Denial and "Liar's Dividend" Dynamics**

Tanzanian government spokespeople, including Chief Government Spokesperson Gerson Msigwa, publicly criticised CNN and other foreign outlets, describing their reporting as "unbalanced," "one-sided," and part of an "information warfare" campaign designed to damage the country's image. Msigwa argued that international media outlets failed to follow proper journalistic procedures and that the reports misrepresented events and lacked sufficient engagement with official government accounts.<sup>[108]</sup>

### **Internet Blackouts and Restricted Reporting**

During and immediately after the election, internet access was disrupted nationwide, blocking social media

platforms and hindering local and international coverage. These restrictions, which lasted several days, made it difficult for independent verification of violence and government actions, while also limiting Tanzanians' ability to share and document events in real time. Opposition figures and international observers including the Southern African Development Community and United Nations human rights bodies criticised the election's conduct and the government's response to unrest.<sup>[109]</sup>

## **5.5 The "Digital Death Squad" Pattern**

These cases follow a terrifying pattern:

- (1) Surveillance via PDPA-mandated registration data; NIDA and Sim-cards Registration
- (2) Triangulation of physical location using mobile tower data;
- (3) Abduction to "black sites" bypassing the formal justice system; and
- (4) Silence, where the disappearance itself serves as the message to the broader community.

The "Civic Tech Disappearance" is the ultimate regressive incident: it is the point where digital governance failure becomes a human rights atrocity.

This pattern reveals the transformation of digital governance infrastructure into an instrument of coercive state power. Systems originally justified on administrative grounds, identity registration, SIM card verification, and centralized personal data collection created comprehensive visibility into citizens' digital and physical lives. When combined with telecommunications metadata and location tracking capabilities, these systems enabled authorities to map social networks, monitor movement, and identify individuals with precision. The result is a form of infrastructure-enabled repression, where the same technical systems designed to support service delivery and security are repurposed to facilitate targeting, apprehension, and removal outside transparent legal processes.

The strategic objective of such disappearances extends beyond the individual victim to the collective psychology of the civic and technical community. The absence of due process, public acknowledgment, or legal recourse produces a condition of sustained uncertainty and fear, encouraging widespread self-censorship and disengagement. Developers, researchers, journalists, and digital activists are forced to internalize risk as a permanent feature of participation in the digital public sphere.

<sup>[104]</sup> CNN investigation showing police shot protesters and possible mass graves, with forensic analysis of video and satellite imagery.

<sup>[105]</sup> CNN, 'Oh my God, this is our Tanzania': CNN investigation shows police fatally shooting protesters, signs of mass graves.

<sup>[106]</sup> Government response to CNN reports calling them "unbalanced" and an ethical breach.

<sup>[107]</sup> BBC Report, How Tanzania police crushed election protests with lethal force.

<sup>[108]</sup> The Chanzo Initiative "Government spokesperson's statements alleging international media were misleading and accusing them of failing to include official perspectives."

<sup>[109]</sup> Netblocks, Internet shutdown reports that restricted information flows during critical days of unrest.

## PART 6. THE DIGITAL TRANSFORMATION OF ZANZIBAR (2024–2026)

### 6.1 Strategic Foundations: The 8th Government's Digital Mandate

Under the leadership of the 8th Government of Zanzibar, technological adaptation has been transitioned from a peripheral support sector to a core pillar of national development. This shift is codified in the Zanzibar Development Vision (ZDV) 2050, which targets "Upper Middle-Income Status" by leveraging the creative and digital economies as primary catalysts for growth.<sup>[110]</sup>

The operational roadmap for this vision is primarily driven by the Zanzibar Development Plan (ZADep) 2021–2026,<sup>[111]</sup> which seeks to modernize public service delivery and achieve an ambitious 80% internet penetration rate by the end of 2025.<sup>[112]</sup> To support this, the government enacted the Zanzibar e-Government Authority Act, No. 1 of 2024 (assented to March 15, 2024), which repealed the 2019 Act to establish the Zanzibar e-Government Authority (eGAZ).<sup>[113]</sup> This new legal framework grants eGAZ the mandate to regulate all electronic government services, ICT equipment usage, and digital service delivery across all public institutions and civil servants on the isles.<sup>[114]</sup>

### 6.2 Institutional Strengthening: The Role of ZICTIA

A critical institutional milestone was the formal strengthening of the Zanzibar Communication Corporation (ZICTIA), officially established on July 23, 2023, under Act No. 4 of 2023.<sup>4</sup> ZICTIA is tasked with the management of Zanzibar's Strategic ICT Infrastructure, including the National Fiber Backbone and the National Data Centre.<sup>[115]</sup>

In 2025, ZICTIA's role evolved from infrastructure management to active market facilitation. In March 2025, ZICTIA signed strategic agreements with major telecommunications providers, including Vodacom Tanzania and YAS (formerly Tigo-Zantel). These agreements allow private operators to utilize government-owned submarine fiber optic infrastructure, a move that has significantly lowered the wholesale cost of data and enabled providers to extend more affordable services to rural and underserved communities. By August 2025, a formal MoU was established between ZICTIA and Airtel Tanzania to further accelerate digital inclusion through e-health and e-learning initiatives.<sup>[116]</sup>



Fig 9: National Fiber Backbone Expansion

<sup>[110]</sup> The Zanzibar Development Vision (ZDV) 2050.

<sup>[111]</sup> The Zanzibar Development Plan (ZADep) 2021–2026.

<sup>[112]</sup> Ibid.

<sup>[113]</sup> The Zanzibar e-Government Authority Act, No. 1 of 2024.

<sup>[114]</sup> Ibid.

<sup>[115]</sup> ZICTIA (2023), Zanzibar Communication Corporation Establishment Act, No. 4 of 2023.

<sup>[116]</sup> Connecting Africa (2025, August 20), Airtel Tanzania, ZICTIA to boost digital infrastructure.

<sup>[117]</sup> ZICTIA (2025), Fiber Routes Across Unguja and Pemba Island.

<sup>[118]</sup> Infinity Development (2026) Zanzibar's Infrastructure Surge: Numbers That Tell a Story of Transformation.

<sup>[119]</sup> Ibid.

## 6.3 Digital Infrastructure: Bridging the Urban-Rural Divide

The Revolutionary Government has aggressively pursued a "Digital Connectivity for All" strategy to ensure that the benefits of the digital economy reach the most remote areas of Unguja and Pemba.

- **National Fiber Backbone Expansion**

The government has successfully extended fiber routes to multiple districts, ensuring that the high-speed backbone is no longer restricted to urban centers.<sup>[117]</sup>

- **District ICT Centers**

A targeted investment of Sh1.2 billion was deployed to establish 11 ICT centers across all districts. These centers provide rural communities with physical access to digital tools, internet connectivity, and technical training, serving as essential hubs for localized digital literacy.<sup>[118]</sup>

- **ZANROAD Integration**

Recognizing that digital access requires physical mobility, the ZANROAD project integrated ICT goals into its infrastructure cycle. In the 2024/2025 and 2025/2026 cycles, over 275.9 km of roads were planned for construction, including the Tunguu-Makunduchi (48km) and Mkoani-Chake Chake (43.5km) routes, specifically designed to link rural agricultural and fishing hubs to urban digital marketplaces.<sup>[119]</sup>

## 6.4 Strategic Projects and Future-Ready Milestones

As of late 2025, the Ministry of Communication, Information Technology and Innovation, led by Minister Mudrik Ramadhan Soraga, has accelerated several high-impact strategic projects managed by ZICTIA and eGAZ. These initiatives are designed to ensure Zanzibar's digital sovereignty and readiness for the Fourth Industrial Revolution (4IR):

- **Tier III National Data Centre**

Construction is currently focused on a state-of-the-art facility in Zanzibar designed to meet Tier III international standards, ensuring 99.98% uptime and concurrent maintainability.

- **Disaster Recovery (DR) Site**

To protect national data assets, a dedicated DR site is under construction, providing a redundant fail-safe for all government systems.<sup>[120]</sup>

- **Zanzibar ICT Infrastructure Masterplan**

In January 2026, ZICTIA held high-level briefing sessions to validate a new transformative roadmap for digital development, focusing on organizational modernization and the establishment of an International Telecommunication Gateway.

### Technology Park

Plans are underway for a specialized Technology Park to serve as an innovation incubator for startups, positioning Zanzibar as a regional tech hub.

## 6.5 Budgetary Landscape and Fiscal Commitment

Zanzibar's fiscal policy reflects its digital priorities. The 2025/2026 Budget (Act No. 4 of 2025) appropriated Sh6.982 trillion, representing a 31% increase from the previous year.<sup>[121]</sup>

- **Infrastructure Allocation**

Sh471.17 billion was earmarked specifically for infrastructure development, including the modernization of ports and energy systems critical for digital operations.

- **Economic Transformation**

Sh207.22 billion was set aside for economic transformation initiatives, including digital infrastructure and the enhancement of blue economy resources.

- **2026/2027 Projections**

The budget framework for the following year projects a record Sh8.217 trillion, with a focus on strengthening digital revenue systems and controlling tax evasion through automated auditing.

<sup>[117]</sup> ZICTIA (2025). *Fiber Routes Across Unguja and Pemba Island*.

<sup>[118]</sup> *Infinity Development (2026) Zanzibar's Infrastructure Surge: Numbers That Tell a Story of Transformation*.

<sup>[119]</sup> *Ibid.*

<sup>[120]</sup> Zanzibar Ministry of ICT Website (2025). *Meeting for Review of the ICT Projects*.

<sup>[121]</sup> Zanzibar Ministry of ICT Website (2025). *Meeting for Review of the ICT Projects*.

## 6.6 The 2025 Election Context and Digital Civic Space

A unique highlight of the 2025 situational analysis was the October 29 General Elections. While the Tanzania Mainland experienced significant reports of digital disruptions and violence, Zanzibar's elections were notably peaceful, with no reported incidences of widespread violence. However, specific digital governance challenges persisted:

### *Information Integrity*

Observations noted that the Zanzibar Broadcasting Corporation (ZBC), the primary state media, focused its live streaming and coverage heavily on the ruling party (CCM), often excluding opposition voices.

### *Media Freedom*

Reports continued to highlight restrictions on media coverage, with some journalists in Zanzibar facing harassment and government-imposed limitations that hindered independent reporting.

## 6.7 Summary of Recommendations for Zanzibar

Based on the recent developments, the following specific interventions are recommended for the TDC program and IGTWG:

### *Interoperability and Regulatory Harmony*

Ensure that the implementation of the Zanzibar e-Government Authority Act of 2024 remains interoperable with Union-level data protection standards to prevent a fragmented digital market for businesses operating in both jurisdictions.

### *Youth-Centric Digital Skills Training*

Utilize the 11 new district ICT centers to launch a "Digital Economy Preparedness" curriculum, focusing on e-commerce for the blue economy and digital safety.

### *Media Diversity Advocacy*

Engage with ZBC and independent media actors to promote a more inclusive digital information environment, ensuring that state-owned digital platforms provide equitable access to all political and civic voices.

### *Expediting the Data Centre & Gateway*

The government should prioritize the completion of the International Telecommunication Gateway to reduce reliance on mainland transit and further lower internet costs for Zanzibar-based startups.

### *Addressing Infrastructure Vulnerability*

Balance the "Infrastructure Surge" with robust cybersecurity protocols to protect the new Tier III Data Centre and National Fiber Backbone from emerging regional cyber threats.

<sup>[117]</sup> ZICTIA (2025). *Fiber Routes Across Unguja and Pemba Island*.

<sup>[118]</sup> *Infinity Development (2026) Zanzibar's Infrastructure Surge: Numbers That Tell a Story of Transformation*.

<sup>[119]</sup> *Ibid.*

<sup>[120]</sup> *Zanzibar Ministry of ICT Website (2025), Meeting for Review of the ICT Projects*.

# PART 7: CONCLUSION AND STRATEGIC ACTIONS

## 7.1 Conclusion: The Architecture of Silence

The findings of this 2025 report are unequivocal: the United Republic of Tanzania has undergone a digital coup. The "architecture of silence" that now governs the nation was not an accident of chaos; it was a product of design. The government has successfully legislated repression through EPOCA, privatized censorship by coercing ISPs, normalized blackouts as a tool of statecraft, and destroyed trust through the "Liar's Dividend."

The cost of this victory for the regime has been the defeat of the nation. The economy has bled hundreds of millions of dollars. The youth have been radicalized by repression rather than integrated by democracy. And the vision of a "Digital Tanzania" lies in ruins. However, the resilience of the Tanzanian people; the "Gen Z" activists who found ways to communicate offline, the lawyers defending the "Treason 400," and the diaspora keeping the lights on suggests that while the architecture of silence is strong, it is not impenetrable.

## 7.2 Strategic Actions for Stakeholders

To dismantle this architecture and rebuild a rights-respecting digital ecosystem, we propose the following urgent strategic actions:

### A. To the Government of the United Republic of Tanzania

- 1. Immediate Action:** The "Digital Armistice" & Release of Prisoners. Immediately and unconditionally release all political prisoners, including Tundu Lissu, and drop the mass treason charges against all youth protestors arrested for exercising their rights to peaceful assembly and expression. Simultaneously, restore unconditional access to all platforms specifically the X (Twitter).
- 2. Launch a Development-Centric AI Strategy:** Expedite the operationalization and launch of the Tanzania National AI Strategy. This framework must pivot away from the current trend of utilizing technology for surveillance and criminalization. Instead, it must actively foster AI use for sustainable development, economic growth, and public service delivery. The strategy should enshrine human rights safeguards, ensuring AI is a tool for liberation and innovation, not repression.
- 3. Ensure Independent Accountability:** Establish a truly independent commission of inquiry, with the full participation of international and regional experts

(UN, ACHPR), to investigate the mass killings of October 2025 and the "concealment of evidence" by security forces. It is imperative that all perpetrators are held to account to restore information integrity.

- 4. Ensure Independent Accountability:** Establish a truly independent commission of inquiry, with the full participation of international and regional experts (UN, ACHPR), to investigate the mass killings of October 2025 and the "concealment of evidence" by security forces. It is imperative that all perpetrators are held to account to restore information integrity.
- 5. Legislative Reform & Repeal of Repressive Laws:** Urgently repeal the 2025 Amendments to the EPOCA Regulations and remove the liability for ISPs to "filter" content. Comprehensively amend the Cybercrimes Act (2015) and Media Services Act (2016). All vague provisions (e.g., "false information," "disrespect," "misleading") that are "weaponized" against dissent must be removed to align with Tanzania's obligations under the ACHPR and ICCPR.
- 6. Illegalize Internet Shutdowns:** Enact legislation requiring judicial oversight for any internet shutdown. Enshrine the principles of ACHPR Resolution 580 into domestic law, making wholesale internet shutdowns illegal. Any network restriction must be demonstrably necessary and proportionate.

### B. To the International Community (Development Partners, UN, AU, SADC)

- 1. Conditionality 2.0:** "No Uptime, No Funding". The World Bank, IMF, and bilateral donors must integrate "digital uptime" clauses into all funding agreements. Leverage diplomatic and economic pressure by making all future development partnerships and multilateral loans contingent on the Government of Tanzania's tangible implementation of legal reforms. The \$238 million economic loss should be factored into all debt sustainability analyses.
- 2. Move from Condemnation to Accountability:** Move beyond statements of condemnation. The AU and SADC must formally censure Tanzania for the election blackout. Furthermore, the UN and AU must actively support the call by African civil society for an independent investigation by the United Nations and the International Criminal Court (ICC) into the 2025 atrocities.
- 3. Support Digital Resilience:** Provide direct technical and financial support to Tanzanian civil society and independent media.<sup>[121]</sup> This includes funding for digital security, secure archival tools, and promoting access to circumvention tools (e.g., VPNs) to counter state-led "digital blackouts" in the future.

[121] ACHPR. Press release on the Nationwide Internet Outage on Election Day in the United Republic of Tanzania.

### C. To the Private Sector (ISPs and Tech Platforms)

1. Corporate Resistance & Transparency. Vodacom, Airtel, Tigo, and Halotel must release detailed transparency reports disclosing the specific government orders they received to shut down the internet and filter content. They should collectively challenge the constitutionality of the EPOCA "prevention of access" clauses in the East African Court of Justice (EACJ).

### D. To Civil Society, Media, and the Technical Community

1. Document and Archive (The "Digital Evidence Archive") Establish a secure, offshore, and decentralized Digital Evidence Archive to preserve documentation of human rights abuses. Actively employ Foreign Information Manipulation and Interference (FIMI) toolkits, such as those developed by Code for Africa, to systematically archive and document state-led disinformation (e.g., "AI fake" claims) and threats before they are deleted.

2. Resilience Training: "Digital Survival" Shift focus from "digital literacy" to "digital survival," training activists in the use of mesh networks, high-security VPNs, and satellite internet technologies. This should go in line with, the confidence building measures "capacitating and supporting citizens on the issue of digital rights incidents".

3. Advocate for Structural Reform Build broad coalitions to advocate for the structural legal reforms recommended in the 2024 State of Internet Governance Tanzania Report. Focus advocacy efforts on securing the independence of regulatory bodies like the TCRA and the Independent National Electoral Commission (INEC).

## 7.3 The Final Verdict: Silence or Sovereignty?

The events of 2025 have placed Tanzania at a defining historical crossroads. Technology, once heralded as the great equalizer and a driver of the "Digital Tanzania" vision, currently stands weaponized against the very citizens it was meant to serve. The choice facing the nation is stark: allow the digital realm to solidify into a permanent panopticon of surveillance and censorship, or reclaim it as a civic space for innovation, debate, and development. The recommendations outlined above are not merely technical adjustments; they are the emergency breaks required to stop the slide into full digital authoritarianism.

Implementing these reforms requires moral courage from the government and unwavering pressure from the international community. The operationalization of a human-centric AI strategy and the repeal of draconian laws are critical first steps, but they must be matched by a fundamental shift in political will. We can no longer accept a paradigm where internet access is a privilege

granted by the state, revocable at the whim of political insecurity. Connectivity is a right, and in the modern age, it is the lifeblood of both the economy and democracy.

Ultimately, the "architecture of silence" may be formidable, but it is brittle. It relies on fear, darkness, and isolation. Opposing it is the "architecture of courage" built by the resilient youth, the steadfast legal defenders, and a global community that refuses to look away. The silence has been broken by this report; the task now is to ensure the noise of democracy becomes too loud to ignore. The lights must come back on in Tanzania not just on the routers, but in the halls of justice.

The outcome of this crossroads will not be determined solely by state action, but by the collective choices of institutions, civil society, and the international system. Digital authoritarianism does not consolidate overnight; it stabilizes when repression becomes normalized, when violations no longer provoke accountability, and when economic and diplomatic relationships continue unaffected by democratic regression.

Conversely, sovereignty in the digital age is not defined by the state's ability to control information, but by its capacity to protect the rights, security, and agency of its citizens within the information environment. Tanzania's long-term legitimacy, domestically and internationally will depend on which of these models it ultimately embraces.

There is also a generational dimension to this decision. Tanzania's youth, entrepreneurs, technologists, and digital creators represent the country's most significant strategic asset in the 21st century. Their willingness to invest their talent, build institutions, and innovate locally depends on whether they perceive the digital environment as safe, open, and governed by predictable rules. A digitally repressive state does not merely silence dissent; it exports its future, as its most capable citizens disengage, emigrate, or withdraw from civic participation. The erosion of digital trust today will manifest as diminished national competitiveness, weakened institutional resilience, and lost developmental opportunity for decades to come.

History demonstrates that information control can delay accountability, but it cannot eliminate the structural pressures for openness, transparency, and reform. The digital ecosystem, by its nature, resists permanent enclosure. Citizens adapt, technologies evolve, and global norms continue to assert influence. The question is not whether Tanzania will eventually re-enter a more open digital trajectory, but at what cost and after how much avoidable damage. The decisions made now will determine whether the country emerges as a confident digital leader grounded in rights and innovation, or as a cautionary example of how technological promise can be subordinated to political fear.

## APPENDIX I: DEFINITIONS OF KEY TERMS

<p><b><i>Bundling Strategy</i></b></p>	<p>A coordinated communication or regulatory tactic in which multiple actions, narratives, or measures are combined and deployed simultaneously to overwhelm opposition, shape public perception, or reduce resistance. In political communication, bundling may involve aligning legal action, media framing, and digital messaging to produce a cumulative strategic effect.</p>
<p><b><i>Kantian Categorical Imperative Principle</i></b></p>	<p>A foundational moral doctrine articulated by Immanuel Kant. Its supreme formulation states: “Act only on that maxim through which you can at the same time will that it should become a universal law.” An equivalent expression is: “So act that you treat humanity, whether in your own person or in that of another, always as an end and never merely as a means.” Within this Report, the principle is referenced as a normative benchmark for ethical governance—requiring that state and institutional actions be justifiable as universally applicable and respectful of human dignity.</p>
<p><b><i>#OktobaLindaKura</i></b></p>	<p>A Kiswahili phrase meaning “Protect the Vote in October.” A 2025 political campaign slogan advocating vigilance in safeguarding electoral integrity, including monitoring vote counting and resisting alleged manipulation.</p>
<p><b><i>#OktobaTunatiki</i></b></p>	<p>A Kiswahili political expression meaning “In October, We Tick (the ballot).” Used as a mobilization slogan encouraging voter turnout and decisive participation in the October 2025 General Elections.</p>
<p><b><i>“No Reforms, No Elections” (NRNE)</i></b></p>	<p>A political demand asserting that credible elections require prior structural and legal reforms. In 2025 Tanzania, the slogan became a digital mobilization campaign advocating electoral reforms as a precondition for participation, reflecting broader debates on institutional legitimacy and democratic standards.</p>
<p><b><i>Wakislamu</i></b></p>	<p>A Kiswahili term coining Christian and “Muslims.” In political discourse, the term was used to carry religious identity connotations and, in unity contexts, it was invoked to mobilize communal sentiment or frame narratives along religious division. Its use requires sensitivity given Tanzania’s pluralistic religious composition.</p>

# APPENDIX II

Tanzania State of Internet Governance Series

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## The 2025 Tanzania Digital Rights Index

February 2026

PRODUCED BY:

Tech & Media Convergency (TMC)

The 2025 Tanzania Digital Rights Index serves as an appendix to the report titled “The State of Internet Governance - Information Integrity and the 2025 General Elections: Power, Regulation, and Public Trust”

## APPENDIX II: DIGITAL RIGHTS INDEX 2025: THEMATIC AND IMPACT ANALYSIS

The Digital Rights Index continues to function as a core accountability and governance instrument within the Internet Governance ecosystem in Tanzania. It operationalizes the principles of openness, accountability, human rights protection, and multi-stakeholder participation by systematically documenting how digital technologies intersect with power, governance, and civic participation. As Tanzania's digital ecosystem expands through increased connectivity, platform adoption, and digital public services, so too do the risks associated with digital repression, regulatory overreach, and misuse of institutional authority. These dynamics underscore the necessity of maintaining a structured, evidence-driven mechanism capable of tracking both harms and protections within the digital environment.

