



## **Reported Attacks\***

**RE: PERSONS WITH ALBINISM**

**(Extended Version)**

Most Recent Cases Only

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

**DATE OF REPORT: March 29, 2023**

**Attacks: 700**

**\* Total Countries: 31**

UTSS gathers this data from its own field research and also from its partners on the ground. We record cases that have been thoroughly verified. However, this is not always possible. In such cases, we record cases from partners, media and civil society that are reasonable and prima facie credible.

\*Attacks include murder, survivors (of attempted murder, mutilations, violence, rape), trafficking, missing, grave desecration, asylum & other refuge cases.



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# Benin

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**18 reports: 5 killings / 5 survivors / 7 missing / 1 grave desecrations**

<p><b><u>Survivor</u></b></p>	<p><b>On August 4<sup>th</sup> 2017, a 13-year-old girl with albinism</b> (<i>name withheld</i>) narrowly escaped abduction and was found unhurt the following day in Dogbo in the southwest of Benin. According to the victim's cousin, V.G., she was just leaving the marketplace with one of her sisters and was in the neighborhood of Dogbo Zaphi public primary school when the kidnappers approached frightening the victim's sister away and abducting her in a black Ford Focus with the license number AY 4078. The police were immediately alerted and launched a large patrol of the surrounding area.</p> <p>Under intense pressure, the kidnappers were forced to release the victim in a bush where she spent the night. The following morning she found help and was reunited with her family at the Dobgo's Police station with the General Director of the National Police. All 3 suspects who committed the abduction are Beninese from Dogbo and have been arrested by Commander CIE APLAHOUE and his team and will be presented to a public prosecutor.</p>
	<p><b>On July 13, 2013 a 20 year old man with albinism</b> known as F.M.H. was deceived, drugged, kidnapped, killed and mutilated in his homeland of Benin. F lived in the community of Lalo in south-western Benin, where he was learning to become a nurse in one of the hospitals at Lalo Centre. F had a cousin</p>



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## Killing

named P.H. who lived in Koudjon Centre, a small village near Lalo. Both boys had grown up together in the same hamlet of Ouinsouhoué.

On that fateful day, P approached his cousin with albinism in order to deceive him, saying that he'd found a high paying job for him in downtown Cotonou, and that the boss wanted to meet right away. F showed no hesitation and after a 3 hour ride, they went to wait for the so-called boss in a bar. Here F was drugged and kidnapped to Porto-Novo, the country's capital city, where he was killed, and parts of his body removed. When P returned home to Lalo alone, everyone started asking for F. Pascal kept insisting that he had not traveled anywhere with F. Since many had seen them travelling together, people started threatening him to tell the truth. In an attempt to conceal the truth and silence the family, he decided to consult various witchdoctors to make him amulets.

Finally he and his three accomplices went to consult one of the visionaries of the Celestial Churches of Christ. He told him the whole story and begged him to mystically silence everyone about the murder in exchange for a lot of money. The visionary left his house briefly and called the police, who arrived quickly. The criminals tried to escape but the police shot one of them and all four were arrested and placed in custody. Of the four, one was released when it was discovered that he was the younger brother to one of the criminals and had nothing to do with the murder. The other three were placed in the prison in Lokossa and are serving their sentences.



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### Missing

**On March 23, 2019, a 45-year-old man with albinism** by the name of A.A. went missing in the city of Abomey, Zou Department, Benin. The victim was a well-known joiner (carpenter) who lived in the A's home and had his joinery business opposite the D.T. Much to the dismay of his family, the victim's younger brother may have been involved in his disappearance. According to a cousin, A had some work to do for an old man who had called him in the morning of Saturday, March 23, indicating that the door locks had been purchased and that he should come to make the repairs. A has not been heard from since. The old man was questioned over the disappearance but denies that A met with him that day. F.H., founder and chairperson of Beninese Albinism NGO has raised the alert, asking anyone who has any suspicions about A's destination that day to inform the police or the nearest local authority. He concluded by saying: "I pray we find A unharmed for the sake of his family and the nation. I appeal parents to look after their children with albinism. I also warn adults with albinism against going unaccompanied to a meeting even if they know the person who invites them to that meeting."

### Grave Desecration

**In September of 2018, a 50-year-old woman with albinism** by the name of D.C.K. ends up dying of skin cancer after which her lifeless body was decapitated by a family member at her burial in the woods near her family home in the community of Allada, Atlantique Department, Benin. Over the span of multiple unknown dates throughout the course of her life, the deceased had survived numerous abduction attempts and other inhumane cruelties at the hands of her family. D.C.K. had always been disowned by her father's family who compared her



## **Grave Desecration**

to a white monster along with many other punishing psychological abuses. She never did manage to move past these cruelties and build a family of her own. At one-point she was very sick with wounds all over her body and finally decided to seek assistance from her mother's younger sister, hoping for a more supportive response.

Tragically, and to her great surprise, she was ill-treated by her aunt as well, being forced to cook despite her poor vision and deteriorating health. One day while cooking, a fire broke out in the kitchen due to her only having sight in one eye which she suffered from low vision, she didn't immediately notice the fire and was nearly burnt alive. Thankfully, she was rescued by some neighbours. To make life worse, her aunt colluded with a witchdoctor to get rid of her for good. The aunt told D that she knew of a witchdoctor who could heal her but that the treatment consisted of pouring boiling water over the left side of her face. This was pure torture for the victim who screamed for help while being overpowered by the perpetrators. She lost half of her left ear during this so-called "cure" ritual, and the skin on her face had all but disappeared and became infested with maggots. Upon arrival at hospital the doctors denounced the so-called treatment, describing it as Machiavellian. In September of 2018, D died of skin cancer.

Her body was immediately apprehended by the family who refused to give her a decent funeral, saying that she did not deserve a coffin or a grave in a cemetery. One of the K. family members publicly declared that he needed her head because, since childhood she had been very lucky, having escaped their many attempted kidnappings. Nestor, one of the deceased cousins, insisted on participating in the burial in the bush in



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	<p>ALLADA. Following the funeral, Nestor told police that the body's head had been removed before it was buried. The police warned him against pushing the case further for fear that he may be killed by the family. They went on to tell Nestor that this was a family matter and that there was no need to "make noise" about the body parts that had been removed since the victim was already dead.</p>
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# Botswana

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**3 reports: 3 survivors**

<p><b><u>Survivor</u></b></p>	<p><b>In September of 1998, a 27-year-old woman with albinism</b> (name withheld) narrowly escaped a second plot against her life. The incident took place at Kanye, her native village in Southern Botswana. Although the victim 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 S.</p> <p>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...!”. The victim’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, the victim’s brother told her everything and warned her to leave immediately to Jwanenge city for her safety. After that incident, S stayed in the city for a long time.</p>
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# Burkina Faso

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9 reports: 2 killing / 6 survivors / 1 asylum

<p><b><u>Killing</u></b></p>	<p><b>On August 14, 2012, a 12-year-old boy with albinism</b> was killed in Gaoua, Burkina Faso. Witnesses report that the body was found with his head and genitals removed.</p> <p>(Trusted Source: To protect our sources, we have withheld their names from this publication, <i>GAOUA, BURKINA FASO – 12 year old boy with albinism killed</i>, on Wednesday, August 15, 2012)</p>
<p><b><u>Trafficking</u></b></p>	<p><b>On April 18<sup>th</sup>, 2021, Dr. P.K.</b>, 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. P.K. 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.</p> <p>(Trusted Source: To protect our sources, we have withheld their names from this publication, <i>KENYA – 3 year old boy with albinism, abduction &amp; Victim of Witchcraft Sacrifice</i>, May 1, 2012 at 4:00 pm)</p>





