



## OFFICIAL STATEMENT

29 October 2021, Vancouver, Canada

### **We Deplore the Desecration and Theft of the Remains of Heri Kijangwa**

On October 26, 2021, the grave of a man with albinism, who was one of the beneficiaries of our education program, Mr. Heri Shekigenda Kijangwa, was desecrated in Tanda Village, Lushoto District in Tanga region of Tanzania. The perpetrators dug up his grave and stole the coffin containing his remains. The perpetrators remain at large, and neither his remains nor the coffin has been found.

Heri passed away last year on July 4, 2020, from skin cancer at the age of 45 and was buried on July 7, 2020. At the time of death, Heri was a lab technician at Temeke hospital. He was also completing his master's degree in public health at Muhimbili University. Prior to that, he completed a Bachelor of Science degree at International Medical and Technological University from which he graduated in 2015. Both degrees were sponsored by our Education Program. Heri is survived by a wife and four young children. Our deepest condolences to Heri's family who are dealing with this recent crime only a short while after losing Heri to skin cancer.



Late Heri Kijangwa

We strongly condemn this crime and every commission and omission on the part of government and ongoing discrimination in society at large which have enabled such crimes in the country. We call upon the government of

Tanzania to intensify its efforts in preventing skin cancer. We further call on the government to immediately speed up its effort to investigate and prosecute the perpetrators of this crime.

Under The Same Sun (UTSS) has been at the forefront of defending the rights of people with albinism internationally – with a focus on Tanzania and Africa since its inception in 2008. UTSS has observer status at the African Union and the United Nations. It also leads the Africa Albinism Network.

For interview requests or for further information please contact I.K. Ero, Under the Same Sun (Canada) [info@underthesamesun.com](mailto:info@underthesamesun.com)



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***“I have a dream that one day, people with albinism will take their rightful place throughout every level of society, and that the days of discrimination against persons with albinism will be a faint memory.”***

- Peter Ash, Founder/CEO, Under the Same Sun

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For detailed local information related to this specific matter in Tanzania please contact:  
Legal and Human Rights Centre lhrc@humanrights.or.tz [www.humanrights.or.tz](http://www.humanrights.or.tz)

NOTE: The substantive details of this report were gathered from various stakeholders including a family member of Heri. UTSS has reviewed the relevant information available from the various sources and is, at present, satisfied as to its accuracy.