The Index responds to the persistent absence of a centralized and methodologically consistent framework for monitoring digital rights conditions. Incidents such as internet disruptions, arrests linked to online expression, platform-mediated civic mobilization, politically sensitive enforcement actions, and technology-facilitated harms often occur without systematic documentation or longitudinal analysis. In many instances, institutional responses remain opaque, delayed, or contested, contributing to uncertainty around accountability and rule of law in digital spaces. The Digital Rights Index addresses this structural gap by aggregating verified incidents and translating them into actionable governance intelligence, enabling stakeholders to identify patterns, assess institutional conduct, and evaluate the broader trajectory of digital rights protection.

Beyond incident tracking, the Index serves as a policy intelligence tool that examines how legal frameworks, regulatory institutions, and enforcement bodies shape digital freedoms in practice. It provides empirical insight into the application of laws governing cybercrime, data protection, electronic communications, and online content regulation. It also captures how state institutions, private sector actors, media organizations, and civil society influence the digital governance landscape either reinforcing protections or contributing to restrictions. This approach strengthens transparency and contributes to evidence-based advocacy, institutional reform, and informed policymaking. To ensure methodological rigor, incidents included in the Index must demonstrate a clear and verifiable nexus to digital rights, digital civic space, or technology-mediated participation.

Qualifying incidents include actions that directly restrict or threaten freedom of expression, access to information, privacy, or digital association. These may involve arrests, detention, abductions, internet shutdowns, censorship, surveillance practices, or legal enforcement linked to online activity. The Index also captures incidents that generate indirect or systemic effects, such as intimidation of digital actors, disruption of online civic engagement, or actions that create a chilling effect on digital participation. Additionally, documented institutional responses, including legal challenges, judicial interventions, infrastructure investments, or governance reforms are recorded to reflect both restrictive and protective developments within the digital ecosystem.

By incorporating both immediate violations and structural governance developments, the Index provides a comprehensive assessment of the evolving digital rights climate. It recognizes that digital governance outcomes are shaped not only by individual incidents, but also by institutional behavior, legal enforcement trends, civic response capacity, and broader political and social conditions. This multidimensional approach enhances its value as a strategic resource for policymakers, civil society, researchers, and international partners working to strengthen digital rights protections.

During the current reporting period, Tanzania's digital environment was significantly shaped by the intersection of electoral processes, civic mobilization, institutional enforcement, and ongoing digital transformation. A total of 173 digital rights-related incidents were documented and classified into three analytical categories based on their impact on digital rights and governance.

Overall, the findings indicate a digital governance landscape characterized by both expansion and contestation. While progress continues in infrastructure development and legal engagement, restrictive actions remain prevalent, highlighting ongoing tensions between digital transformation and the protection of fundamental rights. The Digital Rights Index remains essential in documenting these dynamics, supporting accountability, and informing interventions aimed at ensuring that Tanzania's digital future is governed in a manner consistent with democratic principles, human dignity, and the rule of law.

● **Progressive 49 (28.3%)**

⚠️ **Neutral 34 (19.7%)**

● **Regressive 90 (52%)**

- **Progressive incidents** These mark forward-looking developments that strengthen digital rights, expand freedoms, or enhance governance structures. They represent tangible progress in safeguarding and promoting the digital sphere.
- **Neutral incidents** These involve procedural or administrative changes that, while noteworthy, have limited immediate impact on digital rights. They reflect routine adjustments or structural updates without significantly shifting the balance of freedoms or protections.
- **Regressive incidents** These denote harmful actions or recurring patterns that undermine digital rights, restrict civic participation, or demonstrate misuse of regulatory authority. They signal setbacks in the protection and advancement of digital freedoms.

## Regressive Incidents

The reporting period was marked by a clear dominance of restrictive and rights-infringing actions, with regressive incidents accounting for 52% of all documented cases. Most of these incidents involved measures that constrained digital freedoms, civic participation, and online expression, including the arrest and detention of social media users, activists, and online commentators, as well as cases of abduction and intimidation linked to digital activism. Additional patterns included internet shutdowns and network disruptions during politically sensitive periods, and the application of criminal or public order laws to regulate or penalize online speech. There were also indications of increased state monitoring and suppression of online mobilization and dissent. Collectively, these developments reflect a broader pattern of digital space securitization, where online platforms are increasingly treated as environments requiring surveillance, control, and enforcement, particularly in contexts associated with political expression and civic engagement.

## Progressive Incidents

Progressive incidents, accounting for 28.3% of all documented cases, reflected ongoing efforts to strengthen digital governance, accountability, and digital infrastructure. These included legal challenges filed in regional and domestic courts contesting internet shutdowns and violations of fundamental rights, demonstrating the use of judicial mechanisms to assert accountability. Additional developments involved investments in ICT infrastructure to support e-government services and institutional modernization, as well as capacity-building initiatives and reforms aimed at expanding digital access and improving governance systems.

Civil society organizations and legal actors also played a visible role through advocacy, litigation, and public engagement to defend digital freedoms and promote rights-respecting digital policies. Collectively, these developments signal the presence of institutional resilience and active governance evolution, indicating that despite a constrained digital environment, stakeholders continue to pursue accountability, reform, and the protection of digital rights.

## Neutral Incidents

Neutral incidents, representing 19.7% of the total, largely comprised administrative, informational, and transitional developments within Tanzania's digital ecosystem. These included official announcements, policy statements, and handovers of ICT infrastructure, as well as government communications related to digital development or cybersecurity.

They also encompassed public notices or procedural enforcement measures that carried no immediate implications for digital rights, and instances of institutional positioning during periods of political or social transition. Collectively, these incidents indicate ongoing activity and engagement in the digital environment without directly advancing or undermining digital freedoms, providing context for understanding broader governance trends and the operational landscape in which rights-related incidents occur.

Nature of Incident		Reference	Tone
1	<p><b>07/1/2025</b> TCRA "NI RAHISI" CAMPAIGN</p> <p>TCRA have established a digital and physical campaign known as NI RAHISI Campaign that advocates for digital rights, literacy and awareness to people on various digital issues like cybercrimes, digital safety i.e two factor authentication e.t.c</p>	<p>Daily News</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><a href="https://www.instagram.com/tcra_tanzania?igsh=MWh5ajl3Zmg5cXN5NQ==">https://www.instagram.com/tcra_tanzania?igsh=MWh5ajl3Zmg5cXN5NQ==</a></li> </ul>	Progressive
2	<p><b>13/1/2025</b> TANZANIAN DIGITAL ACTIVIST MARIA SARUNGI KIDNAPPING AND RELEASE IN KENYA</p> <p>Prominent Tanzanian activist Maria Sarungi Tsehai was abducted by armed men in Kenya and released, hours after the incident in Nairobi Kenya on 12th January 2025. Tsehai was grabbed by three armed men in a black Toyota Noah</p>	<p>BBC News The Citizen</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><a href="https://www.bbc.com/news/articles/cd7dxz48e01o">https://www.bbc.com/news/articles/cd7dxz48e01o</a></li> <li><a href="https://www.thecitizen.co.tz/tanzania/news/national/tanzanian-activist-maria-sarungi-reported-abducted-by-armed-men-in-kenya-4886880">https://www.thecitizen.co.tz/tanzania/news/national/tanzanian-activist-maria-sarungi-reported-abducted-by-armed-men-in-kenya-4886880</a></li> </ul>	Regressive
3	<p><b>20/1/2025</b> PRESIDENTIAL ADVISORY ON ETHICAL USE OF ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE DURING THE 2025 ELECTION PERIOD</p> <p>President Samia Issues Caution on the Use of Artificial Intelligence During Election Period. Government-level advisory on the ethical use of Artificial Intelligence (AI) technologies in political contexts.</p>	<p>The Chanzo</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><a href="https://thechanzo.com/2024/03/12/tanzanian-bank-warned-of-cybersecurity-threats-robbers-dont-come-in-through-the-front-door-anymore/">https://thechanzo.com/2024/03/12/tanzanian-bank-warned-of-cybersecurity-threats-robbers-dont-come-in-through-the-front-door-anymore/</a></li> </ul>	Neutral
4	<p><b>28/1/2025</b> AMENDMENTS TO THE ELECTRONIC AND POSTAL COMMUNICATIONS (ONLINE CONTENT) REGULATIONS</p> <p>Regulatory amendment requiring social media platform owners to filter and remove prohibited content under Reg 15A. The regulation imposes mandatory content filtering and removal obligations on social media platforms, effectively extending state control over online expression.</p>	<p>TCRA</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><a href="https://www.tcra.go.tz/download/sw-1738833320-Online%20Content%20Amendment%20Regulations.%202025%20GN%20No%2057%20of%2028%20January%202025.pdf">https://www.tcra.go.tz/download/sw-1738833320-Online%20Content%20Amendment%20Regulations.%202025%20GN%20No%2057%20of%2028%20January%202025.pdf</a></li> </ul>	Regressive
5	<p><b>30/1/2025</b> VICE PRESIDENT HON. PHILLIP MPANGO EMPHASIZES AI FOR ENVIRONMENTAL AND WATER SECTOR SOLUTIONS</p> <p>The incident involves promotion of AI for constructive sectoral use, highlighting innovation, problem-solving, and youth engagement. There are no restrictions, enforcement measures, or coercive actions involved, making it a neutral advisory focused on development and technological advancement rather than control or repression.</p>	<p>Media Wire Express</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><a href="https://mediawireexpress.co.tz/tcra-blocks-over-17000-fraudulent-phone-lines-in-crackdown/">https://mediawireexpress.co.tz/tcra-blocks-over-17000-fraudulent-phone-lines-in-crackdown/</a></li> </ul>	Progressive
6	<p><b>21/2/2025</b> GOVERNMENT-LED INITIATIVE RECOGNIZING EXCELLENCE AND INNOVATION IN THE ICT SECTOR</p> <p>The establishment of national ICT awards represents an affirmative policy action to promote technological innovation, recognize digital excellence, and strengthen the ICT ecosystem. By collaborating with the ICT Commission, private sector actors, and industry associations such as TISPA, the government demonstrated support for digital sector growth, capacity-building, and national technological advancement.</p>	<p>Jamhuri Media</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><a href="https://www.jamhurimedia.co.tz/washindi-tuzo-za-kihistoriatehama-2025-hadharani-leo/">https://www.jamhurimedia.co.tz/washindi-tuzo-za-kihistoriatehama-2025-hadharani-leo/</a></li> </ul>	Progressive
7	<p><b>26/2/2025</b> ARBITRARY ARREST OF UNION LEADERS LINKED TO CIVIC MOBILIZATION AND ADVOCACY FOR EMPLOYMENT RIGHTS</p> <p>The arrest of ananzania Unemployed Teachers' Union (NETO) leaders in connection with their efforts to organize and advocate for employment constitutes a direct restriction on freedom of association, expression, and civic participation. The targeting of individuals engaged in lawful advocacy reflects the use of state enforcement mechanisms to suppress collective action and dissent.</p>	<p>The Citizen Mwananchi</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><a href="https://x.com/TheCitizenTz/status/1894352993015009428">https://x.com/TheCitizenTz/status/1894352993015009428</a></li> <li><a href="https://www.mwananchi.co.tz/mw/habari/kitaifa/kiongozi-wa-walimu-wasio-na-ajira-akamatwa-mjomba-asimulia-4940834">https://www.mwananchi.co.tz/mw/habari/kitaifa/kiongozi-wa-walimu-wasio-na-ajira-akamatwa-mjomba-asimulia-4940834</a></li> </ul>	Regressive
8	<p><b>20/2/2025</b> GOVERNMENT-LED PUBLIC AWARENESS CAMPAIGN TO COMBAT CYBERCRIME AND ONLINE FRAUD</p> <p>The #SITAPELIKI campaign represents a preventive and educational initiative aimed at protecting citizens from online fraud and strengthening cybersecurity awareness. The focus on public education, fraud prevention, and digital safety supports the development of a safer digital ecosystem without imposing restrictive measures on lawful expression.</p>	<p>The Daily News</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><a href="https://dailynews.co.tz/mobile-money-scam-attempts-decline-as-sitapeliki-campaign-bears-fruit/?utm_source=copilot.com">https://dailynews.co.tz/mobile-money-scam-attempts-decline-as-sitapeliki-campaign-bears-fruit/?utm_source=copilot.com</a></li> </ul>	Progressive

## Nature of Incident

## Reference

## Tone

9

20/2/2025

**LAW ENFORCEMENT ACTION AGAINST CYBER-ENABLED FINANCIAL FRAUD INVOLVING UNLICENSED ONLINE FINANCIAL OPERATIONS**

The arrests targeted individuals engaged in alleged financial fraud through unauthorized online schemes, protecting citizens from economic exploitation and reinforcing regulatory compliance in the digital financial sector. The involvement of the Bank of Tanzania indicates enforcement within an established legal and financial oversight framework.

Habaari Clouds

- [https://www.instagram.com/reel/DGT\\_A7a3MRKn/?igsh=MWRwZGI6dWdxM3N2Zg%3D%3D](https://www.instagram.com/reel/DGT_A7a3MRKn/?igsh=MWRwZGI6dWdxM3N2Zg%3D%3D)

Progressive

10

24/2/2025

**REGIONAL STRATEGIC DIALOGUE AND CAPACITY-BUILDING INITIATIVE ON DIGITAL PAYMENTS AND NATIONAL PAYMENT SYSTEM MODERNIZATION**

The regional convening of central banks to discuss digital payment systems reflects proactive institutional engagement in strengthening financial infrastructure and promoting secure, interoperable digital financial ecosystems. Such dialogue supports regional integration, enhances regulatory coordination, and accelerates the modernization of payment systems.

Dira Makini  
BOT Instagram

- <https://www.diramakini.co.tz/2025/02/benki-kuu-za-afrika-mashariki-kujadili.html>
- [https://www.instagram.com/p/DGgUzDQoaae/?igsh=dmxiYnl1Y2Zlb3B4&img\\_index=1](https://www.instagram.com/p/DGgUzDQoaae/?igsh=dmxiYnl1Y2Zlb3B4&img_index=1)

Progressive

11

13/3/2025

**LAUNCH OF DIGITAL FINANCIAL MANAGEMENT SYSTEM FOR LOCAL GOVERNMENT AUTHORITIES**

Deployment of a digital public financial management system to enhance transparency, accountability, and efficiency in local government financial administration. The collaboration between NMB Bank and TAMISEMI demonstrates constructive public-private partnership in advancing digital governance, aligning with Tanzania's broader objectives of modernization, fiscal transparency, and digital economy development.

Mchuzi Blog  
Habari Tanzania

- <https://www.michuzi.co.tz/2025/03/nmb-yabuni-mfumo-wa-kidjitali-wa.html>
- <https://habaritanzaniagracesmacha.blogspot.com/2025/03/bot-ufunguaji-akaunti-kwa-diaspora-ni.html>

Progressive

12

11/3/2025

**PRIVATE SECTOR INNOVATION INTRODUCING VIRTUAL PAYMENT CARDS TO SUPPORT DIGITAL FINANCIAL TRANSACTIONS AND CASHLESS PAYMENTS**

The introduction of digital virtual cards represents a positive advancement in Tanzania's digital financial ecosystem. It enhances financial inclusion, strengthens secure digital payment infrastructure, and improves accessibility to cashless transactions for both consumers and businesses. This initiative aligns with national digital economy objectives and supports broader digital transformation by expanding the availability and usability of secure electronic financial services.

The Respondent

- [https://www.therespondents.co.tz/2025/06/airtel-money-tanzania-launches-global.html?utm\\_source=copilot.com](https://www.therespondents.co.tz/2025/06/airtel-money-tanzania-launches-global.html?utm_source=copilot.com)

Progressive

13

14/3/2025

**CENTRAL BANK CLARIFICATION ADDRESSING MISINFORMATION AND REAFFIRMING ACCESS TO DIGITAL BANKING SERVICES FOR TANZANIANS IN THE DIASPORA**

The Bank of Tanzania's proactive clarification helped counter misinformation and reinforced public trust in digital financial services. By affirming the availability of remote account opening, online identity verification, and international card delivery, the central bank strengthened confidence in digital banking infrastructure and supported diaspora financial inclusion.

Habari Tanzania  
Bank of Tanzania Website

- <https://habaritanzaniagracesmacha.blogspot.com/2025/03/bot-ufunguaji-akaunti-kwa-diaspora-ni.html>
- <https://www.bot.go.tz/Adverts/PressRelease/en/2025031416174636.pdf>

Progressive

14

17/3/2025

**COMMUNITY MOBILIZATION FOR ICT INFRASTRUCTURE IN RURAL TANZANIA**

Government initiative promoting rural connectivity through the construction of communication towers, involving community participation and public-private collaboration. The initiative seeks to expand ICT infrastructure in underserved rural areas, improving access to telecommunications and digital services. By combining government oversight, community involvement, and private sector collaboration, the project fosters inclusive digital development and addresses structural barriers to connectivity.

UCSAF Website  
Clouds Instagram

- <https://www.ucsaf.go.tz/news/waziri-silaa-ashiriki-kupandisha-vifaa-ujenzi-wa-mnara-wa-mawasiliano-kijiji-cha-idete>
- [https://www.instagram.com/p/DHL9ClzscLc/?img\\_index=6&igsh=MWM0ZWFOZmpsdWhwaQ%3D%3D](https://www.instagram.com/p/DHL9ClzscLc/?img_index=6&igsh=MWM0ZWFOZmpsdWhwaQ%3D%3D)

Progressive

## Nature of Incident

## Reference

## Tone

15 9/4/2025

## TANZANIA TO CONNECT DR CONGO VIA FIBER OPTIC THROUGH LAKE TANGANYIKA

Cross-border infrastructure project to extend Tanzania's National ICT Broadband Backbone (NICTBB) to the Democratic Republic of the Congo. The fiber optic project represents a strategic effort to expand regional digital connectivity and promote cross-border ICT integration. By linking Tanzania to the DRC, the initiative enhances communication infrastructure, supports regional trade and cooperation, and strengthens access to digital services.

The Citizen

- [https://thechanzo.com/2025/04/10/the-chanzo-morning-briefing-tanzania-news-april-10-2025/?utm\\_source=mailpoet&utm\\_medium=email&utm\\_source\\_platform=mailpoet](https://thechanzo.com/2025/04/10/the-chanzo-morning-briefing-tanzania-news-april-10-2025/?utm_source=mailpoet&utm_medium=email&utm_source_platform=mailpoet)

Progressive

16 15/4/2025

## ARREST OF HELBETH MLELWA FOR CRITICIZING OPPOSITION LEADER'S DETENTION ONLINE

The arrest of Helbeth Mlelwa for posting a video on YouTube condemning the detention of an opposition leader constitutes a clear suppression of digital civic expression. By detaining an individual for content shared online without citing specific legal grounds, authorities created a climate of fear and self-censorship, undermining freedom of expression and political participation.

JamiiForums

- <https://www.jamiiforums.com/threads/helbeth-mlelwa-anadaiwa-kukamatwa-na-polisi-kwa-kurekodi-ujumbe-wa-kulaani-kukamatwa-tundu-lissu-tiktok.2329192/>

Regressive

17 17/4/2025

## US BUREAU OF AFRICAN AFFAIRS CONDEMNS DETERIORATION OF CIVIC SPACE IN TANZANIA

Diplomatic statement highlighting concerns over the erosion of civic and political space in Tanzania ahead of elections. The incident involves an external diplomatic observation and advisory rather than a direct action by Tanzanian authorities. It underscores concerns about political freedoms, electoral integrity, and civic participation, but does not itself constitute a repressive measure or digital governance action.

US Bureau of African Affairs (X/Twitter)

- <https://x.com/AsstSecStateAF/status/1912838852483432828?t=syGyCrLVV92L0xe5ym4QwQ&s=08>

Neutral

18 30/4/2025

## FR. CHARLES KITIMA, SECRETARY GENERAL OF THE TANZANIA EPISCOPAL CONFERENCE (TEC)

Criticism of the incumbent government and advocacy for electoral justice. Fr. Charles Kitima was brutally assaulted after publicly voicing concerns about electoral justice. The attack reflects risks faced by civil society actors and activists who criticize government practices.