# Burundi

**41 reports: 23 killings, 13 survivors, 5 grave desecrations**

<p><b><u>Killing</u></b></p>	<p><b>On February 1, 2022</b>, it was reported that the dismembered remains of a 4 year old boy with albinism were found.</p> <p>It was also reported that three people drove up in a car and abducted the boy off the street on the Saturday as he was playing with other children on the outskirts of Burundi’s biggest city Bujumbura.</p> <p>The kidnappers drove the victim, whose name was given as A., somewhere 230 (145 miles) kilometres to Cankuzo province where he was killed and dismembered, said the albinism organization, ASF, and a local administrative official.</p> <p>“A was killed, then his executioners cut off his arms and legs before removing the bones and sharing them around. His remains were thrown in a forest,” said the official, who requested anonymity.</p> <p>(Trusted Source: To protect our sources, we have withheld their names from this publication, <i>BURUNDI, BUJUMBURA – child killed in Burundi for witchcraft practices</i>, February 1, 2022)</p>
<p><b><u>Survivor</u></b></p>	<p><b>On October 6<sup>th</sup>, 2015</b>, a <b>10-year-old girl with albinism</b> (name withheld) 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 G.N. &amp; N. who were accommodating her. Fortunately, neighbours managed to intervene and help bring a premature end to the</p>



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	<p>attack. The victim sustained injuries to the head and shoulder and underwent intensive treatment at Kanyinya Hospital in Kirundo. The criminals escaped before being identified.</p>
<p><b><u>Grave Desecration</u></b></p>	<p><b>On the night of March 6, 2022, the grave of girl with albinism</b> was desecrated. The victim’s remains were also taken by unidentified perpetrators.</p> <p>(Trusted Source: Facebook page, to protect our sources, we have withheld the name of the page from this publication, <i>BURUNDI, EAST AFRICA – grave of girl with albisim desecrated, March 6, 2022</i>)</p>



# Cameroon

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**12 reports: 3 killings, 2 survivor, 6 asylums, 1 grave desecrations**

## Killing

**In September 2021**, it was reported that F.F. living in Bafassam/Bafousam, western region in Cameroon was presumed kidnapped after he disappeared from traffic. The victim's remains were reportedly found on August 29, 2021, also in Bafousam, with several body parts missing. He was buried by strangers in the wild.

(Trusted Source: To protect our sources, we have withheld their names from this publication, *BAFASSAM/BAFOUSAM, CAMEROON* – male, kidnapped & dismembered, September 2021.)

**In September 17, 2021**, a 40 year old man whom was a trader in the A market in Bafoussam was killed. Police officers from the Bafoussam 1e police station indicate that F's body was discovered in the same arrondissement, mutilated, abandoned in a brush. The body was reportedly amputated from organs taken by the alleged murderers.

The chief warrant officer, deputy commander of the Djeleng 5 gendarmerie brigade, quoted by the newspaper, indicates that further research is underway. They will allow the investigation into this atrocious assassination to evolve as quickly as possible.

(Trusted Source: To protect our sources, we have withheld their names from this publication, *BAFOUSSAM, CAMEROON* – 40 year old male, killed & dismembered, September 17, 2021.)



<b><u>Survivor</u></b>	<p><b>In 2013, a mother and her infant with albinism</b> began the process of seeking asylum in France as 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.</p>
<b><u>Asylum</u></b>	<p><b>On December 23, 2015, a man with albinism</b> (name withheld) from Cameroon was granted refugee status in UK.</p> <p>(Trusted Source: Interviews with UTSS)</p>



# Congo Brazzaville

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**7 reports: 7 killings**

<p><b><u>Killing</u></b></p>	<p><b>3 women were killed</b> with machetes while working in their fields deep in the forest and their bodies were never recovered. No arrests have been made in connection to any of these murders. This unprecedented wave of attacks have created a climate of terror among PWAs and their families.</p> <p>(Trusted Source: To protect our sources, we have withheld their names from this publication, <i>CONGO BRAZZAVILLE – 3 women killed &amp; bodies never recovered</i>, October 17, 2017)</p>
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# Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC)

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74 reports: 18 killings / 37 survivors / 1 missing / 11 grave desecrations / 7 asylums

<p><b><u>Killing</u></b></p>	<p>On Wednesday, February 1, 2023, J.K., a 5 year-old child’s mutilated body was found in Kitaho in the village of Chambombo, the territory of Kalehe in South Kivu. J was killed when he was kidnapped from his family’s home by thugs who could be identified. The thugs locked the child’s family in their house when they kidnapped and murdered the little boy. J.B.B. known to the victim and also an activist of the Association OBAPG-RDC called on security forces to investigate the murder.</p> <p>(Trusted Source: To protect our sources, we have withheld their names from this publication, <i>KITAHU, DR CONGO – kidnapped, murdered &amp; mutilated, 5 year-old boy, date of report unknown</i>)</p>
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<p><b><u>Survivor</u></b></p>	<p><b>On May 14, 2021, in Mbuji mayi, DR Congo</b>, 16 year old F.N. was kidnapped and assaulted while she was travelling to attend an albinism meeting.</p> <p>(Trusted Source: To protect our sources, we have withheld their names from this publication, <i>MBUJIMAYI, DR CONGO – 16 year old girl kidnapped &amp; assaulted</i>, May 14, 2021)</p> <p><b>On September 28, 2021, in Bukavu, DR Congo</b>, a little boy with albinism, survived a kidnapping attempt from perpetrators while playing outside which was presumed to have the intent of using him for ritual sacrifice. Thanks to the alert from his friends, the perpetrators threw him to the ground and abandoned the mission.</p> <p>(Trusted Source: Facebook page, To protect our sources, we have withheld the name of the page from this publication, <i>BUKAVU, DR</i></p>
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	<p><i>CONGO – young boy, survivor of attempted abudciton for ritual sacrifice, September 28, 2021)</i></p>
<p><b><u>Grave Desecration</u></b></p>	<p><b>On March 16, 2021, there was an attempt to desecrate</b> the grave of a woman with albinism, C.N.F., who had died at the age of 74 in Lubunga, DR Congo. The case was reported by an NGO in DRC to the Africa Albinism Network.</p> <p><b>In the early hours of March 25, 2019</b>, the grave of a man with albinism by the name of G., who had died a month and a half earlier, was vandalized at his family plot in the ward of CIRIRI, in the community of BAGIRA, BUKAVU District, SOUTH KIVU Province, DRC. The remains of the deceased were exhumed, dismembered and body parts stolen. A local resident by the name of R.C. said it's not the first time that the grave of a PWA has been tampered with, and body parts taken in the area of BUKAVU. It is alleged that these acts are committed for witchcraft purposes. Condemnation of the act by the Urban Security Council which was presided over by the mayor of BUKAVU, M.B.U. was followed by the albinism group called Association pour la promotion intégrale des albinos.</p> <p>(Trusted Source: To protect our sources, we have withheld their names from this publication, <i>BUKAVU, DRC – grave of a man with albinism tampered with &amp; dismemberd for witchcraft rituals</i>, March 30<sup>th</sup>, 2019)</p>
	<p><b>During the first week of July, 2015</b>, Legal history was made in Ireland when a man with albinism from DRC who wishes to remain</p>



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**Asylum**

anonymous was granted secured permanent residency through a non-asylum process. He suffered severe persecution and untreated skin cancer in his native country.

(Trusted Source: UTSS was informed via a personal contact from the victim's sister, who is now a resident of Canada – July 2015)



# Egypt

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1 report: 1 asylum

## Asylum

**On Friday, September 16, 2011**, (name withheld), a 28 year old man with albinism from Egypt told journalist S.B. about his life in Egypt and his newfound 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. The man’s lawyer said: “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.” The man 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.”

