



Reported Attacks*

RE: PERSONS WITH ALBINISM

(Extended Version)

Most Recent Cases Only

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

DATE OF REPORT: September 2, 2024

Attacks: 731

*** Total Countries: 31**

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

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



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Benin

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

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



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Killing

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

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

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



<p><u>Missing</u></p>	<p>On March 23, 2019, a 45-year-old man with albinism by the name of A.A. went missing in the city of Abomey, Zou Department, Benin. The victim was a well-known joiner (carpenter) who lived in the A's home and had his joinery business opposite the D.T. Much to the dismay of his family, the victim's younger brother may have been involved in his disappearance. According to a cousin, A had some work to do for an old man who had called him in the morning of Saturday, March 23, indicating that the door locks had been purchased and that he should come to make the repairs. A has not been heard from since. The old man was questioned over the disappearance but denies that A met with him that day. F.H., founder and chairperson of Beninese Albinism NGO has raised the alert, asking anyone who has any suspicions about A's destination that day to inform the police or the nearest local authority. He concluded by saying: "I pray we find A unharmed for the sake of his family and the nation. I appeal parents to look after their children with albinism. I also warn adults with albinism against going unaccompanied to a meeting even if they know the person who invites them to that meeting."</p>
	<p>In September of 2018, a 50-year-old woman with albinism by the name of D.C.K. ends up dying of skin cancer after which her lifeless body was decapitated by a family member at her burial in the woods near her family home in the community of Allada, Atlantique Department, Benin. Over the span of multiple unknown dates throughout the course of her life, the deceased had survived numerous abductions attempts and other inhumane cruelties at the hands of her family. D.C.K. had always been disowned by her father's family who compared her</p>



Grave Desecration

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

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

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



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

4 reports: 3 survivors/1 killing

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 the victim was a primary school teacher in the city of Jwaneng, Botswana, she was pregnant and staying in her native village at the time. On this near fateful day, her young brother encountered three guys in the village night club who knew S.

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



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Murder

K.M. (34-year-old woman): On Wednesday 24 May, 2023 K was allegedly stabbed to death by her husband G.M. in the presence of a psychologist at the women's shelter in Gaborone.

[Editorial note by AAN: Based on Facebook posts on the situation, this case appears to be a potential case of GBV/IPV but we also recognize the potential of intersectionality and have recorded the case for that reason. AAN will follow-up to receive more information]*

(Trusted Source: to protect our sources, we have withheld their names from this publication – *Woman stabbed to death by her husband, GABORONE, Botswana, May 27, 2023.*)



Burkina Faso

9 reports: 2 killing / 6 survivors / 1 asylum

<p><u>Killing</u></p>	<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.</p> <p>(Trusted Source: To protect our sources, we have withheld their names from this publication, <i>GAOUA, BURKINA FASO – 12-year-old boy with albinism killed</i>, on Wednesday, August 15, 2012)</p>
<p><u>Trafficking</u></p>	<p>On April 18th, 2021, Dr. P.K., an American physician originally from Kenya, was an eye witness at the Nairobi airport to three aggressive African men being allowed to transport a young boy with albinism out of the country without a passport. He said the men had come from Tanzania and were headed to Ouagadougou, in Burkina Faso and that they used loud, offensive language as the airline attendant asked for the missing passport – they had three passports and none for the child. Dr. P.K. is now convinced that the three-year-old boy with albinism is no longer a baby headed to a loving family, but a sacrifice at some altar of a cruel witchcraft ceremony.</p> <p>(Trusted Source: To protect our sources, we have withheld their names from this publication, <i>KENYA – 3 year old boy with albinism, abduction & Victim of Witchcraft Sacrifice</i>, May 1, 2012 at 4:00 pm)</p>



Burundi

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

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



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



Cameroon

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

<u>Survivor</u>	<p>In 2013, a mother and her infant with albinism began the process of seeking asylum in France as she feared for the life of her child in Cameroon where members of her community attempted to kill the baby for ritual purposes during local elections.</p>
<u>Asylum</u>	<p>On December 23, 2015, a man with albinism (name withheld) from Cameroon was granted refugee status in UK.</p> <p>(Trusted Source: Interviews with UTSS)</p>



Congo Brazzaville

7 reports: 7 killings

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

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

<p><u>Killing</u></p>	<p>On Wednesday, February 1, 2023, J.K., a 5-year-old child’s mutilated body was found in Kitaho in the village of Chambombo, the territory of Kalehe in South Kivu. J was killed when he was kidnapped from his family’s home by thugs who could be identified. The thugs locked the child’s family in their house when they kidnapped and murdered the little boy. J.B.B. known to the victim and also an activist of the Association OBAPG-RDC called on security forces to investigate the murder.</p> <p>(Trusted Source: To protect our sources, we have withheld their names from this publication, <i>KITAHU, DR CONGO – kidnapped, murdered & mutilated, 5-year-old boy</i>, date of report unknown)</p>
<p><u>Survivor</u></p>	<p>On September 28, 2021, in Bukavu, DR Congo, a little boy with albinism, survived a kidnapping attempt from perpetrators while playing outside which was presumed to have the intent of using him for ritual sacrifice. Thanks to the alert from his friends, the perpetrators threw him to the ground and abandoned the mission.</p> <p>(Trusted Source: Facebook page, To protect our sources, we have withheld the name of the page from this publication, <i>BUKAVU, DR CONGO – young boy, survivor of attempted abduction for ritual sacrifice</i>, September 28, 2021)</p>



