



## Reported Attacks of Persons with Albinism – Most Recent Attacks Included

By Under The Same Sun (UTSS) Canada & Tanzania <http://www.underthesamesun.com/>

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**PWA = Person(s) with Albinism**

**PFI = Press Freedom Index for 2017 (180 countries surveyed)**

<https://rsf.org/en/ranking>

**(PFI for Canada = 22 of 180 & USA = 43 of 180)**

**Killings: 191**

**Attacks: 331** \*Attacks include survivors of mutilations, violence, rape, attempted abductions, missing, grave violations, asylum (permanent residency) cases\*

**Total: 522**

**Total Countries: 28**

### **NOTE 1: Many attacks & killings of PWA in Africa are not documented or reported.**

UTSS is certain that crimes of colour against PWA are common in various parts of almost all African countries. *LEGENDS & MYTHS ABOUND, AND UTSS HAS YET TO HEAR OF ONE THAT IS HUMANIZING.* Most myths reduce PWA to ghosts, magical beings or curses, etc. On rare occasion the discrimination is reversed and the PWA are “deified” into “gods”. Either way, they rarely get to enjoy their status as normal human beings. Many countries have stories about the mysterious disappearance of PWA. There is a growing, documented truth to these rumors. We know that many PWA have “disappeared” due to abduction, then mutilated and killed by fellow citizens (sometimes family members “friends” or neighbours) for the purpose of witchcraft related rituals. Muti murders or “medicine” killings have a deep, longstanding history, and are a familiar concept to most Africans.

**NOTE 2: Countries known to be involved in the cross-border trade of PWA and their body parts:** Tanzania, Burundi, Kenya, DRC, Mozambique, Malawi, South Africa, Swaziland,

### **Benin, 11 reports: (PFI 78 of 180) 4 killings / 3 survivors / 4 missing**

**Most recent survivor: On October 2, 2016,** a 24 year old man with albinism by the name of Ignace Djihouessi was attacked and narrowly escaped death in the town of ZE, located about a hundred kilometers from Cotonou, the largest city in Benin. That day Ignace and his 22 year old brother Sagbo Djihouessi left their home in Abomey-Calavi early and travelled to the town of ZE in order to visit a witchdoctor commonly known as DAH. Ignace was facing financial difficulties and the purpose of the trip was to get a loan from the DAH which had been suggested by his friend Regis and secured by his mother. The DAH informed Ignace’s mother that the only condition needed to secure the loan was to make a down payment of FCFA 10,000 which she did by giving money to her son to be handed to DAH. The brothers got a ride to ZE from a friend. Once at the DAH’s home he gave the brothers a drink and sat them in his visitors room while asking the driver to wait in another area. They immediately noticed a large fetish had been prepared and that instead of a loan, the DAH had planned Ignace murder. He entered the room dressed all in black with a knife and a container to collect blood. There was a rough verbal exchange and then the DAH overpowered Ignace and held him down with his foot and attempted to slit his throat in front of his shocked brother. There was an intense struggle during which the DAH fell and Ignace and his brother managed to escape. Their friend the driver was still waiting, completely unaware of what had happened. On the trip home, to their great distress, the DAH intercepted them. Fortunately the 3 were able to escape again and get home. Ignace sustained injuries from his fight with the DAH and was unable to move his elbow. The Benin albinism organization offered to assist Ignace by filing a complaint with the police but



the victims declined help for fear of future reprisals. They later realized that their friend Regis was an accomplice due to the fact that on the day of the attack he had asked Ignace and his brother to give him their exact location, pretending he was waiting for them. The VALEUR ALBINOS NGO have made a commitment to persuade the victim's family to file a complaint with the police and have the case thoroughly prosecuted in order to enforce the law and obtain justice. (Source: Sent October 31, 2016, by ONG VALEUR ALBINOS-Benin; N° D'enregistrement 2014/589 /DEP – ATL- LIT/SG/SAG- ASSOC ; Siège social: commune Abomey – Calavi quartier Zogbadjè ; Contacts: +229 61 48 25 30/ 95 54 75 13 – e-mail: [valeuralbinos.org@gmail.com](mailto:valeuralbinos.org@gmail.com); Web site : [www.valeur-albinos.org](http://www.valeur-albinos.org))

**Most recent killing: In 2012**, a man with albinism was killed and his legs chopped off in the township of BOPA, Hovon village, Benin. The murderers were arrested, prosecuted and sentenced to jail. Some of them are still in the civil prison of Lokossa while others have died. The victim's family was contacted but they declined to give more details. (Source: UTSS received this attack report on June 16, 2016, from Franck Hounsa, founder and CEO of Connexion Worldwide NGO, Benin; Frank is also commentator & producer of the documentary: *Noir à la Peau Blanche (Black with White Skin)*; published September 2015 in Benin, Email: [houetehou@yahoo.fr](mailto:houetehou@yahoo.fr); Phone: +229-97-89-55-28; Website:[www.connexionworldwide.org](http://www.connexionworldwide.org); Address: 01 BP 4166 Cotonou, Benin; for this murder case, watch from the 17:00– 17:32 on this link: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=utfUDjhSrAc>)

**Most recent missing: On November 25, 2012**, a young man with albinism by the name of Abib Gontrand Akpithy went missing in Cotonou, Benin. His older brother Justin Martial Akpithy, also with albinism, says that Abib went missing after going to meet with a debtor. A few months earlier on April 6 Justin's second brother with albinism, Boris Parfait Akpithy, also went missing. Akuavi Tata, the mother of these 3 boys with albinism, 2 of whom are now missing recounts: "I heard people say people with albinism are not harmed. Some say so, but we don't know the kind of world we live in nowadays. Now that two of my own children with albinism have left with no trace, I can barely sleep. I have been so sickly; their disappearance gives me a very big worry. And I mourn them every day. That's what happened to me (in tears)." To date, the family has found no trace of their two loved ones. (Source: UTSS received this attack report on June 16, 2016, from Franck Hounsa, founder and CEO of Connexion Worldwide NGO, Benin; Frank is also commentator & producer of the documentary: *Noir à la Peau Blanche (Black with White Skin)*; published September 2015 in Benin, Email: [houetehou@yahoo.fr](mailto:houetehou@yahoo.fr); Phone: +229-97-89-55-28; Website:[www.connexionworldwide.org](http://www.connexionworldwide.org); Address: 01 BP 4166 Cotonou, Benin; for this attack case, watch from 19:03 to 20:13 & 20:15 to 21:48 on this link: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=utfUDjhSrAc>)

### **Botswana, 3 reports: (PFI 48 of 180) 3 survivors**

**Survivor account: In September of 1998**, a 27 year old woman with albinism by the name of Ofentse Serurubele narrowly escaped a second plot against her life. The incident took place at Kanye, her native village in Southern Botswana. Although Serurubele was a primary school teacher in the city of Jwaneng, Botswana, she was pregnant and staying in her native village at the time. On this near fateful day, her young brother encountered three guys in the village night club who knew Serurubele. They offered him some beer to get him drunk, hoping to manipulate him into joining their murder plot against his sister. Fortunately he sensed something was wrong and secretly managed to replace the beer with water while pretending to be drunk. The guys asked him: "Where is your sister, the albino teacher?" "Your sister could actually make the deal: She is albino and pregnant!" "We want her flesh...!" Serurubele's brother lied, telling them she was teaching in Jwanenge City but would be home for the weekend and that they could find her then. When he got home from the club that evening, Serurubele's brother told her everything and warned her to leave immediately to Jwaneng city for her safety. After that incident, Serurubele stayed in the city for a long time. (Source: Personal interview by UTSS on January 22, 2014 with Mrs. Ofentse Serurubele, founder & chair of PWA Tshimologo Association Botswana, mobile number +267-72-962-779; Botswana Gazette, January 16, 2014, Understanding Albinism by Kago Komane, <http://www.gazettebw.com/?p=6718> )



**Burkina Faso, 9 reports: (PFI 42 of 180) 2 killing / 6 survivors / 1 asylum**

**Most recent killing: On August 14, 2012** a 12 year old boy with albinism was killed in Gaoua, Burkina Faso. Witnesses report that the body was found with his head and genitals removed. (source: "L'Express du Faso" on Wednesday, August 15, 2012)

**Other killing account (date unknown):** A 16 year old *person with albinism* (PWA) was allegedly murdered by François Compaore, brother of Burkina Faso's president at that time. It is believed that the killing was related to human sacrifice. In the newspaper "*L'Indépendant*", a former soldier by the name of Delma Daogo, who was in active service to Compaore at that time, gave an interview where he explained: *François Compaoré (the president's brother) sent David Ouedraogo (his driver) to Ouagadougou Central Mosque, a place where PWA congregate to appeal for money, in order to bring one of them to him so that he could make a sacrifice. David brought a 16 year old PWA for the alleged purpose of making prayers in the compound of François Compaoré. The driver was then given 50.000F (about 100 US dollars) and asked to go home. Once at his home, David realized he had forgotten his wallet and returned to pick it up. When he arrived, he saw that they had killed the PWA and cut him into pieces.* (Source: l'Indépendant - link to article no longer active - This newspaper was founded by the late journalist, Mr. Norbert Zongo who was allegedly assassinated by President Blaise Compaore's regime due, in part, to the publication of this article about a PWA murder.)