(Trusted SOURCE: To protect our sources, we have withheld their names from this publication, *EGYPT – a man with newfound life in New Zealand*, Friday, September 16, 2011)



# Gabon

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2 reports: 2 survivors

<p><b><u>Survivor</u></b></p>	<p><b>ALBA, an association for people with albinism</b> in Gabon reports that on Sunday March 6, 2022, they received a report that a boy with albinism, (age not reported) by the name of D. had survived an attempted kidnapping, a day earlier on March 2nd, 2022. The kidnapping was intercepted when his mother, alerted by the cries of D came out to find her son in the hands of a stranger who was trying to flee with the child. Frightened by the cries of the baby and his mother, the perpetrator released the child and fled.</p> <p>(Trusted Source: Facebook page, to protect our sources, we have withheld the name of the page from this publication, <i>GARBON – young boy, attempted abduction</i>, Sunday, March 6, 2022)</p>
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# Ghana

**3 reports: 1 killing / 3 survivors**

<p><b><u>Killing</u></b></p>	<p><b>On February 17, 2015, the lifeless body of a 35 year old man with albinism by the name of K.Y. aka A. was found at the entrance of Pastor E.A.'s residence in Owoakra, Boketey, under Amanase in the eastern region of Ghana. According to the pastor's wife, G.A., her husband ran off shortly after the death of K and she has not heard from him since. Unfortunately, the police have not been responsive to crimes committed in this area and allowed Pastor A to escape without questioning. Since that time however, police commander S.P.T.Y. of Suhum police station announced that because of the public interest whipped up by media related to the death of K.Y., the homicide unit at police headquarters in Accra had taken over the investigation.</b></p>
<p><b><u>Survivor</u></b></p>	<p><b>On January 1, 2023, a 16 year old boy with albinism from the town of Garu in the Upper East region of North Ghana, was playing football with his his teammates while celebrating the new year when the perpetrator approached him on a motorbike. The perpetrator pleaded with the victim to go with him to get his bicycle from a nearby neighborhood and bring it back to where they were playing football since he couldn't ride two bikes at once. The survivor consented, but when they reached the said neighborhood, the perpetrator didn't stop. When the survivor protested, he insisted he stops at the next neighborhood. Upon reaching the next neighborhood, the perpetrator still refused to stop despite the survivor's protests, so he jumped off the bike, and in an attempt to flee, he met a lady and narrated the story. Little did he know, she was the main perpetrator and had a syndicate following them on a motorcycle. Upon arriving, he verified their participation in the attempted abduction.</b></p>



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(Trusted source: to protect our sources, we have withheld their names from this publication – *Garu, GHANA, 16 year old boy abducted while playing with his friends, March 16, 2023.*)



# Guinea

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16 reports: 5 killings / 6 survivors / 5 asylums & other refuge cases

<p><b><u>Killing</u></b></p>	<p><b>On a Sunday in September of 2010</b>, at the area of <i>La Carrière</i>, 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. The victim’s 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.</p>
<p><b><u>Survivor</u></b></p>	<p><b>On May 17, 2017 a four-year-old girl with albinism</b> (name withheld) narrowly escaped a ritual tragedy after being rescued from 4 men who had abducted the victim in the country village of Damankania, in the Sinanya district of Yabara, Guinea. The suspected traffickers kidnapped the little girl in front of her mother at their home. Her father Salif Camara explains: “a young man got out of a vehicle that was parked in front of my compound and snatched our daughter. My wife who was on the scene asked the kidnappers where they were taking her. Without answering they drove off with little the child. My wife shouted for a motorbike taxi to chase the kidnappers. I immediately alerted the Commander of the Gendarmerie (police) who deployed his team and managed to capture the vehicle. Of the 4 assailants, 2 succeeded in escaping and the other two were arrested.” Accused of</p>





<p style="text-align: center;"><b><u>Survivor</u></b></p>	<p>trafficking of a person with albinism, a man by the name of Mohamed Conté and a woman named Aissata Bangoura were arrested on May 17, 2017, by the Services of the Territorial Gendarmerie (Police) of Kindia. When including, the abductor named Mohamed Conté admitted that he was a witchdoctor who came to visit another older witchdoctor known as Doubayadi who was also the father of his colleague Aissata Bangoura.</p> <p>(Trusted Source: To protect our sources, we have withheld their names from this publication – <i>KINDIA, GUINEA – two suspected albino traffickers arrested by gendarmerie</i> Friday May 26, 2017)</p>
<p style="text-align: center;"><b><u>Asylum</u></b></p>	<p><b>On Thursday September 20, 2018, a woman with albinism</b> in her mid-thirties from Guinea was granted subsidiary protection in France. The woman first came to France on a student visa which was denied renewal some years ago. Faced with the risk of deportation, she has now been granted a subsidiary protection due to her albinism.</p> <p>(Trusted Source: <i>a UTSS representative talked directly via telephone to the Guinean woman who was granted subsidiary protection in France – September 30, 2018.</i>)</p>



# Ivory Coast

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**30 reports: 9 killings / 13 survivors / 4 missing / 2 asylums / 2 abandoned**

<p><b><u>Killing</u></b></p>	<p><b>On June 30, 2017, the lifeless body of a 3 year old boy</b> with albinism by the name of S.O. was found in a 1 meter deep abandoned well situated behind the town hall of Kani, in the ward of Damasso, in the north west of Ivory Coast. According to first testimonies gathered by M.C., this case was not an accident and it appeared that the boy was tragically murdered for ritual purposes and his body thrown in the abandoned well.</p> <p>(Trusted Sources: To protect our sources, we have withheld their names from this publication, <i>N.W. IVORY COAST – 3 year old boy found in a well after being murdered for ritual</i>, July 4, 2017.)</p>
<p><b><u>Survivor</u></b></p>	<p><b>In late June of 2017, a woman with albinism</b> had her 15 month old infant, who did not have albinism by the name of C.A.K., kidnapped from their home in Ivory Coast by a pigmented woman from Benin. The police in Arrah, in the east of the country, found the Beninese woman named Nadège Dassia after she had stolen the child. After four years of trying to give birth to her own child, the abductor passed herself off as a soap seller which easily enabled her to enter the bedroom of the absent mother and abduct the baby. After fleeing the house with the infant in a taxi heading towards KOTOBI (in east-central of Cote d’ivoire, subprefecture of Arrah), the police were alerted and managed to catch the pair,</p>



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<p><b><u>Survivor</u></b></p>	<p>arrest the kidnapper, rescue the infant and reunite the mother with her child.</p> <p>(Trusted Source: To protect our sources, we have withheld their names from this publication, <i>COTE D'IVOIRE, IVORY COAST – Beninese woman steals baby from Ivorian mother and gets arrested</i>, Thursday, June 22, 2017.)</p>
<p><b><u>Asylum</u></b></p>	<p><b>29 year old woman with albinism</b> (name withheld) whom is also 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, the woman'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".</p> <p>(Trusted Source: To protect our sources, we have withheld their names from this publication, <i>COTE D'IVOIRE, IVORY COAST – woman trying to establish new life &amp; safe haven in Tunisia</i>, May 20, 2013.)</p>



# Kenya

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13 reports: 5 killings / 8 survivors

## Killing

**On September 20, 2015, a 56 year old man with albinism** by the name of E.J. succumbed to injuries from a brutal machete attack and died. Ten days earlier on September 10, 2015, it was reported that E 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 which left him unconscious. His brother Nickson Lugadiru, also with albinism, said E was found in that state by his son, who called for help.

L took his brother to Hamisi Subcounty Hospital, where he was referred to Vihiga. E 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 E 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.



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<p><b><u>Killing</u></b></p>	<p>(Trusted Source: To protect our sources, we have withheld their names from this publication, <i>VIHIGA, KENYA – man succumbs to injuries after being dismembered to sell his body parts in Tanzania</i>, September 14, 2015.)</p>
<p><b><u>Survivor</u></b></p>	<p><b>On Friday, March 15, 2013, a 7-year-old boy with albinism</b> 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.</p> <p>(Trusted Source: To protect our sources, we have withheld their names from this publication, <i>EMBU, KENYA –7 year old escapes deathly ritual</i>, June 26, 2013.)</p>



# Lesotho

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## 1 report: 1 killing

### Killing

**In October, 2015, a 16-year-old girl with albinism** by the name of T.T. 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 C.M., a woman from the victim’s district arrested in connection with the murder was assisting with investigations. T 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.”

