



Reported Attacks of Persons with Albinism (Extended)

Most Recent Attacks Included

By Under The Same Sun (UTSS) Canada & Tanzania

<http://www.underthesamesun.com/>

DATE OF REPORT: October 25, 2021

<p>Attacks: 635*</p> <p>Total Countries: 30</p>

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.



Table of Contents

Benin

Botswana

Burkina Faso

Burundi

Cameroon

Democratic Republic of Congo
(DRC)

Egypt

Gabon

Ghana

Guinea

Ivory Coast

Kenya

Lesotho

Madagascar

Malawi

Mali

Mozambique

Namibia

Niger

Nigeria

Rwanda

Senegal

South Africa

Swaziland (Eswatini)

Tanzania

Togo

Uganda

USA

Zambia

Zimbabwe

Notes



Benin

18 reports: 5 killings / 5 survivors / 7 missing / 1 grave robbery

<p><u>Survivor</u></p>	<p>On August 4th 2017, a 13-year-old girl with albinism (name withheld) narrowly escaped abduction and was found unhurt the following day in Dogbo in the southwest of Benin.</p> <p>According to Anna's cousin, Mr. Valentin GOSSA, 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 Anna's sister away and abducting Anna 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 Anna 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>(Sources: UTSS was informed by the following 2 sources – Houetehou C. Franck HOUNSA; Founder and President; Connexion Worldwide NGO)</p>
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<p><u>Killing</u></p>	<p>On July 13, 2013 a 20 year old man with albinism known as Francois (HOUANOU Mahouto François) was deceived, drugged, kidnapped, killed and mutilated in his homeland of Benin. François 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. Francois had a cousin named Pascal (HLEKPE Pascal) who lived in Koudjon Centre, a small village near Lalo. Both boys had grown up together in the same hamlet of Ouinsouhoué.</p> <p>On that fateful day, Pascal 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. François showed no hesitation and after a 3 hour ride, they went to wait for the so-called boss in a bar. Here Francois was drugged and kidnapped to Porto-Novo, the country's capital city, where he was killed, and parts of his body removed. When Pascal returned home to Lalo alone, everyone started asking for François. Pascal kept insisting that he had not traveled anywhere with François. 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.</p> <p>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.</p>



	<p>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.</p> <p>(Source: Sent to UTSS March 7, 2018, by Mr. Firmin Akpo, NGO Valeur Albinos, Benin)</p>
<p><u>Missing</u></p>	<p>On March 23, 2019 a 45-year-old man with albinism by the name of Allavo Arnaud went missing in the city of Abomey, Zou Department, Benin. The victim was a well-known joiner (carpenter) who lived in the Allavo's home and had his joinery business opposite the DAH TAMADAHO. Much to the dismay of his family, the victim's younger brother may have been involved in his disappearance.</p> <p>According to a cousin, Arnaud 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. Arnaud has not been heard from since. The old man was questioned over the disappearance but denies that Arnaud met with him that day. Franck Hounsa, founder and chairperson of Beninese Albinism NGO has raised the alert, asking anyone who has any suspicions about Allavo's destination that day to inform the police or the nearest local authority.</p> <p>He concluded by saying: "I pray we find Arnaud 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."</p>



	<p>(Source: UTSS received this attack report on March 25, 2019, from Franck Hounsa, founder and chairperson of Beninese Albinism NGO Divine Connexion Worldwide)</p>
<p><u>Grave Desecration</u></p>	<p>In September of 2018, a 50-year-old woman with albinism by the name of Dame Clémentine Kantchemé 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. Dame Clémentine had always been disowned by her father's family who compared her 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.</p> <p>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. Because she only had sight in one eye which 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 Dame Clementine that she knew of a witchdoctor who could heal her but that the treatment consisted of pouring boiled water over the left side of her face. This was pure torture for Dame</p>



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Grave Desecration

Clémentine 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, Dame Clémentine Kantchemé finally 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 Kantchemé 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 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.

(Source: Report sent to UTSS by Firmin AKPO from NGO Valeur Albinos in BENIN on March 31, 2019)



Botswana

3 reports: 3 survivors

Survivor

In September of 1998, a 27-year-old woman with albinism (name withheld) narrowly escaped a second plot against her life. The incident took place at Kanye, her native village in Southern Botswana. Although Serurubele was a primary school teacher in the city of Jwaneng, Botswana, she was pregnant and staying in her native village at the time. On this near fateful day, her young brother encountered three guys in the village night club who knew Serurubele.

They offered him some beer to get him drunk, hoping to manipulate him into joining their murder plot against his sister. Fortunately, he sensed something was wrong and secretly managed to replace the beer with water while pretending to be drunk. The guys asked him: “Where is your sister, the albino teacher?” “Your sister could actually make the deal: She is albino and pregnant!” “We want her flesh...!” Serurubele’s brother lied, telling them she was teaching in Jwanenge City but would be home for the weekend and that they could find her then. When he got home from the club that evening, Serurubele’s brother told her everything and warned her to leave immediately to Jwaneng city for her safety. After that incident, Serrurubele stayed in the city for a long time.

(Source: Personal interview by UTSS on January 22, 2014 with Mrs. Ofentse Serurubele, founder & chair of PWA Tshimologo Association Botswana)



Burkina Faso

9 reports: 2 killing / 6 survivors / 1 asylum

<u>Killing</u>	<p>On August 14, 2012, a 12-year-old boy with albinism was killed in Gaoua, Burkina Faso. Witnesses report that the body was found with his head and genitals removed. (source: “L’Express du Faso” on Wednesday, August 15, 2012)</p>
<u>Trafficking</u>	<p>On April 18th, 2021, Dr. Pius Kamau, an American physician originally from Kenya, was an eye witness at the Nairobi airport to three aggressive African men being allowed to transport a young boy with albinism out of the country without a passport. He said the men had come from Tanzania and were headed to Ouagadougou, in Burkina Faso and that they used loud, offensive language as the airline attendant asked for the missing passport – they had three passports and none for the child. Dr. Kamau is now convinced that the three-year-old boy with albinism is no longer a baby headed to a loving family, but a sacrifice at some altar of a cruel witchcraft ceremony.</p> <p>(Source: HUFF POST: IMPACT – The BLOG; Three Year Old Albino – Victim of Witchcraft Sacrifice by Pius Kamau, Posted: 05/01/2012 at 4:00 pm)</p>



Burundi

39 reports: 22 killings, 13 survivors, 4 grave robberies

<p><u>Killing</u></p>	<p>On August 13, 2019, a 17-year-old boy with albinism went missing in the community of Mugina in the province of Cibitoke, North-Western Burundi. After several days of searching, on August 15, 2019, the ritually dismembered remains of the boy were found near his village along the banks of the Rusizi River which separates Burundi from the DRC. “The young albino was killed atrociously ... His murderers cut his right leg off at the knee, his right arm and his tongue,” said Kassim Kazungu, head of the local albinism association called Albinos Without Borders.</p> <p>The boy’s family is devastated and wondering how they will cope since they also have an 8-year-old daughter with albinism. The victim was a student in the Fundamental School of Buseruko at the time of his death. Investigations into the murder have not produced any results at the time of this report.</p> <p>(Source: <i>Teenage albino boy found dismembered in Burundi</i>; AUG 18, 2019; https://www.japantimes.co.jp/news/2019/08/18/world/crime-legal-world/teenage-albino-boy-found-dismembered-burundi/#.XVrg6-hKjnY / August 20, 2019 – NKENGURUTSE Moise; Organisation des Personnes Albinos du Burundi Représentant Légal; Q. Mushasha, Sous Q. Nyabisindu)</p>
<p><u>Survivor</u></p>	<p>On October 6th, 2015, a 10-year-old girl with albinism (name withheld) miraculously survived a brutal attack at her home in Busoni town, in the province of Kirundo, in Muyange-Gisozi,</p>



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<p><u>Survivor</u></p>	<p>Northern Burundi. Men armed with machetes attacked the family of Gerard NKUNZIMANA & NIZIGIYIMANA who were accommodating her. Fortunately neighbours managed to intervene and help bring a premature end to the attack. She sustained injuries to the head and shoulder and underwent intensive treatment at Kanyinya Hospital in Kirundo. The criminals escaped before being identified.</p> <p>(Source: Moise Nkengurutse, Legal Representative of the of Burundi albinism association)</p>
<p><u>Grave Desecration</u></p>	<p>In August of 2012, The grave of a woman with albinism by the name of Tabu was violated by unidentified criminals and her head was stolen. Eight months earlier, Tabu had succumbed to an extended and tragic battle with skin cancer and was buried in the cemetery of the Bugarama area, in the town of Muramvya in the province of Muramvya. Her son Venuste, also a PWA, was informed of his mother’s exhumed body and immediately reported it to the leaders of the Burundian PWA Association called “Albinos Sans Frontieres”.</p> <p>(Source: ASF – Burundi PWA Association)</p>



Cameroon

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

Killing

In September 2021, it was reported that Foudji Flaubert living in Bafassam/Bafousam, western region in Cameroon was presumed kidnapped after he disappeared from traffic. His remains were reportedly found on August 29, 2021, also in Bafousam, with several body parts missing. He was buried by strangers in the wild. Source: OBEAC/RDC [originally reported in French. Translated by UTSS].

