

# Towards A Just Ouch

**IN NOVEMBER 2007,** a group of human rights defenders came together to share their experiences IN defending and protecting human rights in Kenya. It was evident from the conversation, that majority of Kenyans who dared to promote and protect human rights experienced harassment, intimidation, arrests, torture, judicial persecution, physical attack while some were murdered in the course of their work. It was evident that these individuals needed a mechanism to support and watch over their backs considering the numerous risks. The participants developed a plan of action that outlined an effective mechanism that would address their safety, security and protection concerns.

The National Coalition of Human Rights Defenders-Kenya (Defenders Coalition) was established to support human rights defenders facing risk so that they continue doing their work. A national secretariat was established in 2012 to coordinate efforts to support HRDs. Defenders Coalition has since then consistently offered critical interventions to defenders at risk through emergency response, protection, relocation, skills and knowledge development to do human rights work. Further, Defenders Coalition advocates for a conducive legal policy environment for human rights defenders. Recently, Defenders Coalition has embarked to support wellness of HRDs, especially the mental health front.

To date, Defenders Coalitions has touched the lives of thousands of HRDs in small communities across all the 47 counties in Kenya and the region thanks to the financial support from donors as well as in-kind contributions, volunteers' support. However, the institution is increasingly faced with an expanding demand for its services that HRDs count on as they defend rights.



This necessitates the need to diversify the Defenders Coalition funding sources for sustainability, hence this initiative, "Climb for Justice... Climbing for Human Rights and Justice in Kenya" for setting up a hub - HAKI VILLAGE.

The word "HAKI" means "right". The vision is to set up a trailblazing resource center for safeguarding the rights of rights defenders.

In order to meet immense demand of our services for HRDs, Defenders Coalition has commenced a fundraising to mobilize funds to set up a permanent resource for creativity, research, training and wellness.

Our efforts to raise funds is rooted in the Defenders Coalition's ongoing work on consolidation and expanding to benefit more people. We are committed to strengthening our support for the brave frontline human rights defenders at every village of this country who put their lives on the line to protect the Constitution and human rights at a challenging time.

#### "Our dream is to have a resource centre that human rights defenders can call home."

Our dream is to have a resource centre that human rights defenders can call home. A village designed to give them all the necessary support they need to promote and protect human rights in a peaceful manner. We envision a centre that will house the Defenders Coalition's secretariat, host program activities, events and workshops organised by the secretariat and other human rights organisations from all over the country. We will have a research section, an eatery, creative space, respite and co-working space accessible to human rights defenders and the public in the centre's location and its environs.

The Haki Village will have conference, team building, nature trail and sports facilities that will make it the ultimate destination for key meetings to advance the safety, security and wellbeing of human rights defenders in Kenya and the region. As envisioned, the Haki Village will be a facility of excellence, and will have amenities including research, training, creativity, history hub and wellness for human rights in Kenya.

Haki village shall host people who, individually or with others, act to promote or protect human rights in a peaceful manner. Commonly known as Human rights defenders (HRD), these are selfless champions within our society who are identified above all by what they do and it is through a description of their actions and of some of the contexts in which they work that the term can best be explained.

Sincerely, Kamau Ngugi, Executive Director, Defenders Coalition

We supported over 4000 HRDs who were at risk due to their work. We experienced 100% success rate in ensuring that detention-related torture against HRDs arrested or imprisoned did not take place, through our legal support that rescued HRDs from detention where they risked torture. The legal team has continued to walk with the criminalized HRDs at the justice system and ensured that they are vindicated. An upward of 95% of those supported have been able to go back and continue with their work.

**Encouraged citizens and** 

human rights defenders to hold the government to account, challenge impunity and seek justice by offering support whenever there is a backlash.

Mobilized Kenyans and their organizations into joint actions to advance

human rights, counter shrinking space and support disadvantaged groups. **Promoted duty bearer awareness,** improved capacity on the work of HRDs and confronted the systemic challenges and barriers they frequently encounter in their work.

Advocated for a favorable working environment at the international level through the submission of alternative Country reports to the United Nations Universal Periodic Review, ICCPR, ACPHR and UN Human Rights Council. These reports have informed the Council's recommendations to the Kenyan government on the situation of human rights defenders. Further, the Defenders Coalition is leading a campaign for conducive laws that recognize the work of HRD work and assures them of their safety.