<p style="text-align: center;"><u>Grave Desecration</u></p>	<p>On March 16, 2021, there was an attempt to desecrate the grave of a woman with albinism, C.N.F., who had died at the age of 74 in Lubunga, DR Congo. The case was reported by an NGO in DRC to the Africa Albinism Network.</p> <p>In the early hours of March 25, 2019, the grave of a man with albinism by the name of G., who had died a month and a half earlier, was vandalized at his family plot in the ward of CIRIRI, in the community of BAGIRA, BUKAVU District, SOUTH KIVU Province, DRC. The remains of the deceased were exhumed, dismembered and body parts stolen. A local resident by the name of R.C. said it's not the first time that the grave of a PWA has been tampered with, and body parts taken in the area of BUKAVU. It is alleged that these acts are committed for witchcraft purposes. Condemnation of the act by the Urban Security Council which was presided over by the mayor of BUKAVU, M.B.U. was followed by the albinism group called Association pour la promotion intégrale des albinos.</p> <p>(Trusted Source: To protect our sources, we have withheld their names from this publication, <i>BUKAVU, DRC – grave of a man with albinism tampered with & dismembered for witchcraft rituals</i>, March 30th, 2019)</p>
<p style="text-align: center;"><u>Asylum</u></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 anonymous was granted secured permanent residency through a non-asylum process. He suffered severe persecution and untreated skin cancer in his native country.</p> <p>(Trusted Source: UTSS was informed via a personal contact from the victim's sister, who is now a resident of Canada – July 2015)</p>



Egypt

1 report: 1 asylum

<p><u>Asylum</u></p>	<p>On Friday, September 16, 2011, (name withheld), a 28-year-old man with albinism from Egypt told journalist S.B. about his life in Egypt and his newfound asylum in New Zealand. He contrasted the profound discrimination facing people with albinism in Egypt with the amazing and equal opportunities he has found in New Zealand. The man’s lawyer said: “He was seriously maltreated at multiple levels including such things as deliberate cigarette burns from supposed educators... The hostility toward him was serious at best because of his Albinism. He has now been able to both marry and continue his studies. He is one of the nicest and most considerate people I have met in a long time and doing very well.” The man says; “I want to be a professor in the university. The first time I ever got a salary was here in New Zealand. I can support myself and my research. I don’t want to go back to Egypt, not even for a visit.”</p> <p>(Trusted SOURCE: To protect our sources, we have withheld their names from this publication, <i>EGYPT – a man with newfound life in New Zeland</i>, Friday, September 16, 2011)</p>
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Gabon

2 reports: 2 survivors

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

4 reports: 1 killing / 3 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 K.Y. aka A. was found at the entrance of Pastor E.A.'s residence in Owoakra, Boketey, under Amanase in the eastern region of Ghana. According to the pastor's wife, G.A., her husband ran off shortly after the death of K and she has not heard from him since. Unfortunately, the police have not been responsive to crimes committed in this area and allowed Pastor A to escape without questioning. Since that time however, police commander S.P.T.Y. of Suhum police station announced that because of the public interest whipped up by media related to the death of K.Y., the homicide unit at police headquarters in Accra had taken over the investigation.</p>
<p><u>Survivor</u></p>	<p>On January 1, 2023, a 16 year old boy with albinism from the town of Garu in the Upper East region of North Ghana, was playing football with his his teammates while celebrating the new year when the perpetrator approached him on a motorbike. The perpetrator pleaded with the victim to go with him to get his bicycle from a nearby neighborhood and bring it back to where they were playing football since he couldn't ride two bikes at once. The survivor consented, but when they reached the said neighborhood, the perpetrator didn't stop. When the survivor protested, he insisted he stops at the next neighborhood. Upon reaching the next neighborhood, the perpetrator still refused to stop despite the survivor's protests, so he jumped off the bike, and in an attempt to flee, he met a lady and narrated the story. Little did he know, she was the main perpetrator and had a syndicate following them on a motorcycle. Upon arriving, he verified their participation in the attempted abduction.</p>



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



Guinea

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. The victim’s life is made up of begging at the big market of Matam’s main station and on the streets of the Capital City. One morning his lifeless body was found laying on the sidewalk.</p>
<p><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 the victim in the country village of Damankania, in the Sinanya district of Yabara, Guinea. The suspected traffickers kidnapped the little girl in front of her mother at their home. Her father Salif Camara explains: “a young man got out of a vehicle that was parked in front of my compound and snatched our daughter. My wife who was on the scene asked the kidnappers where they were taking her. Without answering they drove off with little the child. My wife shouted for a motorbike taxi to chase the kidnappers. I immediately alerted the Commander of the Gendarmerie (police) who deployed his team and managed to capture the vehicle. Of the 4 assailants, 2 succeeded in escaping and the other two were arrested.” Accused of</p>



