



PRESS STATEMENT ON THE ARREST OF PWC STAFF IN ARUSHA

The Tanzania Human Rights Defenders Coalition (THRDC) is deeply concerned by reports of the arrest of three staff members of the Pastoral Women's Council (PWC), a non-governmental organisation based in Arusha.

According to the information received by THRDC, on 6 October 2026, the Police Officers arrested Thadeus Clamian, Nangei Meitaya and Ezekiel Kishau, who are PWC staff members, together with Salangat Makko, who was accompanying them but does not work with PWC. The information received indicates that the staff members are suspected of planning demonstrations directed at parliamentarians from the Inter-Parliamentary Union (IPU).

THRDC has also received information that the Police Officers have been looking for other PWC staff members, including visiting their homes at various times, including at night. On 5 October 2026 at night Police Officers conducted search at a house of one of PWC staff member without explaining the reasons for the search. This has caused fear and anxiety among PWC staff, their families and organisations in Arusha.

THRDC has instructed Advocates Simon Mbwambo and Ally Mhyellah to follow up on the matter at Arusha Central Police Station and provide legal assistance. Advocate Lairumbe is also following up on behalf of PWC.

Our call to the Police

- a) THRDC calls on the Police to release the staff members unconditionally, as no THRDC member organisation is coordinating demonstrations. Those arrested should therefore be released, and the harassment of organisations in Arusha should cease.
- b) All arrested staff members should be allowed to communicate with their lawyers and families.

Issued by

Onesmo Olengurumwa (Advocate)

National Coordinator – THRDC

7 October 2026