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Abstract Submission  
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**Abstract submitted under:**  
**Challenges, good practices, innovative solutions in Africa regarding Protecting children against violence in justice systems**

**Title: Deprivation of Children's Liberty as the Last Resort: Independent monitoring mechanisms to safeguard children in detention**

The paper will focus on Independent Monitoring of places of detention for children, international standards, best practice and examples from Africa. International standards are clear that children should only be detained in custody as a last resort and for the minimum necessary period.<sup>1</sup> Detention should be an exceptional measure and diversion to alternatives should be promoted. The rehabilitation and reintegration of children in conflict with the law should be the main objective of any institution which holds children. This paper will focus on the function of Independent monitoring in protection of children from violence within the justice system and will highlight the example of a recent monitoring report on children's detention in Tanzania.

Section A will focus on International and regional standards on independent monitoring of detention facilities for children with specific reference to African standards. How to establish a mechanism and best practice in monitoring conditions rehabilitation and treatment of children in detention will be discussed. Particular reference will be paid to examples from the region and the protection of vulnerable groups such as girls, children with mental or physical disability and children in prison with their mothers.

Section B: Independent Monitoring in Action – Lessons from Tanzania.

A recent monitoring of children in detention was conducted in Tanzania. PRI assisted in the drafting of the final report. The objectives, methodology, interview techniques will be explored. Key findings and recommendations to the prison, police, justice and health ministries as well and lessons learned will be highlighted.

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<sup>1</sup> The definition of a child is taken from the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child Article 1: "a child means every human being below the age of eighteen years unless under the law applicable to the child, majority is attained earlier."