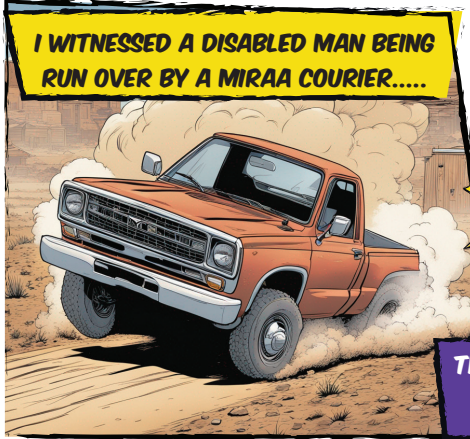


# 6.

# THE STORY OF HASNA ABDI



I JOINED ACTIVISM AT THE AGE OF 15. MY COMMUNITY HAS THIS IDEA THAT CHILDREN WITH DISABILITIES ARE A BURDEN, AND THAT THEIR MOTHERS ARE CURSED AND THEREFORE ARE BLAMED FOR THE CHILD'S DISABILITIES.



I WITNESSED A DISABLED MAN BEING RUN OVER BY A MIRAA COURIER.....



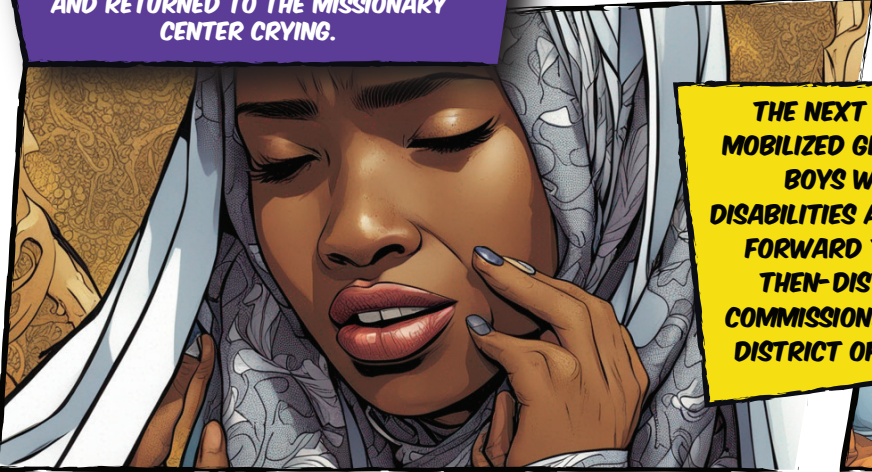
ALIKUA ANAFANYA NINI HAPA?

THE AUTHORITIES DIDN'T CARE



I TRIED TO MAKE THEM HELP HIM BUT THEY DISMISSED ME...

I WALKED AWAY FROM THE SCENE AND RETURNED TO THE MISSIONARY CENTER CRYING.



THE NEXT DAY, I MOBILIZED GIRLS AND BOYS WITH DISABILITIES AND WENT FORWARD TO THE THEN-DISTRICT COMMISSIONERS AND DISTRICT OFFICERS.



HE FINALLY LISTENED

**I HAVE VOLUNTEERED AS AN HRD, AND I AM NOW A TRAINED PARALEGAL SINCE 2008,**



**IN MY COMMUNITY, YOU ARE REALLY DISADVANTAGED IF YOU ARE A WOMAN, OR A PASTORALIST, AND EVEN WORSE WHEN YOU ARE DISABLED. THEY SHAME YOU.**