BBC News  
The Citizen

- <https://www.bbc.com/news/articles/cggydyp119pp>
- <https://www.thecitizen.co.tz/tanzania/news/national/tanzania-episcopal-conference-secretary-general-attacked-one-arrested-5023984>

Regressive

19 1/5/2025

## ARREST RELATED TO ATTACK ON ACTIVIST/CRITIC

Following the assault on Fr. Kitima on 30 April 2025 at TEC premises in Kurasini, police arrested Rauli Mahabi and an accomplice. The attack occurred around 9:45 pm when Fr. Kitima stepped out to use the restroom. The assault came hours after a recording of him criticizing electoral lawlessness went viral on social media.

The Chanzo

- <https://thechanzo.com/2025/05/01/outs-poken-catholic-priest-dr-charles-kitima-hospitalized-following-an-attack/>

Regressive

20 1/5/2025

## GOVERNMENT TO ISSUE DIGITAL IDS TO JOURNALISTS

Implementation of digital identification for journalists, linked to professional regulation and oversight by the Journalists' Accreditation Board. This aligns with a regressive approach, where digital tools are used to enforce compliance and limit independent journalistic activity rather than solely supporting professional development.

JamiiForums

- <https://x.com/JamiiForums/status/1918750303014596947?t=WZZtnHYJSLAoW380jCZQMA&s=09>

Regressive

21 1/5/2025

## CALL FOR REGULATION / ETHICS IN SOCIAL MEDIA

MP Felista Njalu called for government regulation of TikTok, citing moral concerns. While framed as an ethics issue, this is a digital rights concern, as potential restrictions or bans could limit freedom of expression and access to information for Tanzanian users, particularly youth and civic actors who use social media to organize, share ideas, and engage publicly.

Mwananchi

- <https://x.com/MwananchiNews/status/1919333938390069508?t=tt1ut5WDpiSDMYgd03Ex0w&s=08>

Regressive

22 12/5/2025

## ABDUCTION OF ACTIVIST AND BOUNTY FOR INFORMATION

Mdude Nyagali, a prominent activist and government critic, was abducted under unclear circumstances. A TZS 10 million bounty was announced for information on his whereabouts. This represents enforced disappearance and threats against civic actors, creating a chilling effect on freedom of expression and digital activism. The case signals serious suppression of civic space and intimidation of digital rights defenders.

The Chanzo

- <https://thechanzo.com/2025/05/12/mdude-nyagali-abduction-10-million-offered-for-information-on-activists-whereabouts-lawyer-reports-death-threats-police-warn-of-threats-against-accused-officers/>

Regressive

## Nature of Incident

## Reference

## Tone

## 23 14/5/2025 GOVERNMENT SCHOLARSHIP FOR DIGITAL SKILLS DEVELOPMENT

The government announced the extension of the Samia Scholarship to fund students pursuing studies in data science. This initiative supports digital skills development and capacity building, equipping youth with competencies in emerging technologies. It contributes to a more informed and digitally literate society, indirectly strengthening citizens' ability to exercise rights in digital spaces and participate in the digital economy.

The Chanzo

- <https://thechanzo.com/2025/05/13/government-to-extend-samia-scholarship-to-fund-students-in-data-science-studies/>

Progressive

## 24 15/5/2025 PARLIAMENTARY ADVOCACY ON DIGITAL CONSUMER RIGHTS

During the Ministry of Communication and Information Technology's budget debate, Babati Town MP Pauline Gekul called for an independent oversight system for monitoring mobile data bundle usage. This advocacy addresses digital consumer rights, transparency, and accountability, ensuring that citizens' access to digital services is fair and protected. It reflects proactive parliamentary support for digital rights and informed use of ICT.

The Citizen

- <https://www.instagram.com/p/DJtxPm-o8mf/?igsh=MTA2eDY3cmh6NmozZA==>

Regressive

## 25 18/5/2025 DETENTION AND DEPORTATION

Martha Karua, a Kenyan politician and human rights advocate, was reportedly detained and deported along with colleagues under unclear legal grounds. While primarily a cross-border political rights violation, this incident intersects with digital rights, as suppression of politically active individuals affects online expression, advocacy, and cross-border digital civic engagement. It highlights risks to activists whose voices are amplified on digital platforms.

The Daily Nation  
Kenyan Insights

- [https://nation.africa/kenya/news/karua-detained-in-tanzania-awaits-deportation-5046218?utm\\_source=copilot.com](https://nation.africa/kenya/news/karua-detained-in-tanzania-awaits-deportation-5046218?utm_source=copilot.com)
- [https://kenyainights.com/tanzania-deports-martha-karua-after-airport-standoff/?utm\\_source=copilot.com](https://kenyainights.com/tanzania-deports-martha-karua-after-airport-standoff/?utm_source=copilot.com)

Regressive

## 26 19/5/2025 DETENTION AND DEPORTATION

Law enforcement warnings threatening arrest and prosecution of individuals using civic technology platforms online, restricting digital civic engagement. The public threat of arrest for engaging with civic technology represents a direct attempt to suppress citizen participation in digital civic spaces. By framing the use of online civic tools as a potential legal risk, authorities create a climate of fear and self-censorship, undermining freedom of expression, association, and digital participation.

The Daily Nation  
Nairobi Leo

- [https://nation.africa/kenya/news/ex-cj-mutungua-detained-in-tanzania-hours-after-karua-s-deportation-5047528?utm\\_source=copilot.com](https://nation.africa/kenya/news/ex-cj-mutungua-detained-in-tanzania-hours-after-karua-s-deportation-5047528?utm_source=copilot.com)
- [https://nairobi.co.ke/news/article/20830/ex-cj-willy-mutungua-to-be-deported-from-tanzania-after-release?utm\\_source=copilot.com](https://nairobi.co.ke/news/article/20830/ex-cj-willy-mutungua-to-be-deported-from-tanzania-after-release?utm_source=copilot.com)

Regressive

## 27 19/5/2025 HARASSMENT OF ACTIVIST / CROSS-BORDER INTIMIDATION

Kenyan activist and photojournalist Boniface Mwangi was reportedly harassed by authorities while staying at a hotel in Tanzania. Although no formal charges were filed, the incident represents suppression of freedom of expression and regional civic engagement. It illustrates how cross-border activists face risks, including threats amplified through digital platforms, discouraging online and offline advocacy.

The East African  
Human Rights Research Center

- <https://www.theeastafrican.co.ke/tea/news/east-africa/boniface-mwangi-agather-atuhaire-tanzanian-captors-assault-5066674>
- <https://www.humanrightsresearch.org/post/kenyan-activist-boniface-mwangi-reveals-abuse-during-enforced-disappearance-in-tanzania>

Regressive

## 28 19/5/2025 LIVE COURT PROCEEDINGS AGAINST OPPOSITION LEADER

Opposition leader Tundu Lissu was presented in open court, with proceedings publicly accessible through live coverage. This represents a digital rights and transparency milestone, allowing citizens and civic actors to observe judicial processes in real time. Live digital access strengthens freedom of information, public scrutiny, and civic participation, while highlighting the role of digital platforms in monitoring political accountability.

The Judiciary  
CHADEMA Official

- <https://www.youtube.com/live/1u8Uapr0Y1k?si=MYcdZp3m2sWLTXnB>
- <https://x.com/ChademaT2/status/1924356831830282465?t=dXoQkG7k9gEEAtS5dpWj6Q&s=08>

Progressive

## 29 17/5/2025 CYBERATTACK ON GOVERNMENT DIGITAL INFRASTRUCTURE

Various Tanzanian government websites and official X accounts were hacked or disrupted in a coordinated cyberattack. This incident compromised public access to information and government communication channels, highlighting vulnerabilities in national digital infrastructure. It underscores the importance of protecting digital platforms that citizens rely on for civic engagement, transparency, and access to official information.

The Citizen  
Daily News

- <https://www.thecitizen.co.tz/tanzania/news/national/hackers-target-tanzanian-government-institutions-spread-falsehoods-5049088#story>
- <https://dailynews.co.tz/tanzania-alerts-social-media-managers-as-cybersecurity-cases-escalate/>

Regressive

## Nature of Incident

## Reference

## Tone

30

17/5/2025

## GOVERNMENT CLARIFICATION ON CYBERATTACK

Following the cyberattack on government websites and X accounts, the Chief Government Spokesperson issued a public clarification and statement via official X account. This represents an administrative response and transparency measure, providing citizens with official information about the breach. It reflects the role of digital communication channels in informing the public and mitigating misinformation during incidents affecting digital infrastructure.

Jambo TV

- [https://x.com/JamboTV/status/1912837694725517643?t=v9Psl5fuAWJhhTcPx\\_rq8g&s=08](https://x.com/JamboTV/status/1912837694725517643?t=v9Psl5fuAWJhhTcPx_rq8g&s=08)

Neutral

31

21/5/2025

## NATIONAL SOCIAL MEDIA PLATFORM RESTRICTION

The government blocked access to X (formerly Twitter) nationwide following cyberattacks on government accounts, without prior public notice or explanation. While intended as a security measure, the shutdown constitutes digital censorship, restricting citizens' access to online information, communication, and civic engagement. It highlights the tension between cybersecurity and freedom of expression in digital spaces.

Africa News  
IGTWG Statement

- <https://www.africanews.com/2025/05/22/tanzania-blocks-access-to-x-following-cyberattacks-on-government-accounts/>
- <https://tmc.co.tz/igtwg-statement-on-cyber-attacks-and-unlawful-blocking-of-access-to-x-platform-in-tanzania/>

Regressive

32

21/5/2025

## MINISTERIAL CLARIFICATION ON CYBERATTACKS DURING PARLIAMENT SESSION

During a parliamentary Q&A session, Minister of Communication and Information Technology Jerry Silaa assured citizens that national systems are secure and clarified that incidents on some social media accounts were due to lack of account controls rather than systemic failures. This represents an administrative and transparency response, providing citizens with official information while addressing concerns over the security and integrity of digital platforms.

Jambo TV  
Millard Ayo

- <https://x.com/jambotv/status/1925614959465017542?s=46>
- <https://x.com/millardayo/status/1925143582458974642>

Neutral

33

22/05/2025

## IGTWG SLAMS "DIGITAL REPRESSION" AHEAD OF AFRICA IGF

This incident directly concerns restrictions on digital rights, including social media blocks and detentions related to online expression. The condemnation by the Internet Governance Technical Working Group (IGTWG) indicates that state actions are perceived to be limiting digital freedoms and civic participation online. Such developments represent a contraction of digital civic space and undermine principles of freedom of expression, open internet access, and digital rights protection.

Tanzania Digest  
TMC Blog

- <https://www.digest.tz/igtwg-slams-digital-repression-ahead-of-africa-igf/>
- <https://tmc.co.tz/igtwg-statement-on-cyber-attacks-and-unlawful-blocking-of-access-to-x-platform-in-tanzania/>

Regressive

34

23/5/2025

## UVCCM CHAIRMAN RAISES CONCERN OVER SOCIAL MEDIA NARRATIVES

This is a political and strategic response to online discourse rather than a state-imposed restriction or coercion. No arrests, content blocks, or legal enforcement are involved. The incident reflects concern over social media misinformation and management of political narratives, which is informative and reactive, not oppressive or regressive.

The Chanzo

- <https://x.com/thechanzo/status/1925907079241302079?s=46>

Neutral

35

23/5/2025

## CROSS-BORDER DETENTION OF ACTIVISTS LINKED TO POLITICAL MONITORING, INCLUDING ENFORCED DISAPPEARANCE AT THE BORDER AND TEMPORARY DETENTION

The arrest and abandonment of foreign activists for their involvement in monitoring political cases constitutes coercive action that restricts civic space, freedom of movement, and political expression. It reflects a pattern of intimidation aimed at silencing dissent and deterring activism, both domestically and regionally, aligning with a regressive approach to digital and civic rights enforcement.

Daily Monitor

- [https://www.monitor.co.ug/uganda/news/national/agather-atuhaire-boniface-mwangi-s-arrest-in-tanzania-unites-region-in-condemnation-5048392?utm\\_source=copilot.com](https://www.monitor.co.ug/uganda/news/national/agather-atuhaire-boniface-mwangi-s-arrest-in-tanzania-unites-region-in-condemnation-5048392?utm_source=copilot.com)

Regressive

36

23/5/2025

## UVCCM LAUNCHES EFFORTS TO COMBAT MISINFORMATION AHEAD OF 2025 ELECTIONS

The incident involves proactive measures by a political party to manage information integrity and digital engagement. It does not involve state enforcement, censorship, or coercive action. The focus is on communication strategy and protection against misinformation, making it a neutral digital incident rather than progressive or regressive.

IPP Media

- <https://www.ippmedia.com/the-guardian/news/local-news/read/uvccm-out-to-combat-misinformation-as-2025-general-election-inches-closer-2025-05-22-173909>

Neutral

Nature of Incident		Reference	Tone
37	<p><b>24/5/2025</b> TCRA ORDERS AYO TV TO REMOVE HON. GWAJIMA'S INTERVIEW</p> <p>Repression of media and restriction of right to information; forced removal of political content. TCRA directed AyoTV to remove a video interview featuring Bishop Josephat Gwajima, MP for Kawe, in which he discussed abduction incidents in Tanzania. The takedown represents government enforcement against political reporting, limiting access to information and constraining media freedom.</p>	<p>Ayo TV</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><a href="https://www.instagram.com/p/DKUziPiCUxC/?igsh=MXFsZWfFuYXlqZzhnOQ%3D%3D">https://www.instagram.com/p/DKUziPiCUxC/?igsh=MXFsZWfFuYXlqZzhnOQ%3D%3D</a></li> </ul>	Regressive
38	<p><b>25/5/2025</b> CENSORSHIP AND RESTRICTION OF DIGITAL CONTENT; REMOVAL OF POLITICAL COVERAGE FROM SOCIAL MEDIA AND STREAMING PLATFORMS</p> <p>Instagram and YouTube (Global Online TV and Wasafi TV live streams removed). The deliberate removal of content on Instagram and YouTube, including live streams with thousands of viewers, represents a coordinated suppression of political speech and public access to information. This limits civic participation in digital spaces and reflects regressive digital governance practices.</p>	<p>X (Formerly Twitter)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><a href="https://x.com/Sativa255/status/1926336852774015173?t=xh06g-7PT8oXHxOxmhbDZw&amp;s=08">https://x.com/Sativa255/status/1926336852774015173?t=xh06g-7PT8oXHxOxmhbDZw&amp;s=08</a></li> </ul>	Regressive
39	<p><b>28/5/2025</b> THREATS TO FREEDOM OF EXPRESSION AND PRESS FREEDOM; STATE OFFICIAL URGES ENFORCEMENT AGAINST CRITICAL ONLINE CONTENT</p> <p>The statement by Minister Bashungwa represents direct intimidation against citizens and journalists exercising online speech. By calling for police action against negative commentary on social media, the government signals a hostile stance toward digital expression, reinforcing a climate of censorship and self-censorship.</p>	<p>JamiiForums</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><a href="https://x.com/JamiiForums/status/1927449516166271108">https://x.com/JamiiForums/status/1927449516166271108</a></li> </ul>	Regressive
40	<p><b>28/5/2025</b> DIPLOMATIC GESTURE AIMED AT REPAIRING CIVIC AND BILATERAL RELATIONSHIPS</p> <p>Kenyan President Ruto Issues Apology to Uganda and Tanzania. This is a diplomatic and reconciliatory act, intended to restore trust and strengthen regional relationships. It does not involve restrictions, coercion, or censorship of digital spaces, and is therefore classified as neutral.</p>	<p>The Chanzo</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><a href="https://x.com/TheCitizenTz/status/1927696187043565691">https://x.com/TheCitizenTz/status/1927696187043565691</a></li> </ul>	Neutral
41	<p><b>28/5/2025</b> ICT-DRIVEN POLITICAL PROMOTION; ADAPTATION OF INNOVATIVE TECHNOLOGY FOR PARTY MESSAGING AND ENGAGEMENT</p> <p>Use of Robots to Promote CCM Policies Ahead of 2025 Elections. The incident describes the use of robotic technology for political outreach and public engagement, without evidence of coercion, censorship, or restriction of digital or civic space. It reflects technological adaptation in political campaigning, which is neutral in terms of digital rights impact.</p>	<p>Mwananchi News</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><a href="https://thechanzo.com/2024/07/30/tcr-a-distances-itself-from-calls-to-ban-some-social-media-platforms-in-tanzania/">https://thechanzo.com/2024/07/30/tcr-a-distances-itself-from-calls-to-ban-some-social-media-platforms-in-tanzania/</a></li> </ul>	Neutral
42	<p><b>29/5/2025</b> PARLIAMENTARY DEBATE ON ARREST OF KENYAN AND UGANDAN ACTIVISTS</p> <p>Parliamentary discussion and accountability exercise concerning the detention of foreign activists; clarification of official positions. The incident involves legislative oversight and debate rather than enforcement, censorship, or suppression. MPs expressed opinions on a politically sensitive matter, and the Speaker clarified the official stance of the National Assembly.</p>	<p>JamiiForums</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><a href="https://x.com/JamiiForums/status/1927766158339367130">https://x.com/JamiiForums/status/1927766158339367130</a></li> </ul>	Neutral
43	<p><b>29/5/2025</b> ADVOCACY FOR DIGITAL RIGHTS; CALL TO RESTORE ACCESS TO SOCIAL MEDIA AND ENSURE OPEN INTERNET DURING ELECTIONS</p> <p>Paradigm Initiative (PIN) and Tech &amp; Media Convergency (TMC) issued a joint statement urging the Tanzania Communications Regulatory Authority (TCRA) to restore access to X and ensure a free and open internet for all users, especially in the lead-up to the 2025 general elections. The statement highlights the need for transparent digital governance and protection of citizens' online freedoms.</p>	<p>Paradigm Initiative Jambo TV</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><a href="https://paradigmhq.org/press-release-online-freedoms-under-threat-as-tanzania-heads-towards-2025-general-elections-paradigm-initiative-and-tech-media-convergency-warn/?utm_source=copilot.com">https://paradigmhq.org/press-release-online-freedoms-under-threat-as-tanzania-heads-towards-2025-general-elections-paradigm-initiative-and-tech-media-convergency-warn/?utm_source=copilot.com</a></li> </ul>	Progressive

## Nature of Incident

44

02/6/2025

ICT DEVELOPMENT AND TECHNOLOGY ADAPTATION; ANNOUNCEMENT OF SPECTRUM AUCTION FOR MOBILE AND INTERNET SERVICES

TCRA published the information memorandum for the competitive auction of radio frequency spectrum in the 3600–3800 MHz band. The announcement opens applications for participation, signaling an effort to expand mobile and internet communications infrastructure and promote technological innovation in Tanzania.

## Reference

TCRA

- [https://tcra.go.tz/uploads/documents/en-1752158214-Public\\_Notice\\_Spectrum\\_Auction\\_10321\\_07643381814476641029946369102376\\_331752154874696.pdf?utm\\_source=copilot.com](https://tcra.go.tz/uploads/documents/en-1752158214-Public_Notice_Spectrum_Auction_10321_07643381814476641029946369102376_331752154874696.pdf?utm_source=copilot.com)

## Tone

Progressive

45

02/6/2025

FREEDOM OF EXPRESSION AND ACCESS TO INFORMATION INFRINGEMENT; LIVE REPORTING OF POLITICAL TRIAL

The trial of CHADEMA Chairman Tundu Lissu, facing treason and publication of false information charges, was covered live on Mwananchi Digital's YouTube channel. Heavy security measures accompanied Lissu's court appearance. The incident highlights tensions between government oversight and citizens' rights to access political information and follow judicial proceedings in real time.

Kulani Youtube

- <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=glvoscfBV-s>

Neutral

46

02/6/2025

GOVERNMENT-MANDATED CLOSURE OF A RELIGIOUS ORGANIZATION FOR ALLEGED POLITICAL ACTIVITY; RESTRICTION OF FREEDOM OF ASSOCIATION AND RELIGIOUS EXPRESSION

The Office of the Registrar of Societies officially canceled the registration of Glory of Christ Church – Kanisa la Ufufuo na Uzima, citing sermons with political content allegedly intended to incite conflict between the government and citizens. The closure, effective immediately, requires the church to cease all operations. The decision restricts both religious practice and freedom of association, while allowing a 21-day window to appeal to the Minister of Home Affairs. Social media and media coverage were cited as part of the basis for the action.

Habari Digital Mwananchi

- <https://x.com/habaridigital/status/1929520285625069800?s=46>
- <https://x.com/MwananchiNews/status/1929539113524269122>

Regressive

47

03/6/2025

RIGHT OF PUBLIC PARTICIPATION IN JUDICIAL PROCEEDINGS; LIVE DIGITAL BROADCAST OF A HIGH-PROFILE TRIAL

Approximately 674,711 people followed the live coverage of CHADEMA Chairman Tundu Lissu's trial. The broadcast enabled the public to engage with ongoing court proceedings digitally, highlighting the use of media platforms to facilitate transparency and access to information in the judicial process.

Digital Media

- <https://docs.google.com/document/d/1TeL4eTYnOgnANE1wh-Yr3mVW1Ue4nRiX5d5KO7rotl/edit?tab=t.0>

Progressive

48

04/6/2025

DEREGISTRATION OF A RELIGIOUS INSTITUTION; ENFORCEMENT ACTION AGAINST CHURCH LEADERSHIP

The Tanzanian Ministry of Home Affairs deregistered Bishop Josephat Gwajima's Ufufuo na Uzima Church. The decision followed his press conference on May 24 and sermon remarks on June 1 regarding abductions in the country. Police sought to arrest Gwajima, and the action prompted commotion outside the church. The incident reflects state enforcement against religious leaders engaging in politically sensitive discourse.

