From 29 October 2025 to 29 October 2026- One Year On

Remembering the Past, Reflecting on the Present, and **Shaping the Future**



"Remembering the events of 29 October 2025 and all who lost their lives through candle lighting, prayers, and reflection. Evaluating the actions taken, review challenges, the progress achieved, and explore pathways towards a safer, more resilient, and united nation"



1.0 INTRODUCTION

Today marks one year since Tanzania held its General Election on 29 October 2025, during and after which incidents of violence, the use of force, deaths, injuries, disappearances and destruction of property occurred. On this occasion, the Tanzania Human Rights Defenders Coalition (THRDC) stands in solidarity with bereaved families, those who were injured, people still searching for their loved ones, children who lost parents or guardians, business owners and all affected citizens. Every life lost had an immeasurable value that cannot be captured by statistics alone. Political differences, social circumstances or allegations of criminal conduct do not warrant death, nor do they diminish the duty of the Government and law enforcement agencies to protect the lives of citizens.

We mark this day by remembering those events and all who lost their lives, lighting candles, offering prayers and reflecting on how, as a nation, we have responded over the past year. We also assess the measures taken and the extent to which the various recommendations have been acted upon. THRDC is observing this occasion together with some of its members and stakeholders.

This remembrance draws upon the speech delivered on 23 April 2026 by retired Chief Justice Mohamed Chande Othman, Chairperson of the Presidential Commission of Inquiry into Incidents of Violence and Breaches of the Peace During and After the October 2025 General Election, when he presented the Commission's repor to the President. It also takes account of recommendations and documents previously submitted by THRDC and other civil society organisations to the Government, national, regional and international institutions, and political parties, including Chama Cha Mapinduzi, before the 2025 election. Those submissions called for national dialogue, improvements to electoral laws, protection of civic freedoms, action on abductions and disappearances, and the revival of an inclusive process towards a new Constitution.

1.1 Background to the Events of 29 October 2025

The events of October 2025 must be understood in light of the political, social and economic conditions preceding the election. In his speech of 23 April 2026, Justice Chande explained



that witnesses identified 31 issues as causes of the unrest, from which the Commission identified five underlying causes and eight contributing factors. These included demands for a new Constitution; challenges relating to multiparty democracy and the electoral system; the cost of living and unemployment; allegations of corruption, abductions and disappearances; shortcomings in the functioning of public institutions; and issues concerning international relations.

Before the election, THRDC and other civil society organisations submitted recommendations emphasising national dialogue, changes to electoral laws and systems, civic freedoms, action against abductions and enforced disappearances, and the revival of an inclusive constitutional process. Among these was a joint civil society memorandum entitled "The State of Democracy, Human Rights and National Consensus", submitted to Chama Cha Mapinduzi through THRDC on 22 October 2025. The existence of these recommendations before the election demonstrates the importance of speeching grievances and early warnings promptly through dialogue and the rule of law.

Justice Chande's Commission investigated 202 of the most affected locations across 21 districts in 11 regions, and also visited selected locations where no unrest had occurred. It heard from 1,323 victims, obtained sworn statements from 953 victims, received 4,891 questionnaires, and examined medical records, photographs and other expert evidence.

1.2 Statistics on Deaths, Injuries, Missing Persons and Damage to Property

THRDC respectfully remembers everyone who lost their life, irrespective of political affiliation, status, age or place of origin. We recognise the grief of parents who lost children, children who lost parents or guardians, spouses and partners who lost loved ones, and families still seeking answers about their relatives. We also acknowledge the consequences of permanent injuries, psychological distress, loss of income and disruption of economic activity. National remembrance is meaningful when it upholds the dignity of the deceased, listens to victims and seeks avenues for justice and redress.

a) Deaths

Although the actual number of people who died remains contested, the figures presented by Justice Chande's Commission are, at least, the official figures available to date. According to Justice Chande's speech of 23 April 2026, the Commission identified 518 deaths arising from the election-related unrest: 490 males and 28 females. Of those who died, 21 were children; 502 were civilians and 16 were members of the defence and security services. The regions with the

highest reported death tolls were Dar es Salaam (182), Mwanza (90), Mbeya (80) and Arusha (53). Of the 518 deaths, 373 people were brought to hospital already deceased, 121 died while receiving treatment, and no information from health facilities was available for 24 deaths.

b) Investigation of Deaths

The Commission reported that post-mortem examinations were conducted on 260 bodies and DNA examinations on 274 bodies. In an expert analysis of 219 post-mortem reports, 197 deaths were attributed to gunshot injuries, while 22 were not. The Commission also identified nine unidentified and unclaimed bodies: six had been buried, while three remained at Muhimbili National Hospital as of 31 March 2026. Nevertheless, some members of the public dispute the reported death toll, arguing that more people were killed because the Commission did not reach every part of the country and its figures are therefore incomplete.