15 Years

Defenders Coalition is proud that in its 15 years of existence, the secretariat, HRDs and volunteers have achieved the following: of Defending Defenders in Kenya

We have equipped over 7,000 HRD with critical skills on personal safety, security and effective documentation of human rights violations for effective accountability and justice for victims and survivors. Influenced the development of Kenya's human rights laws and policies through advocacy and strategic public interest litigation.

Has for the past seven years convened an annual HRD Awards gala to recognize, celebrate and motivate HRDs for their work in promoting the community and national good.

Since 2019, the
Defenders Coalition has
mobilized Kenyans and
friends of Kenya to be
part of local resourcing
for establishing a
permanent resource
hub for human rights
defenders.

# The Human Rights Status in Kenya

"Our efforts to raise funds through the Climb for Justice is rooted in the Defenders Coalition's ongoing work on consolidation and expanding to benefit more people."



constitution that among other things, include a full chapter on bill of rights - the fundamental rights and freedoms that Kenyans are entitled to. Despite the constitutional promise, we have continued to witness numerous reports of human rights violations by both state and non-state actors.

For example, although the constitution and law provide for freedom of assembly, the government has put in place restrictions on this right as police routinely deny notifications of assembly filed by human rights defenders without explanation and disperse such gatherings violently causing injuries while other human rights defenders attending such meetings are arrested and charged with criminal offenses. Police brutality continues to persist besides the abuse of security agencies' involvement in corruption and impunity.

Furthermore, there exists reprisals directed at human rights defenders and communities that raise human

rights concerns. The reprisals take

forceful disappearance of activists as well as young

the form of intimidation,
termination of
employment, assault,
abduction, dismissal from
employment, and arrests
and threats of malicious
prosecution. In many
instances, the police have
arrested and detained human
rights defenders arbitrarily, and
charged them with multiple trumped
up criminal charges. In some instances,
both state and non-state actors have been
reported/accused of having a hand in the

Security agents are known to infringe on citizens' privacy rights. Forceful searches, including house-to-house searches are a norm for rights defenders. With increased penetration of technology, HRD risk physical/digital surveillance. The government has oversight of media through the media complaints tribunal which has expansive authority, including the power to revoke journalists' credentials and levy debilitating fines. Further, the government is the media's largest source of advertising revenue, and regularly uses this as a lever to influence media owners. Human Rights Defenders have, in some instances, experienced a "media blackout" due to government influence and excuse of human rights issues not being 'newsworthy'.

adults within semi-urban areas in Kenya.

# Our Journey to Haki Village

**ON 13TH AUGUST 2019,** Defenders Coalition launched the "Climb for Justice" campaign. We are proud of having overwhelming support from Kenyans and friends of HRDs, specifically over 1200 supporters who have hiked various destinations. To highlight, 32 and 17 supporters braved the gruesome Mt. Kenya in December 2019 and March 2022 respectively to raise funds for the Climb for justice initiative. Additionally, 24 Kenyans climbed the world's tallest freestanding Mountain, Mt. Kilimanjaro- in February 2021.