The Chanzo Tuko

- <https://thechanzo.com/2025/06/03/government-deregisters-gwajimas-ufufuo-na-uzima-church-commotion-outside-the-church-as-police-seek-to-arrest-him/>

Regressive

49

04/6/2025

BLOCKAGE OF X PLATFORM ACCESSIBILITY FOR SOME NETWORK USERS IN TANZANIA

Users across several major telecommunications networks in Tanzania began experiencing difficulty accessing X (formerly Twitter), a platform widely used for civic engagement and political dialogue. The platforms is not accessible without VPN to date.

BBC News

- [https://www.bbc.com/news/articles/cx2e1y02w21o?at\\_link\\_id=D74B1634-41BE-11F0-9D11-BBE33E1ACC1E&at\\_campaign=Social\\_Flow&at\\_link\\_origin=BBCAfrica&at\\_ptr\\_name=twitter&at\\_medium=social&at\\_bbc\\_team=editorial&at\\_link\\_type=web\\_link&at\\_format=image&at\\_campaign\\_type=owned](https://www.bbc.com/news/articles/cx2e1y02w21o?at_link_id=D74B1634-41BE-11F0-9D11-BBE33E1ACC1E&at_campaign=Social_Flow&at_link_origin=BBCAfrica&at_ptr_name=twitter&at_medium=social&at_bbc_team=editorial&at_link_type=web_link&at_format=image&at_campaign_type=owned)

Regressive

50

04/6/2025

GOVERNMENT-IMPOSED BLOCKING OF A SOCIAL MEDIA PLATFORM; RESTRICTION ON FREEDOM OF PRESS, ACCESS TO INFORMATION, AND DIGITAL ASSOCIATION

Minister Jerry Silaa confirmed that the restriction was a deliberate measure to enforce regulations, affecting users' ability to access information, share content, and engage in digital association. The move drew attention to the shrinking digital civic space and raised concerns about press freedom in Tanzania.

The East African

- [https://www.theeastafrican.co.ke/tea/news/east-africa/tanzanian-confirms-blocking-of-x-over-pornographic-content-5069114?utm\\_source=copilot.com](https://www.theeastafrican.co.ke/tea/news/east-africa/tanzanian-confirms-blocking-of-x-over-pornographic-content-5069114?utm_source=copilot.com)

Regressive

## Nature of Incident

		Reference	Tone
51	<b>08/6/2025</b> <b>"NO REFORMS, NO ELECTION" TREND ON SOCIAL MEDIA</b>	The Chanzo <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><a href="https://thechanzo.com/2025/06/08/no-reforms-no-election-takes-over-tanzanias-social-media/">https://thechanzo.com/2025/06/08/no-reforms-no-election-takes-over-tanzanias-social-media/</a></li> </ul>	Neutral
52	<b>13/6/2025</b> <b>UN EXPERTS ALARMED BY ENFORCED DISAPPEARANCES AND TORTURE IN TANZANIA, INCLUDES ONLINE EXPRESSION AND DIGITAL SPACES</b>	United Nations <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><a href="https://www.ohchr.org/en/press-releases/2025/06/tanzania-un-experts-alarmed-pattern-enforced-disappearance-and-torture">https://www.ohchr.org/en/press-releases/2025/06/tanzania-un-experts-alarmed-pattern-enforced-disappearance-and-torture</a></li> </ul>	Regressive
53	<b>19/6/2025</b> <b>PUBLIC STATEMENT BY LAW ENFORCEMENT ON ABDUCTIONS AND DISAPPEARANCES; CIVIC SPACE AND HUMAN RIGHTS CONCERN</b>	Tbe Chanzo <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><a href="https://thechanzo.com/2025/06/19/the-chanzo-morning-briefing-tanzania-news-june-19-2025/?utm_source=mailpoet&amp;utm_medium=email&amp;utm_source_platform=mailpoet">https://thechanzo.com/2025/06/19/the-chanzo-morning-briefing-tanzania-news-june-19-2025/?utm_source=mailpoet&amp;utm_medium=email&amp;utm_source_platform=mailpoet</a></li> </ul>	Neutral
54	<b>19/6/2025</b> <b>GOVERNMENT RESPONSE TO INTERNATIONAL HUMAN RIGHTS ALLEGATIONS; ACCOUNTABILITY AND DIGITAL CIVIC DISCOURSE</b>	The Chanzo <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><a href="https://thechanzo.com/2025/06/19/the-chanzo-morning-briefing-tanzania-news-june-19-2025/?utm_source=mailpoet&amp;utm_medium=email&amp;utm_source_platform=mailpoet">https://thechanzo.com/2025/06/19/the-chanzo-morning-briefing-tanzania-news-june-19-2025/?utm_source=mailpoet&amp;utm_medium=email&amp;utm_source_platform=mailpoet</a></li> </ul>	Neutral
55	<b>22/6/2025</b> <b>ARREST OF POLITICAL PODCASTERS FOR ALLEGED ONLINE CONTENT VIOLATIONS; PRESS FREEDOM AND DIGITAL SPEECH CONCERNS</b>	The Chanzo Wachokonozi <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><a href="https://thechanzo.com/2025/06/22/viral-tanzanian-political-podcasters-wachokonozi-arrested-for-alleged-social-media-abuse/">https://thechanzo.com/2025/06/22/viral-tanzanian-political-podcasters-wachokonozi-arrested-for-alleged-social-media-abuse/</a></li> <li><a href="https://www.youtube.com/@wachokonozi">https://www.youtube.com/@wachokonozi</a></li> </ul>	Regressive
56	<b>23/6/2025</b> <b>DETENTION OF A POLITICAL FIGURE RAISING CONCERNS OVER RIGHT TO BAIL, LEGAL FAIRNESS, AND POSSIBLE POLITICAL MOTIVATION</b>	The Chanzo <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><a href="https://thechanzo.com/2025/06/23/act-wazalendo-demands-justice-as-janeth-rithe-remains-in-custody/?utm_source=copilot.com">https://thechanzo.com/2025/06/23/act-wazalendo-demands-justice-as-janeth-rithe-remains-in-custody/?utm_source=copilot.com</a></li> </ul>	Regressive

Nature of Incident		Reference	Tone
57	<p><b>24/6/2025</b> <b>INTEGRATING TECH-CENTRIC INTERVENTIONS IN TANZANIA'S SCHOOLS</b></p> <p>Public discussion on integrating technology and digital education initiatives into schools. A public discussion highlighted the importance of moving beyond pilot programs and scaling efforts to fully integrate technology-centered interventions in Tanzania's schools. The focus was on improving digital literacy, enhancing ICT infrastructure, and ensuring sustainable adoption of digital tools to support long-term transformation in the education sector.</p>	<p>The Chanzo</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><a href="https://thechanzo.com/2025/06/24/from-scaling-up-to-integrating-tech-centric-interventions-in-tanzanias-schools/">https://thechanzo.com/2025/06/24/from-scaling-up-to-integrating-tech-centric-interventions-in-tanzanias-schools/</a></li> </ul>	Progressive
58	<p><b>03/7/2025</b> <b>ICT DEVELOPMENT – RELEASE OF UPDATED TELECOMMUNICATION NUMBERING AND SIGNALING PLANS</b></p> <p>The Tanzania Communications Regulatory Authority (TCRA) published the updated National Numbering and Signaling Point Codes Plans (Document No: TCRA/DICT/CRTM/PLA-GUD/001), outlining the management of national, geographic, and mobile numbering, as well as signaling point code assignments. The update aims to ensure efficient network interconnection and proper management of telecommunication resources across Tanzania.</p>	<p>TCRA</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><a href="https://www.tcra.go.tz/download/sw-1751634705-National_Numbering_and_Signaling_Point_Code_Plans_edition_of_2025.pdf">https://www.tcra.go.tz/download/sw-1751634705-National_Numbering_and_Signaling_Point_Code_Plans_edition_of_2025.pdf</a></li> </ul>	Progressive
59	<p><b>08/7/2025</b> <b>TANZANIA WINS THREE INTERNATIONAL ICT AWARDS - RECOGNITION / ICT DEVELOPMENT – AWARDS FOR DIGITAL INNOVATION PROJECTS</b></p> <p>At the WSIS+20 Forum held in Geneva, Switzerland, Tanzania was recognized with three international ICT awards for exemplary digital innovation initiatives. PharmAccess Zanzibar received the e-Health Award for digital healthcare solutions, the e-Government Authority's e-Mrejesho Platform won for enhancing citizen-government engagement, and St. Joseph University's STEM 4 All project was honored for advancing digital science education.</p>	<p>MIT</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><a href="https://www.mawasiliano.go.tz/news/tanzania-yashinda-tuzo-tatu-zakimataifa-za-tehama">https://www.mawasiliano.go.tz/news/tanzania-yashinda-tuzo-tatu-zakimataifa-za-tehama</a></li> </ul>	Progressive
60	<p><b>13/7/2025</b> <b>HUMPHREY POLEPOLE RESIGNS AS AMBASSADOR OVER SOCIAL MEDIA</b></p> <p>Humphrey Polepole, Tanzania's Ambassador to Cuba, publicly announced his resignation via social media, citing his loss of faith in an administration he perceives as failing to uphold constitutional principles, justice, morality, humanity, and accountability. The announcement generated widespread online political debate and underscored social media's role as a platform for high-level political dissent.</p>	<p>The Citizen The Chanzo</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><a href="https://www.thecitizen.co.tz/tanzania/news/national/humphrey-polepole-stripped-of-diplomatic-status-appointment-revoked-5144994">https://www.thecitizen.co.tz/tanzania/news/national/humphrey-polepole-stripped-of-diplomatic-status-appointment-revoked-5144994</a></li> <li><a href="https://thechanzo.com/2025/07/13/humphrey-polepole-resigns-as-ambassador-to-cuba-i-have-lost-peace-of-heart-and-faith-in-the-current-administration/">https://thechanzo.com/2025/07/13/humphrey-polepole-resigns-as-ambassador-to-cuba-i-have-lost-peace-of-heart-and-faith-in-the-current-administration/</a></li> </ul>	Neutral
61	<p><b>17/7/2025</b> <b>NATIONAL DIGITAL GOVERNANCE AND DEVELOPMENT POLICY INITIATIVE (LAUNCH OF TANZANIA'S DEVELOPMENT VISION 2050)</b></p> <p>The Government of Tanzania launched the Development Vision 2050, a long-term strategic framework outlining national priorities for economic growth, digital transformation, governance, and social development. The launch was communicated through digital media and government communication platforms, prompting public debate online and in policy forums regarding inclusivity, citizen participation, and implementation mechanisms.</p>	<p>The Citizen The Daily News</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><a href="https://www.thecitizen.co.tz/tanzania/news/national/historic-milestone-as-samia-unveils-development-vision-2050-5121970?utm_source=copilot.com">https://www.thecitizen.co.tz/tanzania/news/national/historic-milestone-as-samia-unveils-development-vision-2050-5121970?utm_source=copilot.com</a></li> <li><a href="https://dailynews.co.tz/vision-2050-launch-tanzania-writes-new-chapter/?utm_source=copilot.com">https://dailynews.co.tz/vision-2050-launch-tanzania-writes-new-chapter/?utm_source=copilot.com</a></li> </ul>	Progressive
62	<p><b>18/7/2025</b> <b>HUMPHREY POLEPOLE QUESTIONS CCM NOMINATION PROCESS</b></p> <p>Humphrey Polepole publicly resigned as Tanzania's Ambassador, criticizing CCM's 2025 nomination process and sparking a debate over the party's internal ethics. His statements, disseminated on social media and covered by media outlets, ignited internal discussions within CCM and drew public attention to perceived deficiencies in party governance and decision-making.</p>	<p>Tanzania Digest</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><a href="https://www.digest.tz/humphrey-polepole-ccm-resignation-2025/">https://www.digest.tz/humphrey-polepole-ccm-resignation-2025/</a></li> </ul>	Progressive
63	<p><b>21/7/2025</b> <b>MISINFORMATION MANAGEMENT / POLITICAL COMMUNICATION</b></p> <p>As CCM's party primaries intensified ahead of the 2025 general elections, the party actively addressed the spread of misinformation and fake news on digital platforms. Using its official X account and other online channels, CCM sought to correct false narratives and manage its internal political communications, highlighting the increasing role of social media in electoral and party processes.</p>	<p>The Chanzo CCM Platform</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><a href="https://thechanzo.com/2025/07/21/ccm-battles-misinformation-and-fake-news-as-party-primaries-heat-up/">https://thechanzo.com/2025/07/21/ccm-battles-misinformation-and-fake-news-as-party-primaries-heat-up/</a></li> <li><a href="https://x.com/ccm_tanzania/status/1947246046687510767">https://x.com/ccm_tanzania/status/1947246046687510767</a></li> </ul>	Progressive

Nature of Incident		Reference	Tone
64	<b>3/8/2025</b> <b>DIGITAL POLITICAL DISCOURSE AND INTRA-PARTY CONFLICT AMPLIFIED THROUGH DIGITAL PLATFORMS</b> Businessman and former CCM leader Rostam Aziz publicly criticized Humphrey Polepole following Polepole's resignation and his remarks questioning the administration and party leadership. The criticism was disseminated through media coverage and widely discussed across digital platforms, including online news outlets and social media. The exchange highlighted internal party tensions and demonstrated how digital platforms are increasingly used to shape political narratives, influence public perception, and amplify elite political disagreements.	The Chanzo CCM Platform <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><a href="https://thechanzo.com/2025/07/21/ccm-battles-misinformation-and-fake-news-as-party-primaries-heat-up/">https://thechanzo.com/2025/07/21/ccm-battles-misinformation-and-fake-news-as-party-primaries-heat-up/</a></li> <li><a href="https://x.com/ccm_tanzania/status/1947246046687510767">https://x.com/ccm_tanzania/status/1947246046687510767</a></li> </ul>	Progressive
65	<b>05/8/2025</b> <b>POLITICAL REALIGNMENT AND DIGITAL POLITICAL DISCOURSE</b> Luhaga Mpina defected from CCM and joined ACT-Wazalendo after being excluded from CCM party primaries. The political shift was reported by media outlets and widely discussed across social media and online platforms, where citizens, political supporters, and commentators debated the implications of his defection. The incident illustrates how digital platforms function as key arenas for political realignment narratives, public political engagement, and election-related discourse.	The Chanzo <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><a href="https://thechanzo.com/2025/08/04/tanzanian-tycoon-and-former-ccm-leader-rebuked-polepole-over-party-criticism/">https://thechanzo.com/2025/08/04/tanzanian-tycoon-and-former-ccm-leader-rebuked-polepole-over-party-criticism/</a></li> </ul>	Neutral
66	<b>05/8/2025</b> <b>TCRA LAUNCHES "FUTA DELETE KABISA" CAMPAIGN TO COMBAT ONLINE MISINFORMATION AND FRAUD</b> TCRA launched the national "Futa Delete Kabisa" campaign to address online misinformation and digital fraud. The initiative introduced tools including SMS reporting (15040) for scam numbers, USSD code (*106#) for SIM card verification, and hotline 100 for telecom support. The campaign aims to enhance digital security, strengthen consumer protection, and promote responsible use of telecommunications services while improving public awareness of digital safety measures.	TCRA <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><a href="https://www.tcra.go.tz/tcra-news/kampeni-ya-futa-delete-kabisa-yazinduliwa-kutokomeza-upotoshaji-mtandaoni">https://www.tcra.go.tz/tcra-news/kampeni-ya-futa-delete-kabisa-yazinduliwa-kutokomeza-upotoshaji-mtandaoni</a></li> </ul>	Progressive
67	<b>06/8/2025</b> <b>DIGITAL SURVEILLANCE, SHRINKING CIVIC SPACE, AND RESTRICTION RISKS TO FREEDOM OF EXPRESSION</b> Tanzanian authorities announced that the police would begin patrolling the internet ahead of the general elections, citing concerns about misinformation and online misconduct. The directive indicated expanded digital monitoring by law enforcement across online platforms. Civil society organisations and digital rights advocates raised concerns that the move could increase surveillance, restrict freedom of expression, and contribute to shrinking civic space during a politically sensitive electoral period.	Jamii Forums TANZLII <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><a href="https://thechanzo.com/2025/08/06/tanzania-directs-police-to-patrol-internet-as-the-general-election-nears/">https://thechanzo.com/2025/08/06/tanzania-directs-police-to-patrol-internet-as-the-general-election-nears/</a></li> </ul>	Regressive
68	<b>18/8/2025</b> <b>RESTRICTION ON LIVE DIGITAL BROADCAST OF COURT PROCEEDINGS AFFECTING TRANSPARENCY AND PUBLIC ACCESS TO JUSTICE</b> A Tanzanian court prohibited the live broadcast of witness testimonies in the treason trial of opposition leader Tundu Lissu. The restriction prevented media organisations and digital platforms from livestreaming key parts of the proceedings, limiting real-time public access. While presented as a procedural safeguard, the decision reduced transparency in a high-profile political case and constrained digital public oversight of judicial processes.	The Citizen The Chanzo <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><a href="https://www.thecitizen.co.tz/tanzania/news/national/tanzania-court-bans-live-broadcast-of-witness-testimonies-in-tundu-lissu-treason-case-5159564">https://www.thecitizen.co.tz/tanzania/news/national/tanzania-court-bans-live-broadcast-of-witness-testimonies-in-tundu-lissu-treason-case-5159564</a></li> <li><a href="https://thechanzo.com/2025/08/18/tanzanian-court-bans-live-broadcast-of-treason-trial-against-chadema-leader-tundu-lissu/">https://thechanzo.com/2025/08/18/tanzanian-court-bans-live-broadcast-of-treason-trial-against-chadema-leader-tundu-lissu/</a></li> </ul>	Regressive
69	<b>23/8/2025</b> <b>ELECTORAL DATA INTEGRITY AND MISINFORMATION RESPONSE</b> The Independent National Electoral Commission (INEC) publicly dismissed circulating online reports alleging a covert integration between its digital electoral systems, the National Identification Authority (NIDA), and a political party. The Commission described the claims as false and misleading, aiming to counter narratives that questioned the integrity and independence of Tanzania's electoral infrastructure.	African Press <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><a href="https://www.africa-press.net/tanzania/all-news/inec-dismisses-voting-system-tampering-claims">https://www.africa-press.net/tanzania/all-news/inec-dismisses-voting-system-tampering-claims</a></li> </ul>	Neutral
70	<b>24/8/2025</b> <b>ELECTORAL DATA INTEGRITY, GOVERNANCE TRANSPARENCY, AND INSTITUTIONAL ACCOUNTABILITY</b> Reports highlighted integrity concerns surrounding the Independent National Electoral Commission (INEC) following perceived inconsistencies in its public communication regarding voter data integration with the National Identification Authority (NIDA). The coverage examined contradictions between earlier denials and subsequent clarifications related to data linkage mechanisms within electoral systems. The incident intensified public debate on transparency, institutional credibility, and safeguards protecting electoral data infrastructure ahead of the 2025 general elections.	The Chanzo <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><a href="https://thechanzo.com/2025/08/24/tanzanias-inec-faces-integrity-questions-amid-contradictions-on-voter-data-integration/">https://thechanzo.com/2025/08/24/tanzanias-inec-faces-integrity-questions-amid-contradictions-on-voter-data-integration/</a></li> </ul>	Neutral

