



DEFENDDEFENDERS

East and Horn of Africa Human Rights Defenders Project

OVERVIEW OF THE HUMAN RIGHTS SITUATION IN THE EAST AND HORN OF AFRICA

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DefendDefenders' Bi-Annual Report to the ACHPR

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Table of Contents

Executive Summary..... 3

Burundi..... 7

Djibouti..... 8

Eritrea 9

Ethiopia 9

Kenya14

Rwanda.....20

Somalia/ Somaliland22

South Sudan.....27

Tanzania.....34

Uganda37

Executive Summary

DefendDefenders (the East and Horn of Africa Human Rights Defenders Project) welcomes the opportunity offered by the 73rd ordinary session of the African Commission on Human and Peoples' Rights (“the Commission”) to highlight the most pressing human rights issues in the East and Horn of Africa sub-region for the period April to October 2022. This submission focuses on issues pertaining to civic space, in particular citizens' enjoyment of their rights to freedoms of opinion and expression, peaceful assembly, and association, as well as the situation of human rights defenders (HRDs).

Over the past six months, there have been increased reports of undue restrictions to civic space and human rights violations in the sub-region. Conflict and authoritarianism remain key drivers of shrinking civic space. In **Ethiopia**, the ceasefire failed to hold, as conflict renewed in the Tigray region in August, further undermining the country's stability. The recent announcement of peace talks is yet to be followed, at the time of writing this report, by concrete steps based on the recognition that there will not be a military solution to the conflict. **Djibouti** and **Eritrea** remained closed, repressive states. Peaceful protests in the region have been on the rise and have been met with excessive and, in some cases, lethal force in **Sudan, South Sudan, Somaliland, Kenya, and Uganda**. The rights of HRDs working on sexual orientation gender identity and expression (SOGIE) have also come under repeated attack in **Kenya, Tanzania, and Uganda**.

In the reporting period, elections were held in **Kenya** and **Somalia**. Although we witnessed an increasing trend of disinformation and misinformation campaigns in Kenya, which were aimed at exacerbating existing political and inter-communal tensions in the country, we welcome the peaceful transitions of governments in both Kenya and Somalia. In Somalia, however, the objective remains the holding of “one person, one vote” elections in the near future.

Burundi's human rights situation remained serious. Grave human rights violations continue to be committed by security forces and members of the ruling CNDD-FDD's youth league, the *Imbonerakure*. Civil society organisation (CSOs) have documented human rights violations, including arbitrary detentions and arrests, torture, enforced disappearances, and killings. Despite the President Evariste Ndayishimiye's commitment to addressing impunity and open civic space, limited structural changes have been recorded.

Djibouti and **Eritrea** remained closed and among the most repressive states on the continent. In Djibouti, the rights to freedom of association, peaceful assembly, and expression are severely restricted, with no space for independent media. Authorities continue to instill a climate of fear by intimidating citizens. In Eritrea, in addition to violations committed at home, military forces continue to commit grave human rights and humanitarian law violations in the Tigray region of Ethiopia.

The human rights situation in **Ethiopia** continues to deteriorate. In August 2022, the conflict between the Federal government and the Tigray People's Liberation Front (TPLF) resumed.

Hostilities have not ceased despite a recent announcement of peace talks facilitated by the African Union mediation. Violence and intercommunal conflicts have also been documented in regions of Afar, Oromia, Amhara, and Benishangul Gumuz, including attacks against civilians, sexual violence, arbitrary arrests, forced displacement, and ethnic cleansing. Civic space is shrinking in Ethiopia as the government continues to limit the freedom of expression through arbitrary arrests of journalists and media actors.

In the run-up to elections in **Kenya**, civic space was under pressure. On 9 August 2022, the Independent Electoral and Boundaries Commission (IEBC) announced that former Vice President William Ruto won with 50.5 percent of the vote. On 5 September 2022, the Supreme Court upheld the election outcome declaring William Ruto as the fifth president of Kenya. Journalists remain subject to attacks while the government continues to use the media council to regulate voices on SOGIE.

The **Rwandan** government continues to target, harass, arrest, and intimidate journalists, activists and HRDs. Severe restrictions on the rights to freedom of opinion and expression, peaceful assembly, and association are in place. Political parties, CSOs, and the media are under intense pressure. With a space for independent human rights work in the country that is close to non-existent, most HRDs and human rights organisations are forced to operate from outside the country.

Somalia continues to face humanitarian challenges and insecurity. More than seven million people have been affected by the severe humanitarian crisis brought on by the drought, which includes acute malnutrition, child mortality, food shortages, and mass displacement. Terrorist group Al-Shabab continues to conduct indiscriminate and targeted attacks on civilians. After months of delay, the Federal Parliament of Somalia elected Hassan Sheikh Mohamud as the new President on 15 May 2022. We welcome the peaceful electoral process and the transition of power. However, Somalia remains one of the most dangerous countries in the world for journalists. Members of the press work in a hostile environment that is intolerant of critical voices, and their challenges are exacerbated by rampant insecurity. In the reporting period, we have seen a new wave of attacks and intimidation against the journalists and the media in Somalia and Somaliland.

Intercommunal tensions and fighting are ongoing in several areas of **South Sudan**, threatening the peace process. Human rights violations, including abductions, widespread conflict-related sexual violence and sexual and gender-based violence, and attacks on civilians, including deliberate starvation, have been documented. The implementation of the Revitalised Agreement on the Resolution of the Conflict in the Republic of South Sudan (R-ARCSS, September 2018) has been slow and piecemeal. In August 2022, the unity government announced a two-year extension of the transitional period, which is now due to end in 2023. The new roadmap has been denounced, as the government has failed to make any meaningful progress on the establishment of transitional justice institutions, including a Hybrid Court for South Sudan, as per R-ARCSS. The authorities responded to calls for peaceful protests over the high cost of living with a wave of repression. Protestors and journalists covering the protests were arrested. Authorities continue to use detention to intimidate civil society protests.

The human rights situation in **Sudan** continues to deteriorate. Since the military coup of 25 October 2021, numerous human rights violations have been documented. Security forces clamped down on protestors. According to the Sudan Central Committee of Doctors, at least 116 people have died since October 2021. It is estimated that over 6,000 have been wounded. Despite the military lifting the state of emergency, security forces relentlessly used excessive force to disperse protestors with near-total impunity. Protestors have also been unlawfully detained. Concerns rise over the ongoing violence and intercommunal conflicts in Blue Nile, West Kordofan, and Darfur.

Politically, Sudan's de facto head of State, General Abdel Fattah al-Burhan, announced its intention to withdraw negotiations with the country's civilian political forces and let them establish a government on their own. This was reiterated by the Vice President of the Transitional Sovereign Council and Commander of paramilitary Rapid Support Forces, Gen. Mohamed Hamdan Dagalo. A proposal to restore democratic transition was delivered by the Sudan Bar Association on 7 September 2022. They presented a final draft of the interim constitution, created to support the country's democratic transition. On 11 October 2022, Sudan was re-elected a member of the UN Human Rights Council, benefitting from a “closed slate” (same number of candidates as there are seats available) for the African Group.

In **Tanzania** public assemblies and demonstrations by members and supporters of the political opposition continue to be disrupted. In May 2022, officers arrested 20 members of the Chadema party's youth branch for illegal assembly. Tanzanian authorities violently and forcefully evicted indigenous Maasai people from their ancestral land to make way for tourism. The crackdown over the land dispute left dozens of people injured and one police man dead. Despite President Samia Suluhu Hassan commitment to upholding freedom of expression, it remains restricted. The order to revise the restrictive media laws has failed to materialise. The Tanzania Communications Regulatory Authority (TCRA) recently suspended DarMpya, an online newspaper. Positively, the task force responsible for reviewing Tanzania's Constitution is set to present its final report to President Samia Suluhu, a progressive step towards the constitutional review process.

In **Uganda**, restrictions on critics and political opposition have increased. During the reporting period, opposition figure Kizza Besigye was arrested twice and put under house arrest for planning a demonstration against the high cost of living. The government dispersed peaceful protests using excessive and unwarranted violence and arrested several protestors. Ugandan citizens' rights to freedom of opinion and expression, peaceful assembly and association are increasingly under pressure. In the most recent instance of intimidation of CSOs, the National Bureau for Non-Governmental Organisations (NGO Bureau) suspended the operations of Sexual Minorities Uganda (SMUG) for failing to register with the NGO Bureau. The Parliament recently passed the amendment of the Computer Misuse Act, a restrictive law that curtails digital rights, threatens citizen journalism and stifles freedom of expression. On 13 October 2022, President Museveni signed the Act into law.

Recommendations

Considering the updates and trends observed, DefendDefenders makes the following recommendations to the African Commission on Human and Peoples' Rights:

- Urge all member States to ensure the protection of HRDs, notably by observing the African Charter on Human and Peoples' Rights and the provisions and spirit of the United Nations Declaration on Human Rights Defenders.
- Call on all member States to adopt specific legislative measures to recognise and protect the status of HRDs, and provide a working environment conducive for civil society, as per Res. 376 (LX) 2017 adopted by the Commission during its 60th Ordinary Session Niamey, Niger.
- Urge member States to cease the harassment and arbitrary detention of HRDs, including those working on LGBT rights.
- Call on States to abide by the Guidelines on Freedom of Association and Assembly adopted by the Commission during its 60th ordinary session.
- Call on all member States who have not done so to deposit the declaration under article 34 (6) of the protocol of the African Court on Human and Peoples' Rights to allow individuals and NGOs to directly submit their cases to the Court.
- Call on the Federal Government of Ethiopia through independent and impartial bodies to investigate allegations of human rights violations thoroughly and effectively and to hold those responsible accountable, and urge the government to cooperate with African and international mechanisms, including the African Commission-established Commission of Inquiry on Tigray and the International Commission of Human Rights Experts on Ethiopia established by the UN Human Rights Council.
- Adopt a resolution that condemns the military coup in Sudan and calls for restoration of the civilian-led Transitional Government and urges respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms including the right to freedom of association and peaceful assembly; and
- Adopt a resolution urging, among other things, the government of South Sudan to immediately establish and operationalise the Hybrid Court for South Sudan and other transitional justice institutions as per Chapter V of the Revitalised Peace Agreement (R-ARCSS), and to ensure accountability for crimes committed since 2013, and to put an immediate end to harassment, intimidation, and repression, including by the National Security Service, of independent human rights actors and those reporting on human rights in the country.

Burundi

General situation

On 29 June 2022, UN Special Rapporteur Fortuné Gaetan Zongo presented his first oral update to the UN Human Rights Council (Council). In his statement, he noted that despite the progress made since 2020, more needs to be done to combat impunity and strengthen institutions, particularly those in the justice sector, the police, and the army, as well as opening the civic space.¹ He asked the Burundian government to cooperate with the Council by granting him access to the country. The Burundian representative stated that Burundi would reject any mechanism or “political attempts” to “interfere with the domestic affairs” of Burundi.²

On 18 August 2022, a group of NGOs led by DefendDefenders called for the renewal of the mandate of the Special Rapporteur ahead of the 51st session of the UN Human Rights Council (HRC51). The signatories emphasised the need to ensure continued monitoring, reporting, and public debates on Burundi's human rights situation.³

Ahead of the International Day of Victims of Enforced Disappearance, Forum Pour La Conscience et le Developpment (FOCODE) sent a letter to President Ndayishimiye with a list of 80 victims who were forcibly disappeared.⁴ FOCODE documented a 38% increase in enforced disappearances during the first two years of President Ndayishimiye term in comparison to the last two years of late President Nkurunziza. The main targets of enforced disappearance include members of CNL, and members of MSD. FOCODE noted the main perpetrators responsible for enforced disappearance include the military intelligence unit, Imbonerakure, and some other officials of the CNDD-FDD political party among others.

Freedom of association

On 14 April 2022, a member of the opposition National Congress for Liberty (CNL) was allegedly assaulted by the *Imbonerakure* in Murengeza, Mpanda, due to his political

¹ Voice Of America, “UN Investigator Calls For Access to Burundi to Probe Human Rights Violations,” 29 June 2022, <https://www.voanews.com/a/un-investigator-calls-for-access-to-burundi-to-probe-human-rights-violations-/6638142.html>, Accessed on 19 September 2022.

² Ibid

³ Human Rights Council, “Extend the Special Rapporteur’s mandate,” 18 August 2022, <https://defenddefenders.org/wp-content/uploads/2022/08/HRC51-Civil-society-letter-regarding-BURUNDI.pdf>, Accessed on 19 September 2022.

⁴ Forum Pour La Conscience et le Developpment, “Propositions pour une vraie lutte contre les disparitions forcées au Burundi”, 29 August 2022, <https://focode.org/wp-content/uploads/2022/08/Lettre-du-FOCODE-au-President-Evariste-Ndayishimiye.-1.pdf>, Accessed 14 October 2022.

affiliations. As a result, he sustained fractures on his arms and legs. On 18 May 2022, Human Rights Watch reported that Burundian authorities arbitrarily detained, tortured, forcibly disappeared, and harassed suspected opposition party members and Burundians suspected of working with armed opposition groups.⁵ According to the report, authorities have demonstrated little regard for investigations and due process to hold those responsible accountable.

In June 2022, the Consortium of Human Rights Organisations recorded 35 cases of arbitrary arrest and one case of abduction or enforced disappearance.⁶ The opposition CNL party members were the main targets. The report states that police Colonel Alexis Ndayikengurukiye, Alias Nkoroka, a member of the National Intelligence Service (SNR), was responsible for the abduction of a CNL party member.

On 5 August 2022, Révérien Ndikuriyo, the Secretary-General of Burundi's ruling party, Conseil national pour la défense de la démocratie-Forces pour la défense de la démocratie, (CNDD-FDD), gave a speech commemorating Lt. Gen. Adolphe Nshimirima, the former head of SNR and an alleged human rights violator.⁷ In his speech, Ndikuriyo attacked international human rights organisations documenting abuses in Burundi, including those committed by members of the ruling party's notorious youth league, the *Imbonerakure*.⁸ Ndikuriyo praised the party's strategy to militarise the youth league, whose members commit abuses across the country.

Freedom of opinion and expression

On 3 May 2022, Reporters Without Borders (RSF) released its annual World Press Freedom Index, ranking Burundi 107th out of 180 countries.⁹ Despite Burundi moving up 40 places in this year's index, RSF reported that the environment remains hostile for journalists. The authorities and those acting with their acquiescence, particularly the *Imbonerakure* youth militia, threaten, arrest, and use violence to intimidate journalists, which results in self-censorship.

Djibouti

General situation

⁵ Human Rights Watch, "Burundi Suspected Opponents Killed, Detained, Tortured," 18 May 2022, <https://www.hrw.org/news/2022/05/18/burundi-suspected-opponents-killed-detained-tortured>, Accessed on 19 September 2022.

⁶ APRODH, "Report June 2022", June 2022, <https://www.aprodhasbl.org/wp-content/uploads/2022/07/Rapport-Mensuel-Juin-2022.pdf>, Accessed on 19 September 2022.

⁷ Human Rights Watch, "Burundi Leader Lashes Out at Rights Groups," 5 August 2022, <https://www.hrw.org/news/2022/08/05/burundi-leader-lashes-out-rights-groups>, Accessed on 19 September 2022.

⁸ Ibid

⁹ Reporters Without Borders, "Though the new president, Evariste Ndayishimiye, has sent a few positive signals, the environment continues to be very hostile for journalists." 3 May 2022, <https://rsf.org/en/country/burundi>, Accessed on 19 September 2022.

On 8 June 2022, the International Federation for human rights and the *Ligue djiboutienne des droits humains* released a joint report raising concerns over the Djibouti's governments continued disregard of human rights, and rule of law.¹⁰ The two bodies noted that President Ismail Omar Guelleh's government, now in power for more than two decades continued to muzzle political dissent, ban political parties, and detain critics, and called on countries with military bases on Djibouti soil including the United States to pressure President Guelleh to reform.