Notwithstanding the importance of the Commission's work, some citizens and victims' families have questioned whether the reported figure of 518 deaths fully reflects the harm suffered. These concerns are reinforced by the Commission's own caution. In his speech of 23 April 2026, Justice Chande acknowledged that some families may have buried relatives without taking their bodies to health facilities or appearing before the Commission, while injured persons treated outside the formal healthcare system may have subsequently died without their deaths being reported. The Commission also received evidence concerning 39 alleged disappearances, including individuals reportedly seen at health facilities whose bodies could no longer be located. In the Commission's own words, the death toll reported in its findings may not be "final and conclusive." In light of these findings, THRDC calls for further investigations to establish the full extent of the fatalities, injuries, and missing persons resulting from the events of 29 October 2025.

c) Injuries

As of 31 March 2026, the Commission reported that 2,390 injured people had received care at public and private health facilities, comprising 2,270 civilians and 120 members of the defence and security services. Of these, 219 had sustained serious injuries, including 197 with gunshot wounds; 2,171 were reported to have sustained minor injuries.

d) Missing Persons

Justice Chande's speech cited police statistics indicating that, between 2023 and 2025, 758 people were reported missing, abducted or involved in alleged self-abductions. Of these, 513 were found and 245 remained unaccounted for. Eight cases had been filed, with investigations ongoing.



e) Destruction of Property

According to the Commission Chairperson's speech, the value of destroyed property was estimated at TZS 125 billion, comprising TZS 89 billion in private-sector property (71.2%) and TZS 36 billion in public property (28.8%). The public property affected included assets belonging to government institutions and public services, including schools, the Tanzania Revenue Authority (TRA), courts, the Police, DART, TANROADS, TANESCO and TTCL. The destruction also disrupted business operations, employment, transport and essential public services. At a meeting with editors on 25 November 2025, Prime Minister Dr Mwigulu Nchemba identified 1,642 private vehicles, 672 petrol stations and 2,268 motorcycle drivers (bodabodas) as property affected.

1.3 The Right to Life and State's Duty to Protect Life and Property

Article 14 of the Constitution of the United Republic of Tanzania, 1977, protects the right to life, while Articles 12 and 13 concern human dignity and equality before the law. Articles 18, 20 and 21 speech, respectively, freedom of opinion and expression and access to information; freedom of assembly and association; and citizens' participation in the governance of the country. These rights are inseparable from the State's duty to ensure public safety and an environment in which people can participate in public affairs without fear.

At the international level, Article 6 of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (ICCPR) protects the right to life, while Article 21 protects the right of peaceful assembly. Article 4 of the African Charter on Human and Peoples' Rights safeguards the right to life and respect for the integrity of the person. Demonstrations, criminal acts or destruction of property do not relieve law enforcement agencies of their obligation to respect human rights, including the right to life. Any use of force must be lawful and proportionate.

Justice Chande's speech stated that the Commission received allegations of people being shot, injured or killed even in areas where there had been no unrest or demonstrations, including inside homes and shops. The Commission described these allegations as serious and requiring thorough criminal investigation. The duty to protect life goes hand in hand with protecting public and private property and ensuring lawful action against those responsible for destruction, without using such destruction as a justification for disregarding human rights.

1.4 The Importance of Remembrance

One year after the events of October 2025, this remembrance is not merely an occasion to look back. It is a national opportunity to reflect on the value of life, acknowledge victims' suffering,

seek the truth and strengthen public confidence in the rule of law. In his speech, Justice Chande spoke of the importance of "healing wounds and ensuring accountability wherever warranted", while also emphasising the need to learn from what happened. THRDC believes that meaningful reconciliation requires credible truth, victims' participation, justice, accountability and measures to prevent further violations. As a Swahili saying reminds us, a nation that does not remember its tragedies cannot truly remember its joys.

Among the recommendations presented by the Commission on 23 April 2026 were the designation of a national day of mourning; medical treatment and psychosocial support; adoption of a new Constitution by 2028; establishment of a National Reconciliation and Consensus Commission; and criminal investigations into disputed cases involving deaths, injuries and missing bodies.

