



INTERNATIONAL PRESS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
September 17, 2013

NEW UN REPORT EXPOSES SHOCKING MURDERS & ATTACKS OF CHILDREN WITH ALBINISM IN 15 COUNTRIES

VANCOUVER, CANADA – A shocking and groundbreaking [United Nations Report](#) published on September 12, 2013 exposed to the world the murder and mutilation of hundreds of people with albinism (PWA) in at least 15 African countries. Albinism is a genetic condition which involves a lack of melanin production. As a result, PWA stand out as a visible minority in dominantly black societies. Their pale appearance is highly mystified and considered supernatural or “ghostly.” It is for this reason that they are targeted for their body parts. Most of the victims are innocent children, being savagely attacked and murdered so that their body parts can be used in the dark underground trade. In many countries it is believed that the blood, hair and skin of people with albinism can be used to create wealth and power. This deeply held cultural belief is centuries old.



The report exposes the grizzly nature of these crimes against humanity and makes clear the utter vulnerability PWA face in these countries. PWA are denied access to education, employment, and even basic safety from attack. They live often as fugitives in their own countries, sometimes fleeing to western countries seeking asylum from the onslaught in their homelands.

As the leading International Organization representing PWA, Under The Same Sun (UTSS) implores all Member States of the UN Human Rights Council in Geneva to immediately adopt the resolution being put before them to appoint an Independent Expert to investigate these attacks and killings and provide technical cooperation in the affected countries. Under The Same Sun’s Founder and CEO, Peter Ash – himself a PWA, and a leader in the global rights movement for his people remarked, **“Now is the time for firm and strong action at the UN Human Rights Council. In a civilized world, the International community simply cannot stand**

idly by while the very lives and liberty of thousands of vulnerable children hang in the balance. The immediate decision to appoint a UN expert is the critical first step in remedying this grievous human rights violation."

UTSS also welcomes the strong remarks made by UNICEF to the Human Rights Council on September 13, 2013 on this matter, "The human rights violations committed against children with albinism are of the highest severity. Discrimination, harassment and violence, including cases of mutilation and murder are often met with passivity and are rarely reported, (...and) mutilation and murders of children with albinism are mostly met by social silence and indifference." (UNICEF Statement, "General Debate: Attacks and discrimination against persons with albinism – Report of the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights," September 13, 2013)

UTSS expresses appreciation to the Office of the High Commissioner on Human Rights for publishing the June Report, but now the world must ACT. Failure to do so is a choice to turn our backs on those desperately crying for help.

FOR MEDIA INQUIRES AND INTERVIEW REQUESTS PLEASE CONTACT:

media@underthesamesun.com

+1-604-336-8868

www.underthesamesun.com

www.facebook.com/underthesamesun