Eritrea

General situation

The UN Human Rights Council at its 50th session renewed the mandate of the Special Rapporteur on human rights in Eritrea and called upon the Eritrean government to cooperate with the rapporteur in line with its obligations as a member of the Human Rights Council. The Special rapporteur is expected to present a written report to the council at its 53rd session.¹¹

Human Rights Watch reported that the world's focus on the conflict in Ethiopia's northern region of Tigray had obscured human rights violations in the country's other areas especially in the Oromia region. The report noted that since the 2020 assassination of Oromia's musical and cultural icon Haacaaluu Hundeessaa and ensuing protests that broke out across most of Oromia region, government authorities had rounded up thousands of Oromos who remain incarcerated in overcrowded jails, warehouses, and schools without any form of judicial oversight.¹²

Ethiopia

General situation

On 18 June 2022, armed assailants attacked Amharas in the Gimbi district in western Oromia, killing dozens, if not hundreds of them, including many women, children, and elderly people. This forced at least 4,800 people to flee.¹³

On 8 July 2022, the Ethiopia Human Rights Commission noted that the country had registered its worst human rights violations in 2021, thanks to the conflict in Tigray, the fighting in Oromia, and the ethnically motivated killings in Southern Gambela, among

¹⁰Reliefweb, "Repression reigns, human rights under attack," <https://reliefweb.int/report/djibouti/djibouti-repression-reigns-human-rights-under-attack>, 12 June 2022, Accessed on 19 September 2022.

¹¹OHCHR, "Human Rights Council Adopts Nine Resolutions – Extends Mandates on Eritrea, Internally Displaced Persons, and Violence Against Women and Girls," 7 July 2022, <https://www.ohchr.org/en/press-releases/2022/07/human-rights-council-adopts-nine-resolutions-extends-mandates-eritrea>, Accessed on 19 September 2022.

¹² Human Rights Watch, "Ethiopia's Other Conflict," 4 July 2022, <https://www.hrw.org/news/2022/07/04/ethiopias-other-conflict>, Accessed on 19 September 2022.

¹³ Human Rights Watch, "Ethiopia's Tigray War Overshadows Ongoing Cycles of Violence in Oromia," 4 July 2022, <https://www.hrw.org/news/2022/07/04/ethiopias-other-conflict>, Accessed on 19 September 2022.

others.¹⁴ The report noted that the indiscriminate violations had resulted in the killing of over 740 civilians, including women, children, and the elderly, while over 50 media personnel remained under unlawful detention.

The UN International Commission for Human Rights Experts in Ethiopia reiterated calls to the Ethiopian government for unfettered access to all areas relevant to the Commission's investigation at the end of the Commission's first visit to Ethiopia between 25-30 July 2022.¹⁵ The Commission's chairperson, Kaari Betty Murungi expressed alarm at ongoing atrocities against civilians, including the over 200 people killed in clashes between the Oromia Liberation Army and government forces in June this year.¹⁶

On 2 September 2022, ahead of the 51st Human Rights Council (Council), DefendDefenders and three other NGOs urged states to support a resolution extending the mandate of the International Commission of Human Rights Experts on the country (ICHREE) for a year.¹⁷ There are both technical and substantive justifications for mandating an extension.¹⁸ The ICHREE's work would not be finished by the Council's 51st session, to start with. Second, given the magnitude, gravity, and scope of the wrongdoings committed by all parties to the conflict in Ethiopia, some of which may qualify as crimes under international law, and the substantial needs for transitional justice, reconciliation, and healing that the ICHREE is tasked with addressing, the Commission needs time to address its mandate.

Freedom of association

On 15 September 2022, the Director General of the Federal Authority for Civil Society Organisations (ACSO), Jima Dilbon, issued a warning against CSOs "working against Ethiopia's sovereignty and the public interest".¹⁹ He added that the agency would hold these CSOs accountable and threatened to revoke their license. The warning came days after local CSOs, including the Ethiopian Human Rights Defenders Center, released a statement calling for peace in Ethiopia and an end to the ongoing militarised hostilities in parts of Tigray, Afar and Amhara regions, as well as other conflicts involving the federal and Oromia regional state forces on the one hand and the Oromo Liberation Army (OLA).

Freedom of opinion and expression

¹⁴ Voice Of America, "Ethiopian Rights Body Urges Government to Protect Human Rights," 8 July 2022, <https://www.voanews.com/a/ethiopian-rights-body-urges-government-to-protect-human-rights-/6651054.html>, Accessed on 19 September 2022.

¹⁵ Addis Standard, "UN rights experts hope for unhindered access without delay to relevant areas for investigation," 2 August 2022, <https://addisstandard.com/news-un-rights-experts-hope-for-unhindered-access-without-delay-to-relevant-areas-for-investigation/>, Accessed on 19 September 2022.

¹⁶ Addis Standard, "More than 200 civilians killed in West Wollega violence; Oromia state, armed group trade blame," 20 June 2022, <https://addisstandard.com/news-more-than-200-civilians-killed-in-war-torn-west-wollega-violence-oromia-state-armed-group-trade-blame/>, Accessed on 19 September 2022.

¹⁷ DefendDefenders, "Extend the Expert Commission's mandate," 2 September 2022, <https://defenddefenders.org/wp-content/uploads/2022/09/HRC51-Civil-society-letter-regarding-ETHIOPIA.pdf>, Accessed on 7 October 2022.

¹⁸ OHCHR, "International Commission of Human Rights Experts on Ethiopia," 19 September 2022, <https://www.ohchr.org/en/hr-bodies/hrc/ichre-ethiopia/index>, Accessed on 7 October 2022.

¹⁹ AllAfrica, "Authority Vows to Hold CSOs Working Against 'Sovereignty, Public Interest' to Account," 16 September 2022, <https://allafrica.com/stories/202209160398.html>, Accessed on 7 October 2022

During the reporting period, there was an increase in the crackdown on journalists in Ethiopia. As a result, journalists are operating in an environment of fear due to the reprisals they face. The Committee to Protect Journalists noted that Ethiopia now ranks alongside Eritrea as Sub-Saharan Africa's worst jailers of journalists, according to a briefing by the organisation released at the beginning of August.²⁰ The briefing attributes Ethiopia's deterioration to the country's ongoing civil war in Tigray and the resultant contest to control the conflict's narrative, which has seen at least 63 journalists arrested since November 2020. On 13 May 2022, the Ethiopian Media Authority revoked the Economist's correspondent, Tom Gardner, accreditation in Addis Ababa.²¹ The authorities gave him 48 hours to leave the country. The official justification for Gardner's expulsion was that he had a "mistaken approach" to reporting and had, in some unclear way, fallen short of the professional ethics expected of a journalist.²² The Economist released a statement claiming Gardner's reporting has been unbiased, professional, and courageous.²³ The media authority said it would be open to granting a license to another reporter in the publication.²⁴

On 19 May 2022, Amhara police officers raided and arrested five journalists and media personnel from the privately owned YouTube channel *Ashara Media*; namely: Gashaye Negusse, Getenet Yalew, Habtamu Melese, and Daniel Mesfin, Kelemu Gelagay.²⁵ The authorities did not have a warrant and seized equipment, including laptops and external hard drives. According to the station director, Elias Debasu, the detained journalists had no access to family members and lawyers, and they were transferred to another town, Nefas Mewcha. The arrests are likely linked to *Ashara Media*'s recent report on the crackdown and detentions of critics and a public protest over housing issues. On the same day, authorities raided the *Nisir International Broadcasting Corporation* office and detained three employees and another employee on 20 May.²⁶ Police confiscated computers, memory cards, and external hard drives during the raid.

On 20 May 2022, police officers arrested Salomon Shumye, a journalist working for *Gebeyanu Media* and accused him of inciting violence and creating division between the federal and

²⁰ CPJ, "Journalists face growing hostility as Ethiopia's civil war persists," 1 August 2022, <https://cpj.org/2022/08/journalists-face-growing-hostility-as-ethiopias-civil-war-persists/>, Accessed on 7 October 2022

²¹ The Economist Group, <https://www.economistgroup.com/group-news/the-economist/press-statement-the-economist>, 16 May 2022, <https://www.economistgroup.com/group-news/the-economist/press-statement-the-economist>, Accessed on 7 October 2022.

²² Twitter, "EthMediaAuth," 13 May 2022, <https://twitter.com/EthMediaAuth/status/1525049414196264960>, Accessed on 7 October 2022.

²³ Economist Group, "The Economist," 16 May 2022, <https://www.economistgroup.com/group-news/the-economist/press-statement-the-economist>, Accessed on 7 October 2022.

²⁴ Twitter, "EthMediaAuth," 13 May 2022, <https://twitter.com/EthMediaAuth/status/1525049414196264960>, Accessed on 7 October 2022.

²⁵ CPJ, "Ethiopian authorities arrest 11 employees of 4 independent media outlets," 24 May 2022, <https://cpj.org/2022/05/ethiopian-authorities-arrest-11-employees-of-4-independent-media-outlets/>, Accessed on 7 October 2022.

²⁶ Nisir International Broadcasting Corporation, "Release our kidnapped journalists immediately! Stop kidnapping and oppression of the Amhara people," 23 May 2022, <https://www.facebook.com/Nisirbroadcasting/posts/384812596930430>, Accessed on 7 October 2022.

Amhara state administration.²⁷ Before his arrest, he criticised the government's fiscal policies, the effects of the conflict in northern Ethiopia, and the Ethiopian government's growing authoritarianism in handling dissidents.

On 21 May 2022, security forces arrested university lecturer and political commentator Meskerem Abera at Bole international Addis Ababa Airport. On 23 May 2022, she appeared in court.²⁸ During the hearing, the investigative police informed the court that they are looking into Meskerem on suspicion of "inciting riots and creating mistrust between the Amhara region and the Federal government", and they require 14 days to hold her in custody until they can arrest her accomplices.

Two journalists who are critical of the Ethiopian government were arrested on 26 May 2022.²⁹ Police officers detained the chief editor of privately owned *Feteh magazine*, Temesgen Desalegn. He was accused of attempting to sow division between the public and the military, inciting violence, and public disturbance by posting unspecified interviews on YouTube.³⁰ On 4 July 2022, the Federal Court granted Temesgen bail of 100,000 Ethiopian birr (US\$1,917), but he remained in jail despite his lawyers filing a request for his release.³¹ On 28 July, the federal Supreme Court overturned the Federal Court's ruling and declared that he should be kept in jail throughout the trial.³² The prosecutor argued it was vital for Temesgen to remain in detention to prevent him from "spreading false rumours" and "leaking secrets".

Separately, plain-clothed officers arrested the administrator of the YouTube news channel *Ethio Forum*, Yayesew Shimelis.³³ He was charged with inciting the populace to rebel against the government and inciting members of various religious groups to turn against one another. The police officers searched both journalists' houses, confiscating copies of *Feteh magazine*, hard drives, flash disks, a camera, and a phone from Temesgen's house. From Yayesew's home, they confiscated a book and a flash drive.

²⁷ Voice Of America, "Their families said that more than ten editors working on different digital media were employed," 21 May 2022, <https://amharic.voanews.com/a/6583777.html>, Accessed on 7 October 2022.

²⁸ Addis Standard, "Ten journalists, media personalities arrested in Bahir Dar, Addis Abeba in just Three day," 24 May 2022, <https://addisstandard.com/news-analysis-10-journalists-media-personalities-arrested-in-bahir-dar-addis-abeba-in-just-3-days/>, Accessed on 7 October 2022.

²⁹ CPJ, "Journalists Yayesew Shimelis and Temesgen Desalegn detained in Ethiopia" 27 May 2022, <https://cpj.org/2022/05/journalists-yayesew-shimelis-and-temesgen-desalegn-detained-in-ethiopia/>, Accessed on 7 October 2022.

³⁰ Ibid

³¹ CPJ, "Ethiopian journalist Abebe Bayu detained 1 day after colleague Yayesew Shimelis arrested," 6 July 2022, <https://cpj.org/2022/07/ethiopian-journalist-abebe-bayu-detained-1-day-after-colleague-yayesew-shimelis-arrested/>, Accessed on 7 October 2022.

³² CPJ, "Ethiopian journalist Temesgen Desalegn denied bail, ordered to remain in detention," 1 August 2022, <https://cpj.org/2022/08/ethiopian-journalist-temesgen-desalegn-denied-bail-ordered-to-remain-in-detention/>, Accessed on 7 October 2022.

³³ CPJ, "Journalists Yayesew Shimelis and Temesgen Desalegn detained in Ethiopia," 27 May 2022, <https://cpj.org/2022/05/journalists-yayesew-shimelis-and-temesgen-desalegn-detained-in-ethiopia/>, Accessed on 7 October 2022.

On 27 May 2022, authorities arrested the founder and chief editor of YouTube-based news channel *Alpha TV*, Bekalu Alamrew, from his office.³⁴ On 28 May 2022, Bekalu was accused of incitement of violence through media appearances before the Federal First Instance Court, Arada Branch. The judge granted the police to keep Bekalu in custody for 12 days while they conducted investigations. The authorities have not formally charged him. Relatedly, on 28 May 2022, security officers arrested the chief editor of *Roha TV*, Meaza Mohamed, from a colleague's house. According to her husband, the officers searched her house and confiscated legal and financial documents unrelated to the arrest.³⁵ The police presented Meaza before the Federal First Instance Court, Arada Branch and accused her of public incitement to violence via *Roha TV* and other unspecified media platforms. She has not been formally charged. Meaza and Bekalu both criticised the arrest of approximately 4500 people in the last two weeks in Amhara state on their channels. On 24 June 2022, Meaza was released on bail.³⁶

In a Facebook post, the Federal police announced that they allegedly identified 111 online media outlets that are in breach of the media law as they are operating without a license from the Ethiopian Broadcasting Authorities on 1 June 2022.³⁷ The police claimed that the sites instigated religious and ethnic violence. 10 out of the 111 people responsible for running the media outlets who are "extreme and divisive" are in police custody.

In June 2022, regional authorities in the state of Tigray, who are at war with the Ethiopian federal government, arrested five Tigray Television journalists.³⁸ Teshome Temalew, Misgena Seyoum, Haben Halefom, Hailemichael Gesesse, and Dawit Meknonnen were accused of "collaborating with the enemy due to their alleged involvement with the federal government of Ethiopia and its ruling Prosperity Party. However, Addis Gebresilassie, Mekele prosecutor, stated that the journalists were not arrested because of their occupation but because they were accused of crimes outside of their profession.

On 28 June 2022, intelligence officers in plain clothes re-arrested Yayeew and held him in an undisclosed location a week after he was released on bail.³⁹ Similarly, on 29 June 2022, Abebe Bayu, was detained and held in an undisclosed location by men in civilian clothing who claimed to be security agents. Both Yayeew and Bayu were journalists at *Ethio Forum*,

³⁴ CPJ, "Ethiopia detains journalists Bekalu Alamrew and Meaza Mohammed in ongoing media crackdown," 3 June 2022, <https://cpj.org/2022/06/ethiopia-detains-journalists-bekalu-alamrew-and-meaza-mohammed-in-ongoing-media-crackdown/>, Accessed on 7 October 2022.

³⁵ Ibid.

³⁶ Twitter, "CPJAfrica," 24 June 2022, <https://twitter.com/CPJAfrica/status/1540396583304454147>, Accessed on 7 October 2022.

³⁷ CPJ, "Ethiopia detains journalists Bekalu Alamrew and Meaza Mohammed in ongoing media crackdown," 3 June 2022, <https://cpj.org/2022/06/ethiopia-detains-journalists-bekalu-alamrew-and-meaza-mohammed-in-ongoing-media-crackdown/>, Accessed on 7 October 2022.