As we seek meaningful remembrance, national healing and genuine reconciliation, the teachings of both Islam and Christianity remind us that justice, mercy, forgiveness, peace and the protection of life are essential foundations of a cohesive society. ***The Qur'an teaches that believers are brothers and should reconcile their brothers (Qur'an 49:10),*** underscoring the duty to foster reconciliation and restore fractured relationships. ***Qur'an 41:34*** e***ncourages responding to wrongdoing with what is better, so that hostility may give way to friendship. Qur'an 42:40*** l***inks justice and forgiveness, while allowing room for reconciliation and the repair of harm***. Similarly, ***Qur'an 2:178–179 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 links justice, peace and healing. ***Colossians 3:13–15 encourages compassion, forgiveness, love and peace in place of bitterness, anger and hostility. Second Corinthians 5:18–19 presents reconciliation as a vital responsibility in restoring broken relationships, while Proverbs 15:1 reminds us that a gentle answer can turn away anger and prevent conflict from escalating.*** In this sense, setting aside 29 October as an annual day of remembrance would be a peaceful response to wrongdoing and an opportunity to transform hostility into solidarity. As ***George Santayana wrote in 1905: "Those who cannot remember the past are condemned to repeat it."***

These teachings directly reinforce our conviction that a national day of remembrance should not be limited to mourning. It should also seek the truth, uphold justice, honour victims, heal wounds, rebuild trust and ensure that such events never recur. On this basis, remembrance can provide a national platform for bringing communities together, strengthening solidarity and fostering a culture of justice, peace and reconciliation. Theme for this day; "***Remembrance, Truth, Justice, Accountability and Healing - Never Again."***



2.0 REVIEW OF STATEMENTS AND RECOMMENDATIONS BY INSTITUTIONS AND STAKEHOLDERS

2.1 Introduction

Following the General Election of 29 October 2025, United Nations bodies, international and regional organisations, election observers, civil society organisations, professional associations, political parties, state leaders, religious leaders and members of the public expressed views on deaths, injuries, the use of force, civic freedoms, property destruction, the electoral process and the need for genuine national reconciliation. This section reviews their statements and recommendations to illustrate the concerns raised before, during and after those events.

Recurring themes across these statements include the protection of life and the right to life; independent and thorough investigations; legal accountability; victims' rights; respect for freedom of expression and assembly; inclusive dialogue; a new Constitution; and changes to electoral systems and criminal justice institutions.

2.2 International Institutions

(a) United Nations and the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR)

On 31 October 2025, the spokesperson for the United Nations Secretary-General, Stéphane Dujarric, expressed concern over deaths and injuries following the election and called on the Government to conduct an independent and impartial investigation into allegations of excessive use of force. He also stressed respect for peaceful assembly, freedom of expression and access to information, and encouraged inclusive dialogue. Separately, OHCHR spokesperson Seif Magango expressed concern about reports of killings, injuries and the use of firearms during demonstrations. He emphasised that the use of force must comply with the principles of necessity and proportionality under international human rights standards.

(b) European Union (EU)

In a statement issued by the Council of the European Union on 2 November 2025, the EU expressed concern over violence, the internet shutdown, reported electoral irregularities, deaths and injuries. It urged the authorities to exercise restraint, release detained politicians

and safeguard the rights of those brought before the courts, promptly investigate allegations of abductions and disappearances, and pursue open and inclusive dialogue towards genuine national reconciliation.

2.3 Regional Institutions

(a) African Union (AU)

On 5 November 2025, the African Union Election Observation Mission, led by former Botswana President Mokgweetsi Masisi, stated that the 2025 election had not met the relevant AU and international standards for democratic elections. The Mission identified challenges in the political environment, the internet shutdown, allegations of excessive force and the need for constitutional and political changes. It mourned the loss of life and destruction of property and called for transparent investigations and justice for victims.

(b) Southern African Development Community (SADC)

On 3 November 2025, the official SADC Electoral Observation Mission, led by Richard Msowoya, presented its preliminary findings on Tanzania's election. The Mission stated that the election had not fully met the requirements of the SADC Principles and Guidelines Governing Democratic Elections. It recommended an inclusive review of the Constitution and electoral laws, stronger independence and transparency of electoral institutions, and peaceful resolution of disputes.

(c) East African Community (EAC)

On 5 November 2025, the East African Community Election Observation Mission, led by Dr Speciosa Wandira Kazibwe, reported that violence in some areas had disrupted observation of voting and vote counting. It recommended stronger civic and voter education, greater use of technology, transparency in election administration, observance of electoral codes of conduct and peaceful dispute resolution.

(d) African Commission on Human and Peoples' Rights (ACHPR)

In a statement published on 1 November 2025, the Commission expressed concern over the internet shutdown during the election and underscored the rights to information and freedom of expression. It also expressed concern about reports of deaths, injuries and the use of force during election-related unrest. The Commission urged the authorities to observe necessity and proportionality in the use of force, investigate allegations of human rights violations, ensure accountability and provide justice for victims. It also encouraged Tanzania to ratify the African Charter on Democracy, Elections and Governance.