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



Ivory Coast

31 reports: 10 killings / 13 survivors / 4 missing / 2 asylums / 2 abandoned

<p><u>Killing</u></p>	<p>A person with albinism buried on March 7th, 2024, at 3 AM along the Côte d'Ivoire and Burkina Faso border. The PWA was kidnapped at the CIV/Ghana border between the town of Tanda in CIV and the town of Gunasua in Ghana and sacrificed to allegedly meet the political agenda of Senior members of the Ivoirian political leadership to sow discord between Burkinabe President Ibrahim Traore and his Intelligence Chief Oumarou Yabré, and ultimately overthrow the current Burkinabe leadership. In a meeting, a member of the Ivoirian senior leadership was allegedly heard to have said that he believed in witchcraft and found a powerful and dangerous witchdoctor in the region of Siguiri in Guinea who said he could sow discord and divide I. Traore and O. Yabre. They brought the witchdoctor to Abidjan. After spending 1 week in retreat in a cemetery in Abidjan, the witchdoctor asked for a person with albinism (PWA) to sacrifice. He said that once they decapitated the PWA, their tongue and genital organs will be buried along the border of Côte d'Ivoire and Burkina Faso (CIV/BF) border and the blood collected while the PWA is immolated has to be spilled on Burkinabe territory which will increase the rise of power and influence of terrorist groups on Burkinabe territory. Then the return of violence on Burkinabe territory will cause citizens to be unhappy and turn against I. Traore and his leadership and overthrow them. The burial of the PWA's organs will cause the immediate division between I. Traore and O. Yabré. The witchdoctor estimated that there will be serious divisions between the two men in the coming 3- 8 months and that they will hate each other. They recruited a woman who is renowned and who specializes in organ trafficking to kidnap the PWA. She is from a neighboring country to CIV and is close to members of the Ivoirian Senior leadership. Some parts of the sacrifice were allegedly</p>
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	<p>completed by one of nephews of the members of the Ivoirian senior leadership.</p> <p>(Trusted Source: Chris Yapi, an investigative journalist based in Côte d'Ivoire. June 25, 2024. https://youtu.be/ZCjQQLPbMT4?si=W-t4W42XRd8ad2EI)</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 C.A.K., kidnapped from their home in Ivory Coast by a pigmented woman from Benin. The police in Arrah, in the east of the country, found the Beninese woman named Nadège Dassia after she had stolen the child. After four years of trying to give birth to her own child, the abductor passed herself off as a soap seller which easily enabled her to enter the bedroom of the absent mother and abduct the baby. After fleeing the house with the infant in a taxi heading towards KOTOBI (in east-central of Cote d'ivoire, subprefecture of Arrah), the police were alerted and managed to catch the pair,</p>



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<p><u>Survivor</u></p>	<p>arrest the kidnapper, rescue the infant and reunite the mother with her child.</p> <p>(Trusted Source: To protect our sources, we have withheld their names from this publication, <i>COTE D'IVOIRE, IVORY COAST – Beninese woman steals baby from Ivorian mother and gets arrested</i>, Thursday, June 22, 2017.)</p>
<p><u>Asylum</u></p>	<p>29-year-old woman with albinism (name withheld) whom is also a mother of a 13 year old daughter and an 8 year old son who, just four days after narrowly escaping a second attack due to her albinism, fled her native Côte d'Ivoire on August 13, 2012 to Tunisia. She was hoping to find a better life in another African country. Shortly after her arrival in Tunisia she obtained refugee status from the UNHCR. Despite her refugee status in Tunisia, the woman's life has not improved as much as she had hoped, summarizing her experience by saying: "Here, people slap me, insult me and mock me. I don't have a job and I am unable to become integrated".</p> <p>(Trusted Source: To protect our sources, we have withheld their names from this publication, <i>COTE D'IVOIRE, IVORY COAST – woman trying to establish new life & safe haven in Tunisia</i>, May 20, 2013.)</p>



Kenya

13 reports: 5 killings / 8 survivors

Killing

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

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



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



Lesotho

1 report: 1 killing

<p><u>Killing</u></p>	<p>In October, 2015, a 16-year-old girl with albinism by the name of T.T. was mutilated in what is suspected to be a case of ritual killing in the country of Lesotho, a country encircled by South-Africa. According to police spokesperson, Senior Inspector C.M., a woman from the victim’s district arrested in connection with the murder was assisting with investigations. T met the suspect at an initiation school where they were both initiates.</p> <p>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.”</p> <p>(Trusted Source: To protect our sources, we have withheld their names from this publication, <i>LESOTHO, SOUTH-AFRICA – Albino girl mutilated in suspected ritual murder</i>, November 22, 2015.)</p>
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Madagascar

39 reports: 11 killings, 6 Survivors, 15 Abductions and 7 Missing

<p><u>Killing</u></p>	<p>On Sunday, July 07, 2024, a 25-year-old man with albinism was beheaded in the presence of his wife in the town of Ampanihy in the Commune of Beroy Sud in the Atsimo-Andrefana Region (Southwest Madagascar). It is believed that this horrific murder was motivated by a ritual sacrifice at a gold mining site.</p> <p>(Trusted Source: To protect our sources, we have withheld their names from this publication, <i>AMPANIHY, MADAGASCAR – 25-year-old man beheaded</i>, July 07, 2024.)</p>
<p><u>Survivors</u></p>	<p>A 7-year-old girl and 21-year-old man (Siblings): In November 2021, a woman and three men were arrested by Gendarmeries in Anosy and Androy (Southern Madagascar) for the abduction of two siblings who were almost sold for 200 million Ariary (USD 49,000). The siblings are from Amboasaray in Maroalipoty commune, in the district of Ambovombe. The sibling's uncle reportedly sent a woman to the capital town of the district to find a buyer for the two PWA. The woman reportedly asked a local of the town if he knew of any buyer and the local then reported this to the authorities in Androy. The gendarmerie then reportedly arranged to meet the trafficker.</p> <p>(Trusted Source: To protect our sources, we have withheld their names from this publication, Anosy and Androy, Southern MADAGASCAR – <i>attempted kidnapping of two siblings; November, 2021.</i>)</p>