**Most recent abduction: On April 18<sup>th</sup>, 2012,** Dr. Pius Kamau, an American physician originally from Kenya, was an eye witness at the Nairobi airport to three aggressive African men being allowed to transport a young boy with albinism out of the country without a passport. He said the men had come from Tanzania and were headed to Ouagadougou, in Burkina Faso and that they used loud, offensive language as the airline attendant asked for the missing passport -- they had three passports and none for the child. Dr. Kamau is now convinced that the three-year-old boy with albinism is no longer a baby headed to a loving family, but a sacrifice at some altar of a cruel witchcraft ceremony. (Source: HUFF POST: IMPACT - The BLOG; Three Year Old Albino – Victim of Witchcraft Sacrifice by Pius Kamau, Posted: 05/01/2012 at 4:00 pm)

**Burundi, 38 reports: (PFI 160 of 180) 21 killings, 13 survivors, 4 grave robbery.**

**Most recent killing: On March 24, 2016,** a four year-old girl with albinism was kidnapped from her home by unidentified men armed with machetes at around midnight, in colline Musemo, commune Mishiha, province Cankuzo, Burundi, not far from the Tanzanian border. **On March 29, 2016,** OHCHR was informed by police sources that the body parts of the little girl were found in a jerry-can and that three men were arrested in relation to the case. One of them had already been involved in the killing of PWA in 2008 and sentenced to a life sentence. OHCHR is following up to find out why he was released. (Source: Anonyms)

**Second most recent killing: On February 17, 2016,** at around 1:30 AM, a 4 year old girl with albinism by the name of Cimpaye was murdered in the Province of Kirundo, commune of Busoni, in the area of Muterwa, Hill of Irenga in Northern Burundi. She was sleeping when a gang of criminals armed with machetes burst into the home of her parents, Mr. Nyabenda Pascal and his wife Modeste Rwaswa. Among the intruders was a man wearing a military shirt of the National Defence Force. Three of the gang members broke into the house to abduct little Cimpaye. About 30 meters from the house they killed her, chopping off her arms and taking them. Cimpaye's parents wanted to bury their daughter in their yard but have been denied since they do not own the premises. Burundi's PWA association, APOB, have been in touch with the local authority on this matter. The director assured them she would send her staff in charge of Social Affairs along with the chief of the area to discuss the issue of the victim's burial. APOB officials also expressed deep concern about the safety of the remaining PWA in the commune of Busoni since it's the place with the highest number of PWA in the province of Kirundo. In October of 2015 another child with albinism narrowly escaped murder in the same commune. (Source: Report sent to UTSS on February 17, 2016, by Moise Nkengurutse, legal representative of the organization for PWA in Burundi - OPAB)



(Organisation des Personnes Albinos du Burundi); Address: Q. Mushasha, Sous Q. Nyabisindu, Transversal IV, No 18, Gitega\_Burundi, BP: 179, Gitega; Telephone: +25779323225 +25775401739; E mail: [opa.burundi@yahoo.com](mailto:opa.burundi@yahoo.com))

**Most recent survivor: On October 6, 2015**, a 10 year old girl with albinism by the name of Alice Girukwishaka miraculously survived a brutal attack at her home in Busoni town, in the province of Kirundo, in MUyange-Gisozi, Northern Burundi. Men armed with machetes attacked the family of Gerard NKUNZIMANA & NIZIGIYIMANA who were accommodating Alice. Fortunately neighbours managed to intervene and help bring a premature end to the attack. Little Alice sustained injuries to the head and shoulder and underwent intensive treatment at Kanyinya Hospital in Kirundo. The criminals escaped before being identified. (Source: Moise Nkengurutse, Legal Representative of the of Burundi albinism association – OPAB; Address: Q. Mushasha, Sous Q. Nyabisindu, Transversal IV, No 18, Gitega\_Burundi, BP: 179, Gitega; Tel: +257-79323225 / +257-75401739; E mail: [opa.burundi@yahoo.com](mailto:opa.burundi@yahoo.com))

**Second most recent survivor: On March 20, 2015**, a 28year old man with albinism by the name of Ndagijimana Debok was attacked with a machete and his left leg severely injured, in the town of Gihanga, North western province of Bubanza in Burundi. As presidential elections approach in Burundi, the safety of PWA remains a matter of concern. The victim received treatment in a local hospital. Ndagijimana’s neighbour is suspected to be the perpetrator of this attack and investigations are underway. (Source: Account provided on March 28, 2015, by Mr Pascal Matabishi, member of Burundi’s PWA association - ASF – email: [pascaloni@icloud.com](mailto:pascaloni@icloud.com); tel: +257-75 97 14 98)

**Graver robbery: In August of 2012**, the grave of a woman with albinism by the name of Tabu was violated by unidentified criminals and her head was stolen. Eight months earlier, Tabu had succumbed to an extended and tragic battle with skin cancer and was buried in the cemetery of the Bugarama area, in the town of Muramvya in the province of Muramvya. Her son Venuste, also a PWA, was informed of his mother’s exhumed body and immediately reported it to the leaders of the Burundian PWA Association called “Albinos Sans Frontieres”. (Source: ASF – Burundi PWA Association)

### **Cameroon, 11 report: (PFI 130 of 180) 2 killings, 2 survivor, 6 asylum, 1 grave robbery**

**Most recent killing account: In August of 2009**, the foot of a young girl with albinism whose Identity remains undisclosed was found in a garbage can in Douala, the capital of the region of Littoral, Cameroon. She reportedly worked in a Snack Bar in that area. Her foot was kept in the morgue of the Laquintane Hospital in Douala. (Source: Information provided to UTSS on July 03, 2013 by Kakmeni Wembou Raphael, the leader of Cameronn Association for the Promotion of Albino CAPA)

**Most recent survivor account: In 2013** a mother and her infant with albinism began the process of seeking asylum in France because she feared for the life of her child in Cameroon where members of her community attempted to kill the baby for ritual purposes during local elections. (Source: Interview on June 12, 2014, between UTSS and Genespoir, France’s major PWA group who were strongly involved in this case.)

**Most recent asylum account: On December 23, 2015**, a man with albinism by the name Mr. Christian Eric Tchidjo from Cameroon was granted refugee status in UK. (Source: Interviews with UTSS)

### **Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC), 61 reports: (PFI 154 of 180) 14 killings / 31 survivors / 1 missing / 9 grave robberies / 6 asylums**

**Most recent killing: On August 5, 2014**, a girl with albinism by the name of Namukyungu Byaombe was abducted and killed by unidentified criminals. Her body was found by a Police Unit of PNC. Investigation is underway and the Police report was submitted to the Public Prosecutor’s Department. (Source: Mr. JEAN DE DIEU KWIBONERA, Police Commander at the PNC of BARAKA; Phone: +243-811-374-759 and a PWA group called FFERAD; [fferadrdc@gmail.com](mailto:fferadrdc@gmail.com))



**Most recent survivor: On April 27, 2015**, around midnight, a 2 year old girl with albinism narrowly escaped abduction in the town of Kampene, a mining city located about 150 km away from Kindu in Maniema Province of DRC. After noticing her daughter had disappeared, the mother screamed for help and her daughter was released by the kidnapper. Sources from civil society in the territory of Mpangi declared having identified the man who attempted to kidnap the girl and indicated that the kidnapper sought shelter in the forest. (Source: Article published on May 05, 2015, on Radio Okapi Website: <http://radiookapi.net/actualite/2015/05/05/maniema-deux-enfants-albinos-echappent-aux-tentatives-denlevement-kampene/>)

**Most recent missing: On February 16, 2015**, a two year boy with albinism was abducted in Nyantende, in the territory of Kabare, province of South Kivu, DRC. A journalist for the Congolese Press Agency reported that early in second week of September, 2015, a trafficker of children with albinism was arrested for this crime by the police in Kamanyola in the territory of Walungu. The child's father and paternal uncle explained that the criminal, along with his accomplice and their neighbours, broke into their house while the parents were away, enticing the boy with sweets and wrapping him in a bag. The victim's older brother, age 7, said the kidnappers bought him cookies to gain his favour in order to commit their heinous crime. They have since vanished with the boy. One of the arrested suspects declared that it was his accomplice who wrapped the boy in the bag. The latter is now in the hands of police. (Source: Congolese Press Agency - ACP [Agence Congolaise de Presse]; *An albino child trafficker arrested in Kamanyola*; September 10, 2015, <http://acpcongo.com/acp/un-trafiquant-denfants-albinos-arrete-a-kamanyola/>)

**Most recent grave desecration: On February 4, 2015**, the grave of a young man with albinism by the name of Mr. Augustin Kerekwa was robbed. He previously died at age 40 and was buried in the community of Nyangezi, within the province of South – Kivu, DRC. This case was corrupted. (Source: Mr. Lushole Jonena, chairperson of DRC's ASSOCIATION FOR COMPLETE PROMOTION OF PEOPLE WITH ALBINISM (APIA), SOUTH – KIVU, DRC; Tel: +243-0853-155-093 / +243-081-467-3706. The information was collected from APIA and sent to UTSS in July of 2015 by BBC Journalist Byobe Malenga; <https://www.linkedin.com/pub/byobe-malenga/9a/50b/105>; [https://www.facebook.com/permalink.php?id=1391123401155312&story\\_fbid=1594200034180980.](https://www.facebook.com/permalink.php?id=1391123401155312&story_fbid=1594200034180980.))

**Most recent asylum: During the first week of June, 2015**, legal history was made in Ireland when a man with albinism from DRC who wishes to remain anonymous was granted secured permanent residency through a non-asylum process. He suffered severe persecution and untreated skin cancer in his native country. (Source: UTSS was informed via a personal contact from his sister who is now a resident of Canada.)

**Egypt, 1 report: (PFI 161 of 180)** 1 asylum – September 16, 2011

**On Friday, September 16, 2011**, Hazem Abd Elkade, a 28 year old man with albinism from Egypt told journalist Sophie Bond about his life in Egypt and his new found asylum in New Zealand. He contrasted the profound discrimination facing people with albinism in Egypt with the amazing and equal opportunities he has found in New Zealand. Hazem's lawyer says: "He was seriously maltreated at multiple levels including such things as deliberate cigarette burns from supposed educators.... The hostility toward him was serious at best because of his Albinism. He has now been able to both marry and continue his studies. He is one of the nicest and most considerate people I have met in a long time and doing very well." Hazem says; "I want to be a professor in the university. The first time I ever got a salary was here in New Zealand. I can support myself and my research. I don't want to go back to Egypt, not even for a visit." (SOURCE: The Aucklander (online) - New home for Hazem, By Sophie Bond, Friday 16 September 2011, [http://m.nzherald.co.nz/aucklander/news/article.cfm?c\\_id=1503378&objectid=11040952](http://m.nzherald.co.nz/aucklander/news/article.cfm?c_id=1503378&objectid=11040952) ; Hazem's lawyer Allen Little QSM,JP)

**Ghana, 3 report: (PFI 26 of 180)** 1 killing / 2 survivors

**Most recent killing: On February 17, 2015**, the lifeless body of a 35 year old man with



albinism by the name of Kofi Yeboah aka Agbleyevu was found at the entrance of Pastor Emmanuel Agbeze's residence in Owoakra, Boketey, under Amanase in the eastern region of Ghana. According to the pastor's wife, Gifty Asare, her husband ran off shortly after the death of Kofi and she has not heard from him since. Unfortunately the police have not been responsive to crimes committed in this area and allowed Pastor Agbeze to escape without questioning. Since that time however, police commander Spt. Yahaya of Suhum police station announced that because of the public interest whipped up by media related to the death of Kofi Yeboah, the homicide unit at police headquarters in Accra had taken over the investigation. (Source: Newton Kwamla Katseku, Executive Director of the Ghana Association of Persons with Albinism – GAPA, June 6 & July 24, 2015; [info@gapaghana.org](mailto:info@gapaghana.org) / [gapa4all@gmail.com](mailto:gapa4all@gmail.com) / [www.gapaghana.org](http://www.gapaghana.org) and Suhum police report number 112967)

