

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

OUR PEOPLE ARE BEING HUNTED

DAR ES SALAAM, TANZANIA: "Our People Are Being Hunted" – this is the passionate cry of Peter Ash and the team from the Under The Same Sun Fund (<u>www.underthesamesun.com</u>), a charitable organisation based in Canada.

Peter Ash is a Canadian business leader and also a person with albinism who stands committed in solidarity with the albinism community worldwide. During this time of dire unimaginable crisis in which 28 persons with albinism have been brutally murdered in and near Tanzania, the team brings support from North America and around the world.

Mr. Ash wishes to inform the Tanzanian albinism community that they are **NOT ALONE** and that many throughout the world are standing with them in defense of their fundamental human right to safety, security and freedom. He and his team will be in Tanzania to collaborate with local and national authorities and educators to develop programs to end these atrocities against humanity. He brings with him a petition containing over 5,000 signatures of people from around the world expressing deep sadness at the horrifying killings of members of the albinism community in and around Tanzania.

UTSS has partnered with Positive Exposure (www.positiveexposure.org), a US based nonprofit that challenges stigma associated with difference through photography and video interviews. Positive Exposure explores cultural perceptions and attitudes toward people with albinism worldwide and is driven by former fashion photographer Rick Guidotti. Together, the team intends to empower the albinism community, providing support in response to the immediate crisis while developing a long-term approach that will address their varied needs. Programs under consideration to support the albino community in Tanzania include the provision of educational opportunities, medical support and public education.

On Thursday October 23rd, 2008, UTSS will conduct a conference to bring together key government and social service leaders from Tanzania and other countries throughout Africa as well as the US and Canada. The Hon. Al Shaymaa Kwegyir (M.P. who also has albinism) will be in attendance. Media from the United States, the UK and local/regional outlets will be covering the events. Meetings with senior government officials will also be conducted during the team's 8 day visit.

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Schedule of Thursday, October 23rd media events as follows: Hotel Kilimanjaro, Dar es Salaam

- 9:00 9:30 AM: Conference opening a press briefing/introduction (MEMBERS OF THE PRESS WELCOME)
- 9:30 AM 3:30 PM: Conference conclusion (BY INVITATION ONLY)
- 4:30 PM: Official Press Conference (MEMBERS OF THE PRESS WELCOME)

MEMBERS OF THE UNDER THE SAME SUN TEAM INCLUDE:

- 1. Peter Ash, Director & Founder, Under the Same Sun
- 2. The Honourable Al-Shaymaa Kwegyir, Member of Parliament
- 3. Vicky Ntetema, BBC Tanzania Bureau Chief
- 4. Ernest Kimaya, Tanzania Albino Society
- 5. Samwel Mluge, Tanzania Albino Society
- 6. Theodory Mwalongo, Action on Disability and Development
- 7. Grace Mazibuko, Albinism Society of South Africa
- 8. Dr. Elly Macha, PhD, African Union of the Blind
- 9. Rick Guidotti, Positive Exposure
- 10. Don Sawatzky, Under the Same Sun
- 11. Joy Taylor, Under the Same Sun

CONTACT:

Joy Taylor, Executive Assistant to Peter Ash, Under The Same Sun Fund

Mobile: +1-604-761-6021 (North America) Email: info@underthesamesun.com

Messages may also be left at the hotel desk at the Kilimanjaro Hotel Kempinski (Tel: +255-22-213-1111)



Peter Ash

