



## Reported Attacks of Persons with Albinism – Most Recent Attacks Included

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

DATE OF REPORT: February 17, 2016

**PWA = Person(s) with Albinism**

**PFI = Press Freedom Index for 2015 (180 countries surveyed)**

<http://index.rsrf.org/#!/index-details>

**(PFI for Canada = 8 of 180 & USA = 49 of 180)**

**Killings: 166**

**Attacks: 273** \*Attacks include survivors of mutilations, violence, rape, attempted abductions, missing, grave violations, asylum (permanent residency) cases\*

**Total: 439**

**Total Countries: 25**

### **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 neighbours) for the purpose of witchcraft related rituals. Muti murders or “medicine” killings have a deep, longstanding history, and are a familiar concept to most Africans.

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

### **Benin, 3 reports: (PFI 84 of 180) 2 killings / 1 survivor**

**Survivor account: On March 18, 2015,** a 10 year old girl with albinism by the name of Sena Mireille Tonoukouin narrowly escaped possible abduction and death in the town of Simwe Hounto, Benin. On that day a complete stranger showed up in Sena’s town at around 2 :30 PM. He was a 40 year old man from Sèmè, a town of Porto Novo in Benin around 200 miles away. He asked a woman by the name of Maman Agathe where a 10-year old girl with albinism by the name of Sena Mireille Tonoukouin lived. She told him. When the alleged kidnapper showed up at Sena’s home, 2 of her brothers, also with albinism, by the name of Messrs Jean-Claude Tonoukouin and Maximilien Goudjanou, interviewed him. They were alarmed that the stranger knew Sena’s name. His answers to their questions seemed suspicious and vague. The only clear answer he gave was when he indicated that he wanted to marry little Sena who was only 10 at the time. Everything led the family to believe that the stranger intended to kidnap their little Sena. Unfortunately, he managed to escape before anything could be done. At the time of this report, little Sena was a grade 4 student and the fourth child in a family of seven; three of whom have albinism. (Source: Reported to UTSS on January 26, 2016, by Mr. AKPO FIRMIN of the Benin albinism association - NGO *VALEUR Albinos*; Tel. +229- 96 93 96 05 /+229- 95 54 75 13; Email: [valeuralbinos.ong@gmail.com](mailto:valeuralbinos.ong@gmail.com); Website: <http://valeur-albinos.org/index.html>)

**2 killings: In 2012,** a 20 year old woman with albinism was found dead in a bush at Togba, in



the town of Abomey-Calavi, Benin with her genitals removed. In their statements to the Criminal Investigation Department, the criminals declared they sell them to make money. (Source: Cotonou, December 01, 2013@ Koaci.com; Posted by Sekodo, <http://koaci.com/articles-87884>; media's contact in Abidjan: [www.koaci.com](http://www.koaci.com) Tel: +225 08 85 52 93)

**In 2012** a male with albinism was sent from Dogbo, Benin to Nigeria by his own siblings for the purpose of selling him. In their statements to the Criminal Investigation Department, the criminals declared they sell them to make money. (Source: Cotonou, December 01, 2013@ Koaci.com; Posted by Sekodo, <http://koaci.com/articles-87884>; media's contact in Abidjan: [www.koaci.com](http://www.koaci.com) Tel: +225 08 85 52 93)

### **Botswana, 3 reports: (PFI 42 of 180) 3 survivors**

**Survivor account: In September of 1998**, a 27 year old woman with albinism by the name of Ofentse Serurubele narrowly escaped a second plot against her life. The incident took place at Kanye, her native village in Southern Botswana. Although Serurubele 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 Serurubele. 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...!" Serurubele's brother lied, telling them she was teaching in Jwaneng City but would be home for the weekend and that they could find her then. When he got home from the club that evening, Serurubele's brother told her everything and warned her to leave immediately to Jwaneng city for her safety. After that incident, Serurubele stayed in the city for a long time. (Source: Personal interview by UTSS on January 22, 2014 with Mrs. Ofentse Serurubele, founder & chair of PWA Tshimologo Association Botswana, mobile number +267-72-962-779; Botswana Gazette, January 16, 2014, Understanding Albinism by Kago Komane, <http://www.gazettebw.com/?p=6718> )

### **Burkina Faso, 9 reports: (PFI 46 of 180) 2 killing / 6 survivors / 1 asylum**

**Most recent killing: 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. (source: "L'Express du Faso" on Wednesday, August 15, 2012)

**Other killing account (date unknown):** A 16 year old *person with albinism* (PWA) was allegedly murdered by François Compaore, brother of Burkina Faso's president at that time. It is believed that the killing was related to human sacrifice. In the newspaper "*L'Indépendant*", a former soldier by the name of Delma Daogo, who was in active service to Compaore at that time, gave an interview where he explained: *François Compaoré (the president's brother) sent David Ouedraogo (his driver) to Ouagadougou Central Mosque, a place where PWA congregate to appeal for money, in order to bring one of them to him so that he could make a sacrifice. David brought a 16 year old PWA for the alleged purpose of making prayers in the compound of François Compaoré. The driver was then given 50.000F (about 100 US dollars) and asked to go home. Once at his home, David realized he had forgotten his wallet and returned to pick it up. When he arrived, he saw that they had killed the PWA and cut him into pieces.* (Source: l'Indépendant - link to article no longer active - This newspaper was founded by the late journalist, Mr. Norbert Zongo who was allegedly assassinated by President Blaise Compaore's regime due, in part, to the publication of this article about a PWA murder.)

