



Annual Report 2020



DEFENDDEFENDERS

East and Horn of Africa Human Rights Defenders Project

ACRONYMS

ACHPR	African Commission on Human and Peoples' Rights
CBDDH	Coalition Burundaise des Défenseurs des Droits de l'Homme
COHR	Commission on Human Rights
COI	Commission of Inquiry
GNC	Gender Non-Conforming
HRD	Human Rights Defender
IE	Independent Expert
M&E	Monitoring and Evaluation
NGO	Non-Governmental Organisation
OHCHR	Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights
OSINT	Open Source Intelligence
TOT	Training of Trainers
TRE	Tension Releasing Exercises
UN HRC	United Nations Human Rights Council
UN	United Nations
UPR	Universal Periodic Review
WHRD	Woman Human Rights Defender

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FOREWORD



2020 was overshadowed by the COVID-19 pandemic, which affected our normal way of operating. With offices closed, our technology set up allowed us to rethink and adapt quickly to the restrictive pandemic measures. We also made it clear that while it is legitimate to weigh public health concerns against the protection of fundamental rights, any such restrictions must be temporary, lawful, non-discriminatory, strictly necessary, and proportionate to the threat. It is unfortunate that throughout the continent, we witnessed and documented numerous attacks on the rights to freedom of expression, assembly, and movement in Africa which had a particularly detrimental effect on human rights defenders (HRDs).

COVID-19 also exposed the rampant corruption, discrimination, and inequalities in our society today. In the early days of the pandemic, I led a continental initiative to draw attention to the inhumane treatment of African citizens in China, resulting in an open letter addressed to the Chairperson of the African Union Commission, signed by over 400 civil society organisations and 17,000 people from all over the continent.

As Chairperson of AfricanDefenders, I committed my team to the African Union's (AU) goal of "Silencing the Guns" in 2020. As the year comes to a close, we are still working towards a conflict-free Africa, where genocide is prevented, and peace is a reality for all. We are yet to rid the continent of wars, violent conflicts, human rights violations, and humanitarian disasters. Nonetheless, with doubled efforts and strengthened AU organs, we can silence the guns. On our part, through an outstanding partnership with the African Governance Architecture (African Union Commission), we hope to meaningfully contribute to the African Union Agenda 2063.

I must commend my resilient and resourceful staff not only on swiftly reacting and adapting to the 'new normal' in 2020, but also for proactively seeking new possibilities to carry out our work. Despite the pandemic, we continued to support HRDs and reach out to the most at risk and vulnerable, and organised hybrid meetings and webinar series'. To help HRDs protect themselves, we published COVID-19



safety, security, and well-being guidelines in English, Arabic, and French, and dedicated the month of June to well-being, to emphasise the need for rest and respite. We have also released guidelines for HRDs during election periods.

With travel restricted globally since March 2020, DefendDefenders' Geneva office proved to be an invaluable asset. The permanent presence of our Representative to the UN ensured continuity of our advocacy efforts at the UN Human Rights Council (HRC), and allowed for in-person statements, next to the remote participation of HRDs from the sub-region. Voices of HRDs from the ground continued to resonate in Geneva.

Despite the growing challenges, I am proud of how quickly, flexibly, competently, and jovially the DefendDefenders and AfricanDefenders teams handled these challenges.

In the 15 years of DefendDefenders' existence, which we celebrated on 4 November, I believe we have strengthened our operations in supporting the most at-risk human rights defenders in Africa and have made our programmes accessible even at the grassroots level.

I wish to extend my heartfelt gratitude to the national coalitions of HRDs and sub-regional HRD networks for their tireless effort on the ground, and of course our donors and partners, whose support makes our hard work possible.

Yours in solidarity

Hassan Shire

Executive Director, DefendDefenders
Chairperson, AfricanDefenders

“

.... we are still working towards a conflict-free Africa, where genocide is prevented, and peace is a reality for all. We are yet to rid the continent of wars, violent conflicts, human rights violations, and humanitarian disasters.

”



ABOUT DEFENDDEFENDERS

DefendDefenders was established in 2005 as the East and Horn of Africa Human Rights Defenders Project and registered as a foreign Non-Governmental Organization in Uganda. DefendDefenders exists to strengthen the work of Human Rights Defenders in the region by reducing their vulnerability to the risk of persecution and by enhancing their capacity to effectively defend human rights.

The core mandate of DefendDefenders is to promote the safety, security, and wellbeing of HRDs. To achieve this, DefendDefenders work has to date focused on protection and security management, capacity building, technology development, as well as advocacy, research, and communications. Further, DefendDefenders establishes and supports national coalitions of HRDs in various countries through which HRDs can come together and claim their rights at the national level.

DefendDefenders serves as a Secretariat of the East and Horn of Africa Human Rights Defenders Network (EHAHRD-Net) representing thousands of HRDs and their organizations. The network draws its membership from Burundi, Djibouti, Eritrea, Ethiopia, Kenya, Rwanda, Somalia (together with Somaliland), South Sudan, Sudan, Tanzania, and Uganda.

The Network also serves as the secretariat for AfricanDefenders (Pan African Human Rights Defenders Network). DefendDefenders further holds a Consultative Status with the UN Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) as well as observer status with the African Commission on Human and Peoples' Rights.

VISION

A region in which the human rights of every individual as stipulated in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights are respected and upheld.

MISSION

To enhance the safety and capacities of HRDs in the region for greater resilience and effective fulfilment of their mandates.

EAST AND HORN OF AFRICA 2020

Throughout 2020, further shrinking of civic space was witnessed across the region, exacerbated by the COVID-19 pandemic. Human rights defenders (HRDs) were disproportionately affected by increased restrictions on freedom of peaceful assembly, expression, and access to information. While new regulations were enacted to curb the spread of the virus and misinformation, they were also used to silence opposing voices and curtail protest movements, spurred on by increased police violence during COVID-19 lockdowns in countries such as Kenya, Rwanda, and Uganda.

More thorough analyses are available in DefendDefenders' bi-annual reports to the ACHPR (April 2020 & October 2020), as well as on the website.

COUNTRY	HIGHLIGHTS OF 2020
Burundi	President Évariste Ndayishimiye elected in May 2020. Four Iwacu journalists were released following a Presidential pardon Germain Rukiki's 32-year sentence was quashed by the Supreme Court and the Court of Appeal ordered to re-hear it.
Djibouti	In July 2020, demonstrations occurred in support of former Djiboutian Air Force Lieutenant Fouad Youssouf Ali, who was illegally returned from Ethiopia. Several journalists were arrested following the protests.
Eritrea	A resolution to extend the mandate of the UN Special Rapporteur on the human rights situation in Eritrea adopted in July 2020 The country remained extremely closed and hostile for journalists. By the end of the year, 16 journalists remained either disappeared or in detention.
Ethiopia	Armed conflict in Tigray region resulted in the displacement of over 2.2 million people. Intercommunal and ethnic killings were reported in Benishangul-Gumuz region and Tigray. There were mass protests following death of Oromo singer Hachalu Hundessa.
Kenya	There were increased political tensions in anticipation of 2022 elections. The Cyber Crimes Act remains in place targeting bloggers and social media users. There were several reports of heavy-handedness by authorities in enforcement of covid 19 regulations. The Independent Medico-Legal Unit (IMLU) documented 24 cases of deaths in police custody since January 2020.

Rwanda	Restrictions to the right to freedom of opinion and expression especially for journalists and political opponents remained in place. Paul Rusesabagina, an outspoken critic, was arrested in Europe and forcefully repatriated to Rwanda on terrorism charges.
Somalia	Restrictions were reported ahead of the February 2021 elections. In July 2020 protests against the planned term extension by President Mohamed Abdullahi were violently dispersed. An amendment to the Media Law was signed in August 2020, continuing to criminalise the work of journalists.
South Sudan	There were delays in implementing the transitional security arrangements. Transitional justice mechanisms as per the Revitalized Peace Agreement are yet to be established. Several HRDs fled the hostile political environment, with Peter Biar Ajak fleeing to the United States.
Sudan	A State of emergency was declared due to floods and Covid 19. Protests continued against poor living and economic conditions. The Military arm of the Sovereign Council continued to retain significant influence, threatening civic freedoms.
Tanzania	Elections took place amid massive irregularities and violence, with several political opponents and protestors detained. In August 2020, accounts of Tanzanian Human Rights Defenders Coalition were closed affecting their activities. Electronic and Postal Communications (Online) Content Regulations 2020 continued to be used to silence the media.
Uganda	The run up to the country's 2021 general elections was marred with violence against protestors. In November 2020, at least 45 people were killed and over 800 arrested.

