In response to the request for input from the OHCHR, the African-Caribbean Institute (ACI) submits the following contributions.

The ACI is a small research organization based in the United States specializing in environment, global health and human rights issues. In the last decade ACI has concentrated much of its work on contemporary issues surrounding human rights, witchcraft, and witch-hunting violence in Africa.

The Institute was established in 1983 by Norman Miller, professor at Dartmouth Medical School (now Geisel School of Medicine at Dartmouth) and a correspondent in East Africa for the American Universities Field Staff. Bonnie J. Fladung, senior research associate at ACI, attended the UN Expert meeting on Witchcraft and Human Rights at the UN headquarters in Geneva in 2017. In collaboration with Drs. Simeon Mesaki and Richard Sambaiga at the University of Dar Es Salaam in Tanzania, we are pleased to submit the following responses.

I. Measures

* 1. Over the last 3 decades, the ACI participated in academic panels at the African Studies Association (ASA) in the US. The panels focused on ways to deal with witchcraft violence. The ACI has also published numerous publications on witchcraft.
  2. NA
  3. NA

II. Accountability

* 1. NA
  2. NA

2.3 NA

III. Protection

3.1 NA

3.2 NA

3.3 The ACI actively initiated the following projects.

3.3.1 The Norman Miller Archive is a collection of field notes, rare documents, films and photographs with a focus on Eastern Africa. The print archive is housed at Michigan State University and the film archive is housed at the Smithsonian Institution.

The NormanMillerArchive.com website is an ongoing project and was created to provide a resource for

* Researchers: The physical archives and the website contain field notes, databases, and publications useful to the disciplines of Anthropology, African Studies, Political Science, Comparative Religion, Environmental Studies, International Health, Women’s Studies, and Film Studies, particularly in Kenya and Tanzania.
* Educators: The archive and the website provide teaching materials in the form of usable databases, case studies, photo and film components, teaching guides, bibliographies, and primary field notes and documents.
* Practitioners: East African non-governmental organizations (NGOs), police academies, institutes of public administration, missionary schools, traditional healing associations, and local level humanitarian organizations will find case studies, photo materials, films, and primary field reports useful.

3.3.2 In 2021, the ACI provided a two-year grant to the University of Dar Es Salaam to establish a website and create instructional materials.

Website: https://itspro.co.tz/rwch/

The "Reducing Harm" project at the Department of Sociology and Anthropology, University of Dar es Salaam in collaboration with the African-Caribbean Institute is building a prevention and education program that consists of a data base, special library collection, witchcraft resource web site, periodic workshops bringing together government, media and NGOs. These activities contribute to the national regional and global initiatives towards addressing challenges associated with the phenomenon of witchcraft. The project entails critical reflections of conceptual/theoretical debates on witchcraft along with the assessment of the legal, policy and programmatic interventions in East Africa and beyond. In particular, the project intends to achieve the following objective;

* 1. Expound on the concept of witchcraft beliefs, practices and consequences arising thereof
  2. Describe the phenomenon of witch-hunting and killing of witch suspects, the aim being to combat witchcraft violence in Tanzania
  3. Establish an online resource center on contemporary research findings and produce educational materials in relation to witchcraft vis-à-vis human rights violations and violence
  4. Engage state and non-state actors on strategic interventions to end (reduce) the killing of witch suspects, a legend in the country
  5. Educate and enlighten on misconceptions that drive witch persecution through trainings, workshops and seminars for various interest groups
  6. Involve and raise awareness among duty bearers, upholders and defenders of civil and human rights about the falsity of antiquarian witchcraft beliefs and practices in order to reduce or prevent violence based on witchcraft beliefs
  7. Develop teaching materials and website on the humanitarian issues surrounding witchcraft violence, especially against elders and women in East Africa.

Specific goals:

1. Produce a background report (10-15 pages) on the despicable phenomenon of witch killings and response by government and human rights NGOs pinpointing the successes and challenges to be overcome in order to end the scourge
2. Production of digital and print casebook of approximately 120 pages, to include:
   1. Case reports
   2. Teaching notes
   3. Glossary, etc.
3. Development of model course of ten lectures based on casebook (to be field tested, if possible, at UDSM Department of Sociology and Anthropology)
4. Development of website to be used as a digital repository of resources, to include:
   1. Miller’s Dartmouth exhibit on witchcraft and human rights, “African Witchcraft and Healing” (2012)
   2. A summary of Miller’s book “Encounters with Witchcraft” and an appropriate facilitators’/teachers’ guide on the same
5. Produce a 2nd edition of the Miller book with new cover, authors etc.
6. Demonstrational and facilitation video clips for related occasions

Proposed audience for the project:

1. Ministry of Constitutional and Legal Affairs (Attorney General, Director of Public Prosecutions, Judiciary and Courts of Law)
2. Ministry of Health, Community Development, Gender, Elderly and Children which is mandated to set policies and instruments to protect and safeguard older people.
3. Ministry of Home Affairs (the Police Force, Directorate of Criminal Investigation)
4. Presidents’ Office-Regional Administration and Local Government.
5. Regional/District Commissioners Offices
6. Politicians/community representatives (members of parliament, councilors).
7. Commission for Human Rights and Good Governance (CHRAGG)
8. Civil Society Organization and the Media e.g. HelpAge, Legal and Human Rights Centre, Magu Poverty Focus on Older People Rehabilitation Centre (MAPERECE) and NABROHO (Nassa Brotherhood Society), others as identified by Richard and Simeon