**Most recent abduction: On April 18<sup>th</sup>, 2012**, Dr. Pius Kamau, 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. Kamau 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. (Source: HUFF POST: IMPACT - The BLOG; Three Year Old Albino – Victim of Witchcraft Sacrifice by Pius Kamau, Posted: 05/01/2012 at 4:00 pm)

**Burundi, 37 reports: (PFI 145 of 180) 20 killings, 13 survivors, 4 grave robbery.**

**Most recent killing: On February 17, 2016**, at around 1:30 AM, a 4 year old boy with albinism by the name of Cimpaye was murdered in the Province of Kirundo, commune of Busoni, in the area of Muterwa, Hill of Irenga in Northern Burundi. He was sleeping when a gang of criminals armed with machetes burst into the home of his parents, Mr. Nyabenda Pascal and his wife Modeste Rwaswa. Among the intruders was a man wearing a military shirt of the National Defence Force. Three of the gang members broke into the house to abduct little Cimpaye. About 30 meters from the house they killed him, chopping off his arms and taking them. Cimpaye's parents wanted to bury their son in their yard but have been denied since they do not own the premises. Burundi's PWA association, APOB, have been in touch with the local authority on this matter. The director assured them she would send her staff in charge of Social Affairs along with the chief of the area to discuss the issue of the victim's burial. APOB officials also expressed deep concern about the safety of the remaining PWA in the commune of Busoni since it's the place with the highest number of PWA in the province of Kirundo. In October of 2015 another child with albinism narrowly escaped murder in the same commune. (Source: Report sent to UTSS on February 17, 2016, by Moise Nkengurutse, legal representative of the organization for PWA in Burundi - OPAB (Organisation des Personnes Albinos du Burundi); Address: Q. Mushasha, Sous Q. Nyabisindu, Transversal IV, No 18, Gitega\_Burundi, BP: 179, Gitega; Telephone: +25779323225 +25775401739; E mail: [opa.burundi@yahoo.com](mailto:opa.burundi@yahoo.com))

**Most recent survivor: On October 6, 2015**, a 10 year old girl with albinism by the name of Alice Girukwishaka 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 Gerard NKUNZIMANA & NIZIGIYIMANA who were accommodating Alice. Fortunately neighbours managed to intervene and help bring a premature end to the attack. Little Alice sustained injuries to the head and shoulder and underwent intensive treatment at Kanyinya Hospital in Kirundo. The criminals escaped before being identified. (Source: Moise Nkengurutse, Legal Representative of the of Burundi albinism association – OPAB; Address: Q. Mushasha, Sous Q. Nyabisindu, Transversal IV, No 18, Gitega\_Burundi, BP: 179, Gitega; Tel: +257-79323225 / +257-75401739; E mail: [opa.burundi@yahoo.com](mailto:opa.burundi@yahoo.com))

**Second most recent survivor: On March 20, 2015**, a 28year old man with albinism by the name of Ndagijimana Debok was attacked with a machete and his left leg severely injured, in the town of Gihanga, North western province of Bubanza in Burundi. As presidential elections approach in Burundi, the safety of PWA remains a matter of concern. The victim received treatment in a local hospital. Ndagijimana's neighbour is suspected to be the perpetrator of this attack and investigations are underway. (Source: Account provided on March 28, 2015, by Mr Pascal Matabishi, member of Burundi's PWA association - ASF – email: [pascaloni@icloud.com](mailto:pascaloni@icloud.com); tel: +257-75 97 14 98)

**Graver robbery: In August of 2012**, the grave of a woman with albinism by the name of Tabu was violated by unidentified criminals and her head was stolen. Eight months earlier, Tabu had succumbed to an extended and tragic battle with skin cancer and was buried in the cemetery of the Bugarama area, in the town of Muramvya in the province of Muramvya. Her son Venuste, also a PWA, was informed of his mother's exhumed body and immediately reported it to the leaders of the Burundian PWA Association called "Albinos Sans Frontieres". (Source: ASF – Burundi PWA Association)

**Cameroon, 11 report: (PFI 133 of 180) 2 killings, 2 survivor, 6 asylum, 1 grave robbery**

**Most recent killing account: In August of 2009**, the foot of a young girl with albinism whose



Identity remains undisclosed was found in a garbage can in Douala, the capital of the region of Littoral, Cameroon. She reportedly worked in a Snack Bar in that area. Her foot was kept in the morgue of the Laquintane Hospital in Douala. (Source: Information provided to UTSS on July 03, 2013 by Kakmeni Wembou Raphael, the leader of Cameroon Association for the Promotion of Albino CAPA)

**Most recent survivor account: In 2013** a mother and her infant with albinism began the process of seeking asylum in France because 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. (Source: Interview on June 12, 2014, between UTSS and Genespoir, France's major PWA group who were strongly involved in this case.)

**Most recent asylum account: On December 23, 2015**, a man with albinism by the name Mr. Christian Eric Tchidjo from Cameroon was granted refugee status in UK. (Source: Interviews with UTSS)

**Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC), 61 reports: (PFI 150 of 180) 14 killings / 31 survivors / 1 missing / 9 grave robberies / 6 asylums**

**Most recent killing: On August 5, 2014**, a girl with albinism by the name of Namukyungu Byaombe was abducted and killed by unidentified criminals. Her body was found by a Police Unit of PNC. Investigation is underway and the Police report was submitted to the Public Prosecutor's Department. (Source: Mr. JEAN DE DIEU KWIBONERA, Police Commander at the PNC of BARAKA; Phone: +243-811-374-759 and a PWA group called FFERAD; [fferadrdc@gmail.com](mailto:fferadrdc@gmail.com))