(Trusted Source: To protect our sources, we have withheld their names from this publication, *LESOTHO, SOUTH-AFRICA – Albino girl mutilated in suspected ritual murder*, November 22, 2015.)



# Madagascar

30 reports: 9 killings, 6 Survivors, 13 Abductions and 4 Missing

<p><b><u>Killing</u></b></p>	<p><b>On the night of December 21, 2021</b>, a 72-year-old albino from Ampatsakana fokontany in Ambohimahasoia was horribly beheaded by 3 people on the night of December 21. According to the investigation report of the local gendarmerie, a 15 year old girl testified to having seen the 3 individuals “passing through the victim’s window using a ladder” (...) “they beheaded the victim and took his head with them before disappearing into the wild.” An investigation has already been opened and a strategy has been drawn up, combining the efforts of the Ambohimahasoia Gendarmerie Group and the Fianarantsoa Company, to arrest the assassins.</p> <p>The body of the deceased has reportedly already been handed over to his family for burial.</p> <p>(Trusted Source: To protect our sources, we have withheld their names from this publication, <i>AMPATSKAKANA, MADAGASCAR – man beheaded by 3 murders</i>, December 21, 2021.)</p>
<p><b><u>Survivors</u></b></p>	<p><b>A two year old child with albinism</b> was kidnapped at 1AM in the morning from their home in Andranomena Sud (Menabe region – South West Madagascar). The child lived with their mom and grandfather on a small, isolated island. Around 1 AM in the morning, 5 men started throwing stones at the house, the grandfather was startled. Then they broke into the house, the</p>



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mother was carrying the child on her back when they hit her on the head with a hammer, and then they hit her chest with a baton and took the child from her. The child's grandfather phone the gendarmerie for help and screamed for help but it was too late as the kidnapers escaped. At around 6 AM in the morning, the community managed to capture 1 of 2 of the kidnapers after chasing them. The second kidnapper managed to escape. They were about to commit mob justice on the 1 kidnapper that was captured, but the gendarmerie picked him up instead. At first, the bandit denied any involvement, however, there was proof that he was on the island because he was covered in mud and sea salt. After investigations, he finally admitted to being part of the group of 5 men who kidnapped the child. They also found juju on him. The gendarmerie arrived at the kidnapping site at around 10am to investigate and investigations ended at 3PM in the afternoon. The gendarmerie allegedly killed some of the kidnapers and went back home, while the village chief and community members buried them. No government representative came to the scene, the child's whereabouts are still unknown, his mother is being treated for grave wounds in the hospital and the village chief still has no idea what's going on regarding the investigations.

(Trusted Source: To protect our sources, we have withheld their names from this publication, *Andranomena Sud, MENABE, MADAGASCAR – 2 year old with albinism kidnapped from home, still missing; November 23, 2022.*)

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<p><b><u>Abduction</u></b></p>	<p><b>A 12 year old girl with albismim was abducted</b> on February 11, 2022, from her home in the Commune of Manantenina, hundreds of kilometers north of Tolagnaro (South Eastern Madagascar). The victim was kidnapped a second time 4 weeks ago and rescued on the morning of March 9, 2023 at 2 am in the commune of Ankaraho, in district Fort-Dauphin (Southeastern Madagascar). There was a clash between the police and the kidnappers (1 shot, 2 arrested, the suspects are still there).</p> <p>(Trusted Source : to protect our sources, we have withheld their names from this publication – <i>Manantenina, MADAGASCAR, 12 year old girl, abducted from her home, August 24,2022</i>)</p>
<p><b><u>Missing</u></b></p>	<p><b>2 year old child: A child with albinism was kidnapped</b> at 1 AM in the morning from their home in Andranomena Sud (Menabe region - South West Madagascar). The child lived with their mom and grandfather on a small, isolated island. Around 1 AM, in the morning, 5 men started throwing stones at the house, the grandfather was startled. Then they broke into the house, the mother was carrying the child on her back when they hit her on the head with a hammer, and then they hit her chest with a baton and took the child from her. The child's grandfather phoned the Gendarmerie for help and screamed for help but it seemed to be too late as the kidnappers escaped. At around 6 am in the morning, the community managed to capture 1 of 2 of the kidnappers after chasing them. The second kidnapper managed to escape. They were about to commit mob justice on the 1 kidnappers that was captured, but the Gendarmerie picked him up instead. At first, the bandit denied any involvement. However, there was proof that he was on the island because he was covered in mud and sea salt. After investigations, he finally admitted to being part of the group of 5 men who kidnapped the child. They also found juju on him. The Gendarmerie arrived at the kidnapping site at around 10 am to investigate and investigations</p>



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(Trusted Source: To protect our sources, we have withheld their names from this publication, *MENABE, MADAGASCAR – 2 year old missing child with albinism*, November 23, 2022.)



# Malawi\*

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## **65 reports: 20 killings, 28 survivors, 7 missing, 10 grave desecrations**

\*In Malawi more cases have been reported. In 2017, 102 cases were reported by the UN Independent Expert on albinism in the report of her official visit to Malawi. See UN document number: [A/HRC/34/59/Add.1](#) (March 2017). A few months later, in October 2017, the association of persons with albinism in Malawi reported 122 cases (Source: Malawi News Agency (MANA); *Lack of finances stalls 122 cases of people with albinism*; Wednesday, Oct 25, 2017; <http://www.maravipost.com/lack-finances-stalls-122-cases-people-albinism/>). Under The Same Sun (UTSS) officially records cases after it has received a sufficient source and data: name of victim, type of attack, date, location, etc. Without access to such detail, UTSS is unable to enter these cases into its records for now; but recognizes that these reports are probably credible due to their sources.

<p><b><u>Killing</u></b></p>	<p><b>On the Night of November 30<sup>th</sup></b> at 11pm in Mawawa Village, near the town of Kasungu, in central Malawi, a young three year old girl with albinism was reportedly asleep in bed with her grandmother when an unidentified assailant broke into the house. The man stabbed the young girl and amputated her arm before fleeing with it. Police are still searching for the suspect.</p> <p>(Trusted Source: To protect our sources, we have withheld their names from this publication, Mawawa Village, <i>CENTRAL MALAWI, MALAWI — 3 year old girl, stabbed, dismembered and killed while sleeping in Central Malawi</i>, December 1, 2022.)</p>
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<p><b><u>Survivor</u></b></p>	<p><b>Two year old boy:</b> On the evening of Saturday, November 19<sup>th</sup>, in the district of Phalombe in southern Malawi, a two year old boy with albinism was asleep at home with his mother and sibling when three masked assailants began to force their way inside at around 10 pm in the evening by removing bricks from around the door of their house. When the boy's mother began to realize what was happening, she screamed for help, which prompted the assailants to stop and flee. Grabbing both her children, the mother fled the house to her own mother and sister's house who took them in for protection.</p> <p>(Trusted Source: To protect our sources, we have withheld their names from this publication, <i>LILONGWE, MALAWI – Toddler with Albinism attempted abduction</i>, Saturday, November 19<sup>th</sup>, 2022.)</p>



<p><b><u>Missing</u></b></p>	<p><b>On January 31, 2023, A.N., from Tezanga village, T/A Chiwalo District of Phalombe</b> was reported missing to the Nambozo Police unit on the morning of this date at around 1:30 am by his relatives. N. lived with his 70 year-old mother and he went out during the night of January 29, 2023 and never returned; his relatives searched for him in the area during the day on January 30, 2023, they only managed to find one shoe and a hat belonging to the victim in a field at Namuli Village in T/A Chilawo, District Phalombe.</p> <p>(Trusted Source: To protect our sources, we have withheld their names from this publication, <i>Tezanga village, T/A Chiwalo District PHALOMBE, MALAWI – man went missing and never returned, February 3, 2023.</i>)</p>
<p><b><u>Grave Desecration</u></b></p>	<p><b>On 16th October, 2022, criminal gangs exhumed</b> the body of late W.P., a young man with albinism who hailed from Sitima village in the area of Traditional Authority Masumbankhunda, Lilongwe district. W died of skin cancer on April 7, 2022 and was laid to rest the following day. However, six months after his burial, the unknown criminal gangs exhumed his body. It is believed that they cut and went away with body parts including legs and arms, leaving late W’s body with the head and chest only. Some women who went to fetch firewood at the graveyard where late W was buried, came across an exhumed tomb, the development which suspicions and they instantly reported the matter to village authorities. It is believed that this had happened in the early hours</p>



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**Grave  
Desecration**

on Friday, October 14<sup>th</sup>, 2022. The remains were reburied after advice from Malawi Police Service. However, the reburial was not made with concrete which still brings fears among persons with albinism in Malawi and the community members in the village on the security of the remains.