2.4 Public Institutions and Domestic Organisations

(a) President of the United Republic of Tanzania, Dr. Samia Suluhu Hassan

In her speech of 23 April 2026, upon receiving the report of Justice Chande's Commission, President Samia Suluhu Hassan expressed sorrow over the events of October 2025, stating in substance that, if it were possible, she wished time could be turned back so that those events had never occurred and history could be rewritten to erase the stain they had left. She also outlined measures envisaged by the Government, including thorough investigations, establishment of a Reconciliation Commission, steps towards a constitutional process and medical assistance for the injured.

(b) Presidential Commission of Inquiry into Incidents of Violence and Breaches of the Peace (Justice Chande Commission)

Although the full report has not yet been made publicly available, in his speech of 23 April 2026, the Commission Chairperson, retired Chief Justice Mohamed Chande Othman, presented findings concerning the election-related events. The Commission reported 518 deaths, 2,390 injuries and property destruction valued at approximately TZS 125 billion. It also acknowledged that the death toll might not be final because not all victims had been reached. Its short-term recommendations included free medical treatment for those left with disabilities, a national day of mourning, psychosocial support, a new Constitution by 2028, a National Reconciliation and Consensus Commission, full implementation of the law governing the Independent National Electoral Commission (INEC), and criminal investigations into disputed deaths, the abduction of more than 700 people, injuries and missing bodies.

Regarding injuries, the Commission reported that 2,390 people had received medical treatment by 31 March 2026, comprising 2,270 civilians and 120 members of the defence and security services. Of these, 219 had sustained serious injuries, including 197 gunshot injuries. The Commission acknowledged that records from the health facilities visited might not include every injured person. It recommended free medical treatment for people with severe disabilities, as well as counselling and psychosocial support for victims and their families.

Before any assistance or compensation is provided to those properties that were damaged , the Commission recommended that all victims be properly identified and their losses independently verified. This process is necessary to ensure that support and compensation are based on accurate assessments of the actual damage suffered by affected individuals, businesses, and public institutions.

(c) Civil Society Organisations and THRDC

On 4 November 2025, THRDC and the Tanganyika Law Society (TLS) issued a joint statement concerning reports of deaths, injuries, arrests and people whose whereabouts remained unknown following the election. They condemned excessive use of force against civilians and destruction of property, called for an end to arbitrary arrests, protection of the right to peaceful protest, disclosure by the Government of information on missing persons, and legal assistance for victims, including everyone arrested. THRDC proposed that 29 October each year be designated a day of remembrance for the events and killings during and after the election.

THRDC and TLS also highlighted the impact of the internet shutdown on communications and economic activity. On 7 November 2025, the Legal and Human Rights Centre (LHRC), Twaweza, Foundation for Civil Society, JamiiAfrica and other organisations issued a joint statement expressing concern over alleged killings, abductions, arrests, restrictions on information and internet disruptions. They recommended independent and transparent investigations, accountability, justice for families, compensation, freedom of expression and inclusive dialogue.

2.5 Political Parties

Political parties expressed differing positions on the election and subsequent events. On 4 May 2026, Kenani Kihongosi, Secretary of the CCM National Executive Committee for Ideology, Publicity and Training, expressed the party's readiness to cooperate in implementing the recommendations of Justice Chande's Commission, including reconciliation and constitutional measures.

CHADEMA, which did not participate in the election, challenged its conduct and results. In a position presented on 11 December 2025 by John Heche, CHADEMA's Vice-Chairperson for Mainland Tanzania, the party called for an independent international investigation into the deaths and alleged rights violations, compensation for victims, a new Constitution and changes to the electoral system.

ACT-Wazalendo expressed dissatisfaction with the conduct of the election. In a statement dated 10 April 2026 concerning discussions with a Commonwealth representative, the party called for an independent investigation, inclusive dialogue, accountability, and constitutional and electoral changes.



2.6 Professional Bodies and Associations

(a) Tanganyika Law Society (TLS)

On 4 November 2025, TLS and THRDC condemned reports of deaths, injuries, arrests and the use of force against civilians following the election. TLS President Advocate Boniface Mwabukusi stressed the importance of protecting fundamental rights, providing legal assistance to victims and conducting a credible investigation. On 7 November 2025, Mwabukusi objected to the use of treason charges against some people arrested following demonstrations and called for an independent investigation. TLS also participated in legal assistance initiatives and filed a constitutional case challenging the curfew order issued by the Inspector General of Police during the election. TLS recommended independent investigations into election-related human rights violations, accountability for perpetrators, and protection of constitutional freedoms and due process. It also called for remedies for victims and a review of restrictive measures and charges imposed following the election.