According to Nouvelle Expression newspaper, the victim is a man in his forties, a trader in the A market in Bafoussam. Police officers from the Bafoussam 1e police station indicate that Fouodji Flaubert'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

Source quoting Nouvelle Expression:

<https://actucameroun.com/2021/09/01/atrocites-a-bafousam-un-albinos-porte-disparu-retrouve-assassine-et-son-corps-mutile/>, accessed September 17, 2021



<u>Survivor</u>	<p>In 2013, a mother and her infant with albinism began the process of seeking asylum in France because she feared for the life of her child in Cameroon where members of her community attempted to kill the baby for ritual purposes during local elections.</p> <p>(Source: interview on June 12, 2014, between UTSS and Genespoir, France's major PWA group who were strongly involved in this case.)</p>
<u>Asylum</u>	<p>On December 23, 2015, a man with albinism (name withheld) from Cameroon was granted refugee status in UK.</p> <p>(Source: interviews with UTSS)</p>



Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC)

73 reports: 17 killings / 37 survivors / 1 missing / 11 grave desecrations / 7 asylums

<p><u>Killing</u></p>	<p>On July 17, 2017, an infant with albinism was thrown into a cesspit (often used as a toilet in rural Africa) by the husband of the child's mother who was absent at the time of this heinous act. The incident took place in Maazi, territory of Shabunda in the province of South-Kivu, in DRC. The baby died and the murderer has since enrolled in an armed group called Raiya Mutomboki.</p> <p>(Source: Report sent to UTSS on July 21, 2017, by an albinism group called Programme d'intégration pour la protection de l'humanité (Piph-ASBL); Coordinator: Mr. LUNGELE ITEBO Samuel)</p>
<p><u>Survivor</u></p>	<p>On May 14, 2021, in Mbuji-Mayi, DR Congo, 16-year-old Francine Ntumba was kidnapped and assaulted while she was travelling to attend an albinism meeting. Source. Sent from NGO in DR Congo to the Africa Albinism Network.</p> <p>On September 28, 2021, in Bukavu, DR Congo, a little boy, while playing, survived a kidnapping attempt from perpetrators 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>Source: Reported online by Dephill Lipo on Facebook, Executive Director, Foundation Pauline Albinos DRC</p>
<p><u>Grave Desecration</u></p>	<p>On March 16, 2021, there was an attempt to desecrate the grave of a woman with albinism, Colette Nelli Folo, 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>In the early hours of March 25, 2019The grave of a man with albinism by the name of Mr. Ghislain, 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 Romain CIRHUZA 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, Méschac Bilubi Ulengabo, was followed by the albinism group called Association pour la promotion intégrale des albinos.</p> <p>(Source: RTNK; <i>Bukavu: Desecration of the grave of a person living with albinism in Ciriri, civil society demands investigations</i>; March 26, 2019; http://rtnk.info/bukavula-tombe-dune-personne-vivant-albinisme-profanee-a-ciriri/ and KIVUPRESS.CD; <i>South Kivu: The grave of an albino was desecrated in Bukavu</i>; March 30th, 2019; https://www.kivupress.info/9456-sud-kivu-la-tombe-dun-albinos-a-ete-profanee-a-bukavu/)</p>
	<p>During the first week of July, 2015, 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.

(Source: UTSS was informed via a personal contact from his sister who is now a resident of Canada.)



Egypt

1 report: 1 asylum

Asylum

On Friday, September 16, 2011, (name withheld), a 28-year-old man with albinism from Egypt told journalist Sophie Bond 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. Hazem’s lawyer says: “He was seriously maltreated at multiple levels including such things as deliberate cigarette burns from supposed educators.... The hostility toward him was serious at best because of his Albinism. He has now been able to both marry and continue his studies. He is one of the nicest and most considerate people I have met in a long time and doing very well.” (name withheld) says; “I want to be a professor in the university. The first time I ever got a salary was here in New Zealand. I can support myself and my research. I don’t want to go back to Egypt, not even for a visit.”

(SOURCE: The Aucklander (online) – New home for Hazem, By Sophie Bond, Friday 16 September 2011, http://m.nzherald.co.nz/aucklander/news/article.cfm?c_id=1503378&objectid=11040952 ; Hazem’s lawyer Allen Little QSM,JP)



Gabon

1 report: 1 survivor

Survivor

On May 12, 2019, a 29-year-old woman with albinism by the name of Merose survived a savage attack in the capital city of Libreville, in the Province of Estuaire, in the country of Gabon, Central Africa. The incident occurred in a public place where an unfamiliar woman assaulted her, biting off half of her ear for no apparent reason. While Morose begged to get her ear back the perpetrator refused and fled the scene. Although her injuries were treated in a hospital, she will bear the scar for life. In a series of voicemails following the attack Morose said; “I don’t know my aggressor. I haven’t met her before. I don’t know why she targeted me. I’m not sure if she was sent by someone to perpetrate this assault.” In a subsequent recording she went on to say; “I now know my assailant and have had her arrested. She is currently in custody at the Gros Bouquet Police Station. Yesterday I filed a complaint with the police and right now I’m heading to the police station in order to have her appear before the public prosecutor. Mrs. Stephanie Ntsame

Ngoua, chairperson of the Gabonese albinism association called ALBA, said that in Gabon people with albinism (PWA) are used to insults, mockery and name calling. We face exclusion and lack of education but not physical attacks like this. *“We are all disturbed that the intention of that girl (the aggressor) was to get a piece of ear of a PWA. We are very shocked over this. We know that in other countries, body parts of PWA are harvested for ritual purposes, but here in Gabon, we are not used to this. It is true that some PWA suffer physical abuses like slaps, hits, punches... here*



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people despise us, reject us. To be honest, in Gabon we are not used to see attacks on PWA that result in mutilation and body parts removal. We are very disturbed”.

Survivor

(Source: On May 15, 2019, a Gabonese albinism group called Association de Lutte pour le Bien-être des Albinos, or ALBA, posted the attack on their FaceBook wall. A UTSS representative made contact and requested further information which their chairperson, Mrs. Stephanie Ntsame Ngoua, provided on May 18, 2019.)



