Remembering 29 October 2025:

A Call on President Samia Suluhu Hassan

to Establish a National Day of Remembrance- Honoring the Victims, Upholding Truth and Justice, and Advancing National Healing



Theme:

"Remembrance, Truth, Justice, Accountability and Healing — Never Again."



1.0 INTRODUCTION

The Tanzania Human Rights Defenders Coalition (THRDC), a national network that coordinates and brings together human rights organisations across the country, made this proposal and advise last year and reiterated it again in February 2026: that 29 October of every year be officially recognised as a National Day of Remembrance for the Events and Victims of the events that began on 29 October 2025 during the election and demonstrations. ***"Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called children of God." (Matthew 5:9)***

Today, with only a few days remaining before one year has passed since those painful events, we wish to renew this advice and remind the country's senior leaders, including the President of the United Republic of Tanzania, the Vice President, the Prime Minister, the Parliament of the United Republic of Tanzania, and other national institutions with decision-making authority to kindly consider designating 29 October as a National Day of Remembrance for the Events and Victims of October 2025.

There is profound importance of remembering the Tanzanians who lost their lives during and in the aftermath of the General Election of 29 October 2025, while also acknowledging the suffering of bereaved families, injured persons, and other citizens who experienced loss, harm, or destruction of property. Such remembrance provides an opportunity to reflect on this chapter of the nation's history, honour those affected, and recognise the enduring impact of these events on individuals, families, and communities. THRDC believes that the primary purpose of this remembrance extends beyond commemorating the victims. It is also intended to promote truth, accountability, healing, and national reflection, while reinforcing the collective commitment to ensure that incidents involving loss of life, serious human rights violations, and the unlawful use of force are never repeated in Tanzania."***There is no future without forgiveness, but there is no true forgiveness without truth." — Desmond Tutu***

In building national healing and reconciliation, we are reminded to heal the broken-hearted and reconcile those in conflict. ***"The believers are but brothers, so make peace between your brothers" (Qur'an 49:10),*** and ***"He heals the brokenhearted and binds up their wounds" (Psalm 147:3).*** These teachings call upon us to seek truth, do



justice, heal the wounds of victims, and build a cohesive nation so that such events never happen again.

THRDC's proposal also considers the recommendations of the Presidential Commission of Inquiry into the Breach of Peace During and After the October 2025 General Election, chaired by former Chief Justice Mohamed Chande Othman. In presenting its report on 23 April 2026, the Commission recommended that the Government designate a special National Day of Mourning to remember those who lost their lives in the events.

THRDC emphasises that, as 29 October 2026 marks one year since the events occurred, it would be appropriate for the nation to use the day to reflect and discuss how the wounds can be healed, while developing joint strategies to prevent recurrence and to address the causes identified by citizens and by the Chande Commission. With humility, we advise H.E. President Samia Suluhu Hassan to consider acting on this matter for the benefit of national cohesion and stability.

In building a nation founded on genuine reconciliation, it is important to ensure that this remembrance does not become a source of hatred, hostility or revenge. Instead, it should provide an opportunity for collective reflection, pursuit of truth, strengthening of justice and building national cohesion. As the Qur'an reminds us: ***"O you who believe! Be steadfast for God, bearing witness with justice. Do not let hatred of a people lead you away from justice. Be just; that is nearer to righteousness." (Qur'an 5:8)***

The main purpose of this day is to recognise and preserve the history of the events of October 2025 by honouring victims and those affected; preserving accurate historical records; promoting truth, justice and accountability; advancing healing, solidarity and reconciliation; and following up legal, policy and institutional reforms to prevent similar events from recurring. Remembering victims is not merely an act of compassion, but a human and spiritual responsibility that reminds us that we are all united in pain and hope.

THRDC believes that true remembrance is not about remaining in yesterday's pain, but transforming it into tomorrow's wisdom, justice for those who suffered, and a shared commitment that it must never happen again.



2.0 REASONS FOR ESTABLISHING A NATIONAL DAY OF REMEMBRANCE

a) Preventing the Recurrence of Killings and Serious Human Rights Violations — "Never Again"
The most fundamental reason is to ensure that the nation learns from the events of October 2025 and takes concrete steps to prevent the recurrence of deaths, injuries and serious human rights violations. Remembrance should not remain an occasion for mourning alone; it should also be a day to assess progress in improving laws, policies, institutions and accountability. The philosophy of "Never Again" should become a shared national commitment to respect the life and dignity of every Tanzanian.

b) Remembering and Honouring Victims and Their Families
Every life lost has value. The remembrance will recognise the history, contribution and dignity of victims and provide an opportunity for the nation to express condolences and solidarity with families, injured persons and affected communities. It should be inclusive, without political, religious, gender or social discrimination, and should encourage access to appropriate services and support.

c) Preserving National History and Memory for Future Generations
A nation's history should preserve both its achievements and its difficult moments so that future generations can learn from them. THRDC proposes the collection of documents, verified information, research and voluntary testimonies, while respecting consent, privacy and safety. These records should be used to teach about the value of life, the Constitution, the rule of law and peaceful conflict resolution.