2.7 Citizens and Families of Victims

Citizens and victims' families expressed the need to know the truth about relatives who had died or whose whereabouts remained unknown, to receive bodies for dignified burial, and to obtain an independent and credible investigation. They also stressed the importance of hearing victims' voices and involving them in efforts to secure justice. Families called for continuing medical care for injured people, psychosocial and legal assistance, and protection for children who had lost parents or guardians. Citizens and business owners affected by property destruction emphasised the need for a transparent process to assess losses and provide appropriate assistance or compensation. Overall, their recommendations focused on truth, dignity, justice, accountability and preventing similar harm from recurring.

2.8 Religious Institutions

(a) Tanzania Episcopal Conference (TEC)

On 15 November 2025, the Tanzania Episcopal Conference (TEC), through its President, Bishop Wolfgang Pisa, issued a collective reflection on events during and after the General Election of 29 October 2025, following the bishops' meeting of 11–14 November 2025. The bishops recommended an independent and credible investigation involving domestic and international stakeholders; accountability for those in positions of responsibility; medical care for injured people; proper handling of the bodies of those who died; the release of people arrested in connection with the events; resumption of the process towards a new Constitution; and attention to citizens' grievances. TEC emphasised that justice and truth are the foundations of lasting reconciliation.

(b) Christian Council of Tanzania (CCT)

According to media reports dated 14 November 2025, the Chairperson of the Christian Council of Tanzania (CCT), Bishop Dr Stanley Hotay, supported calls for national reconciliation following the General Election of 29 October 2025. CCT recommended inclusive dialogue involving all stakeholders to reflect on the events, speech differences and strengthen peace, unity and justice. It also urged the Government to provide humanitarian assistance to affected families, support injured people and restore stability. CCT stressed that genuine peace requires justice.

(c) National Muslim Council of Tanzania (BAKWATA)

On 14 November 2025, media outlets reported a statement by the National Muslim Council of Tanzania (BAKWATA) and partner institutions, read by Sheikh Issa Othman, a member of the Council of Ulama. BAKWATA expressed sorrow over deaths, injuries and property destruction following the election, while attributing the violence to criminal acts, looting and destruction of infrastructure. It called on the Government to investigate thoroughly to identify those who incited, planned and led such acts and to take action against those responsible. It emphasised the importance of peace grounded in justice.

Furthermore, on 21 November 2025, leaders of Islamic institutions, including BAKWATA, presented a 17-point plan for strengthening peace and reconciliation. Speaking on behalf of those institutions, Sheikh Mussa Kundecha supported establishing a commission of inquiry and national dialogue. He called for a thorough and impartial investigation, accountability for those responsible without punishing the innocent, assistance for families who had lost relatives or property, and action on the underlying causes of the unrest.

2.9 Assessment of the Implementation of Recommendations by Institutions and Stakeholders

2.9.1 Introduction

THRDC's assessment indicates that, before, during and after the events surrounding the General Election of 29 October 2025, a wide range of institutions, civil society organisations, faith-based actors, political parties, regional and international bodies, and other stakeholders issued recommendations in response to concerns arising from the 29 October incidents and their aftermath. These recommendations largely focused on preventing and addressing election-related violence and human rights violations; ensuring accountability for unlawful killings, injuries, arbitrary arrests, enforced disappearances, torture and other abuses; strengthening the rule of law and institutional independence; safeguarding civic and political freedoms; restoring public trust in democratic institutions; and promoting political dialogue, national healing and reconciliation.



Recommendations issued before and on election day sought to avert conflict and prevent violations, while those made after the events of 29 October 2025 focused on addressing the harm suffered by victims, establishing accountability, providing remedies and reparations, uncovering the truth about the incidents, and introducing reforms to prevent the recurrence of similar violations.

THRDC's assessment finds that, as Tanzania marks one year since the events of 29 October 2025, many of these important recommendations remain unimplemented or only partially implemented. This includes recommendations made by state leaders, independent institutions, civil society organisations and the Justice Chande Commission, many of which were specifically intended to address the causes, consequences and enduring impact of the 29 October incidents. While some measures have been undertaken and others remain at various stages of implementation, significant gaps persist in delivering accountability, justice, institutional reform and national reconciliation.

2.9.2 Recommendations Implemented

The Government established the Presidential Commission of Inquiry into Incidents of Violence and Breaches of the Peace During and After the General Election of 29 October 2025. Chaired by retired Chief Justice Mohamed Chande Othman, the Commission presented its findings and recommendations on 23 April 2026. This step partially responded to stakeholders' calls for an investigation, although it did not fully meet the demands of those who had called for an independent inquiry with international participation. The composition of the Commission attracted substantial criticism from stakeholders and members of the public.

