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# Table of content

Message from the African's Rising Coordinating Collective 4
Message from Movement Coordinator
About Africans Rising7
Kilimanjaro Declaration 2.0 8
Civic Space Expansion 8
Gender Justice 8
Dignity and Socio-economic Well-being
Ethical Governance 8
Reparative Justice
Ecological Justice 8
Actualising African Unity, Borderless Africa and One 8 African currency
Fighting against all forms of Human Trafficking,
Our work in 2023 9
Campaigns and Advocacy 10
Pan-African Mobilisation and Solidarity 25
Movement Building and Support
Africans Rising Activisim Award
Resource Mobilisation 48
Acknowledgement of Partners 50
Our Team (Staff, Ambassadors & CC List) 51
AR in the News - 2023 55

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# Message from the Africans Rising Coordinating Collective: Empowering Change, Building Unity



Dear Comrades,

As we reflect on the transformative journey of 2023, the African's Rising Coordinating Collective is delighted to present the 2023 annual report, a testament to our shared commitment to empower change and foster unity across the African continent and diaspora. In our relentless pursuit of a Borderless Africa, our campaign struck a chord, mobilising over 40,000 individuals and organisations in more than 150 countries and territories. Through a myriad of activities including marches, petitions, and collaborative efforts, we tirelessly advocated for the free movement of African people and goods, amplifying the voices of our diverse membership.

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The cause of climate justice remained at the forefront of our agenda, as we boldly challenged global narratives and spearheaded initiatives to address the urgent realities facing our continent. From our pivotal role in the Real Africa Climate Summit to our active participation in COP28, we stood shoulder to shoulder with vulnerable communities, advocating for renewable energy solutions and international intervention in conflicts such as the Israel-Palestine war.

In the spirit of African Liberation, we commemorated the 60th anniversary of the OAU with a week-long celebration spanning 46 countries. This momentous occasion allowed us to honour our shared history and envisage a future of unity and prosperity for all Africans. Our unwavering solidarity with Sudan and our swift response to disasters such as Tropical Cyclone Freddy underscored our steadfast commitment to pan-Africanism and humanitarian action. Furthermore, our tireless efforts to engender

African social movements and support victims

of police brutality reaffirmed our unwavering dedication to justice and equality for all. Through a series of comprehensive training programmes, activism awards, and advocacy campaigns, we empowered activists and communities to drive positive change in their societies.

As we cast our gaze towards the future, the African's Rising Coordinating Collective remains resolute in our mission to build a continent where every individual has the opportunity to thrive and contribute to the collective prosperity of Africa. Together, in unwavering solidarity, we shall continue to rise, empower, and unite for a brighter tomorrow.

In Solidarity

Africans Rising Coordinating Collective



### Message from Movement Coordinator

2023 was a year full of actions and activities. It was also a year to evaluate our journey as we marked the sixth anniversary of the Africans Rising movement since its launch in 2017.

My appreciation to all the Borderless Africa campaigners for publicizing the petition and collecting both online and offline signatures in hope of securing a prosperous Africa for all Africans. We took this a notch higher during the African Liberation Week where mobilization was done and various activities organized to push for borderless Africa. Key among the actions organised were peaceful marches, fora, soccer match, discussions etc and these were undertaken by members from different African countries. One of the key highlights of this campaign has been the way people have taken ownership and shown the new spirit of Pan-African identity where people are seeing themselves as Afircans first and the country as part of a province in Africa.

Beyond this campaign, we also launched the major Pan-African Solidarity Action Network which is a continent-wide solidarity platform to connect fellow Africans' struggles. This network has made it possible for fellow Africans to be in solidarity with one another in moments of crisis as we did when Tropical Cyclone Freddy hit Malawi and when several innocent civilians were caught in the crossfire of a senseless war in Sudan. We did well for this particular round of humanitarian solidarity and we must continue with this Pan-African solidarity in the next years. Also on our rapid response support in 2023, we had a major expansion of true day criminal space partnership where members benefited in terms of relocation, legal and medical support especially in 5 key countries where a lot of requests for support came in. These countries include: Uganda, Kenya, Mozambique, Cameroon and The Gambia.

A critical part for membership is our Movement Support Program. During that year, in regards to implementation, we created a module in our database system where members are able to log into their own portal and request for movement support that would come directly to us for processing.

The same year we held our 5th edition of Activism Awards and as a movement, we have made it a point to acknowledge and recognise the work of activists and movements across the continent and diaspora through these awards. In an environment where civic space is shrinking and Activism is increasingly riskier, the bold efforts of activists must not go unnoticed. Activism and movement work is a thankless job and the majority of the activists have paid an ultimate price to push the boundaries in hopes of securing a prosperous Africa for all Africans yet there is hardly any recognition. Through this initiative we continue to acknowledge and appreciate you.

On a sad note, we lost one of our Coordinating Collective Co-Chair, Milouda and we continue to remember her and her family in our prayers.

We finally had different campaigns and other engagements around our pillars and all these activities were noticed and given visibility by the media ranging from national, regional to international media.

We must all come together and erase divisions in our minds as Africans to survive the onslaught of the new forces that are being arraigned against to exploit and deprive us of our resources in our great continent.

Africa must unite, Africa must prosper

#### Hardi Yakubu

# About Africans Rising



Africans Rising is a global Pan-African movement of movements, people and organisations working for unity, justice, peace and dignity. By the end of 2023, we had a membership of 40,000 both individuals and organisations in more than 150 countries and territories in Africa and diaspora. Membership is made up of activists, advocates, campaigners, movements, NGOs, journalists, artists etc working together for the Africa We Want, providing space to convene, connect, collaborate, share knowledge and build solidarity among African peoples. Through Pan-African mobilisation, campaigns and movement building, we are not only working to defeat the oppressive system but to create the alternative that must replace it.

#### This vision is encapsulated in the Kilimanjaro Declaration 2.0 and expressed through the following pillars:

#### Civic Space Expansion

Civil society has been increasingly under threat across the continent. Africans Rising is creating visibility and amplifying the response capacities of activists and movements working to defend and expand civic spaces.

#### Ethical Governance

Demanding ethical governance, an end to abuse of power and theft of public resources; and rights of African people to freedom of speech, organising and political association.

#### African Unity

Actualising African Unity, a borderless Africa with one African currency, free movement of people, goods and services and the total liberation of our people.

#### Gender Justice

Fighting for gender justice across Africa to end centuries of patriarchy, sexism and misogyny.

#### Reparative Justice

Demanding reparative justice that allows Africa to recover from the devastating effects of slavery, colonisation, neocolonisation and climate change.