PROTECTION AND SECURITY MANAGEMENT

Providing protection and emergency support to HRDs at risk, is the core pillar of our work.

This year, we enhanced access to emergency protection for HRDs under imminent risk of violence. In total **482 grant requests were received**. The breakdown is as follows;

283 HRDs received support (**41** females, **9** transgender, **11** organisations, **222** males),
134 requests were not supported,
11 requests were withdrawn,
1191 total beneficiaries;

PREVENTIVE PROTECTION

Security Management

The Protection and Security Management department provides both preventive and reactive protection support. Preventive protection is aimed at equipping HRDs with skills to mitigate the risks that they face, increasing the capacities of the HRDs and their families, while reducing the vulnerabilities that they face. Capacity building, risk assessment, trial observation, solidarity visits, and psychosocial support and wellbeing are part and parcel of preventive protection strategies. DefendDefenders offers a robust training in physical security management, monitoring, documenting, reporting, plus stress and organizational management. Mentorship for HRD organisations, coalitions, and sub-regional networks, is also provided by the department.

Physical security clinic

Physical security clinics are setup on the side lines of civil society events and meetings. Staff explain the work of DefendDefenders, the different services offered, and showcase publications on security management.

Resourcing resilience through art

Psychosocial support and wellbeing have become an integral part of DefendDefenders activities and engagements with HRDs. To reduce the trauma, and mitigate the effects of the threats HRDs face, DefendDefenders organised a therapy camp for HRDs to practise self-care and well-being skills, enabling self-discovery, and psychosocial therapy. Additionally, different forms of artistic expressions, TRE, mindfulness, and talk therapy were used to address the stressful experience of the campers.

On 27 February 2020, DefendDefenders launched the first artistic therapy studio for HRDs in the East and Horn of Africa. The studio will enable HRDs to practice various well-being activities including, practicing TRE, personal reflection, meditation, playing, learning how to play musical instruments, dance, and body movement, drawing and painting, among others.



Figure 1: US Embassy staff join Defend Defenders Executive Director Hassan Shire to cut ribbons launching the artistic therapy studio at DefendDefenders offices



Figure 2: *A wellbeing exercise in session*

RESOURCE CENTRE FOR HRDS

The Floribert Chebeya Resource Centre is a safe space for HRDs to continue their human rights work while in exile. Located at the office premises of DefendDefenders, the resource centre is stocked with equipment, books, and a stable internet connection. In the first few months of 2020, it was accessed by 22 HRDs (16 males, 5 female & 1 other).

DEFENDEFENDERS TECH

DefendersTech provides IT security support to organisations in form of organisational security audits and subsequent fixups. In 2020, DefendersTech audited 10 organisations, and followed up to provide fixup support. Due to Covid-19, the team had to adapt the mode of implementation for organisations outside of Uganda, which meant that audits were conducted remotely, using consultants and junior auditors who previously took part in trainings of auditors.

ADVOCACY, RESEARCH AND COMMUNICATIONS

DefendDefenders engages in different fora at national, regional, and international level to influence the global agenda for HRDs, primarily at the HRC and the ACHPR. Through our office in Geneva, our Representative to the UN engages with state delegations, human rights experts, OHCHR officials, the HRC, human rights organisations and other relevant UN bodies. Similarly, HRDs are supported to engage physically and online with the same fora.

In 2020, DefendDefenders engaged in the 43rd, 44th and 45th sessions of the UN HRC and the 66th and 67th sessions of the ACHPR. These sessions were greatly impacted by the Covid-19 pandemic, with the 66th ACHPR session being postponed and the 67th session being held online. Despite this, DefendDefenders submitted bi-annual reports to the Commission. Throughout the year, DefendDefenders engaged with partners, pushing for the adoption of meaningful resolutions at the ACHPR and HRC.



Figure 3: *AfricanDefenders Coordinator Joseph Bikanda, Human Rights Ambassador for the Kingdom of the Netherlands Bahia Tahzib-Lie and DefendDefenders' Representative to the UN, Nicholas Agostini at the side lines of HRC43*

HRC 43

- 5 Advocacy documents and press releases
- 1 Side event - South Sudan
- 1 resolution

HRC 44

- 4 Advocacy reports and press releases
- 1 Side event - Sudan
- 4 resolutions

HRC 45

- 8 Oral statements
- 7 Advocacy documents and press releases
- 1 Side event - Burundi
- 5 resolutions

BURUNDI

Documentary screening and discussion on the margins of the 45th session of the UN Human Rights Council



REBUILDING THEIR BROKEN LIVES "Kwiyubaka"



Friday 18 September 2020, 10:00-11:00am

Rue de Varembe 1, Geneva (ground floor meeting room)

The documentary is based on interviews carried out in Kampala and Nakivale settlement, Uganda. It features Burundian refugee women, as well as women human rights defenders exiled in Uganda, particularly those who have been subjected to sexual violence before fleeing. In a compelling manner, these women tell their stories of shattered lives and their spirits of resilience.

With no hope to go back home anytime soon, as their wounds are still wide open,



but also as the current political landscape does not show any sign of human rights improvement, **Light For All** and **DefendDefenders** work to empower these women to meet their needs in a safe, sustainable, and dignified manner.

The screening will be followed by a short discussion of Burundi's human rights situation and the role of the UN Human Rights Council, four years after the creation of the Commission of Inquiry (CoI).

Discussants:

- **Ms. Chantal Mutamuriza**, Executive Director, Light For All
- **Mr. Clément Nyaletssou Voule**, UN Special Rapporteur on the rights to freedom of peaceful assembly and of association
- **Ms. Elisabeth Pramendorfer**, Senior Human Rights Officer, UN Geneva, Global Centre for the Responsibility to Protect

Event schedule:

- Introduction: **Mr. Nicolas Agostini**, Representative to the UN, DefendDefenders
- Documentary background and methodology: **Ms. Chantal Mutamuriza** (5 minutes)
- **Screening: Rebuilding their Broken Lives - "Kwiyubaka"** (24 minutes)
- **Comments by discussants and Q&A** (30 minutes)

Due to the COVID-19 situation, attendance is limited to **16 persons** – please RSVP with geneva@defenddefenders.org
Basic protection and health measures must be observed, including physical distancing and wearing a mask

#Burundi #CoIBurundi #HRC45

www.light4a.com @DefendDefenders

ONLINE EVENT

Sudan at a crossroads: what role for the HRC?

A year after the adoption of the transitional constitutional Declaration, this online event will provide an assessment of the human rights situation in Sudan to the diplomatic community working around the UN Human Rights Council's Enhanced Interactive Dialogue on Sudan. To go beyond the political challenges of a fragile agreement between the military, private militias and the representatives of the civilian protests and fighting a surge of cases of Covid-19, the event will highlight key issues that need to be tackled by the authorities, areas where OHCHR and third parties support is needed, and suggest recommendations to improve the human rights situation in the country.

The event is organised by the African Center for Justice and Peace Studies (ACJPS), Cairo Institute for Human Rights Studies (CIHRS), CIVICUS: World Alliance for Citizen Participation, CSW, DefendDefenders (East and Horn of Africa Human Rights Defenders Project), Human Rights Watch (HRW), International Federation for Human Rights (FIDH), Justice Centre for Advocacy and Legal Consultations (JCALC), and REDRESS.