University of Dar Es Salaam:

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Dr. Simeon Mesaki: Consultant/Researcher and Retired Senior Lecturer (Department of Sociology and Anthropology)- simeonmesaki@yahoo.com

3.4 Dr. Norman Miller’s personal memoir “Encounters With Witchcraft: Field Notes From Africa” (SUNY Press, 2012) includes extensive analyses of human rights violations rooted in harmful practices that took place in Eastern Africa 1980-2012. This text is used as the basis for seminars to educate researchers, educators and practitioners.

The companion Teacher’s Guide contains connections to the US Core Curriculum for grades 9-12.

The book and teacher’s guide are available online as PDFs at <https://normanmillerarchive.com/witchcraft-and-human-rights/overview/>

In 2022, the ACI sent 250 books to Tanzania requesting feedback from local practitioners - “Can a person of European descent report accurately about witchcraft in Africa?”

IV Data Collection

4.1 The ACI has assembled several databases of disaggregated information.

4.1.1 Tanzania Rural Leadership Survey Database

In 1965, Professor Miller surveyed 431 villagers in leadership roles in three different regions of Tanzania. Miller distributed a questionnaire with more than 100 questions about economic status, social views, and political knowledge. Responses were collected with the help of a translator.

The raw data sets and analysis are available at <https://normanmillerarchive.com/politics-and-government/tanzanialeadership/>

The preliminary analysis explains the relationship between belief in witchcraft and several factors including age, location, economic status, economic mobility, leadership role, years of education, literacy, and religion. The central thesis is that religion is the most important factor in determining belief in witchcraft.

4.1.2 Witchcraft in the Press database

Between 1960 and 2010, Professor Miller collected approximately 720 newspaper reports on witchcraft in East Africa from local sources. Reports for Malawi and Zambia were dropped from this analysis to establish a collection of 521 reports for Kenya, Tanzania, and Uganda. This database has yet to be fully analyzed, and is made available at <https://normanmillerarchive.com/witchcraft-and-human-rights/witchcraft-in-the-press/>

for further research and publication in the understanding of witchcraft violence. The data may be sorted by date, country, press source, or by major topic using an Excel spreadsheet. Instructors in such organizations as police academies and NGOs concerned with violence against women may use these press summaries to build case studies on witchcraft-related crimes.

4.1.3 The “Guide to The Norman Miller Archives” is a booklet that describes the collections archived at Michigan State University. There are 7 boxes of materials about “Witchcraft and Human Rights” starting at Box 16, and the guide provides an index to the contents of the boxes.

https://normanmillerarchive.com/wp/wp-content/uploads/2022/05/edition2-2019-02-05.pdf

4.1.4 Correspondence on Witchcraft

Professor Norman Miller and Duncan MacDonald, MD, have exchanged letters, e-mails, and documents over the course of 30 years concerning the social and economic impact of witchcraft. These have been condensed into a four-volume collection available on the Norman Miller Archive website containing some 600 pages of their correspondence.

Duncan MacDonald served as a physician in Zambia and Kenya, including a period as an emergency “Flying Doctor.” He later served as a provincial psychiatrist in Cornwall, UK. He has had a lifelong interest in witchcraft issues based on his years in Africa and discussions with Norman Miller.

The documents are searchable and some suggested search terms that lead to a substantial amount of material regarding witchcraft:

Bantu

behavior

Christian/Christianity

definition (of witchcraft)

economics

evil

fear system

history

moral panic

politics

prehistory

psychology

religion

traditional medicine

violence

education

https://normanmillerarchive.com/witchcraft-and-human-rights/correspondence-on-witchcraft/

V Challenges

5.1 The key challenge is defining witchcraft in an operational way, providing on the ground protections against witchcraft violence, and establishing programs to increase awareness about local witchcraft. Channels that are known to work include NGOs, police academies, medical dispensaries, paramedics, and police officers. The problem is creation of applied practical instructional material to confront the specific cultural problems. For example, young police officers are often intimidated and unwilling to investigate witchcraft cases or protect those accused of witchcraft. The police and their families are often threatened by accused witches, and therefore fearful of having witchcraft used against their own families. There are numerous case studies and examples in Norman Miller’s book “Encounters With Witchcraft: Field Notes From Africa” (SUNY Press, 2012).

5.2 In order to reduce harm caused by witchcraft beliefs, village/community level programs need to be developed. Academic analyses without on-the-ground applied case studies are not useful. A crucial step is the collection of data at the village level which assesses attitudes, knowledge and actual practices. This can be done in both rural villages and urban neighborhoods. For an example of data collection, refer to section IV of this document.

5.3 Suggested further actions include online workshops, conferences, networking and sharing data. It would be helpful to establish an international focal point for witchcraft prevention. Perhaps establishing an informational exchange system such as the one used by UNEP entitled “Infoterra” (a component of Earthwatch) would present a good model for data collection and analyses.

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