**Most recent survivor: On April 27, 2015**, around midnight, a 2 year old girl with albinism narrowly escaped abduction in the town of Kampene, a mining city located about 150 km away from Kindu in Maniema Province of DRC. After noticing her daughter had disappeared, the mother screamed for help and her daughter was released by the kidnapper. Sources from civil society in the territory of Mpangi declared having identified the man who attempted to kidnap the girl and indicated that the kidnapper sought shelter in the forest. (Source: Article published on May 05, 2015, on Radio Okapi Website: <http://radiookapi.net/actualite/2015/05/05/maniema-deux-enfants-albinos-echappent-aux-tentatives-denlevement-kampene/>)

**Most recent missing: On February 16, 2015**, a two year boy with albinism was abducted in Nyantende, in the territory of Kabare, province of South Kivu, DRC. A journalist for the Congolese Press Agency reported that early in second week of September, 2015, a trafficker of children with albinism was arrested for this crime by the police in Kamanyola in the territory of Walungu. The child's father and paternal uncle explained that the criminal, along with his accomplice and their neighbours, broke into their house while the parents were away, enticing the boy with sweets and wrapping him in a bag. The victim's older brother, age 7, said the kidnappers bought him cookies to gain his favour in order to commit their heinous crime. They have since vanished with the boy. One of the arrested suspects declared that it was his accomplice who wrapped the boy in the bag. The latter is now in the hands of police. (Source: Congolese Press Agency - ACP [Agence Congolaise de Presse]; *An albino child trafficker arrested in Kamanyola*; September 10, 2015, <http://acpcongo.com/acp/un-trafiquant-denfants-albinos-arrete-a-kamanyola/>)

**Most recent grave desecration: On February 4, 2015**, the grave of a young man with albinism by the name of Mr. Augustin Kerekwa was robbed. He previously died at age 40 and was buried in the community of Nyangezi, within the province of South – Kivu, DRC. This case was corrupted. (Source: Mr. Lushole Jonena, chairperson of DRC's ASSOCIATION FOR COMPLETE PROMOTION OF PEOPLE WITH ALBINISM (APIA), SOUTH – KIVU, DRC; Tel: +243-0853-155-093 / +243-081-467-3706. The information was collected from APIA and sent to UTSS in July of 2015 by BBC Journalist Byobe Malenga; <https://www.linkedin.com/pub/byobe-malenga/9a/50b/105>; [https://www.facebook.com/permalink.php?id=1391123401155312&story\\_fbid=1594200034180980](https://www.facebook.com/permalink.php?id=1391123401155312&story_fbid=1594200034180980).)

**Most recent asylum: During the first week of June, 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. (Source: UTSS was informed via a personal contact from his sister who is now a resident of Canada.)

**Egypt, 1 report: (PFI 158 of 180) 1 asylum – September 16, 2011**

**On Friday, September 16, 2011**, Hazem Abd Elkade, a 28 year old man with albinism from Egypt told journalist Sophie Bond about his life in Egypt and his new found 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. Hazem's lawyer says: "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." Hazem 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." (SOURCE: The Aucklander (online) - New home for Hazem, By Sophie Bond, Friday 16 September 2011, [http://m.nzherald.co.nz/aucklander/news/article.cfm?c\\_id=1503378&objectid=11040952](http://m.nzherald.co.nz/aucklander/news/article.cfm?c_id=1503378&objectid=11040952) ; Hazem's lawyer Allen Little QSM,JP)

**Ghana, 3 report: (PFI 22 of 180) 1 killing / 2 survivors**

**Most recent killing: On February 17, 2015**, the lifeless body of a 35 year old man with albinism by the name of Kofi Yeboah aka Agbleyevu was found at the entrance of Pastor Emmanuel Agbeze's residence in Owoakra, Boketey, under Amanase in the eastern region of Ghana. According to the pastor's wife, Gifty Asare, her husband ran off shortly after the death of Kofi and she has not heard from him since. Unfortunately the police have not been responsive to crimes committed in this area and allowed Pastor Agbeze to escape without questioning. Since that time however, police commander Spt. Yahaya of Suhum police station announced that because of the public interest whipped up by media related to the death of Kofi Yeboah, the homicide unit at police headquarters in Accra had taken over the investigation. (Source: Newton Kwamla Katseku, Executive Director of the Ghana Association of Persons with Albinism – GAPA, June 6 & July 24, 2015; [info@gapaghana.org](mailto:info@gapaghana.org) / [gapa4all@gmail.com](mailto:gapa4all@gmail.com) / [www.gapaghana.org](http://www.gapaghana.org) and Suhum police report number 112967)

**Most recent survivor: On February 27, 2010**, a man with albinism by the name of Newton Kwamla Katseku, who is also the Executive Director of the Ghana Association of Persons with Albinism (GAPA), narrowly escaped death. This event took place while attending a funeral in the town of Akwamufie, a community along the Volta Lake near the Adomi bridge on Atimpoku Ho road in the eastern region of Ghana. Early on during the funeral ceremonies Newton was approached by 4 different parties urgently warning him to leave or go into hiding. When he asked why, they informed him that it is against local tradition to tolerate or accept people with albinism in the vicinity. Newton spent close to nine hours hiding in a car as the funeral and other rites were performed before he was able to leave. He later reported the incident to several authorities but has never received a reply. (Source: Newton Kwamla Katseku, Executive Director of the Ghana Association of Persons with Albinism – GAPA, June 6 & July 24, 2015; [info@gapaghana.org](mailto:info@gapaghana.org) / [gapa4all@gmail.com](mailto:gapa4all@gmail.com) / [www.gapaghana.org](http://www.gapaghana.org))