(Trusted Source: To protect our sources, we have withheld their names from this publication, Malawi, *LILONGWE, MALAWI – young man with albinism who’s grave was tampered & body exhumed*, October 16, 2022.)

## **Mali**

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**Killing**

**On May 13, 2018, a five year old girl with albinism** by the name of D.D. was kidnapped from her home in the middle of the night and later found beheaded in the village of Fana, about 125 Km from Bamako, the capital of Mali. AFP reports that according to police, armed men abducted and beheaded the five-year-old girl with albinism in what was feared to be a ritual murder for supposedly magic body parts. Little D “was sleeping in the courtyard with her mother and her sister” when the men snatched her at around 2:00 am on Sunday.

The girl’s mother pursued the kidnappers, who scaled a wall with her child, but then turned back to protect her second daughter, also with albinism. “We searched for the little girl everywhere. We found her body beside a mosque, but she had no head,” said a village teacher, Oumar Diakite. Sissoko, the general secretary of the Federation of Associations of Persons with Albinism in West Africa (FAPAO), pointed out the link between crimes against people with albinism and political events, ahead of Mali’s presidential election on July 29. “Every time there are elections, we become prey for people who want to make ritual sacrifices. This is not the first time this has happened in Fana,” he said. “The state needs to take up its responsibilities.” “We demand justice. Her head was taken. This is a ritual crime,” activist Mamadou Sissoko told AFP after going to the scene.

The governor of the region of **KOULIKORO**, C.M.C., the director general of the national gendarmerie, the Commander of the Legion of gendarmerie were on the crime scene, and went to the morgue to see the body of the beheaded little girl. Traditional authorities have been approached to help appease tensions.

**Killing**

(Trusted Source: To protect our sources, we have withheld their names from this publication *FANA, MALI – albino child beheaded in ‘ritual’ murder*, May 13, 2018.)



<p><b><u>Survivor</u></b></p>	<p><b>Early in August 2017, a 13 year old boy with albinism</b> narrowly escaped abduction in Goloninia, located in the Bamako district of Mali. Fortunately for the child, the S.K. Foundation for people with albinism in Mali intervened and the perpetrator was arrested. N.K., the daughter of S.K. says; “He was released on bail awaiting a date of trial – we don’t know yet. I fear we will never see him again. Our assistant in Bamako underwent a lot of pressure in order to withdraw the complaint, but we didn’t give up. We feared the boy’s family was scared and would withdraw the complaint, but they did not. It’s truly a good step forward.”</p> <p>(Trusted Source: To Protect our sources, we have withheld their names from this publication <i>Goloninia, BAMAKO, MALI – 13 year old boy with albinism survives attempted abduction, August, 2017.</i>)</p>
<p><b><u>Missing</u></b></p>	<p><b>In 2006, the abduction of a baby boy with albinism</b> 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.</p> <p>(Trusted Source: To protect our sources, we have withheld their names from this publication <i>MALI – baby boy abducted while sleeping, 2006.</i>)</p>





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## Asylum

On July 29, 2011, a woman with albinism from Mali received asylum in France.

# Mozambique

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**57 reports: 19 murders, 17  
15 missing**



**survivors, 6 grave desecrations,**

<p><b><u>Murder</u></b></p>	<p><b>AA, 22 year old man with albinism</b> from the village of Maputo in the District of Muapana, was killed and dismembered on the evening of May 16, 2022 at 5:00 pm in the woods. He was killed and then his upper and lower limbs were extracted and then the perpetrators buried the rest of the body. The body parts were found hidden in the town of Maputo. Police say they have arrested the main suspect, who they say confessed to the murder. The detained suspect is the victim’s uncle, according to the Nampula police spokesperson, Z.N. The suspect told the press that he had been promised about 7 million meticaís (\$110,000; £87,000) for the body parts. Police are looking for the other suspects.</p> <p>(Trusted Source: To protect our sources, we have withheld their names from this publication <i>MAPUTO, MOZAMBIQUE – 22 year old man with albisim murdered &amp; dismembered, May 16, 2022.</i>)</p>
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## Survivor

**On March 13, 2020, an 8 month old baby with albinism** narrowly escaped a human trafficking transaction by parents in the province of Manica in Mozambique near the Zimbabwe border. Manica police spokesman M.M. said that a couple was detained by PRM and Criminal Investigation Service (Sernic) agents while attempting to close the sale of their infant for one million meticaís (€13,000). The couple has two children with albinism, and was going to sell one of them, allegedly to a Zimbabwean buyer in the Macadeira area (Vanduzi). Two intermediaries were also detained when “The buyers’ made contact with them from Manica and arranged the meeting, where they were arrested,” M said.

(Trusted Source: To protect our sources, we have withheld their names from this publication *MANICA, MOZAMBIQUE – Police arrested five over human trafficking with alleged buyers in Zimbabwe | Watch*, Mar 17, 2020.)



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<p><b><u>Grave Desecration</u></b></p>	<p><b>A 49 year old man with Albinism</b>, had undergone several treatments for skin cancer since 2021 but passed away on January 2, 2023. He was buried on January 26, 2023 in the village of Mkhome, the administrative post of Zobwe - Moatize in Tete province. On March 22, 2023, our trusted source was notified that his grave was vandalized and the perpetrators managed to get the body out and it's now missing. The source had tried to do all the work of placing the concrete (two bags of cement, sand, and stones) when they buried him, but they still managed to vandalize the grave. To this day, the perpetrators are unknown.</p> <p>(Trusted Source: To protect our sources, we have withheld their names from this publication; Mkhome, <i>MOZAMBIQUE – vandalism of grave of deceased man with albinism</i>; March 22, 2023.)</p>
	<p><b>On January 15, 2021, a nine year old boy</b> with albinism by the name of R was kidnapped from his village in the Angonia District of Tete Province in the Central Region of</p>



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**Missing**

Mozambique. At the time of this report, police continue their search for little R who remains missing. Two suspects are in the custody of the police.

(Trusted Source: To protect our sources, we have withheld their names from this publication, Angonia, TETE, MOZAMBIQUE – missing nine year old boy with albisim, remains missing; January 16, 2021)



# Namibia

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5 reports: 3 survivors / 2 killings

<p><b><u>Killing</u></b></p>	<p><b>In June of 2010, A.S., a young man</b> 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.</p> <p>(Trusted Source: To protect our sources, we have withheld their names from this publication, <i>Uukwiyuwuushona, OSHIKOTO, NAMIBIA – young man with albinism brutally murdered; June 29, 2010.</i>)</p>
<p><b><u>Survivor</u></b></p>	<p><b>The Katutura Magistrate's Court</b> denied F.S. and O.L. bail on Tuesday. The two were arrested on February 18, 2022 after they approached a person living with albinism asking him to sell them his hair. The unnamed person with albinism then reached out to a local albinism association, which then tipped off the police about the offer. The police then set up a sting operation that led to the arrest of the men. M.D.M. postponed the matter to June 29 2022 for further investigation.</p> <p>(Trusted Source: To protect our sources, we have withheld their names from this publication, <i>NAMIBIA – denied bail for persecutors of survivor; February 18, 2022.</i>)</p>



# Niger

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1 report: 1 missing

## Missing & Presumed Dead

**On the 17<sup>th</sup> 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 S.H. 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. K.M., leader and founder of the PWA association in Niger interviewed the victims' family and neighbors to confirm S's disappearance. Both parties told her that the abduction did in fact take place. At the time S went missing, his family reported the case to the Police who did their investigation, but sadly were not able to find him. Two of S's brothers also have albinism.