**Most recent survivor: On February 27, 2010**, a man with albinism by the name of Newton Kwamla Katseku, who is also the Executive Director of the Ghana Association of Persons with Albinism (GAPA), narrowly escaped death. This event took place while attending a funeral in the town of Akwamufie, a community along the Volta Lake near the Adomi bridge on Atimpoku Ho road in the eastern region of Ghana. Early on during the funeral ceremonies Newton was approached by 4 different parties urgently warning him to leave or go into hiding. When he asked why, they informed him that it is against local tradition to tolerate or accept people with albinism in the vicinity. Newton spent close to nine hours hiding in a car as the funeral and other rites were performed before he was able to leave. He later reported the incident to several authorities but has never received a reply. (Source: Newton Kwamla Katseku, Executive Director of the Ghana Association of Persons with Albinism – GAPA, June 6 & July 24, 2015; [info@gapaghana.org](mailto:info@gapaghana.org) / [gapa4all@gmail.com](mailto:gapa4all@gmail.com) / [www.gapaghana.org](http://www.gapaghana.org))

**2<sup>nd</sup> most recent survivor: On July 16, 2009**, in the country of Ghana, a 2 year old boy with albinism (unnamed) was kidnapped by an 18 year old woman named Akua Linda. A week later on July 22, 2009 Linda was apprehended and confessed that a man named Biyanka sent her to feign playing with the boy so that she could steal him. Linda continued that Biyanka took the boy to Asuoeyoah, another Kumasi suburb, after which he was taken to an unknown destination. Akua Linda, according to the Police Capo, noted further that Biyanka returned the boy to her yesterday morning, explaining that what he intended to use the boy for could not work out as expected. Linda was therefore on her way to return the child to his mother when someone saw them at the Kejetia Bus Terminal in Kumasi, Ghana, and raised the alarm leading to her apprehension. Investigations continue. (Source: Daily Guide posted by Ghana Pundit; Thursday, July 23, 2009, "Girl Arrested for Stealing Albino" <http://ghanapundit.blogspot.ca/2009/07/girl-arrested-for-stealing-albino.html> )

**Guinea, 14 reports: (PFI 101 of 180) 5 killings / 5 survivors / 3 asylum / 1 permanent residency**

**2 Most recent killings: 1<sup>st</sup> Killing:** On a Sunday in September of 2010, at the area of *La Carrière*, in the town of Matam, district of Conakry, the body of a PWA was found with the eyes missing— very likely removed with a knife. According to our source, the unnamed PWA used to wander daily in that area with some friends, looking for their daily bread. Their life is made up of begging at the big market of Matam's main station and on the streets of the Capital City. One morning his lifeless body was found laying on the sidewalk. **2<sup>nd</sup> Killing:** At very much the same time in 2010, at the Matoto Market, in the town of Matoto, another PWA was killed in some unexplained circumstances. His body was found completely dismembered; the attackers having made off with many of the body parts. These two PWA lifeless bodies have made the headlines of all local media including the National Broadcaster RTG. Many Websites and Private Radios have used these murders in their headlines. But unfortunately, no investigation has been considered as if PWAs have no rights. This silence and impunity make fragile the life of PWA in the republic of Guinea and everywhere in Africa.

**Most recent survivor account: On Saturday, June 18, 2011**, a 12-year old boy with albinism by the name of Abdoulaye Sylla managed to escape from his kidnappers near the Sous-Prefecture of Kouria located at the exit of Coyah, in the country of Guinea. The boy Abdoulaye explained that he had been



abducted the day before just after leaving his father's rice field. He had been sitting under a big tree when he saw two men rapidly approaching but doesn't remember anything after that. The next morning he woke up in a strange house in another village but is unable to remember where it is. His feet and hands were tied and he was scared so he started to cry. Shortly after a woman appeared, untied the ropes and showed him where the main road was. As he was walking away he heard voices asking: "Where's the little boy?" He began running and two men gave chase until they reached the main road and saw a taxi parked there at which time they vanished into the bush. This took place at around 8 PM when Mohamed Camara, a taxi driver on his way to the city of Kindia, rescued the boy. The taxi driver was Abdoulaye's maternal uncle whose sister had called him the day before in tears saying her son had not come home. Mohamed says; "I was on my way to Kindia to report the boy missing when I saw him being chased by two strangers. I immediately parked at the side of the road and instead of pursuing the boy, the kidnappers ran away. My nephew was lucky. Last year my neighbours son with albinism went missing at Coyah, and to date he has not been found." (Source: Le Nimba, Friday, July 8, 2011; <http://kaloumpresse.com/economie/936-kouria-un-albinos-echappe-a-ses-ravisseurs> and Bangoura, founder of Guinean albinism association - CNAB)

**Another survivor account: In October of 1994, Amadou Diallo, a 19 year old teenage boy** with albinism was assaulted in the Capital City of Conakry in his native country of Guinea. One day while walking to his home Amadou was approached by two unfamiliar men who stepped out of a military vehicle and surrounded him. He remembers them saying; "*This is the meat we were looking for. We've now got it.*" Amadou was knocked unconscious with a sharp cutting object. His next memory is of regaining consciousness two weeks later in a local hospital with a sever wound to the back of his head and a piece of skin missing. Several years later he realized the attackers intended to get his body parts. The injury to his head still troubles him to this day.

**Permanent Residency: On June 4, 2013 Amadou Diallo, a man with albinism from the country** of Guinea was granted Permanent Residency status in Canada. Originally, Amadou fled Guinea to Norway and from 2008 to 2012 urgently sought asylum there. He was held in a refugee camp for 3 of these years during which time his asylum request was denied 4 times even though 2 persons with albinism had been murdered in his home country. UTSS worked extensively with Amadou's case during this time, providing written testimony on the plight of PWA in Guinea. We also worked with the Canadian government and on July 16, 2012 he was granted a work permit and moved to Canada. On Tuesday, June 04, 2013, the country of Canada received Amadou with open arms by offering him permanent residency status.

**Most recent asylum: On July 27, 2015, Mrs. Konate and her 6 year old son with albinism by** the name of Aboubacar from Guinea were granted asylum in Belgium. (Source: Ms. Annie Mokto and her association ASBL *Ecran Total, Belgium*, email: [contact@ecran-total.org](mailto:contact@ecran-total.org) , Ph: 485 103 145 or 497 550 634)

**Ivory Coast, 27 reports: (PFI 81 of 180) 7 killings / 12 survivors / 4 missing / 2 asylums / 2 abandoned**

**Most recent killing: On Sunday, July 12, 2015, the body of an unidentified boy with albinism** estimated by police to be 6 or 7 years of age was found with half his hair removed in Yopougon (the outskirts of Abidjan), Beago Ward, Ivory Coast. His body was found by residents of the ward who reported the incident to police. The case is complicated according to police since the body showed no signs of violence. Also, the child's disappearance was not reported by the parents so the police decided to start investigations there. Unfortunately Cote d'Ivoire is a country known for its witchcraft practices and PWA are often victims of ritual sacrifices. It is not uncommon to see parents' involvement in the abduction of their children with albinism. The child's body has not yet been claimed. (Source: A Popular Pan Africa news website [www.koaci.com](http://www.koaci.com) , July 14, 2015; Article can be found at: <http://koaci.com/cote-divoire-corps-enfant-albinos-decouvert-dans-maison-inachevee-cheveux-emportes-103042.html>; also, Mr. Mamidou Coulibaly, founder and chairperson of the Albinism Association in Ivory coast – BEDACI - confirmed the news report by phone after meeting with Captain Kouassi, the Police Officer in charge of the investigation



at Yopougon Police Station "Commissariat du 16e Arrondissement de Yopougon". Mr. Coulibaly's contacts are: [ongbedaci@yahoo.fr](mailto:ongbedaci@yahoo.fr) or [ongbedaci@gmail.com](mailto:ongbedaci@gmail.com), Cell: +225-05 42 07 39)

**Most recent survivor: On April 2, 2016**, an 8-year-old boy with albinism by the name of Konan Lazo Neemis was sexually abused by a 35-year-old man by the name of N'Guessan Koffi Raoul in the village of N'Zékré zinzou, sub-prefecture of Bocanda, prefecture of Dimbokro, in East-Central Ivory Coast. The victim's mother reported the incident to the BEDACI group, an albinism association in Ivory Coast. She said that prior to the assault the suspect had recently been taking little Konan for walks in the morning. A couple of days later the mother discovered that her son's bottom had some wounds. The BEDACI group advised the Social Service Department of Bocanda who in turn reported the incident to the police. The suspect was arrested and handed over to the Court of Dimbokro where he admitted to the crime and explained that he was ritually motivated; that he sodomized the little boy with albinism to become rich. He was put in jail on April 29, 2016, to await trial. (Source: On January 3, 2017, UTSS representative Amadou Diallo interviewed Mamidou Coulibaly, founder/CEO of the albinism association NGO Bedaci in Abidjan, Ivory Coast; further amendments were made on February 16, 2017 by email; E-mail: [ongbedaci@yahoo.fr](mailto:ongbedaci@yahoo.fr) or [ongbedaci@gmail.com](mailto:ongbedaci@gmail.com), Cell: +225-05-42-07-39)

**Asylum account:** Julienne is a 29-year old woman with albinism and a mother of a 13-year old daughter and an 8-year old son who, just four days after narrowly escaping a second attack due to her albinism, fled her native Côte d'Ivoire on August 13, 2012 to Tunisia. She was hoping to find a better life in another African country. Shortly after her arrival in Tunisia she obtained refugee status from the UNHCR. Despite her refugee status in Tunisia, Julienne's life has not improved as much as she had hoped, summarizing her experience by saying: "Here, people slap me, insult me and mock me. I don't have a job and I am unable to become integrated". (Source: French Daily Paper "Le Monde" published on May 20, 2013; <http://emiliennemalfatto.blog.lemonde.fr/2013/05/20/julienne-29-ans-refugiee-dermatologique/>)