**2<sup>nd</sup> most recent survivor: On July 16, 2009**, in the country of Ghana, a 2 year old boy with albinism (unnamed) was kidnapped by an 18 year old woman named Akua Linda. A week later on July 22, 2009 Linda was apprehended and confessed that a man named Biyanka sent her to feign playing with the boy so that she could steal him. Linda continued that Biyanka took the boy to Asuoeyoah, another Kumasi suburb, after which he was taken to an unknown destination. Akua Linda, according to the Police Capo, noted further that Biyanka returned the boy to her yesterday morning, explaining that what he intended to use the boy for could not work out as expected. Linda was therefore on her way to return the child to his mother when someone saw them at the Kejetia Bus Terminal in Kumasi, Ghana, and raised the alarm



leading to her apprehension. Investigations continue. (Source: Daily Guide posted by Ghana Pundit; Thursday, July 23, 2009, "Girl Arrested for Stealing Albino" <http://ghanapundit.blogspot.ca/2009/07/girl-arrested-for-stealing-albino.html> )

**Guinea, 14 reports: (PFI 81 of 180) 5 killings / 5 survivors / 3 asylum / 1 permanent residency**

**2 Most recent killings: 1<sup>st</sup> Killing:** On a Sunday in September of 2010, at the area of *La Carrière*, 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. Their 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. **2<sup>nd</sup> Killing:** At very much the same time in 2010, at the Matoto Market, in the town of Matoto, another PWA was killed in some unexplained circumstances. His body was found completely dismembered; the attackers having made off with many of the body parts. These two PWA lifeless bodies have made the headlines of all local media including the National Broadcaster RTG. Many Websites and Private Radios have used these murders in their headlines. But unfortunately, no investigation has been considered as if PWAs have no rights. This silence and impunity make fragile the life of PWA in the republic of Guinea and everywhere in Africa.

**Most recent survivor account: On Saturday, June 18, 2011,** a 12-year old boy with albinism by the name of Abdoulaye Sylla managed to escape from his kidnappers near the Sous-Prefecture of Kouria located at the exit of Coyah, in the country of Guinea. The boy Abdoulaye explained that he had been abducted the day before just after leaving his father's rice field. He had been sitting under a big tree when he saw two men rapidly approaching but doesn't remember anything after that. The next morning he woke up in a strange house in another village but is unable to remember where it is. His feet and hands were tied and he was scared so he started to cry. Shortly after a woman appeared, untied the ropes and showed him where the main road was. As he was walking away he heard voices asking: "Where's the little boy?" He began running and two men gave chase until they reached the main road and saw a taxi parked there at which time they vanished into the bush. This took place at around 8 PM when Mohamed Camara, a taxi driver on his way to the city of Kindia, rescued the boy. The taxi driver was Abdoulaye's maternal uncle whose sister had called him the day before in tears saying her son had not come home. Mohamed says; "I was on my way to Kindia to report the boy missing when I saw him being chased by two strangers. I immediately parked at the side of the road and instead of pursuing the boy, the kidnappers ran away. My nephew was lucky. Last year my neighbours son with albinism went missing at Coyah, and to date he has not been found." (Source: Le NImba, Friday, July 8, 2011; <http://kaloumpresse.com/economie/936-kouria-un-albinos-echappe-a-ses-ravisseurs> and Bangoura, founder of Guinean albinism association - CNAB)

**Another survivor account: In October of 1994,** Amadou Diallo, a 19 year old teenage boy with albinism was assaulted in the Capital City of Conakry in his native country of Guinea. One day while walking to his home Amadou was approached by two unfamiliar men who stepped out of a military vehicle and surrounded him. He remembers them saying; "*This is the meat we were looking for. We've now got it.*" Amadou was knocked unconscious with a sharp cutting object. His next memory is of regaining consciousness two weeks later in a local hospital with a sever wound to the back of his head and a piece of skin missing. Several years later he realized the attackers intended to get his body parts. The injury to his head still troubles him to this day.

**Permanent Residency: On June 4, 2013** Amadou Diallo, a man with albinism from the country of Guinea was granted Permanent Residency status in Canada. Originally, Amadou fled Guinea to Norway and from 2008 to 2012 urgently sought asylum there. He was held in a refugee camp for 3 of these years during which time his asylum request was denied 4 times even though 2 persons with albinism had been murdered in his home country. UTSS worked extensively with Amadou's case during this time, providing written testimony on the plight of PWA in Guinea. We also worked with the Canadian government and on



July 16, 2012 he was granted a work permit and moved to Canada. On Tuesday, June 04, 2013, the country of Canada received Amadou with open arms by offering him permanent residency status.

**Most recent asylum: On July 27, 2015**, Mrs. Konate and her 6 year old son with albinism by the name of Aboubacar from Guinea were granted asylum in Belgium. (Source: Ms. Annie Mokto and her association ASBL *Ecran Total, Belgium*, email: [contact@ecran-total.org](mailto:contact@ecran-total.org) , Ph: 485 103 145 or 497 550 634)

**Ivory Coast, 26 reports: (PFI 86 of 180) 7 killings / 11 survivors / 4 missing / 2 asylums / 2 abandoned**

**Most recent killing: On Sunday, July 12, 2015**, the body of an unidentified boy with albinism estimated by police to be 6 or 7 years of age was found with half his hair removed in Yopougon (the outskirts of Abidjan), Beago Ward, Ivory Coast. His body was found by residents of the ward who reported the incident to police. The case is complicated according to police since the body showed no signs of violence. Also, the child's disappearance was not reported by the parents so the police decided to start investigations there. Unfortunately Cote d'Ivoire is a country known for its witchcraft practices and PWA are often victims of ritual sacrifices. It is not uncommon to see parents' involvement in the abduction of their children with albinism. The child's body has not yet been claimed. (Source: A Popular Pan Africa news website [www.koaci.com](http://www.koaci.com) , July 14, 2015; Article can be found at: <http://koaci.com/cote-divoire-corps-enfant-albinos-decouvert-dans-maison-inachevee-cheveux-emportes-103042.html>; also, Mr. Mamidou Coulibaly, founder and chairperson of the Albinism Association in Ivory coast – BEDACI - confirmed the news report by phone after meeting with Captain Kouassi, the Police Officer in charge of the investigation at Yopougon Police Station "Commissariat du 16e Arrondissement de Yopougon". Mr. Coulibaly's contacts are: [ongbedaci@yahoo.fr](mailto:ongbedaci@yahoo.fr) or [ongbedaci@gmail.com](mailto:ongbedaci@gmail.com), Cell: +225-05 42 07 39)