Ghana

3 reports: 1 killing / 2 survivors

<p><u>Killing</u></p>	<p>On February 17, 2015, the lifeless body of a 35 year old man with albinism by the name of Kofi Yeboah aka Agleleyevu was found at the entrance of Pastor Emmanuel Agbeze’s residence in Owoakra, Boketey, under Amanase in the eastern region of Ghana. According to the pastor’s wife, Gifty Asare, her husband ran off shortly after the death of Kofi and she has not heard from him since. Unfortunately the police have not been responsive to crimes committed in this area and allowed Pastor Agbeze to escape without questioning. Since that time however, police commander Spt. Yahaya of Suhum police station announced that because of the public interest whipped up by media related to the death of Kofi Yeboah, the homicide unit at police headquarters in Accra had taken over the investigation.</p> <p>(Source: Newton Kwamla Katseku, Executive Director of the Ghana Association of Persons with Albinism – GAPA, June 6 & July 24, 2015; info@gapaghana.org / gapa4all@gmail.com / www.gapaghana.org and Suhum police report number 112967)</p>
<p><u>Survivor</u></p>	<p>On February 27, 2010, a man with albinism (name withheld) who is also the Executive Director of the Ghana Association of Persons with Albinism (GAPA), narrowly escaped death. This event took place while attending a funeral in the town of Akwamufie, a community along the Volta Lake near the Adomi bridge on Atimpoku Ho road in the eastern region of Ghana. Early on during the funeral ceremonies he was approached by 4 different parties urgently warning him to leave or go into hiding. When he asked why, they informed him that it is against local tradition to tolerate or accept people with albinism in the vicinity. The victim spent close to nine hours hiding in a car as the</p>



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<p><u>Survivor</u></p>	<p>funeral and other rites were performed before he was able to leave. He later reported the incident to several authorities but has never received a reply.</p> <p>(Source: Executive Director of the Ghana Association of Persons with Albinism – GAPA, June 6 & July 24, 2015)</p>
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Guinea

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

<p><u>Killing</u></p>	<p>On a Sunday in September of 2010, 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. Their life is made up of begging at the big market of Matam’s main station and on the streets of the Capital City. One morning his lifeless body was found laying on the sidewalk.</p>
<p><u>Survivor</u></p>	<p>On May 17, 2017 a four-year-old girl with albinism (name withheld) narrowly escaped a ritual tragedy after being rescued from 4 men who had abducted her 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;"><u>Survivor</u></p>	<p>trafficking 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>(Source: GUINEENEWS.ORG – <i>Kindia: two suspected albino traffickers arrested by gendarmerie</i>; By Mamady Mara; May 24, 2017; https://guineenews.org/kindia-deux-presumes-trafiquants-dalbinos-arretes-gendarmerie/; UTSS partner in Guinea – Mr. Moussa Bangoura, the founder of the local PWA group Confédération nationale des albinos de Guinée (CNAG); Friday May 26, 2017)</p>
<p style="text-align: center;"><u>Asylum</u></p>	<p>On Thursday September 20, 2018, a woman with albinism 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>(Source: On Sunday, September 30, 2018, a UTSS representative talked directly via telephone to the Guinean woman who was granted subsidiary protection in France.)</p>



Ivory Coast

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

<p><u>Killing</u></p>	<p>On June 30, 2017, the lifeless body of a 3-year-old boy with albinism by the name of Sidibe Oumarou 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 Mamidou Coulibaly, 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>(Sources: On July 4, 2017, France’s Major PWA group Genespoir published this case on their FaceBook page; http://aip.ci/cote-divoire-le-corps-dun-petit-albinos-retrouve-dans-un-puits-a-kani/; from Benedict Louyer, deputy chairperson / also UTSS was in contact with Mamidou Coulibaly)</p>
<p><u>Survivor</u></p>	<p>In late June of 2017, a woman with albinism had her 15 month old infant, who did not have albinism by the name of Collette Ama Koffi, 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 snatch the baby. After fleeing the house with the infant in a taxi heading</p>



<p><u>Survivor</u></p>	<p>towards KOTOBI (in east-central of Cote d’ivoire, subprefecture of Arrah), the police were alerted and managed to catch the pair, arrest the kidnapper, rescue the infant and reunite the mother with her child.</p> <p>(Source: koaci.com – Cote d’Ivoire: <i>Beninese woman steals baby from Ivorian mother and gets arrested</i>; Thursday, June 22, 2017; http://koaci.com/m/cote-divoire-dans-limpossibilite-denfanter-beninoise-vole-bebe-dune-maman-ivoirienne-fait-arreter-dans-fuite-110473-i.html)</p>
<p><u>Asylum</u></p>	<p>(Name withheld) is a 29-year old woman with albinism and a mother of a 13-year old daughter and an 8-year old son who, just four days after narrowly escaping a second attack due to her albinism, fled her native Côte d’Ivoire on August 13, 2012 to Tunisia. She was hoping to find a better life in another African country. Shortly after her arrival in Tunisia she obtained refugee status from the UNHCR. Despite her refugee status in Tunisia, (name withheld)’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>(Source: French Daily Paper “Le Monde” published on May 20, 2013; http://emiliennemalfatto.blog.lemonde.fr/2013/05/20/julienne-29-ans-refugiee-dermatologique/)</p>



Kenya

13 reports: 5 killings / 8 survivors

Killing

On September 20, 2015, a 56 year old man with albinism by the name of Enock Jamenya succumbed to injuries from a brutal machete attack and died. Ten days earlier on **September 10, 2015**, it was reported that Enock survived a ritual attack by three men armed with pangas at his home in Gavudunyi village, Hamisi Subcounty, Vihiga county, Kenya. “When I told them I did not have any money, they asked for my ear or hand to sell to Tanzania,” he said. A struggle ensued and the attackers sliced his left ear, arm, neck and fingers and left him unconscious. His brother Nickson Lugadiru, also with albinism, said Enock was found in that state by his son, who called for help.

Lugadiru took his brother to Hamisi Subcounty Hospital, where he was referred to Vihiga. Enock was operated on for three hours after which medics said he was out of danger. The attack has rekindled concerns over the security of people with albinism ahead of Tanzania’s October elections. “The attackers wanted my brother’s body parts to sell to Tanzania,” said Lugadiru who is one of four PWA in their family. The national coordinator of Kenya’s Albinism Empowerment Network, Martin Wanyonyi, visited Enock at the hospital, condemned the attack and said if the criminals are not apprehended within 48 hours, his network would take to the streets in protest.



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<p><u>Killing</u></p>	<p>(Source: theSTAR; <i>Hamisi albino attacked for his body parts</i>; by JOSEPH JAMENYA; September 14, 2015; http://www.the-star.co.ke/news/hamisi-albino-attacked-his-body-parts) / The Telegraph; <i>Kenya’s albinos moved away from Tanzania border amid witch doctor threat</i>; By Aislinn Laing; September 24, 2015; http://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/worldnews/africaandindianocean/kenya/11885641/Kenyans-albinos-moved-away-from-Tanzania-border-amid-witchdoctor-threat.html)</p>
<p><u>Survivor</u></p>	<p>On Friday, March 15, 2013, a 7-year-old boy with albinism in Embu, Kenya managed to escape relatives who tried to sell him for ritual purposes. He was kidnapped by his uncle together with other relatives who attempted to take off to an unknown destination where they were to meet the buyers. The boy said that the kidnappers threw him out of the window of a moving vehicle when he screamed.</p> <p>(Source: “7 Year Old Escapes Deathly Ritual,” Citizen News, March 15, 2013, including June 26, 2013, http://www.citizennews.co.ke/news/2012/local/item/8667-7-year-old-escapes-deathly-ritual)</p>



Lesotho

1 report: 1 killing

Killing

In October, 2015, a 16-year-old girl with albinism by the name of Thaba-Tseka was mutilated in what is suspected to be a case of ritual killing in the country of Lesotho, a country encircled by South Africa. According to police spokesperson, Senior Inspector Clifford Molefe, a woman from the victim's district arrested in connection with the murder was assisting with investigations. Thaba-Tseka met the suspect at an initiation school where they were both initiates.

He declined to disclose more details, saying it would compromise investigations. He went on to say; "We are not in a position to disclose whether the crime was committed as a result of superstitious beliefs or not. All I can say is investigations are ongoing...Once the investigations have been completed, the case will be brought before court and the offenders will face the wrath of the law."

(Source: Sunday EXPRESS: *Albino girl mutilated in suspected ritual murder*, November 22, 2015; By Pascalinah Kabi; <http://sundayexpress.co.ls/albino-girl-mutilated-in-suspected-ritual-murder/>)



Madagascar

1 report: 1 killing

Killing

On October 17, 2016, in the early hours of the morning the lifeless body of an about 28-year-old woman with albinism was found in Bezaha in the district of Betioky, South West Madagascar. She was the victim of a brutal attack leaving her naked body disfigured and her eyes stolen. According to locals, the robbery of PWA's eyes has reportedly been on the increase as another way to make easy money, a practice that is gradually taking root among the bandits in the region. The residents do not know where to go at the moment.

(Source: On January 23, 2017, UTSS discovered this article published by the Madagascar Matin Newspaper; <http://www.matin.mg/?p=42939>; The publication date is not clear in this article. Translation is provided by UTSS representative, Amadou Diallo.)