#### Ecological Justice

rights of African people.

being

economic well-

Focusing our struggles on the well-

being and dignity of our people in

the economic and socio-political

development that guarantees the

Grounding our work in ecological harmony, rising against climate change and its root causes including exploitative extractivism.

#### Anti-slavery and Antidiscrimination

Fighting against all forms of human trafficking, modern-day slavery and discrimination based on work and descent.

# 

# Our work in 2023

Africans Rising works with systems approach under three broad program categories:



) Campaigns and Advocacy Pan-African Mobilisation and Solidarity Movement building and support

# Campaigns and Advocacy

Over the past years Africans Rising has built its capacity for campaigns and advocacy through bringing together movements, civil society organisations and other actors to push for things such as freeing political prisoners, push against unconstitutional third terms among others. The campaigns are in two categories - those that are initiated and led by Africans Rising and those that are led by other partners with Africans Rising involved.

#### **AR-led campaigns:**



#### i) Economic justice Campaign

The Economic Justice Campaign aims to address the pervasive economic inequalities and injustices that hinder the progress and development of many African nations. The overall goal of the campaign is to promote a robust nexus between national, continental, and diaspora social movements to reclaim long-neglected, social, human rights, and ecological well-being, from financial actors whose economic, social, and environmental plunders, stifle the growth and development of ordinary Africans.

#### ii) Borderless Africa Campaign



Tiwonge Gondwe is one of the women farmers in Malawi at the border between Malawi and Zambia. After the year's harvest, she and her fellow women farmers are unable to sell their produce in Zambia due to the existence of border restrictions even though the market to Zambia is closer to them than the nearest market in their country Malawi. This is why Tiwonge Gondwe together with the Chikulamayembe women forum farmers joined the Borderless Africa Campaign in 2023.

Borderless Africa is a decentralised, peopleowned campaign with an aim to push for the free movement of African people and goods in Africa. The overall goal of this campaign is to achieve an Africa where Africans can move around our own continent without the current border restrictions in place, for better trade, job creation, solidarity and economic development. The campaign pushes for the ratification and implementation of the African Union Protocol on Free Movement of Persons in all African countries. Activities such as the People's Petition, marches, concerts, football matches among others are some of the activities that have been organised as part of the campaign.

#### 20,000 Signatures for Borderless Africa



Samuel Omare was one of the Borderless Africa foot soldiers who made waves with an image where he bent over for his back to be used as a surface for the signing of the people's petition. He took the campaign to heart and printed hard copies of the petition moving from door to door, market to market, shop to shop, educating people about the campaign and collecting signatures for the **People's Petition for Free** Movement. Physical collection signatures was important of for those who had no access to the internet in order to ensure inclusion and broader ownership of the campaign among the African people.

**More than 20,000 signatures** have been collected through collaborative efforts by members of Africans Rising in **30 African countries** and the diaspora.



Below are highlights of some of their efforts.

Kenya, Ghana, South Sudan, Nigeria

During African Liberation Week, activities were organized to push for borderless Africa which included:

#### MALAWI



A group of smallholder women farmers, Chikulamayembe Women Forum and an Africans Rising member in Malawi demanded the removal of the temporary export ban and called for the ratification of the Protocol on Free Movement of People. The women gathered in Khong'onthelo Katumbi Rumphi district northern part of Malawi and expressed the challenges they face when selling their produce as their target market is closer to Zambia, Tanzania and Mozambique than Malawi. They were unable to sell their produce in these neighbouring markets owing to border and export restrictions. They also decried sexual harassment and corruption they face at these borders.

#### TANZANIA



Voice of Youth Tanzania, a youth-led non-governmental organisation and an Africans Rising member in Tanzania organized a peaceful protest with an aim to sensitise the public and the government on the Borderless Africa campaign and to get more people to sign the People's Petition. The peaceful protest was attended by 60 participants who obtained

legal backing and support from the government and the police department to carry out the activity. The protest kicked off from Usa River police station all the way to the main road Moshi-Arusha Road to Leganga, with police officers and the Ras band accompanying the protesters. The protest culminated with a community dialogue at the Voice of Youth Tanzania premises and signing of the people's petition.





Wahenga Youth Group a consortium of visual and performing artists, a member and the 2023 Africans Rising Activism Awards 1st Runner-Up in the Movement of the year category went beyond the ordinary local mobilisation and included the refugee community in the locality from Congo, Rwanda and Burundi. They narrated their struggles living as refugees in Kenya and intimated that if the borderless Africa dream had been realised, they wouldn't be facing the challenges they are currently in. These

refugees have fled violence and successfully resettled in Kenya. The group had a great opportunity to sensitise the community on the need for a borderless Africa and how it would play a major part in reducing the refugee crisis in their community and beyond. They **successfully collected 104 signatures** from which some were signed by participants in the event and the rest came from the passersby.

#### CAMEROON

WeBuild, an organisation and an Africans Rising member in Cameroon aimed at promoting the empowerment of young people in the domain of peacebuilding, preventing violence extremisms, gender-based violence, conflict prevention, human rights and freedom among others, organised a two phase event on the 27th of May in Buea Southwest



region of Cameroon to mark the African Liberation week with solidarity token from Africans Rising. The first event was a peaceful demonstration that kicked off early in the morning with over 200 youths marching from the Buea Independence Square to the Molyko Omnisport stadium. As they sang, chanted and blew whistles, they seized the opportunity to raise awareness and sensitise the public and curious onlookers on the Borderless Africa Campaign and its importance to Africans. A total of **174 persons signed the people's petition** on that day.

#### NIGERIA



A Peaceful March held in Commemoration of the #AfricanLiberationDay in Abuja, Nigeria.

#### ZAMBIA



A group of youths organized a peaceful march to advocate for a borderless Africa and signing of the people's petition

**ETHIOPIA** 



Ditnitek Youth Empowerment Initiative in Gambella, Ethiopia embarked on a forum to sensitise the community on the need for a #BorderlessAfrica

#### GHANA



A Borderless Africa unity football match was held between Markosor FC (Ghana) and Lion de Zida FC (Togo) on the border of the two countries on 25th May, 2023

#### SIERRA LEONE



In Gaura and Tunkia Chiefdoms of Sierra Leone, a group of men and women held a community sensitization on borderless Africa

#### MOZAMBIQUE



Mozambican platform for women and girls convened to discuss the borderless Africa campaign and further made a donation in support of the victims of Cyclone Freddy.

# O O O UGANDA



Freedom Movement Uganda had a campfire at Relish Hall & Gardens on the topic #FreeMovement of People across Africa and also explored the participation of young people in the push for a borderless Africa.