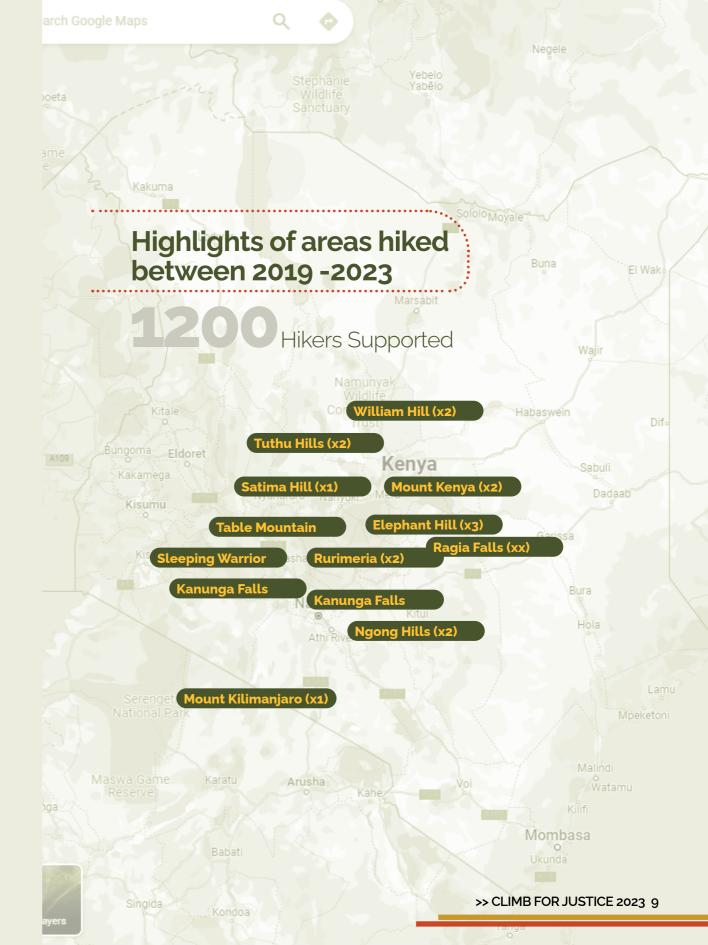
It is exciting that four years down the line, over 1200 hikers have successfully hiked over 15 destinations in support of the initiative and raised Kenya shillings 12.3 million out of the target of Kenya shillings 50 Million. Some of the local destinations include Mount Longonot, Elephant Hill, William Hill, Eburru Forest, Ngong Hills, Le Satima, Ragia, Keraita, Table Mountain, Ngong Hills, Kanunga Falls and Kudu Hills among others.

These funds have since been used to acquire a 5-acre piece of land in readiness for setting up a permanent resource hub.

The campaign aimed at encouraging all people to participate in supporting human rights through an empowering campaign that involved adventurous excursions, wellness, and personal achievements of health goals as we raised funds.

## We are grateful to the following organizations for their support:

- 1. Protection International
- 2. Transparency International
- 3. Embassy of Sweden in Kenya
- 4. OSIEA
- 5. Ford Foundation
- 6. GALCK+
- 7. International Justice Mission.
- 8. HIVOS East Africa
- 9. Sigrid Rausing Trust
- 10. American Jewish World Service
- 11. Transparency International
- 12. Embassy of Switzerland in Kenya



# Kajiado County

KAJIADO COUNTY'S CLOSE PROXIMITY to the nation's capital, its beautiful weather, natural wildlife habitat and the rich culture of its people makes it an ideal location for our dream Haki village.

Haki Village will be a vibrant space for the promotion and protection of the rights of all the Kenyan people as enshrined in the constitution.

#### **HAKI VILLAGE PROPOSED FEATURES**

**Location:** Kajiado County

Size: 5 Acres

Centrally located for easy access by HRDS and staff.

Accessible by public transport Access to drinking water, sanitation, sewage disposal, electricity and other social amenities.

**DEVELOPMENT OF THE** VILLAGE

#### Phase 1

- · Administration block
- · Wellness centre
- Training centre
- · Team building area.
- Coffee shop/Eatery
- Library
- Parking bay

#### Phase 2

- · Business centre (Coworking space)
- · Conference Centre
- · Accommodation-Cottages + Bandas (Occupation 100)
- Restaurant
- Staff Quarters
- Curio Market/shop

The Proposed

#### Phase 3

- The Human Rights Museum
- · Literacy Centre (adult learners centre)
- Sports Facilities (track & field)
- · Gym
- · Nature trail
- Swimming Pool
- · Garden & Orchard

"We intend to unite Human Rights Defenders and rally them to a common cause, the building and establishment of a home for the Defenders Coalition to ensure its capacity for sustained promotion of human rights in Kenya."

Join The Cause

The "Climb for Justice!" mission offers an opportunity for all Kenyans

Provide an opportunity for all Kenyans and friends of Kenya to be

part of building a just society for all through effective protection and

· Inspire and promote a Kenyan society founded on human rights and

· Celebrate Kenya's spirit of resilience, resistance and sacrifice for the

 Unite Human Rights Defenders and rally them to a common cause, the building and establishment of a home for the Defenders Coalition to

ensure its capacity for sustained promotion of human rights in Kenya.

Celebrate our cultural diversity and promote inclusive development.