Speakers

- Fadia Khalaf, activist, Missing Initiative

- Mohamed Abdelsalam, Professor, Dean of the Faculty of Law, University of Khartoum

- Enass Muzamel, activist, Women Peace and Security Initiative (WPSI)

- Mossaad Mohamed Ali, Executive Director, ACJPS

Moderated by Sheila Mwangi, Vice-President, FIDH

DATE: 13 JULY 2020

14:00 - 15:00 Geneva/Khartoum

The platform used will be Zoom, and the discussion will be held in English

Join us then at:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83003311823>

South Sudan: ensuring continued HRC scrutiny and engagement

Side event at the 43rd session of the
UN Human Rights Council



Date: 5 March 2020
Time: 12:00 to 13:00
Location: Palais des Nations, room XXVII

Panelists:

Ms. Susan Sebit,
National Alliance for Women
Lawyers

Ms. Nyagoah Tut Pur,
Human Rights Watch

Mr. James Sidaj,
Community Empowerment for
Progress Organisation / South
Sudan Human Rights Defenders
Network

Prof. Andrew Clapham,
UN Commission on Human Rights
in South Sudan

Moderator: **Mr. Nicolas Agostini**,
DefendDefenders

Language: English

Light snacks and refreshments
will be available.

As the UN Commission on Human Rights in South Sudan (CoHR) is due to present its last report to the Human Rights Council, on 8 March 2020, and the Council is due to consider a resolution on South Sudan, this event will bring together South Sudanese human rights defenders, researchers, and Prof. Andrew Clapham, who is a member of the CoHR.

In a joint letter released ahead of HRC43, South Sudanese, regional, and international NGOs called on the Council to adopt a resolution extending the mandate of the CoHR for a further year. The letter discusses ongoing human rights issues in South Sudan, including sexual and gender-based violence, the country's volatile political and security situation, and risk factors of further violations and abuses, including delays in implementing transitional security arrangements and transitional justice provisions of the 2018 Revitalised Peace Agreement (R-ARCSS).

Panelists and researchers will present updates and analyses on the human rights situation, as well as civil society asks – the Council should renew the CoHR's mandate in full to ensure continued investigations, collection and preservation of evidence, monitoring, public reporting, and technical advice. Prof. Clapham will present key aspects of the CoHR's mandate, work, and its February 2020 mission to South Sudan.



COUNTRY-SPECIFIC ADVOCACY

Tanzania	AT HRC 43, we pursued work on prevention and objective criteria for council action, and called for preventative engagement with Tanzania to avoid further deterioration of the human rights and civic space situation in the country.
Eritrea	At HRC 43, we delivered an oral statement urging Eritrea to cooperate with the council and its mechanisms, including the Special Rapporteur on the country's situation, pursuant to its membership obligations. Ahead of HRC 44, we worked on a Letter: "Eritrea – Maintain Human Rights Council scrutiny and engagement," and Press release: "Eritrea – UN extends scrutiny as no human rights progress can be reported."
South Sudan	During HRC 43 AND HRC45, we wrote a letter advocating for the extension of the mandate of the CoHR. The mandate of the COHR and international monitoring and reporting on South Sudan was extended.
Burundi	During HRC 44, we delivered a statement building on a recent joint letter, encouraging President Évariste Ndayishimiye to commit to a reconciliation agenda and grant pardon to all unjustly detained HRDs. Additionally, we called for a further extension of the mandate of the Commission of Inquiry on the country.
Sudan	At HRC 43, we delivered an oral statement welcoming the progress in Sudan, while stressing the need for continued attention, monitoring, and public debates on the country. Ahead of HRC 44, we pursued consultations on the situation in Sudan and actions the Council could take to promote and protect human rights in the country and support a democratic transition. At HRC 44, we co-organised an online event with Sudanese HRDs. We also delivered a comprehensive statement during the session's "enhanced interactive dialogue" on Sudan. During HRC 45, DefendDefenders and partners emphasised that it was untimely to relax scrutiny of Sudan's situation and stressed key points in a press release and an oral statement.
Somalia	At HRC 45, we delivered a statement on Item 10: Interactive dialogue with the IE. During HRC 45, in a statement, we highlighted the precarious situation of HRDs and journalists in the country. Read our analysis of the resolution adopted on 6 October 2020.
Kenya	At HRC 45, our statement on the adoption of the report on the country's Universal Periodic Review (UPR) was delivered by the Defenders Coalition via video message.

RESEARCH

DefendDefenders conducts both country specific and thematic research to inform our advocacy efforts regionally and internationally. In 2020 we published:

- 2 country specific reports
- 2 thematic reports
- 1 policy brief
- 1 podcast

The first report, **“Targeted but Not Deterred: Human rights defenders fighting for justice and peace in South Sudan”**, analyses the situation of HRDs in South Sudan following the signing of the 2018 Revitalised Peace Agreement and formation of a national unity government in early 2020.

TARGETED BUT NOT DETERRED:

Human Rights Defenders Fighting for
Justice and Peace in South Sudan

The policy brief; **“On the Legal Frontline: Lawyers and Paralegals as Human Rights Defenders in the East and Horn of Africa”** synthesises the problems that legal practitioners in the sub-region face, and the strategies they use to promote human rights. It is based upon documentation and action research by human rights lawyers and legal activists from Ethiopia, Somalia, Sudan, South Sudan, Tanzania, and Uganda.

The other report; **“Making a Difference for Women and Girls? East and Horn of Africa countries and women’s and girls’ rights at the UN Human Rights Council”**, examines how and to what extent, the 11 States of the East and Horn of Africa contribute to the advancement of the rights of women and girls at the United Nations (UN). It aims to raise awareness on how states’ behaviour at the UN HRC contributes to citizen engagement with governments of the sub-region, enhances scrutiny, and furthers efforts towards the realisation of women’s and girls’ rights.



“Open the Doors! Towards complete freedom of movement for human rights defenders in exile in Uganda”, examines freedom of movement of exiled human rights defenders (HRDs) in Uganda.

OPEN THE DOORS!

Towards Complete Freedom of Movement for
Human Rights Defenders in Exile in Uganda

COMMUNICATIONS

In 2020, 12 HRDs were profiled as HRDs of the month, to amplify their voices and recognise their work across the sub-region. Additionally, monthly newsletters were circulated to stakeholders, networks, and partners. DefendDefenders maintained its presence online, with continuous engagement on our various social media platforms, such as Twitter, Instagram, Facebook, and YouTube. As a result our social media presence and following continued to grow.



1000 new followers



1300 new followers

MEET OUR 2020 HRDS OF THE MONTH:

**January – Faiza Abdi Mohamed,
Somalia**

"I've lost so many of my friends due to cruelties, so I can't keep quiet"



**February – Aluel Atem,
South Sudan**

"It's not only about being a female, but a young female. You get undermined for being a woman in all-man spaces, and for being young in older spaces"



**March – Kadar Abdi Ibrahim,
Djibouti**

"Every day, I witness the injustice and suffering inflicted upon my fellow compatriots. As a human being, I cannot stand idly by"



**April – Onyang Owor,
Uganda**

"The ripple effects of such a case go beyond the court room or the human rights defenders that had been affected by a draconian application of this law"



**May – Edmund Yakano,
South Sudan**

"All focus was on dissemination of information around COVID-19, on awareness raising. But for example, immunization of children from other medical sicknesses – it's not been taken seriously, not been budgeted for."



**June – Vanessa Tsehaye,
Eritrea**

"The Eritrean situation is very unique. In these past 19 years, very few things have changed for the better, if any. Maybe it's comparable to North Korea, this situation where opposition and civil society are completely banned and unable to operate within the country. Only people on the outside can mobilise and campaign. It's very tricky, because it's much easier to mobilise people within a county to organise mass protests."