### **Kenya, 13 reports: (PFI 95 of 180) 5 killings / 8 survivors**

**Most recent killing: On September 20, 2015**, a 56 year old man with albinism by the name of Enock Jamenya succumbed to injuries from a brutal machete attack and died. Ten days earlier on **September 10, 2015**, it was reported that Enock survived a ritual attack by three men armed with pangas at his home in Gavudunyi village, Hamisi Subcounty, Vihiga county, Kenya. "When I told them I did not have any money, they asked for my ear or hand to sell to Tanzania," he said. A struggle ensued and the attackers sliced his left ear, arm, neck and fingers and left him unconscious. His brother Nickson Lugadiru, also with albinism, said Enock was found in that state by his son, who called for help. Lugadiru took his brother to Hamisi Subcounty Hospital, where he was referred to Vihiga. Enock was operated on for three hours after which medics said he was out of danger. The attack has rekindled concerns over the security of people with albinism ahead of Tanzania's October elections. "The attackers wanted my brother's body parts to sell to Tanzania," said Lugadiru who is one of four PWA in their family. The national coordinator of Kenya's Albinism Empowerment Network, Martin Wanyonyi, visited Enock at the hospital, condemned the attack and said if the criminals are not apprehended within 48 hours, his network would take to the streets in protest. (Source: theSTAR; *Hamisi albino attacked for his body parts*; by JOSEPH JAMENYA; September 14, 2015; <http://www.the-star.co.ke/news/hamisi-albino-attacked-his-body-parts>) / The Telegraph; *Kenya's albinos moved away from Tanzania border amid witch doctor threat*; By Aislinn Laing; September 24, 2015; <http://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/worldnews/africaandindianocean/kenya/11885641/Kenyans-albinos-moved-away-from-Tanzania-border-amid-witchdoctor-threat.html>)

**Most recent survivor: On Friday, March 15, 2013**, a 7 year old boy with albinism in Embu, Kenya managed to escape relatives who tried to sell him for ritual purposes. He was kidnapped by his uncle together with other relatives who attempted to take off to an unknown destination where they were to meet the buyers. The boy said that the kidnappers threw him out of the window of a moving vehicle when he screamed. (Source: "7 Year Old Escapes Deathly Ritual," Citizen News, March 15, 2013, accessed June 26, 2013, <http://www.citizennews.co.ke/news/2012/local/item/8667-7-year-old-escapes-deathly-ritual> )





### **Lesotho, 1 report: (PFI 68 of 180) 1 killing**

**In October of 2015** a 16 year old girl with albinism by the name of Thaba-Tseka was mutilated in what is suspected to be a case of ritual killing in the country of Lesotho, a country encircled by South Africa. According to police spokesperson, Senior Inspector Clifford Molefe, a woman from the victim's district arrested in connection with the murder was assisting with investigations. Thaba-Tseka met the suspect at an initiation school where they were both initiates. He declined to disclose more details, saying it would compromise investigations. He went on to say; "We are not in a position to disclose whether the crime was committed as a result of superstitious beliefs or not. All I can say is investigations are ongoing...Once the investigations have been completed, the case will be brought before court and the offenders will face the wrath of the law." (Source: Sunday EXPRESS: *Albino girl mutilated in suspected ritual murder*; November 22, 2015; By Pascalinah Kabi; <http://sundayexpress.co.ls/albino-girl-mutilated-in-suspected-ritual-murder/>)

### **Madagascar, 1 report: (PFI 57 of 180) 1 killing**

**On October 17, 2016**, in the early hours of the morning the lifeless body of an about 28-year-old woman with albinism was found in Bezaha in the district of Betioky, South West Madagascar. She was the victim of a brutal attack leaving her naked body disfigured and her eyes stolen. According to locals, the robbery of PWA's eyes has reportedly been on the increase as another way to make easy money, a practice that is gradually taking root among the bandits in the region. The residents do not know where to go at the moment. (Source: On January 23, 2017, UTSS discovered this article published by the Madagascar Matin Newspaper; <http://www.matin.mg/?p=42939>; The publication date is not clear in this article. Translation is provided by UTSS representative, Amadou Diallo.)

### **Malawi, 40 reports: (PFI 70 of 180) 14 killings, 21 survivors, 2 missing, 3 grave robberies**

**NOTE: (6 attacks in 2017 to date / 14 attacks in 2016 / 13 attacks in 2015)**

**Most recent killing: On February 25, 2017**, a 31 year old woman with albinism and mother of 3 young boys by the name of Zainabu Mercy Banda was killed for ritual purposes. She lived in area 36 of Lilongwe, the Capital city of Malawi, and went missing 2 days earlier (23<sup>rd</sup>) after leaving her home alone in the afternoon, having informed her mother and friends that she was going to town and would be back later. Her body was found lying in a maize field by some children who were picking vegetables at Chadza village in the area of Kaphiri within the city. The children reported the matter to their parents, chief and the police. In cooperation with medical personnel, the police confirmed that Mercy had been brutally murdered; with a missing left arm and breast and her hair shaved off. Ropes were found around her neck and on her right hand. Due to the condition of her body, the burial was conducted at the place it was found but in a dignified manner with the parents consent. The police provided cement for the grave. At the writing of this report no arrest had been made and the police were still investigating the case. Two of Mercy's 3 children are now with their grandmother (61) who has no resources to support their needs. The youngest child is with Mercy's late husband since they had long since been separated. (Source: UTSS was informed on March 2, 2017, by Bonface Massah, Executive Director of Association of Persons with Albinism of Malawi (APAM); email: [albinismassociationmw@gmail.com](mailto:albinismassociationmw@gmail.com) & [bonmassah@gmail.com](mailto:bonmassah@gmail.com); mobile: (265) 0881006474 & (265) 0 999399337)

**Second most recent killing: On January 10, 2017**, a 19 year old male with albinism by the name of Madalitso Pensulo was killed in Mlonda Village under the Sabwe Traditional Authority in Thyolo District, Malawi. Willard Michael (27), from the same village, had invited Madalitso to his house for a cup of tea at around 1:00 PM where he was killed. A woman who was passing by heard Madalitso screaming for help and reported it to the chief of the village. The chief mobilized the villagers to go to Willard's house, surround it and break down the door. Upon entering the house they discovered a freshly dug area on the floor where they found Madalitso's body. Willard Michael was nowhere to be found so the villagers



reported the matter to Sandama police. Sources reported that Madalitso and Willard had been friends and on the day of the murder were seen together at the market in the company of two other guys. On January 12, 2017, Willard was arrested by police in Mozambique, almost 52 km away from the border. The Police have also arrested a witchdoctor from Mozambique where Willard was hiding after he fled Malawi. Further investigations are going on. (Sources: January 11, 2017, report by Robert Shivambu, Media Manager – Amnesty International - Southern Africa on +27 11 283 6000 or +27 83 437 5732 [orbert.shivambu@amnesty.org](mailto:orbert.shivambu@amnesty.org); and on March 2, 2017, confirming information was provided to UTSS by Bonface Massah, Executive Director of Association of Persons with Albinism of Malawi (APAM); email: [albinismassociationmw@gmail.com](mailto:albinismassociationmw@gmail.com) & [bonmassah@gmail.com](mailto:bonmassah@gmail.com); mobile: (265) 0881006474 & (265) 0 999399337)

**Most recent survivor: On March 31, 2017**, a 38 year old man with albinism by the name of Gift Notisi survived a machete attack in Ngabu, Chikwawa District, Southern Region, Malawi. The victim reported that attackers stormed the house he was sleeping in at around 10pm Friday night. He said “They came and put a piece of cloth around my neck to strangle me but I fought them off and managed to scream for help.” The attackers injured his left hand with a machete as they ran off. Chikwawa police station officer Davie Chingwalu confirmed the attack and said they were looking for the unidentified criminals. (Source: Nyasa Times: *Criminals attack albino person: Malawi Police launches hunt for attackers*; By Owen Khamula; April 2, 2017; <http://www.nyasatimes.com/criminals-attack-albino-person-malawi-police-launches-hunt-attackers/>)

**Second most recent survivor: On Wednesday, March 8, 2017**, a woman with albinism by the name of Dailes Longwe survived an attack by 3 men at her home in Malawi. Police at Chintheche in the Nkhata Bay District, Northern Region on Friday arrested a 21-year-old man, Mphatso Phiri, for trying to strangle her to death. According to Nyasa Times, his two accomplices, who were still at large, were armed with knives, when they attacked Dailess. Nkhatabay Police spokesperson Ignatius Esau confirmed the incident and said: "They [the attackers] started threatening to stab her to death with a knife. Longwe shouted for help and was rescued by her husband who was chatting at a nearby house." The suspects managed to run away but police arrested Phiri the following day. Phiri, who hails from Chifya village in the area of Traditional Authority Mankhambira in Nkhatabay district, is expected to appear before the court soon to answer charges. (Source: News24: *Albino woman rescued by hubby as attackers try to 'strangle her to death'*; March 13, 2017; <http://m.news24.com/news24/Africa/News/albino-woman-rescued-by-hubby-as-attackers-try-to-strangle-her-to-death-20170312>; and Nyasa Times; *Malawi Police arrest man for trying to murder albino boy for his body parts*; March 11, 2017; <http://www.nyasatimes.com/malawi-police-arrest-man-trying-murder-albino-boy-body-parts/>)

**Third most recent survivor: This report counts as 2 attacks: On March 3, 2017**, two brothers with albinism by the names of Chitani Misoya (18) and Yohane Misoya (21) were severely injured following a brutal attack by unknown assailants in Laisani TA Masache in Nsanje, Malawi. The suspects ran away after the victims shouted for help. The brothers were transported to Queen Elizabeth Hospital in the city of Blantyre where they were left to battle for their lives. Chitani sustained multiple stab wounds while Yohane has a stab wound to his face and chest. They are now in stable condition. According to Nyasa Times, Chitani and Yohane were attacked in the wee hours of Friday morning while they slept in a house. Police confirmed the incident, adding that they had intensified their hunt for the attackers. (Source: News24: *Two albino brothers 'severely injured, battle for their lives' after attack*; March 5, 2017; <http://m.news24.com/news24/Africa/News/two-albino-brothers-severely-injured-battle-for-their-lives-after-attack-20170305>; UTSS was informed on March 6, 2017, by Bonface Massah, Executive Director of Association of Persons with Albinism of Malawi (APAM); email: [albinismassociationmw@gmail.com](mailto:albinismassociationmw@gmail.com) & [bonmassah@gmail.com](mailto:bonmassah@gmail.com); mobile: (265) 0881006474 & (265) 0 999399337)

**Most recent missing: On January 16th, 2015**, a two year old girl with albinism by the name of Ibrah Pillo was kidnapped from her parent’s home around 10pm in Matindira - Chindambo Village, traditional authority Kawinga Machinga district, Malawi. Ibra’s father is Pillo Imlani and her mother is Magret Chikopa. (Source: Communication between UTSS and Bonface Ophiyah Massah, Executive



Director of THE ALBINO ASSOCIATION OF MALAWI –TAAM; email:  
[albinismassociationmw@gmail.com](mailto:albinismassociationmw@gmail.com) ; mobile: (265) 0881006474 & (265) 0 999399337)

**Most recent grave robbery: On August 1, 2016**, the grave of a 37 year old man with albinism was found violated and bones removed in Lazaro village, Traditional Authority Mankhambira in the Ntcheu district of Malawi. Robson Kabondo had died on July 14, 2009 and was buried on July 15. According to Police, the village headman Lazaro had been notified about this on August 1 and promptly went to the graveyard to discover that unknown criminals had removed bones from the local graveyard. (Source: Malawi24: *Hunt for albino body parts continues in Malawi: Thugs exhume bones*; August 4, 2016; by Bright Malenga; <https://malawi24.com/2016/08/04/hunt-albino-body-parts-continues-malawi-thugs-exhume-bones/>; On September 13, 2016, during the UTSS Team country visit to Malawi, along with members of the Association of Persons with Albinism of Malawi - APAM and local police, the scene of the crime was visited and an attack information gathering exercise was conducted.)