Malawi

58 reports: 19 killings, 26 survivors, 6 missing, 7 grave robberies

NOTE: (4 attacks in 2021 / 5 attacks in 2020 / 3 attacks in 2019 / 3 attacks in 2018 / 9 attacks in 2017 / 14 attacks in 2016 / 13 attacks in 2015)

*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.

<u>Killing</u>	<p>On July 23, 2021, a 20-year-old man with albinism by the name of Ian Muhamba disappeared in Limbe Town, within the Blantyre District of the Southern Region of Malawi and was subsequently reported missing by his relatives to police in Blantyre. According to the August 17, 2021, press release by Standing Voice, “Police recovered Ian’s body on August 14 at Kachere stream in Blantyre. His limbs had been removed. Inexplicably, police buried the body on site and did not share news of their discovery with Ian’s relatives, who had previously reported his disappearance.</p> <p>The following day, children playing in the nearby Maoni Forest discovered a bloodied plastic bag containing dismembered body parts. Police were subsequently called to the scene. As news of these developments reached Ian’s relatives, they demanded that</p>
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<p><u>Killing</u></p>	<p>police exhume the remains they had buried and allow for the identity of the victim to be verified. Despite initial reluctance – and specific attestations that the body they had discovered and buried did not belong to a person with albinism – police eventually succumbed to pressure and exhumed the remains.</p> <p>Further examination has revealed that the trunk and limbs belong to the same victim, who unequivocally was a person with albinism and has since been identified as Ian. Yesterday evening, Standing Voice and the Association of Persons with Albinism in Malawi made arrangements for Ian to receive a proper burial in his home village of Namulenga, Traditional Authority Juma, Mulanje District. The identity and whereabouts of the perpetrators of this heinous killing remain unknown.”</p> <p>(Source: Standing Voice Press Release, <i>LILONGWE, MALAWI — Man with Albinism Dismembered and Killed in Blantyre District</i>, Tuesday, August 17)</p>
<p><u>Survivor</u></p>	<p>On February 3, 2021, a 12-year-old girl with albinism (name withheld) narrowly escaped abduction from her home in Kawinga village, Machinga District, in the Southern Region of Malawi. At approximately 1:00 AM, two unknown assailants broke into her home by entering through a window. The men attempted to abduct the little girl from her bedroom, where she was sleeping. As they tried to lift her, she realized they were intruders and shouted for help. Sleeping nearby, her mother was aroused and started shouting for help too. As neighbours came to their aid, the assailants fled.</p> <p>Although an investigation has been launched, the identity and whereabouts of the attackers are currently unknown, and no arrests have yet been made. The child and her mother have been visited by police and representatives of the Association of Persons with</p>



<p><u>Survivor</u></p>	<p>Albinism in Malawi. Although they did not sustain physical injuries, they are both including. The village chief has 32ncluding community policing teams to patrol the area around the house of the survivor.</p> <p>(Source: Bonface Massah, the Country Director of Standing Voice Malawi)</p>
<p><u>Missing</u></p>	<p>On Friday, March 26, 2021 at approximately 2:00am in the Chikwawa district of southern Malawi, Caroline Stazio awoke at home in the night to find that her 1-year-old baby girl with albinism had been abducted.</p> <p>Caroline raised the alarm as soon as she noticed her baby was missing, leading to a search of the surrounding area by several community members. Despite these efforts, the whereabouts of the baby remain unknown and important details around the case are still coming to light. The Malawi Police Service has issued a statement calling for information and assistance from members of the public, and a formal investigation has been launched.</p> <p>Source: Sam Clarke, Standing Voice</p>
<p><u>Grave Desecration</u></p>	<p>On October 22, 2020, it was reported that the grave of an adult woman with albinism by the name of Edna Zakaria had recently been violated and her remains robbed in Ntcheu Town / District, located in the Central Region of Malawi. According to Ntcheu Police Publicist Hastings Chigalu, Edna had died the previous year while working as a magistrate at Mulunguzi court in Zomba. Her brother Mernard Zakaria told the local media that “We went back to the grave only to find the head of our beloved with the other body parts removed when we thought she was resting in peace.” He described</p>



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**Grave
Desecration**

the incident as disheartening and mental torture of highest level. “Think about us, think about her 9-year-old daughter,” said Zakaria. Chigalu said investigations are underway. The President of the Association of People with Albinism in Malawi, Ian Simbota, said the resurfacing of attacks is “heart breaking.”

(Source: Malawi24: *Thugs exhume remains of person with albinism: Body parts missing*; Oct 22, 2020, <https://malawi24.com/2020/10/22/thugs-exhume-remains-of-person-with-albinism-body-parts-missing/>)



Mali

17 reports: 5 killings / 3 survivors / 2 missing / 7 asylums

Killing

On May 13, 2018, a five year old girl with albinism by the name of Djeneba Diarra 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 Djeneba Diarra “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**, Colonel Mamary CAMARA, 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.



<p><u>Killing</u></p>	<p>(Source: AFP-<i>Outcry in Mali after albino child beheaded in ‘ritual’ murder</i>, May 15, 2018; https://www.yahoo.com/news/outcry-mali-albino-child-beheaded-ritual-murder-110618567.html; and on May 13, 2018, UTSS was contacted by Mamadou Sissoko, the general secretary of the albinism association in Mali, who confirmed the attack)</p>
<p><u>Survivor</u></p>	<p>Early in August 2017, a 13-year-old boy with albinism narrowly escaped abduction in Golonina, located in the Bamako district of Mali. Fortunately for the child, the Salif Keita Foundation for people with albinism in Mali intervened and the perpetrator was arrested. Nantenin Keita, the daughter of Salif Keita, 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>(Source: Excerpts of an interview with Nantenin Keita (Salif Keita’s daughter) to Françoise WASSERVOGEL, correspondent of the Malian paper “Le Reporter” in France. The article was posted by Genespoir on their Facebook page on November 19, 2017. The article was published on November 15, 2015: http://maliactu.net/mali-ne-touchez-pas-aux-albinos-nantenin-keita-de-la-fondation-salif-keita-fait-le-point/)</p>
<p><u>Missing</u></p>	<p>In 2006, the abduction of a baby boy with albinism occurred in Mali. On that fatal night the mother had decided to sleep outside in their yard so that her infant son could enjoy the fresh air. Upon waking the next morning she found that her baby was gone.</p> <p>(Source: An interview of Tierno Diallo on Radio France International on May 20, 2009 called “Invité Afrique” presented by Journalist Christophe Boisbouvier. Tierno is a man with albinism who founded</p>



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<u>Missing</u>	the Malian albinism association in 1993 called SOS Albinos. He was later appointed Minister in Charge of Faith Affairs in 2013 under President Ibrahim Boubacar Keita.)
<u>Asylum</u>	On July 29, 2011, a woman with albinism from Mali received asylum in France.



Mozambique

52 reports: 18 murders, 14 survivors, 5 grave robberies, 15 missing

<p><u>Murder</u></p>	<p>On October 22, 2021, it was reported that Mozambican police had recently detained three individuals who confessed to murdering a teenager with albinism in Nampula province. Activist says this may be one of many cases that occur in silence. Police authorities in the Mozambican province of Nampula presented to the press on Thursday Oct 21, 2021, 3 individuals indicted for the abduction and murder of a 12-year-old boy with albinism, in the district of Mecubúri. It is reported that the victim’s Uncles were promised a value for the boy's bones and some organs. They are with the police awaiting their trial. (Source: AZEMAP: Flavia Pinto and reported in the press: DW: Deutsche Welle)</p>
<p><u>Survivor</u></p>	<p>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 Mateus Mindu 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 meticais (€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,” Mindu said.</p>