³⁸ CPJ, "Tigrayan authorities in Ethiopia detain 5 Tigray TV journalists," 20 July 2022, <https://cpj.org/2022/07/tigrayan-authorities-in-ethiopia-detain-5-tigray-tv-journalists/>, Accessed on 7 October 2022.

³⁹ CPJ, "Ethiopian authorities re-arrest journalist Yayeew Shimelis 1 week after release on bail," 29 June 2022, <https://cpj.org/2022/06/ethiopian-authorities-re-arrest-journalist-yayeew-shimelis-1-week-after-release-on-bail/>, Accessed on 7 October 2022.

a YouTube channel with a history of being critical.⁴⁰ According to the Addis Standard, Bayu was allegedly being held in Awash Arba, a town in Afar state.⁴¹

On 7 September 2022, authorities arrested *Voice of Amhara* founder and editor Gobeze Sisay, from his home.⁴² On the same day, police officers re-arrested *Roha TV* founder Meaza Mohammed while she was shopping. The authorities presented both journalists to court on 8 September.⁴³ They accused them of having ties with TPLF and attempting to terrorise the public by disseminating information that supports the rebel group through various media platforms. However, the authorities did not file formal charges against either journalist. *Roha TV* and *Voice of Amhara* have recently covered news on the ongoing war in northern Ethiopia.

On 10 September 2022, authorities arrested Abay Zewdu, chief editor of privately owned satellite and YouTube-based broadcaster Amara Media Center (AMC). Police officers accused Abay of disseminating false information and organising students from the Amhara ethnic group to commit violence in the Federal First Instance Court on 13 September 2022.⁴⁴ The police claimed that Abay allegedly sent photographs of ethnic Amharas that were "unjustly killed" to members of the international community "with the intention to create chaos, terrorise the public, and pressure the government". The court granted Abay bail of 5,000 Ethiopian birr (US\$96).⁴⁵ Authorities continued to detain him despite posting the bail. Prior to his arrest, AMC interviewed a member of Fano, an armed militia in Amhara state, and reported on the ongoing conflict in Northern Ethiopia.

Kenya

General situation

In May 2022, the National Integrity Alliance (NIA), a coalition made up of Transparency International Kenya (TI-Kenya), Inuka Kenya Ni Sisi!, Mzalendo Trust, The Institute for Social Accountability (TISA), and Kenya Human Rights Commission (KHRC), launched the RedCard campaign that holds all current and aspiring leaders accountable to Chapter 6 of the Constitution, which provides laws established to implement the requirements of leadership

⁴⁰ CPJ, "Ethiopia detains journalists Bekalu Alamrew and Meaza Mohammed in ongoing media crackdown," 3 June 2022, <https://cpj.org/2022/06/ethiopia-detains-journalists-bekalu-alamrew-and-meaza-mohammed-in-ongoing-media-crackdown/>, Accessed on 7 October 2022.

⁴¹ Addis Standard, "Families say Journalist Abebe Bayu in Awash Arba; journalist Yayesew still missing," 5 July 2022, <https://addisstandard.com/news-alert-families-say-journalist-abebe-bayu-in-awash-arba-journalist-yayesew-still-missing/>, Accessed on 7 October 2022.

⁴² CPJ, "Ethiopian authorities detain journalists Gobeze Sisay and Meaza Mohammed," 12 September 2022, <https://cpj.org/2022/09/ethiopian-authorities-detain-journalists-gobeze-sisay-and-meaza-mohammed/>, Accessed on 7 October 2022.

⁴³ Ibid.

⁴⁴ CPJ, "Ethiopian journalist Abay Zewdu remains detained after court grants bail," 20 September 2022, <https://cpj.org/2022/09/ethiopian-journalist-abay-zewdu-remains-detained-after-court-grants-bail/>, Accessed on 7 October 2022.

⁴⁵ Ibid

and integrity for all public officers.⁴⁶ The red card list comprised 25 politicians whose integrity is 'questionable'. NIA is calling on the Electoral Commission to deny politicians clearance certificates. They are also calling on voters to red card them publicly in all their rallies.⁴⁷

UN experts called upon government authorities to observe fundamental freedoms and for political players to commit themselves to peaceful conduct to prevent the risk of election-related violence before, during and after the country's general elections.⁴⁸ "Civic space, public participation, fundamental freedoms and a violence-free environment are critical to foster inclusive engagement in the electoral process and the exercise of political rights," the experts urged.

The UN Special Rapporteur on the rights of Indigenous people hailed the decision by the African Court on Human and Peoples' Rights to award reparations to the Ogiek indigenous community for the injustice suffered due to longstanding discrimination in Kenya.⁴⁹ The ruling directs the Kenyan government to compensate the Ogiek people for material and moral prejudice to the tune of Kenya Shillings 157,580,000 for land, resources and general discrimination suffered over the years.⁵⁰

On 9 August 2022, presidential and parliamentary elections were held across Kenya. In a highly contested election, the IEBC announced that former Vice President William Ruto won with 50.5 per cent of the vote.⁵¹ His opponent, Raila Odinga, the former prime minister who won 48.5% of the votes, claimed the results were null and void. Four of the seven senior IEBC officials rejected the results due to the last phase of the general elections' "opaque nature".

On 22 August 2022, Raila Odinga filed a presidential petition with the Supreme Court alleging that the results were fraudulent.⁵² On 5 September 2022, the Supreme Court upheld the election outcome declaring William Ruto as the fifth president of Kenya.⁵³ The Supreme Court delivered a unanimous verdict declaring the election valid. In her judgement, Justice Martha Koome stated that the four commissioners did not provide any evidence that the

⁴⁶ Twitter, "RedCard2022," 22 May 2022, <https://twitter.com/RedCardKE/status/1528387447436214277>. Accessed on 19 September 2022.

⁴⁷The Standard "Yes, give the red card to leaders with questions on their integrity," <https://www.standardmedia.co.ke/opinion/article/2001446534/yes-give-the-red-card-to-leaders-with-questions-on-their-integrity>. Accessed on 19 September 2022.

⁴⁸ Twitter, "RedCard2022," 22 May 2022, <https://twitter.com/RedCardKE/status/1528387447436214277>. Accessed on 19 September 2022.

⁴⁹ UNDP "UN expert hails historic reparations ruling in favor of indigenous peoples," 18 July 2022, <https://news.un.org/en/story/2022/07/1122742>. Accessed on 20 September 2022.

⁵⁰ African Court, "the matter of African Commission on Human and Peoples' Rights," 23 June 2022, <https://www.african-court.org/cpmt/storage/app/uploads/public/62b/aba/fd8/62babafd8d467689318212.pdf>. Accessed on 20 September 2022.

⁵¹ Voice Of America, "Kenya's Unsettled Election," 17 August 2022, <https://www.voafrika.com/a/kenya-s-unsettled-election---analysis/6705614.html>. Accessed on 20 September 2022.

⁵² BBC, "Raila Odinga challenges William Ruto win in Supreme Court," 22 August 2022, <https://www.bbc.com/news/world-africa-62631193>. Accessed on 20 September 2022.

⁵³ Aljazeera, "Kenya's Supreme Court upholds Ruto's win in presidential election," 5 September 2022, <https://www.aljazeera.com/news/2022/9/5/kenyas-supreme-court-upholds-rutos-win-in-presidential-election>. Accessed on 20 September 2022.

election was compromised. She added that there was no evidence supporting the hacking of the IEBC server.

On 17 August 2022, Kenya's IEBC reported that one of its returning officials – Daniel Musyoka of Embakasi East constituency, was murdered.⁵⁴ Other IEBC staff, including Chairperson Wafula Chebukati had been profiled, harassed, and intimidated in the course of discharging their duties as presiding officers over the country's 9 August polls. Mr. Musyoka's murder remains unresolved to date.

Freedom of association

On 6 May 2022, police in Cherangany constituency, Trans Nzoia County, found a 50-year-old intersex woman dead.⁵⁵ Reports indicate that she was raped. The lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, queer, and others (LGBTQ+) community in Kenya continue to be targeted. LGBTQ+ member Sheila Adhiambo Lumumba was found dead after failing to report to work in April.⁵⁶

On 20 July 2022, police officers arrested four HRDs working on SOGIE in Malindi for "illegally assembling".⁵⁷ Police officers allegedly raided a meeting organised to discuss issues affecting the LGBTQ+ community and arrested four HRDs out of the 30 that took part in the meeting. Even though the venue hosted other meetings, the authorities declared the meeting illegal and demanded they provide a permit.

On 22 July 2022, the Kenyan High Court found three officers and a civilian guilty of the murder of a human rights lawyer and two other people, while the fourth officer was acquitted.⁵⁸ Willie Kimani, a Kenyan lawyer with International Justice Mission, and his client Josephat Mwenda and taxi driver Joseph Muiruri were abducted by police officers in June 2016.⁵⁹ A few days later, they were found dead, and their bodies had signs of torture. Mr. Kimani represented his client Josephat Mwenda in a case against a police officer who unlawfully shot Josephat in the arm last year.

⁵⁴ Twitter, "IEBC," 17 August 2022, <https://twitter.com/IEBCKenya/status/1559918255850094592>, Accessed on 20 September 2022.

⁵⁵ Nation, "50-year-old intersex woman raped and killed in Trans Nzoia," 5 May 2022, <https://nation.africa/kenya/counties/trans-nzoia/50-year-old-intersex-woman-raped-and-killed-in-trans-nzoia-3805548>, Accessed on 20 September 2022.

⁵⁶ CIVICUS Monitor, "CSOs condemn murder of LGBTIQ+ member, protesters beaten," 10 May 2022, <https://monitor.civicus.org/updates/2022/05/10/csos-condemn-murder-lgbtqi-member-protesters-beaten/>, Accessed on 20 September 2022.

⁵⁷ Twitter, "Defenders Coalition," 29 July 2022, <https://twitter.com/DefendersKE/status/1554526648250269697>, Accessed on 20 September 2022.

⁵⁸ BBC, "Kenyan policemen guilty of murdering human rights lawyer," 22 July 2022, <https://www.bbc.com/news/world-africa-62264439>, Accessed on 20 September 2022.

⁵⁹ Civicus Monitor, "Human Rights lawyer Joseph Kimani killed," 7 May 2016 <https://monitor.civicus.org/updates/2016/07/05/july-4th-update-kenya/>, Accessed on 20 September 2022.

In a CNN interview with Christiane Amanpour on 7 September 2022, Ruto stated that LGBTQ+ issues were not a big issue for Kenyans.⁶⁰ However, when asked about his previous remarks where he stated that "we have no room for gays," President Ruto stated that although "we respect everybody," former President Uhuru Kenya was right when he said that homosexuality "is not agreeable."

On 28 September 2022, two HRDs charged with obstructing police officers from conducting their work appeared in court.⁶¹ In June 2022, activists Ian Kinyua and Dawin Wangechi, who are members of Activista Laikipia, an organisation based in Laikipia were arrested for allegedly witnessing an illegal search and unlawful arrest being carried out and calling out the officers involved to follow the law.⁶² They proceeded to take videos of the said police misconduct. The next hearing is set to take place on 10 November 2022.

Freedom of opinion and expression

On 27 May 2022, Twitter suspended 22 accounts belonging to HRDs who took part in the #NjaaRevolution campaign on the platform.⁶³ "NjaaRevolution" (translated to 'hunger revolution'), is a protest against the high cost of living.⁶⁴ Twitter's suspension notice claimed that some of these accounts were suspended because their users looked to be acting suspiciously. The platform failed to explain to users what the word "suspicious" behavior meant or what behavior was considered suspicious. Twitter did not give a specific reason for permanently suspended accounts, instead giving a generic justification for 'violating Twitter rules.' According to Article 19, the suspensions of these accounts amount to censorship of civic actors at a crucial time leading up to the general elections in August 2022.⁶⁵

On 10 July 2022, Ian Byron, a journalist working for the Nation Media Group was assaulted with a machete by unknown assailants at Kakrao shopping Centre in Migori County.⁶⁶ The journalist reported cases of harassment prior to the attack. He believed that it was related to a story he covered on Suna East Member of Parliament and the Orange Democratic Party (ODM) Minority Leader Honorable Junet Mohammed. The story was taken down following complaints from Junet.

⁶⁰ Twitter, "Amanpour," 7 September 2022, <https://twitter.com/amanpour/status/1567567162444849157>, Accessed on 20 September 2022.

⁶¹Defenders Coalition, "Solidarity and updates on ongoing matters against HRDs" 2022, <https://defenderscoalition.org/from-the-courts-this-week-solidarity-and-updates-on-on-ongoing-matters-against-hrds/>, Accessed on 21 September 2022.

⁶² Twitter, "DefendersKE," 29 September 2022, <https://twitter.com/DefendersKE/status/157541165392723297>, Accessed on 29 September 2022.

⁶³ Article 19, "Twitter must stop silencing human rights defenders," 27 May 2022, <https://www.article19.org/resources/kenya-twitter-stop-silencing-activist-voices/>, Accessed on 21 September 2022.

⁶⁴Civics Monitor, "CSOS condemn murder of LGBTIQ+ member, protestors beaten," 10 May 2022, <https://monitor.civics.org/updates/2022/05/10/csos-condemn-murder-lgbtqi-member-protesters-beaten/>, Accessed on 21 September 2022.

⁶⁵ Article 19, "Twitter must stop silencing human rights defenders," 27 May 2022, <https://www.article19.org/resources/kenya-twitter-stop-silencing-activist-voices/>, Accessed on 21 September 2022.

⁶⁶RSF, "Machete attack on Kenyan reporter in run-up to election," 22 July 2022, <https://rsf.org/en/machete-attack-kenyan-reporter-run-election>, Accessed on 21 September 2022.

On 25 July 2022, the Media Council of Kenya (MCK) issued a statement criticising the Cabinet Secretary (CS) for Education, Professor George Magoha, with unfortunate remarks that profiled a Nation Media Group journalist during a Question-and-Answer session.⁶⁷ The CS accused an NTV journalist of being 'affiliated' with a terror organisation. While responding to a question, Professor Magoha asked the Muslim journalist, "where do you come from? Who are you representing?⁶⁸ Because if you are representing Al-Shabaab, I will not answer you?" The council demanded the CS to issue an apology and withdraw his remarks.

The Committee to protect journalists (CPJ) spoke to over 50 Kenyan journalists and press freedom advocates between May and July 2022. The journalists voiced concerns over covering political rallies that had the potential to turn violent, as well as the prevalence of sexual attacks against female reporters.⁶⁹

According to Christopher Wambua, acting CEO of the Kenya Film Classification Board (KFCB), all movies with LGBTQ+ content are forbidden in Kenya.⁷⁰ On 23 September 2022, in an interview, he claimed that the law does not allow LGBTQ+ content and relationships and that KFCB considers other applicable laws when rating and classifying content. Moreover, he claimed that Kenya's position has always been to prohibit and not broadcast, show, or distribute information that normalises or praises same-sex relationships within the borders of the country.

Freedom of peaceful assembly

On 3 June 2022, General Service Unit (GSU) officers used tear gas and live bullets to disperse a protest in Masimba, Kajiado county, killing four people and injuring seven others.⁷¹ After an elephant killed a teacher, residents of Masimba protested wildlife invasion in the area, by burning tires and barricading the road.

On 18 June 2022, authorities arrested four people during a demonstration against the forceful eviction of the Maasai community in Tanzania.⁷² They were released without

⁶⁷ Media Council of Kenya, "The education cabinet secretary's frequent intimidation of the Media should cease," 27 July 2022, <https://mediacouncil.or.ke/~mediaco7/sites/default/files/advisory-press-releases/Press%20Statement%20-%20Frequent%20Intimidation%20of%20Media%20Should%20Cease.pdf>, Accessed on 21 September 2022.

⁶⁸ Kenyans.Co.Ke, "The education cabinet secretary's frequent intimidation of the Media should cease," 26 July 2022, <https://www.kenyans.co.ke/news/77677-magoha-spot-over-al-shabaab-remarks-ntv-journalist>, Accessed on 22 September 2022.

