



Cross-Border Trade of Body Parts of Persons With Albinism (PWA)

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Introduction

The killings of Persons with albinism (PWA) for *muti* or witchcraft purposes are accompanied by trade in their person – both as a whole and in parts.ⁱ The trade in the person and body parts of PWA is an unfortunate side effect of the on-going ritual murders of PWA in the sub-Saharan Africa region. The market for this macabre trade, like the *muti* murders of PWA, is often done in secret in an economy alive and well but largely underground and therefore often unnoticed.

High Prices

The demand for the body parts of PWA is exacerbated by the high prices that some are willing to pay for them. For example in Tanzania, in 2009, senior police officers in Dar es Salaam stated that a “complete set” of body parts of PWA including all four limbs, genitals, ears, tongue and nose – was fetching the equivalent of 75,000 US dollars.ⁱⁱ At this price, demand for PWA body parts is spurred and sustained in a region where most subsist on or below poverty levels.

While it is believed that body parts taken from live and screaming victims increases the potency of *muti* medicine, the price that consumers are willing to pay for body parts appears to have driven some perpetrators to also rob the graves of PWA for body parts (see Appendix for more information on grave robberies of PWA).ⁱⁱⁱ

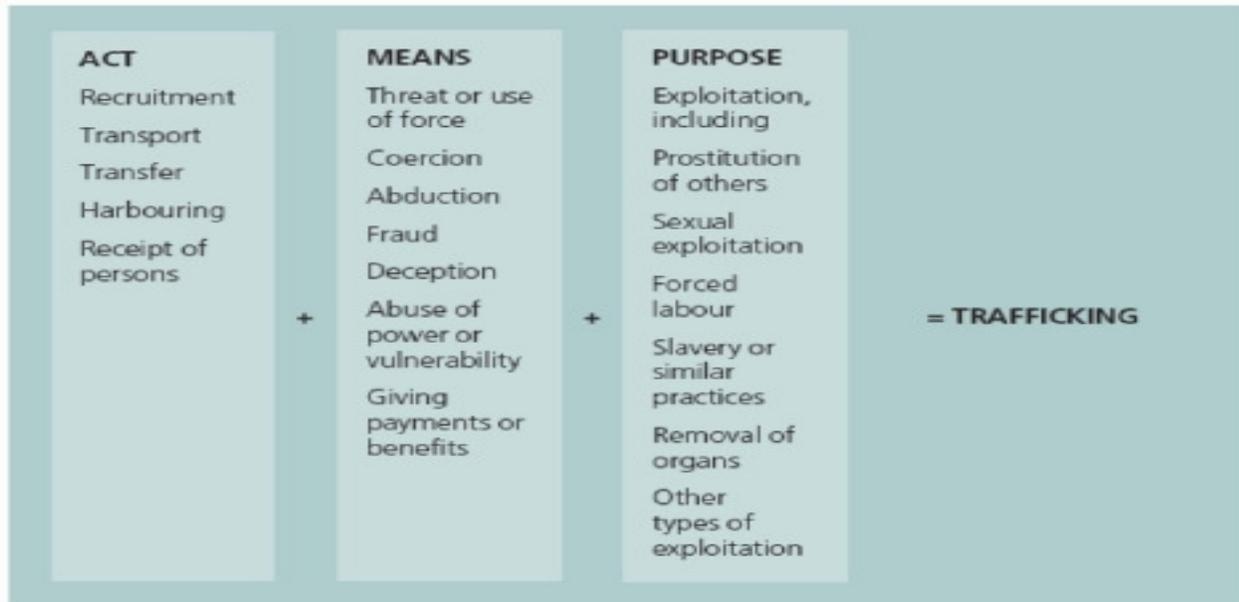
Data on Cross-Border Trade

It is important to note that active data collection on the cross-border trade of PWA and their body parts -- an ancillary yet important by-product of generations of discrimination and stigma against PWA -- is being recorded by very few non-governmental organizations and news agencies in sub-Saharan Africa. As a result of the minimal attention on the issue, data is sparse. Yet, the limited data available is strongly suggestive of a market in body parts of PWA across borders in the sub-Saharan Africa region.

Under The Same Sun believes that the trafficking of PWA occurs beyond sub Saharan Africa, in parts of South Asia and China, and other places where discrimination and stigma against PWA is endemic. It is likely that the trade of PWA in these places are not a result of muti as in the sub region of Africa but more likely due to abandonment of PWA by their families.