	<p>(Source: Club of Mozambique – <i>Mozambique: Police arrested five over human trafficking with alleged buyers in Zimbabwe Watch</i>, Mar 17, 2020, https://clubofmozambique.com/news/mozambique-police-arrested-five-over-human-trafficking-with-alleged-buyers-in-zimbabwe-watch-155403/)</p>
<p><u>Grave Desecration</u></p>	<p>During the first week of May, 2016, the grave of a man with albinism was violated and robbed in a family cemetery in the northern city of Nampula neighbourhood of Namutequliua, Mozambique. The grave raiders allegedly removed the body, cut off the arms, and then dumped the rest of the body in a bush near the cemetery. On May 11, 2016, Nampula provincial police spokesperson Zacarias Nacute reported that Mozambican police arrested eight people for tampering with the grave. Police said the grave contained the body of an albino citizen and the gang raided it to steal body parts. Thanks to the investigations undertaken by the police, it was possible first to arrest three of the suspects who had a bag containing 16 fragments of bone from the body. Later we managed to arrest the other five criminals, said Nacute. The public broadcaster reported that the suspects confessed to the crime. Two of the grave robbers were witchdoctors, recruited both to assist in selling the bones, and to use magic that would prevent the criminals from being caught.</p> <p>(Source: StarAfrica.com; <i>Mozambique nabs eight for interfering with albino grave</i>; May 12, 2016; Posted by APA; http://en.starafrika.com/news/mozambique-nabs-eight-for-interfering-with-albino-grave.html)</p>



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<p><u>Missing</u></p> <p><u>Missing</u></p>	<p>On January 15, 2021, a nine-year-old boy with albinism by the name of Rodrigues was kidnapped from his village in the Angonia District of Tete Province in the Central Region of Mozambique. At the time of this report, police continue their search for little Rodrigues who remains missing. Two suspects are in the custody of the police.</p> <p>(Source: Azemap, January 16, 2021)</p>
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Namibia

4 reports: 2 survivors / 2 killings

<p><u>Killing</u></p>	<p>In June of 2010, Ananias Shifotoka, a young man with albinism from Uukwiyuwuushona Village in Oshikoto Region was found brutally murdered days after he went missing. His decomposing body was found in a bush cut into pieces with his head removed as well as his genitals, tongue, hands and toes missing.</p> <p>(Source: NEW ERA News Paper for a New Namibia, 29-June-2010)</p>
<p><u>Survivor</u></p>	<p>For 22 years, since her birth in 1984 up until 2006, (name withheld), now a 34-year-old woman with albinism, says that she was kept hidden from society in the community of Mazana, located in the Kavango East Region of Namibia. Along with her father, Ndumba Mwira, they revealed their story during a public hearing on discrimination and other challenges faced by persons with albinism in Namibia which was held on Thursday, August 1, 2019 by the Office of the Ombudsman. The victim went on to say that she was kept hidden in a room due to attacks from community members on her family because of her genetic condition and because people were filled with fear and ran away from her. “People stayed away from our house and avoided visiting my family because of the albino baby in the house,” she narrated. Her father tried sending her to school but even the teachers were afraid of her, thus she only attended school for a year. She said she only became an active member of society in about 2006 when</p>



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Survivor

she had to begin treatment for her skin condition. “The findings of the public hearings, together with desk research will inform a report with recommendations to be submitted to the relevant ministries in Namibia for implementation,” Ombudsman John Walters said. He went on to say that his office will intensify awareness campaigns on discrimination and other challenges faced by persons with albinism since they are entitled to the same protection other Namibians enjoy.”

(Source: Namibia Broadcast Corporation (NBC): *Woman kept hidden for 22 years because of albinism*; August 2, 2019; <https://www.nbc.na/news/woman-kept-hidden-22-years-because-albinism.21698>)



Niger

1 report: 1 missing

Missing & Presumed Dead

On the 17th day of the 2012 Islamic month of Ramadan in Niger (likely August 6, 2012) A young man born with albinism in 1986 by the name of Seyni Hama went missing in the ward of Dar es Salam in the capital city of Niamey, Niger. He has not been seen since. On September 13 & 20, 2014, Ms. Kadidjatou Moumouni, leader and founder of the PWA association in Niger interviewed the victims' family and neighbours to confirm Seyni's disappearance. Both parties told her that the abduction did in fact take place. At the time Seyni went missing, his family reported the case to the Police who did their investigation, but sadly were not able to find him. Two of Seyni's brothers also have albinism.

(Source: On September 20, 2014, UTSS interviewed Ms. Kadidjatou Moumouni, leader and founder of the PWA group in Niger; ANAN Niger)



Nigeria

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

<p><u>Killing</u></p>	<p>In April of 2013, a woman with albinism was found dead with some of her body organs missing at Okuta, a border town at Baruten Local Government Area of Kwara State, Nigeria.</p> <p>(Source: TheGuardian Nigeria, Friday, April 19, 2013, 19:32; From Abiodun Fagbemi, Ilorin)</p>
<p><u>Survivor</u></p>	<p>On a Thursday morning in late January of 2016A 19-year-old girl with albinism by the name of Joy Ehikioya (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”. This 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, Joy 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.</p> <p>When the blindfold was finally removed, Joy 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</p>



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 Joy 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.” Joy 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 Joy laying on the “Soka” roadside in Ibadan and said they were now in Kano. Joy 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 Joy 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



Survivor

Joy'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 Joy 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 31st day in July 2016."

After over six months of torture and trauma, Joy was given medical care, a kind-hearted place to stay, a very good psychologist, Ingrid, and social assistant, Chiara, 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.

(Source: AZZURA – "*Wishes couldn't come true*" was one of the finalist stories of the national diary contest DiMMi-Diari multimediali)



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<p><u>Missing</u></p>	<p>In April 2013, a woman with albinism went missing according to her relatives. She was a resident around Saw Mill area in the city of Ilorin, Kwara State, Nigeria.</p> <p>(Source: TheGuardian Nigeria, Friday, April 19, 2013, 19:32; From Abiodun Fagbemi, Ilorin)</p>
<p><u>Asylum</u></p>	<p>On February 13, 2017, a Judge in France recognizes refugee status to a Nigerian man with albinism who was stigmatized and a victim of persecutions in his homeland.</p> <p>(Source: COUR NATIONALE DU DROIT D'ASILE ; 14 février 2017 ; http://www.cnda.fr/Ressources-juridiques-et-geopolitiques/Actualite-jurisprudentielle/Selection-de-decisions-de-la-CNDA/Nigeria-le-juge-de-l-asile-reconnait-la-qualite-de-refugie-a-un-demandeur-d-asile-stigmatise-et-victime-de-persecutions-du-fait-de-son-appartenance-au-groupe-social-des-albinos; Court's decision: http://www.cnda.fr/content/download/91325/876093/version/1/file/CNDA%2013%20février%202017%20M.%20E.%20n%2016017097%20C.pdf)</p>



Rwanda

1 report: 1 grave robbery

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

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

<p><u>Killing</u></p>	<p>Three unproven murders of people with albinism are alleged to be linked to the March, 2012 elections in Senegal. Several different sources have purported 1 killing in 2012 and 2 killings in 2010. These charges were actually made by President Abdoulaye Wade but apparently not at the same time:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • In 2012 during the electoral campaign, President Abdoulaye said before the steering committee of his own political party (the Senegalese Democratic Party PDS): “Some people told me that Pape DIOP killed a PWA they brought from Mali”. (Source - Article: “Another GRAVE revelation from Wade”, Wednesday, May 30, 2012, http://www.rewmi.com/ & Article: “MEETING OF THE STEERING COMMITTEE OF THE PDS: Wade accuses Pape Diop of killing an albino”, Wednesday May 30, 2012, http://www.walf-groupe.com/) • In July of 2010 Abdoulaye Wade accused the regime of his predecessor Abdou DIOUF and his political party, the Socialist Party (PS), “of the mysterious deaths of two young female albinos whose disappearance was never clarified”. (Source – WikiLeaks, December 17, 2010)
<p><u>Survivor</u></p>	<p>On September 8, 2014, an 8-year-old boy 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 4x4 who</p>



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<p><u>Survivor</u></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>(Source: Report received by UTSS on Friday, January 16, 2015 from Mr. Mouhamadou Bamba Diop, Chairperson of the Senegal PWA Group – association nationale des albinos du Sénégal – ANAS)</p>
<p><u>Asylum</u></p>	<p>On June 17, 2015, legal history was made yet again in the USA when a man with albinism from Senegal (he wishes to remain anonymous) who underwent severe persecution due to his albinism was granted asylum in New York City, New York.</p> <p>(Source: His lawyer at Fried, Frank, Harris, Shriver & Jacobson LLP, One New York Plaza, New York, NY 10004; friedfrank.com)</p>



South Africa

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 Gabisile Simphiwe Shabani 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 Gabisile.