(Trusted Source: UTSS interviewed Ms. K.M., leader and founder of the PWA group in Niger; *ANAN Niger – interview re. missing young boy with albinism; September 20, 2014.*)



# Nigeria

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**13 reports: 4 killings / 1 missing / 5 asylums / 3 survivors**

<p><b><u>Killing</u></b></p>	<p><b>In April of 2013, a woman with albinism</b> was found dead with some of her body organs missing at Okuta, a border town at Baruten Local Government Area of Kwara State, Nigeria.</p> <p>(Trusted Source: To protect our sources, we have withheld their names from this publication, <i>Okuta, KWARA, NIGERIA – woman with albinism found dead with organs missing; April 19, 2013.</i>)</p>
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## Survivor

**On a Thursday morning in late January of 2016**, a 19 year old girl with albinism by the name of J.E. (who has made her story public) was kidnapped by, in her words, “a couple of fanatics who wanted to turn her into a sacrifice in the name of maniacal superstitions”. The attack occurred near her home in the community of Uromi (Esan North East local government Benin), located in the Edo State of Nigeria. On that tragic day, J was on her usual morning jog 2 blocks from her parents’ home when she was knocked to the ground, restrained and carried to the trunk of a car by 3 unfamiliar men. From the trunk, where she lay blindfolded with her hands and legs tied painfully behind her back, she overheard 4 people in conversation.

When the blindfold was finally removed, J said she found herself in a room filled with “different kinds of skeletons and idol images and I knew what my parents have been running from was finally about to happen. I couldn’t control my tears I was freaking out. I’m about to be used as a sacrifice to a deity god that does not exist, a man-made god and for what purpose I don’t know. My thoughts were cut short when one of the men said to me with a pleading face in Yoruba language that I understood perfectly well “albina please let your head provide for us lots of money. Do not allow us to suffer for the rest of our



## Survivor

lives. Provide us with lots of money please.” It was then that I realize I was going to be used for money making rituals and my tears increased.”

Later that day J was brutally and repeatedly raped by two of the men, violently taking her God given virginity. “Before they left, they had used a white cloth to clean the blood on me and had carefully placed it in a calabash then tying me back up but this time not so tight. I slept and woke up to find an old man holding the same calabash and was saying some incantations barely looking at me. When he left, I knew I had to try and escape . . . It took me some time to loosen the ropes and reach a window. I discovered I was in an unfinished two-story building, 2 km away from the main road. The building was surrounded by bushes. I was so scared to jump but realized my life depended on it. I hit the ground painfully hard I discovered I’d landed on broken bottles. My knee, arm and ear were cut; I was hurting everywhere and soaked in blood. I prayed to God for strength, and I kept moving, crawling, tumbling, fighting so hard to endure the pains and not make a sound.

At nightfall I arrived on the road, but no one would stop and eventually I passed out.” J woke the following morning in a well-lit room to the face of a smiling woman who had dressed her wounds. She said her brother had found J laying on the “Soka” roadside in Ibadan and said they were now in Kano. J said her parents lived in Lagos state and the lady promised to take her home as soon as her brother got back. She was very relieved that she had narrowly escaped with her life from the witchcraft rituals that assaulted her because she had albinism.

**Little did J know that a whole new world of pain was about to unfold**, this time because she was a woman. When the kind woman’s brother returned, the two of them argued fiercely after which the woman packed her bags and left, leaving Joy alone with him. He sold her into the sex trade where she was traded several times and finally ended up in Libya where in



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## Survivor

J's words: "A new chapter was opened, a chapter of random raping, a chapter of whippings and stabs, pain and breakdowns. These men had bought us for sexual pleasures and practical beatings. They came in and out of the room to have us whenever they wanted with little or no food and no hesitation to beat us when we hesitate to do as instructed. Even in days of my monthly periods my vagina got stuffed with baby wipes in order to hold the flow of blood because the men hate blood, and they still do as they wish with us in these days. Words and writings cannot explain how terrible I felt being raped two or three times every day by different men at each time. I had prayed for death, but it wouldn't come." In the end, one of the captors approached J in deep remorse, pleading for forgiveness, and helped her escape by purchasing her passage on a boat for Italy. He said that when "I get to Italy I would be well treated and taken care of, but I should make sure to explain to the people in Italy everything that had happened to me that they know what to do to help me. . . After two nights on the sea we were rescued by the Italia Sea patrols. I arrived in Italy 31<sup>st</sup> day in July 2016."

**After over six months of torture and trauma**, J was given medical care, a kind-hearted place to stay, a very good psychologist, I., and social assistant, C., as well as a legal advisor for Commission. After some time in Italy, she has contacted her family in Nigeria and is finally able to say "I am actually getting better and really do love my life despite the challenges. Now I am grateful [to] God and Italy for giving me an opportunity for a new better life here where I am totally and completely free from dangers. I feel absolutely protected now.

(Trusted Source: To protect our sources, we have withheld their names from this publication, UROMI, NIGERIA – young woman with albinism survives sacrificial killing to being sold to the sex trade; January 2016.)



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<p><b><u>Missing</u></b></p>	<p><b>In April 2013, a woman with albinism</b> went missing according to her relatives. She was a resident around Saw Mill area in the city of Ilorin, Kwara State, Nigeria.</p> <p>(Trusted Source: To protect our sources, we have withheld their names from this publication, <i>KWARA, NIGERIA – woman with albinism missing; April 19, 2013.</i>)</p>
<p><b><u>Asylum</u></b></p>	<p><b>On February 13, 2017, a Judge in France</b> recognizes refugee status to a Nigerian man with albinism who was stigmatized and a victim of persecutions in his homeland.</p> <p>(Trusted Source: To protect our sources, we have withheld their names from this publication, <i>NIGERIA – France recognition of man with albinism; February 14, 2017.</i>)</p>



# Rwanda

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## 1 report: 1 grave desecrations

<p><b><u>Grave Desecration</u></b></p>	<p><b>On July 2, 2013, authorities of the Macuba sector</b> 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.</p> <p>(Trusted Source: To protect our sources, we have withheld their names from this publication, <i>Nyamasheke, RWANDA – woman with albinism grave desercation; July 3, 2013.</i>)</p>
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# Senegal

9 reports: 3 alleged killings / 4 survivors / 2 asylums

<p><b><u>Killing</u></b></p>	<p><b>Three unproven murders</b> 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 A.W. but apparently not at the same time:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- In 2012 during the electoral campaign, President A said before the steering committee of his own political party (the Senegalese Democratic Party PDS): <b><i>“Some people told me that Pape DIOP killed a PWA they brought from Mali”</i></b>. (Trusted Source: To protect our sources, we have withheld their names from this publication, <i>SENEGAL</i> – three people with albinism murdered; May 30, 2012.)</li><li>- In July of 2010 President A.W. accused the regime of his predecessor Abdou DIOUF and his political party, the Socialist Party (PS), <b><i>“of the mysterious deaths of two young female albinos whose disappearance was never clarified”</i></b>. (Trusted Source: To protect our sources, we have withheld their names from this publication, <i>SENEGAL</i> – mysterious deaths of young women with albinism; December 17, 2010)</li></ul>
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<p><b><u>Survivor</u></b></p>	<p><b>On September 8, 2014, an 8 year old boy</b> with albinism by the name of (name withheld) 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 4×4 who</p>
<p><b><u>Survivor</u></b></p>	<p>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.</p>
<p><b><u>Asylum</u></b></p>	<p><b>On June 17, 2015, legal history was made</b> 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.</p>



## South Africa

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9 reports: 4 killings / 2 missing / 2 survivors / 1

### Killing

**On January 28, 2018, a 14 year old girl** with albinism by the name of G.S.S. was abducted and later killed in Hlalanikahle Township -Witbank Mpumalanga, South Africa. The family woke up to the sound of commotion made by three men breaking a window and entering at gun point to abduct G.