**July – Karis Moses Oteba,
Uganda**

"Within DefenderDefenders' protection department, we often encourage outbursts, owing to the desperate situations HRDs face. In the beginning I would argue back and forth with them, but I have learned to stay calm, and appreciate where they are coming from"



**August – Malab Alneel,
Sudan**

"I grew up in a house that was very political. All of my sisters are activists, my parents are very involved. Activism has always been there. But for me it started with the revolution. It just felt like a time for change"



**September – Onesmo Olengurumwa,
Tanzania**

"I did not start championing human rights because of employment, I started this at secondary school, and we were not paid. I am extremely passionate about my human rights work, whether they pay me or not. I chose this work, knowing that it's risky and I've faced a lot of difficulties. My house was surveilled and at one point I had to be evacuated internally. Life is not independent and free."



**October – Andrew Gole,
Uganda**

"If I have a skill that someone else needs to be safe, I am very happy to provide it. Many of the organisations I work with don't have IT departments, so once I do something for them, I usually become their IT guy. Most of it is easy for me, so if I can help, I usually do it immediately and I can't charge a consultancy fee for that."



**November – Meskerem Geset Techane,
Ethiopia**

"Any opportunity to discredit me is used. When I assert my leadership and demand excellence, men complain that I'm insulting them. They would never say that to the other men in their 'boy's club.' It's very subtle, but it's bullying and intimidation attempting to discredit me. Many women human rights defenders face such experiences."



**December – Foni Joyce,
South Sudan**

"Numbers are useful to show the intensity and impact of a conflict, but when we talk about 70 million refugees, most people think about 70 million people taking up resources or opportunities. We forget that behind every number is a human being. A mother, a father, a brother or sister, whose voice needs to be heard regardless of their status."



Throughout the course of the year, together with AfricanDefenders we hosted and participated in several online campaigns such as; [International Women's Day](#); [International Youth Day](#); [International Democracy Day](#); [International Peace Day](#); [Universal Access to Information Day](#); [#Justice4AllWomxn](#); [World Press Freedom Day](#); [The UN International Day of the World's Indigenous Peoples](#); [World Mental Health Day](#); [Africa Human Rights Day](#); 16 days of activism against gender-based violence.



INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S DAY



16 DAYS OF ACTIVISM AGAINST GENDER-BASED VIOLENCE.

#FreeHRDsNow

They should have never been detained.



DEFEND DEFENDERS
East and Southern African Human Rights Defenders Project



AFRICAN DEFENDERS
Pan-African Human Rights Defenders Network

A campaign advocating for the freedom of detained HRDs amidst the COVID-19 pandemic.



INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S DAY



INTERNATIONAL YOUTH DAY

CAPACITY BUILDING FOR HRDS

CLAIMING SPACES 2020: TACTICAL TOOLS FOR HRDS



HRDs pose for a picture on the sidelines of the 2020 “claiming spaces” event in Kampala

Annually, DefendDefenders organises and co-hosts its flagship event, Claiming Spaces: Tactical Tools for HRDs, which constitutes week-long trainings for HRDs in the sub-region. This year, DefendDefenders co-hosted the 9th edition of the Claiming Spaces event together with the National Coalition of Human Rights Defenders Uganda, in Kampala, from 7 – 11 December 2020. The event was attended by 345 HRDs (143 females, 197 males and 5 other).

JOINT PHYSICAL AND DIGITAL SECURITY TRAININGS

The Protection and Security Management department, and DefendersTech trained **175 HRDs** in physical and digital security (**59 males, 112 females, and 4 other**). Additionally, **42 HRDs (17 females, 23 males, and 2 other)** participated in digital and physical security training of trainers (ToTs).

PHYSICAL SECURITY TRAININGS

The Protection and Security Management department were able to capacitate **54 HRDs (26 females, and 28 males)**. Trainings included MDR, financial and organizational management, stress management, and physical security.

DIGITAL SECURITY TRAININGS

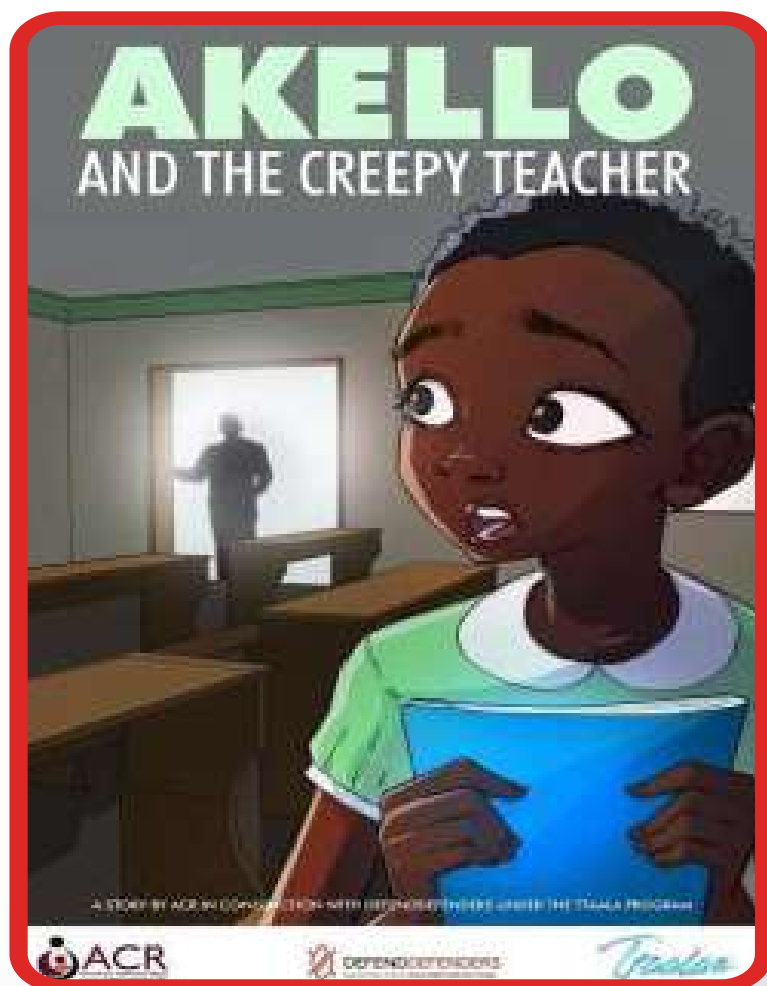
In 2020, DefendersTech took strides to innovatively ensure HRDs are equipped with the skills to safely use technology in the execution of their work. DefendDefenders trained **254 HRDs (208 females, 45 males, and 1 other)** in digital security, and safety. DefendDefenders runs a multitude of technology programs including, **Safe Sister**, and **Ttaala**, and provides trainings in the areas of digital security, safety, and organisational audits, using the SAFETAG framework.

This year, as part of the **Safe Sister fellowship program**, **26 WHRDs** were trained in conducting digital security assessments using the SAFETAG framework. These WHRDs will become trainers in the SAFETAG community.

Additionally, **34 HRDs (14 females, 19 males, and 1 other)** participated in trainings of auditors using the SAFETAG framework. The content delivered included, introduction to SAFETAG, operational security, context research and OSINT, organisation assessment, device and data assessment, and vulnerability assessment.

In collaboration with our partner OHCHR, the DefendersTech team built the capacity of **150 WHRDs** in digital security and safety. The participants came from Cameroon, Ethiopia, India, Kenya, Morocco, Norway, Sierra Leone, Somalia, South Sudan, Uganda, Zimbabwe, Cyprus, Democratic Republic of Congo, Gambia, Kenya, Madagascar, Malawi, Nigeria, South Africa, Sudan, Tanzania, United Kingdom and Zambia.

Under the **Ttaala program**, **44 HRDs (18 females, and 26 males)** were trained. The program aims to build the digital capacity of participants in IT security, data collection and documentation, building an online/social media brand, as well as brainstorming on potential projects the organisations could launch with their new skills. Support **follow-up visits** were also conducted to **six organisations** in Uganda.



