

8 March 2018

Tanzania: Abduction of human rights defender Abdul Nondo

On 7 March 2018, human rights defender **Abdul Nondo** was abducted from Dar Es Salaam by unknown assailants and taken to a secluded area in Iringa, southern Tanzania around 500km from the place of his abduction.

[Abdul Nondo](#) is a human rights defender and Chairperson of Tanzania Students' Networking Programme (TSNP). He is also a third year student at the University of Dar Es Salaam. TSNP is a non-governmental organisation based in Dar Es Salaam which works with students on capacity building and advocacy programmes to enable them to advocate at the local, national and international levels to promote human rights and democracy. Most recently, Abdul Nondo has been particularly critical of the police and the Tanzanian authorities regarding the extra-judicial killing of a student at a rally on 17 February 2018.

On 8 March 2018, Abdul Nondo managed to reach a police station in Iringa to call his family and let them know his whereabouts. The human rights defender had been taken over 500km away from Dar Es Salaam and left in a secluded area in Iringa, southern Tanzania.

Front Line Defenders expresses deep concern at the deteriorating climate for human rights defenders in Tanzania, which has been highlighted in a [statement](#) by the EU Delegation in Tanzania. Following the election of President John P. Magafuli in 2015, human rights defenders, journalists and opposition leaders have been targeted with judicial harassment, intimidation and violence. Front Line Defenders recently reported on the killing of human rights defender [Godrey Luena](#) on 22 February 2018, who was attacked and killed outside of his home in Morogoro region.

This is also not the first time that a member of TSNP has been targeted for their human rights work. On 15 November 2017, human rights defender [Bob Chacha Wangwe](#) was [sentenced](#) to three years' imprisonment or a fine of 5 million Tanzanian shillings by Kisutu Resident Magistrate's Court in Dar Es Salaam. The human rights defender was arrested on 7 May 2016 and detained for twelve days before being released on bail awaiting trial. Bob Chacha Wangwe had posted comments on Facebook questioning the respect of democratic procedures in the 2015 elections in Zanzibar. He is currently appealing his sentence.

Front Line Defenders expresses serious concern at the abduction of Abdul Nondo as it believes it is part of a larger [pattern](#) of harassment against human rights defenders in Tanzania.

Front Line Defenders urges the authorities in Tanzania to:

1. Carry out an immediate, thorough and impartial investigation into the abduction of human rights defender Abdul Nondo, with a view to ensuring his protection, publishing the results and bringing those responsible to justice in accordance with international standards;
2. Guarantee in all circumstances that all human rights defenders in Tanzania are able to carry out their legitimate human rights activities without fear of reprisals and free of all restrictions including judicial harassment.