**Mali, 15 reports: (PFI 116 of 180) 4 killings / 2 survivors / 2 missing / 7 asylums**

**Most recent killing: On May 23, 2016**, a 6-year-old girl with albinism by the name of Kadidia Bolly was mutilated and killed in Mopti ward of Bassond (also known as Burkina) in the country of Mali. Little Kadidia had a good life, enjoying the affections of her mother and family until that fateful day when her mother, Anta Barry, went on an errand leaving her daughter at home in the yard. In the mother's absence a neighbour by the name of Ibrahima Maiga (28) entered the yard and tried engaging Kadidia but she was ignoring him. Fatoumata Maiga (30), a neighbor lady living in the same yard encouraged her to respond to the man. After having gained Kadidia's confidence he took her hand and walked to a shop to buy her some candies. It was the last time she was seen alive. When Anta returned home she asked the neighbours where her daughter was which led her to a local shop where she asked the manager. He informed her that Kadidia was with Ibrahima Maiga but when confronted Ibrahima denied the fact and swore he never saw Anta's daughter. In despair and doubting what Ibrahima had told her, Anta Barry reported the matter to the Police. The police investigated and when they arrived at the suspect's home they found the door locked. After smashing in the door they were greeted with a stench that led them to a large iron padlocked box. Inside were two bags with the brutally mutilated remains of little Kadidia Bolly. Her blood had been used by a witchdoctor called SIDY and his partner Ibrahima Maiga to make amulets to become rich. Neighbours came from everywhere to launch a manhunt to find the witchdoctor who had managed to escape the day before. The crowd then turned against his 2 accomplices: Ibrahima Maiga and another man named Ali Cisse who they lynched. The latter died from his injuries but Ibrahima's life was saved thanks to the intervention of Police Commissioner SOW, CID Chief Boubacar Traore and their team. During the investigations Fatoumata Maiga and Ibrahima Maiga were sent to jail. At the hearing before the examining magistrate, another woman was also indicted. The judge charged all three with murder and complicity to commit murder and sent them to Mopti prison on Thursday, May 26, 2016. This relieved the Police Commissioner and his team, since the police station was besieged by a mob crying out for revenge. **NOTE:** People with albinism are commonly called ou *Gombele* in Mali. (Sources: 1 - maliweb.net; *Ritual crime in Mopti: A Gombele slaughtered and dismembered*; May 28, 2016; by Oumar COULIBALY; <https://www.maliweb.net/faits-divers/crime-rituel-a-mopti-gombele-egorgee-depiecee-1606482.html> / 2 - On June 1, 2016, Mamadou Sissoko, a member of SOS Albinism group in Mali confirmed the attack with UTSS / 3 - Aboubakhar El Hassane DOUMBIA; Responsible for the Programme Communication Information: Malian National Commission for the UNESCO; Cell: +223-66 24 32 62 ou 76 24 32 62; Office Address: Avenue Cheick Zayed, rue Mamadou SALL, porte 208 Dravela-Bolibana. BP: 119; Tel: 20 22 25 15. Fax: 20 23 37 67.)

**Most recent survivor: In 2011**, an ashamed young mother attempted to throw her 7yr old daughter with albinism into a well. Fortunately, she was stopped by a neighbor who threatened to call the police. The girl was safely placed with authorities. A few weeks later the girl was united with her biological father after proving his paternity and commitment to protect his daughter. Since that time the mother and her daughter were reunited and relocated to Burkina Faso.



**Most recent missing:** In 2006, the abduction of a baby boy with albinism occurred in Mali. On that fatal night the mother had decided to sleep outside in their yard so that her infant son could enjoy the fresh air. Upon waking the next morning she found that her baby was gone. (Source: An interview of Tierno Diallo on Radio France International on May 20, 2009 called "Invité Afrique" presented by Journalist Christophe Boisbouvier. Tierno is a man with albinism who founded the Malian albinism association in 1993 called SOS Albinos. He was later appointed Minister in Charge of Faith Affairs in 2013 under President Ibrahim Boubacar Keita.)

**Asylum:** On July 29, 2011, Ms. Rokia Kone, a woman with albinism from Mali received asylum in France.

**Mozambique, 39 reports: (PFI 93 of 180) 11 murders, 11 survivors, 5 grave robberies, 12 missing**

**NOTE: (4 attacks in 2017 to date / 11 attacks in 2016 / 21 attacks in 2015)**

**Most recent murder:** On Saturday, April 8, 2017, the remains of an 8 year old Mozambiquan boy with albinism were exhumed by police at the remote Nkumanja Trading centre in Ngabu, Chikhwawa District, Southern Region, Malawi. Mozambican authorities were forced to seek a joint operation with their Malawian counterparts to recover the child's body after suspicion was raised by the neighbours when the child's parents returned home to Mozambique from a visit to Malawi without him. The police in Mozambique were alerted and arrested the parents. Demester Chigwenembe, commissioner of police for Malawi's Southern Region said the boy was killed by his own parents who poisoned his drink with termic because they wanted to sell his body parts. **"The parents and the boy came to this area of Malawi from Mozambique on March 22.** He said the parents buried the body here when it became clear there was no market for the body parts. He said the mother told the police how the boy was killed, why he was killed and where he was killed and buried. (Source: Nyasa Times: *Malawi, Mozambique police in joint operation to exhume murdered albino boy body*; April 8, 2017; By Owen Khamula; <https://www.nyasatimes.com/malawi-mozambique-police-joint-operation-exhume-murdered-albino-boy-body/>)

**Most recent survivor:** On April 4, 2017, Mozambique news sources reported that a child with albinism narrowly escaped a kidnapping scheme and ritual mutilation by four people, including a pastor and a congregation worker from the Universal Church of the Kingdom of God in the Massinga district of Inhambane province, Mozambique. Police have arrested and accused them of attempted kidnapping, and say that the pastor and the congregation worker live in Maxixe, just under 50 km away, while the other two live in Massinga district. The perpetrators allegedly invited the child to a party in the city of Maxixe with the aim of kidnapping him. "One of the accused is the victim's cousin who deceived him with the promise of a party at an aunt's house in Maxixe. The next day, at the time scheduled to go to the party, a double-cab van appeared, but the youth's suspicions were aroused and he managed to flee to the police station," the police explained. The police commander in Massinga added that, after the alarm was raised, they initiated an investigation culminating in the arrest of the two youths in Massinga, who in turn accused the pastor and his co-worker as the instigators of the alleged abduction. The pastor denies the charges against himself and his worker, claiming that his church needed an albino for a demonstration at a church service in Maxixe. (Source: clubofmozambique.com news; *Pastor arrested and accused of attempted albino trafficking*; April 4, 2017; <http://clubofmozambique.com/news/pastor-arrested-and-accused-of-attempted-albino-trafficking/>)

**Most recent grave robbery:** During the first week of May, 2016, the grave of a man with albinism was violated and robbed in a family cemetery in the northern city of Nampula neighbourhood of Namutequilia, Mozambique. The grave raiders allegedly removed the body, cut off the arms, and then dumped the rest of the body in a bush near the cemetery. On May 11, 2016, Nampula provincial police spokesperson Zacarias Nacute reported that Mozambican police arrested eight people for tampering with the grave. Police said the grave contained the body of an albino citizen and the gang raided it to steal body parts. Thanks to the investigations undertaken by the police, it was possible first to arrest three of the



suspects who had a bag containing 16 fragments of bone from the body. Later we managed to arrest the other five criminals, said Nacute. The public broadcaster reported that the suspects confessed to the crime. Two of the grave robbers were witchdoctors, recruited both to assist in selling the bones, and to use magic that would prevent the criminals from being caught. (Source: StarAfrica.com; *Mozambique nabs eight for interfering with albino grave*; May 12, 2016; Posted by APA; <http://en.starafrika.com/news/mozambique-nabs-eight-for-interfering-with-albino-grave.html>)

**Most recent missing: On Friday, April 28, 2017**, a three-year-old boy with albinism was abducted by unidentified assailants who broke into the child's home in the Makuangaul neighbourhood of the Angónia district in the northern part of Tete Province in the central region of Mozambique according to the General Command of the Police of the Republic of Mozambique. The victim's 26-year-old mother, Mrs. M. Antonio, reported the incident to police who say that enquiries with the aim of arresting the suspected kidnappers and rescuing the child are under way. At this time it is not known whether the boy was rescued or whether the kidnappers have been detained. (Source: CLUB OF MOZAMBIQUE: *Albino hunters kidnap 3-year old boy in Angonia, Tete province – Mozambique*; by Adrian Frey; May 3, 2017; <http://clubofmozambique.com/news/albino-hunters-kidnap-3-year-old-boy-in-angonia-tete-province-mozambique/>)

**Second most recent missing: On February 7, 2017**, Mozambique news sources reported that a six year old boy with albinism was abducted and is now missing from his home in Ngauma, Niassa province, Mozambique. The attack occurred when unknown kidnappers broke into the main door of the family home when they were asleep and abducted their child. This is the first attack against a person with albinism to be reported in 2017 in Mozambique. A spokesman for the Republic of Mozambique Police in Niassa, Alves Mathe, quoted by RM, said that at this moment, steps are being taken to capture the evildoers and that efforts are being made to rescue the child. (Source: Mozambiques Online MOZ NEWS: *Minor patient with albinism abducted in Ngauma*; February 7, 2017; <http://moznews.co.mz/2017/02/07/menor-portador-de-albinismo-raptado-em-ngauma/>; clubofmozambique.com news; *Albino child snatched from his bed in the dead of night – Niassa, Mozambique*; Feb 7, 2017; <http://clubofmozambique.com/news/albino-child-snatched-bed-dead-night-niassa-mozambique/>)

### **Namibia, 3 reports: (PFI 24 of 180) 1 survivor / 2 killings**

**Most recent killing: In June of 2010** Ananias Shifotoka, a young man with albinism from Uukwiyuwuushona Village in Oshikoto Region was found brutally murdered days after he went missing. His decomposing body was found in a bush cut into pieces with his head removed as well as his genitals, tongue, hands and toes missing. (Source: NEW ERA News Paper for a New Namibia, 29-June-2010)