· Raise funds we need to establish a vibrant Haki Centre as a permanent

and friends of Kenya to be part of anchoring human rights in our national culture. Your support to make this happen will help us to:

home for human rights defenders in Kenya.

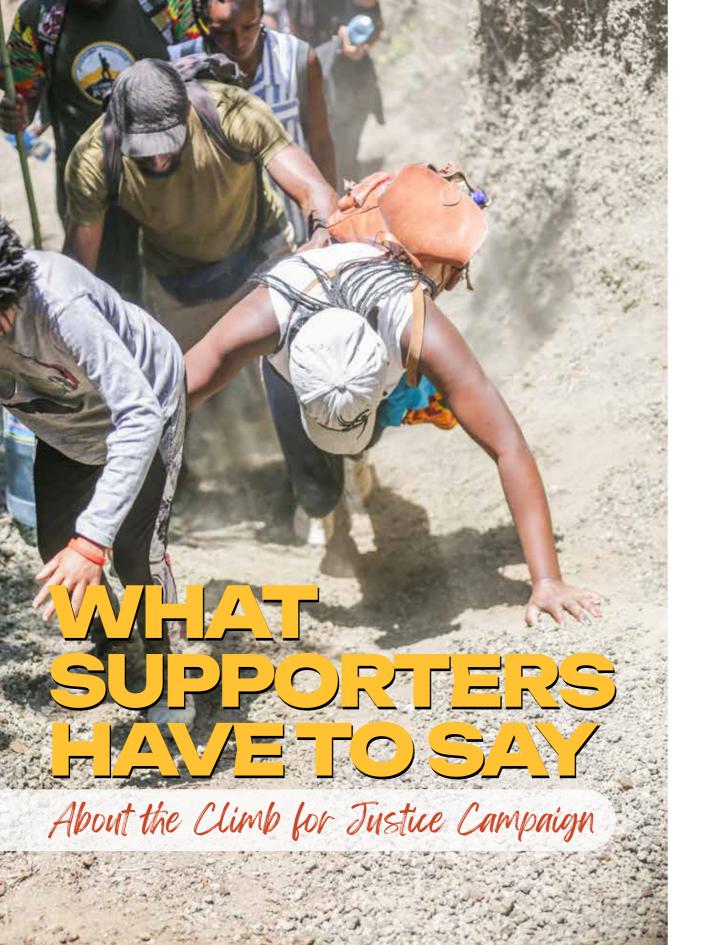
promotion of human rights and social justice.

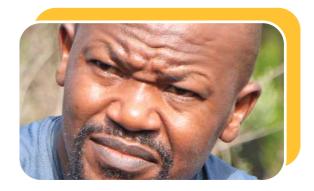
good governance.

greater good.

· Highlight the work of human rights defenders in Kenya.

#### 10 CLIMB FOR JUSTICE 2023 <<





Towy Moturi
Human Rights Defender

Admittedly, my decision to join the #ClimbForJustice team was solely motivated by fitness goals. While staying in shape was certainly a factor, I soon discovered a greater purpose behind the team's efforts. Through my involvement with the Defenders Coalition, I gained a deeper understanding and appreciation for the tireless work being done by human rights defenders. These individuals are committing themselves to improving society by promoting justice and equity. As I learned more about their cause, I became increasingly motivated to get involved and use my own skills and abilities to contribute to this important mission.

Alex Njenga Sexual Minorities Rights Defender



Climb for justice has been an amazing experience for me. I never knew I would climb any mountain in my life, although my passion as an LGBTQ + activist as well as the fact that Climb For Justice was a platform to speak up about our issues propelled me. I started big and my first ever experience hiking a mountain I took on the highest peak in kenya ,Mt Kenya. Every climb for justice is always an amazing experience and I also get to meet other human rights defenders as we all face the mountains head on for justice.