**Most recent survivor: On the night of March 6, 2014**, Brou Yao Serge, a 25-year old man with albinism living in Port-Bouët (Gonzakville), in the district of Abidjan, Ivory Coast narrowly escaped abduction and possibly death. At around 9:30 that evening, Serge was stopped by two young men as he was walking from his Brother's home. When he asked why they had stopped him, a quarrel ensued. As Serge tried to push his way past the attackers, they grabbed him by the neck saying they wanted his head. Fortunately Serge was able to defend himself and managed to escape. This incident has been reported to the police by Ivory Coast's albinism society, BEDACI. (Source: PWA Group - Bien-Etre Des Albinos de COTE D'IVOIRE (BEDACI); Adresse: 10 BP 1989 Abidjan 10; Tel: 24 00 31 20 /21 24 28 34/ 07 67 43 26; Email: [ongbedaci@gmail.com](mailto:ongbedaci@gmail.com))

**Another survivor account: On August 9, 2012**, a 28 year old woman with albinism by the name of Julienne managed to escape a second attack in her homeland of Ivory Coast. This date is branded in her memory. It was pouring rain on her way home from the marketplace in Abidjan when man offered to give her a ride. Julienne hesitated but finally decided to accept the offer. After a few miles the driver bluntly told Julienne he was sick and to get healed, his witchdoctor told him to have sex with a woman with albinism. The car was heading to the forest of Banco at the edge of the city of Abidjan to a place where mystical practices often take place. Fortunately Julienne was able to open the car door and jump out. On August 13, 2012, just 4 days after this second attempted attack, she fled her native Côte d'Ivoire to Tunisia. (Source: French Daily Paper "Le Monde" published on May 20, 2013; <http://emiliennemalfatto.blog.lemonde.fr/2013/05/20/julienne-29-ans-refugiee-dermatologique/>)

**Asylum account:** Julienne is a 29-year old woman with albinism and 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, Julienne'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". (Source: French Daily Paper "Le Monde" published on May 20, 2013; <http://emiliennemalfatto.blog.lemonde.fr/2013/05/20/julienne-29-ans-refugiee-dermatologique/>)



**Kenya, 13 reports: (PFI 100 of 180) 5 killings / 8 survivors**

**Most recent killing: On September 20, 2015**, a 56 year old man with albinism by the name of Enock Jamenya succumbed to injuries from a brutal machete attack and died. Ten days earlier on **September 10, 2015**, it was reported that Enock 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 and left him unconscious. His brother Nickson Lugadiru, also with albinism, said Enock was found in that state by his son, who called for help. Lugadiru took his brother to Hamisi Subcounty Hospital, where he was referred to Vihiga. Enock 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 Enock 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. (Source: theSTAR; *Hamisi albino attacked for his body parts*; by JOSEPH JAMENYA; September 14, 2015; <http://www.the-star.co.ke/news/hamisi-albino-attacked-his-body-parts>) / The Telegraph; *Kenya's albinos moved away from Tanzania border amid witch doctor threat*; By Aislinn Laing; September 24, 2015; <http://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/worldnews/africaandindianocean/kenya/11885641/Kenyans-albinos-moved-away-from-Tanzania-border-amid-witchdoctor-threat.html>)

**Most recent survivor: 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. (Source: "7 Year Old Escapes Deathly Ritual," Citizen News, March 15, 2013, accessed June 26, 2013, <http://www.citizennews.co.ke/news/2012/local/item/8667-7-year-old-escapes-deathly-ritual> )

**Malawi, 21 reports: (PFI 59 of 180) 6 killings, 12 survivors, 2 missing, 1 grave robbery**

**Most recent killing: On January 23, 2016**, a 53 year old woman with albinism by the name of Eunice Phiri was brutally dismembered and killed in Bokosi village TA Kaluluma in Kasungu district, Malawi. Five days later on January 28, 2016, a cattle herder by the name of Raphael Chirwa found Eunice’s body lying near a big rock in Kasungu National Park. Police visited the scene and found the body in a decomposed state with both arms chopped off. The doctor established that death occurred due to severe loss of blood. What happened was that on the 23<sup>rd</sup> Eunice’s brother, Masauko Phiri, came to her place with two friends saying they had come to get her because one of her sons living in Zambia was threatening to commit suicide. He also said that her older brother in Zambia had some bags of maize for her. Eunice agreed to accompany them and took her 8 year old son with albinism along. While travelling through Kasungu National Park the three villains attacked Eunice. Her son managed to escape and follow the same route home where he did not properly explain what had happened to his mother. This left the family thinking that his mother had sent him home. Finally realizing that Eunice was not coming home as expected, the family became suspicious and sent somebody to check for her in Zambia. Her elder brother said that she had not visit his home. Police say they will leave no stone unturned until these criminals are brought to justice. (Source: Official report by Edna Mzinigwitsa, Public Relations Officer, Kasungu Police Station, Phone: 0888822718/0993936653 provided to UTSS by Bonface Massah, The Executive Director of Association of Persons with Albinism of Malawi (APAM); email: [albinismassociationmw@gmail.com](mailto:albinismassociationmw@gmail.com) & [bonmassah@gmail.com](mailto:bonmassah@gmail.com); mobile: (265) 0881006474 & (265) 0 999399337; Also see 4 newspaper reports: <http://www.nyasatimes.com/2016/02/01/albino-woman-murdered-in-kasungu-malawi-police-hunt-for-killers/>; <http://allafrica.com/stories/201602012478.html>; <http://www.amnestyusa.org/news/press-releases/ritual-murders-of-people-with-albinism-in-malawi-must-end> and