They also took her 15-month-old nephew, Nkosikhona Ngwenya, who did not have albinism but was allegedly mistaken for another child from the same household who also has albinism. Gabisile's young body was found 3 weeks later on February 21. 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 Magistrate Darleen Venter 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 6th of March, 2018, with investigations still ongoing since the other two suspects have not been apprehended.



<p><u>Killing</u></p>	<p>(Source: Sent February 28, 2018 by Commissioner Nomasonto G. Mazibuko; National Director; Albinism Society of South Africa; 187 Lara’s Place , Bree Street; Johannesburg, 2000; Tel: +2711 838-6529; Fax: +2711 492-0276; Mobile: +2782 755-3884; Email: mazibukong@gmail.com; www.albinism.org.za; and; IOL; <i>Police find two bodies believed to be linked to albino abduction case</i>; February 22, 2018; https://www.iol.co.za/news/south-africa/51ncluding51/police-find-two-bodies-believed-to-be-linked-to-albino-abduction-case-13412236; and TheCitizen (ANA); <i>Family of murdered Mpumalanga children, one an albino, live in fear</i>, February 24, 2018; by Balise Mabona; https://citizen.co.za/news/south-africa/1833571/family-of-murdered-mpumalanga-children-one-an-albino-live-in-fear/ ; and IOL; <i>WATCH: Human head, body parts found at murder</i>, March 6, 2018; ANA Reporter; https://www.iol.co.za/news/south-africa/mpumalanga/watch-human-head-body-parts-found-at-murder-accuseds-home-13626375; TimesLIVE; <i>Horror as albino corpse’s body parts stolen</i>; 15 March 2018; BY KGAUGELO MASWENENG; https://www.timeslive.co.za/news/south-africa/2018-03-15-horror-as-albino-corpse-body-parts-stolen/)</p>
<p><u>Survivor</u></p>	<p>June 28, 2016, a 12-year-old boy with albinism went missing but days later was found and survived an attempted sale for ritual purposes in the little town of eManguzi in the northern province of KwaZulu-Natal, South Africa, just 15 kilometers from the Mozambique border. On July 6, 2016, SABC NEWS reported that Provincial police spokesperson Nqobile Gwala says the suspect, a 28-year-old woman, was arrested last week at eManguzi after attempting to sell a 12-year old boy with albinism for R 100 000.</p> <p>The arrest resulted after the traditional healer she was trying to sell the child to, James Mthembu, alerted the police and a trap was set. Mthembu said that when the woman offered him the</p>



<p><u>Survivor</u></p>	<p>children, he played along, before going to the Child Protection and Sexual Offences Investigations Unit at Jozini, which set up a sting operation with detectives from Richards Bay. Mthembu is known for his stance against the killing of albinos for muti purposes and has led marches to the magistrate's courts. The suspect's attempts for bail have been denied in Ubombo Magistrate's Court, and she is still in custody. The little boy has been reunited with his family and is receiving counselling.</p> <p>(Source: SABC NEWS; <i>Woman jailed for trying to sell a child with albinism</i>; July 6, 2016; http://www.sabc.co.za/news/a/f92df9004d640599ae01ee4b5facb1b5/Woman-jailed-for-trying-to-sell-a-child-with-albinism-20160706; iolNews: <i>Can I sell you an albino child?</i>; July 9, 2016; by Staff Reporter; http://www.iol.co.za/news/crime-courts/can-i-sell-you-an-albino-child-2043617; News24: <i>Praise after one albino child saved, but second still missing</i>; by Sabelo Nsele; July 7, 2016; http://www.news24.com/SouthAfrica/News/praise-after-one-albino-child-saved-second-still-missing-20160706; This attack was confirmed on July 27, 2016, by the office of Commissioner Nomasonto G. Mazibuko, National Director of the Albinism Society of South Africa)</p>
<p><u>Kidnapping</u></p>	<p>A 4 year old boy with albinism by the name of Maneliswa Ntombela, also known as Mlungu, was kidnapped and is still missing from Port Dunford near Richards Bay, Mkhoboza at eSikhaleni, outside eMpangeni in the north of the KwaZulu-Natal province in South Africa. The family says that Mlungu was playing with his cousin at a church several meters from his home. The victim's cousin told Mlungu's mother, Qhaphi Ntombela, that two men abducted him and they also referred to him by name.</p> <p>On Friday police arrested a 28-year-old woman in Emanguzi while looking for Mlungu saying their investigation</p>



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Kidnapping

revealed the woman had been arranging to sell another child with albinism in the area for R100 000 to a local traditional healer. They suspect she may also be involved with Mlungu's disappearance. His mother is pleased with the latest development in the case saying "I hadn't heard of the arrest from police. I've no words to describe how I feel about the arrest but I haven't lost hope and I won't ever lose hope". As of July 27, 2016, police are still busy following leads but little Mlungu is still missing. The Albinism Society of South Africa is also monitoring this case and we will keep UTSS informed.

(Source: RadioVoP: *Shock As Albino Boy Kidnapped In South Africa's KZN*; June 27, 2016; <http://www.radiovop.com/index.php/africans-news/14008-shock-as-albino-boy-kidnapped-in-south-africa-s-kzn.html> & ECRnews: *Mother's last hope to find missing Esikhawini boy*. July 6, 2016; by Anelisa Kubheka; <https://www.ecr.co.za/news-sport/news/mothers-last-hope-find-missing-esikhawini-boy/>; News24: *Praise after one albino child saved, but second still missing*; by Sabelo Nsele; July 7, 2016; <http://www.news24.com/SouthAfrica/News/praise-after-one-albino-child-saved-second-still-missing-20160706>; iolNews: *Can I sell you an albino child?*; July 9, 2016; by Staff Reporter; <http://www.iol.co.za/news/crime-courts/can-i-sell-you-an-albino-child-2043617>; This attack was confirmed on July 27, 2016, by the office of Commissioner Nomasonto G. Mazibuko, National Director of the Albinism Society of South Africa, 187 Lara's Place, Bree Street, Johannesburg, 2000, Tel: +2711 838-6529, Fax: +2711 492-0276, Mobile: +2782 755-3884, Email: mazibukong@gmail.com, www.albinism.org.za)



Swaziland (Eswatini)

12 reports: 4 killings / 8 survivors

<p><u>Killings</u></p>	<p>In May of 2016, in Nkoyoyo, Swaziland, a man with albinism by the name of Sipho Mahlalela was murdered by his wife, Pinky Zikalala. She hired 2 men to kill her husband and then tried to sell his corpse to a traditional healer (name withheld) who allegedly entered into an agreement with her. He is now the subject of intense police investigation. The wife along with the two men have since been arrested and charged for the murder. Prior to their arrest, Pinky Zikalala took the traditional healer to see the corpse at which time she asked to be paid for keeping her end of the agreement. The traditional healer is said to have backed out of the deal because he wanted Mahlalela to be brought to him alive since he needed the blood of a person with albinism for ritual purposes.</p> <p>(Source: TIMES OF SWAZILAND; <i>WIFE ACCUSED OF SELLING ALBINO'S CORPSE TO INYANGA</i>; May 27, 2016; BY THEMBINKOSI MAVIMBELA; http://www.times.co.sz/news/108061-wife-accused-of-selling-albino%E2%80%99s-corpse-to-inyanga.html)</p>
<p><u>Survivor</u></p>	<p>On November 25, 2019, a 3-year-old girl 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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Survivor

They are now in hiding and the matter has been reported to the police and it is under investigation.

(Source: On February 2, 2020, Phillemon Gama, 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.)