#### DRC - Democratic Republic of Congo



Africans Rising members from Democratic Republic of Congo were relentless and did not bow to intimidation despite a contingent of police blocking off the road 100 metres from the drop point. With each of the 26 structures formed bringing on board a minimum of 10 people to participate including other onlookers joining the march, they successfully conveyed the message of a borderless Africa and called for the signing of the petition.

# MADAGASCAR



Liberty 32, an organization member of Africans Rising organized four sub-activities, including a mini-workshop on the theme Africa without borders followed by discussions by participants; a peaceful march on the same theme which created awareness of the importance of a united and free Africa; the signing of the petition for the #BorderlessAfrica campaign; and a radio broadcast on 26 May 2023 on the theme Challenges for Africa's Development. In addition, a presentation of certificates to the young women who successfully participated in the training-action conducted as part of the initiative which aims to improve the political participation of young women under the initiative "Zaho Viavy Mahaefa".

#### AR Movement Coordinator presses AU to prioritise Free Movement of African people in Africa

#### **ETHIOPIA**



Hardi Yakubu, the Africans Rising Movement Coordinator in his intervention during a meeting in April with the AU Commissioner for Political Affairs, Peace and Security at the African Union Head Quarters reiterated the need for a Borderless Africa and why it is important for the African Union to Prioritise Free Movement of Africans in Africa.

The African Union adopted a Protocol on Free Movement of Persons in 2018. As of 2023, only four (4) countries had ratified the protocol while it requires 15 ratifications to come into force.

#### Dancing to the Borderless Africa Song



Odelia Koroma, an artistic activist and a member of Africans Rising produced the Borderless Africa campaign song. Another AR member and former member of Coordinative Collective, Abigael Stevens, paid for the production of the song.

Link here: https://youtu.be/Ng8FtfRsdWw?feature=shared





Conferences featuring Borderless Africa conversations

#### Nkrumah-Mandela Leadership Conference held in Ghana



The Borderless Africa campaign was one of the discussions during the Nkrumah-Mandela Leadership Conference which was organized by the Kwame Nkrumah Centre for Ideology, Governance & Leadership (Afrika Forward) in collaboration with Africans Rising together with other partners. The 2 day convening brought together decision-makers and participants drawn from across the African continent. A few days after the conference, with participation from the South African High Commissioner to Ghana, South Africa and Ghana announced a no-visa policy between the two countries.

READ MORE ABOUT THE CONFERENCE

#### Pan-African Festival (FIPAN) organised by Jeunesse interconnectée et fusionnée d'Afrique (Jif'Afrik)



During the Pan-African Festival, borderless Africa was discussed through arts, culture and other discussions. The participants pledged their support to the Campaign and their desire to continue to push until Africa removes the existing borders.

#### Joint campaigns Advocacy - Climate Justice

#### i) Real Africa Climate Summit

President William Ruto of Kenya spearheaded an initiative supported by the African Union to convene an African Climate Summit. In the development of the summit, it became clear that Global North interests were going to dominate the summit. Africans Rising and allies rose to the occasion to mobilise African civil society to raise these critical issues. The civil society actors sent a letter to President Ruto urging a significant reorientation of the summit. Over 500 organisations, movements and civil society actors signed the letter. Mr. Hardi Yakubu of Africans Rising, on behalf of the coalition, sent the African Solidarity letter to President Ruto to consider the expressed concerns of civil society organisations across Africa ahead of the climate summit.

The letter can be found here:

https://www.realafricaclimatesummit.org/



As a follow up to the letter, the partners organised a counter-summit called the Real Africa Climate Summit. This counter summit was an alternative convening to highlight and platform people's voices

in the climate crisis including the need for urgent phase-in of renewable energy to deal with the energy crisis. Participants included farmers, indigenous communities, water justice advocates, frontline communities, women, youth, civil society actors etc. Featured in the summit was a solidarity march on the streets of Nairobi to call for attention of leaders to the food, energy and other needs of the people of Africa. The summit ended with a collective declaration called the People's Declaration on Climate.





Speaking to the media, Africans Rising movement coordinator questioned why Africa had much of the world's resources and yet most African people could not afford three square meals a day. He also questioned why even with gas being exploited in the African continent, more than 600 million African citizens did not have access to electricity.

# O O O O iv) 16 Days of Activism against GBV

#16DaysofActivism against Gender-Based Violence started on 25th November, the International Day for the Elimination of Violence against Women until 10th December, 2023 the Human Rights Day. This campaign aimed to raise awareness and take action to end violence against women. That year, the 16 days of activism were in solidarity with and for women across Africa. Throughout that period, Africans Rising supported by sharing and promoting content from our member organisations, the member activities and actions across our different platforms. Here are some of our contributions:

- a. Activista Kenya https://buff.ly/3VoHKDR
- b. Young Feminist Sanaa Clique: https://buff. ly/4ajewud
- c. AR: https://buff.ly/3VjiyyD
- d. IWHHRDS2023: https://buff.ly/3x7hHXw





The COP28 in Dubai, United Arab Emirates took place from the 30th November to 13th December 2023. It brought together over 85,000 participants, including more than 150 Heads of State and Government, alongside representatives of national delegations, civil society, business, Indigenous Peoples, youth, philanthropy, and international organisations. Africans Rising joined the COP28 as a member of CAN Africa and pushed our joint campaigns such as Don'tGasAfrica, EndFossilFuels, PayupforLossanddamage,

Reparations, KickTotalEnemiesOut, etc. Africans Rising also added its voice to conversations organised by Civil Society during the COP and was part of the panel discussion on Building Alliances to deliver Climate Justice for the vulnerable. Another important part of our intervention was speaking out during the demonstrations at COP that called for a ceasefire in Gaza and for international intervention in ending the Israeli -Palestinian war.

# Pan-African Mobilisation and Solidarity

#### i) African Liberation Mass Mobilisation Week

African Liberation Week is the largest Pan-African mass mobilisation set aside to mobilise all Africans grassroots, organizations, trade unions, community groups, women's organisations, faith groups, local associations, media and individuals to take action on specific themes or issues relevant to the local as well as continental contexts. The 2023 African Liberation Week Mobilisation was commemorated from 22nd to 28th May, and witnessed a significant



WE ARE ONE WE ARE UNITED WE ARE AFRICANS LET MOVE FREELY mobilisation of more than 500 actions and activities across 46 countries in Africa and the diaspora. The weeklong commemoration brought together thousands of individuals and movements to take action on various themes throughout the continent and beyond. The mobilisation focused on the broad theme of "Borderless Africa" which leveraged the key milestone of the 60th anniversary of the Organisation of African Unity.

Actions were also organized to push for

freedom of movement (borderless Africa), Economic justice, gender justice, and to highlight the multiple crises facing Africa and the world, i.e. food crisis, energy crisis and climate crisis.