<http://pulse.com.gh/international/albino-attacks-malawi-government-not-protecting-albinos-amnesty-international-id4642482.html>

**Second most recent killing: On September 4, 2015**, Nyasa Times of Malawi reported that in Mchinji, Malawi, police spokesman for the district officer, sub inspector Moses Kajawa Nyirenda, said they have found the body parts of a person with albinism in the Dagrasi Mwale's garden. Nyirenda said Police are investigating the matter. (Source: All Africa – Nyasa Times: *Malawi: Albino Attacks Resurfaces - Body Parts Found in Mchinji As Abducted Karonga Boy Throat Cut*; September 4, 2015; By Tiwonge Kumwenda; <http://allafrica.com/stories/201509041222.html>)

**Third most recent killing: During the night of January 21, 2015**, a 9 year old girl with albinism by the name of Ida Thomas was attacked in Chalela Village, Chikhwawa district, Malawi. The intruders broke in while Ida was sleeping at her Aunt's house and kidnapped her. She is believed to have been killed as her blankets were found outside the home covered with blood. The incident was reported to the police though no one has yet been arrested. (Source: an email to UTSS on March 1, 2015, by UN Human Rights Office, Malawi)

**Most recent survivor: On February 6, 2016**, a 54 year old Malawian school teacher and man with albinism by the name of Charles Chikambukire Ndaun survived violation and attack by Mr. Kasamba, a Malawian businessman running a shop in Monzambique situated on the border with Malawi along the M1 road. This was the second time Charles had come to this store to purchase iron sheeting for the house he was building. He explains that on this second visit the owner waited until the shop was empty, closed the doors & windows, demanded all of Charles money (a total of MK103, 000.00 in MK1000.00 notes), tore it up while accusing him of using magic to steal from him, among other threats he uttered the words "I will kill you today", then he beat Charles with a piece of wood, tied him up and locked him in a room. Fortunately Charles was able to free his hands and reach the phone which was still in his pocket and call his son Emmanuel Dyson who was shopping in the same area. Emmanuel rushed to the shop and banged at the door shouting "my dad is inside, he has called me, please open the door." By then a crowd had gathered and the police had been notified. Fortunately, the police in Mozambique arrived and arrested the shop owner. After giving statements Charles was released. Upon returning home to Malawi, Charles also went to the police there and statements were taken. He wants this case to be handled in Malawi since all parties involved are Malawian. (Source: Provided to UTSS by Boniface Massah, President of Association of Persons with Albinism of Malawi (APAM); email: [albinismassociationmw@gmail.com](mailto:albinismassociationmw@gmail.com) & [bonmassah@gmail.com](mailto:bonmassah@gmail.com); mobile: (265) 0881006474 & (265) 0 999399337)

**Second most recent survivor: On November 29, 2015**, a 17-year-old boy with albinism by the name of Alfred Chigalo was brutally attacked in Mnasi Village, Traditional Authority Mkhumba, Phalombe district, in the southern region of Malawi. He sustained deep stab wounds to the head, both arms and on the upper part of his left leg. According to Phalombe Police Publicist, Augustus Nkhwazi, Alfred was attacked at home in his sleep at around 11pm when unknown criminals broke in with phanga knives and started hacking him. The victim cried for help and neighbors rushed to the rescue. Police officers who arrived at the scene found Chikalo in a pool of blood. He was then rushed to Phalombe Health Centre and from there was referred to Holly Family Mission Hospital where he is receiving treatment. Unfortunately the 5 attackers managed to escape. Since then, with the assistance of Alfred's neighbours, the police have confirmed the arrest of 4 suspects. (Source: *allafrica.com* – Nyasa Times; *Malawi: Albino Attacks Continue in Malawi - 17 Year-Old Hacked in Phalombe*; By Maurice Nkawihe; NOVEMBER 30, 2015; <http://allafrica.com/stories/201511303147.html>; & the December 16, 2015, report to UTSS by Bonface Massah, The Executive Director of Association of Persons with Albinism of Malawi (APAM); email: [albinismassociationmw@gmail.com](mailto:albinismassociationmw@gmail.com) & [bonmassah@gmail.com](mailto:bonmassah@gmail.com); mobile: (265) 0881006474 & (265) 0 999399337)

**Third most recent survivor: NAME UNKNOWN: On September 30, 2015**, Malawi police announced that a 4 year old boy with albinism narrowly escaped abduction when his mother, Maria Mtengo (25), lodged a complaint with them in Mzimba, Malawi. Maria's husband Christopher Kumwenda (38) wanted to sell his stepson to Lusungu Sere (31) for K20 million and the two men had been trying to force



her to cooperate. National police spokesperson Rhoda Manjolo confirmed the arrest of both men in a statement made available to Malawi News. Sere comes from Mkoko Village and Kumwenda comes from Jamu village, both in the area of Traditional Authority Chindi in Mzimba. The two have since been charged with conspiracy to commit a felony which is contrary to section 404 of the Penal Code. (Source: allAfrica; *Malawi: Two in Custody for Conspiring to Sell Albino Child*; by Bernard Chisoni; September 30, 2015; <http://allafrica.com/stories/201510010992.html>)

