

# ELECTIONS WITHOUT CHOICE: TANZANIA'S DEMOCRATIC ILLUSION

## FONDEMOS' VIEW :



Post-election protests against President Samia Suluhu Hassan's victory at the Namanga border crossing, Tanzania, on 30 October 2025.

**According to the opposition party Chadema, around 700 people were killed within three days of protests following Tanzania's October 2025 election.**

Our local sources fear the true toll is far higher, pointing to additional abuses by so-called "security" forces.

Meanwhile, **official results declared Samia Suluhu Hassan the winner** with 97.6% of the vote: the very caricature of a **rigged election**.

**This pattern is sadly familiar**, mirroring the same authoritarian playbook seen in Chad, Mozambique, and Venezuela: **excluding rivals and militarising the ballot**. It is how regimes preserve the façade of free choice while strangling its substance.

In Tanzania, this took the classic form of sidelining critics of Chama Cha Mapinduzi (in power since 1977), **imposing a curfew, shutting down the internet, and deploying tanks across Dar es Salaam**.

**What gives us hope amid this bleak picture is regional solidarity**, with Kenyan activists attempted to cross the border to stand with their Tanzanian brothers and sisters:

**civil society supporting civil society.**

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In light of this, **the East African Community, the African Union, and the European Union can no longer look away**. Conditioning financial aid and partnerships on genuine respect for human rights and democratic freedoms is the only coherent way to align actions with words, and to have real impact.