

David McAllister, Barry Andrews, Udo Bullmann, Reinhold Lopatka, Lukas Mandl, Erik Marquardt

Members of the European Parliament

Brussels, 9 April 2026

We express our deep concern over the continued detention of Tundu Lissu, leader of the main opposition party CHADEMA and one of Tanzania's leading voices for justice and democracy. On this day twelve months ago, Mr Lissu was imprisoned and has remained in solitary confinement without access to bail and amid repeated delays in judicial proceedings ever since. He is facing politically motivated charges with grave legal consequences, including capital punishment. His case is not isolated but reflects the ongoing repression and intimidation of Tanzania's political opposition.

We call for Tundu Lissu's immediate and unconditional release, and for the lifting of the political ban on CHADEMA. The exclusion of opposition forces, the suppression of protests, and the indiscriminate detainment of political figures showcase the government's rejection of democratic principles.

We urge the Tanzanian authorities to respect the freedom of expression, assembly, and political participation. The people of Tanzania deserve a government that respects their will. We stand with them and their vibrant civil society.

Barry Andrews (Renew Europe)

Udo Bullmann (S&D)

Reinhold Lopatka (EPP)

David McAllister (EPP)

Lukas Mandl (EPP)

Erik Marquardt (Greens/EFA)