Meanwhile in sub-Saharan Africa, the following cases of cross-border trade in the body parts of PWA have been recorded. Each of them meet or have a strong potential to meet the elements of human trafficking as defined by article 3(a) of the *UN Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons*, supplementing the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime (the ``Protocol``).^{iv}

Elements of Trafficking in Persons



Note: While article 3 (a) of the *Protocol* refers to trafficking in person for the purposes of exploitation, including removal of organs, it does not apply to cases of trade in organs.

Data: Sub Saharan Africa only

KENYA to TANZANIA	
BODY PART ; OF	Live person of Robinson MKWANA
TRAFFICKED (MODE)	Trafficked from Kenya to Tanzania. Caught in Tanzania by Tanzania police.
NARRATIVE	<p>Nathan Mutei, 28, pleaded guilty to charges of abduction and human trafficking at a magistrate court in Tanzania. Mutei tried to lure Robinson Mkwana with a job offer, intending to sell him to witchdoctors who would have killed him. “He told me there were jobs in Kenya,” Mr. Mkwana said. “But he just wanted to trade me in.”</p> <p>Tanzania Police caught Mutei and arrested him. The arrest was made in a sting operation as police pretended to be businessmen buying albino body parts. Police say the struck a deal equivalent to more than \$250,000 (£159,000) for the 20-year old man. Mutei was given an eight year jail term for abduction and nine years for human trafficking. The sentences will run simultaneously for each count.</p>
SOURCE(S)	<p>Emma Hurd, “Jail For Kenyan Who Tried To Sell Albino Man,” <i>Sky</i>, August 20, 2010, accessed June 22, 2013, http://news.sky.com/story/800708/jail-for-kenyan-who-tried-to-sell-albino-man. Also, Will Ross, “Kenyan arrested by Tanzania police over 'albino sale'”, <i>BBC</i>, August 17, 2010, accessed June 22, 2013, http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/world-africa-11001791.</p>
BODY PART; OF	Live person of Winfrida OLUOCH
TRAFFICKED BY (MODE)	Coerced to enter Tanzania from Kenya by a cousin and a business partner
NARRATIVE	<p>Winfrida has a twin sister with albinism by the name of Edna Kemunto Oluoch. Jean-Francois (JF) Mean, (UTSS film director / distributor) met her at a film screening in Kisumu in Kenya's lake region on October 25, 2011.</p> <p>Edna told JF that Winfrida had proved the whole world wrong. She was</p>

	<p>successful in business and was supporting her family. She was lured by a cousin and a business partner to Tanzania where she was brutally killed. They took all her body parts.</p> <p>The cousin who had lured her there went back to Kenya and during a church service, the point at which everybody was confessing, she broke down and told the priest everything. She was sent to Tanzania for trial, but the trial has yet to take place.</p> <p>Since then, her sister Edna, has forsaken all friends and family ties for fear that she might be next. She now teaches children with albinism at a school for the blind.</p>
SOURCE(S)	Sister of deceased, Edna Kemunto Oluoch narrated the incident to UTSS' agent, JF Mean in Kenya in 2011.

BURUNDI TO TANZANIA

BODY PART; OF	Live person of Noela NEEMA (Source: ASF)
TRAFFICKED BY (MODE)	Live person trafficked from Burundi to Tanzania.
NARRATIVE	On December 31, 2010, five month old Noela Neema was abducted from her parents' home in Ruyigi, Burundi and carried across the border to Tanzania where she is said to have been hacked to death for her body parts. This was documented by police.
SOURCE(S)	Mr. Kassim Kazungu, President of the Burundi PWA association: Albinos Sans Frontieres (ASF) albinosssfburundi@yahoo.fr – Conveyed to Under The Same Sun office in Tanzania)
BODY PART; OF	UNKNOWN female baby
TRAFFICKED BY (MODE)	Live person abducted and it is reported that the abductors fled with the baby towards the Tanzania border.
NARRATIVE	"During the New Year night, bandits attacked a family on Vumwe hill in Kinyinya and abducted a newborn girl aged barely five months," said local justice official Nicodeme Gahimbare.