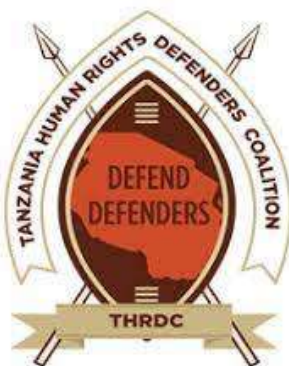
Cover of the comic book created in partnership with Advocacy for Child Relief (Ttaala participant)

NATIONAL COALITIONS

DefendDefenders has helped in the establishment of national coalitions of human rights defenders in 7 countries across the East and Horn of Africa sub-region, namely in Uganda, Burundi, Kenya, Tanzania, South Sudan, Somalia, and Ethiopia. As part of the EHAHRD-Network, DefendDefenders provides support to these national coalitions when needed. National coalitions often receive support in the form of trainings or technical assistance.

In 2020, we supported and worked closely with the national coalitions. Some of the collaborations included but were not limited to:

- Hosting the Burundi coalition within DefendDefenders' offices
- Financial and technical support to the secretariats of coalitions
- Joint emergency protection interventions
- Collaborations on research and advocacy initiatives
- Collaborations on capacity development initiatives



**South Sudan
Human Rights Defenders
Network (SSHRDN)**



**COALITION BURUNDAISE
DES DEFENSEURS
DES DROITS DE
L'HOMME CBDDH**



**National
Coalition of
Human
Right
Defenders
Uganda**



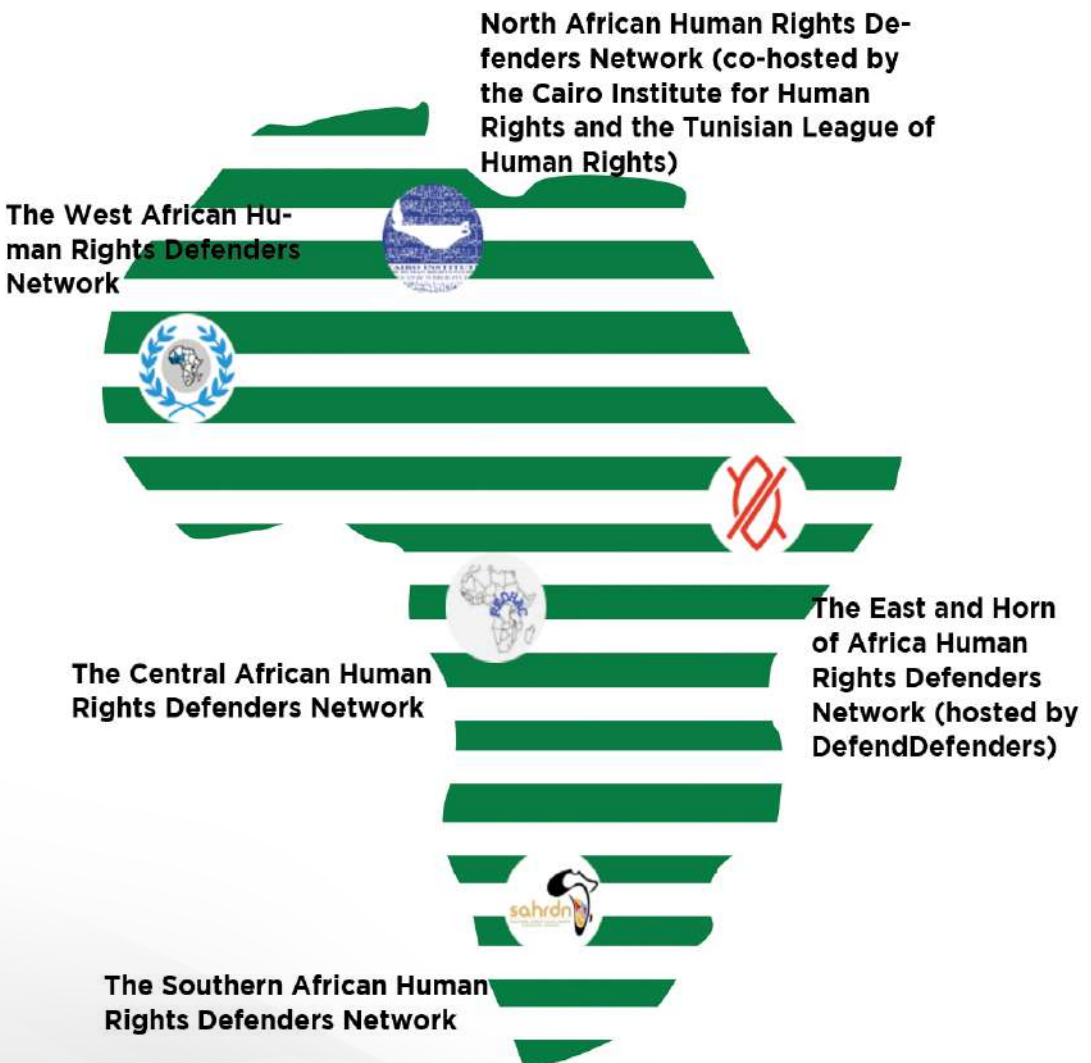
AFRICANDEFENDERS (PAN-AFRICAN HUMAN RIGHTS DEFENDERS NETWORK)



ABOUT AFRICANDEFENDERS

AfricanDefenders (Pan-African Human Rights Defenders Network) is an umbrella organisation of five African sub-regional networks, dedicated to the promotion and protection of human rights defenders (HRDs) across the African continent. AfricanDefenders is hosted by DefendDefenders and aims to share best practices, cross-pollinate protection expertise, establish rigorous reporting, track continental trends, and deal with transregional protection issues, emergency relocations, and resource shortfalls. AfricanDefenders coordinates activities in the areas of protection, strengthening capacities of sub-regional networks and HRDs, and advocacy at continental and international level.

OUR MEMBERS



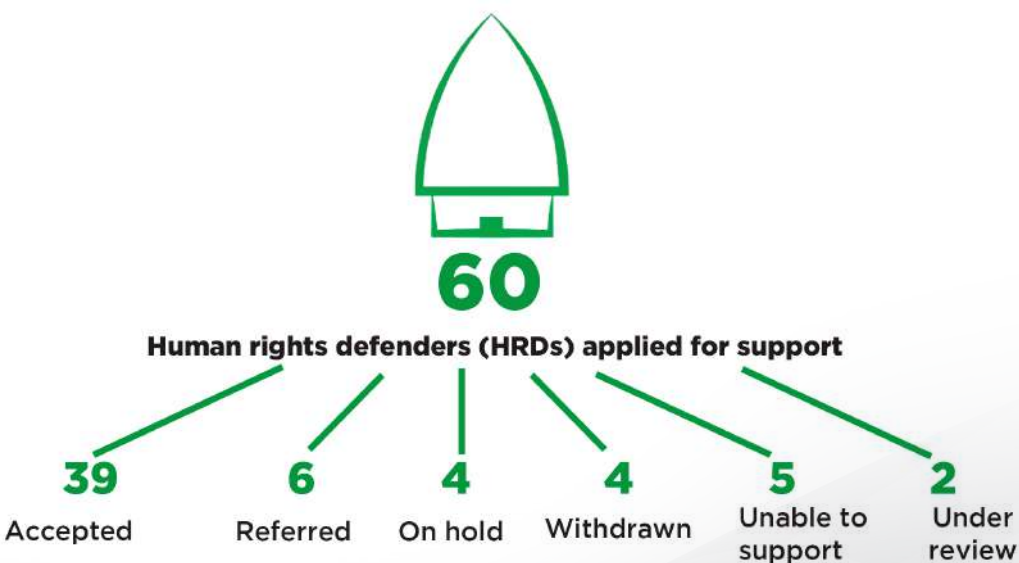
THE UBUNTU HUB CITIES INITIATIVE

What is Ubuntu Hub Cities Initiative?

The Ubuntu Hub Cities initiative is an Africa-based relocation mechanism for HRDs at risk across Africa. We temporarily relocate HRDs who have been subject to threats, violence and extreme pressure as a consequence of their human rights work. This ensures their safety and allows for a break from their highly stressful and dangerous environment, while also continuing to do their work by growing their network and expanding their skills and knowledge.