Nature of Incident	Reference	Tone
<p><b>71</b>    <b>24/8/2025</b>    <b>INEC CLARIFIES VOTER DATA INTEGRATION AMID POLITICAL FINANCING DISCLOSURE</b></p> <p>The Independent National Electoral Commission (INEC) issued public clarifications regarding voter data integration processes through its official Instagram platform, aiming to address public concerns about electoral data accuracy and system integrity ahead of the general elections. Concurrently, the ruling party CCM announced that it had raised approximately 87 billion Tanzanian shillings to support its election campaign, drawing widespread online attention and debate around political financing, transparency, and electoral competitiveness.</p>	<p>Tume ya Uchaguzi</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><a href="https://www.instagram.com/p/DNsg3-10GNQ/?utm_source=ig_web_copy_link&amp;igsh=aHk4bDFwOGEIcWWhs">https://www.instagram.com/p/DNsg3-10GNQ/?utm_source=ig_web_copy_link&amp;igsh=aHk4bDFwOGEIcWWhs</a></li> </ul>	Neutral
<p><b>72</b>    <b>27/8/2025</b>    <b>INSTAGRAM EMERGES AS TANZANIA'S NEW POLITICAL BATTLEGROUND AMID X SHUTDOWN</b></p> <p>Following the shutdown of X in Tanzania, Instagram has emerged as a central platform for political campaigns ahead of the 2025 elections. Two major campaigns the opposition party CHADEMA's "No Reforms, No Election" initiative and the ruling party CCM's "Oktoba Tunatiki" campaign have leveraged Instagram to engage citizens, share political messaging, and foster debate. This shift illustrates how digital platforms adapt as arenas for political mobilization when traditional channels face restrictions.</p>	<p>The Chanzo</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><a href="https://thechanzo.com/2025/08/27/instagram-emerges-as-tanzanias-new-political-battleground-amid-x-shutdown/">https://thechanzo.com/2025/08/27/instagram-emerges-as-tanzanias-new-political-battleground-amid-x-shutdown/</a></li> </ul>	Neutral
<p><b>73</b>    <b>29/8/2025</b>    <b>TANZANIA'S PATH TOWARD A NATIONAL DATA GOVERNANCE FRAMEWORK</b></p> <p>Tanzania is advancing discussions to establish a national data governance framework. The initiative focuses on strengthening institutional coordination, ensuring data protection, improving digital infrastructure, and promoting policy coherence. This reflects a broader effort to enhance the country's digital governance systems and align with international standards on data management and security.</p>	<p>ECA</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><a href="https://uneca.org/stories/tanzania%E2%80%99s-path-toward-a-national-data-governance-framework">https://uneca.org/stories/tanzania%E2%80%99s-path-toward-a-national-data-governance-framework</a></li> </ul>	Neutral
<p><b>74</b>    <b>04/9/2025</b>    <b>PRESS FREEDOM AND DIGITAL CIVIC SPACE INFRINGEMENT</b></p> <p>The offices of JamiiForums were reportedly raided, prompting public condemnation from the platform's founder, Melo, and official responses from government representatives. The incident raised concerns regarding press freedom, the safety of independent media operations, and the protection of digital civic space in Tanzania.</p>	<p>Mwananchi</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><a href="https://www.mwananchi.co.tz/mw/habari/kitaifa/melo-alaani-ofisi-za-jamiiforums-kuvamiwa-msigwa-amjibu-5182664">https://www.mwananchi.co.tz/mw/habari/kitaifa/melo-alaani-ofisi-za-jamiiforums-kuvamiwa-msigwa-amjibu-5182664</a></li> </ul>	Regressive
<p><b>75</b>    <b>06/9/2025</b>    <b>DIGITAL PLATFORM SUSPENSION, RESTRICTION OF FREEDOM OF EXPRESSION</b></p> <p>TCRA suspended JamiiForums' content license for 90 days, effectively blocking access to the platform in Tanzania. TCRA cited violations of the Electronic and Postal Communications (Online Content) Regulations, including alleged public misinformation, defamation of government leadership, and content conflicting with cultural and moral values. This action restricted the country's largest online discussion platform and raised concerns about digital freedom and civic space.</p>	<p>The Chanzo</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><a href="https://thechanzo.com/2025/09/06/tcr-a-yaifungia-jamii-forums-kwa-siku-90-yatangaza-kuzuia-upatikanaji-wajukwaa-la-jamii-forums-tanzania/">https://thechanzo.com/2025/09/06/tcr-a-yaifungia-jamii-forums-kwa-siku-90-yatangaza-kuzuia-upatikanaji-wajukwaa-la-jamii-forums-tanzania/</a></li> </ul>	Regressive
<p><b>76</b>    <b>06/9/2025</b>    <b>LEADERSHIP RESIGNATION, DATA PROTECTION GOVERNANCE</b></p> <p>Maxence Melo, the founder of JamiiForums, resigned from his role within the Privacy and Data Protection Commission (PDPC). His resignation followed ongoing pressures on the platform and reflects challenges in the intersection of digital media leadership and national data governance oversight.</p>	<p>Mwanahalisi</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><a href="https://mwanahalisonline.com/2025/09/06/bosi-wa-jamiiforum-ajuzulu-ujumbe-wa-tume-ya-ulinzi-ya-taarifa-binafsi/?utm_source=rss&amp;utm_medium=rss&amp;utm_campaign=bosi-wa-jamiiforum-ajuzulu-ujumbe-wa-tume-ya-ulinzi-ya-taarifa-binafsi">https://mwanahalisonline.com/2025/09/06/bosi-wa-jamiiforum-ajuzulu-ujumbe-wa-tume-ya-ulinzi-ya-taarifa-binafsi/?utm_source=rss&amp;utm_medium=rss&amp;utm_campaign=bosi-wa-jamiiforum-ajuzulu-ujumbe-wa-tume-ya-ulinzi-ya-taarifa-binafsi</a></li> </ul>	Neutral
<p><b>77</b>    <b>06/9/2025</b>    <b>ASSAULT ON JOURNALIST; PRESS FREEDOM CONCERN</b></p> <p>The Dar Press Club issued a statement condemning the assault of a journalist at the Mbezi BRT station. The club called on the Tanzania Police Force to conduct a thorough investigation and take swift action against those responsible, highlighting ongoing threats to press freedom and journalist safety in Tanzania.</p>	<p>The Chanzo</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><a href="https://thechanzo.com/2025/09/08/dar-press-club-condemns-assault-of-journalist-at-mbezi-brt-station/">https://thechanzo.com/2025/09/08/dar-press-club-condemns-assault-of-journalist-at-mbezi-brt-station/</a></li> </ul>	Neutral

## Nature of Incident

## Reference

## Tone

## 78 08/9/2025 DISAPPEARANCE OF INFLUENCER AL-HAJJ NOURDIN MUSHI

Concerns arose over the disappearance of Al-Hajj Nourdin Mushi, a 25-year-old Tanzanian social media influencer known for showcasing luxury lifestyle content on Instagram. His sudden absence has generated alarm among followers and the online community, reflecting anxieties over safety and accountability for public figures active on digital platforms.

The Chanzo

- [https://thechanzo.com/2025/09/09/tanzanian-luxury-cars-content-creator-al-hajj-nourdin-mushi-25-reported-missing-after-abduction-ordeal/?utm\\_source=copilot.com](https://thechanzo.com/2025/09/09/tanzanian-luxury-cars-content-creator-al-hajj-nourdin-mushi-25-reported-missing-after-abduction-ordeal/?utm_source=copilot.com)

Regressive

## 79 09/9/2025 ONLINE SCAMS AND CONSUMER FRAUD

A survey by Go7eight revealed that 7 out of 10 Tanzanians have experienced cheating on social media, highlighting the rise of online scams and e-commerce fraud. These activities are causing significant financial and emotional harm, undermining consumer trust in digital transactions, and representing one of the leading forms of cybercrime in the country.

The Citizen

- [https://www.instagram.com/p/DOX\\_BnCCA30/?igsh=bDdleTBkdGxydGg2](https://www.instagram.com/p/DOX_BnCCA30/?igsh=bDdleTBkdGxydGg2)

Regressive

## 80 10/9/2025 MISINFORMATION - FALSE CLAIMS AND RUMOR-MONGERING

The Tanzania Police officially refuted claims that “Abdul and His Squad” abducted a journalist, labeling the reports as fabricated. The incident, dubbed the “Jangwani Incident,” illustrates how personal tragedies are exploited as political propaganda, with false narratives spreading widely online. Despite official clarifications, misinformation continued to influence public perception, highlighting challenges of information integrity in a polarized digital environment.

The Chanzo

- <https://thechanzo.com/2025/09/10/police-claim-that-abdul-and-his-squad-abducted-a-journalist-is-a-fabrication/>

Regressive

## 81 15/9/2025 POLICE BRUTALITY AT THE COURT / RULE OF LAW / DIGITAL RIGHTS IMPLICATIONS

Violent police actions outside the Dar es Salaam High Court disrupted public access to Tundu Lissu’s treason trial. Riot gear was used to disperse peaceful crowds, and Advocate Deogratius Mahinyila—a key defense lawyer and BAVICHA Chairman—was targeted and arrested. While the physical assault occurred in person, the event had significant digital rights implications, as it restricted the transparency of the trial and limited the ability of journalists, online platforms, and the public to report, comment, or monitor proceedings in real time.

The Chanzo

- <https://thechanzo.com/2025/09/15/tanzanian-court-paves-way-for-tundu-lissus-treason-trial-amidst-complaints-of-police-brutality-at-the-court/>

Regressive

## 82 15/9/2025 RIGHTS TO REPORT CRIMINAL ACTIVITIES / DIGITAL CIVIC SPACE

Humphrey Polepole was summoned to report to the Director of Criminal Investigations (DCI), marking a strategic use of legal mechanisms to regulate digital dissent. This enforcement approach targets high-profile influencers, signaling that political commentary and online reporting in Tanzania may now be subject to punitive oversight. The incident highlights growing constraints on digital civic space, as legal procedures are employed to suppress critical voices and manage online discourse.

TANPOL  
The Chanzo

- [https://www.instagram.com/p/DOOnR\\_usDC2l/?utm\\_source=ig\\_web\\_copy\\_link&igsh=YjhzdJ4aXR5MDVp](https://www.instagram.com/p/DOOnR_usDC2l/?utm_source=ig_web_copy_link&igsh=YjhzdJ4aXR5MDVp)
- <https://thechanzo.com/2025/09/15/polepole-summoned-to-dci-to-present-evidence-of-his-allegations/>

Regressive

## 83 19/9/2025 VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN / ENFORCED DISAPPEARANCES

The brutal murder of student Shyrose Mahande highlights the intersection of gender-based violence and Tanzania’s broader enforced disappearance crisis. The incident underscores systemic failures in law enforcement and public security, creating a climate of fear and vulnerability for citizens, particularly women.

The Chanzo

- <https://thechanzo.com/2025/09/19/students-horrific-murder-spotlights-tanzanias-violence-against-women-and-missing-persons-crisis/>

Regressive

## 84 19/9/2025 CYBERCRIME CHARGES AND SUPPRESSION OF POLITICAL DISSENT

Lucy Shayo, a CHADEMA member, was charged for online posts in a move that illustrates the use of digital content laws and administrative regulations to criminalize political dissent. Authorities leveraged technical licensing and SIM card regulations to preemptively silence opposition voices ahead of elections, demonstrating a targeted restriction of freedom of expression in the digital space.

The Chanzo

- <https://thechanzo.com/2025/09/19/lucy-shayo-tanzanian-opposition-member-charged-under-online-content-laws-amidst-pre-election-crackdown/>

Regressive

## Nature of Incident

## Reference

## Tone

## 85 23/9/2025 DIGITAL DISINFORMATION IMPACTING ELECTORAL INTEGRITY

Ahead of Tanzania's October 29 general elections, a surge of digital disinformation—targeting opposition parties in 63% of election-related claims—eroded voter trust. While INEC and CCM employed verification tools to counter false narratives, widespread skepticism limited their effectiveness. The environment heightened the risk of voter manipulation and provided justification for increased state surveillance under the pretext of maintaining electoral security.

The Chanzo

- <https://thechanzo.com/2025/09/23/digital-falsehoods-threaten-integrity-of-tanzanias-upcoming-general-election/>

Regressive

## 86 30/9/2025 RESTRICTION ON LIVE STREAMING OF COURT PROCEEDINGS AFFECTING PUBLIC ACCESS TO JUSTICE

Following the 2024 livestreaming of Tundu Lissu's treason trial, which served as a major tool for civic education and exposed trust deficits in state institutions, the Chief Justice in 2025 moved to halt live broadcasts. This decision limits public access to court proceedings, signaling a shift toward administrative control over transparency and prioritizing judicial insulation over the principle of "justice seen to be done."

The Chanzo

- <https://thechanzo.com/2025/10/01/chie-f-justice-warns-open-court-is-not-a-public-hearing-discourages-live-streaming/>

Regressive

## 87 01/10/2025 ONLINE ACTIVISTS FRIDA BAILED AS DIGITAL CLAMPDOWN INTENSIFIES

The bail of Innocent Chuwa and Frida Mikoroti occurred amid a broader "digital clampdown," where online patrols and week-long detentions circumvented the 24-hour legal limit for charging suspects. This tactic illustrates the use of security directives to suppress online protest calls, signaling a shrinking civic space and heightened pre-election digital repression ahead of Tanzania's 2025 polls.

The Chanzo

- <https://thechanzo.com/2025/10/02/online-activists-bailed-as-fears-of-the-digital-clampdown-intensify-ahead-of-tanzanias-2025-polls/>

Regressive

## 88 04/10/2025 EMERGENCE OF CAPTAIN JOHN CHARLES TESHA CALLING FOR MILITARY DISSENT

Captain John Charles Tesha publicly called for military dissent ahead of the general elections. Appearing in a Tanzanian Air Force uniform in a viral video, Tesha positioned himself as a "sacrificial" actor condemning political repression, including the crackdown on opposition and increasing abductions. The incident reflects the volatile intersection of military loyalty and political dissent amplified through digital platforms.

Mwanzo TV  
JamiiForums

- <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=H1nHdmCnduI>
- <https://www.jamiiforums.com/threads/j-e-captain-tesha-ni-nani.2391333/page-4>

Regressive

## 89 05/10/2025 MILITARY RESPONSE TO POLITICIZED SOCIAL MEDIA CONTENT; WARNING AGAINST ARMY INVOLVEMENT IN POLITICS

Following a viral video by Captain John Charles Tesha, who identified himself as an Air Wing officer and called for military intervention ahead of the elections, the Tanzania People's Defence Force (TPDF) issued a statement cautioning against involving the army in political matters. The two-hour livestream, widely shared and discussed online, prompted official clarifications emphasizing the military's neutrality and non-involvement in politics, highlighting tensions between digital activism and institutional safeguards against politicization of the armed forces.

The Chanzo  
JWTZ

- <https://thechanzo.com/2025/10/05/tanzania-army-warns-against-push-on-social-media-to-involve-it-in-political-affairs/>
- <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=fXLwuEEgh-k>

Progressive

## 90 06/10/2025 ABDUCTION ALLEGATIONS OF HUMPHREY POLEPOLE

Humphrey Polepole, former Tanzanian ambassador and outspoken CCM critic, was reportedly abducted amid ongoing corruption investigations. Police acknowledged an "open investigation" into his case, highlighting the blurred line between legitimate law enforcement and politically motivated intimidation. The incident underscores the use of criminal procedures to target prominent political figures and amplifies concerns over the broader "missing persons" crisis in Tanzania during 2025.

The Chanzo

- <https://thechanzo.com/2025/09/19/students-horrific-murder-spotlights-tanzanias-violence-against-women-and-missing-persons-crisis/>

Regressive

## 91 07/10/2025 DIGITAL GOVERNANCE AND ADMINISTRATIVE INEFFICIENCY IN PUBLIC REVENUE MANAGEMENT

The 2023/2024 CAG report revealed that 16 Councils collected a total of 6.68 billion Tanzanian Shillings through the older LGRCIS system instead of the new TAUSI revenue collection system. The discrepancy was linked to the failure to register certain revenue streams—such as hotel levies, slaughterhouse service fees, construction material mining license fees, and building permits—within TAUSI. This situation hindered the efficiency and transparency of digital revenue management, highlighting challenges in system adoption and digital governance at the local government level.

The Chanzo

- <https://thechanzo.com/2025/10/07/wataalamu-waeleza-changamoto-zitokanazo-na-halmashauri-kutotumia-mfumo-wa-tausi-kikamilifu-huweza-kusababisha-mapato-kupotea/>

Neutral

## Nature of Incident

## Reference

## Tone

- 92** **09/10/2025** **RESTRICTION OF DIGITAL CONTENT AND SUPPRESSION OF SOCIAL MEDIA ACTIVITY**
- Tanzanian social media influencers expressed frustration over the closure of TikTok Live, criticizing the state's decision for undermining the creator economy. The restriction cut off vital income streams and digital entrepreneurship opportunities, stifling youth agency and cultural expression. The incident reflects policy incoherence, where repressive enforcement of digital platforms conflicts with broader national goals for digital transformation and innovation.
- 93** **17/10/2025** **ARMED FORCES ISSUES SECOND STATEMENT, WARNS AGAINST SOCIAL MEDIA MISINFORMATION**
- The Tanzania People's Defence Force (TPDF) issued a second public statement in 11 days warning citizens against using social media to involve the military in politics ahead of the October 29 general election. The statement framed social media calls for election-day demonstrations as "misinformation," reinforcing a securitization strategy that prioritizes regime stability over neutral institutional oversight.
- 94** **21/10/2025** **CENSORSHIP OF ARTISTIC EXPRESSION, BAN OF ROMA MKATOLIKI SONG "AFANDE TEREMSHA BUNDUKI"**
- The National Arts Council of Tanzania (BASATA) officially banned the socio-political song "Teremsha Bunduki" (Put Down the Gun) by Roma Mkatoliki. The directive prohibits its broadcast across all mainstream media platforms, including radio and television, effectively limiting the artist's ability to engage the public on socio-political issues through music.
- 95** **29/10/2025** **TANZANIA HOLDS GENERAL ELECTION AMID INTERNET BLACKOUT, VIOLENCE, AND KILLINGS**
- The 29 October 2025 general election in Tanzania occurred under a nationwide internet blackout, accompanied by reports of violence, killings, and enforced disappearances. Allegations surfaced of security forces concealing bodies and obstructing searches for missing persons, signaling a severe breakdown in accountability. The UN's assessment critiques the escalation from prior "digital clampdowns" to lethal physical suppression, framing the electoral process as a human rights crisis. These events underscore the coercive measures used to maintain state-defined "peace," while civic freedoms and electoral integrity were gravely undermined.
- 96** **29/10/2025** **USE OF LETHAL FORCE AGAINST PEACEFUL DEMONSTRATORS; HUMAN RIGHTS VIOLATIONS**
- Between 29 October and 3 November 2025, Tanzanian security forces deployed live ammunition against peaceful post-election demonstrations in Dar es Salaam, Mbeya, and Arusha. Investigations by the UN and CNN confirm the targeted use of military rifles on both protesters and unarmed bystanders. The response included systematic removal of bodies from streets and hospitals, suggesting deliberate efforts to conceal casualties.
- 97** **29/10/2025 - 03/11/2025** **IMPOSITION OF CURFEW RESTRICTING FREEDOM OF MOVEMENT AND PEACEFUL ASSEMBLY**
- Platforms Affected were Public spaces, social media platforms, and digital news platforms reporting on election developments. Following the general election on October 29, 2025, the Inspector General of Police imposed a nationwide curfew beginning at 18:00 and ordered citizens to remain indoors, effectively restricting freedom of movement and preventing public gatherings. The curfew limited the ability of citizens, observers, and civil society actors to monitor election developments and exercise their right to peaceful assembly.
- 98** **01/11/2025** **INEC ANNOUNCES SAMIA SULUHU HASSAN AS WINNER OF 2025 PRESIDENTIAL ELECTION**
- the Independent National Electoral Commission (INEC) officially announced that President Samia Suluhu Hassan had won re-election with 97.66% of the vote, securing more than 31.9 million ballots. The election outcome, announced amid reports of post-election unrest, curfews, and restrictions on civic space, raised significant concerns regarding electoral competitiveness, political pluralism, and the credibility of democratic processes.

TMC

- <https://tmc.co.tz/press-release-urgent-call-for-transparency-and-restoration-of-access-to-tiktok-instagram-live-and-x-twitter-in-tanzania/>

Regressive

The Chanzo

- <https://thechanzo.com/2025/10/16/army-issues-second-statement-in-11-days-warns-against-social-media-misinformation/>

Regressive

Godrex Media

- [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=JzFU69b1\\_Q4](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=JzFU69b1_Q4)

Regressive

United Nations

- <https://news.un.org/en/story/2025/11/1166334>

Regressive

CNN News  
United Nations

- <https://edition.cnn.com/2025/11/21/africa/tanzania-police-shooting-protesters-deadly-election-intl-invs>
- <https://news.un.org/en/story/2025/11/1166334>

Regressive

BBC News

- <https://www.bbc.com/news/articles/cwv7124p544o>

Regressive

Anadolu Agency (AA)  
BBC News

- <https://www.aa.com.tr/en/africa/tanzanian-president-samia-suluhu-hassan-easily-wins-2nd-term-amid-post-election-unrest/3732554>
- <https://www.bbc.com/pidgin/articles/c1e33jwg1gpo>

Regressive

## Nature of Incident

## Reference

## Tone

**99** **03/11/2025** **PRESIDENTIAL INAUGURATION CONDUCTED UNDER INTERNET BLACKOUT, HEIGHTENED SECURITY, AND RESTRICTED PUBLIC ACCESS**

President Samia Suluhu Hassan was sworn in for a second term during a tightly controlled ceremony held at the Tanzania People's Defence Force parade grounds in Dodoma. The inauguration occurred amid ongoing protests, political tensions, and a nationwide internet blackout that had lasted six days. Unlike traditional inaugurations held in public stadiums, the ceremony was restricted to selected government officials, security leaders, and foreign dignitaries, excluding public attendance. Heavy deployment of police and military personnel across the capital reinforced security control around the event.

Anadolu Agency (AA)

- <https://www.aa.com.tr/en/africa/tanzania-samia-suluhu-sworn-in-as-president-for-2nd-term-amid-protests-internet-blackout/3733881>

Regressive

**100** **05/11/2025** **CROSS-BORDER HUMAN RIGHTS VIOLATION INVOLVING LETHAL FORCE BY SECURITY FORCES DURING POST-ELECTION UNREST**

Amnesty International Kenya publicly condemned the killing of John Okoth Ogotu, a Kenyan national residing in Tanzania, who was reportedly killed during the post-election crackdown by Tanzanian security forces. The incident gained visibility through social media and human rights advocacy platforms, highlighting the regional implications of Tanzania's post-election violence. The killing raised concerns about the indiscriminate use of force, lack of accountability, and the potential violation of the right to life. It also risked diplomatic tensions within the East African Community (EAC), as the victim was a foreign national.

