



Press Release
17 December 2015

**Nine out of ten citizens think Tanzania is secure
But half believe that marginalization is causing the rise of radical groups and that a military solution is the best way to address this**

17 December 2015, Dar es Salaam: A large majority of citizens (88%) think that Tanzania is safe and secure. At the same time, just 6 out of 10 citizens (61%) think that East Africa as a whole is secure. This may be influenced by citizens' awareness of incidents involving extremist groups: 6 out of 10 citizens (63%) are aware of the attack at Garissa University and 4 out of 10 (40%) are aware of the attack at Westgate Mall, both in Kenya

These findings were released by Twaweza in a research brief titled *Radicalism on the Rise? Citizens' views on security and radicalization*. The brief is based on data from *Sauti za Wananchi*, Africa's first nationally representative high-frequency mobile phone survey. The findings are based on data collected from 1,879 respondents across Mainland Tanzania (Zanzibar is not covered in these results) between 29 September and 11 October 2015.

Despite feeling that Tanzania is currently secure, more than half of citizens (56%) are worried about threats from extremists groups to attack Tanzania in the future. A majority of citizens (56%) believe that economic and political motivations, including frustration with the government and political system, the lack of employment, and poor governance are contributing to the rise of radical groups in the region. Only 1 out of 5 citizens (21%) cite religious reasons as the cause. In this light, it is perhaps unsurprising that citizens are fearful of attacks in Tanzania given that many of the same conditions are prevalent.

Citizens are also concerned with radical groups trying to recruit members of their family. Although close to half (46%) are not worried about this, a full 3 out of 10 are very or somewhat worried that their family members are at risk of recruitment. Their concern may not match reality however, as only 1 out of 20 citizens (5%) know of someone whom radical groups have recruited or tried to recruit.

Although citizens attribute radicalization to marginalization, half (48%) favor a military solution to combat extremist groups and only 1 out of 5 (20%) think that dialogue with radical groups or community work is the best way forward. Almost all citizens have great faith in the military: 96% see the military as strong and 90% think the military could protect them in case of an attack.

This strong faith in the security organs of state is mirrored in citizens' feelings about the government's handling of security during the election. A large majority, 6 out of 10 (61%) think the government did a lot to improve security during the recent elections.

Historically, however, the police have not always been viewed favorably by citizens. They are consistently ranked the most corrupt institution in the country and earlier this year 6 out of 10 citizens (61%) reported (via *Sauti za Wananchi*) that issues with the police were the main reasons many crimes did not get reported. However just six months later, only 3 out of 10 citizens (31%) blamed the police for

crimes not being reported. The largest drop came in the number of people who thought that the police would demand money or a bribe to address crimes: in March this was stated by 29% of citizens while in October only 12% of citizens claimed this. Another change came in the number of people reporting fear of revenge attacks as a reason why people might not report crimes to the police: 1 out of 4 citizens (25%) thought this was the case in October while only 1 out of 50 (2%) mentioned it in March.

Aidan Eyakuze, Executive Director of Twaweza said *“Dramatic terror events have punctuated the headlines and airwaves in the past few years. The recent attacks in France and much closer to home at Garissa University and Westgate Mall in Kenya come to mind. Fortunately, Tanzania seems to have been spared such tragic experiences since the 1994 US Embassy bombing. However citizens remain worried and fearful when asked about their family members being recruited or attacks taking place. Tanzania is in a unique position to explore alternate routes to address this global issue: this survey suggests that our society is not yet radicalized and citizens largely understand that marginalization and radicalization are linked. Deliberate efforts at encouraging and listening to citizens’ voices, responding to their priority needs, and consciously working to reduce marginalization will benefit all Tanzanians while significantly reducing the risk of radicalization.*

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Notes to Editors

- Twaweza works on enabling children to learn, citizens to exercise agency and governments to be more open and responsive in Tanzania, Kenya and Uganda. We have programs, staff and offices across all three countries, and a globally respected practice of learning, monitoring and evaluation. Our flagship programs include *Uwezo*, Africa’s largest annual citizen assessment to assess children’s learning levels across hundreds of thousands of households, and *Sauti za Wananchi*, Africa’s first nationally representative mobile phone survey. We undertake effective public and policy engagement, through powerful media partnerships and global leadership of initiatives such as the Open Government Partnership
- You can follow Twaweza’s work
Web: www.twaweza.org **Facebook:** Twaweza Tanzania **Twitter:** @Twaweza_NiSisi
- Twaweza is also currently organizing the Mkikimkiki 2915 election debates series. To express interest in attending please email pr@compass-tz.com or call +255 768 129974. You can also follow Mkikimkiki
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