	"They fled toward the nearby Tanzanian border. We fear the worst because we think they are attempting to cross into Tanzania to sell this newborn's limbs to witch doctors," said Kinyinya's top official, Gaston Gashirahamwe.
SOURCE(S)	News24, ``Newborn albino abducted,`` News24, January 2, 2011, accessed June 24, 2013, http://www.news24.com/Africa/News/Newborn-albino-abducted-20110101

TANZANIA to MOZAMBIQUE (Failed Attempt)

BODY PART; OF	Live person (or potential body parts) of Sinzo DEREVA
TRAFFICKED BY (MODE)	Attempt to traffic Dereva (and/or his body parts) from Tanzania to Mozambique.
NARRATIVE	On October 1, 2012 Sinzo Dereva, a 38 year old man with albinism was assaulted in the Magamba Village, Songwe Ward, Chunya District, Mbeya region of south-western Tanzania. He is the father of 7 children without albinism. The neighbours heard the noise and caught the attackers before they could kill Sinzo. Three men were arrested and 2 escaped. Sinzo informed UTSS that the assailants are his fellow Sukumas (tribe) who now live in the district. The attackers were sent by another Sukuma businessman who mines gold in Mozambique.
SOURCE(S)	Mr. Alfred Kapole, a member of The Albino Society of Tanzania phoned UTSS Tanzania's Manger of Operations. Another affiliate of UTSS, Mr. Josephat Tonner informed the Executive Director of UTSS about the same.

TANZANIA TO BURKINA FASO (Via Nairobi, KENYA)

BODY PART; OF	Live person of UNKNOWN child with albinism
TRAFFICKED BY (MODE)	Live person trafficked from Tanzania to Burkina Faso via Nairobi, Kenya
NARRATIVE	On April 18 th , 2012 at about noon, 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 asks for the missing passport -- they had three passports and none for the child. Dr. Kamau noticed the glazed look of the child and reported his experience in The Huffington Post.
SOURCE(S)	<p>Pius Kamau, "Three-year old albino – Victim of Witchcraft Sacrifice," <i>The Huffington Post</i>, May 1, 2012, accessed June 18, 2013, http://www.huffingtonpost.com/pius-kamau/three-year-old-albino-vic_b_1462991.html.</p> <p>Also, IPP Media, "Where is the Boy?" IPP Media, May 22, 2012, accessed June 22, 2013, http://www.ippmedia.com/frontend/index.php?l=41826.</p>

UNKNOWN COUNTRY TO DR CONGO

BODY PART; OF	Head of UNKNOWN child with albinism
TRAFFICKED BY (MODE)	Severed head of a child with albinism transported from unknown country to DR Congo.
NARRATIVE	In the Democratic Republic of Congo a man was arrested because he was transporting the HEAD of an albino baby in his luggage. He told authorities he had lined up someone to purchase the head by weight.
SOURCE(S)	<p>David Lowe, "Welcome to Albino Island," <i>The Sun</i>, December 11, 2008, accessed June 22, 2013, http://www.thesun.co.uk/sol/homepage/woman/real_life/article2017493.ece</p> <p><i>UN Body remarks on trafficking in body parts of PWA in the DRC:</i> During its forty-third session in November 2009, the Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights expressed concern in its concluding observations on the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC), that the State party was not aware of the widespread discrimination against persons with albinism. The Committee also expressed its deep concern that persons with albinism had been killed and their organs used or trafficked for witchcraft ceremonies: See E/C.12/COD/CO/4 of 16 December 2009, at para. 19.</p>

SWAZILAND TO SEVERAL (Strong Allegations)

BODY PART; OF	PWA targeted by foreigners in Swaziland
TRAFFICKE D BY (MODE)	Allegations of sale to several other African countries including Tanzania, Burundi, Malawi and South Africa, among others.
NARRATIVE	<p>Police have been alerted to the presence of four men in the country, from a Central African country, suspected to be ritual murderers. The last time they were in the country, cases of albino killings and mutilations were reported and, according to the confidant, the traditional healer has already performed rituals for them to evade arrest. We've been told they are a syndicate and have a man in Nhlanguano whom they often contact. Their market is in countries like Tanzania, Burundi and Malawi, among others," said a police source. 'mystery men', according to sources, arrived in the country last week via the Matsapha International Airport and are staying at the homestead of a traditional healer in the outskirts of Manzini.</p> <p>It is said they disguise themselves as locals and have allegedly approached and offered people money in exchange for human body parts.</p> <p>Sources confided to this publication that albinos constitute the list of targets and victims; hence the news of the presence of the alleged ritual killers in the country has been met with alarm by the people of Nhlanguano and surrounding areas.</p> <p>It was reliably gathered the presence of the men was leaked by a confidant of the traditional healer to a soldier in the Intelligence Branch (IB) last Friday who, in turn, informed his police counterparts in the Nhlanguano and Hluthi Police Stations.</p>
SOURCE(S)	Sizwe Maziya, ``4 foreigners linked to albino killings in SD,`` <i>Times of Swaziland</i> , July 26, 2011, accessed June 24, 2013, http://www.times.co.sz/index.php?news=66970&vote=5&aid=66970&Vote=Vote