<p><u>Abduction</u></p>	<p>A 14-year-old boy with albinism was abducted by criminals from his residence in Antanambao Variampo, Ambatoharanankely Fokontany, Ifanadiana District in the region of Vatovavy (Southeast Madagascar) during the weekend of the 21 – 22 April 2024. However, thanks to the efforts of the local community and security forces, the victim was safely rescued. He was found in the forest, where he had been subjected to violence by the perpetrators. The boy’s eyes were swollen, and his face was injured during the time of his release. The criminals who committed the act managed to escape and have not yet been apprehended, but the local security forces are currently searching for them. According to the Ifanadiana brigade of the Gendarmerie, the boy was being kept at the gendarmerie for his protection. The area is very remote and far from his home, so he and his family will be closely monitored. He will not be allowed to return home until his safety can be fully assured.</p> <p>(Trusted Source: to protect our sources, we have withheld their names from this publication – Vatovavy, <i>MADAGASCAR, 14-year-old boy, abducted from his home, April 2024</i>)</p>
<p><u>Missing</u></p>	<p>A 10-year-old boy with albinism was abducted at midnight on Monday, January 22, 2024, in the Commune of Tsinjoarivo Imanga in the Region of Bongolava (Central Madagascar). The responsible authorities have already taken action to rescue the child.</p> <p>(Trusted Source: To protect our sources, we have withheld their names from this publication – Bongolava, <i>MADAGASCAR, 10-year-old boy, missing, 22 January 2024</i>)</p>



Malawi*

71 reports: 20 killings, 31 survivors, 7 missing, 13 grave desecrations

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

<p><u>Killing</u></p>	<p>On the Night of November 30 at 11 pm in Mawawa Village, near the town of Kasungu, in central Malawi, a young three-year-old girl with albinism was reportedly asleep in bed with her grandmother when an unidentified assailant broke into the house. The man stabbed the young girl and amputated her arm before fleeing with it. Police are still searching for the suspect.</p> <p>(Trusted Source: To protect our sources, we have withheld their names from this publication, Mawawa Village, <i>CENTRAL MALAWI, MALAWI — 3 year old girl, stabbed, dismembered and killed while sleeping in Central Malawi, December 1, 2022.</i>)</p>
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<p><u>Survivor</u></p>	<p>(1 year old boy): On September 3d, 2023 at 2:14 am, Standing Voice received a call to its helpline reporting an attempted abduction of a one-year-old boy with albinism in Mitundu, Malawi. At around midnight on the 3rd of September, a man broke into a house where a mother and her son with albinism were sleeping. The man went to the bedroom and woke up the mother by calling out her name. He then instructed her to hand over the toddler. Frightened, the mother started screaming for help, which caused the intruder to flee. In the morning of September 3rd, the case was reported to the police, which resulted in the immediate arrest of one of the mother's uncles. It is reported that the uncle confessed to wanting to sell the child to earn money so the family could buy a motorbike.</p> <p>(Trusted Source: To protect our sources, we have withheld their names from this publication, Mitundu, <i>MALAWI — Standing Voice</i>, September 6, 2023.)</p>
<p><u>Missing</u></p>	<p>On January 31, 2023, A.N., from Tezanga village, T/A Chiwalo District of Phalombe was reported missing to the Nambozo Police unit on the morning of this date at around 1:30 am by his relatives. N. lived with his 70-year-old mother and he went out during the night of January 29, 2023 and never returned; his relatives searched for him in the area during the day on January 30, 2023, they only managed to find one shoe and a hat belonging to the victim in a field at Namuli Village in T/A Chilawo, District Phalombe.</p> <p>(Trusted Source: To protect our sources, we have withheld their names from this publication, <i>Tezanga village, T/A Chiwalo District PHALOMBE, MALAWI – man went missing and never returned</i>, February 3, 2023.)</p>



**Grave
Desecration**

The grave of a man with albinism by the name of M.K was tampered with over the weekend of the 21 and 22nd of July 2024 in Chinomba Village in the Traditional Authority Chikumbu in Mulanje. M.K died at the age of 25 in 2006 after a long illness and was buried in his home village. According to the Police spokesperson, the suspects, unknown, failed to reach down to the coffin because the tombstone was strongly built, with big stones and bricks after they failed to tamper with it in 2018. The Police spokesperson says that police officers are on the ground to arrest the suspects.

(Trusted Source: To protect our sources, we have withheld their names from this publication, *MALAWI – Zodiak Online ZBS News*, July 22, 2024.)



Mali

20 reports: 8 killings / 3 survivors/ 2 missing / 7 asylum

Killing

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

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

The governor of the region of **KOULIKORO**, C.M.C., the director general of the national gendarmerie, the Commander of the Legion of gendarmerie were on the crime scene, and went to the morgue to see the body of the beheaded little girl.

Traditional authorities have been approached to help appease tensions.