2.9.3 Recommendations Partially Implemented

Regarding investigations and accountability, the Government established the Presidential Commission of Inquiry into Persons Responsible for Violence and Violations of the Law During and After the October 2025 General Election. President Samia Suluhu Hassan officially launched the Commission on 7 August 2026, following recommendations by the Commission chaired by retired Chief Justice Mohamed Chande Othman.

The Commission has six members and is led by retired Tanzanian Court of Appeal Justice Shaaban Ali Lila, with judges from Tanzania, Uganda and Namibia. Its international members include Justice Petrus Tileinge Damaseb, Deputy Chief Justice of Namibia, and Justice Barishaki Bonny Cheborion of Uganda's Court of Appeal and the East African Court of Justice. The Commission was given five months to investigate those responsible for violence, the use of

force, deaths, injuries and disappearances, and to submit a report with recommendations for legal and administrative action. Its investigations remain ongoing. Many stakeholders and citizens have continued to criticise the Commission and its composition, with some arguing that a genuinely independent commission of inquiry should have been established instead.

2.9.4 Recommendations Not Implemented

(a) New Constitution: The recommendation to revive an inclusive process towards a new Constitution, made by THRDC, civil society organisations, citizens, state leaders, political parties and Justice Chande's Commission, has yet to be accompanied by an official implementation timetable and broad public participation.

(b) National reconciliation: The recommendation to initiate inclusive dialogue and establish a National Reconciliation and Consensus Commission has not resulted in a publicly demonstrated formal process involving all political parties, civil society organisations, religious leaders and other groups.

(c) Changes to the electoral system: Recommendations by the AU, SADC, EAC, CSOs political parties and the public to strengthen the independence of electoral institutions, transparency, political competition and voters' rights have not been implemented.

(d) Investigation of abductions and disappearances: The recommendation to establish an independent commission to investigate abductions has not been implemented. More than 700 people have reportedly been missing or abducted. Instead, reports of abductions have continued to increase.

(e) Locating missing persons: No comprehensive information has been made public about the fate of all those reported missing during the events of 29 October, including people referred to in evidence received by Justice Chande's Commission.

(f) Accountability for deaths and the use of force: According to THRDC's assessment, no government official has been held accountable for the killings that occurred on 29 October 2025.

(g) Independent investigation with international participation: The recommendation for an independent international investigation has not been fully implemented. The participation of judges from Uganda and Namibia in Justice Lila's Commission has been criticised as insufficient to substitute for the independent international commission repeatedly proposed by stakeholders.



(h) Compensation for bereaved families: A compensation or financial assistance mechanism covering all families who lost loved ones has not been implemented.

(i) Free medical care for injured people: Full implementation of Justice Chande's Commission's recommendation to provide free treatment to people with serious disabilities has not been confirmed for all intended beneficiaries.

(j) Psychosocial services: No comprehensive information has been published about a national programme to provide counselling and psychosocial support to victims and their families.

(k) Support for children who lost parents or guardians: The Government has not published comprehensive information about specific arrangements to ensure that affected children receive care, education, protection and social support.

(l) Compensation for property damage: The full implementation of a process to verify losses and provide compensation or assistance to citizens and business owners whose property was destroyed has not been publicly disclosed.

(m) National day of mourning: The recommendation by THRDC and Justice Chande's Commission to designate a national day of mourning for those who lost their lives has not been publicly formalised or fully implemented.

(n) Rights of arrested and prosecuted persons: No comprehensive information has been made public about the fate of all those arrested in connection with the election events, although some were released and others were sentenced by courts across the country.

(o) Freedom of expression and assembly: Recommendations on protecting the right to peaceful protest and freedom of expression, and preventing excessive use of force, have not resulted in fully demonstrated operational measures by the Government.

(p) Media freedom and internet access: Insufficient information is available on specific steps to prevent arbitrary internet shutdowns and ensure that the media can report on election-related events without unlawful restrictions. The Government has also not publicly explained the reasons for the election-period internet shutdown.

(q) Accountability of defence and security agencies: Recommendations to improve the conduct of security agencies, strengthen relations with the public and prevent unnecessary force have yet to produce fully measurable results, as further incidents involving forceful arrests have continued to be reported.

(r) Changes to criminal justice institutions: Recommendations to improve systems for criminal investigations, arrests, inquiries and accountability within criminal justice institutions have not been implemented.