The week started with a launch on 22nd May and was done through a Press Conference in Accra, Ghana at the International Press Centre and was led by the Movement Coordinator, Hardi Yakubu.

The video can be 🚺 🕨



#### **African Liberation Week**

Key among the actions organised were peaceful marches, fora, soccer match, discussions/ workshops etc and were undertaken by members from different African countries.







#### O O O O O O GHANA

The Young Urban Women's Movement Ghana, organised a community engagement with women in one of the communities in the Talensi District, the event was to educate the people about the African liberation week, its importance and why it is celebrated yearly. The conversation included a radio discussion, where they brought partners from actionaid, the African raising Ghana team and also a speaker from the government sector. The discussion was also live on Facebook to discuss further on issues of gender based violence, gender equity and inclusiveness.

#### SIERRA LEONE

The Movement For Education and Advocacy Network Salone, (MEANS) in partnership with Community Girls Network and Africans Rising organised a one day focus group discussion for girls, women and youths along borderline communities in Sierra Leone in celebration of the African Liberation week. The activity dubbed, Meet one, Tell one, Safe one girl brought together some 276 participants including stakeholders divided into 11 focus groups led by moderators from MEANS Salone and Community Girls Network respectively from seven communities along the borderline to the district headquarter town to discuss issues affecting the socio-economic development, trade and inter boundary relationships among youths, women and girls living along the border areas of Sierra Leone.

#### TANZANIA

Tanzania Youth Association (TYVA), hosted an event which gathered more than 50 young people in Dar es salaam to dialogue on climate change which affects youths in Tanzania and came up with a solution on how to overcome the devastating effects of climate change. This event involved youth entertainment and facilitating the awareness raising of young people in Tanzania.

#### ZAMBIA

The Kutamana Masanta organisation Zambia organised a poster campaign where they showcased the importance of sustainable locally produced and home grown food. They also ceased the opportunity to share some local crop seeds with people who turned up for the event. Youths turned up for the event and some of the older people brought some of their produce which were showcased as well as showing them how to grow food in old sacks.

#### KENYA

Kamukunji Paralegal Trust, KAPLET Kenya organised a workshop that brought together 30 community leaders to deliberate on food security and borderless Africa. During the workshop, participants discussed the importance of having a borderless Africa with a single strong currency that will enhance food security in Africa.

#### ii) Pan-African Solidarity Action Network

One of the **outcomes of the first edition of All-African Movement Assembly (AAMA)** is the Pan-African Solidarity Action Network, a continent-wide solidarity platform to connect fellow Africans' struggles. The main objective is to make it possible for fellow Africans to be in solidarity with one another in moments of crisis. This could be in the form of humanitarian solidarity, political and peace initiatives, conflict resolution etc. Examples of this include victims of Cyclone Freddy in Malawi and victims of war in Sudan.

#### a) Pan-African Solidarity for Tropical Cyclone Freddy in Malawi



Neria Samson, a Primary school pupil was among thousands of school going children whose learning was disrupted by Tropical Cyclone Freddy. Her family was rendered homeless and her school uniform washed away too by these floods. Her emotions were running high as she described the ordeal from this disaster and aftermath that followed. This was just one of the families affected when Cyclone Freddy hit the Southern Africa country of Malawi. With over 2.2 million affected, half of this number were in urgent need of support "Cyclone Freddy: Counting the Cost" (2023, June 11), Oxfam UK, Link: bit.ly/4ebmuZj. Following this, Africans Rising made a passionate call for Pan-African solidarity working closely with members in Malawi such as the Kachere Progressive Women's Group . The solidarity support was in the form of clothing and essential items. The items were collected from neighbouring Southern African countries including Zambia, Botswana and Zimbabwe where Africans Rising's volunteer coordinated the conveyance of the relief items to the makeshift residence of the affected fellow Africans living in Malawi.

When one of the surviving victims, Evance Banda quit school following his father's death, he learned carpentry for a living. Today, his workbench is the only item that remains after his home was left shattered by Cyclone Freddy. Evance's mother and two siblings were killed in the night. Nine people in the surrounding homesteads also died. He remarked,

### "I feel lucky to be alive, but life won't be easy to survive without them."

He was however pleased to see Africans stand in solidarity with the people of Malawi in the moment of need.

Watch the video

Mr. Malango Maganga, Executive Director for Kachere Progressive Women's Group delivered an inspiring speech during the distribution event. He acknowledged and thanked Africans Rising for the aid materials and was pleased with AR's mandate and relevance to African victims on the continent. The Umodzi Youth Organisation also received relief items from Africans Rising on behalf of the affected population in Malawi.



#### b) Pan-African Solidarity for Victims of Civil War in Sudan

Halima Adam was devastated, her dreams totally shattered. She described how she had fled with her children from Omdourman to Alfasher due to this war, the daily sheiling and air bombardments by the army that continued to kill the people in Khartoum. The rest of the family were left behind since they had no finances to pay for transportation. On their way, they had run short of food, money and the truck ferrying them had broken down . She recalls how they had been ripped off their belongings but they had managed to get to Alnohoud and later arrived in Alfasher where they were accommodated in Alradeif school which was the centre for the newly internally displaced persons.

Africans Rising initiated a Pan-African solidarity for Sudan to mobilise humanitarian solidarity to support our fellow Africans displaced by the war in Sudan.





#### **Global Day of Solidarity for Sudan**

As the war continued, more lives were lost, the number of wounded and displaced persons increased and the majority of those who continued to bear the brunt were the vulnerable groups that included children, girls, women, persons with disabilities among others. On 2nd December, Africans Rising initiated and set aside the Day of Solidarity with Sudan to bring international attention to the situation in Sudan and to appeal to the conscience of Africans all over the world to stand in solidarity with Sudan.

We continued to call for peace in the spirit of Pan-African solidarity to put an end to the on-going war.



Together with movement members in Kenya, Uganda, Tanzania and South Sudan, Africans Rising set up collection points for items that African people donated. The partner movements were: Uzalendo Africa Initiative (Kenya), Freedom Movement Uganda, Kayole Community Justice Centre (Kenya), Pan-African Peacemakers Alliance (South Sudan). African Youth Commission (Kenya), Activista Tanzania and Ukombozi Library (Kenya).

The action began in countries in East Africa due to their proximity to Sudan. The people would then donate their personal items to show solidarity to fellow Africans in Sudan.



#### **Global Day of Solidarity with Sudan**

Friday, **24th November 2023** was the date for the **Global Day of Solidarity Action with Sudan**. The earlier date of 17th November was changed to the new date because it coincided with an important date in Uganda. Focal persons at the collection points discussed the distribution approach and

specific actions that will be carried out on that day to expand the outreach efforts to victims.