⁶⁹ CPJ, "Six Kenyan journalists and press freedom advocates on their fears ahead of general elections," 25 July 2022, <https://cpj.org/2022/07/six-kenyan-journalists-and-press-freedom-advocates-on-their-fears-ahead-of-general-elections/>, Accessed on 22 September 2022.

⁷⁰ The Star, "All movies with LGBTQ+ content illegal in Kenya," 24 September 2022, <https://www.the-star.co.ke/news/2022-09-23-all-movies-with-lgbtq-content-illegal-in-kenya-kfcb/>, Accessed on 22 September 2022.

⁷¹ Africa News, "Four shot dead in protest against dangerous wildlife invasion," 3 June 2022, <https://www.africanews.com/2022/06/03/kenya-four-shot-dead-in-protest-against-dangerous-wildlife/>, Accessed on 22 September 2022.

⁷² Twitter, "DefendersKE," 17 June 2022, <https://twitter.com/DefendersKE/status/1537768966919274496>, Accessed on 22 September 2022.

charges that same day.⁷³ Police authorities fired live bullets at Maasai protestors in Tanzania.⁷⁴ Residents protested the government's intention to evict 167,000 Maasai from the Ngorongoro Conservation Area (NCA) and Loliondo to make way for trophy hunting and elite tourists earlier this year.

During the annual Saba Saba protest that takes place every 7 July, Kenyans protested the high cost of living.⁷⁵ Protesters declared that they would not participate in the general election if the government did not cut the cost of food and other necessities. They used the slogan "Hakuna kura bila kula (There is no election without eating)." Saba Saba was initially started in 1990 to demand free elections.⁷⁶ However, HRDs and CSOs now commemorate the day by protesting police brutality, extrajudicial killings, and to demand respect for the Constitution. Positively, the government subsidised the price of maize flour at 100 Kenyan Shillings (KES) for a month, it retailed at 209KES.

In August 2022, a police commissioner in Kenya's Rift Valley region banned election-related demonstrations during and after Kenya's 9 August polls, warning that peaceful protests during the electoral season would be "dealt with accordingly."⁷⁷ The pronouncement was, however, immediately protested by a coalition of 10 Kenyan CSOs, who argued that "constitutionally guaranteed freedoms cannot be suspended because we are exercising other constitutional rights."⁷⁸

On 16 August 2022, a protest erupted in Kisumu following the announcement by the Electoral Commission declaring Deputy President William Ruto the winner of the presidential election.⁷⁹ Police fired teargas to disperse the protestors who blocked roads with burning tires.

Separately, on 26 September 2022, police officers teargassed Azimio la Umoja Members of Parliament (MPs) and activists demonstrating against the interdiction of IEBC Deputy Chief

⁷³ The Star, "Maa protester now threatens to storm Tanzania after release," 19 June 2022, <https://www.the-star.co.ke/counties/rift-valley/2022-06-19-maa-protester-now-threatens-to-storm-tanzania-after-release/>, Accessed on 22 September 2022.

⁷⁴ Civicus Monitor, "President Suluhu acts on promise to expand media freedoms, arbitrary arrests of journalists continue," 17 May 2022, <https://monitor.civicus.org/updates/2022/05/17/president-suluhu-acts-promise-expand-media-freedoms-arbitrary-arrests-journalists-continue/>, Accessed on 23 September 2022.

⁷⁵ The Star, "Kenyans participate in a protest outside the State Law office and department of Justice along Harambee Avenue Nairobi during the annual Saba Saba protest," 7 July 2022, <https://www.the-star.co.ke/in-pictures/2022-07-07-photos-kenyans-protest-high-cost-of-living-on-sabasaba-day/>, Accessed on 23 September 2022.

⁷⁶ The Elephant, "Saba Saba and the Evolution of Citizen Power," 7 July 2022, <https://www.theelephant.info/features/2020/07/07/saba-saba-and-the-evolution-of-citizen-power/>, Accessed on 23 September 2022.

⁷⁷ The Star, "Commissioner Maalim bans demos in Rift Valley during polls," 7 August 2022, <https://www.the-star.co.ke/counties/rift-valley/2022-08-07-commissioner-maalim-bans-demos-in-rift-valley-during-polls/>, Accessed on 23 September 2022.

⁷⁸ Twitter, "DefendersKE," 8 August 2022, <https://twitter.com/DefendersKE/status/1556684040882749440>, Accessed on 23 September 2022.

⁷⁹ Euro News, "Police disperse Kisumu protesters with tear gas," 16 August 2022, <https://www.euronews.com/video/2022/08/16/police-disperse-kisumu-protesters-with-tear-gas>, Accessed on 23 September 2022.

Executive Officer Ruth Kulundu.⁸⁰ Kulundu was interdicted based on gross misconduct and insubordination. Azimio MPs claimed that the move was unconstitutional, and that Commission's chair and the CEO disregarded the guidelines stipulated in the IEBC Act.

On 28 September 2022, 32 ward representatives and members of county representatives blocked the gate leading to Kenya Wildlife Service's Tsavo conservation headquarters at Sophia Estate, Voi, while protesting a rise in human-wildlife conflict in the area.⁸¹ The protestors demanded that the Kenya Wildlife Service drive a herd of elephants that were attacking people back to the park. The police commander ordered the police officers to disperse the protest calling the meeting illegal. Police officers fired tear gas at the protestors.

Rwanda

General situation

On 14 April 2022, the UK and Rwanda signed a Memorandum of Understanding on a system to relocate asylum seekers the UK is not considering, to Rwanda.⁸² CSOs and international bodies, including the UNHCR, have criticized the agreement, accusing the UK of neglecting its obligations under the Refugee Convention. Critics also expressed concerns over human rights violations documented in Rwanda, including imprisonment of journalists or political opposition, unlawful detention, torture, and extrajudicial killings.⁸³

From 20 to 25 June, Rwanda hosted the Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting (CHOGM), which brings together the heads of Commonwealth countries for discussions every two years. Ahead of the summit, 24 CSOs expressed concern over Rwanda's human rights record.⁸⁴ The letter urged Commonwealth members to call on the Rwandese government to take measures to respect and promote human rights, the rule of law, and good governance.⁸⁵

Freedom of opinion and expression

⁸⁰ The Standard, "Police tear-gas protesters against the ouster of IEBC's Ruth Kulundu," 26 September 2022, <https://www.standardmedia.co.ke/national/article/2001456664/police-lob-teargas-thwart-protest-against-ruth-kulundu-ouster>, Accessed on 26 September 2022.

⁸¹ The Star, "Taita Taveta MCAs teargassed in protest against stray jumbos", 28 September 2022, <https://www.the-star.co.ke/counties/coast/2022-09-28-taita-taveta-mcas-teargassed-in-protest-against-stray-jumbos/>, Accessed on 29 September 2022.

⁸² BBC, "What is the UK's plan to send asylum seekers to Rwanda and how many could go?" 7 September 2022, <https://www.bbc.com/news/explainers-61782866>, Accessed on 28 September 2022.

⁸³ Human Rights Watch Interview, "UK Government Heads to Court Over Refugee Expulsion Plan", 8 September 2022, <https://www.hrw.org/news/2022/09/08/interview-uk-government-heads-court-over-refugee-expulsion-plan> Accessed on 28 September 2022.

⁸⁴ Human Rights Watch, "Call for Commonwealth Leaders to Speak Up for Rights of Rwandans," 10 June 2022 <https://www.hrw.org/news/2022/06/10/call-commonwealth-leaders-speak-rights-rwandans>, Accessed on 28 September 2022.

⁸⁵ Ibid.

On 30 May 2022, Aimable Karasira, a YouTube commentator, accused prison authorities of beating and torturing him and other critics, including Dieudonné Niyonsenga.⁸⁶ During his hearing, he claimed that the prison guards used lights and loud music to deprive them of sleep.⁸⁷ Karasira also claimed the prison guard beat him and denied him medical treatment for diabetes and mental health issues. He further claimed that the food provided by the prison was insufficient, that he was denied access to money sent to him, and that the prison authorities intercepted and withheld privileged communications from his lawyer. Karasira was arrested in May 2021 and charged with denying and justifying the 1994 genocide against the Tutsi.

On 15 June 2022, the Commonwealth Secretariat denied Canadian journalist Benedict Moran and Indian journalist, Anjan Sundaram accreditation to cover the CHOGM.⁸⁸ The Secretariat claimed that the two journalists were not working for "recognised media outlets."⁸⁹ Yet Moran claims that he had previously been granted access to report from Rwanda for his production company, and Sundaram had written for internationally recognised media outlets, including the New York Times, The Guardian, The Observer, and others.

Both Sundaram and Moran previously wrote about Rwanda's authoritarian government. Moran previously reported on President Kagame's alleged involvement in war crimes and Kagame and the ruling Rwanda Patriotic Front's disinformation campaigns targeting government critics. Sundaram wrote the book *Bad News: Last Journalists in a Dictatorship* about Rwanda's destruction of free speech. Similarly, other foreign journalists were not granted authorisation to cover the event despite submitting the application before the deadline.⁹⁰

On 15 July 2022, the trial of three arrested Iwacu TV journalists concluded. During the trial, the prosecutor allegedly requested the journalists be imprisoned for 22 years and five months.⁹¹ On 9 October 2018, Rwandan authorities arrested Damascene Mutuyimana, Shadrack Niyonsenga, and Jean Baptiste Nshimiyima, reporters for the YouTube-based outlet Iwacu TV for publishing a "fabricated" image showing Ugandan President Yoweri Museveni, Rwandan President Paul Kagame, and Kayumba Nyamwasa, a former Rwandan army chief living in exile as an opposition figure, together.⁹² The three journalists were charged with "spreading false information to create a hostile international opinion of Rwanda," "publishing unoriginal statements or pictures," and "inciting insurrection." According to court records and an investigation by CPJ, the court decided in preliminary

⁸⁶ Human Rights Watch, "Jailed Critic Denounces Torture in Prison," 13 June 2022, <https://www.hrw.org/news/2022/06/13/rwanda-jailed-critic-denounces-torture-prison>, Accessed on 28 September 2022.

⁸⁷ Ibid.

⁸⁸ Committee to Protect Journalists, "Commonwealth Secretariat denies entry to at least 2 journalists seeking to cover summit in Rwanda; others left in limbo," 17 June 2022, <https://cpj.org/2022/06/commonwealth-secretariat-denies-entry-to-at-least-2-journalists-seeking-to-cover-summit-in-rwanda-others-left-in-limbo/>, Accessed on 29 September 2022.

⁸⁹ Ibid.

⁹⁰ Ibid.

⁹¹ Committee to Protect Journalists, "Rwandan prosecutors request 22-year prison sentences for 3 Iwacu TV journalists", 6 September 2022, <https://cpj.org/2022/09/rwandan-prosecutors-request-22-year-prison-sentences-for-3-iwacu-tv-journalists/>, Accessed on 29 September 2022.

⁹² Committee to Protect Journalists, "Damascene Mutuyimana", October 2018, <https://cpj.org/data/people/damascene-mutuyimana/>, Accessed on 29 September 2022.

hearings that the journalists be tried under the 2012 penal code, even though it was revised in 2018.⁹³ The 2018 penal code allows authorities to apply the previous statute for actions allegedly committed before it went into effect.⁹⁴

On 12 August 2022, the Rwanda Media Commission denied accreditation to Byline Intelligence journalist Iain Overton to report on the human rights situation of refugees.⁹⁵ Although the Media Commission website states that media visas are processed in seven days, Overton's application remained under process for more than a month after submission. Deborah Bonetti, director of the Foreign Press Association in London, noted that it is disappointing that the Rwandan government denies entry to foreign journalists perceived to be critical of the government.

Somalia/ Somaliland

General situation

On 15 May 2022, Hassan Sheikh Mohamud was elected by the Federal Parliament of Somalia to succeed the outgoing President- Mohamed Abdullahi Mohamed, also known as Farmajo.⁹⁶ The election took place after several months of delay. The results were announced after three rounds of voting where Hassan Sheikh won 214 and his opponent Farmajo received 110 votes.

On 15 June 2022, President Hassan Sheikh Mohamud selected Hamza Abdi Barre, a member of the lower house of parliament, as the new prime minister.⁹⁷ On 25 June 2022, 200 members of parliament unanimously supported Barre and approved his appointment as the new prime minister.⁹⁸

In a televised speech, Somali President Hassan Sheikh Mohamud declared that his government would go to "total war" against the extremist organisation Al-Shabab on 23

⁹³ Committee to Protect Journalists, "Rwandan prosecutors request 22-year prison sentences for 3 Iwacu TV journalists", 6 September 2022, <https://cpj.org/2022/09/rwandan-prosecutors-request-22-year-prison-sentences-for-3-iwacu-tv-journalists/>, Accessed on 29 September 2022.

⁹⁴ Law, "Summary, 27/09/2018," <http://www.ilo.int/dyn/natlex/docs/ELECTRONIC/107716/132753/F1381465960/RWA-107716.pdf> Accessed on 29 September 2022.

⁹⁵ Byline Times Team, "Rwandan Government Fails to Give Press Accreditation to Byline Times Journalist to Report on Human Rights Abuses Against Refugees," 12 August 2022, <https://bylinetimes.com/2022/08/12/rwandan-government-fails-to-give-press-accreditation-to-byline-times-journalist-to-report-on-human-rights-abuses-against-refugees/>, Accessed on 29 September 2022.

⁹⁶ BBC, "Somalia's new president elected by 327 people," 15 May 2022, <https://www.bbc.com/news/world-africa-61438047>, Accessed on 7 October 2022.

⁹⁷ Voice Of America, "New Somali President Appoints Prime Minister," 15 June 2022, <https://www.voanews.com/a/new-somali-president-appoints-prime-minister/6618879.html>, Accessed on 7 October 2022.

⁹⁸ Voice Of America, "Somalia Parliament Approves New Prime Minister," 25 June 2022, <https://www.voanews.com/a/somalia-parliament-approves-new-prime-minister/6632962.html>, Accessed on 7 October 2022.

August 2022.⁹⁹ The president made these remarks after the extremist group staged a fatal hotel siege in Mogadishu on 19 August, killing at least 21 people and injuring more than 100.

On 23 September 2022, the Somaliland Electoral Commission postponed the presidential election for nine months after stating that it could not organise the election scheduled on 13 November 2022 due to "time, technical, and financial constraints."¹⁰⁰

Freedom of opinion and expression

On 9 May 2022, the Parliamentary Committee on Presidential Election released a memo that restricted independent journalists from accessing the venue of the presidential elections.¹⁰¹ The memo stated that journalists could follow the process through the TV screens installed outside the hall. On 10 May 2022, the Somali Journalists Syndicate (SJS) and Somali Media Association (SOMA) condemned the move. They urged the Federal government and the speaker to withdraw the restrictive decision and allow journalists to access the voting venue fully.¹⁰²

On 1 June 2022, the Southwest state police raided Radio Barawe, a local minority community rights in Barawe and detained two of its journalists.¹⁰³ Osman Aweys Bahar and Fuad Shoble were forcefully detained at gunpoint. The police officers allegedly forced them to walk to the beach however, following resistance, they were taken and detained at the police station. Prior to the raid, an order of arrest was issued for Osman Aweys Bahar by Lower Shabelle court. He previously reported on the escalating conflict between the Barawe District Council and the district commissioner.

On 13 June 2022, representatives from the Villa Somalia communications department barred and intimidated journalists in Mogadishu who were reporting the visit of Victoria Nuland, the U.S. Under Secretary of State for Political Affairs.¹⁰⁴ The presidential staff allegedly, locked journalists in a small room for an hour to prevent them from accessing the venue. Similarly, on 15 June 2022, Villa Somalia security guards prohibited journalists from

⁹⁹Voice Of America, "Somalia's President Vows 'Total War' Against al-Shabab," 24 August 2022, <https://www.voanews.com/a/somalia-s-president-vows-total-war-against-al-shabab/6714508.html>, Accessed on 7 October 2022.