(s) Public and youth participation: Justice Chande's Commission's recommendations to strengthen youth participation and establish a National Youth Council have not shown verifiable, complete implementation.

(t) Ratification of the African Charter on Democracy, Elections and Governance: The ACHPR's recommendation that Tanzania ratify this Charter has not been implemented.

(u) Establishment of a Council of Elders: Justice Chande's Commission's recommendation to establish an advisory Council of Elders to support reconciliation, social cohesion and resolution of national disputes has not been implemented.

(v) Ratification of international treaties on disappearances and torture: The recommendation by THRDC and civil society organisations that Tanzania sign and ratify the International Convention for the Protection of All Persons from Enforced Disappearance and the Convention against Torture has not been implemented.

(w) Establishment of an independent body to speech complaints against security agencies: The recommendation to establish an independent institution empowered to receive, investigate and follow up complaints against security agencies has not resulted in a demonstrably independent and accountable mechanism.



TRACKING IMPLEMENTATION OF THE 22 RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE CHANDE OTHMAN COMMISSION

Implementation status as of 29 October 2026 | Sources: Speech of 23 April 2026 and THRDC assessment, October 2026

No.	Recommendation	Implementation status
1	Free medical treatment, assistive devices and prosthetic limbs for persons injured and left with disabilities.	Implementation has not been confirmed to date.
2	Designate a National Day of Mourning to remember those who died.	Not implemented to date.
3	Develop a strategy, allocate resources and conduct a rapid assessment for psychosocial and social support services.	Implementation has not been confirmed to date.
4	Establish a Committee of Constitutional Experts and adopt a New Constitution through a referendum.	Not implemented to date.
5	Establish an inclusive National Reconciliation and Consensus Commission.	Not implemented to date.
6	Establish an Advisory Council of Elders to support national reconciliation.	Not implemented to date.
7	Fully implement the INEC law, including leadership appointments and the authority to recruit staff down to constituency level.	Not implemented to date.
8	Establish a special criminal investigation commission to examine key perpetrators, deaths, injuries and missing bodies.	A commission has been established; implementation is ongoing.
9	The Police Force should design and implement a strategy to rebuild its relationship with communities.	Implementation has not been confirmed to date.
10	The Government and security organs should respect fair competition among political parties in a multiparty system.	Implementation still faces challenges; some political parties are experiencing difficult circumstances.
11	Enforce ethical standards among leaders and combat corruption, misuse of public resources and improper conduct.	Implementation has not been publicly disclosed.
12	Implement the National Youth Council Act and establish the Council.	Not implemented to date.
13	Strengthen accountability of public officials, resolution of public grievances, and monitoring and evaluation units.	Not implemented to date; grievances that led to the protests have reportedly not yet been addressed.
14	Prioritize implementation of recommendations from earlier commissions, including the Criminal Justice Commission.	Not implemented to date; however, implementation of the criminal justice recommendations is reportedly ongoing.
15	Strengthen merit-based and fair recruitment and appointments, and separate public service from political influence.	Not implemented to date.
16	Strengthen border security, protection and monitoring.	Implementation is ongoing.
17	Strengthen community policing and legally restore the ten-household system.	Implementation has not been confirmed to date.
18	Ensure transparent administration of loans, employment, tenders and project opportunities for young people.	Implementation has not been publicly disclosed.
19	Review the budget, reduce unnecessary expenditure and redirect funds towards economic empowerment.	Not implemented to date.
20	Expand disaster management legislation to cover breaches of peace, emergency communication and preparedness exercises.	Implementation has not been publicly disclosed.
21	Restore compulsory National Service (JKT) training for all Form Six graduates and support their self-employment.	Implementation is ongoing.
22	Develop and implement a dedicated housing strategy for defence and security personnel.	Implementation has not been publicly disclosed.

3.0 THRDC'S CALL AND RECOMMENDATIONS

Marking one year since the events of 29 October 2025, THRDC recognizes that while some steps have been taken, many of the recommendations made before and after the General Election, as well as those put forward by the Commission of Inquiry chaired by retired Chief Justice Mohamed Chande Othman, remain unimplemented.

THRDC emphasizes that the nation cannot afford to let another year pass without decisive action to implement these recommendations. We therefore call upon the Government of the United Republic of Tanzania, public institutions, and all relevant stakeholders to prioritize and fully implement the recommendations advanced by various groups, together with those of the Chande Commission.

The implementation of these recommendations is essential to establishing the truth about the events that occurred, ensuring justice and accountability for victims and those responsible, healing the nation's wounds, strengthening reconciliation and social cohesion, and building a Tanzania founded on human rights, the rule of law, peace, and lasting stability. It is only through such action that the country can learn from the past, prevent the recurrence of similar events, and advance towards a more just, united, and resilient society.

