

President John P. Magufuli
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Your Excellency,

I am writing to express my concern for Erick Kabendera, a journalist who was arrested by plain clothed men at his home on 29 July 2019 and remains in detention. Charged with leading organized crime, failure to pay tax and money laundering on 5 August 2019, his case has since been postponed four times.

I also wish to bring to your attention Erick Kabendera's deteriorating health. He has breathing problems and one of his legs is paralyzed.

I fear that the arrest and continued detention of Eric Kabendera is part of a wider pattern of increasing intimidation of journalists and repression of press freedom by the Tanzanian government and that he is being detained solely for peacefully expressing his right to freedom of expression.

I therefore call on you to:

- Ensure the immediate and unconditional release of Erick Kabendera and ensure that all charges against him are dropped
- Ensure that journalists in Tanzania are allowed to freely carry out their work in a safe environment and without any harassment, intimidation or fear of reprisals.

Yours sincerely,