**WE FIGHT AGAINST A LOT OF CORRUPTION, INTIMIDATION, UNJUST POLICE AND GOVERNMENT OFFICERS.**

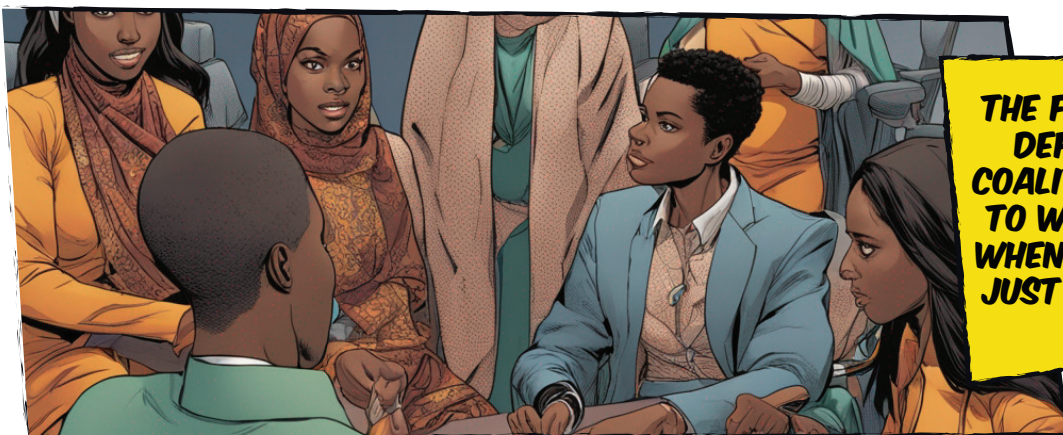


**I REMEMBER A TIME I WAS TEAR GASED BY A POLICE OFFICER**

**THROUGH ALL THESE FRUSTRATIONS THERE HAVE BEEN WINS... I WAS RECENTLY NOMINATED AS HRD OF THE YEAR OUT OF THOUSANDS AND EMERGED AS NUMBER FOUR**



**I WAS ALSO NOMINATED AS A MEMBER OF THE COUNTY ASSEMBLY FOR THE YEAR 2013-2017, WHEN POLITICAL PARTIES WERE FREE FROM CORRUPTION.**