**Most recent survivor: On Saturday, May 12, 2012** a 16 year old girl with albinism claims to have been raped by 44 year old man. Prior to the rape he had been visiting the victim and enticed her with money and promises of a shiny car, cattle and marriage. They went for a ride that day and on their return to the village, the accused forced his victim into one of his abandoned buildings, where he is alleged to have raped her. This was confirmed by the victim herself. On Monday, May 21 2012 the suspected rapist was denied bail in Oshakati Magistrate Court. The accused, Jonas Mathias, known as Iingumu Netsali (44), was from a village near Ongwediva where he was arrested by the police. The case of Mathias was postponed by Magistrate Mika Namweya to 27 June 2012 for further investigation. (Source: Informante', May 23, 2012)

### **Niger, 1 report: (PFI 61 of 180) 1 missing**

**Missing & Presumed Dead - On the 17th day of the 2012 Islamic month of Ramadan in Niger (likely August 6, 2012)**, a young man born with albinism in 1986 by the name of Seyni Hama went missing in the ward of Dar es Salam in the capital city of Niamey, Niger. He has not been seen since. On September 13 & 20, 2014, Ms. Kadidjatou Moumouni, leader and founder of the PWA association in Niger



interviewed the victims' family and neighbours to confirm Seyni's disappearance. Both parties told her that the abduction did in fact take place. At the time Seyni went missing, his family reported the case to the Police who did their investigation, but sadly were not able to find him. Two of Seyni's brothers also have albinism. (Source: On September 20, 2014, UTSS interviewed Ms. Kadidjatou Moumouni, leader and founder of the PWA group in Niger; ANAN Niger - [anan2013.niger@yahoo.com](mailto:anan2013.niger@yahoo.com))

**Nigeria, 10 reports: (PFI 122 of 180) 4 killings / 1 missing / 3 asylum / 1 kidnapping / 1 attempted kidnapping**

**Most recent killing: In April of 2013** a woman with albinism was found dead with some of her body organs missing at Okuta, a border town at Baruten Local Government Area of Kwara State, Nigeria. (Source: TheGuardian Nigeria, Friday, April 19, 2013, 19:32; From Abiodun Fagbemi, Ilorin)

**Missing report: In April of 2013** a woman with albinism went missing according to her relatives. She was a resident around Saw Mill area in the city of Ilorin, Kwara State, Nigeria. (Source: TheGuardian Nigeria, Friday, April 19, 2013, 19:32; From Abiodun Fagbemi, Ilorin)

**Most recent asylum report: On December 13, 2014,** a man with albinism from Nigeria was granted asylum in Phoenix, Arizona. (Source: Lawyer Ravindar K. Arora, Esq., 1441 E. McDowell Rd Ste. A, Phoenix, AZ 85006, P: 623-313-1232, F: 888-413-4183, E: [rarora@aroralegal.com](mailto:rarora@aroralegal.com))

**Rwanda, 1 report: (PFI 159 of 180) 1 grave robbery**

**On July 2, 2013,** authorities of the Macuba sector in Nyamasheke district in Rwanda were notified that the grave of Nyirahakuzimana Consolee, a woman with albinism buried eight months earlier, had been found desecrated and empty. Nyamasheke district mayor, Habyarimana Jean Baptiste, confirmed the grave tampering. He noted that it was difficult to determine who was behind the incidence, but that the coffin and cloths of the deceased were found scattered about 700 meters from the grave. (Source: Online media: Ceil d'Afrique – Article published on July 03, 2013 <http://oeildafrique.com/le-cadavre-dun-albinos-vole-au-rwanda/> ; IGIHE.com Published on 3-07-2013 <http://en.igihe.com/news/body-of-albino-stolen-from-grave.html>)

**Senegal, 9 reports: (PFI 58 of 180) 3 alleged killings / 4 survivors / 2 asylum**

**3 alleged killings:** Three unproven murders of people with albinism are alleged to be linked to the March, 2012 elections in Senegal. Several different sources have purported 1 killing in 2012 and 2 killings in 2010. These charges were actually made by President Abdoulaye Wade but apparently not at the same time:

- In 2012 during the electoral campaign, President Abdoulaye said before the steering committee of his own political party (the Senegalese Democratic Party PDS): ***“Some people told me that Pape DIOP killed a PWA they brought from Mali”***. (Source - Article: “Another GRAVE revelation from Wade”, Wednesday, May 30, 2012, <http://www.rewmi.com/> & Article: “MEETING OF THE STEERING COMMITTEE OF THE PDS: Wade accuses Pape Diop of killing an albino”, Wednesday May 30, 2012, <http://www.walf-groupe.com/> )
- In July of 2010 Abdoulaye Wade accused the regime of his predecessor Abdou DIOUF and his political party, the Socialist Party (PS), ***“of the mysterious deaths of two young female albinos whose disappearance was never clarified”***. (Source - WikiLeaks, December 17, 2010)

**Most recent survivor: On September 8, 2014,** an 8 year old boy with albinism by the name of Mohamed Diop was fortunately released by his kidnappers in Thies, a city located about 70 km East of Dakar, the capital city of Senegal. Mohamed was on his way home when accosted by occupants in a black 4x4 who forced him into the vehicle and drove away. Providentially a local-taxi driver witnessed the scene and gave chase while raising the alarm. This alerted people near the vehicle and the assailants ending up stopping and throwing the boy out. Mohamed was then taken to his mother by the taxi driver. (Source: Report received by UTSS on Friday, January 16, 2015 from Mr. Mouhamadou Bamba Diop, Chairperson of the Senegal PWA Group - association nationale des albinos du Sénégal – ANAS)



**Asylum: On June 17, 2015**, legal history was made yet again in the USA when a man with albinism from Senegal (he wishes to remain anonymous) who underwent severe persecution due to his albinism was granted asylum in New York City, New York. (Source: His lawyer at Fried, Frank, Harris, Shriver & Jacobson LLP, One New York Plaza, New York, NY 10004; [friedfrank.com](http://friedfrank.com))

**South Africa, 7 reports: (PFI 31 of 180) 2 killings / 2 missing / 2 survivors / 1 grave robbery**

**Most recent killing: On August 5, 2015**, Ms. Thandazile Sqongwani Mpunzi, a 20 year old woman with albinism who was also a Grade 6 student at Sibongiseni Primary School, went missing in Phelandaba in Kwa-Zulu Natal, South Africa. **On August 16, 2015**, her remains were found in a shallow grave with most of the body parts and her skin missing. On the day of Thandazile's disappearance, she had received a call from one of the suspect to meet at Phelandaba, and by that evening she was not reachable on her cell phone. The family reported her missing on two occasions to the local police but they were ignored both times. Thandazile's mother then reported the matter to the local chief and ward council and a search was launched. They worked closely with the community and the police forum and were taken to a house where the community thought the murder might have taken place. A woman who lived there indicated that she had slaughtered a goat and not killed anyone, but with further interrogation the community found some clothing which was identified by the victim's mother. Several young men also present at the house then revealed a shallow grave where they had buried Thandazile's remains. Four suspects have been arrested; Mr. Siyabonga Gwala 18, Mr. Lindokuhle Khumalo 19, Mr. Mandla Mabuza 19 and the archbishop of New Star Church in Zion, Mr. Bhekukufa Gumede, who is the alleged mastermind behind the killing. Khumalo and Mabuza have already been jailed for 20 years after confessing to their part in the murder. Gumede and Gwala are still on trial as of January 30, 2016. (Sources: Nomasonto G. Mazibuko, National Director of the Albinism Society of South Africa, 187 Lara's Place, Bree Street, Johannesburg, 2000, Tel: [+2711 838-6529](tel:+27118386529), Mobile: [+2782 755-3884](tel:+27827553884), Email: [mazibukong@gmail.com](mailto:mazibukong@gmail.com), [www.albinism.org.za](http://www.albinism.org.za); News24, Albino victim's family lives in fear, by Amanda Khoza, August 26, 2015; <http://m.news24.com/news24/SouthAfrica/News/Albino-victims-family-lives-in-fear-20150826>; Sowetan LIVE; *False love used to lure Albino woman*; By Sandile Motha; January 30, 2016; <http://www.sowetanlive.co.za/news/2016/01/30/false-love-used-to-lure-albino-woman>)

**Most recent survivor: On June 28, 2016**, a 12 year old boy with albinism went missing but days later was found and survived an attempted sale for ritual purposes in the little town of eManguzi in the northern province of KwaZulu-Natal, South Africa, just 15 kilometers from the Mozambique border. On July 6, 2016, SABC NEWS reported that Provincial police spokesperson Nqobile Gwala says the suspect, a 28-year-old woman, was arrested last week at eManguzi after attempting to sell a 12-year old boy with albinism for R 100 000. The arrest resulted after the traditional healer she was trying to sell the child to, James Mthembu, alerted the police and a trap was set. Mthembu said that when the woman offered him the children, he played along, before going to the Child Protection and Sexual Offences Investigations Unit at Jozini, which set up a sting operation with detectives from Richards Bay. Mthembu is known for his stance against the killing of albinos for muti purposes and has led marches to the magistrate's courts. The suspect's attempts for bail have been denied in Ubombo Magistrate's Court, and she is still in custody. The little boy has been reunited with his family and is receiving counselling. (Source: SABC NEWS; *Woman jailed for trying to sell a child with albinism*; July 6, 2016; <http://www.sabc.co.za/news/a/f92df9004d640599ae01ee4b5facb1b5/Woman-jailed-for-trying-to-sell-a-child-with-albinism-20160706>; iolNews: *Can I sell you an albino child?*; July 9, 2016; by Staff Reporter; <http://www.iol.co.za/news/crime-courts/can-i-sell-you-an-albino-child-2043617>; News24: *Praise after one albino child saved, but second still missing*; by Sabelo Nsele; July 7, 2016; <http://www.news24.com/SouthAfrica/News/praise-after-one-albino-child-saved-second-still-missing-20160706>; This attack was confirmed on July 27, 2016, by the office of Commissioner Nomasonto G. Mazibuko, National Director of the Albinism Society of South Africa, 187 Lara's Place, Bree Street, Johannesburg, 2000, Tel: +2711 838-6529, Fax: +2711 492-0276, Mobile: +2782 755-3884, Email: [mazibukong@gmail.com](mailto:mazibukong@gmail.com), [www.albinism.org.za](http://www.albinism.org.za))