They also took her 15 month old nephew, N.N., who did not have albinism but was allegedly mistaken for another child from the same household who also has albinism.

G's young body was found 3 weeks later on February 21, 2018. The remains indicated that she had been decapitated, with her arms and private parts removed. The shallow grave was discovered in Cullinan Pretoria which is about 81 km way from her home.

The infant was discovered on the N4 highway with exact location not disclosed. On February 20, 2018, Thokozani Msibi (32), a traditional healer from Swaziland living in South Africa, was arrested after police found a human head and other human body parts at his home. He confessed to the brutal killing of the two children and identified the location of the shallow grave. He appeared in Witbank Magistrate's Court at which time he was also applying for bail which M.D.V. denied.

The first court appearance was on February 21, 2018, where he was remanded in custody with the second court appearance on February 27, 2018. The next court date was on the March 6, 2018, with investigations still ongoing since the other two suspects have not been apprehended.





<p><b><u>Killing</u></b></p>	<p>(Trusted Source: To protect our sources, we have withheld their names from this publication, <i>Hlalanikahle Township, WITBANK MPUMALANGA, SOUTH AFRICA – Police find two bodies believed to be linked to albino abduction case; February 22, 2018.</i>)</p>
<p><b><u>Survivor</u></b></p>	<p><b>June 28, 2016, a 12 year old boy with albinism</b> 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 N.G. 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.</p> <p>The arrest resulted after the traditional healer she was trying to sell the child to, J.M., alerted the police and a trap was set. M 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. M is known for his stance against the killing people with albinism for muti purposes and has led marches to the magistrate's</p>



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<p><b><u>Survivor</u></b></p>	<p>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.</p> <p>(Trusted Source: To protect our sources, we have withheld their names from this publication, <i>eManguzi, KwaZulu-Natal, SOUTH AFRICA – Woman jailed for trying to sell a child with albinism; July 6, 2016.</i>)</p>
<p><b><u>Kidnapping</u></b></p>	<p><b>A 4 year old boy with albinism</b> by the name of M.N., was kidnapped and is still missing from Port Dunford near Richards Bay, M at eSikhaleni, outside eMpangeni in the north of the KwaZulu-Natal province in South Africa. The family says that M was playing with his cousin at a church several meters from his home. The victim’s cousin told M’s mother, Q.N., that two men abducted him and they also referred to him by name.</p> <p>On Friday police arrested a 28 year old woman in Emanguzi while looking for M 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 M’s disappearance. His mother is pleased with the latest development in the case saying “I hadn’t heard of the arrest from</p>



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**Kidnapping**

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 M is still missing. The Albinism Society of South Africa is also monitoring this case and we will keep UTSS informed.

(Trusted Source: To protect our sources, we have withheld their names from this publication, *Richards Bay, KwaZulu-Natal, SOUTH AFRICA – Shock As Albino Boy Kidnapped In South Africa's KZN*; June 27, 2016.)



# Swaziland (Eswatini)

12 reports: 4 killings / 8 survivors

<p><b><u>Killings</u></b></p>	<p><b>In May of 2016, in Nkoyoyo, Swaziland</b>, a man with albinism by the name of S.M. was murdered by his wife, Pinky Z 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 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 M to be brought to him alive since he needed the blood of a person with albinism for ritual purposes.</p> <p>(Source: To protect our sources, we have withheld their names from this publication, NKOYOYO, SWAZILAND – <i>wife kills &amp; tries selling husband with albinism corpse to traditional healer</i>; May 27, 2016.)</p>
<p><b><u>Survivor</u></b></p>	<p><b>On November 25, 2019, a 3-year-old girl</b> with albinism and her mother narrowly escaped a dangerous encounter in the Southern part of the Lubombo region in Eswatini after unknown men arrived at their home demanding the child with albinism. Fortunately, the mother and child were not home at the time.</p>



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<p><b><u>Survivor</u></b></p>	<p>They are now in hiding and the matter has been reported to the police and it is under investigation.</p> <p>(Trusted Source: P.G., President of Swaziland Association of Persons with Albinism – SAPA, issued a Facetime report of the incident to IK Ero, Independent Expert of the UN Mandate, who forwarded the information to UTSS; February 2, 2020.)</p>
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# Tanzania

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## 206 reports

**78 killings; 98 survivors; 1 missing, 26 grave desecrations; 3 asylums**

*\*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.*

### Killing

**J.M.M. (49-year-old man):** On November 3, 2022 in the region of Mwanza and village of Ngula, J.M. and his friend went out for a drink and later returned home. Upon returning home, he was asked to go out again by this same friend, but his wife advised him not to go as it was getting late in the night. A few hours later, his wife claimed that she heard someone calling her husband's name outside. When she went outside, she heard noises from her husband who said people were chopping off his hand. His right arm was severed below the elbow. // Alternate report: Assailants broke into J's house where he was sleeping with his wife and severed his right arm. J died from the injuries he sustained.// The police are still questioning his wife and looking for a friend of the deceased who was drinking alcohol with him. The regional commissioner of Mwanza, A.M., has given the police force seven days, beginning November 3, to conduct an investigation to identify the killers.

(Trusted Source: To protect our sources, we have withheld their names from this publication, *MWANZA, TANZANIA – wife's husband slain while sleeping after severed arm; November 3, 2022.*)



	<p>UPDATES: According to the police, on November 6, 2012, at 12:00 noon, the accused was seen in the village of Ngula, Kanyere Ward in Misungwi district, with a black bag, which the citizens suspected, and they immediately informed the police when they arrived and searched. The bag was discovered to be a rotting human hand emitting a strong odour. Update from UTSS/VoH, Tanzania.</p>
<p><b><u>Survivor</u></b></p>	<p><b>Z.E.: On 28th August 2022</b>, in the Shinyanga region of Tanzania, a man on a motorbike went up to Z, a woman with albinism, asking for excrements from her or from a child who has albinism for ritualistic purposes. He promised her that if she gave him this, then a rich person could purchase it for 7 million Tanzanian shillings (approx. \$3000 USD) and that she would get a cut from that amount Z. recorded him with her mobile phone as he departed. She had told the man to come around 2 pm the same day to collect the excrements. At the same time, she informed the police and arranged for them to come to her place to arrest the man who was supposedly going to collect the excrements. They came to her place around 2 pm, the man was caught by police and he admitted that there are others who are doing the same thing in the regions of Shinyanga and Mwanza. The man was detained pending further investigation.</p> <p>(Trusted Source: Africa Albinism Network via Villages of Hope/UTSS Program Staff, <i>SHINYANGA, TANZANIA – mother &amp; child with albinism asked for excrements for ritualistic purposes; August 28, 2022.</i>)</p>

	<p><b>On October 20, 2017, a thirty year old woman</b> with albinism (name withheld) survived an attempted rape by Bundala Luhende, age 20, at around 11:00 AM at her parents' house in Mhunze Village, Kishapu District,</p>
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	<p><b>On July 27, 2016, two sisters</b> with albinism from Tanzania who underwent brutal attack and profound discrimination due to their albinism were granted asylum in the state of California, USA.</p>
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# Togo