Actions taken by members of Africans Rising include the following:

#### Freedom Movement Uganda



The freedom Movement Uganda's activities included but not limited to the following:

- They received relief items from 3 individuals so far and a 4th person reached out for more details on how to donate.
- They planned a Press Launch, a March through the community, and drove through the community using a Public Address System

#### PAPA



Activities of PAPA included the following:

- Received some items which they shared with the group
- Reached out to individuals, institutions and groups to discuss the solidarity action and get their support.
- Increased number of people showing interest and requested more information
- Intensify their social media communication so as to get more out of the action
- Updated donation tracker form to show the increasing support from individuals

#### **Kayole Justice Center**



The KJC activities included the following:

- Received some relief items and pictures on the solidarity action
- Held meetings to discuss the collation and deployment of relief items and specific groups to prioritise

#### Ukombozi Library





#### iii) Solidarity Mission to Nigeria

In December 2023, a solidarity mission led by Abubakar Saidu Midala from Africans Rising visited the village of Tudun-Biri in Kaduna State, Nigeria, following a devastating twin bombing. The attacks resulted in 84 deaths and 66 injuries, primarily affecting men who were the breadwinners for their families. Stakeholders, including local leaders and victims, detailed the severe impact on their community, highlighting the destruction during a festival and the subsequent relief efforts by the government and NGOs. Despite receiving some aid, the community still lacked essential services such as clean water, healthcare, and security, and many families faced dire financial and emotional hardships. The mission recommended urgent support for these families, including financial aid, business resources, skills training for the disabled and women, and the provision of critical infrastructure to help the community recover and rebuild.

LINK TO THE REPORT: Click here

# Movement Building and Support

Africans Rising movement building program is in two folds namely: *building the Africans Rising movement into a more formidable one and supporting the building of grassroot movements*. The two have a correlation. The more movements AR builds, the stronger AR becomes because such movements automatically become members of Africans Rising as an umbrella movement.

The activities that took place under the movement support program include:

#### i) En-gendering African Social Movements Program - Training

In line with Africans Rising's mandate to ensure gender equality, the Engendering African Social Movements (EASM) program was developed to ensure the adoption of gender inclusivity in grassroots activities by social movements in Africa. By regular trainings and strategic engagements, we work on mainstreaming gender at both internal and external levels, with the aim of making African social movements more gender inclusive and respectful of rights, safety and agency of women as they contribute their efforts, energy, time and resources to creating change for the #AfricaWeWant.

In 2023 we carried out the staff training and the first session of the training to Africans Rising members.

*Members training:* Africans Rising embarked on a journey to support movements across the continent and the diaspora to build their knowledge of gender

and feminism. A five-module training series was offered to the members of Africans Rising (movements and individuals) to strengthen their understanding, knowledge, and analysis of gender and feminism. In the first series of that virtual training which was delivered in English, members dived into key concepts and terms, as well as a greater understanding of feminist leadership and principles. Participants had the opportunity to share their understanding of current thematics linked to gender equality and feminism and how they integrated these learnings into their work.

Successful participants were presented with a Certificate of Participation to acknowledge their commitment towards the training.



# AFRICANS RISING ACTIVISM AWARDS

On 16th October, Africans Rising launched the fifth edition of its annual awards initiative (Activism Award) that serves the purpose of amplifying and advancing the work of African activists and movements, highlighting activism as a critical means of positive change in African communities. We've continued to support and connect African activists to a larger network of their colleagues committed to promoting social justice across the continent and in the diaspora. In that year, we presented three awards: Activist of the Year, Movement of the Year and Artistic Activist of the Year.

#### The winners of 2023 Activism Award were:



Joseph Tsongo (RDC)

Activist of the Sean

He is a young social change activist and community organizer passionate about social and environmental justice based in the Democratic Republic of Congo where he is the founder of the Jambo-Lab project, a digital platform preserving lives and livelihoods of communities affected by climate change effects. 1st Runner Up



Marwa Werghemmi (Tunisia)

She is a Tunisian teacher working on the 15 Five educational project for rural schools which aims to integrate critical thinking skills, conflict resolution and negotiation skills in terms of literacy through manuals, board and card games and a teacher guide. This project facilitates 50 teachers mission already and still going on to achieve the 100 teachers and pupils aged between 8 and 12 years old. 2nd Runner Up



Ogechukwu Nwangwu (Nigeria)

As a young Intersex person and Intersex right activist Eudora's advocacy strategy is offering their expertise in development spaces through policy advocacy, information dissemination and community building and supports implementation of strategies for mainstream gender and social inclusion and human rights approach in policies and intervention.

#### Winner



Centre Badilika (République Démocratique du Congo)

This is a women's and community-based organisation established since 2019 in the Democratic Republic of Congo to mobilise and advocate for human and environmental rights, particularly in rural areas and areas plagued by armed conflict.

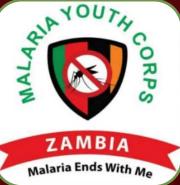
#### 1st Runner Up

waxenca youth
Jun
REPATRIATION IS A MUST.

#### Wahenga Youth Group (Kenya)

It is a dynamic and creative consortium of visual and performing artists/activists based in the Kayole area of Nairobi, Kenya, with a focus on using art as a means to address social injustices and promote positive change within their community and beyond. Their diverse range of artistic activities, including graffiti, music, poetry, comedy, and acting, allows them to engage with a wide audience and use their art for advocacy and edutainment.

#### 2nd Runner Up



#### Zambia Malaria Youth Corps (Zambia)

The organisation advocates for and drives action towards malaria elimination and expansion of universal health coverage (UHC) in Zambia and has recruited around 9000 thousand plus youth across the country. They continue to raise awareness and community sensitization activities, as well as dissemination of malaria messages that drive end-malaria action.

#### Winner



Monica Mutumi (Kenya)

Bene3 the poet is a spoken word artist, fierce human rights defender and an activist from Mukuru. Through the power of poetry, Bene3 teaches, entertains and educates the community on important issues such as police brutality, GBV, politics and mental health.

#### 1st Runner Up



Warren Nsoseka Lee (Cameroon)

As a poet, writer and peace activist, he channels the essence of humanity and the sanctity of human life through verse, spoken word poetry and prose, infusing words and actions to inspire others to join in pursuit of a world woven with compassion and harmony. As a charismatic young leader, he has championed several youth-led peacebuilding initiatives, including the "Youth and Culture Hub for Peace," a platform for dialogue, healing and youth growth which, since 2017, has impacted over two thousand (2,000) displaced women and youth people affected by the conflict in Anglophone Cameroon. **2nd Runner Up** 



Felicity Asibi (Nigeria)

The organisation advocates for and drives action towards malaria elimination and expansion of universal health coverage (UHC) in Zambia and has recruited around 9000 thousand plus youth across the country. They continue to raise awareness and community sensitization activities, as well as dissemination of malaria messages that drive end-malaria action.

