



*For Immediate Release*

## **Digital Rights Alliance Africa Condemns Restriction of X Platform in Tanzania, Calls on Government to Restore Access**

May 21, 2025: The Digital Rights Alliance Africa (DRAA) is deeply concerned by the [restriction on access to X](#) by the Tanzania government. The move is part of a series of regressive measures to limit the civic space and enjoyment of digital rights in violation of the fundamental freedom of expression and access to information.

Tanzania's blockage of X not only stifles important public opinions but also promotes self-censorship in spite of Tanzania's several national, regional and international commitments to protect and promote freedom of expression, such as the Constitution of the United Republic of Tanzania (Article 18) and the Access to Information Act 2016, the African Charter on Human and Peoples Rights (Article 9), Principle 38 of the African Declaration of Principles on Freedom of Expression and Access to Information, and Articles 19 of both the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights.

Internet and social media disruptions stifle citizens' right to organise, express themselves, and access pluralistic information. They also undermine electoral transparency and accountability and may perpetuate political instabilities since they breed distrust in the credibility of elections. Furthermore, they have significant economic implications as they disrupt businesses and impede financial transactions and other economic activities that rely on digital platforms.

Given the current development involving Tanzania's [arrest, detention](#) and deportation of human rights activists from the East African region and the upcoming general elections, the restriction is part of the wide measures to keep people in the dark which is contrary to democratic values and impairs citizen participation. It is a deliberate attack on digital rights enjoyment and impairs the underpinnings of open, accountable and participatory democracy.

We reiterate the call of the African Commission on Human and Peoples Rights in the Resolution on Internet Shutdowns and Elections in Africa (ACHPR Res. 580 (LXXVIII) 2024) on states to refrain from ordering the interruption of telecommunications services, shutting down the internet, or disrupting access to any other digital communication platforms before, during or after elections.

As DRAA, we call on the government of the United Republic of Tanzania to:



1. Immediately lift the restriction on X and restore unfettered access.
2. Adhere to the rule of law and human rights principles including the observance of judicial oversight before any service suspension are imposed in the future.
3. Refrain from imposing onerous orders on telecommunication companies and other Internet Service Providers (ISPs) to shutdown the internet.
4. Ensure consultation with all stakeholders including private sector and civil society to determine appropriate steps for addressing emerging concerns in public interest without disrupting internet and platform access.

**Signed by:**

**Digital Rights Alliance Africa**

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*About the Alliance:*

*The Digital Rights Alliance Africa (DRAA) is a network of traditional NGOs, media, lawyers and tech specialists from across Africa that seeks to champion digital civic space and counter threats to digital rights on the continent. The Alliance was created in 2023 during the Forum on Internet Freedom in Africa in response to the rising digital authoritarianism in the region. It currently has members from 15 countries, who collectively monitor, engage in research, advocacy, share strategies for navigating digital threats and promote digital policy reforms in line with their shared vision outlined in the outcome declaration endorsed in 2023.*

For more information visit: <https://digitalrightsalliance.africa/#>