



900 McGill Road
Kamloops BC
V2C 0C8

Thompson Rivers University Students' Union
Local 15 Canadian Federation of Students

t: 250.828.5289
f: 250.852.6350

Attorney General of the United Republic of Tanzania
Hon. George Mcheche Masaju
20 Barabara ya Kivukoni, P.O. Box 11492 – Dar es Salaam, Tanzania

October 31, 2017

Human Rights Lawyer And Activists Should Be Released Immediately

Honourable Attorney General,

On behalf of the Thompson Rivers University Students' Union we are writing to urge you to immediately and unconditionally release 13 health and human rights activists from the Initiative for Strategic Litigation in Africa (ISLA) and Community Health Services Advocacy (CHESA) including **Sibongile Ndashe** and **John Kashiha**, and to ensure that the criminal justice system is not abused to harass activists for their work.

We are deeply troubled by reports from Amnesty International of a coordinated campaign in Tanzania to abuse the criminal justice system to harass human rights activists, including the unjustified detention of these 13 activists from ISLA and CHESA.

We strongly believe that you and the Tanzanian government have a responsibility under domestic and international law to investigate these reports, including the *Tanzanian Constitution Article 30(3)*, and *African Charter on Human and People's Rights and Article 7(a)* – the right to seek legal redress when fundamental rights have been violated. If your investigation finds these reports to be true, then we would urge you to take action to hold any responsible person or official accountable for their illegal and immoral actions.

Thank you for your attention to this urgent matter.

Sincerely,

Tatiana Gilbert
President
TRU Students' Union

Caitlin Orteza
Vice President Equity
TRU Students' Union

cc: President of Tanzania John Pombe Magufuli, Commission for Human Rights and Good Governance Chairperson Hon. Bahame T.M. Nyanduga



trusu.ca



/TRUStudentsUnion



@TRUSU15