



Police, Media &/or UTSS Documented Attacks of PWA in Africa

By Under The Same Sun (UTSS) Canada & Tanzania

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PWA = Person(s) with Albinism

In Tanzania, 82 reports: (78 are police documented, 4 are UTSS documented)

62 are murders.

20 are survivors; most are severely mutilated.

The most recent attack took place on October 21, 2011 at the home of a 15 year old girl with albinism by the name of Kulwa. She was attacked in Mbizi Village, Mega Ward, Msalala Division in Kahama District, Shinyanga Region. UTSS spoke with Kulwa's mother, Mrs. Habi Lusana (48 yrs), who said her daughter had been attacked at around 1:00 AM by three masked men. Kulwa had been sleeping with another sibling in a shed near the main house. The three assailants managed to open the door without force and, knowing exactly where Kulwa was sleeping, used a machete to sever her arm above the elbow. In response to her screaming, the father came out of the main house but was immediately attacked by one of the masked men. The mother also tried to rescue Kulwa but it was too late. She saw the men disappearing with her daughter's arm wrapped in one of the men's coats. At the time of this report Kulwa was still in Kahama District Hospital with her father, Mr. Kola Lusana (75 yrs).

In addition to the 82 reported attacks, there have also been 12 grave robberies. In 2011

there were also 2 failed grave robbery attempts.

(10 robberies are police documented; 2 robberies and 2 attempts are UTSS documented)

NOTE: The first actual police documented murder of PWA in Tanzania was that of Arif in 2006.

In Burundi, 16 reports:

There have been 16 killings plus one Burundian child murdered on Tanzanian soil.

The most recent killing took place on Friday, January 1, 2011.

Baby Neema was abducted on the evening of New Years day and it is feared that she was murdered the same night. A young boy named Ephraem was murdered the day before on New Year's Eve, Thursday December 31, 2010.

In Kenya, 9 reports:

There have been at least 7 killings and 2 near death episodes.

On August 16, 2011 The Standard, a Nairobi newspaper, reported a near death case where the father of a daughter with albinism was being charged with human trafficking. The arrest revealed that he was in the process of selling his daughter to a Tanzanian buyer for an undisclosed amount of money. This case was still before the courts on the date of the newspaper report.

The most recent killing took place on December 24, 2010.

A 3 week old baby boy with albinism was killed by his mother because the father was threatening divorce saying that the baby was a ghost and not his offspring.

In Swaziland, 3 reports:

The most recent attempted killing took place in April, 2011.

32- year-old Dalton Muntfungaye Vilakati, had been stationed as a security guard at the Arrow Feeds office in Matsapha. Vilakati claims that while he was going about his duties on the night which includes patrolling the premises, just before midnight he saw a group of armed men but did not read much into it. He said the men stood in darkness and ordered him to come closer for a chit chat. This was when he got worried. Vilakati's worries were motivated by the recollection of two previous attempts on his life last

year, specifically because of his albinism. This was at the height of Albino killings in the country. Suspecting that they were on a mission to do something bad to him, he decided to run to his office for cover. "They (alleged attempted murders) called me by name, which was strange on its own, for over three times. Upon seeing that I was not responding and that there was no way they could gain entry, one of them shouted saying I was lucky to have a security room otherwise they would have cut my head to sell it. I heard one of them claiming they had lost a E1.5 million deal," said Vilakati. Vilakati said as the men cursed the failed attempt to behead him he heard one of them say they already had a buyer waiting for his head.

Two 11-year-old children were killed in August of 2010, with the most recent killing taking place Thursday, August 19, 2010.

In Guinea, 2 reports:

There were 2 killings reported in September, 2010.

In Nigeria, 2 reports:

The most recent killing took place in March of 2011 when a mother beheaded her 1 year old son.

Tragedy struck in Angyo village in Buruku LGA of Benue State recently when a mother of three children allegedly beheaded her last child for being an albino. The woman, Mrs. Doosur Hembraor, a 35 year old house wife has therefore been charged before a Chief Magistrate Court in Makurdi for murder.

On October 10, 1999, a 1 & ½ year old boy was killed.

While being breast fed, Chukwudinma Amamife was stolen from the arms of his mother by 2 men. Early the next morning reports came in that the headless body of an infant boy had been found. On February 16, 2005, all 4 accused, who were known to the mother of the boy, were charged in The High Court of Justice, Ogwashi-Uku, Delta State, Nigeria.

In South Africa, 2 reports:

Since May 1, 2011 PWA youth (14), Sibusiso Nhatave has been missing. He is a Grade 8 boy from the north coast of KwaZulu-Natal - witchcraft feared.

On November 11, 2010, a priest with albinism was killed.

Mr Sithole belonged to the Assemblies of God Church. He was killed and then burnt on his way to church in Kwaggafontein Village.

In Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC), 1 report:

In November of 2008, a man was arrested in DRC.

The man was caught carrying the head of a girl with albinism. He later confessed to police that he intended to sell the head "by weight".

In Zambia, 1 reports:

In December of 2011 a 5 year old girl with albinism was killed in Lusaka, Zambia.

She was found with hair missing on the side of her head according to John Chiti, Director of the Albino Association of Zambia (Zambian Watchdog).

NOTE: 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 PWA have been kidnapped, mutilated and killed by fellow citizens (sometimes family members "friends" or neighbours) for the purpose of

witchcraft related rituals. Mutilations or “medicine” killings have a deep, longstanding history, and are a familiar concept to most Africans.