# Intistic Activist of the Year

#### Read more about AR Activism Award. CLICK HERE

#### iii) Artistic Activism

#### a) New Music Videos released from ACAN

African Creative Action Network (ACAN), an artistic collective of African creatives practising different art forms and supported by Africans Rising published new music videos to its YouTube feed - "My Voice, My Weapon" and "Hope on the

**Horizon.**" The songs highlighted the challenges of economic instability, sustainable development, and freedom of expression while emphasising the role of solidarity and collective action in social change.

## iv) Climate Justice Camp - Global youth gathering to define climate agenda



Africans Rising joined other partners and over 450 young leaders from the world's most climateaffected regions at Climate Justice Camp that took place in Lebanon from 28th of August through 2nd September 2023. Participants were drawn from over 100 countries across the Global South. The Climate Justice Camp in Lebanon followed on from the success of the inaugural camp held in September 2022 in Tunisia. The camp afforded a great opportunity for Africans Rising to exchange and share experiences on various topics including finance, loss and damage, climate adaptation, access to energy, food, water, and education; with the aim of building climate networks across the Global South that can work together to push for long-term political change. Africans Rising also used the camp as an opportunity to promote the Borderless Africa Campaign amongst African Youths.

#### v) Support of victims of Police brutality



During the mass protests in Kenya in the month of March and April 2023, members of Africans Rising had been documenting the atrocities meted out on the innocent protesters by the police and the government of Kenya. One incident is the protest that took place in an informal settlement, Kibra constituency in Nairobi where police arrested innocent young Kenyans who were going about with their work and detained them at Langata police station. They were allegedly charged on an account of arson, robbery with violence and destruction of property.

In early September, Hardi Yakubu, the Africans Rising Movement Coordinator accompanied by few members of the movement paid a visit to the victims of police brutality in various prisons and in some informal settlements in Nairobi. They held a series of discussions with them in a bid to know the circumstances that led to their arrest and the challenges they were facing while in detention and after their release. Africans Rising provided support to them by conducting training on human rights, mentorship and also having these young people included as members of the movement.



Africans Rising team led by the coordinator Hardi Yakubu also visited other justice centres in Kayole and Mathare settlements in Nairobi where they interacted with comrades organising at grassroots level

#### vi) MDR Training - Human Rights Defenders training in Kibra, Nairobi ( Monitoring and documenting human rights violations



As part of Africans Rising work in supporting local movements and dignity for Africans, early in the year, we supported victims of police brutality who were arrested during the cost of living demonstration in Nairobi, with the help of local members of Africans Rising in collaboration with other movements. Continuity of the solidarity was very much needed especially building and sustaining local solidarity towards preventing criminalization of right to protest and it is in this regard that Africans Rising in partnership with Kongamano la Mapinduzi conducted a monitoring, documenting and reporting violations training in Kibera to support the victims of police brutality and the local comrades.

#### vii) Other forms of support

Africans Rising supported the designing and printing of banners for some member activities. These included Kayole Social Justice Centre, Utalii Community Justice Center.



#### KAYOLE COMMUNITY JUSTICE CENTER

**Mission** 

To fight for Dignity, Equity and Justice for all!

#### Vision

A just society

#### **Contact details**

EMAIL ADDRESS

🔀 kayolecommunityjusticecenter@gmail.com

FACEBOOK & TWITTER

**a**KayoleCJC



A grass root community-based organization that is committed to foster resilience and reducing crime and substance abuse among young generation in communities through Education, Research and Advocacy



#### Mission

Identify structural reasons for economic, social and political inequality through education as we strive for a transformative and impactful Generation both in mind and attitude so as to come out responsible, bold and competent in all that we do



To be a Bonafide organ that brings and realizes social justice, that which wholesomely understands the danger and frustrations imposed by injustice. And which implores the path of fighting to finish or reduce its existence

FUTURE BILA CRIME: BRICKING THE CYCLE Adressing crime and drug abuse among young people

📧 utaliicommunityjustisesentere g

#### **AR's Reconstitution of Governance Structure**

#### **Elections and new CC takes office**

The year saw a new team of Africans Rising Coordinating Collective that serves as the "Board of Directors" of the movement take office for **2023-2025 term.** The movement is governed by its Constitution as adopted by members and which provides that elections of Coordinating Collective (CC) members be held every two years. 2023 was the election year and Africans Rising members under the supervision of the Nominations Committee elected new CC members. The leaders are responsible for the oversight, guidance and direction of the movement during their service terms.

#### **CC Retreat in Ghana**

The process, which started with open nominations, popular, free, fair and transparent elections concluded with an **inaugural meeting in Accra, Ghana**.





The meeting followed one month of virtual orientation of the newly elected members and that completed a major milestone in the transition timeline. In line with Article 7 of Africans Rising's Constitution, CC leadership was chosen as follows;

- Mutemi wa Kiama (Co-Chair),
- Laura Tandungang (Co-Chair) and
- Nalucha Bernadette Nganga (Treasurer)

Other members of the Coordinating Collective include: Lucky Ninsiima (*Uganda, East Africa*), Laura Tandungang (*Cameroon, Central Africa*),

Brian Kayongo (*Zambia, Southern Africa*), Nandini Tanya Lallmon (*Mauritius, Southern Africa*), Salma Hosseini (*Egypt, North Africa*), Sandrine Diribe (*Cameroon, Central Africa*), Jonas Ndubisi Promise (*Nigeria, West Africa*) and Grace Atuhaire (*Germany, Diaspora*). Sadly, as we announced, Milouda Bouichou who had been re-elected for a second and final term in the Coordinating Collective as the Co-Chair, transitioned to join our ancestors.

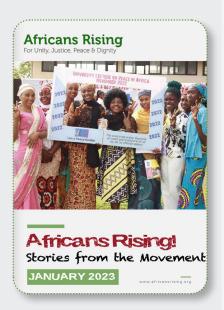
On 24th November 2023, Laura Tandungang (*from Cameroon*, *Central Africa*) was elected as the new Coordinating Collective Co-chair.

