

Resolution on the Arrest of Opposition Leaders and the Deterioration of the Political and Democratic Situation in Tanzania

- Considering that presidential candidate Tundu Lissu, leader of CHADEMA (Party for Democracy and Progress), the main opposition party in Tanzania, was arrested in April in a context of growing political repression, following his denouncement of democratic irregularities and his call for free and fair elections;
- Recalling that Mr. Lissu has previously been the victim of an assassination attempt and forced exile, and that despite these events, he has continued his peaceful work in support of democratic reforms;
- Taking note that his arrest, as well as that of CHADEMA Vice President John Heche and Secretary General John Mnyika, lacks any legitimate basis and is solely a response to their lawful political and democratic expressions;
- Deeply concerned about the deterioration of the democratic space in Tanzania, marked by arbitrary arrests, restrictions on freedom of expression, lack of democratic guarantees, and the continued rule of a single party for over five decades;
- Considering the alarming trend of democratic backsliding in several African countries, such as Uganda and Tanzania, where opposition leaders like Kizza Besigye and Tundu Lissu are persecuted and imprisoned for political reasons, in conditions that violate the principles of human dignity;
- Deeply regretting the institutional silence of the Pan-African Parliament and the African Union, which have thus far failed to respond proportionately to the gravity of these violations of fundamental rights;
- Resolves the following:
 - Condemn in the strongest terms the arrest of Mr. Tundu Lissu and other opposition leaders in Tanzania, deeming it an act of political repression incompatible with democratic principles and human rights. Demand their immediate and unconditional release, as well as full respect for their physical and moral integrity;
 - Publicly denounce the governments of Tanzania and Uganda for their authoritarian practices and for violating the fundamental right to political opposition;
 - Support the call for free, transparent, and inclusive elections in Tanzania, with independent international observation and guarantees for press freedom and political participation by all actors;

- Demand that the government of Tanzania respect national and international legality, and allow access for international electoral observation missions, ensuring their freedom of movement;
- Censure the inaction of the African Union and the Pan-African Parliament, and call on them to fulfill their institutional mandate in defense of democratic principles across the continent;
- Recommend that the President of IDC–CDI raise this concern before the African Union and the European Union, requesting the deployment of diplomatic and parliamentary missions to promote respect for the rule of law and the release of the detained leaders;
- Urge the international community, democratic governments, multilateral organizations, and civil society to actively monitor the situation in Tanzania and Uganda, and to take diplomatic measures to ensure the respect of civil and political rights;
- Reaffirm the commitment of IDC–CDI to the African Charter on Democracy, Elections and Governance, as well as to international treaties enshrining human rights and fundamental freedoms, including the legitimate right to political opposition.

General Assembly – Abidjan 30.05.25