### Muthoni Wahome Human Rights Defender

I WAS SLAPPED HARD. It all started when we got to the base camp- Kibo hut- during our early dinner at 6pm- nausea. It was worse when we woke up to start our ascent to Mt Kilimanjaro peak. I was feeling so sick and nauseated. I struggled to eat biscuits and porridge provided as pre-peak snack. I informed our team lead Emmanuel Agata that the sickness had gotten worse since the onset. He gave me a concoction of water+sugar. I felt some relief albeit short. Lining up for us to start the journey,

I was light headed and had a malaise feeling. I informed the guide, Robi, who'd been at my side all through the trek that altitude sickness had hit me. He carried my day backpack, promised me not to worry and off we went. After 1.5 kilometers, things had gotten worse. The nausea was unbearable, and sweating (at minus 20 degrees) -(the irony is that from the team, I had the least layers (a thermal top and two fleece tops+jacket) but at this point I had to take the summit jacket off as the heat made me feel like I could not breath.

Truth, I was balancing tears at this point and ready to throw in the towel. "Distract yourself with other thoughts," Robi told me, "don't think about this climb". I remembered what

Kamau Ngugi had always reminded us, every step that we took, was for justice. I tried singing -in my heart- Bob Marley's Everything will be alright... but nothing was helping. I had also lost mobility at this point and I had asked Robi to hold my hand. He also fed me the water as I could not even hold my bottle. With Robi supporting me on one side and the walking stick on the other, we pushed until Gilman's- the third peak of the mountain. I was in a daze. Robi was concerned with my unsteady gait and the nausea that was not going away. He explained to me that the journey from Gilman's to Uhuru peak, would be even more brutal(through 15ft snow) and he was not willing to take chances in my state. I did not object to his advise but I was shattered! I felt like a failure. I was willing to push a little more had he given me the chance. But we had to descent as the rest of the team proceeded. I cried to myself when we arrived back at the base camp. I blamed myself for not pushing myself harder /talking Robi into letting me complete the journey. I'm still heartbroken. I will heal eventually but for now, it's what it is.

Kimani Joseph, Kepta Ombati And Sengwer Kadoshy Winnie thank you for your encouragement and support. To my main walk mate Rudyvoella Apidi. I will miss you and mzee James' stories hehe. And to the whole team, memories of this trip will always be treasured.

Haki center is about to come alive. My sincere gratitude to all those who have contributed to this cause. I still have a few of you here who had pledged, *nitawakumbusha*.

Joseph Kimani Human Rights Defender



**WE PLANNED AND PREPARED** to conquer Mount Kilimanjaro. The highest African Mountain and the only free standing mountain in the world. And according to Mr Kamau ED of Defenders Coalition, "We got ourselves conquered!". I also agree that no one can conquer a mountain by simply climbing. What I think I did in Kilimanjaro was conquering my own self. Every step became a moment and the moment turned into a reflection that was accompanied by a prayer. The Climb to me was very much a spiritual encounter than a human right mission. Probably such moments are needed in our lives.

Our team instructor and leader Agata Emmanuel (Respect to you my brother. You are a true leader and guide). I have used the word guide but I must confess, when you meet Agata, Mzee Arusha and Rudi Apidi is when you understand what it means to be guided. This is a life guarding mission and I pay my respect to Guides, Assistant guides, Porters (again am using these words with humility), Chefs and anyone who makes hikes, climbing or such expeditions possible. Mzee Arusha our guide in Tanzania told us that, "Kupanda mlima siyo lelemama" (translated as; "Climbing a mountain is not dancing.").

Then our Oldest Climber a 70 year Old Mzee James, a Land Activist from Mithini Squarters in Muranga County spiritualized our climb. He told us that his God that he prays is very much present in Kilimanjaro as he is in Mount Kenya. Each Morning he prayed for us and reminded us that our Climb was divine. He got even deeper when he translated the trilogy of our experience. He said, "Like the trinity of Our Father, Son and Holy Spirit so is everything about our climb experience. According to him the second trinity revealed in our camping locations before summit. We had Mandara Hut, Horobo Hut and Kibo Hut all found within the Maragu route of Mount Kilimanjaro. The Route is considered comfortable nut can be the most challenging if climbers do not acclimatize well. Our guides made sure we acclimarize well, drink lots of water and walked slowly as advised.

Mzee James continued to explain the next trilogy by looking at how our group of 24 Climbers was constituted. He categorized the group into 3 sets of ages. First composed of elders (40 years to 70 years); Second, Middle (30-39 years old) and third set of younger members (20 years-29years).