SWAZILAND

BODY PART; OF	Entire body of Banele NXUMALO
TRAFFICKED BY (MODE)	Likely deceased when she was transported from one part of Swaziland to another.
NARRATIVE	Last week Banele Nxumalo, 11, was shot and carried away by a group of masked gunmen next to the Siguduma River in southern Swaziland's Shisweleni Region, in front of 20 adults and children. Her decapitated body was discovered a few hours later. The killing came a few days after another albino child of similar age was found murdered and mutilated in the same region.
SOURCE(S)	IRIN, "Swaziland: Trade in albino body parts moving south," IRIN, August 25, 2010, accessed June 22, 2013, http://www.irinnews.org/report/90281/swaziland-trade-in-albino-body-parts-moving-south

GUINEA TO SIERRA LEONE

BODY PART; OF	Live person of Aboubacar TOURE
TRAFFICKED BY (MODE)	Road transportation: vehicle filled with men offered him a ride and drove to the border between Guinea and Sierra Leone.
NARRATIVE	TOURE explains his ordeal: "Once I got on the vehicle, I started losing control and slept. I woke up only when we arrived at the border with Sierra Leone and my fate was in the hands of my kidnappers. When we arrived at Forecariah, they started speaking English which I could luckily speak as well. And they didn't know that. They started saying in English that the huge part of the problem is done. They got off the vehicle to find a way to get me cross the border. I then began crying while walking towards the people in the surroundings. And people ended up noticing that it was an abduction. My kidnappers escaped in the vehicle and couldn't be caught up. The local Authorities called my parents.

My parents were informed through the National Broadcaster RTG and many Private Radios which immediately arrived to the spot. My kidnapping was then made public.

NOTE on TOURE: TOURE was known locally because he sang in the orchestra *les espoirs de Corinthe* in 2005. His song entitled *wo Khoo yi khi* which means in **Soussou** (one the three major tribes) “you are my fans” made him very popular.

SOURCE(S)

“Rapport Preliminare Sur La Situation des Personnes Vivant Avec L’albinism en Guinée, June 2013, provided to Under The Same Sun Canada, June 2013.

APPENDIX

Grave Robberies as Further Evidence of the Demand for Body Parts of PWA

The grave sites of PWA have been repeatedly desecrated in an attempt to rob deceased PWA of their physical remains. The high monetary value of PWA body parts, suggests that there is a strong incentive to find them even from graves. This in turn implies a trading of these body parts; and this trade can only be facilitated by movement – essentially trafficking.

Data

Here are recorded cases on the issue of grave desecration and robbery of PWA body parts in sub Saharan Africa. Most of these are national or intra-border grave robberies. With no evidence of the end-users in most of these cases, there is a likelihood that the organs are used both within and outside the country where the grave robberies were recorded. This is especially supported by the facts (laid about above) that PWA body parts are in demand in several countries in the region.

SOUTH AFRICA – 1 Case recorded

BODY PART; OF	Sipho Gordon LOLWANE
TRAFFICKED BY (MODE)	Body parts robbed from grave.
NARRATIVE	Between 2010 and 2012 the grave of a Sipho Gordon Lolwane, was been violated and robbed 2 times according to his family. They found human bones and pieces of a coffin next to his grave. Sipho was a PWA from Modimola village outside Mahikeng, South Africa where he died in June of 2002 after a brief illness.
SOURCE(S)	Boitumelo Tshehle, ``Sangoma nabbed for bones dug up in grave,`` Sowetan Live, October 8, 2012, accessed June 24, 2013, http://www.sowetanlive.co.za/news/2012/10/08/sangoma-nabbed-for-bones-dug-up-in-grave