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



<p><u>Survivor</u></p>	<p>Early in August 2017, a 13 year old boy with albinism narrowly escaped abduction in Goloninia, located in the Bamako district of Mali. Fortunately for the child, the S.K. Foundation for people with albinism in Mali intervened and the perpetrator was arrested. N.K., the daughter of S.K. says; “He was released on bail awaiting a date of trial – we don’t know yet. I fear we will never see him again. Our assistant in Bamako underwent a lot of pressure in order to withdraw the complaint, but we didn’t give up. We feared the boy’s family was scared and would withdraw the complaint, but they did not. It’s truly a good step forward.”</p> <p>(Trusted Source: To Protect our sources, we have withheld their names from this publication <i>Goloninia, BAMAKO, MALI – 13-year-old boy with albinism survives attempted abduction, August, 2017.</i>)</p>
<p><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>(Trusted Source: To protect our sources, we have withheld their names from this publication <i>MALI – baby boy abducted while sleeping, 2006.</i>)</p>
<p><u>Asylum</u></p>	<p>On July 29, 2011, a woman with albinism from Mali received asylum in France.</p>



Mozambique

59 reports: 21 murders, 17 survivors, 6 grave desecrations, 15 missing

<p><u>Murder</u></p>	<p>A woman with albinism is believed to have been murdered after being abducted after leaving the church in Ribáuè, a district of Nampula Province in northeastern Mozambique. Mozambique's National Criminal Investigation Service (SERNIC) detained four individuals on the outskirts of Nampula for possessing human bones. According to SERNIC spokesperson E.T, the suspects were found in possession of the bones that police believe to belong to the abducted woman with albinism, which they planned to sell for 80,000 Metical (Approx. \$1250 US Dollars) each, totaling around 1.5 million Metical (\$23,400). In a brief contact with reporters, the detainees denied their involvement in the crime. The authorities are also investigating the grave desecrations of a person with albinism in the Murrupula district while also searching for the fifth suspect who is still at large.</p> <p>(Trusted Source: To protect our sources, we have withheld their names from this publication, <i>MOZAMBIQUE – a woman with albinism murdered, August 23, 2024.</i>)</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 M.M. said that a couple was detained by PRM and Criminal Investigation Service (Sernic) agents while attempting to close the sale of their infant for one million 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,</p>



	<p>where they were arrested,” M said.</p> <p>(Trusted Source: To protect our sources, we have withheld their names from this publication MANICA, MOZAMBIQUE – Police arrested five over human trafficking with alleged buyers in Zimbabwe Watch, Mar 17, 2020.)</p>
<p><u>Grave Desecration</u></p>	<p>A 49-year-old man with Albinism, had undergone several treatments for skin cancer since 2021 but passed away on January 2, 2023. He was buried on January 26, 2023 in the village of Mkhome, the administrative post of Zobwe - Moatize in Tete province. On March 22, 2023, our trusted source was notified that his grave was vandalized and the perpetrators managed to get the body out and it's now missing. The source had tried to do all the work of placing the concrete (two bags of cement, sand, and stones) when they buried him, but they still managed to vandalize the grave. To this day, the perpetrators are unknown.</p> <p>(Trusted Source: To protect our sources, we have withheld their names from this publication; Mkhome, MOZAMBIQUE – <i>vandalism of grave of deceased man with albinism</i>; March 22, 2023.)</p>
<p><u>Missing</u></p>	<p>On January 15, 2021, a nine-year-old boy with albinism by the name of R 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 R who remains missing. Two suspects are in the custody of the police.</p> <p>(Trusted Source: To protect our sources, we have withheld their names from this publication, Angonia, TETE, MOZAMBIQUE – missing nine-year-old boy with albinism, remains missing; January 16, 2021)</p>



Namibia

5 reports: 3 survivors / 2 killings

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



Niger

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 S.H. went missing in the ward of Dar es Salam in the capital city of Niamey, Niger. He has not been seen since. On September 13 & 20, 2014, Ms. K.M., leader and founder of the PWA association in Niger interviewed the victims' family and neighbors to confirm S's disappearance. Both parties told her that the abduction did in fact take place. At the time S went missing, his family reported the case to the Police who did their investigation, but sadly were not able to find him. Two of S's brothers also have albinism.

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



Nigeria

14 reports: 4 killings / 1 missing / 5 asylums / 4 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>(Trusted Source: To protect our sources, we have withheld their names from this publication, <i>Okuta, KWARA, NIGERIA – woman with albinism found dead with organs missing; April 19, 2013.</i>)</p>
<p><u>Survivor</u></p>	<p>(29-year-old man): On June 24, 2023, a few minutes past 10 pm, a man, who is an uncle from *John’s mother’s hometown, showed up at his house unannounced at his home in the army barracks of Onitsha, Anambra State, which normally closes at 10 pm. The man claimed he had a meeting with somebody which didn’t end on time, so he wanted to spend the night at the place and promised he would leave the next day on June 25th, 2023, at 6 am. In the early morning of June 25th, 2023, John, who is a graphic designer, was working late and was shutting down at 2 am. He woke up 2 times in the early morning from being distracted by the uncle. John fell asleep again, but barely 5 minutes into his sleep after 4 am, he felt a sharp pain on his neck and when he woke up, he saw the uncle on him with a knife, he asked him why, but the uncle attempted to stab him twice and strangled him once. In self-defense, John held his uncle’s manhood to free himself from strangulation because he was already bleeding profusely from the neck area. After the uncle let go, John screamed for help for about 5 minutes, during which the uncle tried to stab him again, but his neighbors broke the door down and entered the room to rescue him. The uncle was apprehended and taken to the station. When John confronted him, he said he was only “dreaming”. John called his</p>