## **INMEMORY** of a comrade and revolutionary

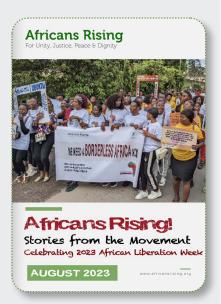
On 4th September, we learnt of the passing of our beloved comrade and Co-Chair of Africans Rising Coordinating Collective (board) Dr. Milouda Bouichou which occurred after a short illness. She was a committed Pan-Africanist. feminist, activist, fighter, a soldier in the revolution and struggle to unify Africa. Milouda had been re-elected for a second and final term in the Coordinating Collective as Co-Chair just a few weeks before her demise. It is such a big loss for the African continent, the Africans Rising Movement and the revolutionary fight to unify Africa. We honour her by continuing with what she firmly stood for, her legacy lives on! Read our full statement here. Rest well comrade.

# Dr. Ailouda Bouichou

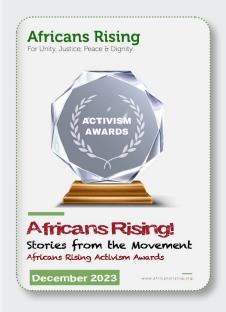
#### **Publication of the Movement's Success Stories Booklets -2nd, 3rd & 4th editions**



In January 2023, Africans Rising released the 2nd edition of "Stories from the Movement", a series of publications that highlights the work being done by Africans **Rising members across** the globe. In this edition, we featured a filmmaker advocating for women's rights in Sudan, an organiser to helping keep children in school throughout East Africa, and the founder of a lecture series aimed at building peace in Cameroon. Check out the booklet on our website.



In Sept 2023, we had our 3rd edition of our success story booklet published. It highlighted various events and actions organized by individual members and movements across Africa during that year's African Liberation Week. **Read here:** https://www.africansrising.org/ wp-content/uploads/2023/09/ Success-Sotories-booklet-3rdedition.pdf



In the last quarter of the year, we published the 4th edition and closed the year by featuring the past winners of the Africans Rising Activism Awards and the amazing work they are doing for positive change in their communities. **Check it out here** https:// www.africansrising.org/ wp-content/uploads/2024/02/ Success-Sotories-booklet-4thedition-vf.pdf

#### Women History month



On 29 March, Africans Rising hosted a twitter space conversation as part of our women's history month celebration. In this space, women activists discussed their work as activists and how they became engaged in social change. The Space which gathered over 100 attendees had contributions from key speakers like Angela Ngulube Co-Founder, NYALI Zambia, Patience Mawuto Development Practitioner and Irene Asuwa, Social Scientist/Coconvenes Ecological Justice, Kasina Maryanne, Co-Founder of JUST WOMEN AFRIKA, Minoo Kyaa Team Lead, Social Justice Centres movement, Azaria Nkosazana Mredlane, founder of Dear Young Queen Foundation, @sunguine ss and Mercy Mary Nakawala founder of Girls Safeguarding Girls Movement]

**READ HERE** 

#### The 2023 Africa Week of Action Against Water Privatisation!

Africans Rising continues to serve as the continental secretariat championing and leading the Water justice campaign against privatisation. The milestones and remarkable achievements made so far depicted the commitment of its members towards the commercialisation and privatisation of water by big corporations and multinationals. While governments were under duress to privatise water access and use, Africans Rising joined its likeminded partners to organise campaigns, webinars and town hall meetings with rural and hard-to-reach communities in Senegal. Key among such laudable strides is the Water saves lives webinar.



# Resource Mobilisation

#### **Diversifying Funding Streams and Expanding Access & Infrastructure**

Resource Mobilisation unit is committed to diversifying its funding streams to include trusts, foundations, philanthropists and high networth individuals.

Throughout the year, our team has diligently worked to cultivate strategic partnerships, streamlined donor engagement processes, and enhanced our foundational grant opportunities and individual giving infrastructure to better engage and serve our diverse membership across the African continent.

As part of our commitment to continuous improvement, the past year witnessed a dedicated effort to fortify the hard and soft infrastructure resource mobilisation pillars of the Unit. We developed diverse grant-sourcing policies, streamlined processes, and enhanced our grant management databases. Among these policies are RM strategy, donor management database, individual giving and registration on Funds For NGOs portal. These efforts enabled us to lay the groundwork for the creation of an enrollment form through which supporters can become regular individual givers to support the Movement's work. These foundational improvements have laid the groundwork for greater efficiency and effectiveness in our operations, enabling us to better serve our membership and stakeholders.

Having learned new fintech tools and related opportunities, Africans fundraising Rising simplified its donation processes and extended fundraising efforts across Africa. Our commitment to accessibility and innovation were demonstrated in the donation channels and the adoption of forward-looking fintech approaches. In addition to traditional methods, supporters can now give their donations through popular mobile money platforms such as Momo, Orange and Mpesa. Additionally, we have embraced forward-looking alternatives like Bitcoin Giving and formalized mechanisms to promote private sector giving, ensuring accessibility for supporters with diverse preferences.

#### **Individual Giving**



At Africans Rising, our Individual Giving (IG) campaign called the "One Afro for a Million" took many forms or approaches where members and allies were encouraged to donate at least \$1 equivalent in their local currency to support Africans Rising. These Individual Giving approaches were aimed at encouraging Pan-Africans on the continent and abroad to support the vision of the movement to expand its work through financial and non-financial support. Africans Rising has coordinated individual giving through engagements with philanthropists, high networth persons, corporate giving, and crises giving among others. For example, we have successfully raised funds and attracted in-kind support during the campaign on Cyclone Freddy for displaced victims in Malawi and on civil war victims in Sudan. In 2023, we raised an estimated amount of about \$4,500 in cash and inkind donations were valued at \$2,000. Acknowledging that IG deployment is at its nascent stages, Africans Rising has started exploring the use of Bitcoin (BTC) alternative resource mobilisation mechanism. Bitcoin is a cryptocurrency designed to act as money or a form of payment outside the control of any person, group and entity, and thus removing the involvement of third-party in financial transactions.



# Acknowledgement of Partners

We extend our heartfelt appreciation to our partners whose unwavering support and collaboration have been integral to our success. Together, we have embarked on a worthy cause to implement joint initiatives and achieved significant milestones in advancing our shared objectives. A comprehensive list of our esteemed partners can be found on our website showcasing the breadth and depth of our collaborative network.