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1 report: 1 killing

<p><b><u>Killing</u></b></p>	<p><b>On September 23, 2017, a 2 year old boy</b> with albinism by the name of N.M. was reported missing between 8:00 and 9:00 PM in the city of Dapaong in the locality of Pana Bagou in northern Togo, West Africa. The little boy was later found dead and 62nclud. It was reported that the victim’s body was supposed to be exhumed on the third day following his burial and taken to the neighboring country of Benin to serve in witchcraft practices for the purpose of bringing riches. Some of the 4 suspected murderers have been arrested and are currently in the hands of the local police. The Togo Albinism Association ANAT says “We have a video footage of the burial of the little boy. We firmly condemn this act and demand your support to say NO to these acts in our country.”</p> <p>(Trusted Source: To protect our sources, we have withheld their names form this publication, <i>DAPAONG, TOGO – two year old boy with albinism found dead; September 28, 2017.</i>)</p>
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# Uganda

9 reports: 8 survivors / 1 asylum

<p><b><u>Asylum</u></b></p>	<p><b>Legal history was made in the USA when, on December 16, 2020,</b> a 34-year-old woman with albinism from Uganda was granted asylum in Boston, Massachusetts.</p>
<p><b><u>Survivor</u></b></p>	<p><b>This report counts as 2 separate PWA attacks – On October 7, 2016,</b> 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.</p> <p>(Trusted Source: To protect our sources, we have withheld their names from this publication – <i>BUJUKO, UGANDA – two boys with albinism survive kidnapping; October 17, 2016.</i>)</p>



# USA

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**2 reports: 2 survivors**

<p><b><u>Survivors</u></b></p>	<p><b>This report counts as 2 I PWA attacks – In 1899, at the turn of the 20<sup>th</sup> century</b>, two young African-American brothers with albinism by the names of G. (6) and W. (9) M. went missing in the Jim Crow South Town of Truevine, Virginia, USA. G and W 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.</p> <p>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 G and W were concerned, they were now totally on their own for the rest of their lives. Captured into the circus, the M 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 M brothers were victims of violence, for what else is peonage but violence? Back home, their mother H.M. never accepted that they were “gone” and spent at least 13 years trying to get them back, never stopping the searching for her sons. H 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. G and W returned to the circus in 1928 as paid employees. Love and kinship impelled H’s family to try</p>
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for a century to protect G and W from a world that saw them as objects for exploitation. The family always believed the boys were kidnapped, including W's personal testimony as an adult. G died in 1972, and W in 2001, at 108. W 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.

## **Survivors**

(Trusted Source: To protect our sources, we have withheld their names from this publication, *Truevine, VIRGINIA, USA – Two Brothers, a Kidnapping, and a Mother's Quest to find them; October 21, 2016.*)



# Zambia

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**25 reports: 9 killings / 12 survivors / 4 grave desecrations**

## Killing

**On April 28, 2020, UTSS received** additional information about this report. In summary, after the Zambia Albino Foundation (ZAF) facilitated the burial of this unidentified and unclaimed victim, they were finally able to find his family who identified him as 43-year-old E.P. He was survived by his wife, 3 children and extended family. E was an accomplished carpenter who lived in Navutika compound in Chipata, Eastern Province, Zambia. He had recently accepted a custom job in another part of Chipata and told his family he would be back in 2 weeks, but he failed to return home. The family became concerned and frantically started a search which finally lead to a mortuary with Chipata police where they confirmed it was E by recognizing his clothes, shoes and pictures of the body. They were then taken to the grave where ZAF had buried E. Police have since then arrested the customer as a suspect and the investigation is ongoing.

(Trusted Source: Zambia Albino Foundation, *ZAMBIA*; April 28, 2020.)

**On March 25, 2020, the mutilated body** of an unidentified male with albinism was recovered in a maize field at Yamene farms along the Chipata/Lundazi Road, in the Eastern Province of Zambia. The victim was ritually murdered and discovered with missing eyes, tongue and both arms. According to Eastern Province Police Commissioner, Mr. L.S., the incident occurred between 15:00 and 17:00 hours. After the body was deposited at Chipata Central Hospital S appealed to the public to report their missing relative to the police and help identify the body, but after more than two weeks it still remained unclaimed. J.C., Foundation Executive Director of the Zambia Albino Foundation, said that his team has been working with the authorities to find





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the relative of the deceased, but the search had proved futile. C went on to say that their organization was committed to seeing that the victim received a decent burial and his soul be put to rest. His team traveled to Chipata and took responsibility for the burial at St. Ann's Cemetery there. C also appealed to police that the perpetrators of this gruesome murder be found and punished.

(Trusted Source: To protect our sources, we have withheld their names from this publication, CHIPATA, ZAMBIA – Body Of Albino Found With Missing Tongue, Arms And Eyes, March 26, 2020.)



<p><b><u>Survivor</u></b></p>	<p><b>On Saturday April 30th, 2022</b> at around 16h pm in a market place called Njomwana, a woman by the name of B was attacked. The perpetrator was taken to the police but has since not been charged yet. The perpetrator has admitted to the attack but he hasn't explained why and he is apologising.</p> <p>(Trusted Source: To protect our sources, we have withheld their names from this publication, <i>ZAMBIA – woman survives attack in market place; April 30, 2022.</i>)</p>
<p><b><u>Grave Desecration</u></b></p>	<p>(1) <b>WHAT HAPPENED?</b> The body of a male juvenile Widson Mkandawire aged 14 years a boy with albinism who died and was buried on the 18th of January 2022 was exhumed/unearthed by unknown people.</p> <p>(2) <b>WHERE?</b> In Mundalanga village, Chief K, Chama district of the now Eastern province of Zambia.</p>



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**Grave  
Desecration**

(3) WHEN? At unknown time on the 27th of January 2022.

(4) CURRENT SITUATION? The body was inspected by Chama police officers and we ascertain that the left hand of the deceased person with albinism was missing/ chopped off by unknown people. The relatives were advised to re-bury the grave and put a tombstone to avoid reoccurrence because it's believed that they use such parts for rituals.

(5) CONSENT OF VICTIM? The mother to the buried deceased F/ G.K. aged 37 years of Mungwalala village chief Kambombo Chama district was consulted and she gave us a go ahead.

(6) INFORMATION ON THE PERPETRATORS?  
Currently we have no information about who could have done this barbaric act. However, it's under investigation by Chama police station.

(7) ACTION TAKEN BY THE STATE? An investigation has been instituted by the state and a docket of case has since been opened.

(8) ACTION TAKEN BY VICTIM? The family of the deceased person with albinism in collaboration with the community at large were advised to remain patient and assist the police with any information which will lead to the apprehension/arrests of the perpetrator. The grave was re-buried and a tombstone put in place. This is after they reported the matter to chama police station and scene visit conducted.



	<p>(9) NAME AND CONTACT DETAILS OF THE PERSON/ ORGANIZATION SUBMITTING? In service: DETECTIVE Const KALENGO M.J. Chama police station. I Thank you!</p> <p>(Trusted Source: To protect our sources, we have withheld their names from this publication, <i>CHAMA, ZAMBIA; January 2022.</i>)</p>
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## Zimbabwe

**2 reports: 1 killing / 1 asylum**

<b><u>Killing</u></b>	<p><b>In 2011 the severely mutilated body</b> of a 26 year old woman with albinism was discovered. Professor J.M. 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.</p> <p>(Trusted Source: To protect our sources, we have withheld their names from this publication, <i>ZIMBABWE – twenty six year old woman with albinism killed discovered; 2011.</i>)</p>
<b><u>Asylum</u></b>	<p><b>On November 29, 2012</b>, a woman with albinism from Zimbabwe was granted asylum in Atlanta, Georgia.</p> <p>(Trusted Source: To protect our sources, we have withheld their names form this publication.)</p>



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## **NOTES**

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 neighbors) for the purpose of witchcraft related rituals.

These ritual attacks frequently find their roots in ancient ancestral beliefs, are a familiar concept to most Africans, and have been going on since time beyond memory.

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.