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	<p>mother who told him that an uncle tried to kill her a few weeks ago which he got away with. John has a voice recording of the uncle's friend testifying that if he didn't find money, he would attempt the ritual. Some of the uncle's friends in Owerri said they saw him leave the state around 5 pm on June 24th, 2023, for Anambra State. After the attack, the uncle was held at the army barracks and then taken into custody at Akwuzu SARS station in Anambra State on August 5th, 2023 where he is still held. John spoke to the Investigating Police Officer on August 24th, 2023, and has another appointment on September 5, 2023. John called for justice to be served since it was an attempted murder. All his injuries have healed but his trauma is resurfacing again</p> <p>(Trusted Source: To protect our sources, we have withheld their names from this publication, <i>ONITSHA, NIGERIA – August 8, 2023.</i>)</p>
<p><u>Missing</u></p>	<p>In April 2013, a woman with albinism went missing according to her relatives. She was a resident around Sawmill area in the city of Ilorin, Kwara State, Nigeria.</p> <p>(Trusted Source: To protect our sources, we have withheld their names from this publication, <i>KWARA, NIGERIA – woman with albinism missing; April 19, 2013.</i>)</p>
<p><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>(Trusted Source: To protect our sources, we have withheld their names from this publication, <i>NIGERIA – France recognition of man with albinism; February 14, 2017.</i>)</p>



Rwanda

1 report: 1 grave desecrations

<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>(Trusted Source: To protect our sources, we have withheld their names from this publication, <i>Nyamasheke, RWANDA – woman with albinism grave desercation; July 3, 2013.</i>)</p>
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Senegal

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

<p><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 A.W. but apparently not at the same time:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">- In 2012 during the electoral campaign, President A said before the steering committee of his own political party (the Senegalese Democratic Party PDS): <i>“Some people told me that Pape DIOP killed a PWA they brought from Mali”</i>. (Trusted Source: To protect our sources, we have withheld their names from this publication, <i>SENEGAL</i> – three people with albinism murdered; May 30, 2012.)- In July of 2010 President A.W. accused the regime of his predecessor Abdou DIOUF and his political party, the Socialist Party (PS), <i>“of the mysterious deaths of two young female albinos whose disappearance was never clarified”</i>. (Trusted Source: To protect our sources, we have withheld their names from this publication, <i>SENEGAL</i> – mysterious deaths of young women with albinism; December 17, 2010)
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<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 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 ended up stopping and throwing the boy out. Mohamed was then taken to his mother by the taxi driver.</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>



South Africa

10 reports: 4 killings / 2 missing / 3 survivors / 1 grave desecration

Killing

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

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

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

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

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

(Trusted Source: To protect our sources, we have withheld their names from this publication, *Hlalanikahle Township, WITBANK MPUMALANGA, SOUTH AFRICA – Police find two bodies believed to be linked to albino abduction case; February 22, 2018.*)



<p style="text-align: center;"><u>Survivor</u></p>	<p>8-year-old girl: T.M., a young girl with albinism, was raped by a neighbour who was supposed to protect her. This incident happened after a sangoma (also known as a healer or witch doctor) by the name of B.K.N. uttered a dangerous myth against persons with albinism. The rapist was released on bail which continues to traumatize T and her family on a daily basis.</p> <p><i>(Trusted Source: To protect our sources, we have withheld their names from this publication, South Africa, SOUTH AFRICA – little girl raped by her neighbor, June 16, 2023.)</i></p>
<p style="text-align: center;"><u>Abduction</u></p>	<p>A 4-year-old boy with albinism by the name of M.N., was kidnapped and is still missing from Port Dunford near Richards Bay, M at eSikhaleni, outside eMpangeni in the north of the KwaZulu-Natal province in South Africa. The family says that M was playing with his cousin at a church several meters from his home. The victim’s cousin told M’s mother, Q.N., that two men abducted him and they also referred to him by name.</p> <p>On Friday police arrested a 28 year old woman in Emanguzi while looking for M saying their investigation revealed the woman had been arranging to sell another child with albinism in the area for R100 000 to a local traditional healer. They suspect she may also be involved with M’s disappearance. His mother is pleased with the latest development in the case saying “I hadn’t heard of the arrest from police. I’ve no words to describe how I feel about the arrest but I haven’t lost hope and I won’t ever lose hope”. As of July 27, 2016, police are still busy following leads but little M is still missing. The Albinism Society of South Africa is also monitoring this case and we will keep UTSS informed.</p> <p><i>(Trusted Source: To protect our sources, we have withheld their names from this publication, Richards Bay, KwaZulu-Natal, SOUTH AFRICA – Shock As Albino Boy Kidnapped In South Africa’s KZN; June 27, 2016.)</i></p>



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 S.M. was murdered by his wife, Pinky Z She hired 2 men to kill her husband and then tried to sell his corpse to a traditional healer (name withheld) who allegedly entered into an agreement with her. He is now the subject of intense police investigation. The wife along with the two men have since been arrested and charged for the murder. Prior to their arrest, Pinky took the traditional healer to see the corpse at which time she asked to be paid for keeping her end of the agreement. The traditional healer is said to have backed out of the deal because he wanted M to be brought to him alive since he needed the blood of a person with albinism for ritual purposes.</p> <p>(Source: To protect our sources, we have withheld their names from this publication, NKOYOYO, SWAZILAND – <i>wife kills & tries selling husband with albinism corpse to traditional healer</i>, May 27, 2016.)</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. They are now in hiding and the matter has been reported to the police and it is under investigation.</p> <p>(Trusted Source: P.G., President of Swaziland Association of Persons with Albinism – SAPA, issued a Facetime report of the incident to IK Ero, Independent Expert of the UN Mandate, who forwarded the information to UTSS; February 2, 2020.)</p>



Tanzania

209 reports: 79 killings; 100 survivors; 1 missing, 26 grave desecrations; 3 asylums

**All Tanzanian information on killings and attacks are gathered by UTSS through its field work and research; reports from victim's families and police reports in Tanzania.*