2020 IN NUMBERS



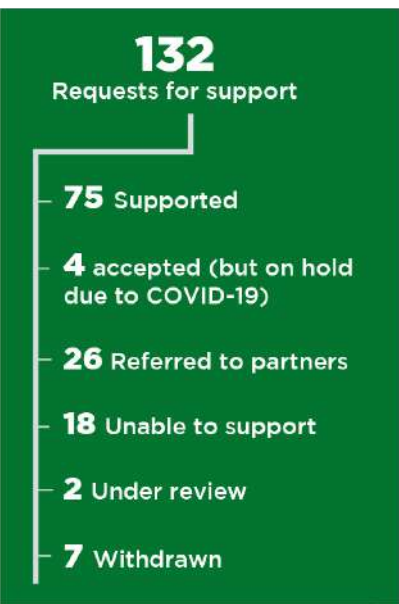
ADOPTION OF HUB CITIES DOCUMENTS

We translated the action plan, reviewed application forms and internal guidelines for assessment cases that were a result of the Ubuntu Hub Cities coordinators workshop, held in November 2019, into French. The documents have been validated at the Secretariat level and shared with hub cities coordinators and are currently being successfully used by hub cities coordinators and Secretariat staff as guiding documents in the assessment and handling of each application received under the Ubuntu Hub Cities initiative.

IN NUMBERS SINCE 2019

IN NUMBERS

Since January 2019



3 oral
submissions
delivered



17 statements
published



24 webinars and
meetings attended



18 HRDs
profiled



10 online
campaigns

In 2020, our consistent coordination of advocacy efforts resulted in the publication of more than 30 joint statements, calls to action, open letters, and campaigns relevant to HRDs issues on the continent. We also continued to strengthen our advocacy efforts with international human rights mechanisms for HRDs to strengthen HRDs influence at national, regional, and global level.

ADVOCACY AT THE AFRICAN COMMISSION ON HUMAN AND PEOPLES' RIGHTS (ACHPR)



During ACHPR 66, which was held online for the first time because of the global pandemic we made oral submissions on the following;

- Human Rights Situation in Africa- highlighted the violations of fundamental human rights in the context of COVID-19 and elections on the continent. This submission contributed to the commission adopting a resolution (ACHPR/Res.449 (LXVI) 2020), which calls on member states to employ a human rights-based response to the COVID-19 pandemic.
- Statement on the report of the Special Rapporteur on women- called attention to the impact of COVID-19 on WHRDs. It further mentioned the increase of gender-based violence since lockdown measures were put in place in different states across the continent.
- Statement on the report of the special rapporteur on human rights defenders in Africa- underscored the alarming increase of attacks against HRDs, journalists and artists across the continent with 80 cases documented within the period of January to June 2020.

VIRTUAL NGO FORUM PRECEDING THE 66TH AND 67TH ORDINARY SESSION OF THE AFRICAN COMMISSION

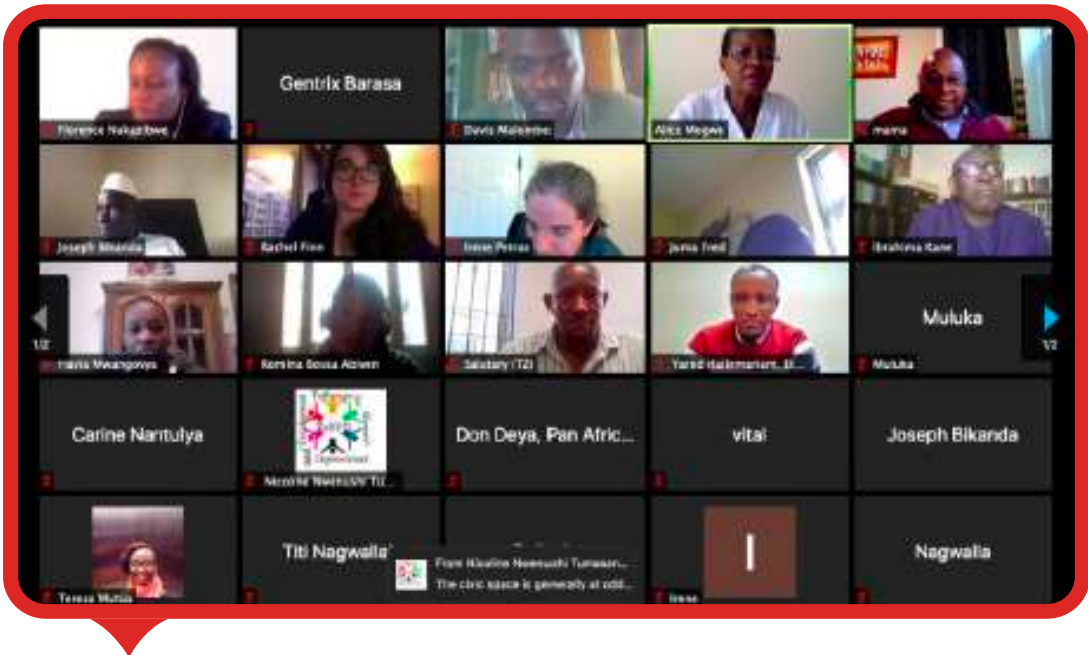


In 2020, we virtually hosted both forums. At the NGO forum preceding the ACHPR66, Hassan Shire, delivered an opening statement calling on member states of the African Union to build a Union that is people-centred and based on genuine commitment and political goodwill to achieve a peaceful continent and an equal and just society in Africa. He illustrated the huge gap between adopted standards versus the state of implementation of such standards in Africa, which he attributed to a lack of commitment by African States to domesticate and implement many progressive protocols and instruments they have voluntarily developed and adopted.



Hassan Shire delivering his opening statement

On the sidelines of the 67th Ordinary Session of the African Commission on Human and Peoples' Rights (ACHPR67) AfricanDefenders, DefendDefenders, Pan African Lawyers Union, CIVICUS, International Centre for Not-for-Profit Law, and the Kenya Human Rights Commission hosted a side event, to provide a deeper reflection on civic space trends during elections held across the region during the COVID-19 pandemic, draw lessons and identify strategies to counter emerging challenges.



Some of the participants of the side event

ADVOCATING FOR HRDS IN THE CONTEXT OF THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC

In April 2020, AfricanDefenders in collaboration with the International Service for Human Rights and Human Rights Watch, engaged the African Commission on Human and Peoples' Rights (ACHPR), specifically the Special Rapporteur on Human Rights Defenders and Focal Point on Reprisals in Africa, H.E. Remy Ngoy Lumbu in several meetings. The main aim of the engagement was to coordinate on effective working methods that will allow continued engagements between the Commission and HRDs amidst the COVID-19 pandemic. The discussion was followed by a press release by the Special Rapporteur on the protection of Human Rights Defenders during the COVID-19 pandemic.

WEBINAR

L'IMPACT du COVID-19 sur les DÉFENSEURS des DROITS HUMAINS

Inscrivez-vous : africandefenders.org/fr/webinarcovid19

3 Juin
4-6pm
EAT
(GMT+3)

Modérateur



Joseph Bikanda
Coordinateur, AfricanDefenders



Maximilienne Ngo Mbe
Directrice exécutive du Réseau
des défenseurs des droits
humains en Afrique centrale
(REDHAC)



Hajer Kefi
Coordinatrice et
psychologue chez Ligue
Tunisienne des Droits de
l'Homme (LTDH)



Bonaventure N'Coué Mawuvi
Président de la Coalition
Togolaise des Défenseurs des
Droits Humains (CTDDH)



Amina Tadjer
Avocate et Présidente du
Réseau algérien des droits
de l'homme



AfricanDefenders and DefendDefenders hosted three webinars to discuss the impact of COVID-19 on HRDs. We explored challenges during the COVID-19 pandemic specific to the protection of human rights, freedom of expression, access to information, lawyers and the justice system, human rights defenders in situation of conflict, and women human rights defenders, as well as coping mechanisms.