Then we learnt from one of the guides that Kilimanjaro has three volcanic cones (after the volcanic eruption that had happened over 300,000 years ago). The 3 Volcanic Cones are; Kibo, Mawenzi and Shira constituting yet another trinity according to Mzee James. Kibo is the most summited Cone and has three summit points. First point is Gilman's point at 5685 meters (18,652 feet); Second point is Stella Point at 5756 meters (18,885 feet) and the third and highest point is Uhuru (Freedom) point at 5895 meters.

Our team had one Hero known as Paj (Muthoni Mutahi) who struggled with altitude sickness



#### MT. KILIMANJARO EXPEDITION

Mount Kilimanjaro in northern Tanzania is a spectacular natural feature that's famous the world over.

Africa's tallest peak, Kilimanjaro, is the world's highest free standing mountain with its summit, named Uhuru Point, reaching 19,341 feet above sea level.

#### **FACTS ABOUT KILIMANJARO**

- 1. Mount Kilimanjaro is the tallest mountain on the African continent and the highest freestanding mountain in the world.
- 2. Mount Kilimanjaro was first climbed in 1889 by German geologist Hans Meyer
- 3. Kilimanjaro has three volcanic cones, Kibo, the highest; Mawenzi at 5,149 metres (16,893 ft); and Shira, the lowest at 4,005 metres (13,140 ft). Mawenzi and Shira are extinct, while Kibo is dormant and could erupt again.
- 4. Kilimanjaro is part of a group known as the "Seven Summits," which include the highest mountains on each of the seven continents.
- 5. Almost every climber to summit Kilimanjaro has chronicled his or her thoughts about the achievement in a book stored in a wooden box at the top of the peak.
- 6.It may surprise you to know that you don't need any special climbing gear or even climbing experience to climb Mount Kilimanjaro.It is referred to as a non-technical mountain for this reason.
- 7. The oldest person ever to summit Mt. Kilimanjaro was 87-year-old Frenchman Valtee Daniel and the youngest is a 6 year old

#### **CHALLENGE BRIEFING**

Registered climbers will be led by experienced mountain guides who have been leading expeditions up Mt Kenya and Mt Kilimanjaro for over ten years. They have perfected the art of balancing the challenge by allowing the climbers the chance to enjoy the scenery. Climbers will have a briefing and preparations meeting to be advised on how to get ready and what (gear and clothing) to get for the climb.

#### TRAINING PLAN

It takes strength and fitness to carry your own body weight and any other extra weight like a backpack all day long, hiking at altitudes much higher than one is used to, climb over a mountain pass or follow along the route down at the end of the day.

The most important kind of activity that can be associated with cardio-training for the mountain is aerobic fitness (running, jogging, aerobic dancing or exercise routines, power walking, nonstop basketball, soccer etc. This kind of exercise stimulates your heart and lung activity for at least 30 to 40 minutes without stopping. Keep extending this time period until you can function at an advanced heart rate for 45-60 minutes without much struggle if any.

We will host prep-activities ahead of the October hike for climbers to get ready for the mountain. We will have a combination of High Intensity Interval Training (HIIT) ,Tabata and runs.

See the 2024 calendar of events below and the details on how to participate:

9th March	Kakamega Forest
14th May	Machakos
13th July	Seven Ponds Hills, Aberdares Forest
14th September	Mt. Kinangop Hill, Aberdares Forest
13th-20th October	Mt. Kilimanjaro Expedition



#### **KILIMANJARO ITINERARY**

DAY	ACTIVITY	DURATION
Day 1	Depart Nairobi for Arusha and night stay at an Arusha Hotel	8hrs
Day 2	Depart Arusha to Kilimanajaro National park via Marangu gate .Hike from Marangu Gate(1830m) to Mandara Hut ( 2700m) Habitat: Rain forest <i>Diatance: 8Kms</i>	6-8hrs
DAY 3	Hike Mandara Hut (2700m) to Horombo Hut (3700m) Habitat: Heath <i>Distance:</i> 11Kms	7hrs
Day 4	Hike to the Zebra Rocks (4000m) using the mawenzi trail and back to Horombo huts (3700m)  Habitat: Heath Distance: 6kms	3hrs
Day 5	Hike from Horombo Huts to Kibo Huts (4700m) through the Saddle Habitat: Alpine Desert <i>Distance: 9kms</i>	6hrs
Day 6	Mid night Summit attempt from kibo huts. (5895m) Distance: 6kms  Hike to lower altitude back to Horombo Huts (3700m) Distance: 9kms	10-12hrs 3hrs
Day 7	Hike down from Horombo Huts (3700masl) through Mandara Hut (2700m) to the Marangu Gate (1830m) Habitat: Heath and Rain forest <i>Distance : 19k</i> ms	7hrs
	(Drive back to Arusha City)	3hr

# Buy Haki Build Haki

### One step, One brick

Supporters of the Climb for Justice campaign continue to make thousands of steps every day to show forth the work of defending human rights.