**Most recent missing: On June 21, 2016, a 4 year old boy with albinism by the name of**

Maneliswa Ntombela, also known as Mlungu, was kidnapped and is still missing from Port Dunford near Richards Bay, Mkhoboza at eSikhaleni, outside eMpangeni in the north of the KwaZulu-Natal province in South Africa. The family says that Mlungu was playing with his cousin at a church several meters from his home. The victim's cousin told Mlungu's mother, Qhaphi Ntombela, that two men abducted him and they also referred to him by name. On Friday police arrested a 28-year-old woman in Emanguzi while looking for Mlungu saying their investigation revealed the woman had been arranging to sell another child with albinism in the area for R100 000 to a local traditional healer. They suspect she may also be involved with Mlungu's disappearance. His mother is pleased with the latest development in the case saying "I hadn't heard of the arrest from police. I've no words to describe how I feel about the arrest but I haven't lost hope and I won't ever lose hope". As of July 27, 2016, police are still busy following leads but little Mlungu is still missing. The Albinism Society of South Africa is also monitoring this case and we will keep UTSS informed. (Source: RadioVoP: *Shock As Albino Boy Kidnapped In South Africa's KZN*; June 27, 2016; <http://www.radiovop.com/index.php/africans-news/14008-shock-as-albino-boy-kidnapped-in-south-africa-s-kzn.html> & ECRnews: *Mother's last hope to find missing Esikhawini boy*: July 6, 2016; by Anelisa Kubheka; <https://www.ecr.co.za/news-sport/news/mothers-last-hope-find-missing-esikhawini-boy/>; News24: *Praise after one albino child saved, but second still missing*; by Sabelo Nsele; July 7, 2016; <http://www.news24.com/SouthAfrica/News/praise-after-one-albino-child-saved-second-still-missing-20160706>; iolNews: *Can I sell you an albino child?*; July 9, 2016; by Staff Reporter; <http://www.iol.co.za/news/crime-courts/can-i-sell-you-an-albino-child-2043617>; This attack was confirmed on July 27, 2016, by the office of Commissioner Nomasonto G. Mazibuko, National Director of the Albinism Society of South Africa, 187 Lara's Place, Bree Street, Johannesburg, 2000, Tel: +2711 838-6529, Fax: +2711 492-0276, Mobile: +2782 755-3884, Email: [mazibukong@gmail.com](mailto:mazibukong@gmail.com), [www.albinism.org.za](http://www.albinism.org.za))

**Swaziland, 11 reports: (PFI 152 of 180) 3 killings / 7 survivors**

**Most recent killings: In May of 2016** in Nkoyoyo, Swaziland, a man with albinism by the name of Siphohlehlalela was murdered by his wife, Pinky Zikalala. She hired 2 men to kill her husband and then tried to sell his corpse to a traditional healer (name withheld) who allegedly entered into an agreement with her. He is now the subject of intense police investigation. The wife along with the two men have since been arrested and charged for the murder. Prior to their arrest, Pinky Zikalala took the traditional healer to see the corpse at which time she asked to be paid for keeping her end of the agreement. The traditional healer is said to have backed out of the deal because he wanted Mahlalela to be brought to him alive since he needed the blood of a person with albinism for ritual purposes. (Source: TIMES OF SWAZILAND; *WIFE ACCUSED OF SELLING ALBINO'S CORPSE TO INYANGA*; May 27, 2016; BY THEMBINKOSI MAVIMBELA; <http://www.times.co.sz/news/108061-wife-accused-of-selling-albino%E2%80%99s-corpse-to-inyanga.html>)

**Most recent survivors: 4 SURVIVORS OF THE SAME ATTACK: On September 02, 2013,**

4 men with albinism were attacked and seriously injured in the town of Mankayane next to Manzini, in Swaziland. Mr. Vilakati received this information from the victims' families and reported it to UTSS. He was able to visit 2 of the 4 victims in hospital; one called Thulane (19) and the other Ndzinisa (24); the other 2 remain unidentified. (Source: Mr. Dalton Vilakati, a PWA and recently appointed Member of Parliament in Swaziland - Phone number: +268-763-604-80)

**World Press Freedom Index Trend for Tanzania:**

**2008 – 70 of 173**

**2009 – 62 of 175**

**2010 – 41 of 178**

**2011 & 12 – 34 of 179**





**2013 – 70 of 179**  
**2014 – 69 of 180**  
**2015 – 75 of 180**  
**2016 - 71 of 180**  
**2017 – 83 of 180**

**Tanzania, 172 reports: (PFI 83 of 180)** All Tanzanian information on killings and attacks are gathered by UTSS through its field work and research; reports from victim's families and police reports in Tanzania.

**76 killings**

**73 survivors; all are deeply traumatized and some severely mutilated**

**1 abduction**

**22 grave violations**

**Most recent killing: On Tuesday, February 17, 2015**, the mutilated remains of a 1 year old baby boy with albinism by the name of Yohana Bahati were discovered by police in Shilabela Mapinduzi Sub-Village, a few kilometers from his home in Isabilo Sub-Village of Ilelema Village, Iparamasa Ward of Chato District, Geita Region, Tanzania. Both of Yohana's arms and legs were hacked off. Two days earlier five unidentified men armed with machetes attacked the homestead. Three of them seized Misalaba (father) while two of them forced their way into the house where Ester (mother) was preparing the evening meal. Misalaba managed to fight off the attackers and ran away leaving his wife behind with two children with albinism, one year old Yohana and his 3 year old sister Tabu. One of the assailants slashed Ester's face and body rendering her unconscious while the second grabbed little Yohana and ran away. Ester remained in serious condition in Bugando Referral Hospital in Mwanza City even after doctors operated on the machete lacerations sustained while trying in vain to protect her baby boy. A police search is underway and Yohana's father is being held in remand prison. No other arrests have been made at the time of this report. (SOURCE: UTSS interviews with Deputy Director of Public Prosecution Ms. Neema Ringo in Dar es Salaam and Iparamasa Ward Executive Officer (WEO), Christopher Mabuba who confirmed the attack.)

**Most recent survivor: In January of 2017** a baby girl with albinism by the name of Anna Charles Ally was born into threats against her young life and in the following 3 months has already survived several threats in Kangeme Lunyeta Village, Tumaini Sub-Village; Nsenda Ward, Tanzania. Anna, along with her mother Vailet Reuben Ndebhe Gaholi (18), had been rejected at birth and abandoned by her father Charles Salum Ally (shopkeeper). He had also threatened to kill Anna several times if the mother persisted on asking for funds to care for the infant. In addition to this, right after her birth a neighbour by the name of Mzee Hungwi Maganga (Male) advised Anna's mother to kill her baby girl since there were no other people with albinism in the village and if allowed to live would bring disasters and bad luck on the village. When Vailet declined, the neighbour offered to kill Anna for her. Shocked, Vailet told her parents but before they could take any action the neighbour also approached little Anna's grandparents, Mzee Ndebhe Gaholi (Male) and Anna Michael (Female), and tried to persuade them to murder their granddaughter to avert the curse that might engulf the village if she were allowed to live. Again he offered to kill Anna if they were unable to do so. Anna's grandparents reported the matter to the village leadership. Sumbu Mazyanza, the chairperson of Ngho'longo Sub-Village, promised to take action but after a few days where nothing had happened, the family went back to follow up and were told "Don't worry about it, babies like Anna are ghosts. So stay calm! She will one day disappear!" Since then Police arrested the father and village leader for a day and then released them on bail pending investigation. The neighbour, Mzee Hungwi Maganga, is still at large. (Source: Information relayed on March 13, 2017, to UTSS Community Resource Persons, Focus Magwesela, in Urambo District, Tabora Region, Tanzania, who in turn reported to the Tumaini Village Executive Officer, Ms. Maurisia, and to the police in the area.)

**Second most recent survivor: Counted as 3 attacks - On July 22, 2016**, a 20 month old baby



girl with albinism by the name of Tatu Emmanuel survived the *third abduction attempt within a 2 week span* in the Ndamhi Village of Fukalo Ward, Kwimba district, Mwanza Region of Tanzania. (NOTE: On December 27, 2014, Tatu's four year old sister Pendo who also had albinism was abducted and has not been heard from since.) Tatu's mother Sophia Juma was staying with her mother, Maryciana Sahani, during the 3 attempted abductions of Tatu. Tatu's father Emmanuel, who was arrested on December 29, 2014, for the abduction of his daughter Pendo, was released on bail in April of 2016. He and seven others are on trial for kidnapping. While now living at home, on all the three occasions when someone attempted to abduct his baby girl Tatu, Emmanuel was away grazing the cows. When Sophia his wife explained to him what had happened he took Tatu to the police and local authorities and asked the government to protect his daughter. The Misungwi District Commissioner instructed the Mitindo Head teacher to take Tatu into their residential school. This is one of 33 holding centers the Tanzanian government uses to provide security for children with albinism who are at risk. Tatu is now in Mitindo Primary School without her mother and at 20 months is the youngest child there. She is being cared for by older students with low vision and a matron. (Source: On July 26, 2016, the UTSS First Response Team issued a report after investigating the scene of the attempted abductions, and visiting Tatu's family, neighbours, Village Executive Officer, Police & Government officials.)

**Most recent survivor of rape: In February of 2014** a 17 year old woman with albinism by the name of Masalu Masanja was gang-raped by five men on her family farm in Gasuma Village, Bariadi District of Simiyu, Region, in north-western Tanzania. She contracted 2 STDs and became pregnant from the rape. Government officials brought Masalu and her three brothers with albinism to Buhangija Center for displaced PWA in Shinyanga where she was treated for the STD's and in November of 2014 gave birth to a baby girl without albinism. She does not know who the father of her child is and suffers from deep physical and psychological trauma as a result of the attack. Her ordeal was made worse by the fact that Masalu is also speech impaired, with minimum ability to make audible sounds, rendering her unable to cry for help. (Source: On June 6, 2014, UTSS staff first met and conducted a personal interview with Masalu during a routine visit to Buhangija, a key government center housing displaced persons with albinism in Shinyanga Town, Shinyanga Region, Northwest Tanzania.)