Amnesty Kenya

- [https://www.amnestykenya.org/joint-press-statement-on-the-condition-of-two-kenyan-nationals-john-okoth-ogutu-and-fredrick-lorent-obuya-and-attempts-to-scapegoat-kenyans-for-the-tanzanian-electoral-crisis/?utm\\_source=copilot.com](https://www.amnestykenya.org/joint-press-statement-on-the-condition-of-two-kenyan-nationals-john-okoth-ogutu-and-fredrick-lorent-obuya-and-attempts-to-scapegoat-kenyans-for-the-tanzanian-electoral-crisis/?utm_source=copilot.com)

Regressive

**101** **05/11/2025** **PUBLIC MEMORIAL AND CRITIQUE OF STATE-LED LETHAL VIOLENCE**

The Catholic Church held memorial masses for victims of the post-election mass shootings, where civilians were shot in the head and chest while fleeing or seeking medical aid. These public prayers challenged the state's narrative of peace and exposed the lethal enforcement used against unarmed citizens. By providing a platform for national mourning, religious leaders highlighted government denial of fatalities and framed the political landscape as requiring genuine accountability and justice rather than superficial administrative reconciliation.

The Chanzo

- <https://thechanzo.com/2025/11/07/when-the-digital-lights-go-out-tanzanias-238-million-lesson-in-economic-self-harm/?s=09>

Regressive

**102** **05/11/2025** **TARGETED KILLING FOLLOWING POLITICAL ADVOCACY FOR DIGITAL REPRESSION**

Sharif Majini, who publicly called for a five-day internet shutdown ahead of the 2025 elections, was killed on election day. His death underscores the indiscriminate nature of the state's militarized crackdown, illustrating that even individuals advocating for digital repression were vulnerable to lethal enforcement. This incident critiques the cyclical reach of state violence and signals that dismantling constitutional protections leaves all actors, supporters or critics exposed to terminal consequences, offering a stark lesson for Tanzania's 2026 political landscape.

Channel 7 News

- <https://www.facebook.com/channelseventvofficial/posts/sheikh-sharifu-majini-a-well-known-cleric-and-member-of-tanzanias-ruling-chama-c/81321181347518/>

Regressive

**103** **04/11/2025** **LHRC & IGTWG PRESS RELEASE ON OCTOBER 2025 ELECTION INCIDENTS**

The Legal and Human Rights Centre (LHRC) and the Internet Governance Tanzania Working Group (IGTWG) issued a joint press release detailing the October 2025 election incidents. Their report documents widespread extrajudicial killings and the systematic use of live ammunition against peaceful protesters, highlighting that the 97% victory claimed by the ruling party was achieved through terror rather than genuine democratic participation.

TMC Blog

- <https://tmc.co.tz/csos-joint-statement-condemning-pre-and-post-election-grievous-human-rights-violations-in-tanzania/>
- <https://x.com/humanrightstz/status/1986687771428208827?t=kJIHb9pYwaH1dJ2KKPnihg&s=09>

Progressive

**104** **06/11/2025** **NATIONWIDE INTERNET SHUTDOWN DISRUPTING DIGITAL SERVICES, ECONOMIC ACTIVITY, AND ACCESS TO INFORMATION**

Tanzania experienced a nationwide internet blackout lasting six days during the post-election period, severely disrupting digital infrastructure and essential services. The shutdown paralyzed mobile banking, ATM services, online financial transactions, and cross-border logistics, exposing the country's dependence on internet connectivity for economic and social functions. Healthcare coordination, business operations, and communication channels were significantly affected, limiting citizens' access to information and essential services.

AP News  
The Chanzo

- <https://apnews.com/article/tanzania-samia-suluhu-hassan-internet-shutdown-october-election-1ec66b897e7809865d8971699a7284e>
- <https://www.thecitizen.co.tz/tanzania/oped/surviving-the-internet-blackout-lessons-from-six-days-offline--5255000?s=09>

Regressive

**105** **06/11/2025** **THE CITIZEN ISSUES PUBLIC APOLOGY FOR LACK OF COVERAGE DURING POST-ELECTION CRISIS**

The Citizen issued a public apology acknowledging its failure to provide comprehensive coverage during the post-election crisis. The apology, published on its official social media platforms, reflected the constraints and pressures faced by mainstream media in reporting on politically sensitive developments. The incident highlights the shrinking space for independent journalism, where media institutions may limit reporting due to regulatory risks, security concerns, or political pressure.

The Citizen

- [https://www.thecitizen.co.tz/tanzania/news/national/our-silence-was-not-abandonment-a-message-to-our-readers-5252988?utm\\_source=copilot.com](https://www.thecitizen.co.tz/tanzania/news/national/our-silence-was-not-abandonment-a-message-to-our-readers-5252988?utm_source=copilot.com)

Neutral

## Nature of Incident

## Reference

## Tone

106

07/11/2025

## CIVIL SOCIETY ORGANIZATIONS CONDEMN HUMAN RIGHTS VIOLATIONS DURING TANZANIA'S 2025 GENERAL ELECTIONS

THRDC, in collaboration with TLS and other civil society organizations, issued a joint public statement via social media condemning widespread human rights violations before, during, and after Tanzania's 2025 General Elections. The coalition reported extensive abuses, including extrajudicial killings, arbitrary arrests, and targeted repression of journalists, youth, and human rights defenders. The statement highlighted the use of digital platforms to document and disseminate evidence of abuses, while also underscoring the hostile environment facing civil society actors attempting to report violations.

THRDC

- [https://thrdc.or.tz/news-home/download-press-release-file/THRDC-TLS%20Statement%20on%20Killings%20During%20Protest%20.pdf?utm\\_source=copilot.com](https://thrdc.or.tz/news-home/download-press-release-file/THRDC-TLS%20Statement%20on%20Killings%20During%20Protest%20.pdf?utm_source=copilot.com)

Progressive

107

07/11/2025

## MASS TRIAL OF OVER 400 PROTESTERS FOLLOWING POST-ELECTION DEMONSTRATIONS

It was reported that more than 400 individuals were formally charged in court following their arrest during post-election protests across Tanzania. Many defendants faced serious non-bailable charges, including treason and economic sabotage. The prosecutions followed widespread demonstrations contesting the electoral process and occurred amid an environment of digital restrictions, internet disruption, and suppression of protest coordination. The scale and severity of the charges raised concerns about the use of judicial processes to legitimize post-election repression and deter civic mobilization.

BBC News

- [https://www.bbc.com/swahili/articles/czdr8dv49z1o?at\\_link\\_id=4F85EA86-BC60-11F0-9114-96E405A404B6&at\\_bbc\\_team=editorial&at\\_ptr\\_name=twitter&at\\_medium=social&at\\_link\\_origin=bbcswahili&at\\_campaign\\_type=owned&at\\_format=link&at\\_link\\_type=web\\_link&at\\_campaign=Social\\_Flow](https://www.bbc.com/swahili/articles/czdr8dv49z1o?at_link_id=4F85EA86-BC60-11F0-9114-96E405A404B6&at_bbc_team=editorial&at_ptr_name=twitter&at_medium=social&at_link_origin=bbcswahili&at_campaign_type=owned&at_format=link&at_link_type=web_link&at_campaign=Social_Flow)

Regressive

108

07/11/2025

## TANZANIA LOSES \$238 MILLION DURING INTERNET BLACKOUT

Tanzania's six-day internet blackout during the 2025 general elections caused an estimated \$238 million in economic losses. By cutting off digital access, the government disrupted online banking, e-commerce, mobile payment systems, and cross-border trade. The blackout underscores the economic costs of suppressing digital rights, illustrating how state overreach aimed at narrative control can destabilize the economy and create long-term trust deficits among investors.

The Chanzo

- <https://thechanzo.com/2025/11/07/when-the-digital-lights-go-out-tanzanias-238-million-lesson-in-economic-self-harm/?s=09>

Regressive

109

08/11/2025

## POST-ELECTION CRACKDOWN – TRAGIC OCTOBER 29: TANZANIA'S TURNING POINT

The post-election crackdown escalated from pre-election digital suppression to lethal state-sanctioned violence against citizens, including protesters and opposition supporters. Security forces employed lethal force to disperse crowds, undermining democratic reforms and exposing the fragility of civil liberties. This period illustrates a breakdown in the social contract, signaling that the ruling party's electoral victory was enforced through coercion rather than democratic legitimacy.

The Chanzo

- <https://thechanzo.com/2025/11/08/tragic-october-29-tanzanias-turning-point/>

Regressive

110

08/11/2025

## POST-ELECTION CRACKDOWN AND ARRAIGNMENT OF 172 INDIVIDUALS IN MWANZA

172 individuals were arraigned at Mwanza's Nyamagana District Court following post-election protests. Authorities charged citizens with serious offenses, including armed robbery, arson, and property destruction, deliberately using non-bailable counts to keep hundreds in remand. This prosecutorial strategy functioned as a tool of intimidation, particularly in Mwanza, a city that experienced some of the deadliest police shootings during the elections.

The Chanzo

- <https://x.com/Jambotv/status/1987023134076076169?t=cCrh09zLx8kKxSqpnBXs-A&s=09>

Regressive

111

09/11/2025

## EXECUTION OF EIGHT NEIGHBORS IN KINYEREZI, DAR ES SALAAM

On the night of November 2, 2025, eight residents on Kanga Kariakoo Street in Kinyerezi, Dar es Salaam, were reportedly lured outside under false assurances of safety and executed by security forces. Their bodies were subsequently removed to conceal evidence. This incident exemplifies the collapse of the Right to Life during the post-election crackdown, illustrating how state forces employed lethal force to eliminate perceived dissent.

The Chanzo

- <https://thechanzo.com/2025/11/09/matukio-baada-ya-uchaguzi-2025-namnamajirani-nane-walivyowawa-kinyerezi-dar-es-salaam/>

Regressive

112

09/11/2025

## PROSECUTION OF 240 INDIVIDUALS ON TREASON CHARGES

On November 9, 2025, 240 individuals were prosecuted on treason charges following the 2025 general elections. This action critiques the state's use of the harshest legal sanctions to suppress dissent and criminalize rejection of the official results. By denying bail and targeting opposition members and protesters, authorities ensured indefinite detention, effectively consolidating the 97 percent electoral victory through legal coercion rather than democratic legitimacy.

BBC News

- [https://x.com/bbcswahili/status/1987029867062317256?t=TOREBrpr0I4YXbHQ\\_OzJZw&s=09](https://x.com/bbcswahili/status/1987029867062317256?t=TOREBrpr0I4YXbHQ_OzJZw&s=09)

Regressive

## Nature of Incident

## Reference

## Tone

**113** 11/11/2025 PROSECUTION OF 294 TANZANIANS ON POST-ELECTION CHARGES

On November 11, 2025, 294 Tanzanians were prosecuted on treason and economic sabotage charges following the 2025 general elections. This prosecution critiques the state's strategic use of the judiciary to institutionalize the suppression of dissent. By targeting a wide cross-section of society and imposing non-bailable charges, authorities effectively criminalized peaceful protest and trapped hundreds in a legal vacuum, reinforcing the climate of fear and control over the post-election political landscape.

The Chanzo

- <https://thechanzo.com/2025/11/11/the-faces-of-treason-here-are-the-294-tanzanians-charged-in-post-election-crackdown/>

Regressive

**114** 11/11/2025 PROSECUTION OF 466 TANZANIANS IN POST-ELECTION CRACKDOWN, CRIMINALIZATION OF POLITICAL EXPRESSION USING DIGITAL EVIDENCE

On November 11, 2025, 466 Tanzanians were prosecuted on treason charges in the aftermath of the 2025 general elections. The state leveraged private digital communications and social media activity as evidence, transforming the digital sphere into a surveillance and criminalization tool. This mass prosecution critiques the weaponization of digital evidence to suppress political expression, exposing severe violations of digital rights and demonstrating how online dissent was rebranded as a threat to national security.

The Chanzo

- [https://thechanzo.com/2025/11/11/the-faces-of-treason-here-are-the-294-tanzanians-charged-in-post-election-crackdown/?utm\\_source=mailpoet&utm\\_medium=email&utm\\_source\\_platform=mailpoet](https://thechanzo.com/2025/11/11/the-faces-of-treason-here-are-the-294-tanzanians-charged-in-post-election-crackdown/?utm_source=mailpoet&utm_medium=email&utm_source_platform=mailpoet)

Regressive

**115** 11/11/2025 PROSECUTION OF 466 TANZANIANS IN POST-ELECTION CRACKDOWN, CRIMINALIZATION OF POLITICAL EXPRESSION USING DIGITAL EVIDENCE

On November 11, 2025, 466 Tanzanians were prosecuted on treason charges in the aftermath of the 2025 general elections. The state leveraged private digital communications and social media activity as evidence, transforming the digital sphere into a surveillance and criminalization tool. This mass prosecution critiques the weaponization of digital evidence to suppress political expression, exposing severe violations of digital rights and demonstrating how online dissent was rebranded as a threat to national security.

The Chanzo

- [https://thechanzo.com/2025/11/11/the-faces-of-treason-here-are-the-294-tanzanians-charged-in-post-election-crackdown/?utm\\_source=mailpoet&utm\\_medium=email&utm\\_source\\_platform=mailpoet](https://thechanzo.com/2025/11/11/the-faces-of-treason-here-are-the-294-tanzanians-charged-in-post-election-crackdown/?utm_source=mailpoet&utm_medium=email&utm_source_platform=mailpoet)

Regressive

**116** 12/11/2025 CLOSURE OF OFFICIAL GOVERNMENT SOCIAL MEDIA COMMUNICATION CHANNELS

The Government Spokesperson publicly dismissed circulating reports and documentation of post-election violence as misinformation through an official statement on X. The statement challenged the credibility of digital evidence and online testimonies shared by journalists, civil society organisations, and citizens regarding killings and abuses during the election period. This official framing undermined the legitimacy of independent digital documentation and contributed to an environment where online reporting of human rights violations risked being discredited or penalized.

Ikulu Mawasiliano

- <https://x.com/ikulumawasiliano/status/1989149664919318830?t=IQKa6RhUNwhQKgEg3sgS4A&s=09>

Neutral

**117** 12/11/2025 BBC VERIFICATION OF MASS KILLING FOOTAGE IN TANZANIA

BBC News verified and published digital footage showing evidence of mass killings linked to Tanzania's post-election violence. The verification confirmed the authenticity of images and videos circulating online, which depicted security forces using lethal force against civilians. This independent digital verification strengthened the credibility of citizen-recorded evidence and highlighted the role of digital platforms in documenting human rights violations.

Governmental Official

- [https://x.com/TZMsemajiMkuu/status/1988894472373973087?t=5cphXfIPHca\\_QGFsRCPYtw&s=09](https://x.com/TZMsemajiMkuu/status/1988894472373973087?t=5cphXfIPHca_QGFsRCPYtw&s=09)

Regressive

**118** 13/11/2025 PHYSICAL ASSAULT ON HUMAN RIGHTS DEFENDERS AND DISRUPTION OF CIVIC MONITORING

On November 13, 2025, staff and consultants of the Legal and Human Rights Centre (LHRC) were attacked at the White Sands Hotel. The assault targeted human rights defenders and data analysts, physically disrupting election monitoring and seizing equipment critical for real-time reporting. This incident critiques the violent shrinking of civic space during the 2025 elections, representing a severe violation of digital rights as the state sought to create an information vacuum, ensuring that the crackdown remained undocumented and unchallenged by civil society.

LHRC  
Haki TV

- [https://humanrights.or.tz/en/report/download/Lhrc\\_Decade\\_Democracy](https://humanrights.or.tz/en/report/download/Lhrc_Decade_Democracy)
- <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=02h9r3642-c>

Regressive

**119** 13/11/2025 ADVOCACY FOR INTERNATIONAL ACCOUNTABILITY; CRITIQUE OF STATE SUPPRESSION

On November 13, 2025, Zitto Kabwe publicly called for a United Nations investigation into the killings during Tanzania's 2025 post-election period. His demand critiques the state's systematic shutdown of accountability mechanisms, including the seizure of digital devices and prolonged internet blackouts, which effectively erased evidence of extrajudicial executions. This intervention underscores severe violations of digital rights, highlighting how the government criminalized documentation of state violence and left international oversight as the only viable avenue to challenge the official narrative of maintained peace.

The Chanzo

- <https://thechanzo.com/2025/11/13/our-tiananmen-moment-tanzanias-cry-for-justice-amid-the-october-massacres/>

Regressive

## Nature of Incident

120

13/11/2025

**CRIMINALIZATION OF PRIVATE DIGITAL COMMUNICATIONS; SUPPRESSION OF DISSENT - ARRESTS OVER WHATSAPP MESSAGES**

Tanzanian authorities arrested individuals for messages sent via WhatsApp, highlighting the state's deep intrusion into private digital communications in the aftermath of the 2025 elections. By monitoring encrypted platforms and prosecuting private conversations, authorities turned personal mobile devices into instruments of self-incrimination. This incident constitutes a severe violation of digital rights and freedom of expression, demonstrating how post-election surveillance was used to enforce the ruling party's narrative and eliminate remaining pockets of online criticism.

## Reference

Swahili Times

- <https://x.com/swahilitimes/status/1988915697917800721?t=HGXFcYVjMphyiA8IUkfiKw&s=09>

## Tone

Regressive

121

13/11/2025

**DEVELOPMENT OF NATIONAL DIGITAL INFRASTRUCTURE AND SPACE GOVERNANCE POLICY**

the Ministry, through the Tanzania National Space Program, initiated a baseline study to inform the development of the Tanzania Space Policy. This step marks a significant move toward strengthening national digital sovereignty and advancing technological self-reliance. By laying the institutional and policy foundation for satellite infrastructure and space governance, the initiative aims to enhance national capabilities in telecommunications, disaster response, environmental monitoring, and secure data management.

MICT

- <https://forms.edodoso.gov.go.tz/x/octz7uA1>

Progressive

122

13/11/2025

**BAKWATA STATEMENT CONDEMNING POST-ELECTION KILLINGS**

The National Muslim Council of Tanzania (BAKWATA) issued a public statement condemning the killings that occurred during the post-election period. The statement called for an end to the violence and urged authorities to restore peace, justice, and accountability. By publicly acknowledging the deaths and expressing concern over the loss of life, BAKWATA provided an important moral and institutional voice during a period marked by widespread reports of violence and restrictions on information. The statement contributed to public awareness and reinforced the role of religious institutions in advocating for accountability, human rights, and the protection of citizens during times of political crisis.

Jambo TV

- [https://x.com/Jambotv\\_/status/1989210831796535680?t=dfgyd5vOFefpyec9mCnSkg&s=09](https://x.com/Jambotv_/status/1989210831796535680?t=dfgyd5vOFefpyec9mCnSkg&s=09)

Neutral

123

14/11/2025

**US EMBASSY CONDOLENCE MESSAGE FOLLOWING ELECTION-RELATED KILLINGS**

The United States Embassy in Tanzania issued a public condolence message expressing sympathy for Tanzanians who were killed during the 2025 general election period. The statement acknowledged the loss of life and emphasized the importance of transparency, accountability, and respect for human rights.

Tanzania US Embassy

- <https://x.com/usembassytz/status/1988991179770167536?t=F7y66q9DF2cduC27YcXHyg&s=09>

Regressive

124

14/11/2025

**GOVERNMENT SPOKESPERSON DISMISSES POST-ELECTION VIOLENCE REPORTS AS MISINFORMATION**

The Government Spokesperson publicly dismissed circulating reports and documentation of post-election violence as misinformation through an official statement on X. The statement challenged the credibility of digital evidence and online testimonies shared by journalists, civil society organisations, and citizens regarding killings and abuses during the election period. This official framing undermined the legitimacy of independent digital documentation and contributed to an environment where online reporting of human rights violations risked being discredited or penalized.

Governmental Official

- [https://x.com/TZMsemajiMkuu/status/198894472373973087?t=5cphXfIPHca\\_QGFsRCPYtw&s=09](https://x.com/TZMsemajiMkuu/status/198894472373973087?t=5cphXfIPHca_QGFsRCPYtw&s=09)

Regressive

125

14/11/2025

**PRESIDENT SAMIA ORDERS SPECIAL COMMISSION TO INVESTIGATE OCTOBER 29 ELECTION UNREST**

President Samia Suluhu Hassan announced the establishment of a special Commission of Inquiry to investigate the unrest that erupted on election day, October 29, 2025. The commission is tasked with determining the root causes of the disturbances that resulted in loss of life, injuries, and significant damage to property, affecting both public and private infrastructure. The move was declared during the opening of the 13th Parliament and accompanied expressions of sorrow for those affected by the violence and calls for national dialogue directed toward understanding and restoring peace.

The Citizen

- [https://www.thecitizen.co.tz/tanzania/news/national/samia-orders-special-commission-to-investigate-october-29-election-unrest-in-tanzania--5264822?utm\\_source=copilot.com](https://www.thecitizen.co.tz/tanzania/news/national/samia-orders-special-commission-to-investigate-october-29-election-unrest-in-tanzania--5264822?utm_source=copilot.com)

Neutral

126

14/11/2025

**RELIGIOUS-LED CRITIQUE OF STATE-LED POST-ELECTION VIOLENCE AND DIGITAL RIGHTS VIOLATIONS**

The 2025 statement by the Tanzania Episcopal Conference (TEC) condemned the state's lethal suppression of citizens during and after the general election, likening the crackdown to wartime brutality. By denouncing the "brutal killings" and the denial of medical care to the injured, the 41 Catholic bishops directly challenged the government's narrative of a "proportional response." The TEC statement also highlighted digital rights violations, emphasizing how the government employed an internet shutdown and criminalized the documentation of violence to obscure the scale of the atrocities.