(a) **Declare 29 October a National Day of Remembrance and Reflection:** The Government should officially designate 29 October each year as a day to remember and honour, without discrimination, all those who lost their lives in connection with the 2025 General Election. It should be a national opportunity to mourn, reflect on the value of life, honour victims and build a shared commitment to preventing similar events.

(b) **Expedite an inclusive process towards a new Constitution:** The Government should initiate and publish a timetable for reviving the process towards a new Constitution, involving citizens of Mainland Tanzania and Zanzibar, political parties, civil society organisations and other stakeholders. The process should take account of recommendations made before the election and Justice Chande's Commission's proposal to adopt a new Constitution by 2028, ahead of the elections scheduled for 2029 and 2030.



(c) **Establish genuine reconciliation and national consensus:** The Government should establish an independent and inclusive national reconciliation commission or mechanism to establish the truth about the events and ensure accountability, with publicly acceptable terms of reference, a timetable and credible leadership. The process should involve political parties, victims' families, young people, women, religious leaders, civil society organisations and the wider public.

(d) **Publish the Justice Chande Commission's report:** THRDC calls upon the President to authorise publication of the Commission's full report so that citizens, victims' families and relevant institutions can understand its findings, evidence and recommendations. The Government should also disclose the measures being taken to implement those recommendations.

(e) **Ensure independent investigations, truth and accountability**: The country must ensure thorough, independent and impartial investigations into deaths, injuries, disappearances and allegations of unlawful use of force. Investigations should identify both direct perpetrators and those who issued orders, preserve evidence and facilitate legal action consistent with the Minnesota Protocol (2016) and the rights of everyone concerned.

(f) **Provide medical treatment and social assistance to victims:** The Government should establish a dedicated mechanism to provide injured people with ongoing free medical treatment, assistive devices, mental health services, counselling and legal assistance. Children who lost parents or guardians, and affected families, should receive support tailored to their needs for subsistence, care and education.

(g) **Establish a compensation and redress mechanism:** The Government should develop a transparent, fair and accessible framework for verifying harm and providing appropriate compensation to bereaved families, injured people and citizens whose property was destroyed. This framework should also take account of economic harm, lost income and victims' long-term needs.

(h) **Introduce changes in the Police Force and criminal justice institutions:** The Government should implement the recommendations of the 2023 Commission on Improving Criminal Justice Institutions and Justice Chande's Commission, particularly those concerning professionalism, accountability, lawful use of force, police–community relations and the protection of peaceful assemblies. It should also strengthen an independent mechanism for handling complaints against security agencies.

(i) **End abductions and enforced disappearances:** The Government should establish an independent judicial body to investigate thoroughly all abductions and disappearances before, during and after the election and ensure that families receive information about their relatives' fate. Tanzania should also consider signing and ratifying the International Convention for the Protection of All Persons from Enforced Disappearance and the Convention against Torture, while strengthening protection for witnesses and victims.

(j) **Strengthen civic freedoms and protect human rights defenders:** The Government should ensure that freedom of expression, peaceful assembly, access to information and lawful political and civic activity are protected in practice. Measures should prevent arbitrary arrests, intimidation and unlawful use of force against citizens, journalists, human rights defenders and political leaders, and ensure that internet services are not unlawfully restricted.

(k) **Introduce changes to the electoral system:** The Government, Parliament and relevant institutions should act on recommendations from election observers of the African Union, SADC and EAC, as well as domestic stakeholders, concerning transparency, equal political competition, the independence of the Independent National Electoral Commission and the integrity of electoral processes. Such changes should be broadly participatory to restore public confidence in democratic institutions and processes.

(l) **Ensure transparent and measurable implementation of recommendations:** The Government should publish an implementation plan for the recommendations of Justice Chande's Commission and other institutions, identifying actions, responsible institutions, timelines and results achieved. Regular progress reports should be made public so citizens can monitor implementation and assess government accountability.

4.0 CONCLUSION

THRDC believes that visionary leadership leaves a lasting 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. THRDC therefore calls upon the Government of the United Republic of Tanzania to receive, consider and act upon its assessment and recommendations concerning the events of October 2025. Implementing these recommendations should not revive hatred or deepen divisions. Rather, it should provide an opportunity to honour lives lost, establish the truth, deliver justice, foster reconciliation and take measurable steps to ensure that such events never happen again. As António Guterres has said: ***"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)

National Coordinator – THRDC – 29 October 2026



Advocate Onesmo Olengurumwa

A Nation That Forgets Its Tragedies Cannot Truly Celebrate Its Joys.



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