¹⁰⁰ Voice Of America, "Presidential Poll Postponed in Separatist Somali Region," Presidential Poll Postponed in Separatist Somali Region," 24 September 2022, <https://www.voanews.com/a/presidential-poll-postponed-in-separatist-somali-region/6761745.html>, Accessed on 7 October 2022.

¹⁰¹ Somali Journalists Syndicate, "Allow independent journalists to have uncensored access to presidential elections," <https://sjsyndicate.org/2022/05/10/allow-independent-journalists-to-have-uncensored-access-to-presidential-election-scheduled-on-15th-may/>, Accessed on 7 October 2022.

¹⁰² Somali Journalists Syndicate, "Allow independent journalists to have uncensored access to presidential election scheduled on 15 May 2022," 10 May 2022, <https://sjsyndicate.org/2022/05/10/allow-independent-journalists-to-have-uncensored-access-to-presidential-election-scheduled-on-15th-may/>, Accessed on 7 October 2022.

¹⁰³ Somali Journalists Syndicate, "As Somalia's new president tours Southwest state, its police attack local radio, beat and detain journalists," 10 May 2022, <https://sjsyndicate.org/2022/05/10/allow-independent-journalists-to-have-uncensored-access-to-presidential-election-scheduled-on-15th-may/>, Accessed on 7 October 2022.

¹⁰⁴ Somali Journalists Syndicate, "Journalists' unions, media organisations condemn latest violations against media freedom and journalists in Somalia, including the restrictions, threats and censorship," 10 May 2022, <https://sjsyndicate.org/2022/05/10/allow-independent-journalists-to-have-uncensored-access-to-presidential-election-scheduled-on-15th-may/>, Accessed on 7 October 2022.

covering the appointment of the new prime minister, Hamze Abdi Barre.¹⁰⁵ All the journalists had invitations and press accreditation to cover the conference, yet they were still barred.

On 19 June 2022, the Haramcad police officer who shot and critically injured SJS member and Goobjoog TV cameraman, Sharma'arke Abdinur Wehliye, on 20 March 2021 in Mogadishu, received a one-year prison sentence from a Somali military court.¹⁰⁶ Additionally, the Court of First Instance of the Armed Force ordered the police officer to pay compensation for his injuries.

On 24 June 2022, the Somali Mechanism for the Safety of Journalists (SMSJ) released its annual monitoring, report for 2021, in which it noted that 105 violations against the media had been recorded in 2021.¹⁰⁷ The 2021 figures show a 62 per cent increase in violations from 2020 and are the highest caseload recorded in 10 years. Among the major violations recorded include two cases of murder, 66 arrests, 14 media outlet raids, 14 physical assaults, 13 cases of harassment, and two sham trials.

On 27 June 2022, two Somali journalists Abdikarin Mohamed Siyad and Khalid Mohamud Osman working for Hirshabelle State television were wounded in a terrorist attack after a vehicle they were travelling in was hit by a landmine at Qabno locality.¹⁰⁸ It was reported that at least three people were killed in the attack including Abdirahman Adow, the driver of the journalists' vehicle, in what is widely suspected to be the work of Al-Shabaab militants.

On 4 July 2022, Military personnel stopped two journalists at gunpoint while they were conducting interviews with fishermen at Liido beach.¹⁰⁹ The military officers confiscated equipment and threatened to shoot Risaala Media Corporation journalist, Abduqadir Osman Indhoy, and his cameraman Mohamed Said Nur while they were investigating the effects of the monsoons on food security. On the same day, Najib Abdi Abib, the police commissioner for the Hawl-wadag, and his armed officers briefly held two other journalists from Risaala Media Corporation, Kasim Ibrahim Adani and Abdukadir Hussein Anshur, and threatened to shoot them. The journalists were reporting an armed robbery attack.¹¹⁰ The authorities confiscated their equipment and forced them to delete the footage before releasing them.

¹⁰⁵ Facebook, "Villa Somalia oo Is hor istaag ku sameysay Warbaahinta Madax", 15 June 2022, <https://www.facebook.com/SOMALICABLE/videos/3301211770111045>, Accessed 7 October 2022.

¹⁰⁶ Somali Journalists Syndicate, "Court sentences police officer who shot and seriously injured cameraman in Mogadishu to one year in jail," 19 June 2022, <https://sjsyndicate.org/2022/06/19/court-sentences-police-officer-who-shot-and-seriously-injured-cameraman-in-mogadishu/>, Accessed on 7 October 2022.

¹⁰⁷ SMSJ, "Attacks against Somali journalists and media and impunity for these crimes must end." 24 June 2022, <https://hornobserver.com/articles/1609/SMSJ-Attacks-against-Somali-journalists-and-media-and-impunity-for-these-crimes-must-end>, Accessed on 7 October 2022.

¹⁰⁸ Horn Observer, "Two TV journalists injured in a bomb explosion in central Somalia," 27 June 2022, <https://hornobserver.com/articles/1616/Two-TV-journalists-injured-in-a-bomb-explosion-in-central-Somalia>, Accessed on 7 October 2022.

¹⁰⁹ Somali Journalists Syndicate, "Mogadishu police arbitrary detain and threaten journalists covering insecurity in the capital," 4 July 2022, <https://sjsyndicate.org/2022/07/04/mogadishu-police-arbitrary-detain-and-threaten-journalists-covering-insecurity-in-the-capital/>, Accessed on 7 October 2022.

¹¹⁰ Ibid

On 05 July 2022, police officers detained RTN television reporter, Mohamed Abdirahin Mohamed.¹¹¹ Mohamed claims he was pursued after his interview with Southwest State Assembly opposition members. The political opposition member and six others protested the revocation of their immunity and membership in the State Assembly. He was warned against publishing the interview or criticizing President Abdiiaziz Hassan Mohamed (Laftagareen).

Separately, the Jubbaland president's office banned independent media from covering the inaugural session of the Jubbaland Assembly's fourth session in Kismayo.¹¹² The President Ahmed Mohamed Islam (Madobe) was addressing the regional lawmakers on 06 July 2022. On 9 July 2022, armed officers detained Shabelle television and radio journalists, Hashim Omar Hassan while covering the Eidul-Adha congregation in Adado town.¹¹³ His arrest is related to a Facebook post that was critical Galmudug State president, Ahmed Abdi Karie.

On 15 July Southwest State (SWS) intelligence officers in Baidoa detained Arlaadi Media Network (AMN) journalist, Hassan Ali Da'ud in an unknown location.¹¹⁴ Hassan was allegedly detained following a broadcast story regarding a grievance raised by SWS opposition parliamentarians who came out against a physical assault by Abdiiaziz Hassan Mohamed security's personnel in Baidoa. In another incident, two AMN journalists were attacked, shot at, beaten, and detained by police in Wadajir district.¹¹⁵ The officers attacked the journalists while reporting on the impact of blocked roads by ongoing rain. Additionally, their equipment was confiscated and destroyed. The journalists were released without charges that evening.

On 30 September 2022, Somali National TV journalist Ahmed Mohamed Shuku was killed in a bomb attack while covering a security operation against Al-shabab.¹¹⁶

Somaliland

Freedom of expression

¹¹¹Somali Journalists Syndicate, "South West State detains TV journalist, Jubbaland restricts independent media covering the state assembly," 6 July 2022, <https://sjsyndicate.org/2022/07/06/tv-journalist-detained-in-baidoa-jubbaland-restricts-independent-media-covering-the-state-assembly/>, Accessed on 7 October 2022.

¹¹²Somali Journalists Syndicate, "South West State detains TV journalist, Jubbaland restricts independent media covering the state assembly," 6 July 2022, <https://sjsyndicate.org/2022/07/06/tv-journalist-detained-in-baidoa-jubbaland-restricts-independent-media-covering-the-state-assembly/>, Accessed on 7 October 2022.

¹¹³ Somali Journalists Syndicate, "Galmudug police detain human rights journalist over a facebook post deemed critical to president Qoorqoor," 10 July 2022, <https://sjsyndicate.org/2022/07/10/galmudug-police-detain-human-rights-journalist-over-a-facebook-post-deemed-critical-to-president-qoorqoor/>, Accessed on 7 October 2022.

¹¹⁴Somali Journalists Syndicate, "Mogadishu police shoot, beat and detain 2 reporters; SWS holds journalist incommunicado, Somaliland bans BBC Somali," 19 July 2022, <https://sjsyndicate.org/2022/07/19/mogadishu-police-shoot-beat-and-detain-2-reporters-sws-holds-journalist-incommunicado-somaliland-bans-bbc/>, Accessed on 7 October 2022.

¹¹⁵ Somali Journalists Syndicate, "Mogadishu police shoot, beat and detain 2 reporters; SWS holds journalist incommunicado, Somaliland bans BBC Somali," 19 July 2022, <https://sjsyndicate.org/2022/07/19/mogadishu-police-shoot-beat-and-detain-2-reporters-sws-holds-journalist-incommunicado-somaliland-bans-bbc/>, Accessed on 7 October 2022.

¹¹⁶ CPJ, "Somali journalist Ahmed Mohamed Shukur killed while covering security operation," 3 October 2022, <https://cpj.org/2022/10/somali-journalist-ahmed-mohamed-shukur-killed-while-covering-security-operation/>, Accessed on 7 October 2022.

On 23 May 2022, the Regional Courts sentenced Mohamed Abdi Ilig, MM Somali TV director, and Abdijabar Mohamed Hussein, Horn Cable TV reporter to one year and four months in jail.¹¹⁷ Gobonimo TV journalist Abdirahman Ali Khalif was acquitted. The three journalists were among the journalists who were held in detention for covering the Hargeisa prison fight. They were accused of publishing “false news”. The court case was allegedly conducted hastily without the defendants' families or defense attorneys' awareness.

Unrelatedly, the Marodi Jeh Regional Court of Appeal sentenced journalist and social activist Abdimalik Muse Coldon, who was jailed on 19 August 2021, to two years in prison and fined him three million Somaliland Shilling (USD 372).¹¹⁸ As previously reported by the Monitor, his arrest was allegedly related to a statement made claiming that the Hargeisa Cultural Center and the Abaarso school is spreading anti-Islamic and anti-Somali Ideology.¹¹⁹

Suleyman Yusuf Ali, the minister of information for Somaliland, announced at a press conference that the government would suspend all BBC activities on 19 July 2022.¹²⁰ However, it was unclear if the suspension would apply to all of the outlet's reporting and broadcasting activities in Somaliland. Suleyman accused BBC Somali had lost its objectivity and was “undermining the integrity of the Somaliland state.” According to a BBC spokesperson, the suspension was not formally communicated.

On 11 August 2022, as Ahmed-Zaki and Abdinasir of Horyaal 24 TV covered opposition demonstrations Hargeisa, police detained them. On the day of the protest, NetBlocks saw a significant disruption to internet service on numerous providers in Somaliland.¹²¹ On 15 August 2022, police officers accused the journalists of taking part of the protests but did not file charges. After discovering Ahmed -Zaki was a journalist, the court ordered for his release, but it is unknown why the court did not release Abdinasir. The police did not release Ahmed-Zaki.

On 6 September 2022, Suleyman Yusuf Ali, minister of information banned CBA TV from operating in Somaliland.¹²² He claimed that their license had expired and alleged the broadcaster aired content that “threatened the peace in the region.” Suleyman accused CBA TV of breaching Article 45 of Somaliland’s press law, which he said prohibits media from propagating content harmful to the stability of Somaliland.¹²³ CBA TV noted that permits

¹¹⁷Somali Journalists Syndicate, “SJS and SOMA strongly condemn travesty trial and jail sentence on journalists in Somaliland,” 23 May 2022, <https://sjsyndicate.org/2022/05/23/sjs-and-soma-strongly-condemn-travesty-trial-and-jail-sentence-on-journalists-in-somaliland/>, Accessed on 7 October 2022.

¹¹⁸Somali Journalists Syndicate, “SJS and SOMA strongly condemn travesty trial and jail sentence on journalists in Somaliland,” 23 May 2022, <https://sjsyndicate.org/2022/05/23/sjs-and-soma-strongly-condemn-travesty-trial-and-jail-sentence-on-journalists-in-somaliland/>, Accessed on 7 October 2022.

¹¹⁹ Monitor, “Onslaught on journalists unrelenting,” 29 October 2022, <https://monitor.civicus.org/updates/2021/10/29/onslaught-journalists-unrelenting/>, Accessed on 7 October 2022.

¹²⁰CPJ, “Somaliland authorities indefinitely suspend BBC,” 20 July 2022, <https://cpj.org/2022/07/somaliland-authorities-indefinitely-suspend-bbc/>, Accessed on 7 October 2022.

¹²¹ NetBlocks, “Internet disrupted in Somaliland amid protests over postponed elections,” 11 August 2022, <https://netblocks.org/reports/internet-disrupted-in-somaliland-amid-protests-over-postponed-elections-xyMnWG8Z>, Accessed on 7 October 2022.

¹²² CPJ, “Somaliland’s ministry of information imposes indefinite ban on CBA TV,” 16 September 2022, <https://cpj.org/2022/09/somalilands-ministry-of-information-imposes-indefinite-ban-on-cba-tv/>, Accessed on 7 October 2022.

¹²³Press media, “Somali land Press Law,” 2004, http://www.somalilandlaw.com/press_media_law.htm#Presslaw, Accessed on 7 October 2022.

issued in 2018 by the ministry of information and Attorney General's offices do not expire. They also claimed their reporting was balanced.

Freedom of peaceful assembly

On 11 August 2022, protest broke out in Hargeisa over an alleged attempt to delay the presidential elections.¹²⁴ President Muse's current term ends in November, but the opposition accuse him of trying to extend his stay through "Guurti", a council of elders that acts as the de facto parliament in Somaliland. Security forces fired live ammunition to disperse the protest and arrested approximately 100 protestors. Somaliland's commander of police operations, Ibrahim Abdi Haji, accused the political opposition of the violence stating that their leaders will be accountable for what happened. Somaliland President Muse Bihi Abdi on 12 August announced that at least five people had been killed and 100 more injured following clashes between security forces and protesters.¹²⁵

South Sudan

General situation

According to the United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA), at least 95 people died in intercommunal conflicts in Kapoeta North County, Eastern Equatoria, in July 2022.¹²⁶ The humanitarian situation remains dire, more than 17,500 people were displaced, and 7.7 million people are at risk of food insecurity.

The implementation of the R-ARCSS, September 2018 has been slow. On 4 August 2022, President Salva Kiir and four other political groups signed a roadmap extending the transitional period as per the R-ARCSS for two years. The transitional period was initially due to expire on 22 February 2023. President Salva Kiir claimed that the extension would give time to prepare for elections, unite the armed forces, and create a new constitution.¹²⁷

On the same day, the Non-Signatory South Sudan Opposition Groups (NSSSOG), a new political alignment formed in July 2022, described the extension as "illegal."¹²⁸ They also claimed that the President and the First Vice President extended the agreement as a tactic to stay in power. The NSSOG comprises the United Democratic Revolutionary Movement/Army UDRM/A, National Democratic Movement Patriotic Front (NDM-PF), National Salvation

¹²⁴ Voice Of America, "Protesters, Security Forces Clash in Somaliland; Three Reported Killed," 11 August 2022, <https://www.voanews.com/a/protesters-security-forces-clash-in-somaliland/6697654.html>, Accessed on 7 October 2022.

¹²⁵ Aljazeera, "Clashes between protesters, police turn deadly," 12 August 2022, <https://www.aljazeera.com/news/2022/8/12/several-people-killed-100-hurt-in-somaliland-protests>, Accessed on 7 October 2022.

