

# INPUTS FROM CHRISTIAN EDUCATION AND DEVELOPMENT ORGANIZATION (CEDO)

Author: Rev. Japhet Aloyce Kalegeya  
Box 545, Nzega  
Tabora, Tanzania  
Tell +255 755 565 893  
Email: [kalegeyaj@gmail.com](mailto:kalegeyaj@gmail.com)

The disappearance of people in Tanzania is a serious problem, with hundreds of cases reported each year. The reasons for these disappearances vary, but they often involve political persecution, criminal activity, and human trafficking.

## **Political persecution**

Tanzania has a long history of political persecution, and the government has been accused of cracking down on dissent in recent years. In 2022, the Human Rights Watch reported that Tanzanian authorities had forcibly disappeared, tortured, and arbitrarily detained at least 18 Burundian refugees and asylum seekers. The whereabouts of several who were forcibly disappeared remain unknown.

## **Criminal activity**

Kidnapping and extortion are also common in Tanzania, and these crimes can sometimes lead to the disappearance of victims. In 2021, five men were kidnapped in Dar es Salaam and never seen again. Their families believe that they were killed by their kidnappers.

## **Human trafficking**

Tanzania is a source, transit, and destination country for human trafficking. Traffickers often target vulnerable people, such as children and women, and they use a variety of methods to lure their victims into traps. Once trafficked, victims are often forced to work in slavery or prostitution.

## **Response of the authorities**

The Tanzanian government has been criticized for its response to the disappearance of people. In many cases, the police have failed to investigate disappearances properly or to bring the perpetrators to justice. This lack of accountability has created a climate of impunity, and it has made it difficult for families to find out what happened to their loved ones.

## **What can be done?**

There are a number of things that can be done to address the problem of disappearances in Tanzania. The government needs to take steps to investigate disappearances thoroughly and to bring the perpetrators to justice. It also needs to put in place safeguards to protect people from political persecution, criminal activity, and human trafficking. Civil society organizations and the international community can also play a role by raising awareness of the problem and by putting pressure on the government to take action.

Thank you