Tanzania

202 reports

77 killings; 96 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.*

<p><u>Killing</u></p>	<p>On May 3 or 4, 2021, a young boy with albinism, between the age 5 and 6 whose name and residence are unknown, was brutally mutilated and his remains discovered by villagers in the bushes of a rural area near a pond in Usadala sub-village of Utemini village, Ndono Ward in Uyui District of Tabora Region, in Western Tanzania. According to witnesses at the scene, the body was found with removed arms, as well as both eyes, his left ear and genitals. Village leaders sent this report to the Uyui District Police Station Uyui between noon and 1.00 pm and the police arrived at around 3.00pm to examine the body and take photos. The reports from the villagers, the doctor, and the Head of the District Criminal Investigation Department confirmed that the mutilated body was that of a child with albinism.</p> <p>The witnesses' reports confirmed that the deceased was murdered elsewhere, and the body was dumped in Usadala sub-village. The body of the deceased is thought to have been at the crime scene for about two or three days based on the state of decomposition. Maybe this was the reason why the police did not take the body and preserve it for further investigation. Both police and villagers confirmed that the victim was not from the Utemini village and neighbouring villages, since the Ward Executive Officer</p>
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<p style="text-align: center;"><u>Killing</u></p>	<p>inspected eight villages of his Ward and did not find any family that had lost a child with albinism.</p> <p>Sadly, the report of this incident was not revealed to the public. The Regional Authorities have decided to remain silent on this inhumane act so far. The Legal and Human Rights Centre believes it is very crucial for the police to inform the public about the incident. Concealing this information from the public could be a major reason why parents or relatives have not come out in public searching for their lost child. To date, nobody is in police custody in relation to this incident.</p> <p>(Sources: On May 6, 2021, and following, Ms. Vicky Ntetema made the initial reports, On May 17, 2021, The LEGAL AND HUMAN RIGHTS CENTRE made their official Press Release, Dar Es Salaam, TANZANIA)</p>
<p style="text-align: center;"><u>Survivor:</u> <u>Two Attempts</u></p>	<p>A 6-year-old boy with albinism (name withheld) survived 2 dangerous attempts by strangers to access him at his home in Mhongolo Mashariki Subdivision, Mhongolo Ward, Kahama District in the Shinyanga Region of Tanzania.</p> <p>Junior’s mother, Anastazia Nickson, said the first attempt was in June of 2019 at around 1:00 AM when suspicious people knocked at their door demanding it to be opened. At first, she heard voices murmuring outside and when she peeped out the window, she saw 3 assailants with big coats and masks. “They were at our place for about a quarter of an hour. When we did not respond, the goons said in Kiswahili “Well, she does not open the door, let us come another day and show her.” Anastazia said that was the first threats she had ever experienced.</p>



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Survivor:
Two Attempts

Unfortunately, her husband John was not at home until the following day. When asked if she reported the matter to the village government leadership or police, Anastazia said “I didn’t. I only told my husband when he came back from his trip.”

The second attempt was in November of 2019 when two people knocked on their door at around 3:00 AM saying “Open the door, you a woman with a child with albinism, open the door.” Anastazia said she remained silent and calm until they decided to go away. Realizing that things were getting worse, Anastazia decided to involve one of her relatives, Ben Simon, who alerted Under The Same Sun (UTSS). Upon arrival, the UTSS team accompanied Anastazia to the Local Executive Office where the officer for Mhongolo Mashariki, Damas Katyuka said they had no information concerning the two incidences. When asked why they didn’t report these attacks to the authorities, Anastazia had no strong reasons for deciding to keep silent. While Junior’s parents remain concerned for his safety, he has just started his long journey of education by joining a day school at Majengo Primary School in Kahama.

(Sources: On February 24th to 26nd, 2020, Under The Same Sun’s First Response Mission Team investigated the two attempted attacks of Junior John Japheth following an email request from Ben Simon: ben_smn [ben_smn@yahoo.com]. The people interviewed were John Japheth, the father to Junior – ,Anastazia Nickson, mother to Junior – , Damas Katyuka, Village Executive Officer Mhongolo – , Jonathan Amani Shayo, SWO Kahama District – , Ngasa Mrisho, and TAS Chairman Kahama District)



Survivor of Rape

On October 20, 2017, a thirty year old woman 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, Shinyanga Region, northwestern Tanzania. That day the victim was home alone when the perpetrator, who was unknown to them and not from their neighbourhood, arrived at the door claiming to be hungry and in need of food. When she told him that there was no food in the house he proceeded to offer her money in exchange for sexual favours. She declined and asked him to leave, at which time the man started forcing himself on her. Zainabu began to scream and a neighbour came to her rescue. The criminal escaped but was chased down by villagers, captured and handed over to the police. The perpetrator is now in custody at Kishapu Police Station waiting to be arraigned in court on November 07, 2017. While the victim survived and is safe and in the care of her parents, she is frightened and psychologically affected by the whole ordeal! The UTSS First Response Team has asked the Kishapu District Commissioner to ensure that she gets proper counseling and sent to a Vocational Training Centre where she can do something that would generate income instead of staying at home in isolation. They also asked the Community Development Officer to link her with a women's self-help group.

(Source: Initial report on October 25, 2017, from partners in the Kagera Region and the Tanzania Albinism Society (TAS) in Simiyu. On October 27 – 30, 2017, the UTSS First Response Team visited and interviewed the victim, her family, neighbours, police, social welfare department, community development department and the offices of the District Commissioner and District Executive Director after which an Understanding Albinism Seminar was also conducted for all.)



<p><u>Missing</u></p>	<p>On December 27, 2014, a 4-year-old girl with albinism by the name of Pendo Emmanuel was abducted in Ndamhi Village of Fukalo Ward, Kwimba District, Mwanza Region, Tanzania. The police have arrested 15 suspects in connection with the kidnapping. Three of the arrestees are relatives: Pendo’s paternal grandfather, maternal grandfather and her mother. Due to the fact that her mother had just given birth to a baby girl with albinism and prison would not be appropriate for the baby, the Mwanza Regional Commissioner has ordered them to be sent to an alternative secured environment. The police have also set up a search party to look for Pendo.</p> <p>(Source: UTSS interview with Tanzanian police and Ndamhi Village Executive Officer as well as newspapers reports including: http://www.dailymail.co.uk/wires/afp/article-2903078/UN-demands-investigation-albino-girl-abduction.html; http://allafrica.com/stories/201501080704.html; http://dailynews.co.tz/index.php/dailynews/39960-proven-albino-killers-must-be-severely-punhed; http://www.dailynews.co.tz/index.php/local-news/40153-rc-gives-mwanza-village-five-days-to-find-mising-albino-girl; http://www.ippmedia.com/frontend/index.php?l=76048)</p>
<p><u>Grave Desecration</u></p>	<p>On October 26, 2021, the grave Heri Kijangwa in the region of Tanga, was desecrated and his entire remains plus coffin taken and has not been found. Heri passed away around spring last year from skin cancer (age: 40 estimation)</p> <p>Original source: Grantee of Under the Same Sun’s Education Program</p>



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Asylums

On July 28, 2017, a man with albinism from Tanzania was granted refugee status in Vancouver, Canada.

On June 27, 2017, a man with albinism from Tanzania was granted asylum in Chicago, Illinois.

On July 27, 2016, two sisters with albinism from Tanzania who underwent brutal attack and profound discrimination due to their albinism were granted asylum in the state of California, USA.



Togo

1 report: 1 killing

Killing

On September 23, 2017, a 2 year old boy with albinism by the name of Nanhladja Monnoble 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 neighbouring 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.”