¹²⁶ The East African, "95 killed in South Sudan communal conflicts," 19 August 2022 <https://www.theeastafrican.co.ke/tea/news/east-africa/communal-conflicts-south-sudan-3919494>, Accessed on 29 September 2022.

¹²⁷ Human Rights Watch, "Use Peace Deal Extension for Reforms," 18 August 2022, <https://www.hrw.org/news/2022/08/18/south-sudan-use-peace-deal-extension-reforms>, Accessed on 29 September 2022.

¹²⁸ Sudan Tribune, "Holdout groups reject extension of S. Sudan's transitional period," 7 August 2022, <https://sudantribune.com/article262479/>, Accessed on 29 September 2022.

Front (NAS), South Sudan United Front/Army (SSUF/A), and Sudan National Movement for Change (SSNMC).¹²⁹ Tensions in the country are likely to increase.

On 6 September 2022, the UN Mission in South Sudan (UNMISS) and the Office of the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR) published a joint report, which revealed that between 11 February and 31 May 2022, at least 173 civilians died because of clashes. The report also documented widespread human rights violations, including 131 abductions and cases of sexual violence. The conflicts displaced approximately 44,000 civilians from at least 26 villages in Koch, Leer, Mayendit, and neighboring areas.¹³⁰

Freedom of opinion and expression

On 19 May 2022, the Minister of Information and Communication in South Sudan's East-Central Jonglei State, John Samuel Manyon, suspended the local Radio Jonglei community broadcaster in Bor town.¹³¹ The ministerial order claimed that the station intentionally "supplanted" and "undermined" the state leadership. The station was accused of censoring a speech delivered by Governor Denay Chagor on Sudan People's Liberation Army (SPLA) day, a holiday commemorating the formation of the then rebel group in 1983.¹³² In a letter to the state government, the Media Authority, a group responsible for mediating disputes between the government and the media, demanded the reopening of the radio station. The suspension was lifted a week later.¹³³ Radio Jonglei was previously closed on 24 August 2021.¹³⁴ The National Security Service (NSS) accused the radio station of promoting hate speech and suspended the radio station temporarily.¹³⁵ The suspension was lifted in September 2021.

On 7 August 2022, South Sudanese authorities arrested freelance journalist Diing Magot, who was reporting for Voice of America (VOA).¹³⁶ Magot was arrested together with other protestors while covering the above-mentioned protest of high inflation and other economic difficulties in Juba. According to a statement by VOA, Magot did not have her press card when she was arrested. The South Sudan Media Authority required a document from VOA stating

¹²⁹ Radio Tamazuj, "Gen. Pagan Amum appointed spokesperson for holdout opposition group", 16 June 2022, <https://radiotamazuj.org/en/news/article/gen-pagan-amum-appointed-spokesperson-of-holdout-opposition-group>. Accessed on 29 September 2022.

¹³⁰ United Nations, "Human rights violations in Unity state committed with 'impunity,'" 6 September 2022, <https://news.un.org/en/story/2022/09/1126091>. Accessed on 29 September 2022.

¹³¹ The City Review, "Radio Jonglei taken off air, again," 19 May 2022, <https://cityreviewss.com/radio-jonglei-taken-off-air-again/>. Accessed on 29 September 2022.

¹³² Eye Radio, "Radio Jonglei reopens after a week's shutdown by authorities," 25 May 2022, <https://www.eyeradio.org/radio-jonglei-reopens-after-a-weeks-shutdown-by-authorities/#:~:text=Radio%20Jonglei%20is%20back%20on,it%20opened%20yesterday%20%5BTuesday%5D>. Accessed on 29 September 2022.

¹³³ Ibid

¹³⁴ The City Review, "Radio Jonglei reopens after month-long closure," 25 September 2021, <https://cityreviewss.com/radio-jonglei-reopens-after-month-long-closure/>. Accessed on 29 September 2022.

¹³⁵ CIVICUS, "Crack down on Civic activists and media workers on the rise," 28 January 2022, <https://monitor.civicus.org/updates/2022/01/28/crackdown-civic-activists-and-media-workers-rise/>. Accessed on 23 September 2022.

¹³⁶ Committee to Protect Journalists, "South Sudan journalist Diing Magot arrested while covering protest for Voice of America" 7 August 2022, <https://cpj.org/2022/08/south-sudan-journalist-diing-magot-arrested-while-covering-protest-for-voice-of-america/>. Accessed on 29 September 2022.

that she was freelancing for them and that she was there on assignment to grant her release.¹³⁷ Despite a letter from the broadcaster, Magot was kept in custody without charges.

On 15 August 2022, South Sudanese authorities released Magot on bail.¹³⁸ She was charged with crimes related to protesting. Patrick Oyet, president of the Union of Journalists of South Sudan (UJOSS) trade group, confirmed that one of the charges was under section 82 of the Penal Code. This provision relates to "possession of articles for criminal use," which carries a maximum sentence of one year in jail, a fine, or both. The police confiscated Magot's phone and recorder and will present it to court as evidence.¹³⁹ The managing director of South Sudan's Media Authority stated that Magot is a "journalist and not a protestor" and the media authority should handle her case.

Freedom of peaceful assembly

In June 2022, 39 teachers in Rumbek, Lake States, were arrested for demanding payment of their salary arrears.¹⁴⁰ The primary and secondary teachers were arrested while peacefully marching to Parliament. Community Empowerment for Progress Organisation (CEPO), an NGO, released a statement condemning this action and warned the government against "using detention as a tradition to intimidate and harass" civil servants. A few days later, 33 teachers were released following an order from the governor to release all teachers.¹⁴¹ Six teachers purported to be "ring leaders" remained in detention without charges and were denied access to see their family members.¹⁴² On 23 August 2022, the County Court Judge acquitted the six teachers.¹⁴³ The Court dismissed the case for lack of evidence.

On 11 August 2022, the civil servants declared a general strike over non-payment of five months' salaries.¹⁴⁴ South Sudanese authorities arrested the Chairperson of Teachers' Union, Reuben Matio Mayol, the Chairperson of Jonglei Workers' Trade Union, David Mayen, and his secretary, Samuel Majier Looch. The three were arrested for leading a peaceful

¹³⁷U.S agency for Global Media, "VOA statement on arrest of its freelance journalist in Juba, South Sudan," 9 August 2022, <https://www.usagm.gov/2022/08/09/statement-on-arrest-of-voa-freelance-journalist-in-juba-south-sudan/>, Accessed on 29 September 2022.

¹³⁸Committee to Protect Journalists, "South Sudan journalist Diing Magot released on bail, charged," 15 August 2022 <https://cpj.org/2022/08/south-sudan-journalist-diing-magot-released-on-bail-charged/>, Accessed on 29 September 2022.

¹³⁹ Committee to Protect Journalists, "South Sudan journalist Diing Magot released on bail, charged," 15 August 2022 <https://cpj.org/2022/08/south-sudan-journalist-diing-magot-released-on-bail-charged/>, Accessed on 29 September 2022.

¹⁴⁰The Press Radio , "21 more teachers arrested, detained at Rumbek's Panda Military Barracks in South Sudan," 21 September 2022, <https://thepressradio.com/21-more-teachers-arrested-detained-at-rumbeks-panda-military-barracks-in-south-sudan/>, Accessed on 29 September 2022.

¹⁴¹Africa Press, "Over 30 detained teachers released," 26 June 2022, <https://www.africa-press.net/south-sudan/all-news/rumbek-over-30-detained-teachers-released>, Accessed on 21 September 2022.

¹⁴²Eye Radio, "Wives of detained Rumbek teachers cry out for their release," 27 July 2022, <https://www.eyeradio.org/wives-of-detained-rumbek-teachers-cry-out-for-their-release/>, Accessed on 29 September 2022.

¹⁴⁴Eye Radio, "Jonglei civil servants on strike over arrears," 12 August 2022, <https://www.eyeradio.org/jonglei-civil-servants-on-strike-over-arrears/>, Accessed on 29 September 2022.

demonstration in Bor, Jonglei.¹⁴⁵ On 31 August 2022, the union workers allegedly escaped from police custody with the help of police on duty.¹⁴⁶

On 8 August 2022, South Sudanese youth and university students demonstrated against high living costs and high unemployment levels.¹⁴⁷ The authorities arrested six protestors and allegedly shot another in the leg.¹⁴⁸ The police spokesman announced that some youths were arrested, but he could not confirm the number. He also claimed that the youth were members of the opposition who staged the protest.¹⁴⁹

Sudan

General situation

On 28 April 2022, Human Rights Watch documented violations, including mistreating detained protesters by security forces, stripping children of clothing, and threatening sexual assault against women.¹⁵⁰ Additionally, they noted that hundreds had been unlawfully detained since the coup and forcibly disappeared, with the police and the General Investigation Service (GIS) being the primary violators.

On 19 May 2022, ahead of the 50th Human Rights Council session, DefendDefenders and other NGOs called on states to maintain paying attention to the human rights situation in Sudan.¹⁵¹ The 54 signatories of the letter, which was made public today, claim that "while the Expert's mandate is ongoing, a resolution is required for the Council to hold public debates and continue to address the matter formally." They argue that budgetary provisions are necessary for this to occur.

On 20 May 2022, the work of the independent investigative committee looking into the violent dispersal of the sit-in, in front of the army command in Khartoum on 3 June 2019 was halted.¹⁵² According to Nabil Adib, the head of the independent committee responsible for the investigation activities cannot continue their investigation under the present military administration.

¹⁴⁵Ibid

¹⁴⁶Eye Radio, "Bor authorities insist three runaway workers hiding with families," 31 August 2022, <https://www.eyeradio.org/bor-authorities-insist-three-runaway-workers-hiding-with-families/>, Accessed 29 September 2022.

¹⁴⁷Radio Tamazuj, "Police confirm arrests made after Konyo-Konyo protest," 8 August 2022, <https://www.radiotamazuj.org/en/news/article/police-confirm-arrests-made-after-konyo-konyo-protest>, Accessed on 29 September 2022.

¹⁴⁸Eye Radio, "Police arrest VOA reporter during protest in Juba," 8 August 2022 <https://www.eyeradio.org/police-arrest-voa-reporter-during-protest-in-juba/>, Accessed on 29 September 2022.

¹⁴⁹ Ibid

¹⁵⁰Human Rights Watch, "Hundreds of Protesters Detained, Mistreated," 28 April 2022, <https://www.hrw.org/news/2022/04/28/sudan-hundreds-protesters-detained-mistreated>, Accessed on 29 September 2022.

¹⁵¹ DefendDefenders, "Public debates on the human rights situation are needed," 19 May 2022, <https://defenddefenders.org/sudan-public-debates-on-the-human-rights-situation-are-needed/>, Accessed on 29 September 2022.

¹⁵²Dabanga, "June 3 Massacre investigation committee forced to suspend its activities," 20 May 2022, <https://www.dabangasudan.org/en/all-news/article/june-3-massacre-investigation-committee-forced-to-suspend-its-activities>, Accessed on 29 September 2022.

On 29 May 2022, Sudan's military leaders declared they were ending a state of emergency that had been in place for seven months.¹⁵³ The authorities freed approximately 100 people who were detained in connection with the protests.¹⁵⁴ The decree was issued "to prepare the atmosphere for a fruitful and meaningful dialogue that achieves stability for the transitional period". The military leaders took this action before a scheduled UN-designated expert on Sudanese human rights visit.¹⁵⁵ Authorities in Khartoum released 115 people on bond during his previous visit in February 2021. However, arbitrary arrests soon after started happening.

Between 6 and 11 June 2022, conflict erupted between the Gimir and Rezeigat communities in Um Hereez village in Kulbus locality, West Darfur.¹⁵⁶ The conflict reportedly killed 125 people and displaced 50000 people. In addition, the attackers allegedly looted livestock and burned houses.

On 5 July 2022, Army chief Al-Burhan announced that the military would withdraw from the negotiations "to make room for political and revolutionary forces and other national factions" to establish a civilian government.¹⁵⁷ The negotiations were being mediated by the African Union, United Nations, and the Intergovernmental Authority on Development (IGAD) bloc. Once a government is established, Burhan stated that he would dissolve the Sovereign Council, an executive body that he chairs and shares power with civilian politicians, and appoint a supreme military council with security, defence "and related responsibilities". On 16 September 2022, General Mohamed Hamdan Dagalo reaffirmed the military's intention to withdraw from politics and cede control to the civilian government.¹⁵⁸

On 9 October 2022 the African Union Peace and Security Council (AUPSC) directed the Commission to nominate a facilitator for the Abyei Joint Oversight Committee (AJOC) and assist AJOC in carrying out its functions in accordance with the Agreement on the Temporary Arrangements on Security and Administration.¹⁵⁹ The Committee was tasked with pursuing the final status of the Abyei administrative area through coordination with their counterparts from Sudan. Edmund Yakani, the Executive Director of CEPO welcomed the recent move by Sudan and South Sudan to form a committee to negotiate the final status of

¹⁵³ France 24, "Sudan lifts state of emergency imposed since military coup," 29 May 2022, <https://www.france24.com/en/africa/20220529-sudan-lifts-state-of-emergency-imposed-since-military-coup>, Accessed on 29 September 2022.

¹⁵⁴ Alarabiya, "Some political detainees freed in Sudan after emergency law lifted," 19 May 2022, <https://english.alarabiya.net/News/world/2022/05/30/Some-political-detainees-freed-in-Sudan-after-emergency-law-lifted>, Accessed on 29 September 2022.

¹⁵⁵ Human Rights Watch, "Keep Pressure on Sudan's Coup Leaders," 31 May 2022, <https://www.hrw.org/news/2022/05/31/keep-pressure-sudans-coup-leaders>, Accessed on 29 September 2022.

¹⁵⁶ Relief web "Conflict in Kulbus locality, West Darfur," 14 June 2022, <https://reliefweb.int/report/sudan/sudan-conflict-kulbus-locality-west-darfur-flash-update-no-01-14-june-2022-enar>, Accessed on 29 September 2022.

¹⁵⁷ "Sudan activists reject army offer as 'ruse', urge more protests," 5 July 2022, <https://www.aljazeera.com/news/2022/7/5/sudan-civilians-reject-army-offer-as-ruse-urge-more-protests>, Accessed on 29 September 2022.

¹⁵⁸ International Crisis Group, "Crisis Watch," September 2022, <https://www.crisisgroup.org/crisiswatch/october-alerts-and-september-trends-2022>, Accessed on 29 September 2022.

¹⁵⁹ Sudan Tribune, "AU calls for nomination of special envoy for Abyei", 9 October 2022, <https://sudantribune.com/article265136/>, Accessed 12 October 2022

the disputed oil-producing region. He further stated that the final status of Abyei should be determined through the Abyei Protocol.

Freedom of opinion and expression

Ahead of the 30 June protests to pressure the military into handing power back to civilian leaders, the government of Sudan disconnected internet access throughout the nation.¹⁶⁰ Internet shutdowns are reportedly a common practice by authorities in anticipation of demonstrations. The shutdown affected both fixed-line and mobile services, and most users were offline.

In August 2022, Sudanese journalists defied the country's military authorities to form the country's first independent union in more than three decades.¹⁶¹ The last independent journalists' union was dissolved in 1989 when Omar al-Bashir came to power, kick-starting a tragic era for press freedom with hundreds of journalists detained over his three-decade rule. The latest effort follows the successful alliance of Sudan's professionals, including journalists, in 2016 to form the Sudanese Professionals Association to campaign for increased civic space, which climaxed in President Bashir's ousting three years later.¹⁶²

In September 2022, African Center for Justice and Peace Studies (ACJPS) documented several instances where Sudanese authorities have restricted freedom of opinion and expression and press freedom. For example, on 10 September 2022, officers arrested and tortured Seifeldin Adam Ahmed over a Facebook post. Ahmed was charged with defamation under article 159 of the Sudanese Penal Code because of his Facebook post regarding four Christians in Zalingei who were detained and accused of apostasy after a police raid into their church.¹⁶³

On 12 September 2022, the court dismissed the case of Ibrahim Nugdallah, a professional photographer who was charged with public noise and disturbance of public peace and photography of military areas under articles 77, 69 and 57 Sudanese Penal Act, 1991.¹⁶⁴ As Nugdallah was documenting pro-democracy protests on 17 July 2022, military Intelligence detained him, took his equipment, and interrogated him.¹⁶⁵

¹⁶⁰ The Record, "Sudan government shuts off internet ahead of anti-coup protest," 30 June 2022, <https://therecord.media/sudan-government-shuts-off-internet-ahead-of-anti-coup-protest/>, Accessed on 29 September 2022.

