



## LEGAL AND HUMAN RIGHTS CENTRE

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### PRESS RELEASE

#### **CONDEMNING THE BRUTAL MURDER OF A CHILD WITH ALBINISM IN UYUI DISTRICT, TABORA REGION**

**Date: May 17, 2021**

**Dar es Salaam, Tanzania**

#### **Introduction**

I welcome you to the offices of Legal and Human Rights Centre! With great sadness, Legal and Human Rights Centre (LHRC) in collaboration with Tabora Vision Community Based (TAVICO) condemn the brutal murder of a child with albinism in Uyui District, Tabora Region.

Legal and Human Rights Centre (LHRC) in collaboration with their partners from Tabora Vision Community Based (TAVICO) have received disheartening report of the killing of a boy with albinism aged approximately between 5 and 6 which was committed between 3 May and 4 May 2021. The deceased has not been identified and his residence is unknown. The boy's mutilated body was discovered by villagers in the bushes of rural areas near a pond in Usadala sub-village of Utemini village, Ndono Ward in Uyui District of Tabora Region (Western Tanzania). According to witnesses of the incident, the body was found with severed arms, his eyes removed and his left ear and genitals hacked off.

Village leaders sent this report to the Uyui District Police Station Uyui about 12.00 noon and 1.00pm. The force's officers arrived at the crime scene around 3.00pm and examined the body of the deceased and took various photos of the body.

The reports from the villagers (where the body was found) who were interviewed by the investigating team from LHRC and TAVICO, and the reports from the doctor and the Head of the District Criminal Investigation Department confirmed that the mutilated body was that of a child with albinism. However, sadly, the report of this incident was not revealed to the public in order to find parents or relatives of the deceased. The police force and villagers confirmed that the murdered boy with albinism was not from the village (Utemini) and neighbouring villages. The LHRC and TAVICO team was informed that the Ward Executive Officer inspected eight villages of his Ward where he did not find any family that has lost a child with albinism.

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According to witnesses, the body of the deceased is thought to have been at the crime scene for about two or three days because the body seemed to have started decomposing. Maybe this was the reason why the police did not take the body preserve it for further investigation. However, it was very crucial for the police to inform the public about the incident.

The witnesses' reports, confirmed that the deceased was murdered elsewhere and the body was dumped in Usadala sub-village. This is because in the area where the body was found there were no signs of any spilled blood or anything to indicate that murder activities had taken place in the area.

The decision by the Regional Authorities to remain silent on this inhumane act make us as promoters of human rights doubt the willingness of such authorities in preserving and maintaining human rights and good governance. This is based on the fact that to date no relatives have come forward with information about their missing child. Concealing this information to the public could be a major reason why parents or relatives have not come out in public searching for their lost child. To date, there is no persons who is in police custody in relation to the incident.

Legal and Human Rights Centre (LHRC) in collaboration with Tabora Vision Community Based (TAVICO) appeal to the government to do the following:

1. To ensure that relevant authorities publish this information to the public and show ways that can be used by parents or relatives of the deceased to get the accurate information of the place where there loved one is buried.
2. To ensure that thorough investigation into this killing is conducted and the perpetrators are handed over to state organs. This is due to the fact that the citizens of Utemini village have great confidence in their government which will not fail to find the culprits who committed this crime.
3. The Inspector General of the Police in the country must ensure that he treats this matter with great seriousness just like the ways he treats other crimes in the country.
4. The Home Affairs Minister Hon. George Simbachawene to make an in-depth follow-up and issue a government statement to the Parliament while the Budget Parliament is in session in order to stop the killings of persons with albinism which have re-emerged with a different style.
5. The government should regard the silence surrounding this murder as an indicator of the existence of other human rights violations which could tarnish the image of the country in the eyes of the international community especially on the issue of killings of persons with albinism.
6. The government should ensure that its state organs respect and adhere to the Constitution and all regional and international conventions on human rights and marginalized groups in the country.

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It is the hope of LHRC and TAVICO that the government will take this information seriously and take action as soon as possible, in order to protect the reputation of our country, especially in maintaining and preserving human rights and good governance.

Thank you for your attention.

Issues by Legal and Human Rights Centre (LHRC) in collaboration with Tabora Vision Community Based (TAVICO).

**Miss Anna Henga**

Executive Director, LHRC

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