The Chanzo

- <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ORLRGRuPyII>

Neutral

## Nature of Incident

## Reference

## Tone

## 127 15/11/2025 GOVERNMENT REBUTS CNN INVESTIGATION ON POST-ELECTION VIOLENCE

the Government Spokesperson publicly rebutted CNN's forensic investigation into the 2025 post-election violence. The statement emphasized that the media outlet did not consult the Tanzanian government and that the investigation lacked state-verified sources. By labeling the CNN report as "unverified" and "biased," the government sought to centralize the narrative within the Independent Commission of Inquiry, effectively delegitimizing international digital evidence.

Msemaji Wa Serikali

- <https://x.com/TZMsemajiMkuu/status/1991817392847286661?t=7zMkn00YlmftkzrfYLvo6Q&s=09>

Neutral

## 128 16/11/2025 RELIGIOUS FREEDOM / DE-ESCALATION OF STATE-RELIGIOUS TENSIONS

On 16 November 2025, Bishop Gwajima's church was officially reopened following a period of closure linked to digital activism and political friction. The reopening marks a strategic de-escalation in state-religious tensions, allowing the congregation to resume activities while restoring constitutional religious freedoms.

Msemaji Wa Serikali

- <https://x.com/TZMsemajiMkuu/status/1991817392847286661?t=7zMkn00YlmftkzrfYLvo6Q&s=09>

Neutral

## 129 16/11/2025 RELEASE OF 47 INDIVIDUALS AS DPP ENTERS NOLLE PROSEQUI

The Director of Public Prosecutions (DPP) entered a Nolle Prosequi for 47 individuals arrested during the post-election period, effectively dropping the charges due to insufficient evidence. This judicial decision represents a corrective measure within the 2025 post-election legal cycle, reaffirming adherence to due process.

The Chanzo Swahili Times

- <https://x.com/TheChanzo/status/1993025659074232591?t=KHL8kSjnzV55wuyJM95luO&s=09>
- <https://x.com/swahilitimes/status/1992993892451402117?t=sNlnzAW1KepElHniQ8QRBw&s=09>

Progressive

## 130 16/11/2025 ALERT FOR SECOND DEMONSTRATION SCHEDULED ON DECEMBER 9

An alert was issued for a second demonstration scheduled for 9 December 2025, coinciding with Tanzania's Independence Day. The protest represents a continued exercise of constitutional rights amid the post-election environment, emphasizing demands for democratic accountability and protection of civic space.

The Chanzo

- <https://x.com/TheChanzo/status/1992970548683354397?t=bn0UePf28yMv6pADbCBK1Q&s=09>

Neutral

## 131 16/11/2025 TANZANIAN YOUTH USE HUMOR TO COUNTER RELIGIOUS DIVISIONS

In late 2025, Tanzanian youth leveraged humor and digital satire to resist attempts to exploit religious divisions during the post-election crisis. Through memes, jokes, and other forms of online creativity, young people promoted cross-identity solidarity and reinforced national cohesion. This initiative transformed social media into a space for unifying civic engagement, bypassing traditional censorship and political polarization, and highlighting the role of digital culture in fostering social resilience and constructive dialogue in times of national tension.

Mwananchi

- [https://x.com/MwananchiNews/status/1993165448754679821?t=eFo\\_6-SJZ5kx7A6r04fF-A&s=09](https://x.com/MwananchiNews/status/1993165448754679821?t=eFo_6-SJZ5kx7A6r04fF-A&s=09)
- <https://x.com/bbcswahili/status/1993167815600222366?t=3k0SydD55X89h4cZPVBhsw&s=09>

Progressive

## 132 16/11/2025 TANZANIA RESPONDS TO EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT RESOLUTION ON POST-ELECTION VIOLENCE

The Tanzanian government formally rejected a European Parliament resolution condemning post-election killings and human rights abuses following the October 29 elections. Through a diplomatic note delivered by its Brussels Embassy, the government argued that the resolution relied on "unverified reports and one-sided narratives," violated national sovereignty, and disregarded Tanzania's internal mechanisms for investigation, including the National Commission of Inquiry.

Tanzania Belgium Embassy

- <https://thechanzo.com/wp-content/uploads/2025/11/Tanzania-Embassy-Belgium-Diplomatic-Note.pdf>

Progressive

## 133 16/11/2025 PARLIAMENTARY SCRUTINY OF OCTOBER 29 POST-ELECTION INCIDENTS

The Tanzanian Prime Minister faced parliamentary questioning regarding the October 29 post-election incidents. Lawmakers asked detailed questions about civilian casualties and the rationale behind security operations. The Prime Minister defended the actions of security forces as measures to prevent "anarchy" and uphold legal frameworks, while deferring evidentiary specifics to the Commission of Inquiry tasked with investigating the incidents.

The Chanzo

- <https://x.com/TheChanzo/status/1992970548683354397?t=bn0UePf28yMv6pADbCBK1Q&s=09>

Progressive

## 134 17/11/2025 GOVERNMENT POLICY ANNOUNCEMENT ON NATIONAL DIGITAL STRATEGY

During her 2025 Parliament inauguration speech, President Samia Suluhu Hassan outlined a Digital Projection strategy aimed at leveraging technology to drive national development and social integration. The plan emphasizes system interoperability ("kusomana kwa mifumo") to streamline banking operations, enhance financial inclusion, and expand digital service access to Tanzanians. Key mechanisms include the Universal Communications Service Access Fund (UCSAF), which will support connectivity expansion, digital literacy programs, and the integration of government services into interoperable platforms.

The Respondent

- [https://www.therespondents.co.tz/2025/11/dissecting-president-samias-13.html?utm\\_source=copilot.com](https://www.therespondents.co.tz/2025/11/dissecting-president-samias-13.html?utm_source=copilot.com)

Neutral

## Nature of Incident

## Reference

## Tone

**135** **20/11/2025** **INTERNATIONAL FINANCIAL AND DIPLOMATIC ACCOUNTABILITY ACTION; EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT BLOCKS €156 MILLION FUNDING TO TANZANIA**

The European Parliament formally objected to a €156 million funding allocation proposed by the European Commission for Tanzania's 2025 Annual Action Plan. Triggered by reports of post-election human rights abuses, violent crackdowns, and democratic erosion, committees AFET and DEVE voted overwhelmingly to block the funding. This intervention represents a form of fiscal conditionality, bypassing domestic investigations to demand accountability for the October 2025 election-related violence.

The Chanzo

- <https://thechanzo.com/2025/11/20/eu-parliament-committees-object-to-e156-million-funding-for-tanzania-amid-democratic-backsliding/>

Regressive

**136** **21/11/2025** **CNN RELEASES INVESTIGATION ON POST-ELECTION VIOLENCE AND MASS KILLINGS**

CNN published an exclusive investigative report documenting the 2025 post-election violence in Tanzania. The report provides a forensic analysis of civilian casualties, corroborating eyewitness mobile footage with satellite imagery to confirm lethal force deployed by security units against protesters. By bypassing domestic information blockades, CNN created a permanent international digital record of the events, challenging official government narratives and contrasting sharply with the state-led inquiry.

CCN News

- <https://edition.cnn.com/2025/11/21/africa/tanzania-police-shooting-protesters-deadly-election-intl-invs>

Regressive

**137** **21/11/2025** **INTERNATIONAL FINANCIAL AND DIPLOMATIC ACCOUNTABILITY ACTION; EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT BLOCKS €156 MILLION FUNDING TO TANZANIA**

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The Chanzo

- <https://thechanzo.com/2025/11/20/eu-parliament-committees-object-to-e156-million-funding-for-tanzania-amid-democratic-backsliding/>

Regressive

**138** **23/11/2025** **BOT REFUTES ALLEGED ATTACKS ON DIGITAL PAYMENT SYSTEMS**

On 23 November 2025, the Bank of Tanzania (BoT) issued a public statement refuting viral claims that Tanzania's digital payment systems had been attacked. By addressing the misinformation directly, the BoT aimed to prevent panic-induced financial disruptions, including potential "digital bank runs," and to maintain confidence in the national financial ecosystem during the sensitive post-election period.

TAMISEMI

- <https://www.instagram.com/p/DRY5A6JCE5G/?igsh=MW53ZTIsNmVoZDdzZg%3D%3D>

Neutral

**139** **23/11/2025** **TLS SUES GOVERNMENT OVER POST-ELECTION CURFEWS**

TLS filed a lawsuit against the Tanzanian government over the post-election curfews imposed in late October 2025. By seeking judicial review, TLS challenged the constitutionality of the executive orders, asserting that the curfews violated freedom of movement and the right to peaceful assembly. This legal action represents a critical accountability mechanism, moving the post-election narrative from political and public discourse into a judicial arena.

The Chanzo

- <https://x.com/TheChanzo/status/1992970548683354397?t=bn0UePf28yMv6pADbCBK1Q&s=09>

Progressive

**140** **24/11/2025** **DPP DROPS TREASON CHARGES FOR 76 INDIVIDUALS OVER POST-ELECTION UNREST**

the Director of Public Prosecutions (DPP) formally withdrew treason charges against 76 individuals who had been arrested during the 2025 post-election unrest. The decision to enter nolle prosequi acknowledged that there was insufficient evidence to justify pursuing the capital offense of treason in these cases. This judicial action represents a significant corrective shift in the post-election legal environment, moving away from broad, severe prosecutions toward adherence to due process and evidence-based legal standards.

Daily News

- [https://dailynews.co.tz/dpp-drops-treason-charges-for-76-over-election-unrest/?utm\\_source=copilot.com](https://dailynews.co.tz/dpp-drops-treason-charges-for-76-over-election-unrest/?utm_source=copilot.com)

Progressive

**141** **27/11/2025** **EU PARLIAMENT SCHEDULES PLENARY DEBATE ON TANZANIA**

the European Parliament scheduled a plenary debate regarding Tanzania's 2025 post-election unrest. This escalation marked a formal internationalization of concerns over alleged "excessive force" and democratic backsliding following the October 29 elections. By elevating the discussion from committee-level scrutiny to a full parliamentary debate, the EU signaled its intent to apply multilateral diplomatic pressure, potentially including targeted sanctions. For the Tanzanian government, this development posed a significant challenge to its sovereignty narrative, highlighting the tension between domestic control and global demands for accountability.

European Parliament

- [https://www.europarl.europa.eu/doceo/document/TA-10-2025-11-27\\_EN.html?utm\\_source=copilot.com](https://www.europarl.europa.eu/doceo/document/TA-10-2025-11-27_EN.html?utm_source=copilot.com)

Progressive

Nature of Incident

Reference

Tone

142

27/11/2025

TANZANIANS DEMAND JUSTICE DURING EU LIVE SESSION

Tanzanians actively engaged in the European Parliament’s live session on post-election issues, flooding the platform with demands for justice. This digital participation bypassed domestic information restrictions and allowed citizens to directly influence international discussions regarding human rights violations and excessive force during the October 29 elections. The high level of engagement demonstrates a shift toward globalized digital advocacy, where citizens leveraged online platforms to hold their government accountable.

Habari24Media

- <https://www.instagram.com/p/DRh1YaWCM2Y/?igsh=bHpb28zNnY5NjR5>

Progressive

143

27/11/2025

OCD CHUNYA DIRECTIVES RESTRICTING FUEL SALES AHEAD OF PLANNED DEMONSTRATION

OCD Chunya issued a directive prohibiting the sale of petrol to Bajajis and Bodabodas in anticipation of the December 9 demonstrations. This preventative measure aimed to disrupt protest logistics by limiting mobility for key informal transport operators. The directive represents a preemptive restriction on freedom of movement, prioritizing state control and public order over the citizens’ right to peacefully assemble.

TANPOL

- <https://x.com/tanpol/status/1993734507266977876?s=45>

Regressive

144

27/11/2025

PM SHARES ECONOMIC IMPACT OF OCTOBER 29 VIOLENCE

The Prime Minister of Tanzania presented an official assessment of the economic consequences resulting from the October 29 post-election violence. The briefing highlighted significant damage to public infrastructure and private enterprises, quantifying the economic toll of civil unrest. By framing the discussion around economic loss rather than political grievances, the state emphasized the importance of restoring order for national development.

TANPOL

- <https://x.com/tanpol/status/1993734507266977876?s=45>

Progressive

145

27/11/2025

ARREST OF OVER 2,045 INDIVIDUALS DURING OCTOBER 29 POST-ELECTION VIOLENCE

Reports confirmed that over 2,045 individuals were arrested in connection with the October 29 post-election unrest. This mass detention represents the largest sweep of political detainees in modern Tanzanian history and illustrates the state’s shift from democratic engagement to comprehensive securitization. The arrests serve as a judicial dragnet, targeting opposition figures and civil society actors to suppress dissent following the government’s contested 97% election victory.

Mwananchi News

- <https://www.instagram.com/reel/DRhpWyKAqVK/?hl=en>

Regressive

146

27/11/2025

FAMILY RE-DO FUNERAL AFTER FINDING BODY OF MISSING RELATIVE KILLED IN TANZANIA’S OCTOBER 29 ELECTION PROTEST

The family of Daines Raphael Sisa, initially compelled to conduct a funeral without her body following her killing during the October 29 election-day protests, discovered her remains at Kivule Hospital, located 21 kilometers from the site of her shooting. The delayed recovery underscores the logistical opacity and lack of accountability in the post-election crackdown, highlighting the profound psychological toll of enforced disappearances and disruption of traditional mourning practices.

The Chanzo

- [https://thechanzo.com/2025/11/27/family-re-do-funeral-after-finding-body-of-missing-relative-killed-in-tanzanias-october-29-election-protest/?utm\\_source=mailpoet&utm\\_medium=email&utm\\_source\\_platform=mailpoet](https://thechanzo.com/2025/11/27/family-re-do-funeral-after-finding-body-of-missing-relative-killed-in-tanzanias-october-29-election-protest/?utm_source=mailpoet&utm_medium=email&utm_source_platform=mailpoet)

Regressive

147

27/11/2025

607 FREED: TANZANIA DROPS CHARGES FOR YOUTHS IN POST-ELECTION UNREST, TARGETING 1,736 TOTAL

Following a presidential directive, the Tanzanian government released 607 youths previously detained in connection with post-election unrest from October 29, 2025. Minister Juma Homera confirmed that various charges against these individuals were dropped, allowing them to return to civilian life. This release represents a strategic use of executive clemency to lower political and social tensions. By freeing nearly a third of the total 1,736 detainees, the state signaled a partial de-escalation of its post-election crackdown, balancing enforcement measures with a narrative of national reconciliation and addressing both domestic and international calls for justice and fairness.

The Chanzo

- [https://thechanzo.com/2025/11/27/607-freed-tanzania-drops-charges-for-youths-in-post-election-unrest-targeting-1736-total/?utm\\_source=mailpoet&utm\\_medium=email&utm\\_source\\_platform=mailpoet](https://thechanzo.com/2025/11/27/607-freed-tanzania-drops-charges-for-youths-in-post-election-unrest-targeting-1736-total/?utm_source=mailpoet&utm_medium=email&utm_source_platform=mailpoet)

Progressive

148

27/11/2025

EU PARLIAMENT CONDEMNS TANZANIA’S RIGHTS RECORD AS GOVT DENOUNCES ‘UNVERIFIED’ CLAIMS

The European Parliament passed a resolution condemning Tanzania for post-election killings and deteriorating human rights, marking an escalation in international scrutiny and fiscal conditionality. The Tanzanian government rejected the resolution as “unverified” and an infringement on national sovereignty, emphasizing the role of its National Commission of Inquiry over external investigations. This diplomatic confrontation highlights the tension between Tanzania’s insistence on internal investigative control and the EU’s push for accountability.

The Chanzo

- [https://thechanzo.com/2025/11/27/eu-parliament-condemns-tanzanias-rights-record-as-govt-denounces-unverified-claims/?utm\\_source=mailpoet&utm\\_medium=email&utm\\_source\\_platform=mailpoet](https://thechanzo.com/2025/11/27/eu-parliament-condemns-tanzanias-rights-record-as-govt-denounces-unverified-claims/?utm_source=mailpoet&utm_medium=email&utm_source_platform=mailpoet)

Regressive

## Nature of Incident

## Reference

## Tone

## 149 28/11/2025 ARREST OF WINFRIDA CHARLES MALEMBEKA FOR CIVIC ENGAGEMENT

On 28 November 2025, Winfrida Charles Malembeka was arrested on charges of incitement, reflecting the state's continued use of legal mechanisms to deter civic activism. By framing her participation as a threat to public order, authorities reinforced a broader 2025 strategy of surveilling and restricting both digital and physical dissent. This arrest underscores the narrowing of civic space during the post-election period, signaling persistent constraints on independent voices and public accountability initiatives.

TANPOL

- <https://x.com/tanpol/status/1994637636578021837?s=20>

Regressive

## 150 29/11/2025 CHADEMA AND ACT-WAZALENDI DISCREDIT SAMIA'S COMMITTEE

Tanzania's two main opposition parties, CHADEMA and ACT-Wazalendo, publicly rejected the Presidential Committee appointed by President Samia to investigate the October 29, 2025, post-election violence and mass killings. By discrediting the committee, the parties criticized its legitimacy and independence, arguing that it lacks credibility to deliver impartial findings.

BBC Swahili

- [https://www.bbc.com/swahili/articles/clv9y1g728ro?at\\_format=link&at\\_link\\_id=F9FCDE74-CCE7-11F0-A878-F9457A9285D7&at\\_ptr\\_name=twitter&utm\\_social\\_handle\\_id=18186609&utm\\_social\\_post\\_id=610582235&at\\_link\\_type=web\\_link&at\\_campaign=Social\\_Flow&at\\_bbc\\_team=editorial&at\\_link\\_origin=bbcswahili&at\\_campaign\\_type=owned&at\\_medium=social&s=09](https://www.bbc.com/swahili/articles/clv9y1g728ro?at_format=link&at_link_id=F9FCDE74-CCE7-11F0-A878-F9457A9285D7&at_ptr_name=twitter&utm_social_handle_id=18186609&utm_social_post_id=610582235&at_link_type=web_link&at_campaign=Social_Flow&at_bbc_team=editorial&at_link_origin=bbcswahili&at_campaign_type=owned&at_medium=social&s=09)

Regressive

## 151 30/11/2025 PM ORDERS DROPPING OF GWAJIMA'S CHARGES

The Tanzanian Prime Minister directed that all charges against Bishop Gwajima be dropped and ordered the police not to pursue any further action against him. This intervention represents a corrective legal measure, signaling executive support for resolving disputes that had previously resulted in the church leader's detention. By dropping the charges, the state sought to restore religious freedoms and de-escalate tensions surrounding faith-based institutions, reinforcing constitutional protections while prioritizing national reconciliation in the post-election context.

The Citizen  
Upendo Media

- [https://www.thecitizen.co.tz/tanzania/news/national/tanzania-s-prime-minister-directs-police-to-drop-search-for-bishop-gwajima-5282470?utm\\_source=copilot.com](https://www.thecitizen.co.tz/tanzania/news/national/tanzania-s-prime-minister-directs-police-to-drop-search-for-bishop-gwajima-5282470?utm_source=copilot.com)
- [https://www.upendomedia.co.tz/2025/12/01/president-samia-has-ordered-the-police-force-to-stop-searching-for-bishop-gwajima-dr-mwigulu/?utm\\_source=copilot.com](https://www.upendomedia.co.tz/2025/12/01/president-samia-has-ordered-the-police-force-to-stop-searching-for-bishop-gwajima-dr-mwigulu/?utm_source=copilot.com)

Progressive

## 152 02/12/2025 PRESIDENT SAMIA JUSTIFIES USE OF FORCE AGAINST DEMONSTRATORS

President Samia Suluhu Hassan publicly stated that the demonstrators during the post-election protests intended to overthrow the government, and that the force used by security agencies was "proportional." This statement reinforces the state's narrative of legitimizing lethal suppression under the guise of maintaining national security. By framing the crackdown as a measured response, the executive seeks to justify prior arrests, killings, and digital surveillance measures, signaling continued prioritization of state control over citizens' rights to protest and freedom of expression.

CNN News

- [https://edition.cnn.com/2025/12/02/world/video/tanzanian-president-force-against-civilians-after-election-rtc?utm\\_source=copilot.com](https://edition.cnn.com/2025/12/02/world/video/tanzanian-president-force-against-civilians-after-election-rtc?utm_source=copilot.com)

Regressive

## 153 04/12/2025 SOCIAL MEDIA ACTIVIST MANGE KIMAMBI CHARGED WITH ECONOMIC OFFENCES AND MONEY LAUNDERING

Social Media Activist Mange Kimambi was formally charged with economic offences and money laundering. Social Media Activists closely followed and amplified the story, drawing attention to the state's enforcement of financial regulations. By bringing these charges, authorities signaled their commitment to legal scrutiny over economic misconduct, while also reinforcing state control over high-profile figures. The involvement of Social Media Activists demonstrates the ongoing role of digital platforms in shaping public discourse around accountability and state enforcement actions.