¹⁶¹The Guardian, "Sudan journalists defy military rule by forming first union in 30 years," 30 August 2022, <https://www.theguardian.com/global-development/2022/aug/30/sudan-journalists-defy-military-rule-by-forming-first-union-in-30-years>, Accessed on 29 September 2022.

¹⁶² Arab org, "Claim listing," <https://arab.org/directory/sudanese-professionals-association/>, Accessed on 29 September 2022.

¹⁶³ Dabanga, "Darfur activist tortured, charged with defamation over Facebook post," 11 September 2022, <https://www.dabangasudan.org/en/all-news/article/darfur-man-tortured-then-charged-with-defamation-over-facebook-post>, Accessed on 29 September 2022.

¹⁶⁴ Dabanga, "ACJPS documents harassment and censorship of journalists in Sudan," 26 September 2022, <https://www.dabangasudan.org/en/all-news/article/acjps-documents-harassment-and-censorship-of-journalists-in-sudan>, Accessed on 29 September 2022.

¹⁶⁵ Dabanga "More than 70 injured in Khartoum demos, young Sudanese 'shaved' again," 14 September 2022, <https://www.dabangasudan.org/en/all-news/article/more-than-70-injured-in-khartoum-demos-young-sudanese-shaved-again>, Accessed on 29 September 2022.

On 13 September 2022, two Sudanese journalists were prevented by police from reporting the Marches of the Millions in Khartoum.¹⁶⁶ Police officers threw a tear gas canister at journalist Hussein Hennerly while he was covering the rally. Separately, Amira Saleh "was held by police with batons. After the demonstration was over, she was released with no charges.

Freedom of peaceful assembly

On 12 April 2022, authorities in Sudan launched a campaign of arrests across Khartoum in anticipation of protests to commemorate the third anniversary of the overthrow of the country's long-ruling President, Omar Bashir. Security forces allegedly attacked a convoy of protestors in Bahri, arrested several demonstrators and confiscated their belongings. In a statement, the protestors' Popular Resistance Committee condemned the "arbitrary and illegal arrests."¹⁶⁷

In a new report, Human Rights Watch noted that Sudan's security forces have unlawfully detained hundreds of protestors since December 2021 and forcibly disappeared scores as part of its broader clampdown on opposition to the 25 October military coup.¹⁶⁸ "The ruthless and brutal targeting of protestors is an attempt to instill fear and has largely evaded international scrutiny," the report noted in part.

At least 15 people were injured in Khartoum and Omdurman states following confrontations between protestors and Sudan security authorities.¹⁶⁹ On 1 June 2022, hundreds of protestors took to the streets in both Khartoum and Omdurman, protesting the continued reluctance of the military authorities to entirely hand back power to civilian leadership, prompting the security services to use excessive teargas and rubber bullets to quell them.

On 30 June, at least eight people were shot dead in central Khartoum as protestors continued protesting the reluctance of the military to hand over power even as they marked the third anniversary of the ousting of longtime ruler Omar Bashir.¹⁷⁰ Hundreds of protestors turned up in Khartoum, Omdurman and Bahri despite a strong military presence and communications blackout.

¹⁶⁶ Dabanga, "ACJPS documents harassment and censorship of journalists in Sudan," 26 September 2022, <https://www.dabangasudan.org/en/all-news/article/acjps-documents-harassment-and-censorship-of-journalists-in-sudan>, Accessed on

¹⁶⁷ Dabanga, "Mass detentions amid Sudan's revolution anniversary protests," 12 April 2022, <https://www.dabangasudan.org/en/all-news/article/mass-arrests-amid-sudan-s-revolution-anniversary-protests>, Accessed on

¹⁶⁸ Human Rights Watch, "Hundreds of Protesters Detained, Mistreated," 28 April 2022, <https://www.hrw.org/news/2022/04/28/sudan-hundreds-protesters-detained-mistreated>, Accessed on

¹⁶⁹ Dabanga, "15 injured during June 13 protests," 15 June 2022, <https://www.dabangasudan.org/en/all-news/article/sudan-doctors-15-injured-during-june-13-protests>, Accessed on

¹⁷⁰ Reuters, "Eight killed in Sudan as protestors rally on uprising anniversary," 1 July 2022, <https://www.reuters.com/world/africa/internet-cut-sudans-capital-ahead-pro-democracy-protests-2022-06-30/>, Accessed on

On 1 July 2022, the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights, Michelle Bachelet, said she was alarmed by the killing of nine protesters, including a 15-year-old teenager, by Sudan's security forces as part of their sustained crackdown against peaceful protests.¹⁷¹ The protests, which have been ongoing for the most part of this year, are seeking to bear upon the de facto military government to hand back power to civilian authorities since the former's power grab in a coup in October last year.

On 14 August 2022, Sudan's emergency lawyers said 35 people, including four children, were detained following the march of millions protest in Khartoum and Omdurman, part of continuous protests by Sudanese activists against the country's military authorities.¹⁷²

On 31 August 2022, the Central Committee of Sudan Doctors denounced a decision by Sudan's Senior Public Prosecutor to bury unidentified bodies in mortuaries without recording forensic details.¹⁷³ They noted that it was an attempt to conceal evidence of crimes and human rights violations committed by the military authorities against activists, many of whom have been killed since the protests that overthrew Omar Bashir and proceeding ones that have continued to resist Sudan's military authorities.

During the anti-junta marches of the millions protest in September 2022, authorities injured approximately 74 protestors, including a minor who was run over by a car belonging to the security forces.¹⁷⁴ Police officers fired tear gas to disperse the protest and detained several people.

Tanzania

General situation

On 20 May 2022, Tanzania's ruling party Chama Cha Mapinduzi (CCM) and the main opposition camp Chama Cha Demokrasia na Maendeleo (Chadema), held talks discussing the revival of the constitutional reform process, which had stagnated in 2014, and restoring constitutional and civil rights that the previous administration had threatened.¹⁷⁵ This could be an indication of bettering relations between the two major groups.¹⁷⁶ On 9 May 2022,

¹⁷¹ United Nations, "UN human rights chief alarmed over killing of protesters by security forces," 1 July 2022, <https://news.un.org/en/story/2022/07/1121882>, Accessed on

¹⁷² Dabanga, "At least 35 detained following March of Millions in Sudan," 14 August 2022, <https://www.dabangasudan.org/en/all-news/article/sudan-s-security-forces-arrest-35-people-following-march-of-millions-protest>, Accessed on

¹⁷³ Dabanga, "Sudan Doctors Committee protests 'burying of unidentified bodies,'" 31 August 2022, <https://www.dabangasudan.org/en/all-news/article/sudan-doctors-protest-the-burying-of-unidentified-bodies>, Accessed on

¹⁷⁴ Dabanga, "More than 70 injured in Khartoum demos, young Sudanese 'shaved' again," 14 September 2022, <https://www.dabangasudan.org/en/all-news/article/more-than-70-injured-in-khartoum-demos-young-sudanese-shaved-again>, Accessed on

¹⁷⁵The Citizen, "Samia chairs first meeting between CCM, Chadema leaders," 20 May 2022, <https://www.thecitizen.co.tz/tanzania/news/national/samia-chairs-first-meeting-between-ccm-chadema-leaders-3822420>, Accessed on 29 September 2022.

¹⁷⁶ The East African, "Chadema youth arrested despite dialogue," 28 May 2022, <https://www.theeastafrican.co.ke/tea/news/east-africa/chadema-youth-arrested-despite-dialogue-3829866>, Accessed on 29 September 2022.

President Samia Suluhu and opposition member of Chadema Freeman Mbowe met privately for the second time since he was released.¹⁷⁷ Mbowe believes these talks will "lay a foundation for positive political dialogue" between the ruling party and the opposition parties.¹⁷⁸

On 1 June 2022, the Tanzanian government paid CHADEMA politician Tundu Lissu his parliamentary dues for more than three years of service. Since 2018 Lissu was in exile in Belgium following an assassination attempt against him.¹⁷⁹ Since then, his efforts in claiming benefits and medical bills were unsuccessful. Lissu claimed that he discussed the situation with President Samia Suluhu Hassan during their February 2022 meeting in Belgium, and that she promised to help.¹⁸⁰ Following his meeting with the President, the Ministry of Finance and Planning called to inform him that the benefits he was claiming had been paid to a bank that he owed money to, and he was instructed to write a letter asking for reimbursement of his medical bills.¹⁸¹

On 17 June 2022, three human rights organisations filed a joint amicus curiae brief with the African Court on Human and Peoples' Rights for a case concerning Tanzania's discriminatory exclusion of female students who are expecting, married, or have children.¹⁸² In November 2020, Equality Now, a women's rights organisation, and Tike Mwambipile, Executive Director of the Tanzania Women Lawyers' Association, filed a joint lawsuit against the Tanzanian government at the African Court, which has its seat in Arusha.¹⁸³

The task force responsible for reviewing Tanzania's Constitution is set to present its final report to President Samia Suluhu.¹⁸⁴ The Registrar of Political Parties established the task force in December 2022 and is made up of representatives from several political parties, CSOs, academics, clergy persons, lawyers, and media worker representative groups.

¹⁷⁷The EastAfrican, "Tanzania's President Samia meets opposition leader Freeman Mbowe, again," 10 May 2022, <https://www.theeastafrican.co.ke/tea/news/east-africa/tanzania-samia-suluhu-meets-opposition-leader-freeman-mbowe-3810296>, Accessed on 29 September 2022.

¹⁷⁸The East African, "CCM, Chadema readying for a roundtable meeting," 15 May 2022, <https://www.theeastafrican.co.ke/tea/news/east-africa/ccm-chadema-readying-for-a-roundtable-meeting-3814882>, Accessed on 30 September 2022.

¹⁷⁹Civicus Monitor, "Dissidents and critics bear heavy brunt of increasing restrictions on expression," 22 April 2020, <https://monitor.civicus.org/updates/2020/04/22/tanzania-dissidents-and-critics-bear-heavy-brunt-increasing-restrictions-expression/>, Accessed on 30 September 2022.

¹⁸⁰ Civicus Monitor, "President Suluhu acts on promise to expand media freedoms, arbitrary arrests of journalists continue," 17 May 2022, <https://monitor.civicus.org/updates/2022/05/17/president-suluhu-acts-promise-expand-media-freedoms-arbitrary-arrests-journalists-continue/>, Accessed on 30 September 2022.

¹⁸¹ The East African, "Tundu Lissu finally gets his parliamentary dues," 2 June 2022, <https://www.theeastafrican.co.ke/tea/news/east-africa/tundu-lissu-parliamentary-dues-3835958>, Accessed on 30 September 2022.

¹⁸² Human Rights Watch, "In the matter of the african court on human and people's Rights at arusha," 6 June 2022, https://www.hrw.org/sites/default/files/media_2022/06/Amicus%20brief%20ISLA%20HRW%20WLW%20submitted%20170722_0.pdf, Accessed on 30 September 2022.

¹⁸³Equality now, "Court Case Filed Against Tanzania To Overturn Ban On Pregnant Girls Attending School," 19 November 2020, https://www.equalitynow.org/press_release/tanzania_african_court_pregnant_schoolgirls_nov2020/, Accessed on 30 September 2022.

¹⁸⁴The East African, "Tanzania constitution review team starts work on final report ," 18 September 2022, <https://www.theeastafrican.co.ke/tea/news/east-africa/tanzania-constitution-review-team-starts-work-on-final-report-3951762>, Accessed on 3 October 2022.

Tanzania's present constitution, adopted in 1977 when it was still a one-party state, has continued to serve as the basis for subsequent elections.

On 30 September 2022, the East African Court of Justice heard a lawsuit filed by a group of Maasai villagers who claimed that the Tanzanian government forcibly evicted them from their ancestral grounds.¹⁸⁵ Three judges ruled that the case lacked merit, rejecting the evidence regarding the use of violence. Human rights organisations criticised the ruling, declaring it might set a dangerous precedent, driving indigenous peoples away from their land in the name of conservation.

Freedom of association

On 28 May 2022, police officers arrested 20 members of CHADEMA's youth wing for illegal assembly.¹⁸⁶ They were released without charges after a few hours. CHADEMA protocol and communications chief John Mrema claimed that people with their own interests are using the police task force to disrupt the political conciliation between CCM and CHADEMA.

On 10 June 2022, Tanzanian authorities fired tear gas and live bullets at the Masai people in the Lolindo area over a land dispute.¹⁸⁷ As a result, approximately 10 people have been injured, and a few have sustained bullet wounds on their feet, legs, back and head.¹⁸⁸ As mentioned above residents protested the government's intention to evict 167,000 Maasai from the NCA and Loliondo to make way for trophy hunting and elite tourists earlier this year.¹⁸⁹

Freedom of opinion and expression

On 3 May 2022, President Samia Suluhu Hassan ordered a revision of the country's media law to encourage press freedom.¹⁹⁰ She stated that her administration is currently in contact with media representatives. Minister for Information, Communication and Information Technology, Nape Nnauye, claimed that the parliament is working closely with media professionals to review the legislation.¹⁹¹ The government planned to amend the Media

¹⁸⁵ Reuters, "Regional court dismisses Maasai eviction case against Tanzania government," 1 October 2022, <https://www.reuters.com/world/africa/regional-court-dismisses-masai-eviction-case-against-tanzania-government-2022-09-30/>, Accessed on 3 October 2022.

¹⁸⁶ The East African, "Chadema youth arrested despite dialogue," 28 May 2022, <https://www.theeastafrican.co.ke/tea/news/east-africa/chadema-youth-arrested-despite-dialogue-3829866>, Accessed on 3 October 2022.

¹⁸⁷ Twitter, "Survival" 10 June 2022, https://twitter.com/Survival/status/1535205588090687488?ref_src=twsrc%5Etfw, Accessed on 3 October 2022.

¹⁸⁸ Climate Change, "Tanzanian authorities seen opening fire on Maasai people in game reserve dispute, 10 June 2022" <https://www.climatechangenews.com/2022/06/10/tanzanian-authorities-seen-opening-fire-on-masai-people-in-game-reserve-dispute/>, Accessed on 3 October 2022.

¹⁸⁹ Civic Monitor "President Suluhu acts on promise to expand media freedoms, arbitrary arrests of journalists continue," 17 May 2022, <https://monitor.civics.org/updates/2022/05/17/president-suluhu-acts-promise-expand-media-freedoms-arbitrary-arrests-journalists-continue/>, Accessed on 3 October 2022.

¹⁹⁰ The East African, "Tanzania to review 'harsh' media laws," 3 May 2022, <https://www.theeastafrican.co.ke/tea/news/east-africa/president-samia-tanzania-to-review-harsh-media-law-3803272>, Accessed on 3 October 2022.

¹⁹¹ The East African, "President Samia to address press freedom forum in Tanzania/" 3 May 2022, <https://www.theeastafrican.co.ke/tea/news/east-africa/president-samia-press-freedom-tanzania-3802782>, Accessed on 3 October 2022.

Services Act (2016) following criticism that the law curtailed freedom of speech.¹⁹² She, however, warned journalists against irresponsible reporting and urged them to focus on development agendas instead of "copying foreign news".