THEMATIC ADVOCACY GENDER-BASED VIOLENCE

In 2020, we conducted several virtual engagements with the Kuhluka movement, an organisation founded by Josina Machel to address gender-based violence against women in Africa. The founder suffered serious physical and psychological attacks from her ex-fiancé leaving her blind in the right eye and has not obtained justice. AfricanDefenders provided her team with legal advice during the appeal process and highlighted her case at the 66th session of the ACHPR. In addition to this, we also provided the organisation with technical support in fundraising and establishment of strategic partnerships

WE DEMAND
JUSTICE FOR
ALL WOMXN

Artistic Freedom



We formed a coalition on artistic freedom with Artists at Risk Connection, America Bar Association, and Committee for Relevant Art, Nigeria to address violations of artistic freedom in West Africa. The first case we worked on as a coalition was of a Nigerian musician who was arrested following a song he released addressing corruption in Kano state. We spearheaded the interventions on this case by coordinating the submission of a call for urgent action to the ACHPR which resulted into his release. We went ahead to support the artist's living costs upon his release under the Ubuntu Hub Cities initiative.

STRENGTHENING COLLABORATION BETWEEN UNIVERSITIES AND CIVIL SOCIETY IN AFRICA

WEBINAR

STRENGTHENING COLLABORATION between UNIVERSITIES and CIVIL SOCIETY in AFRICA

MODERATED BY



Arnold Tsunga
Strategy and Technical advisor,
Southern Africa Human Rights
Defenders Network

**11 August
4-6pm
EAT (GMT+3)**

Register:
[africandefenders.org/
universitiesandcsos](http://africandefenders.org/universitiesandcsos)



Zahara Nampewo
Lecturer and Director, Human Rights and Peace Centre
School of Law Makerere University & DefendDefenders
Treasurer/Board Member



Japhet Biegon
Adjunct Lecturer at Centre for Human Rights, Faculty of Law,
University of Pretoria & Africa
Regional Advocacy Coordinator at
Amnesty International



Lisa Chamberlain
Social justice activist, attorney and
senior lecturer - School of Law,
University of the Witwatersrand,
South Africa



Shreya Balhara
Programme Officer
Scholars at Risk c/o New York
University



AFRICANDEFENDERS
Pan-African Human Rights Defenders Network

and HRDs to explore opportunities for collaboration and exchange best practices. Relevant academic institutions, activists, and CSOs shared ideas for increased and impactful university-CSO collaborations to strengthen the position of HRDs and CSOs facing restrictions in their work. The webinar resulted in a policy brief.

We published policy briefs on:

- Strengthening collaboration between universities and civil society
- Strengthening collaboration between national human rights institutions and civil society

STRENGTHENING THE RIGHT TO PROTEST AND FREEDOM OF ASSEMBLY IN AFRICA

In line with our ongoing work to engage with the African Union and East African Community institutions and mechanisms on issues of freedom of assembly and association, AfricanDefenders together with global partners launched a project aimed at strengthening the right to protest and freedom of assembly in Africa in the face of increased related violations and dissent online and offline.

DOCUMENTING HUMAN RIGHTS VIOLATIONS AGAINST HRDS, ARTISTS AND JOURNALISTS

AfricanDefenders documented human rights violations against HRDs, artists and journalists in Africa. We recorded 142 cases of violations with most violations against the right to freedom of expression and freedom of assembly.



CAPACITY DEVELOPMENT



Some members of the Malawi Human Rights Defenders Coalition

We conducted virtual needs assessments for the Malawi Human Rights Defenders Coalition, Ethiopian Human Rights Defenders Coalition and Burkina Faso coalition which resulted in providing diverse support to them including enhancement of their communication mechanisms to ensure they are secure and adhere to the necessary security protocols

OPERATIONALISING THE EAST AFRICA WOMEN HUMAN RIGHTS DEFENDERS



In October 2020, we virtually hosted the network's annual meeting in collaboration with the East Africa Regional Office of The Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights, where we facilitated the network to establish its first steering committee. We also launched and currently manage the network's social media accounts.

**AfricanDefenders and
DefendDefenders supported the
training of 15 human rights
defenders in digital and security
training in Côte d'Ivoire**



Campaign

Podcast Series

Exile Shall Not Silence Us!



Stories from Defenders in Exile



AFRICANDEFENDERS
Pan-African Human Rights Defenders Network

AfricanDefenders launched its podcast series entitled "Exile Shall Not Silence Us." The podcast series highlights the professional, security, socio-economic, and psychosocial challenges of HRDs in exile in Africa, but most of all their achievements and resilience strategies. The episodes explore the state of HRDs in Zimbabwe, The Gambia, Cameroon, and Egypt. All episodes of the podcast series have been published and have been listened to over 100 times so far.

VISIBILITY



New followers: 671
Total followers: 7037



New followers: 627
Total followers: 3283

INSTITUTIONAL DEVELOPMENT

STAFF DEVELOPMENT

Staff are encouraged and supported to pursue opportunities that further enhance their capacity to adapt to context, changing career requirements and technology. In 2020, DefendDefenders staff attended trainings internally on Office 365, Jira project management tool, physical security, CiviCRM database and financial management. Continued staff development improves the quality of services provided and delivery of programs. Internal trainings are also conducted for all staff.

DD WAY MANAGEMENT SYSTEM

In October 2019, DefendDefenders and Civil Rights Defenders embarked on a partnership to learn from each other and improve the way we work. One of the initiatives of this partnership was to develop a management system for DefendDefenders. The management system called DD Way describes who we are and our current way of working. It consolidates and makes transparent all the knowledge about DefendDefenders and highlights key aspects about the work we do. This is our one stop shop to finding strategic, helping, and reporting documents. This system provides clarity, transparency, and increased efficiency for the entire organization.

GENDER STRATEGY

Under the same joint initiative with Civil Rights Defenders, DefendDefenders embarked on an assessment process to evaluate our interventions from a gender perspective. One of the recommendations from this process was the development of a gender strategy. A consultant was engaged to develop the strategy. The gender strategy was finalised and circulated to all staff, with an awareness session held during the annual staff retreat.



STRATEGIC PLAN 2021-2025

DefendDefenders launched its new strategy for the period 2021-2025 "Enhancing the safety and capacity of HRDs in the region for greater resilience and effective fulfillment of their mandates". The strategy builds on the previous work done by DefendDefenders to deepen and consolidate its mandate in supporting HRDs at risk, by reducing their vulnerability to persecution and enhancing their capacity to effectively protect human rights.



Figure 4: *Official launch of the organisation's strategic plan for 2021-2025.*

PARTNERS AND DONORS

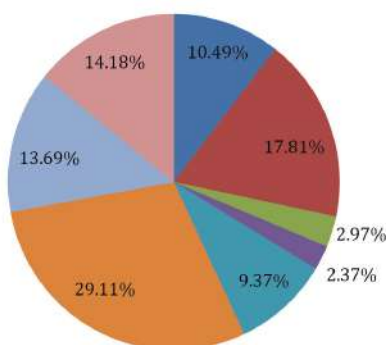
Our partners and donors are an essential element in allowing us to conduct our work. Over the years we have increased the number of donors and partners we have. In 2020, we received support from the following partners:

1. Austria Development Agency
2. Brot fur die Welt (Bread for the World)
3. Civil Rights Defenders
4. European Instrument for Human Rights and Democracy (supporting various projects in East and Horn of Africa sub-region)
5. Internews
6. Irish embassy in Uganda
7. Kingdom of Netherlands Embassy in Uganda
8. Kingdom of Netherlands Embassy in South Sudan
9. Ministry of Foreign Affairs Finland
10. Ministry of Foreign Affairs Netherlands through PAX Alliance
11. National Endowment for Democracy
12. Open Society Initiatives for Eastern Africa
13. Open Society Foundation
14. Royal Norwegian Embassy in Uganda
15. Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency (core funding for East and Horn of Africa)
16. Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency (Africa regional project led by CIVICUS)
17. United States Embassy in Uganda

FINANCIAL SUMMARY

	Ugx	Percentage Expenditure to Income
Total Income 2020	18,532,129,828	
Capacity Building	1,944,918,664	10.49%
Protection and Digital Security Management	3,301,488,926	17.81%
Advocacy and Research	550,579,360	2.97%
ICT (Technology and Human Rights Program	438,805,528	2.37%
Pan Africa	1,737,199,383	9.37%
Organisation Dev'p/Admin Costs	5,394,462,831	29.11%
Special Program Great Lakes	2,536,317,928	13.69%
Surplus for the Year	2,628,357,216	14.18%
		100.00%

Defend defenders Income and Expenditure
Summary Year Ending 31st December 2020



In October 2020, we held our annual development partners meeting, which brings together our donors and members of the board to present our work and financial standing in relation to our strategic budget. This was a hybrid meeting given the Covid-19 travel restrictions.