**Most recent abduction: On December 27, 2014**, a 4 year old girl with albinism by the name of Pendo Emmanuel was abducted in Ndamhi Village of Fukalo Ward, Kwimba District, Mwanza Region, Tanzania. The police have arrested 15 suspects in connection with the kidnapping. Three of the arrestees are relatives: Pendo's paternal grandfather, maternal grandfather and her mother. Due to the fact that her mother had just given birth to a baby girl with albinism and prison would not be appropriate for the baby, the Mwanza Regional Commissioner has ordered them to be sent to an alternative secured environment. The police have also set up a search party to look for Pendo. (Source: UTSS interview with Tanzanian police and Ndamhi Village Executive Officer as well as newspapers reports including: <http://www.dailymail.co.uk/wires/afp/article-2903078/UN-demands-investigation-albino-girl-abduction.html>; <http://allafrica.com/stories/201501080704.html>; <http://dailynews.co.tz/index.php/dailynews/39960-proven-albino-killers-must-be-severely-punhed>; <http://www.dailynews.co.tz/index.php/local-news/40153-rc-gives-mwanza-village-five-days-to-find-msing-albino-girl>; <http://www.ippmedia.com/frontend/index.php?l=76048>)

**Most recent grave violation: On March 19, 2017**, the grave of a man with albinism by the name of Nelson Msongole was violated in Nansama Village, Isansa Ward, Mbozi District, Songwe Region, Tanzania. Nelson had died on March 28, 2011, at the age of 50 and was buried the following day on March 29. At that time, the grave had been secured with concrete, iron rods and heavy metal mesh. Even so the grave robbers managed to steal all the bones while leaving the skull on the grave. Since then the Police, along with local government leaders and relatives, have reburied the skull and a Police investigation is under way. (Sources: On March 21, 2017, UTSS was notified via telephone by William Simwali, a grantee from our Education Program and Community Resource Person for Mbeya. The media also made reports on March 22, 2017.)

**Second most recent grave violation: On January 3, 2017**, there was an attempted grave



robbery at the burial site of a deceased woman with albinism by the name of Sister Sisala Simwali at Songambebe Subvillage, Mumba Village, Masoko Ward, Mbalizi Rural District, Mbeya Region in south-western Tanzania. Sister Simwali served as a nun who was born on November 11, 1970, died 37 years later of malaria on February 28, 2008, and was buried the following day (29<sup>th</sup>) near her home. Six people were involved in the failed grave robbery. The incident was seen by villagers and reported to the police who said not to approach the criminals because they could be armed. After waiting for a while the villagers decided to ambush the crooks. Four managed to escape, but two were surrounded. The one who was in the grave digging was beaten to death and thrown back into the pit. The second one was beaten and handed over to the police when they arrived. He is in custody and a manhunt is underway for the four criminals who managed to escape the villagers' wrath. The criminals had dug deep down and were about to reach the coffin when they were seen. Fortunately the sisters' remains were untouched because the coffin was buried more than 7ft deep and was covered with reinforced materials. (Source: Telephone conversation between UTSS and William Simwali, the brother of the late Sr. Sisala Simwali. William Simwali is also a grantee of our education program and serves as a mentors for CFLI trainees; and a Press Release from the Mbeya Regional Police Commander (Dhahiri Kidavashari); January 4, 2017; <http://www.mbeyayetu.co.tz/akamatwa-akifukua-kaburi-la-albino/>)

**NOTE: The first actual police documented murder of PWA in Tanzania was that of Arif in 2006.**

**Uganda, 8 reports: (PFI 112 of 180) 8 survivors**

**Most recent survivor: This report counts as 2 separate PWA attacks - On October 7, 2016, 2 boys**

with albinism were kidnapped in the village of Bujuko in Central Uganda. They are part of a family with many children among whom four have albinism. The mother is facing many challenges after separating from her husband who wanted to sacrifice one of the children with albinism. The kidnapping occurred while four of the siblings were on their way to school and the two older boys were blindfolded with handkerchiefs believed to have chemicals on them. Some people saw the boys in a taxi and telephoned their mother asking if she knew where the boys were going. Oblivious of the situation, she denied that they were her children but the other person insisted on their identity. A one and a half day search began for the boys who were miraculously found alive and well in a medium income Kampala suburb looking for their way home. It was a long search using police, local radio stations and word of mouth. The case is still under investigation and a lot of information is not yet available. (Source: Olive Namutebi; October 17, 2016; African Albino Foundation Uganda - AAFU had been supporting the family for over 3 years prior to this attack; Email: [albinofoundation.uganda@gmail.com](mailto:albinofoundation.uganda@gmail.com); Website: <https://albinofoundationuganda.wordpress.com/>)

**USA, 2 reports: (PFI 43 of 180) 2 survivors**

**This report counts as 2 separate PWA attacks - In 1899, at the turn of the 20<sup>th</sup> century, two young African-American brothers with albinism by the names of George (6) and Willie (9) Muse went missing in the Jim Crow South Town of Truevine, Virginia, USA. George and Willie were two little boys born to a sharecropper family on a sweltering tobacco farm. One day a white man by the name of James "candy" Shelton offered them a piece of candy, setting off events that would traffic them around the world and change their lives forever. From the time these two vulnerable boys were kidnapped, they were lied to by their Circus management captors and told that their mother was dead. As far as George and Willie were concerned, they were now totally on their own for the rest of their lives. Captured into the circus, the Muse brothers performed for royalty at Buckingham Palace and headlined over a dozen sold-out shows at New York's Madison Square Garden. They were global "superstars" in a pre-broadcast era. But the very root of their "success" was in the color of their skin and in the outrageous caricatures they were forced to assume: supposed cannibals, sheep-headed freaks, even "Ambassadors from Mars." The Muse brothers were victims**



of violence, for what else is peonage but violence? Back home, their mother Harriet Muse never accepted that they were “gone” and spent at least 13 years trying to get them back, never stopping the searching for her sons. Harriet placed missing-persons notices in Billboard and eventually found her sons. She helped them seize control over their lives, discovering that they were illiterate having never received an education. George and Willie returned to the circus in 1928 as paid employees. Love and kinship impelled Harriet’s family to try for a century to protect George and Willie from a world that saw them as objects for exploitation. The family always believed the boys were kidnapped, including Willie’s personal testimony as an adult. George died in 1972, and Willie in 2001, at 108. Willie did not die a bitter man. He repeated the words “God has been good to me” so many times that it is now etched on his tombstone in Truevine, Virginia. (Source: Book - *Truevine: Two Brothers, a Kidnapping, and a Mother’s Quest: A True Story of the Jim Crow South*; author Beth Macy; USA; Publisher: Little, Brown and Company; Date: 2016; ISBN: 0316337544; Onsite interviews in December 2016 by Peter Ash of UTSS in Truevine, Virginia, with family members, local residence including author Beth Macy; The New York Times - Book Review; *How Two Black Albino Brothers Became Unwilling Sideshow Stars*; by Edward E Baptist; October 21, 2016; [https://www.nytimes.com/2016/10/23/books/review/truevine-beth-macy.html?\\_r=0](https://www.nytimes.com/2016/10/23/books/review/truevine-beth-macy.html?_r=0))

**Zambia, 9 reports: (PFI 114 of 180) 6 killings / 3 survivors**

**Most recent killing: On December 22, 2015**, a 36 year old man with albinism by the name of Jeffrey Sikanyai was attacked & killed in Mandevu, Lusaka’s Zani Muone West area, Zambia. He was left to die after his right forearm was cut off, most likely with an axe, for what appears to be ritual purposes. His body was found on the roadside the morning after his attack. Jeffrey was well-known in the area, and his family and friends said they were shocked by the death as he was very friendly. “We wouldn’t say he had any enemies. He was friendly with most people. Also, his movements and whereabouts were predictable.” (Source: Zambia Daily Mail; *Albino killed, arm chopped*; by Online Editor KELVIN KACHINGWE, Lusaka; Posted in Editor's Choice, News on December 24, 2015; <https://www.daily-mail.co.zm/?p=53668>)

**2<sup>nd</sup> most recent killing: On May 26, 2015**, a 37 year old woman with albinism by the name of Charity Zulu was killed during a ritual attack at her home in Kalumbu Village, Chief Magodi's area, Lundazi District, Zambia. The couple had just settled down to sleep when they heard a knock at the door. When Charity’s 42-year-old husband Robin Nyirongo opened the door, four men pushed their way in and stabbed him before going for his wife while he lay unconscious. Grabbing Charity, they cut off both of her hands and forcibly extracted several teeth from her mouth before fleeing. Her bother-in-law rushed to the house after hearing shouts for help; arriving just in time for her to narrate the ordeal before passing away. Eastern Province Police chief Eugene Sibote said they have launched investigations. Charity’s body was brought to Lundazi District hospital mortuary while her husband was brought to the same hospital for recovery. District Foundation coordinator, Dylan Chifita, of the Lundazi District Albino Foundation has appealed to police to ensure that those behind the murder are arrested and prosecuted. (Source: allAfrica; Zambia: Albino Murdered; by Julius Phiri; May 29, 2015; <http://allafrica.com/stories/201506011441.html>; Also: <https://www.daily-mail.co.zm/?p=31345> And response by the NHRI: <http://www.lusakatimes.com/2015/06/03/hrc-condemns-albino-murder/>; <http://www.lusakatimes.com/2015/06/02/human-rights-commission-condemns-killing-of-albino-in-lundazi/>)

**Most recent survivor: While no name, specific date or community is listed in this report, the source is trusted: In January of 2016** a 15 year old boy with albinism narrowly escaped abduction and possible death in the Matero Township of Lusaka; about 3km from Mandevu, Zambia. On that day the boy had been persuaded to accompany a certain man to a nearby shopping center to purchase a few things. The suspect then booked a taxi and took the boy with him. While in the cab he made a call, and in Swahili said that ‘he was on his way with the albino-business, a boy, as arranged’. Fortunately the taxi driver understood Swahili and, realizing what was being arranged, drove to Matero police station instead. The mater was relocated to central police in Lusaka but the suspect has since been released on bond and so



far he has only appeared before the arresting officer, not the court. The police are negotiating the matter with the suspect outside court and we (NAINZ) are closely following this matter. (Source: Report to the UN by NATIONAL ALBINISM INITIATIVE NETWORKING OF ZAMBIA (NAINZ); January 20, 2016; FINDECO House 17th Floor, Room 13, Cairo Road; Cell: +260 955 544 773 / 973 804 324)

**Second most recent survivor:** *While no name or specific community is listed in this report, the source is trusted:* **On December 12, 2015**, a 46 year old man with albinism from Lusaka, Mandevu area, Zambia, survived an attack near his home where his finger was chopped off. (Source: Report to the UN by NATIONAL ALBINISM INITIATIVE NETWORKING OF ZAMBIA (NAINZ); January 20, 2016; FINDECO House 17th Floor, Room 13, Cairo Road; Cell: +260 955 544 773 / 973 804 324)

**Zimbabwe, 2 report: (PFI 128 of 180) 1 killing / 1 asylum**

**In 2011 the severely mutilated body of a 26 year old woman with albinism was discovered.**

Professor John Makumbe was contacted by Zimbabwe police and taken to the morgue to assist in identifying the body. He noted that she had albinism and that her breasts and genitals had been removed. (Source: Professor John Makumbe, a professor of political science at the University of Zimbabwe and president of the Zimbabwe Albino Association (Zimas))

**On November 29, 2012**, a woman with albinism from Zimbabwe was granted asylum in Atlanta, Georgia. (Source: UTSS served as expert witness in this case)