The one step one block campaign aims to convert one piece of a block to build Haki village. Every step they take and sweat they break in the name of justice supports the struggle, risks, pain and sacrifice that HRDs make in their work. Passionate human rights defenders purpose to conquer Mount Kilimanjaro, the tallest mountain in Africa in 2024. Each hiker will make approximately 140,000 steps throughout the 8-day round trip expedition which covers a total walking distance of 96 kilometres. We appeal to you to hold the hands of these brave human rights defenders and friends of Kenya to support them through the #OneStepOneBrick initiative. You can donate funds equal to the number of steps that you wish the HRDs to make on your behalf while on the mountain!



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# We Invite You to Partner With Us

We invite you to be part of Climb for Justice initiative. We are excited for partnerships with individuals and organizations to participate and contribute financially towards the overall goal of raising the remaining Kshs 38 Million support of the work of human rights defenders in Kenya. This through donation of resources for setting up the various utility spaces within HAKI VILLAGE. **We welcome sponsorships in the following categories:** 



### Platinum sponsor: (KES 1,000,000 and above) with the following benefits:

- 1. Listed as "platinum sponsor" on Defenders Coalition's event website and all promotional materials.
- 2. Sponsor Logo most prominent on team t-shirts and any other branding material.
- 3. Sponsor prominently acknowledged in all publications and interviews related to the "Climb for justice."
- 4. Prioritized and frequent acknowledgement at any of the media and any public events related to the climb.
- 5. A commemorative plaque and certificate of acknowledgement from Defenders Coalition.

"The platinum partner will get prioritized and frequent acknowledgement at any of the media and any public events related to the climb."



#### Gold sponsor: Kshs 500,000-999,999

- 1. Sponsor Logo at the team T-shirts.
- 2. Sponsor Logo and link located beneath the platinum sponsors on the Defenders Coalition event website and all promotional materials.
- 3. Sponsor acknowledged in all publications and interviews related to the Climb for Justice initiative.
- 4. Prioritized and frequent acknowledgement at any of the media and any public events related to the campaign.
- 5. A commemorative plaque



#### Silver: 100,000 to 499,999

- 1. Sponsor Logo on team Tshirts.
- 2. Sponsor Logo and link located at next level on sponsor page of event website. Below the Gold sponsor.
- 3. Sponsor acknowledged in all publications, website and interviews related to the Climb for justice
- 4. A certificate of acknowledgement from Defenders Coalition.



#### **Bronze sponsors:**

- 1. Any amounts up to Kshs 99,000 or significant contribution of product and/or services
- 2. Sponsor logo (in organization) on team Tshirts
- 3. Sponsor acknowledged in all publications, website and interviews related to the "Climb for justice.
- 4. A certificate of acknowledgement from Defenders Coalition.
- 5. Memorabilia.

We recognize that sponsorship can be more than monetary contributions. The Defenders Coalition is open to receive in kind contributions including building and construction materials through its BUY HAKI JENGA HAKI.

#### Categories here include:

Donating a single construction item for a specific utility facility space e.g roofing material, nails, building blocks, ballast etc Adopting the construction of a utility space within the HAKI VILLAGE such as a perimeter wall, gate, recreation facility, research centre, training facility, administration center etc.

**PAYMENT DETAILS:** All payments are payable to

MPESA PAYBILL NUMBER: 810896

Account: Your name

#### Cheques are payable to:

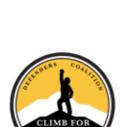
National Coalition of Human Rights Defenders - Kenya

**Bank Details:** 

Bank Name: NCBA BANK Account Number: 2051300092 SWIFT CODE: CBAFKENX







## The National Coalition of Human Rights Defenders-Kenya

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