**Most recent missing: On January 16th, 2015**, a two years old girl with albinism by the name of Ibrah Pillo was kidnapped from her parent's home around 10pm in Matindira - Chindambo Village, traditional authority Kawinga Machinga district, Malawi. Ibra's father is Pillo Imlani and her mother is Magret Chikopa. (Source: Communication between UTSS and Bonface Ophiyah Massah, Executive Director of THE ALBINO ASSOCIATION OF MALAWI –TAAM; email: [albinismassociationmw@gmail.com](mailto:albinismassociationmw@gmail.com) ; mobile: (265) 0881006474 & (265) 0 999399337)

**Grave robbery: On August 6, 2015**, the grave of a man with albinism by the name of Thomson Mwananema was desecrated in Malawi's Northern district of Karonga. According to police, his bones were found exhumed and that a shovel, hoe and some bones were also found at the grave. Samson Mwananema, a brother to Thomas, confirmed that he had albinism and died in 2009 at the age of 58. Police investigations are underway to capture the perpetrators. Assertions are being made in Malawi that the bones and body part of PWA are being used in rituals by people who are hoping to get rich. (Source: Malawi24 – All the latest in Malawi news; "*Unknown people in Karonga exhume albino bones*"; By Luke Bisani; August 8, 2015; <http://malawi24.com/2015/08/08/unknown-people-in-karonga-exhume-albino-bones/>)

### ***Mali, 14 reports: (PFI 118 of 180) 3 killings / 2 survivors / 2 missing / 7 asylums***

**Most recent killing: In 2008**, in the region of Segou, a seventy-year-old man, by the name of DEMBELE killed a six-year-old boy with albinism, chopped off his hand and disposed his body in an abandoned well. The young boy regarded the old man as his Grand-father. The reason for this - local belief is that a dried hand of a PWA has some therapeutic virtues against impotence. (Source: S.O.S. Albino Report)

**Most recent survivor: In 2011**, an ashamed young mother attempted to throw her 7yr old daughter with albinism into a well. Fortunately, she was stopped by a neighbor who threatened to call the police. The girl was safely placed with authorities. A few weeks later the girl was united with her biological father after proving his paternity and commitment to protect his daughter. Since that time the mother and her daughter were reunited and relocated to Burkina Faso.

**Most recent missing: 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. (Source: An interview of Tierno Diallo on Radio France International on May 20, 2009 called "Invité Afrique" presented by Journalist Christophe Boisbouvier. Tierno is a man with albinism who founded the Malian albinism association in 1993 called SOS Albinos. He was later appointed Minister in Charge of Faith Affairs in 2013 under President Ibrahim Boubacar Keita.)

**Asylum: On July 29, 2011**, Ms. Rokia Kone, a woman with albinism from Mali received asylum in France.

### ***Mozambique, 11 reports: (PFI 85 of 180) 2 murders, 2 survivors, 1 grave robbery, 6 missing***

**Most recent murder: On September 17, 2015**, at approximately 4:00 PM, a man with albinism by the name of Alfane António was abducted and brutally dismembered in the woods near where he worked in Larde district, Nampula province, Mozambique. Alfane was a health professional at Health Center Topuito. The *Verdade* newspaper reported that he was apparently surprised by the criminals while waiting for some equipment that was to be delivered to a patient. On the morning after his abduction, Alfane's mutilated corpse was found in scattered pieces, his arms in one place, the legs elsewhere along



with his belongings and mobile phone. His head and torso were found in an abandoned bag in a forest. Police also discovered that some body parts were missing and assumed they had been taken for ritual purposes. Sérgio Mourinho, Provincial Command spokesman for the Police of the Republic of Mozambique (PRM) in Nampula, confirmed the incident. Three individuals are being held in connection with this case. The victim left a widow and two young children. (Source: An investigation conducted by journalist Leonardo Gasolina was translated and sent as page 5 & 6 of a report to the UN about Mozambique by Margarida Ferreira Carneiro of Kanimambo Mission (albinism association), Lisbon, September 23rd, 2015, [mmsrfc@gmail.com](mailto:mmsrfc@gmail.com); [kanimambopt@gmail.com](mailto:kanimambopt@gmail.com); <https://www.facebook.com/Mkanimambo>)

**Most recent survivor: In mid-July of 2015** a male with albinism by the name of Domiciano Rosario (also Rosario Rodrigues) was abducted from his home in the district of Nipepe, Niassa province, Mozambique. This incident had a happy ending in that the police secured the release of Rosario and arrested three of the kidnapers. (Source: allAfrica.com, “Mozambique: Body of Murdered Albino Found”, August 24, 2015, <http://allafrica.com/stories/201508210147.html>) **On September 10, 2015**, allAfrica.com news and STV reported that a man with albinism by the name of Rosario Rodrigues (33) survived a kidnapping attempt and that, after an anonymous tip, 3 men have been arrested in the northern province of Nampula, Mozambique. A fourth kidnapper escaped and police are searching for him. The men admitted to police that they enticed Rodrigues with promises of employment and took him to a place ten kilometers outside Nampula city. Their true intention was to cut off his hair and sell it to a Tanzanian witch-doctor for 450,000 meticaís (about 112 US dollars). Rodrigues told reporters “They enticed me and when we got to the place they said they were waiting for a boss who wanted to buy my hair. I was surprised, because I didn't know that hair could be sold, and I was afraid I was going to be killed”. The kidnapers claimed that Rodrigues family was involved in the deal with the Tanzanian. “His mother told us to sell Rosario's hair”, one of them claimed. “The mother said that when the money arrived, we would divide it. Rosario's brother rang me up later, and told me to charge 450,000 meticaís. My share would be 50,000 meticaís”. The family strongly denied their involvement and that when they noticed Rodrigues was missing they went to the police. (Source: allAfrica; “Mozambique: Three Arrests in Albino Kidnap Case”; September 10, 2015; by Maputo; <http://allafrica.com/stories/201509110081.html>)