Our partners' logos are outlined below:



# Our Team

#### Staff



HARDI YAKUBU, Movement Coordinator



ANN NJAGI Media Outreach Consultant

**DOROTHY ADEBANJO** 

Former Resource Mobilisation

Lead - She made career

transition in March 2024



ANCEL LANGWA Communication, Media and Learning Lead



PRINCE AKPAH Engagement Officer



HARRISON OWUSU Resource and Mobilization Officer



MAURICE SAMBA Webmaster and Graphic Designer



OUSMAN SARR Finance and Admin Lead



MERCURY SHITINDO Regional Resource Mobilisation Organiser, East Africa



TOBIAS WANYOIKE Social Media Associate



FATOU GILLEN NJIE Finance and Admin Officer



AMANDA J. LIETO Regional Resource Mobilisation Organiser, South Africa



ANETH MBAME Regional Communication & Media Organiser, Central Africa



ANNE OSAMBA Regional Engagement and Collaboration Organiser, East Africa

## CC Members

These were the CC members until April 2023 when elections were conducted:



ROKHAYA DIEYE Co-Chair (Member, Senegal)



CHARLES VANDYCK Member, Ghana



CATHERINE RODGERS Member, Kenya



DEJI ADEYANJU Member, Nigeria



CIDIA CHISSUNGU Member, Mozambique

Elections were conducted in April 2023 and the following were the CC members elected from 2023 - 2025:



EDWIN MUTEMI KIAMA Member, KENYA



LAURA NJIJU TANDUNGANG Member, CAMEROON



IILOUDA BOUICHOU Co-chair, RABAT/ CASABLANCA



GRACE ATUHAIRE Member, STUTTGART/ Germany



NALUCHA Treasurer, ZAMBIA



LUCKY NIINSIMA Member, UGANDA



BRIAN KAYONGO Member, ZAMBIA



NANDINI TANYA LALLMON Member, MAURITIUS



SALMA HOSSEINY Member, EGYPT



ANDRINE DIRIBE MBEH Member, CAMEROON



JONAS NDUBUISI PROMISE Member, NIGERIA

### Ambassadors



**BONIFACE MWANGI** 



FATOUMATA JALLOW TAMBAJANG



**EMIRA WOODS** 



JAY NAIDOO



ΑΥΟ ΤΟΜΕΤΙ



**KUMI NAIDOO** 



EZRA MBOGORI



NUNU KIDANE



**COUMBA TOURE** 

# AR in the News - 2023

In 2023, Africans Rising appeared in a number of news report:

What would a Borderless Africa look like? Africans Rising's Borderless Africa Campaign Features on BBC Africa.

"With colonialism came the borders that exist to this day. Now, a movement of Pan-African activists have launched what they describe as a "borderless Africa" campaign. They want Africans to travel within their continent without border restrictions." - BBC Africa in an interview with Africans Rising Coordinator, Hardi Yakubu. Listen to the Full interview **here**.

#### BBC WORLD SERVICE

What would Borderless Africa look like?

A movement of Pan-African activists have launched what they describe as a "borderless Africa" campaign. They want Africans to travel within their continent without border restrictions.

LISTEN



#### AfCFTA: Pan-African groups call for borderless Africa to boost cross border trade

Africa has opened its market for intra-trade for about 1.3 billion people under the African Continental Free Trade Agreement (AfCFTA), but cross border trade has yet to fully take off as people still require visas to travel within the continent. Read more:

WATCH



#### SABC Channel Africa Radio: Africans Rising calls for the abolishment of borders in Africa.

LISTEN



How can the African Union become a stronger entity? Join DW Facebook discussion to celebrate Africa Day where we take a look at the progress the AU has made so far across the continent in the past 60 years. Can a borderless Africa ever be achieved? Is the AU's Agenda 2063 still possible?



Angel TV

#### **AR** launches African Liberation Week 2023

WATCH



Africans Rising Movement Coordinator, Hardi Yakubu talks to This is Africa about his personal philosophy, how it lends to his passion driven career and the collectivism dream.









#### Africans urged to celebrate liberation week by organising events

In a statement issued on Tuesday, Africans Rising Communication consultant Ann Njagi urged people to join in on the celebrations by organising events and funding.





#### Pan-African Visions: Africans Rising Puts Borderless Africa On Agenda

READ

#### Free movement of people still a big thorn NATION as African Union celebrates 60 years

As the African Union celebrates its 60th anniversary on May 25, the noble idea of the free movement of people, goods and services is yet to be achieved.

READ



#### Kenya says African Climate Summit will not be 'hijacked' by outside interests

THE Kenyan government has given an assurance that the Nairobi African Climate Summit, scheduled from September 4 to 6, will not be 'hijacked' by outside interests.

READ



#### Angola: Africans Rising Demands allAfrica Immediate Release and Urgent Medical Care of Activist Tanaice Neutro.

Africans Rising for Unity, Justice, Peace and Dignity denounces the inhumane manner the Angolan authorities have subjected activist Tanaice Neutro.

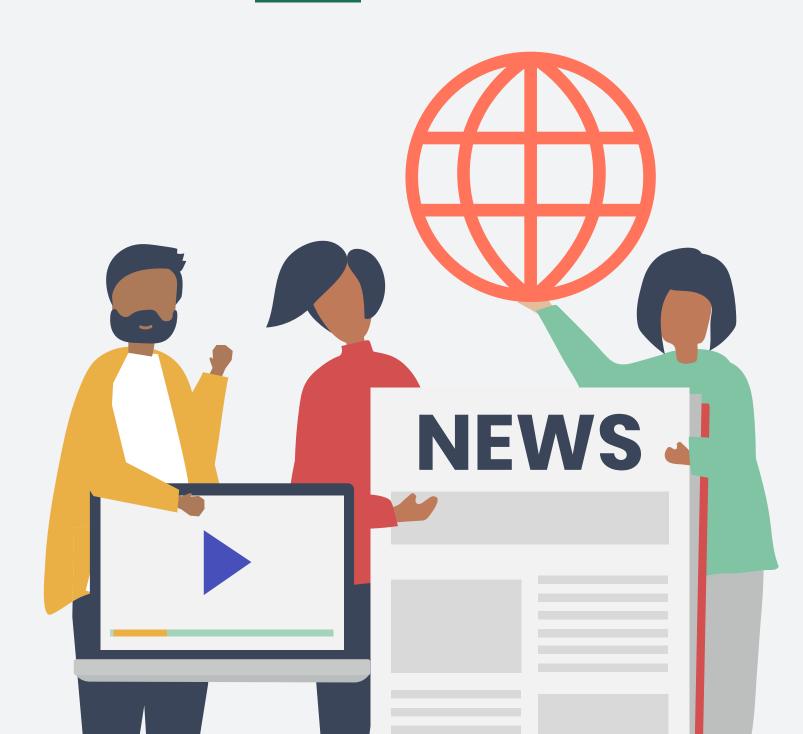




## Sierra Leone Elections: Let peace, will of the people prevail – Movement

Africans Rising, a Pan-African movement, is advocating a free, fair and peaceful General elections as Sierra Leoneans go to the polls on Saturday, June 24.

READ



# Africans Rising For Unity, Justice, Peace & Dignity

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@Africans\_Rising

www.africansrising.org