



## INTERNATIONAL PRESS RELEASE

### ***Shocking Brutality in Tanzania***

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
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VANCOUVER, CANADA & DAR ES SALAAM, TANZANIA – A 40 year old woman with albinism, named Ms. Munghu Lugata was brutally murdered on May 12<sup>th</sup>, 2014 between midnight and seven o'clock



in the morning, at Mwachalala sub village, Gasuma Village of Mwaubingi Ward, Nkololo Division, Bariadi District of Simiyu Region, in northwestern Tanzania. The Regional Police Commander Mr. Charles Mkumbo reported to the international albinism rights group, Under The Same Sun – Tanzania Branch, that the attackers hacked off her left leg above the knee, chopped off the index and middle fingers of her left hand, as well as the upper section of her left thumb.

Upon hearing of this senseless brutality, Peter Ash, Founder/CEO of Under The Same Sun remarked, ***“The life of yet another person with albinism has been snuffed out! Munghu was mutilated and violated in the most barbaric way, because of the fatal discrimination people with albinism face in Tanzania. Her screams must rouse the international community to demand the Tanzanian authorities locate and punish her killers to the fullest extent of the law. Anything less is a flagrant miscarriage of justice, perpetuated on the most vulnerable.”***

Two witchdoctors have been arrested by the police. Police Commander Mkumbo identified them as Ms. Gudawa Yalema (52 years of age) and Mr. Shiwa Masalu (45 years of age), also known in the community as “Uselengi”.



The Simiyu Police Chief recounted that on the previous day, Ms. Lugata, the murdered mother of two, directed her youngest daughter, to go to the witchdoctor and obtain some herbal “medicine” for her backache. The Witchdoctor in question, Ms. Gudawa instructed the child to return to her for another consultation the following day. Additionally, this witchdoctor clearly instructed the girl not to return home to her sick mother,



claiming that the “medicine” would only be effective if she remained far from her mother. Accordingly, Ms. Gudawa successfully persuaded the unsuspecting 8 year old to go and spend the night at her aunt’s home. The little girl obeyed the witchdoctor’s instructions.

That night Ms. Lugata was violently butchered to death. Her grossly mutilated body was discovered outside of her home by her own niece at approximately 7:00 AM on 12<sup>th</sup> May 2014. The details of the gruesome murder reached Simiyu Police headquarters an hour later at approximately 8:00 AM. She was buried today, May 13, 2014.

A police manhunt is underway to find a man who is said to be the boyfriend of the deceased. He had been courting the late Ms. Lugata for a number of weeks now. Police have identified him as one of the murder suspects.

Ms. Lugata becomes the 73<sup>rd</sup> person with the genetic condition of albinism to be brutally slaughtered in Tanzania since the year 2000. 67 others have suffered a variety of violent attacks during the same period. Witchdoctors tell their clients that the skin, hair, blood and organs of persons with albinism when combined with their secret magic potions guarantee success, wealth and election victory. Persons with albinism in Tanzania fear for their lives as citizens go to the polls in October this year for their local elections. This fear will only be heightened as the national Parliamentary and Presidential elections will be held in the country in October 2015. The black market demand for the body parts of people with albinism escalates during these times.

### **About Under The Same Sun**

Under The Same Sun (UTSS) is a registered Canadian and US charitable organization founded in 2008 by Peter Ash. Its goal is to promote, via advocacy and education, the wellbeing of persons with albinism. For its efforts to end the slaughter of persons with albinism in Africa, Under The Same Sun has garnered worldwide media attention. This has included newspaper articles in the New York Times, The Vancouver Sun, The National Post, as well as television interviews on ABC’s 20/20, the Discovery Channel, and CBC News’ The National. UTSS has also led the adoption of recent resolutions on albinism and discrimination at the UNHRC in Geneva.

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## Resources:

Excerpt from French Language Tanzanian Facebook news/opinion site. Note: the writer records the victim's age as 20, while police confirm her age to be 40.

**Chez Nous En Tanzanie**  
8 hours ago

NOUS NOUS EXCUSONS POUR CETTE IMAGE!!!  
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Une jeune dame albinos, âgée d'une vingtaine d'années a été tuée et mutilée hier soir à Bariadi, en province de Simiyu, dans le Nord de la Tanzanie, le dernier d'une série de meurtres rituels visant les albinos dans notre pays...

"Cette nuit (lundi) vers 22 heures (19 heures GMT), un groupe de malfaiteurs a attaqué une famille de la commune de Bariadi, dans la province de Simiyu... Ils ont d'abord ligoté les parents d'une jeune femme albinos, puis ils ont coupé sa jambe gauche et ses seins, avant de s'enfuir" a déclaré à Radio One ce matin, le chef de la police en province de Simiyu, Salim Msangi...

La province de Simiyu est située au Nord du pays... "La jeune dame a été découpée alors qu'elle était encore vivante et ce sont ses cris qui ont réveillé tout le voisinage", a indiqué à Radio One une source policière à Simiyu, sous couvert de l'anonymat, précisant que les assaillants avaient emporté avec eux les membres de la victime...

Ces nouveaux crimes surviennent dans un contexte de recrudescence de crimes rituels à l'encontre des albinos, leurs membres ou leurs organes étant notamment utilisés par des sorciers ici dans notre pays, pour confectionner des grigris porte-bonheur à l'attention des chercheurs d'or notamment...

Propos recueillis par l'administrateur Yussuf Tanzi Bilal, à Dar es Salaam.- — with Pascal Matabishi and Ahmadou Aly Sall.

See Translation

Popular Tanzanian Blog (in Swahili). This Blog as well as the prior Facebook page contains graphic photos of the body of the deceased showing the gravity of the attack.

<http://www.globalpublishers.info/profiles/blogs/albino-auawa-achukuliwa-viungo-vyake-simiyu>