(Source: UTSS was contacted on September 28, 2017, by the Togo Albinism Association: Association nationale des albinos du Togo (ANAT); Chairperson: Mr. Souradji OURO-YONDOU; Secretary: Mr. Abdoul Karim Nassirou)



Uganda

9 reports: 8 survivors / 1 asylum

<p><u>Asylum</u></p>	<p>Legal history was made in the USA when, on December 16, 2020, a 34-year-old woman with albinism from Uganda was granted asylum in Boston, Massachusetts.</p>
<p><u>Survivor</u></p>	<p>This report counts as 2 separate PWA attacks – On October 7, 2016, 2 boys with albinism were kidnapped in the village of Bujuko in Central Uganda. They are part of a family with many children among whom four have albinism. The mother is facing many challenges after separating from her husband who wanted to sacrifice one of the children with albinism. The kidnapping occurred while four of the siblings were on their way to school and the two older boys were blindfolded with handkerchiefs believed to have chemicals on them. Some people saw the boys in a taxi and telephoned their mother asking if she knew where the boys were going. Oblivious of the situation, she denied that they were her children but the other person insisted on their identity. A one and a half day search began for the boys who were miraculously found alive and well in a medium income Kampala suburb looking for their way home. It was a long search using police, local radio stations and word of mouth. The case is still under investigation and a lot of information is not yet available.</p> <p>(Source: Olive Namutebi; October 17, 2016; African Albino Foundation Uganda – AAFU had been supporting the family for over 3 years prior to this attack; Email: albinofoundation.uganda@gmail.com; Website: https://albinofoundationuganda.wordpress.com/)</p>



USA

2 reports: 2 survivors

<p><u>Survivors</u></p>	<p>This report counts as 2 I PWA attacks – In 1899, at the turn of the 20th century, two young African-American brothers with albinism by the names of George (6) and Willie (9) Muse went missing in the Jim Crow South Town of Truevine, Virginia, USA. George and Willie were two little boys born to a sharecropper family on a sweltering tobacco farm. One day a white man by the name of James “candy” Shelton offered them a piece of candy, setting off events that would traffic them around the world and change their lives forever.</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 George and Willie were concerned, they were now totally on their own for the rest of their lives. Captured into the circus, the Muse brothers performed for royalty at Buckingham Palace and headlined over a dozen sold-out shows at New York’s Madison Square Garden. They were global “superstars” in a pre-broadcast era. But the very root of their “success” was in the color of their skin and in the outrageous caricatures they were forced to assume: supposed cannibals, sheep-headed freaks, even “Ambassadors from Mars.” The Muse brothers were victims of violence, for what else is peonage but violence? Back home, their mother Harriet Muse never accepted that they were “gone” and spent at least 13 years trying to get them back, never stopping the searching for her sons. Harriet placed missing-persons notices in Billboard and eventually found her sons. She helped them seize control over their lives, discovering that they were illiterate having never received an education. George and Willie returned to the circus in 1928 as paid employees. Love and kinship impelled Harriet’s family to try</p>
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Survivors

for a century to protect George and Willie from a world that saw them as objects for exploitation. The family always believed the boys were kidnapped, including Willie's personal testimony as an adult. George died in 1972, and Willie in 2001, at 108. Willie did not die a bitter man. He repeated the words "God has been good to me" so many times that it is now etched on his tombstone in Truevine, Virginia.

(Source: Book – *Truevine: Two Brothers, a Kidnapping, and a Mother's Quest: A True Story of the Jim Crow South*; author Beth Macy; USA; Publisher: Little, Brown and Company; Date: 2016; ISBN: 0316337544; Onsight interviews in December 2016 by Peter Ash of UTSS in Truevine, Virginia, with family members, local residence including author Beth Macy; The New York Times - Book Review; *How Two Black Albino Brothers Became Unwilling Sideshow Stars*; by Edward E Baptist; October 21, 2016; https://www.nytimes.com/2016/10/23/books/review/truevine-beth-macy.html?_r=0)



Zambia

20 reports: 9 killings / 9 survivors / 2 grave robberies

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 Emmanuel Phiri. He was survived by his wife, 3 children and extended family. Emmanuel 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 Emmanuel by recognizing his clothes, shoes and pictures of the body. They were then taken to the grave where ZAF had buried Emmanuel. Police have since then arrested the customer as a suspect and the investigation is ongoing. (Source: email from Zambia Albino Foundation, 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. Lackson Sakala, the incident occurred between 15:00 and 17:00 hours. After the body was deposited at Chipata Central Hospital Mr. Sakala 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. John Chiti, Foundation Executive Director of the Zambia Albino Foundation, said that his team has been working with the authorities to find the relative of the decease, but the



<p><u>Killing</u></p>	<p>search had proved futile. Chiti 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. Chiti also appealed to police that the perpetrators of this gruesome murder be found and punished.</p> <p>(Sources: <i>Body Of Albino Found In Chipata With Missing Tongue, Arms And Eyes</i>, March 26, 2020, https://zambia.co.zm/news/headlines/2020/03/26/body-of-albino-found-in-chipata-with-missing-tongue-arms-and-eyes/; Zambia Albino Foundation, March 27, 2020; <i>ZAMBIAN ALBINOS LIVING IN FEAR OF BEING KILLED</i>, By Melony Chisanga -April 17, 2020, https://kalemba.news/zambian-albinos-living-in-fear-of-being-killed/?fbclid=IwAR3GsEnWHqODRqpDyNznuNZh2XnSZyhVXpxJ4VBaV1AE0DibuMEuJmFsWs8)</p>
<p><u>Survivor</u></p>	<p>On September 1, 2021, in Mpulungu northern province, a 12 year boy with albinism was attacked and has his right hand chopped off. The boy who lives with both parents has never been to school and is currently at social welfare in Mpulungu. when he was attacked, the criminals didn't finish cutting the whole hand but left it hanging. It was amputated at the hospital as only a small flesh was left to hold it. The boy was reportedly protected from further attack by his father who fought the criminals. One suspect (his cousin) has been arrested and is in police custody. The criminals seem to have used the same tactic used on Jemimah's case where they came at night pretending to be police officers.</p> <p>Source: Albinism Foundation of Zambia (to Africa Albinism Network, an entity governed by UTSS. Sent via WhatsApp)</p> <p>On July 13, 2021, a nine-year-old boy with albinism (NAME WITHELD) was brutally attacked for ritual purposes in Chibanda</p>



	<p>Village, Chasefu District, Eastern Province, Zambia. On that day, as the victim and his older brother went to Chibanda village for a visit, unidentified criminals attacked them, chopping off the baby finger on little Sinya's his left hand, rendering him unconscious. The assailants then fled with the victim's finger. Chasefu District Commissioner, Mustapher Banda, visited the crime scene, confirmed the victim's identity and that the incident happened in Senior Chief Magodi's area at Chibanda's Village Garden between 17:00 hours and 18:00 hours. He said the victim has since returned home after receiving treatment at Lundazi District Hospital where he was rushed to. Meanwhile, Mr. Banda expressed concern over the barbaric act and instructed the police in the area to make sure that perpetrators are brought to book and the law takes its course. The Albinism Foundation of Zambia (AFZ) is also following up on this case.</p> <p>(Source: ZANIS News Agency Zambia- https://zanis.com.zm/)</p>
<p><u>Grave Desecration</u></p>	<p>On an unknown date between June 23 and October 30, 2018, the grave of a woman with albinism by the name of Judith Mwanza was violated in the Nyimba district within the Eastern Province of Zambia. Eastern Province police commissioner Luckson Sakala said that Judith Mwanza died on June 21 at the age of 54 and was buried on June 23, 2018. Police have launched a manhunt for the people responsible. Sakala also said Nyimba District Council Chairperson Maxwell Kapanta reported to police that some unknown people had trespassed on the Chipambe graveyard sometime between the burial on June 23 and the discovery on October 30, 2018. Police visited the scene and found that Judith's grave was tampered with and that "After a physical check, the police officers' discovered that in the coffin there were two pieces of Chitenge material, a blanket, a skirt, used gloves and a blouse but the body was missing."</p> <p>(Source: <i>Albino Exhumed in Nyimba</i>; October 31, 2018; by Chris Phiri; Zambia Reports:</p>



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	https://zambiareports.com/2018/10/31/albino-exhumed-nyimba/?fbclid=IwAR2ySEv9jR9F88nIS95LUhED5cMmeQ_sNqX2-ErZBc0ESxzH_ZZlk2s1zzl)
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Zimbabwe

2 reports: 1 killing / 1 asylum

<p><u>Killing</u></p>	<p>In 2011 the severely mutilated body of a 26-year-old woman with albinism was discovered. Professor John Makumbe was contacted by Zimbabwe police and taken to the morgue to assist in identifying the body. He noted that she had albinism and that her breasts and genitals had been removed.</p> <p>(Source: Professor John Makumbe, a professor of political science at the University of Zimbabwe and president of the Zimbabwe Albino Association (Zimas))</p>
<p><u>Asylum</u></p>	<p>On November 29, 2012, a woman with albinism from Zimbabwe was granted asylum in Atlanta, Georgia.</p> <p>(Source: UTSS served as expert witness in this case)</p>



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 neighbours) 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.