On 1 July 2022, TCRA ordered online news outlet DarMpya to suspend its publication after discovering the outlet's license expired in 2021.¹⁹³ TRCA noted in a letter that the news outlet breached the Electronic and Postal Communications (Online Content) Regulations. The letter stated that the inspection was conducted in response to concerns about how DarMpya covered a protest, although it did not specify what report.

On 13 September 2022, Information Minister Nape Nnauye warned against promoting same-sex relations on social media.¹⁹⁴ In a press conference held at TCRA headquarters in Dar es Salaam, he stated that they would not tolerate popularising acts against the "established traditions" in Tanzania. Nnauye accused some people of using content related to cartoons popular among children to promote same-sex relationships.

Freedom of peaceful assembly

In June 2022, 25 Maasai pastoralists were charged with murder and conspiracy to murder.¹⁹⁵ The Prosecutor accused the pastoralists of conspiring to murder government and police officers deployed in the game reserve and of killing Garlus Mwita, a police officer, in Ololosokwan Village, Ngorongoro District. On 10 June 2022, an arrow allegedly shot the officer while attempting to demarcate land in Loliondo. Tanzanian authorities fired live bullets and teargas to disperse demonstrations against the forceful eviction of the Maasai.¹⁹⁶

Uganda

General situation

On 29 June 2022, Human Rights Watch urged President Museveni to initiate steps to fulfil his commitment to end rights abuses by Uganda's security forces by prosecuting several high-profile security actors who have been implicated in illegal detention and torture of suspects and the unexplained disappearances of others.¹⁹⁷ President Yoweri Museveni promised to address the country's security forces' oppressive treatment of civil society and journalists.

¹⁹² Civicus Monitor "President Suluhu acts on promise to expand media freedoms, arbitrary arrests of journalists continue," 17 May 2022, <https://monitor.civicus.org/updates/2022/05/17/president-suluhu-acts-promise-expand-media-freedoms-arbitrary-arrests-journalists-continue/>, Accessed on 3 October 2022.

¹⁹³ CPJ, "Tanzanian regulator suspends DarMpya online news outlet, citing expired license," 12 July 2022, <https://cpj.org/2022/07/tanzanian-regulator-suspends-darmpya-online-news-outlet-citing-expired-license/>, Accessed on 3 October 2022.

¹⁹⁴ Africa News, "Tanzania warns against sharing pro-LGBTQI content," 12 September 2022, <https://www.africanews.com/2022/09/12/tanzania-warns-against-sharing-pro-lgbtqi-content/>, Accessed on 3 October 2022.

¹⁹⁵ Africa News, "Maasai protesters in court over death of policeman," 30 June 2022, <https://www.africanews.com/2022/06/30/tanzania-maasai-protesters-in-court-over-death-of-policeman/>, Accessed on 4 October 2022.

¹⁹⁶ Civicus Monitor "President Suluhu acts on promise to expand media freedoms, arbitrary arrests of journalists continue," 17 May 2022, <https://monitor.civicus.org/updates/2022/05/17/president-suluhu-acts-promise-expand-media-freedoms-arbitrary-arrests-journalists-continue/>, Accessed on 4 October 2022.

¹⁹⁷ Human Rights Watch, "Uganda president pledges rights improvements," 1 July 2022, <https://www.hrw.org/news/2022/07/01/uganda-president-pledges-rights-improvements>, Accessed on 4 October 2022.

On 15 September 2022, the European Union (EU) Parliament adopted a resolution denouncing the human rights violations and the environmental and climate concerns posed by the Tilenga and East African Crude Oil Pipeline (EACOP) projects, developed by Total in Uganda and Tanzania.¹⁹⁸ The resolution further denounces the harassment and persecution of HRDs and members of CSOs who opposed the project, noting that numerous HRDs were unlawfully detained. Moreover, over 100,000 people were evicted and denied land use before receiving compensation.

Freedom of association

On 3 August 2022, the NGO Bureau, the government body that regulates NGOs in Uganda, suspended the operations of SMUG for failing to register with the NGO Bureau.¹⁹⁹ Frank Mugisha, the executive director of SMUG, claimed that the suspension was the result of "a clear witch-hunt rooted in systematic homophobia that is fueled by anti-gay and anti-gender movements".²⁰⁰ The NGO Bureau denied a 2012 application to register SMUG because they found the name of the organisation to be "undesirable and un-registrable."

This is the most recent instance of intimidation and limitations imposed on civil CSOs. The NGO Bureau suspended the operations of 54 CSOs in August 2021.

Before the suspension, the police and other authorities harassed SMUG repeatedly.²⁰¹ On 19 May 2022, authorities arrested two of SMUG's employees while they reported the attacks on the SMUG office.²⁰² They were charged with promotion of homosexuality and recruitment of people into homosexuality", and they were held in custody for four days.²⁰³ Police officers have since launched investigations into three more SMUG employees, including Frank Mugisha, for "recruitment to homosexuality." SMUG discovered in June that the NGO bureau had been surveilling their office at the police's direction.²⁰⁴

Freedom of opinion and expression

Four journalists were detained following the death of Jinja city businessman Shaban Malole on 14 May 2022.²⁰⁵ Ivan Mutyaba, Denis Isabirye, Jacklin Nabatanzi, and Muganza Julius

¹⁹⁸Amis de la Terre, "European parliament adopts a resolution condemning Total's EACOP project," 15 September 2022, <https://www.amisdelaterre.org/communiqué-presse/european-parliament-adopts-a-resolution-condemning-totals-eacop-project/>, Accessed on 4 October 2022.

¹⁹⁹ BBC, "Government shuts down key advocacy group," 7 August, <https://www.bbc.com/news/world-africa-62453344>, Accessed on 4 October 2022.

²⁰⁰Press Statement, "Statement on the Shutdown of the Operations of Sexual Minorities Uganda by the National Bureau for Non-Governmental Organizations," 5 August 2022, https://crd.org/wp-content/uploads/2022/08/20220805_PRESS_STATEMENT_ON_CLOSURE_OF_SEXUALMINORITIESUGANDA-1.pdf, Accessed on 4 October 2022.

²⁰¹ Civil Rights Defenders, "LGBTI+ Rights Defenders arrested after turning to the police for help," 10 June 2022, <https://crd.org/2022/06/10/uganda-lgbti-rights-defenders-arrested-after-turning-to-the-police-for-help/>, Accessed on 4 October 2022.

²⁰² Ibid

²⁰³ Civil Rights Defenders, "Sexual Minorities Uganda suspended by authorities," 10 August 2022, <https://crd.org/2022/08/10/backlash-for-the-lgbti-movement-in-uganda-sexual-minorities-uganda-suspended-by-authorities/>, Accessed on 4 October 2022.

²⁰⁴ Ibid

²⁰⁵ CPJ, "Ugandan authorities investigate 4 journalists in murder case, charge and jail 2", 22 July 2022, <https://cpj.org/2022/07/ugandan-authorities-investigate-4-journalists-in-murder-case-charge-and-jail-2/>, Accessed on 4 October 2022.

Kiyumba, were among a list of people who were suspected of alleged involvement in the murder due to their contact with Malole and his family on 14 May while covering a land dispute that involved the businessman.²⁰⁶ The journalists claimed that Malole declined to speak to them, but they spoke to his family members. In June 2022, police officers arrested Nabatanzi, and detained the other three journalists in July.²⁰⁷ On 22 July 2022, authorities charged Mutyaba and Isabirye with murder and conspiracy to murder. Despite being under investigation, Nabatanzi and Kiyumba have not been charged with any crimes.

On 15 June 2022, army officials arrested Edward Baguma, a journalist working for Dream TV, while he covered security guards who had barred the former presidential candidate Joseph Kabuleta's office in Bugolobi.²⁰⁸ Police officers charged Baguma with public nuisance but released him later that day.²⁰⁹

On 08 September 2022, Uganda's Parliament passed a restrictive law that curtails digital rights. The Parliament amended the country's Computer Misuse Act.²¹⁰ The bill seeks to criminalise "unauthorised access to information," "promoting hate speech," among other clauses, but falls short of defining the boundaries of the said offences. The offense carries a severe punishment of up to five years in prison, a fine of up to UGX 10 million (USD 2,619), or both. On 26 August 2022, Uganda's Human Rights Network for Journalists warned against the passing of the proposed bill, warning that it threatens citizen journalism and stifles freedom of expression.²¹¹ On 13 October 2022, President Museveni signed the controversial Act to law.²¹²

On 13 September 2022, plain-clothed men assumed to be authorities kidnapped Kavulu Kenneth, a journalist working for *BBS Terefayina* while he was leaving work.²¹³ Kavulu was detained at Kabalagala police station without charges. On 16 September 2022, Ugandan

²⁰⁶ Monitor, "What we know so far about Jinja businessman shot dead at weekend", 16 May 2022, <https://www.monitor.co.ug/uganda/news/national/what-we-know-so-far-about-jinja-businessman-shot-dead-at-weekend-3817182>, Accessed on 4 October 2022.

²⁰⁷ Ugandan authorities investigate 4 journalists in murder case" charge and jail 2", 22 July 2022, <https://cpi.org/2022/07/ugandan-authorities-investigate-4-journalists-in-murder-case-charge-and-jail-2/>, Accessed on 4 October 2022.

²⁰⁸ Twitter, "HRNJ", 15 June 2022, <https://twitter.com/HRNJUganda/status/1537073788134731778>, Accessed on 4 October 2022.

²⁰⁹ Twitter, "HRNJ", 15 June 2022, <https://twitter.com/HRNJUganda/status/1537108972607619085>, Accessed on 4 October 2022.

²¹⁰ Monitor, "MPs pass controversial computer misuse law", 9 September 2022, <https://www.monitor.co.ug/uganda/news/national/mps-pass-controversial-computer-misuse-law-3942524>, Accessed on 4 October 2022.

²¹¹ HRNJ, "Uganda submissions to the Parliamentary Committee on ICT and National Guidance on the proposed amendments of the Computer Misuse Bill", 26 August 2022, <https://hrnjuganda.org/?p=9615>, Accessed on 4 October 2022.

²¹² The Independent, "President Museveni signs into law Nsereko bill", 13 October 2022, <https://www.independent.co.ug/president-museveni-signs-into-law-nsereko-bill/>, Accessed 14 October 2022.

²¹³ Twitter, "HRNJ", 16 September 2022, <https://twitter.com/HRNJUganda/status/1570801341999742981>, Accessed on 4 October 2022.

police confirmed that Kavulu is under investigation for unknown reasons and remains under their custody.²¹⁴

Freedom of peaceful assembly

A few protests were sparked by the rising inflation rate which increased the price of necessary consumer products from 2.7% in January 2022 to 6.3% in May 2022, and as of August 2022 inflation had increased to 9%.²¹⁵

On 12 May 2022, police officers surrounded the home of opposition figure Kizza Besigye to prevent him from protesting the high living costs and an alleged political succession plan. Besigye announced his protest plans to "awaken Ugandan citizens", a replica of his 2011 walk-to-work protest.²¹⁶ Police officers intercepted his attempt to walk from his home in Kasangati to Kampala town to demonstrate against increasing commodity prices.²¹⁷ According to Kampala police spokesman Luke Owoyesigire, Besigye did not follow the procedures required by the Public Order Management Act, which requires the Inspector General to be notified of a demonstration.

Similarly, on 25 May 2022, authorities arrested Besigye while he was organising a demonstration against the high commodity prices.²¹⁸ He was charged with incitement to violence in Buganda Road Court and granted a UGX 30,000,000 (about USD 8,100) cash bail. He objected to this on the grounds that it was unreasonable and asked his attorneys to request a review of the bail requirements. On 6 June 2022, he was released following High Court's decision to decrease the cash bail to UGX 3,000,000 (about USD 810).

On 14 June 2022, Besigye was detained on charges of inciting violence for leading protests over the surged prices. On the day he was charged, his initial request for bail was denied.²¹⁹ On 1 July 2022, the Magistrate Court released him on a cash bail of 2.5 million shillings (\$665).²²⁰ The court ordered him to appear in court on 29 July 2022. However, he missed his court date due to a burial, and the Magistrate Court adjourned his case to 24 October 2022.²²¹

²¹⁴ Twittter, "CPJ", 16 September 2022, <https://twitter.com/CPJAfrica/status/1570846406361116673>, Accessed on 4 October 2022.

²¹⁵ Trading economics, "Uganda Inflation Rate", 2022, <https://tradingeconomics.com/uganda/inflation-cpi>, Accessed on 4 October 2022.

²¹⁶ The East African, "Uganda blocks Kizza Besigye's return to Kampala streets," 12 MAY 2022, <https://www.theeastafrican.co.ke/tea/news/east-africa/uganda-kizza-besigye-under-house-arrest-3813474>, Accessed on 4 October 2022.

²¹⁷ Ibid

²¹⁸ The East African, "Ugandan opposition politician Kizza Besigye out on bail," 7 June 2022, <https://www.theeastafrican.co.ke/tea/news/east-africa/ugandan-politician-kizza-besigye-out-on-bail-3840950>, Accessed on 4 October 2022.

²¹⁹ Aljazeera, "Uganda opposition figure Besigye released on bail after two weeks", 1 July 2022, <https://www.aljazeera.com/news/2022/7/1/uganda-opposition-figure-besigye-freed-on-bail-after-two-weeks>, Accessed on 5 October 2022.

²²⁰ Ibid

²²¹ Kfm, "Besigye's incitement of violence case hearing pushed to October", 2 September 2022, <https://www.kfm.co.ug/news/besigyees-incitement-of-violence-case-hearing-pushed-to-october.html>, Accessed on 5 October 2022.

On 30 May 2022, police officers arrested six women while protesting inflation, high commodity prices, and Kizza Besigye's arrest.²²² Among the six included, MP Anna Adeke, Deputy Mayor of Kampala Doreen Nyanjura and four women activists, Wokuri Mudanda, Susan Nanyojo, Mariam Kizito and Alice Amony. Authorities charged the six women with inciting violence and unlawful assembly and remanded at Luzira Prison in Kampala.

On 25 July 2022, protests broke out in Jinja and nearby towns over the high prices of fuel and other consumer goods.²²³ Police officers used teargas to disperse the crowd and beat up the protestors. More than 40 protestors were detained and charged with inciting violence, robbery, malicious damage, taking part in an unlawful assembly and being a public nuisance. According to police spokesman James Mubi, the protests were not peaceful, and the youths were instead robbing, damaging properties, and burning tyres.

On 24 August 2022, protests broke out in response to reports of abuse leading to the death of Caroline Kyomuhangi, another Ugandan migrant worker in Saudi Arabia whose body is yet to be brought home.²²⁴ The protestors stormed the Saudi Arabia embassy with signs condemning torture and killings of Ugandans in Saudi Arabia and other Middle Eastern countries. Police officers arrested two members of the Torture Survivors Movement Uganda for leaving a coffin wrapped with a Saudi flag outside the embassy in Kampala.²²⁵

²²² Amnesty International, Authorities must stop criminalizing activists for protesting high cost of living, 6 June 2022, <https://www.amnesty.org/en/latest/news/2022/06/uganda-authorities-must-stop-criminalizing-activists/>, Accessed on 5 October 2022.

²²³ Reuters, "Uganda police fire teargas to quell protest over fuel prices", 25 July 2022, <https://www.reuters.com/world/africa/uganda-police-fire-teargas-quell-protest-over-fuel-prices-2022-07-25/>, Accessed on 5 October 2022.

²²⁴ Business and Human Rights Resource Centre, "Two arrested during protest over continued torture & killing of migrant workers in the Middle East", 25 August 2022, <https://www.business-humanrights.org/en/latest-news/uganda-two-migrant-workers-protesting-over-continued-torture-killings-of-migrant-workers-in-the-middle-east-arrested-arrested-over-protest-at-saudi-embassy/>, Accessed on 5 October 2022.

²²⁵ Ibid.