Killing

On May 30, 2024, a 2-year-old girl with albinism by the name of A.N. in the Village of Bulamula, Mbale Hamlet, Kamachumu Ward and Division in Muleba District, Kagera Region, was abducted by two young men who strangled the mother of the child, K.R. The family's neighbor, H.R., told the newspaper Sauti Kubwa on May 31, 2024 that the two young men arrived at K.R.'s home, knocked on the door, and asked for salt. They claimed that one of them had been bitten by a snake and needed the salt for emergency treatment. K.R., who was at home with her child at the time, opened the door and gave them the salt while holding her phone's flashlight. However, when she handed them the salt, one of the men grabbed her by the neck while the other quickly entered the house and took the child who was playing in the living room, then fled with the child to an unknown location. H.R. narrated that the young man who strangled the child's mother released her after seeing his accomplice had taken the child outside, and ran away, leaving the mother crying out for help from the neighbors. After the neighbors heard the cries and gathered at K.R.'s home, they called the police; and the police quickly arrived, conducted interviews, and began an investigation. Approximately 18 days after the incident, on June 17, 2024, the child's body was reported to have been found with its hands, tongue, and eyes cut off. According to a report from the District Executive Director of Muleba, Mr. B.M., the body was discovered abandoned in a water-filled culvert on Makongora Road in Malele Village. On June 19 2024, the police apprehended nine suspects, including the child's



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father and a priest from the local church, who were found with a plastic bag containing the missing body parts of the two-year-old, attempting to find a buyer. The police report stated that the priest persuaded the father to abduct the child and sell the body parts to potential buyers.

(Trusted Source: To protect our sources, we have withheld their names from this publication, MWANZA, TANZANIA – two-year-old kidnapped while strangling the child’s mother and body later found mutilated; June 17, 2024.)



<p style="text-align: center;"><u>Survivor</u></p>	<p>E.D. (4 years old): Between June 17 and 24, 2024, at 11:00 PM in Kasungumile Ward, Sengerema District, three people arrived at the home of M.M., mother of the child, identifying themselves as brothers. One of the men, who called himself Amos, claimed to have brought a gift for the family. M.M did not open the door and instead contacted the authorities. When the three individuals realized they had been reported, they fled to an unknown location. The acting Police Commander of the Mwanza Regional Police Force has issued a warning to those with malicious intent against people with albinism and has urged the residents of Sengerema to report any suspicious activities to the security and defense agencies.</p> <p>(Trusted Source: To protect our sources, we have withheld their names from this publication, MWANZA, TANZANIA – <i>three people attempted to attack a child with albinism at their home; June 25, 2024.</i>)</p>
<p><u>Survivor of Rape</u></p>	<p>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.</p> <p>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</p>



	<p>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.</p> <p>(Trusted Source: Initial report on October 25, 2017, from partners in the <i>Kagera Region</i> 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, neighbors, 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>
<p><u>Missing</u></p>	<p>On December 27, 2014, a 4 year old girl with albinism by the name of P.E. 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: P’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 P.</p> <p>(Trusted Source: UTSS interview with Tanzanian police and Ndamhi Village Executive Officer, <i>MWANZA, TANZANIA – four-year-old girl with albinism kidnapped; December 27, 2024</i>)</p>



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<p><u>Grave Desecration</u></p>	<p>On October 26, 2021, the grave H.K. in the region of Tanga, was desecrated and his entire remains plus coffin taken and has not been found. H passed away around spring last year from skin cancer (age: 40 estimation)</p> <p>(Trusted Source: To protect our sources, we have withheld their names from this publication, <i>TANGA, TANZANIA – man’s grave desecrated and remains taken; October 26, 2021.</i>)</p>
<p><u>Asylums</u></p>	<p>On July 28, 2017, a man with albinism from Tanzania was granted refugee status in Vancouver, Canada.</p> <p>On June 27, 2017, a man with albinism from Tanzania was granted asylum in Chicago, Illinois.</p> <p>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.</p>



Togo

1 report: 1 killing

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

9 reports: 8 survivors / 1 asylum

<p><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>(Trusted Source: To protect our sources, we have withheld their names from this publication – <i>BUJUKO, UGANDA – two boys with albinism survive kidnapping; October 17, 2016.</i>)</p>



USA

2 reports: 2 survivors

Survivors

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 G. (6) and W. (9) M. went missing in the Jim Crow South Town of Truevine, Virginia, USA. G and W were two little boys born to a sharecropper family on a sweltering tobacco farm. One day a white man by the name of James “Candy” Shelton offered them a piece of candy, setting off events that would traffic them around the world and change their lives forever.

From the time these two vulnerable boys were kidnapped, they were lied to by their Circus management captors and told that their mother was dead. As far as G and W were concerned, they were now totally on their own for the rest of their lives. Captured into the circus, the M brothers performed for royalty at Buckingham Palace and headlined over a dozen sold-out shows at New York’s Madison Square Garden. They were global “superstars” in a pre-broadcast era. But the very root of their “success” was in the color of their skin and in the outrageous caricatures they were forced to assume: supposed cannibals, sheep-headed freaks, even “Ambassadors from Mars.” The M brothers were victims of violence, for what else is peonage but violence? Back home, their mother H.M. never accepted that they were “gone” and spent at least 13 years trying to get them back, never stopping the searching for her sons. H placed missing-persons notices in Billboard and eventually found her sons. She helped them seize control over their lives, discovering that they were illiterate having never received an education. G and W returned to the circus in 1928 as paid employees. Love and kinship impelled H’s family to try for a century to protect G and W from a world that saw them as objects for exploitation. The family always believed the boys were kidnapped, including W’s personal testimony as an adult. G died



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in 1972, and W in 2001, at 108. W did not die a bitter man. He repeated the words “God has been good to me” so many times that it is now etched on his tombstone in Truevine, Virginia.