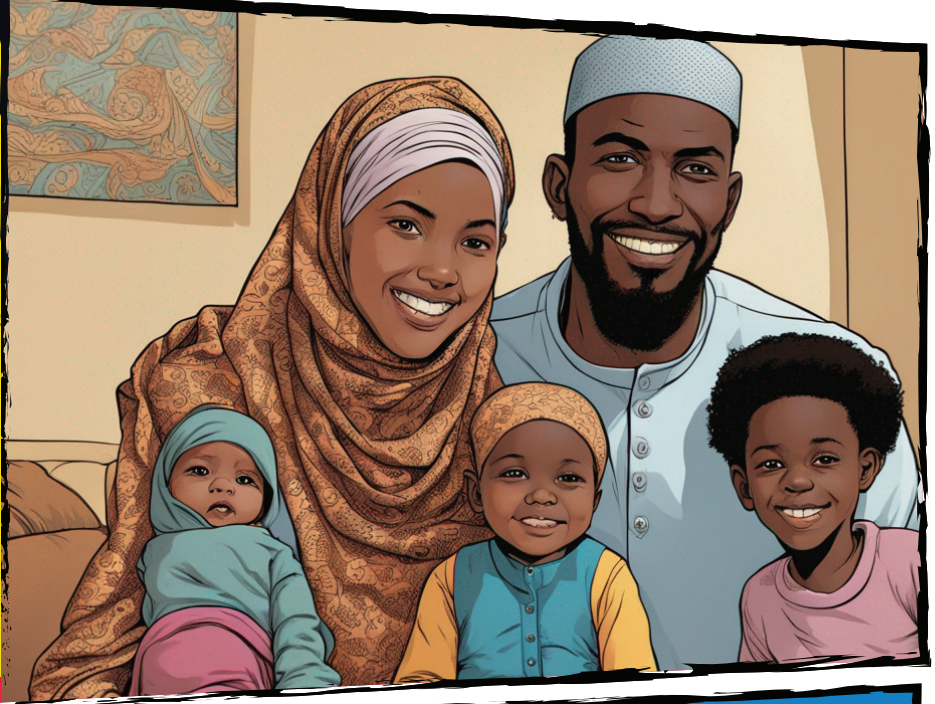


**THE FIRST TIME DEFENDERS COALITION CAME TO WAJIR WAS WHEN THEY HAD JUST STARTED.**



MOST PEOPLE NEVER SEE OR CARE ABOUT THE MESSAGES FROM THE HRDS; THEY ALWAYS WANT TO ATTACK US VOLUNTEERS (THE MESSENGERS). I HAVE SURVIVED THREE INCIDENTS OF SUCH. I HAD AN EXPERIENCE WITH THE ANTI-TERROR UNIT. THIS UNIT IS MAINLY USED TO INTIMIDATE OR INSTILL FEAR OR THREATEN INDIVIDUALS WHO ARE VERY VOCAL. A SCHOLAR FOUND A WAY TO EDUCATE THE COMMUNITY, AND THE COMMUNITY RESPONDED POSITIVELY TO HIS TEACHINGS. ONE OF THE LOCAL SHEIKHS TRIED FIGHTING THE SCHOLAR, AND NO ONE REALLY PAID ANY ATTENTION TO HIM. HE (THE SHEIKH) DECIDED TO SEEK SUPPORT FROM THE ANTI-TERROR UNIT TO INTIMIDATE AND ARREST THE SCHOLAR.

I AM HAPPILY MARRIED WITH CHILDREN. I HAVE A VERY SUPPORTIVE HUSBAND. HE LOVES FATUMA FOR FATUMA, NOT FOR ANY OTHER THING. HE SEES ME; HE NEVER SAW ME FOR MY DISABILITIES. BEFORE I WAS MARRIED TO HIM, I HAD A PARTNER THAT LOVED ME AND WANTED TO MARRY ME. HIS FAMILY, HOWEVER, NEVER SUPPORTED OUR UNION. THEY ASKED HIM WHAT HE SAW IN A DISABLED WOMAN. THEY WERE TOTALLY AGAINST OUR UNION; THEY TOLD HIM IF HE WANTED TO MARRY, HE SHOULD GET A NORMAL GIRL, AND IF HE WANTED TO MARRY A DISABLED WOMAN, HE SHOULD MARRY FROM HIS CLAN.



I REALLY APPRECIATE THE HELP AND SUPPORT FROM DEFENDERS COALITION; THEY HAVE GROOMED ME, NURTURED ME, TRAINED ME. THEY HAVE THOROUGHLY TAKEN ME THROUGH ALL THE STEPS IN MY JOURNEY AS A HRD. I AM THEIR BABY IN THIS COURSE.



**A ROUND OF APPLAUSE FOR HASNA PLEASE, HER RESILIENCE IN THE FACE OF ADVERSITY JUST GOES TO SHOW US THAT DISABILITY IS NOT INABILITY.**

**WITH THE TRAINING SHE GOT FROM DEFENDER'S COALITION SHE WAS ABLE TO FIGHT FOR THE RIGHTS OF THE DISABLED IN SOME OF THE TOUGHEST ENVIRONMENT IN KENYA ANOTHER ROUND OF APPLAUSE.**

**LET'S JUMP INTO OUR NEXT STORY....**

**AT DEFENDERS COALITION WE ARE COMMITTED TO THE SOCIAL WELL BEING OF OF HRDS THIS STRATEGIC PRIORITY AREA AIMS TO FACILITATE HRDS TO BUILD THEIR SOCIO-ECONOMIC RESILIENCE AND ATTAIN IMPROVED QUALITY OF LIFE. IN ADDITION, THE PROGRAMME AIMS AT DEVELOPING A TRAIN THE TRAINER (TOT) PROGRAMME TO COMPLEMENT THE WORK OF THE SECRETARIAT STAFF IN MEETING THE TRAINING NEEDS OF HRDS. FINALLY, TO ENSURE SUCCESSFUL COLLABORATION WITH ITS SERVICE PROVIDERS DEFENDERS COALITION TRAINS THEM ON HOW TO RECOGNIZE AND RESPOND TO THE NEEDS OF HRDS.**

- A) SKILLS TRAINING**
- B) ISSUE-BASED TRAINING**
- C) SECURITY MANAGEMENT TRAINING**