FOCAL POINTS MEETING

On 22nd October 2020, DefendDefenders hosted the 6th Biennial focal points hybrid meeting at Mestil Hotel and Residences. The meeting brought together focal points of the East and Horn of African Human Rights Defenders Network (EHAHRD-Net) both in person and virtually to discuss emerging cross-cutting trends, issues, challenges, and the way forward. It also sought to improve collaboration between and among focal points and the Secretariat, and to create a platform for the focal points to network and get insights on the current situation of HRDs in each country in the sub-region. The hybrid meeting was attended by 53 people including DefendDefenders staff and board members.

BOARD MEMBERS MEETING

During our annual board meeting, on 20th October 2020, the Board examined the activities and financial standing of the organisation, progress of the current strategy and the new incoming strategy. This year's board meeting was a hybrid given the travel restrictions and the COVID-19 pandemic. This year, founding board member Dorothé Appels stepped down.



Figure 5: *Defenddefenders Board of Directors meeting held on 20 October 2020.*

BOARD MEMBERS

Ms Sophie Kyagulanyi – Chairperson

Ms Sophie Kyagulanyi is a Ugandan National living in Uganda and is currently working with Oxfam. She was previously a Governance, Research and Policy Analyst at Forum for Women in Democracy (FOWODE). She has been an active human rights defender in Uganda, and is the new Chairperson of the Board of Directors and one of the founding members of DefendDefenders.

Dr. Zahara Nampewo -Treasurer

Dr. Zahara Nampewo is a legal and human rights practitioner and academician with 20 years' experience in the private, public and non-profit sectors. Dr. Nampewo is a Lecturer and Director of the Human Rights and Peace Centre (HURIPEC) at the Makerere university School of Law. She has work experience in Uganda, Liberia and the United Kingdom with brief working missions in South Africa, Kenya, Tanzania and Malawi. She has published professional papers on a range of subjects including sexuality, decentralisation and access to justice. She is a board chairperson of the Uganda Lawyers for Human Rights (ULHR), a young NGO advocating for human rights of marginalized groups. She is also a board member for the African Centre for Media Excellence (ACME) and an incisive member of the Association of Uganda Women Lawyers (FIDA-U).

Mr David Kaggwa - Secretary To The Board

Mr. David Kaggwa is an Advocate of the High Court of Uganda and is the Secretary to the Board and a Partner at Kaggwa and Associates. Mr. Kaggwa brings legal skills including advising the Board on legal matters on registration and tax returns, volunteering his skills to HRDs in exile and helping them obtain refugee status under the Ugandan legal system, among others. Mr. David Kaggwa resides in Uganda, Kampala.

Ms Faiza Jamal Mohamed - Member

Ms Mohamed is a Djibouti national and the Executive Director of the Pan African organization - Equality Now, where she is responsible for the implementation of Equality Now's work and representation of the organization in Africa. Since 2001 she has overseen the Fund for Grassroots Activism to end Female Genital Mutilation, channeling over 1.8 Million US Dollars to 30 organization in Africa. Ms Mohamed has extensive experience in working the East and Horn of Africa region, and has previously worked with the United National Population Fund-(UNFPA), Oxfam NOVIB, amongst others. She is a member of the African Union Women's Committee (AUWC). Ms. Faiza resides in Nairobi, Kenya.

Mr Vital Nshimirimana - Member

Vital Nshimirimana is a Burundian human rights lawyer. He joined the judiciary in 2004 and became an active member of the Union of Magistrates, going on to chair it in 2009. With his fellow magistrates, he focused on exposing the lack of judicial independence and the wide-ranging consequences this can have. He registered with the Burundi Bar association in June 2013. During his time as a lawyer he prosecuted high profile cases, including two cases at the East African Court of Justice. In 2017, Vital was elected as the chairperson of the EHAHRD-Net, a position that he will hold until 2022.

Mr Hassan Shire - Ex Officio and Executive Director Of Defenddefenders

Mr. Hassan Shire is the Executive Director of DefendDefenders, a position he has held since 2005, steering the organisation through its growth over the years. He is a human rights defender from Somalia, with over 15 years of experience working in the region. He is also currently the Coordinator of African Human Rights Defenders Project at York University, Centre for Refugee Studies since 2003. He holds an MA in Economics and has authored and published numerous human rights reports. In 1996 he was the founder and co-director of the internationally recognized Somali human rights organization - the Dr. Ismail Jumale Human Rights Centre in Mogadishu, Somalia which to date continues to play a vital role in reporting about human rights violations and campaigning for an end to the lawlessness in the country.

AFRICANDEFENDERS AND DEFENDDEFENDERS TEAM



Figure 6: *DefendDefenders and AfricanDefenders staff members at the 2020 staff retreat.*

MEET OUR TEAM IN 2020

Executive Director
Hassan Shire

Director of Programs and Administration
Memory Bandera

PAHRD-Net Coordinator
Joseph Bikanda

Technology Program Manager
Neil Blazevic

Advocacy, Research and Communications
Manager
Estella Kabachwezi

Great Lakes Project Coordinator
Ludivine Lecat

Finance Manager
Alex Lukoye

Protection and Security Management Manager
Tabitha Netuwa

Monitoring and Evaluation Expert
Stanley Wobusobozi

Executive Assistant
Susan Ibale

Representative to the United Nations
Nicolas Agostini

Logistics Officer
Bernard Arinaitwe

System Administrator
Daniel Byekwaso

Communications Officer
Siri Berge Engerud

Senior Protection Associate
Janvier Hakizimana

Driver
Kakuru Julius
Driver
Ambrose Katwesigye

Finance Officer
Rebecca Kisaakye

Capacity Building Officer
Majid Maali

Research Officer
David Meffe

Protection Officer
Stella Murungi

ICT Assistant
Immaculate Nabwire

Ttaala Lead
Daphne Nakabugo

Welfare Assistant
Shamim Nakato

Project Officer
Jeremie Nkunuzimana

Administrative Assistant
Zainab Nakato

Protection Associated
Mariam Nakibuuka

Capacity Building Assistant
Anne Nakiyingi

Programs Associate
Melissa Kagimu-Mukasa

Finance Officer
Jane Ngabirano

ICT Assistant
Donatien Niyongendako

Protection Officer
Leon Kokolulema-Nsika

Office Messenger
Raphael Kateu Okudo
Hub Cities Development Associate
Cristina Orsini

Finance Officer
Nyamutono Proscovia Ititu

Protection Officer
Karis Moses Oteba

Chief Information Security Officer
Stewart Picken

Technology Fellow
Angela Lucia

Communications Fellow – AfricanDefenders
Gentrix Barasa

Programs Officer
Dee Werter

Finance Officer
Claire Mugabe

Programs Officer – AfricanDefenders
Flora Stevens

Programs Officer
Rosabella Ntanz

Programs Officer – AfricanDefenders
Walda Keza Shaka

Communications Officer
Francesca Grandolfo

IT Incident Lead
Samuel Eibu

Technology Program Associate
Joshua Ssengozi

Thanks to the fellows, interns, and volunteers who supported us in 2020: Denise Kwizera, Abdikhani Hassan, Ayub Elmi



www.defenddefenders.org

+256 393 265 820

info@defenddefenders.org

@DefendDefenders

/defenddefenders

