

OTF Fellowship Project

Project title:

Understanding the use of digital security tools by human rights defenders in Sub-Saharan Africa: Democratic Republic of the Congo, Kenya, Senegal and Zimbabwe as case studies.

Host organisation:

HURIDOCS

Senior Fellow:

Dr. Tomiwa Illori

Overview:

- This project seeks to understand the digital security needs of human rights defenders (HRDs) in specific Sub-Saharan African contexts and provide digital security tool developers with this information to assist them in building and improving their tools.
- It focuses on four case studies: the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Senegal, Kenya and Zimbabwe.
- It investigates whether digital security tools such as counter-surveillance and human rights documentation tools reflect the needs of HRDs.
- It examines how communication and feedback between HRDs and tool developers can be used to enhance the digital security of HRDs especially those who work in low-resource and highly repressive contexts.

Methodology:

This project will be implemented by analysing existing literature on the digital security of HRDs in SSA, carrying out interviews with HRDs and tool developers, and connecting both communities through co-design workshops.

Outputs:

- The main outputs of the project include a comprehensive research report and a short blog post that details the needs of HRDs, their use of digital security tools and how HRDs and tool developers can better collaborate to improve the design and improvement of digital security tools.

Contact information:

- For more information about this project, please contact Tomiwa Illori: tomiwa@huridocs.org