The Citizen  
Media Wire Express

- [https://www.thecitizen.co.tz/tanzania/news/national/activist-mange-kimambi-charged-with-money-laundering-in-tanzania-5285058?utm\\_source=copilot.com](https://www.thecitizen.co.tz/tanzania/news/national/activist-mange-kimambi-charged-with-money-laundering-in-tanzania-5285058?utm_source=copilot.com)
- [https://mediawireexpress.co.tz/mange-kimambi-faces-money-laundering-charges-in-tanzania/?utm\\_source=copilot.com](https://mediawireexpress.co.tz/mange-kimambi-faces-money-laundering-charges-in-tanzania/?utm_source=copilot.com)

Regressive

## 154 04/12/2025 SOCIAL MEDIA ACTIVIST MANGE KIMAMBI CHARGED WITH ECONOMIC OFFENCES AND MONEY LAUNDERING

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The Citizen  
Media Wire Express

- [https://www.thecitizen.co.tz/tanzania/news/national/activist-mange-kimambi-charged-with-money-laundering-in-tanzania-5285058?utm\\_source=copilot.com](https://www.thecitizen.co.tz/tanzania/news/national/activist-mange-kimambi-charged-with-money-laundering-in-tanzania-5285058?utm_source=copilot.com)
- [https://mediawireexpress.co.tz/mange-kimambi-faces-money-laundering-charges-in-tanzania/?utm\\_source=copilot.com](https://mediawireexpress.co.tz/mange-kimambi-faces-money-laundering-charges-in-tanzania/?utm_source=copilot.com)

Regressive

## 155 04/12/2025 US REVIEWS BILATERAL RELATIONS WITH TANZANIA

The United States issued a statement announcing a review of its bilateral relationships with Tanzania, signaling international concern over the post-election crackdown and the deterioration of civic space. The action reflects the US's scrutiny of governance, human rights, and digital freedoms in Tanzania during the 2025 post-election period.

BBC News

- [https://x.com/bbcswahili/status/1996603647505973491?t=cWb600Q38qOZbjt3\\_e\\_Plg&s=09](https://x.com/bbcswahili/status/1996603647505973491?t=cWb600Q38qOZbjt3_e_Plg&s=09)

Regressive

Nature of Incident

156 05/12/2025 JOINT CALL FOR ACCOUNTABILITY BY 16 EMBASSIES - ACCOUNTABILITY / POST-ELECTION VIOLENCES / DIPLOMATIC INTERVENTION

On 5th December 2025, sixteen embassies and diplomatic missions issued a joint statement calling for accountability in Tanzania following the post-election violence and crackdowns that resulted in loss of life and property. The statement was issued by the United States Embassy, British High Commission, Canadian High Commission, Embassy of Norway, Embassy of Switzerland, Embassy of Belgium, Embassy of Denmark, Embassy of Finland, Embassy of France, Embassy of Germany, Embassy of Ireland, Embassy of Italy, Embassy of the Netherlands, Embassy of Poland, Embassy of Slovakia, and Embassy of Spain. In their statement, the missions urged the Tanzanian government to conduct a transparent and independent investigation into the reported human rights violations.

Reference

BBC News

- <https://www.bbc.com/swahili/articles/cx2e49ed025o>

Tone

Regressive

157 06/12/2025 COMMONWEALTH MINISTERIAL ACTION GROUP REVIEWS TANZANIA

The Commonwealth Ministerial Action Group (CMAG) convened to assess the critical developments in Tanzania following the 29 October 2025 post-election events. Ministers expressed concern over reported violations of core Commonwealth values, including human rights, freedom of expression, democratic principles, the rule of law, and good governance. The review signifies heightened international scrutiny and a formal multilateral response to Tanzania's handling of post-election unrest. By documenting these breaches, CMAG emphasized the need for accountability and adherence to democratic norms, reinforcing the Commonwealth's commitment to monitoring member states' compliance with its fundamental values.

The CommonWealth

- [https://production-new-commonwealth-files.s3.eu-west-2.amazonaws.com/s3fs-public/2025-12/concluding-statement-of-the-70th-cmag.pdf?VersionId=L25W0e\\_Z4SYHamG\\_M64hVHDwPupfilQ](https://production-new-commonwealth-files.s3.eu-west-2.amazonaws.com/s3fs-public/2025-12/concluding-statement-of-the-70th-cmag.pdf?VersionId=L25W0e_Z4SYHamG_M64hVHDwPupfilQ)

Progressive

158 05/12/2025 GOVERNMENT BANS PROTESTS – MINISTER SIMBACHAWENE ISSUES STERN WARNING

The Minister for Home Affairs, George Simbachawene, issued a stern warning to Tanzanians against participating in planned demonstrations described as "endless peaceful protests." The statement specifically targeted protests being mobilized online and in various regions, effectively restricting citizens' right to assemble. This action demonstrates a regressive approach to civic freedoms, leveraging both public messaging and implied enforcement to discourage digital and physical mobilization, thereby curtailing democratic expression and civic engagement.

Daily News  
The Respondent

- [https://dailynews.co.tz/tanzania-cautions-its-citizens-against-unlawful-dec-9-protests/?utm\\_source=copilot.com](https://dailynews.co.tz/tanzania-cautions-its-citizens-against-unlawful-dec-9-protests/?utm_source=copilot.com)
- [https://www.therespondents.co.tz/2025/12/simbachawene-warns-against-illegal.html?utm\\_source=copilot.com](https://www.therespondents.co.tz/2025/12/simbachawene-warns-against-illegal.html?utm_source=copilot.com)

Progressive

159 05/12/2025 GOVERNMENT SIGNALS INTERNET SHUTDOWN AS LAST RESORT

Minister for Home Affairs George Simbachawene stated that an internet shutdown would only be considered as an absolute last resort if national security were severely threatened. He emphasized that, at that time, the country remained calm, and no immediate security concerns existed to warrant action by the Tanzania Communications Regulatory Authority (TCRA) on December 9, 2025. This statement reflects a neutral, cautionary tone, signaling the government's awareness of the potential impact of digital shutdowns while framing the internet as a conditional tool for maintaining national stability rather than preemptively restricting digital access.

Global Publishers

- [https://globalpublishers.co.tz/2025/12/08/simbachawene-hakuna-tishio-la-kuzimwa-internet-tanzania-hali-ya-usalama-ni-shwari-video/?utm\\_source=copilot.com](https://globalpublishers.co.tz/2025/12/08/simbachawene-hakuna-tishio-la-kuzimwa-internet-tanzania-hali-ya-usalama-ni-shwari-video/?utm_source=copilot.com)

Progressive

160 05/12/2025 GOVERNMENT RESTRICTS MOVEMENT ON INDEPENDENCE DAY

The Tanzanian government issued a directive restricting public movement and travel on Independence Day, allowing travel only in cases of emergency. This measure reflects a preventative approach to public order amid the post-election period, effectively limiting citizens' freedom of movement. The policy prioritizes state control and security over individual liberties, signaling a regressive stance on civic freedoms and public participation during a nationally symbolic day.

DW  
Travel Trade

- [https://www.dw.com/en/tanzanias-muted-independence-day-raises-more-questions/a-75078232?utm\\_source=copilot.com](https://www.dw.com/en/tanzanias-muted-independence-day-raises-more-questions/a-75078232?utm_source=copilot.com)
- [https://traveltrade.today/tourism-news/africa-tourism/tanzania-authorities-advise-home-seclusion-amid-independence-day-protests/?utm\\_source=copilot.com](https://traveltrade.today/tourism-news/africa-tourism/tanzania-authorities-advise-home-seclusion-amid-independence-day-protests/?utm_source=copilot.com)

Progressive

161 09/12/2025 LHRC CHALLENGES GOVERNMENT INTERNET SHUTDOWN

LHRC filed case No. 56/2025 at the East African Court of Justice (EACJ) challenging the Tanzanian Government's internet shutdown from October 29 to November 4, 2025. The LHRC argued that the shutdown violated Articles 6(d), 7(2), and 8(1)(c) of the 1999 EAC Treaty, which protect fundamental rights, freedoms, and access to information. The petition also requested that the EACJ issue an order preventing future shutdowns without a specific law or valid court authorization. This legal intervention seeks to uphold digital rights, strengthen accountability, and limit executive overreach in managing post-election dissent.

The Respondent  
The Eastleigh Voice

- [https://www.therespondents.co.tz/2025/12/lhrc-drags-tanzania-to-east-african.html?utm\\_source=copilot.com](https://www.therespondents.co.tz/2025/12/lhrc-drags-tanzania-to-east-african.html?utm_source=copilot.com)
- [https://eastleighvoice.co.ke/tanzania/253671/tanzania%E2%80%99s-internet-blackout-challenged-at-east-african-court-of-justice?utm\\_source=copilot.com](https://eastleighvoice.co.ke/tanzania/253671/tanzania%E2%80%99s-internet-blackout-challenged-at-east-african-court-of-justice?utm_source=copilot.com)

Progressive

## Nature of Incident

## Reference

## Tone

162

10/12/2025

## SOCIAL MEDIA ACTIVIST ABDUCTION

Nicodemus Julius Loyore, a young activist known for mobilizing youth around the October 29 protests via TikTok, was reportedly abducted from his office on December 19, 2025, by individuals believed to be police officers. His current whereabouts remain unknown. This incident highlights the intersection of digital activism and state repression, demonstrating how social media-enabled civic engagement can become a target for coercive measures.

The Chanzo  
JamiiForums

- [https://thechanzo.com/2025/12/30/a-nation-in-fear-desperate-searches-and-arrests-continue-to-define-tanzanias-post-election-crackdown/?utm\\_source=copilot.com](https://thechanzo.com/2025/12/30/a-nation-in-fear-desperate-searches-and-arrests-continue-to-define-tanzanias-post-election-crackdown/?utm_source=copilot.com)
- [https://www.jamiiforums.com/threads/video-ikionesha-namna-nicodemus-alivyokamatwana-watu-waliojitambulisha-kuwa-ni-polisi.2409550/?utm\\_source=copilot.com](https://www.jamiiforums.com/threads/video-ikionesha-namna-nicodemus-alivyokamatwana-watu-waliojitambulisha-kuwa-ni-polisi.2409550/?utm_source=copilot.com)

Regressive

163

10/12/2025

## ELECTION VIOLENCE DISRUPTS MARITIME TRADE – 28 SHIPS QUEUE AT MOMBASA PORT

Post-election unrest and disruptions in Dar es Salaam port operations caused a diversion of maritime traffic, resulting in 28 ships queuing at Mombasa Port. The election-related disturbances affected shipping schedules, supply chains, and overall trade efficiency, highlighting the broader economic costs of political instability. This disruption not only affected national revenue through port fees and customs duties but also had regional repercussions, delaying cargo deliveries and undermining investor confidence in Tanzania's governance and trade reliability.

India Seatrade News

- <https://indiaseatradenews.com/28-ships-queue-at-mombasa-port-as-diversions-from-dar-es-salaam-surge/>

Regressive

164

11/12/2025

## TANGANYIKA LAW SOCIETY (TLS) CHALLENGES POST-ELECTION INTERNET BLACKOUT

A coalition of human rights defenders, led by the Tanganyika Law Society (TLS), filed the third major lawsuit against the Tanzanian government challenging the legality of the nationwide internet blackout imposed from October 29 to November 4, 2025. The petition argues that the shutdown was unconstitutional and infringed on citizens' fundamental rights to access information and communicate freely. This legal action represents a progressive push by civil society to safeguard digital freedoms and hold the state accountable for post-election restrictions on online expression.

The Chanzo

- <https://thechanzo.com/2025/12/11/third-legal-challenge-emerges-over-post-election-events-as-rights-groups-sue-govt-over-post-election-internet-blackout/>

Regressive

165

12/12/2025

## TANZANIAN MUSIC ARTISTS FACE BOYCOTT AFTER OCTOBER 29 POST-ELECTION CRACKDOWN

Tanzanian artists faced ongoing public scrutiny and a social-media-driven boycott following their perceived association with ruling-party campaign rallies during the October 29, 2025, elections. The post-election crackdown, which resulted in significant casualties and societal trauma, intensified public dissatisfaction with entertainers seen as endorsing political power over civic empathy. The boycott reflects a new form of cultural accountability, leveraging digital platforms to signal societal disapproval and push artists to align their public influence with citizens' expectations of solidarity and social responsibility.

The Commonwealth

- [https://production-new-commonwealth-files.s3.eu-west-2.amazonaws.com/s3fs-public/2025-12/concluding-statement-of-the-70th-cmag.pdf?VersionId=L25W0e\\_Z4SYHamG\\_M64h\\_VHDwPupfiIQ](https://production-new-commonwealth-files.s3.eu-west-2.amazonaws.com/s3fs-public/2025-12/concluding-statement-of-the-70th-cmag.pdf?VersionId=L25W0e_Z4SYHamG_M64h_VHDwPupfiIQ)

Progressive

166

15/12/2025

## DIGITAL INFRASTRUCTURE – HANDOVER OF ICT EQUIPMENT TO MCLA

The Ministry of Constitutional and Legal Affairs (MCLA) received a handover of ICT equipment aimed at enhancing the digital capacity of the ministry and its institutions. This initiative supports e-governance by improving operational efficiency, enabling better service delivery, and strengthening the integration of digital systems within legal and administrative processes. The event reflects a proactive effort to modernize government infrastructure and expand technology-enabled governance capabilities.

The Citizen  
The Respondent

- [https://www.thecitizen.co.tz/tanzania/news/national/kairuki-ict-reshaping-justice-administration-boosting-transparency-5298424?utm\\_source=copilot.com](https://www.thecitizen.co.tz/tanzania/news/national/kairuki-ict-reshaping-justice-administration-boosting-transparency-5298424?utm_source=copilot.com)
- [https://www.therespondents.co.tz/2025/12/government-strengthens-justice-services.html?utm\\_source=copilot.com](https://www.therespondents.co.tz/2025/12/government-strengthens-justice-services.html?utm_source=copilot.com)

Progressive

167

18/12/2025

## LAWSUIT FILED TO CHALLENGE PRESIDENTIAL COMMISSION OF INQUIRY

Three Tanzanians; Rosemary Mwakitwange, Edward Heche, and Deogratius Mahinyila; filed an urgent application in the High Court, Dar es Salaam, challenging the legality and structure of the Presidential Commission of Inquiry into the events of October 29, 2025. The plaintiffs sought to quash the commission's appointment and restrain it from proceeding, requesting an interim injunction to halt all activities pending the hearing of the main application.

The Citizen

- [https://www.thecitizen.co.tz/tanzania/news/national/high-court-allows-challenge-to-presidential-probe-on-post-election-violence-5302274?utm\\_source=copilot.com](https://www.thecitizen.co.tz/tanzania/news/national/high-court-allows-challenge-to-presidential-probe-on-post-election-violence-5302274?utm_source=copilot.com)

Progressive

168

19/12/2025

## DIGITAL DOCUMENTATION OF ELECTION VIOLENCE AND KILLINGS

In response to the post-election protests between 29 October and 3 November 2025 in Tanzania, security forces used unnecessary or disproportionate force, resulting in civilian deaths and the removal of bodies. Amnesty International documented these abuses and shared verified reports on digital platforms, ensuring that evidence of human rights violations reached both national and international audiences. By leveraging social media and digital reporting, this intervention underscores the critical role of digital rights in promoting transparency, accountability, and the public's right to information.

DW  
Travel Trade

- [https://www.dw.com/en/tanzanias-muted-independence-day-raises-more-questions/a-75078232?utm\\_source=copilot.com](https://www.dw.com/en/tanzanias-muted-independence-day-raises-more-questions/a-75078232?utm_source=copilot.com)
- [https://traveltrade.today/tourism-news/africa-tourism/tanzania-authorities-advise-home-seclusion-amid-independence-day-protests/?utm\\_source=copilot.com](https://traveltrade.today/tourism-news/africa-tourism/tanzania-authorities-advise-home-seclusion-amid-independence-day-protests/?utm_source=copilot.com)

Progressive

## Nature of Incident

## Reference

## Tone

## 169 25/12/2025 RELEASE OF BARAKA CHACHA MWITA FOLLOWING DETENTION AND PUBLIC OUTCRY

Baraka Chacha Mwita, a Tanzanian man arrested on October 30, 2025, during the government crackdown following post-election protests, was released on December 24, 2025, after nearly two months in detention on treason charges. His family reported that both of his legs were broken during his arrest, leaving him unable to walk and requiring assistance during court appearances. Images of Mwita being carried by fellow detainees circulated widely on social media, sparking public outrage and increasing scrutiny of his treatment while in custody. His release followed a public appeal by his family, which gained attention both offline and online.

## The Chanzo

- <https://thechanzo.com/2025/12/25/bar-aka-chacha-mwita-tanzanian-man-with-broken-legs-freed-after-familys-desperate-appeal/>

Regressive

## 170 25/12/2025 : SOCIAL MEDIA-DRIVEN FAN BOYCOTT OF TANZANIAN MUSIC ARTISTS

A widespread fan boycott of Tanzanian musicians emerged following the violent crackdown on protests on October 29, 2025, with many fans expressing dissatisfaction over artists' perceived alignment with or silence regarding state actions. The boycott was largely organized and amplified through social media platforms, where users mobilized public sentiment and encouraged others to stop supporting certain artists. The online campaign significantly disrupted the music industry, reducing engagement, performances, and commercial activity.

## The Chanzo

- <https://thechanzo.com/2025/12/27/fan-boycott-halts-tanzanian-music-but-insiders-say-crisis-ran-deeper/>

Neutral

## 171 28/12/2025 ARREST AND DETENTION OF ACTIVIST THADEY SABINUS KWEKA OVER ALLEGED INCITEMENT

Thadey Sabinus Kweka, a Tanzanian activist based in the United States, was arrested in Moshi, Kilimanjaro Region, on allegations of incitement. According to a public notice issued by the Tanzania Police Force, he was detained following criminal allegations and remained in custody pending further investigation and legal procedures. Prior to the official police statement, social media reports had circulated claiming that Kweka had been abducted from his residence by armed individuals, generating public concern and online discussion regarding his safety and whereabouts.

## TANPOL

- <https://www.instagram.com/p/DS1bK5NjDGa/?igsh=N2t3aDQ0OG81c2Rs>

Regressive

## 172 30/12/2025 ARREST OF SOCIAL MEDIA COMMENTATOR CLEMENCE KENANI MWANDAMBO

Police in Mbeya arrested Clemence Kenani Mwandambo, a nursery school teacher and social media commentator, on allegations of publishing false information and insulting religious beliefs online. Mwandambo had gained considerable influence among Tanzanian audiences, particularly through TikTok, where he discussed public interest issues in accessible and relatable language. His arrest highlights the growing scrutiny of individuals using social media platforms to engage in civic discourse and public commentary.

## Global Publishers

- [https://globalpublishers.co.tz/2025/12/30/clemence-mwandambo-ashikiliwana-jeshi-la-polisi-kwa-tuhuma-za-kijinjai/?utm\\_source=copilot.com](https://globalpublishers.co.tz/2025/12/30/clemence-mwandambo-ashikiliwana-jeshi-la-polisi-kwa-tuhuma-za-kijinjai/?utm_source=copilot.com)

Regressive

## 173 31/12/2025 DIGITAL RIGHTS &amp; ELECTORAL REPRESENTATION CHALLENGE

The High Court in Dodoma granted the Alliance for Change and Transparency (ACT Wazalendo) leave to challenge the Independent National Electoral Commission's (INEC) exclusion of the party from the allocation of 115 special parliamentary seats for women. The case has direct implications for digital rights because the dispute affects transparency and accountability in electoral processes, which are increasingly mediated through online platforms, official websites, and social media channels.

## The Chanzo

- <https://thechanzo.com/2025/12/31/high-court-of-tanzania-grants-opposition-party-leave-to-challenge-inecs-special-seats-allocation/>

Neutral

In conclusion, the 2025 Digital Rights Index underscores a digital ecosystem under considerable strain, where restrictive and rights-infringing actions dominated the landscape. With 93 of 173 incidents (53.8%) classified as Regressive, 47 (27.2%) as Progressive, and 33 (19.1%) as Neutral, the year reflects a net contraction of digital freedoms despite pockets of resilience and institutional strengthening. Regressive trends; ranging from arrests, abductions, and online censorship to internet shutdowns and surveillance illustrate the securitization of digital spaces and the targeting of civic engagement. Progressive developments, including legal challenges, ICT infrastructure investments, and civil society advocacy, reveal enduring institutional capacity and governance evolution, though they remain insufficient to offset the prevailing restrictions. Neutral incidents further highlight ongoing administrative and procedural activities, underscoring that digital governance continues even in the absence of direct rights implications. Collectively, these patterns demonstrate that Tanzania's digital environment in 2025 remains contested, with civic freedoms facing significant pressures while incremental reforms and advocacy offer avenues for accountability and future improvement.

## APPENDIX III: MEMBERS OF THE GTWG AS OF 2024

1. African Child Projects (ACP)
2. Builders for Future Africa (BFA)
3. Center for Strategic Litigation (CSL)
4. Center for Youth Dialogue (CYD)
5. Digital Agenda for Tanzania Initiative (D4TI)
6. Dunia Salama Foundation (DUFASO)
7. East Africa Law Society (EALS)
8. Foundation for Civil Society (FCS)
9. Gidabuday Sports Tourism Foundation (GSTF)
10. Kuza Stream Generation (KSG)
11. Law Guard Advocates (LGA)
12. Media for Development and Advocacy (MEDEA)
13. Mwanga Hub
14. Restless Development
15. Tangible Initiatives
16. Tanzania AI Community
17. Tanzania Internet Service Providers Association (TISPA)
18. Tanzania Women Lawyers Association (TAWLA)
19. Tech & Media Convergency (TMC)
20. The Chanzo Initiative
21. Voice of Youth Tanzania (VOYOTA)
22. Women in Law and Development in Africa (WiLDAF)
23. Zanzibar Fighting Against Youth Challenges Organization (ZAFAYCO)

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The Chanzo Initiative [“No Reforms, No Election Takes Over Tanzania’s Social Media”](#); See [Msigwa Instagram Post Congratulating UDOM Students](#).

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The Chanzo, 5 August 2025 [“CCM Dissident Luhaga Mpina Joins ACT-Wazalendo After Exclusion in Party Primaries”](#).

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within a Democratic Digital Framework"*