BURUNDI – 2 Cases recorded

BODY PART; OF	Body parts of an UNIDENTIFIED buried man
TRAFFICKED BY (MODE)	<p>Allegation that the body parts were sold in Tanzania were made against 8 accused.</p> <p>The final outcome of the judicial process confirmed the allegations (as detailed below).</p>
NARRATIVE	<p>11 men in Burundi were accused of the attempted murder of albino people and selling of their body parts.</p> <p>Police suspect the body parts are being sold in neighbouring Tanzania, for use in witchcraft. Eight of the accused allegedly helped traffic albino body parts and desecrated a graveyard to take the parts of someone who was buried.</p>
SOURCE(S)	<p>BBC, “Witnesses Testify in Albino Trial,” BBC, May 28, 2009 accessed June 24, 2013, http://news.bbc.co.uk/2/hi/africa/8071405.stm</p> <p>Also see summary of final outcome at:</p> <p>BBC, “Jail Over Burundi Albino Murders,” BBC, July 23, 2009, accessed June 24, 2013, http://news.bbc.co.uk/2/hi/africa/8166273.stm</p>
BODY PART; OF	A woman named Tabu
TRAFFICKED BY (MODE)	The criminals severed the head from the rest of her remains and left with it
NARRATIVE	<p>In August of 2012, the grave of a woman with albinism by the name of Tabu was violated by unidentified criminals and the head of her remains 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</p>

	PWA Association).
SOURCE(S)	ASF Burundi reported to UTSS.

TANZANIA – 17 Case recorded

BODY PART; OF	Rosemary MATHAYO and Pracseda MATHAYO
TRAFFICKED BY (MODE)	Body parts or entire bodies of the two girls were taken from their graves.
NARRATIVE	The graves of 2 sisters, Rosemary Mathayo (age 16) AND Pracseda Mathayo (age 14), were robbed in Kagera region one month after their burial in 2000. This report is based on Mr. Mathayo (the fathers') testimony to UTSS on April 28, 2011. The robberies were reported to police at the time but it appears that the Tanzanian police department did not begin to document assaults on PWA until 2006.
SOURCE(S)	Parent of victims reported to UTSS.
BODY PART; OF	Rwegamoyo KILANGA
TRAFFICKED BY (MODE)	Parts of the skull, right jaw and ribs.
NARRATIVE	Rwegamoyo was murdered in Geita village in 2008. The robbers took parts of the skull of his remains, the right jaw and right ribs. The incident took place in January 2011.
SOURCE(S)	Reported to UTSS Tanzania.

ROBBERIES WITHOUT ASSOCIATED NARRATIVES – TANZANIA CONTD.^{vi}

NAME	GENDER: M or F	DATE OF GRAVE ROBBERY	SOURCE
Valentino NALISISI	M	N.A.	Tanzania Police
Elias Kwila TABU	F	N.A.	Tanzania Police
Eustace ZEURIA	F	2010	Tanzania Police
Hilda ANGELO	F	2008/07/30	Tanzania Police
Zawadi MANGIDU	F	2008/03/11	UTSS
Choheirwe TINDAMAYINLE	M	2008/09/28	Tanzania Police
Benedict RIZIKI	M	N.A.	Tanzania Police
Gabriel RAMADHANI	M	2008/02/20	Tanzania Police
Tabu MASASA	F	N.A.	Tanzania Police
Veronica GATI	F	2008/01/08	Tanzania Police
Focus MATHAYO	M	2000	UTSS
Lightness Laurian	F	2010/06/10	Tanzania Police

FAILED ATTEMPTS AT GRAVE ROBBERIES - TANZANNIA CONTD

NAME	GENDER: M or F	DATE OF GRAVE ROBBERY	SOURCE
Doto MBITI	M	N.A.	UTSS
Rebecca MACHUNGWA	F	2007/11/18	Tanzania Police

NOTES

ⁱ See paper on Muti by Under The Same Sun(UTSS), “Killed for Muti,” UTSS, accessed June 22, 2013, www.underthesamesun.com/resources.

ⁱⁱ IFRC, “Through Albino Eyes”, Advocacy Report, IFRC, September 2009, accessed June 24, 2013, <http://www.ifrc.org/Global/Publications/general/177800-Albinos-Report-EN.pdf>

ⁱⁱⁱ See note i

^{iv} United Nations Office on Drug and Crime (UNODC), “Human Trafficking,” “accessed August 3, 2010, <http://www.unodc.org/unodc/en/human-trafficking/what-is-human-trafficking.html?ref=menuside>.

^v Please note that the listing of data from one country to another does not only imply that the trafficking reported was a one-way traffic. So for example, a report from country A to B also includes a possibility of reports from country B to A.

^{vi} Further details on grave robberies including the area or region of Tanzania where the victim was based or where the case was recorded is available in UTSS` records of attacks concerning Tanzania. Some of these do not have narratives because they were provided to UTSS with very basic and sparse narratives.