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



Zambia

34 reports: 10 killings / 20 survivors / 4 grave desecrations

Killing

(47-year-old man): On July 18, 2023, at around 9 am, Mr. C.B., aged 47 years old, was at Mr. T.P’s house (his brother-in-law) in the village of Nkungulu in the District of Katete (Eastern Province). Later on, Mr. K.P.B. came by the house to pick up Mr. C to give him some sweet potatoes that he had promised him. That was the last time he was seen. On July 22, 2023, the Katete Police Station received information that someone was in possession of the human body parts of a person with albinism and that the seller was in a town called Chadiza at the Chanida border in the Eastern Province. A follow-up was made by a combined team of Police Officers from Katete and Chadiza whereby one of the police officers posed as an interested buyer. Mr. P.B. aged 20 years old, from the village of Chongololo in the District of Katete was approached by the buyers and from his bag, he produced what was suspected to be human hair. He later took the “buyer” to where the body was located along the Musadwe stream near Nkungulu village in the District of Katete. The seller priced the body at K1, 000,000 (equivalent of \$51,479 USD). The body was later retrieved by a team of police officers and upon physical inspection, the deceased’s neck was bruised and swollen, and part of the head was shaved. The victim was identified as Mr. C.B. His relatives, who were not aware of the incident, were later informed. K.P.B was detained and taken into police custody.

(Trusted Source: To protect our sources we have withheld their names from this publication, Nkungulu, Katete, ZAMBIA; 47-year-old man murdered, April 28, 2020.)



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Survivor

(24-year-old man): Between February 6 and 16, 2024, T.A, a Mozambican woman with albinism, was a victim of attempted trafficking from Mozambique to Zambia by her boyfriend, a man from Mozambique, and 6 of his accomplices from Zambia, for the purpose of sexually exploiting her and receiving payments or benefits. Her boyfriend lured her into a marriage proposal. The seven suspects were caught attempting to sell her for 100 million ZMW (Approx. \$38,000 USD). The police were able to intervene before the exchange could take place and apprehended the perpetrators. The seven men were charged with two counts of conduct facilitating trafficking in persons and prohibition of trafficking in persons.

(Trusted Source: To protect our sources, we have withheld their names from this publication, *ZAMBIA DAILY NEWS – a 24-year-old woman survived an attempted trafficking, February 06, 2024.*)



**Grave
Desecration**

1. **WHAT HAPPENED?** The body of a male juvenile Widson Mkandawire aged 14 years a boy with albinism who died and was buried on the 18th of January 2022 was exhumed/unearthed by unknown people.
2. **WHERE?** In Mundalanga village, Chief K, Chama district of the now Eastern province of Zambia.
3. **WHEN?** At an unknown time on the 27th of January 2022.
4. **CURRENT SITUATION?** The body was inspected by Chama police officers and we ascertain that the left hand of the deceased person with albinism was missing/ chopped off by unknown people. The relatives were advised to re-bury the grave and put a tombstone to avoid reoccurrence because it's believed that they use such parts for rituals.
5. **CONSENT OF VICTIM?** The mother to the buried deceased F/ G.K. aged 37 years of Mungwalala village chief Kambombo Chama district was consulted and she gave us a go ahead.
6. **INFORMATION ON THE PERPETRATORS?** Currently, we have no information about who could have done this barbaric act. However, it's under investigation by Chama police station.
7. **ACTION TAKEN BY THE STATE?** An investigation has been instituted by the state and a docket of case has since been opened.



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

9. NAME AND CONTACT DETAILS OF THE PERSON/ ORGANIZATION SUBMITTING? In service: DETECTIVE Const KALENGO M.J. Chama police station. I Thank you!

(Trusted Source: To protect our sources, we have withheld their names from this publication, *CHAMA, ZAMBIA; January 2022.*)



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 J.M. was contacted by Zimbabwe police and taken to the morgue to assist in identifying the body. He noted that she had albinism and that her breasts and genitals had been removed.</p> <p>(Trusted Source: To protect our sources, we have withheld their names from this publication, <i>ZIMBABWE – twenty six year old woman with albinism killed discovered; 2011.</i>)</p>
<p><u>Asylum</u></p>	<p>On November 29, 2012, a woman with albinism from Zimbabwe was granted asylum in Atlanta, Georgia.</p> <p>(Trusted Source: To protect our sources, we have withheld their names form this publication.)</p>



NOTES

NOTE 1: Many attacks & killings of PWA in Africa are not documented or reported. UTSS is certain that crimes of colour against PWA are common in various parts of almost all African countries. LEGENDS & MYTHS ABOUND, AND UTSS HAS YET TO HEAR OF ONE THAT IS HUMANIZING.

Most myths reduce PWA to ghosts, magical beings or curses, etc. On rare occasion the discrimination is reversed and the PWA are “deified” into “gods”. Either way, they rarely get to enjoy their status as normal human beings. Many countries have stories about the mysterious disappearance of PWA. There is a growing, documented truth to these rumors. We know that many PWA have “disappeared” due to abduction, then mutilated and killed by fellow citizens (sometimes family members “friends” or neighbors) for the purpose of witchcraft related rituals.

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

NOTE 2: Countries known to be involved in the cross-border trade of PWA and their body parts: Tanzania, Burundi, Kenya, DRC, Mozambique, Malawi, South Africa, Swaziland.