d) Promoting Truth, Justice and Accountability
Meaningful remembrance must be accompanied by credible investigations, access to justice for victims, and accountability wherever wrongdoing is established. It should serve as an opportunity to evaluate the progress of investigations, the implementation of commission recommendations, the provision of appropriate support and compensation to victims, and the effectiveness of measures designed to prevent impunity. Reconciliation, while important, cannot replace the pursuit of truth, justice, and accountability. Only by addressing these foundations can remembrance contribute to lasting healing and public trust.

e) Building National Healing, Unity and Reconciliation
Events involving deaths and violence can leave long-lasting wounds. The remembrance day should provide space to listen to affected families and communities, express national condolences, rebuild trust and strengthen national dialogue. Genuine



reconciliation should be inclusive and founded on truth, justice, dignity and a commitment to non-recurrence.

f) Strengthening Accountability of Security Institutions and Early Warning
The remembrance should provide an opportunity to assess civilian protection, lawful and proportionate use of force, human rights training and independent mechanisms for investigating complaints. It should also encourage early identification of signs of conflict, threats, hate speech and abuse of authority, so that preventive measures can be taken in time.

g) Protecting Democracy, the Rule of Law and Rights During Elections
Electoral processes should respect political rights, the right to life, freedom of expression and the right to peaceful assembly. The remembrance should serve as a platform to reflect on civic education, tolerance of differing views, lawful dispute resolution and improvements to electoral systems and public safety. The day should help the nation reflect on how elections can be conducted in a safer and more rights-respecting manner.

h) Learning from International Experience
Rwanda commemorates the 1994 Genocide against the Tutsi beginning on 7 April; South Africa recognises 21 March as Human Rights Day, linked to the 1960 Sharpeville massacre; and the United Nations recognises 9 December as a day of remembrance and dignity for victims of genocide and for the prevention of that crime. These examples demonstrate the role of remembrance in honouring victims, teaching history and preventing violence.

3.0 FORMAL THRDC PROPOSAL

In building meaningful remembrance, national healing and genuine reconciliation, we are reminded by the teachings of both major faith traditions that justice, mercy, forgiveness, peace and protection of life are essential foundations of a cohesive society.

The Qur'an teaches that ***"The believers are but brothers, so make peace between your brothers" (Qur'an 49:10),*** underscoring the duty to build reconciliation and restore broken relationships. ***Qur'an 41:34*** reminds us to respond to evil in the best manner so that hostility may be transformed into closeness. ***Qur'an 42:40*** links justice and forgiveness while allowing space for reconciliation and repair of harm. ***Qur'an 2:178–179*** further emphasises the value of life, justice and accountability, reminding us that protecting life and preventing harm are foundations of a peaceful society.



The Bible likewise connects justice, peace and healing. ***Colossians 3:13–15*** calls for the rejection of bitterness, anger and hostility in favour of compassion, forgiveness, love and peace. ***2 Corinthians 5:18–19*** presents reconciliation as an important responsibility in restoring broken relationships, while ***Proverbs 15:1*** reminds us that a gentle answer can reduce anger and prevent conflict from escalating. In that spirit, designating 29 October as a day of remembrance can help transform hostility into solidarity.

"Those who cannot remember the past are condemned to repeat it." — George Santayana, 1905

These teachings directly support our emphasis that a national remembrance should not focus only on mourning, but also on seeking truth, doing justice, honouring victims, healing wounds, rebuilding trust and ensuring that such events do not recur. On this basis, remembrance can become a national platform for bringing society together, strengthening solidarity and building a culture of justice, peace and reconciliation.

a) The first remembrance should be held on 29 October 2026, with the participation of victims' families, public institutions, religious leaders, civil society organisations and citizens. Activities should be held nationally, regionally and at district level.
b) The day should be dedicated to mourning, reflection, education, worship, justice, solidarity and the commitment of ***"Never Again", without hatred or revenge.***
c) A system should be established for preserving verified records, with the consent and safety of those concerned. Ultimately, an official memorial museum should be established for future generations.
d) Investigations, justice processes and institutional reforms should proceed alongside the remembrance.
e) There should be worship, prayers and moments of silence in honour of those who lost their lives.
f) Victims' families should have the opportunity to provide voluntary testimony through safe platforms that listen to their needs.
g) A national forum should be convened on truth, justice, reconciliation and measures to prevent human rights violations.
h) There should be memorial exhibitions and displays of verified historical records.
i) Young people, schools and universities should receive education on the value of life, human rights and peace.
j) An annual report should assess implementation of recommendations and reforms.

4.0 CONCLUSION

THRDC believes that visionary leadership leaves a legacy not by erasing memories of difficult times, but by confronting them with courage, reflecting on them with wisdom and using them to build a nation founded on unity, justice and lasting reconciliation. In that spirit, THRDC calls upon the Government of the United Republic of Tanzania to receive and act upon the proposal to recognise 29 October as a National Day of Remembrance for the Victims of the Events of October 2025.

This remembrance should not be used to revive hatred or deepen divisions. Rather, it should be an opportunity to honour life, seek truth, do justice, build reconciliation and take measurable steps to ensure that such events are never repeated. António Guterres: ***"Remembering the past is crucial to safeguarding the future."***

"WE REMEMBER THE VICTIMS, WE LEARN FROM HISTORY, AND WE TAKE ACTION TO ENSURE IT NEVER HAPPENS AGAIN." (NEVER AGAIN)

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