**Grave Robbery: On Monday November 2, 2015**, three arrested criminals admitted to police in Massinga district, in the southern province of Inhambane, Mozambique, that they had desecrated the grave of a person with albinism and removed his bones for the purpose of selling them. According to a report in Monday's issue of the independent daily “O País”, the grave robbers also told police that they came from the northern province of Cabo Delgado, where they worked as informal miners. Having been promised four million meticaís (about 100,000 US dollars) for the bones of an albino, their plan was to take them back to Cabo Delgado to a man named Geraldo. They claimed he was just a middleman, working for a Tanzanian businessman whose name they did not know. An official in the Massinga district police command said “We received a phone call from an anonymous source last Wednesday night. He told us of three individuals who were hunting albinos, and that they intended to take the bones and sell them in Cabo Delgado”. (Source: allAfrica.com; *Mozambique: Three Arrested for Desecrating Grave of an Albino*; November 2, 2015; <http://allafrica.com/stories/201511030092.html> and starafrika.com; *Three nabbed for desecrating albino grave*; November 3, 2015; <http://en.starafrika.com/news/mozambique-three-nabbed-for-desecrating-albino-grave.html>)

**Most recent missing: On the week end of February 5 – 7, 2016**, a 7 year old child with albinism was abducted in the coal mining area of Benga in Moatize, in the western Mozambican province of Tete, making this the fifth kidnapping in that area since December of 2015. The child was snatched in the middle of the night by a gang of six armed men who threatened his mother. They sped off in a car into the darkness with the child. Mr. Robilio Nhakalize (uncle) told reporters on Monday, February 8, that he had immediately reported to the Moatize police in hopes that they not only rescue the missing child, but also to protect the other two children with albinism in the family. “We don't know how we're going to live”, he said, “because the bandits know they left two other albino children here. We're afraid they could return



at any moment. This situation is critical". The Tete police say they have been looking for the kidnappers since the first abduction occurred, in Marara district. The second was in Ulongue municipality, capital of Angonia district, in January, The three later cases were all in Moatize. Many in the area believe that these crimes entered Mozambique from Tanzania. (Source: allAfrica; *Mozambique: Another Albino Child Kidnapped in Tete*; February 9, 2016, by Maputo; <http://allafrica.com/stories/201602092225.html>)

**Second most recent missing: On January 17, 2016**, a 19 year old man with albinism by the name of Vitorino Fabiao was abducted in his home town of Moatize in the western province of Tete, Mozambique, bringing the number of such kidnappings to three since the start of the year. According to his aunt who asked not to be identified, the abductors used a friend of Fabiao who promised to bring a mobile phone recharge voucher to his house. "We weren't worried about his delay in coming home on Sunday. We thought they were still sorting something out, since they are friends. When he didn't come home at all, we rang up the friend, and he said he didn't know where Vitorino Fabiao was". When they rang the friend again later, his reply was so strange that Fabiao's family decided to contact the police. The Moatize district police command sent a team to investigate. They talk to neighbours who said they had seen a blue car enter the yard, but they did not know when it had left again. Vitorino Fabiao has not been seen since. (Source: allAfrica.com; *Mozambique: Another Albino Kidnapped in Tete*; by Maputo; January 20, 2016; <http://allafrica.com/stories/201601210031.html>)

**Third, fourth & fifth most recent missing: Three children with albinism go missing just days apart** in Mozambique according to Police authorities who say they have been kidnapped in the Zobue region, in Moatize district, near the border with Malawi in the country's western Mozambican province of Tete. To date, the names and ages of the children are not known:

**On December 3, 2015**, a little girl with albinism was abducted in the Marara district.

**On January 4, 2016**, another little girl with albinism went missing in the Angonia district.

**On January 10, 2016**, a five year old boy with albinism was seized.

All of this according to Provincial police spokesperson Lurdes Ferreira who is quoted by state-controlled broadcaster Radio Mozambique. The fear is that the children may have been killed, and their body parts harvested for use in black magic rituals. (Source: starAfrica.com; "*Three albino children abducted in Mozambique*"; January 12, 2016; <http://en.starAfrica.com/news/three-albino-children-abducted-in-mozambique.html>)

### **Namibia, 3 reports: (PFI 17 of 180) 1 survivor / 2 killings**

**Most recent killing: In June of 2010** Ananias Shifotoka, 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. (Source: NEW ERA News Paper for a New Namibia, 29-June-2010)

**Most recent survivor: On Saturday, May 12, 2012** a 16 year old girl with albinism

claims to have been raped by 44 year old man. Prior to the rape he had been visiting the victim and enticed her with money and promises of a shiny car, cattle and marriage. They went for a ride that day and on their return to the village, the accused forced his victim into one of his abandoned buildings, where he is alleged to have raped her. This was confirmed by the victim herself. On Monday, May 21 2012 the suspected rapist was denied bail in Oshakati Magistrate Court. The accused, Jonas Mathias, known as Injumu Netsali (44), was from a village near Ongwediva where he was arrested by the police. The case of Mathias was postponed by Magistrate Mika Namweya to 27 June 2012 for further investigation. (Source: Informante', May 23, 2012)

### **Niger, 1 report: (PFI 47 of 180) 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 Seyni Hama 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. Kadidjatou Moumouni, leader and founder of the PWA association in Niger interviewed the victims' family and neighbours to confirm Seyni's disappearance. Both parties told her that the abduction did in fact take place. At the time Seyni went missing, his family reported the case to the Police who did their investigation, but sadly were not able to find him. Two of Seyni's brothers also have albinism. (Source: On September 20, 2014, UTSS interviewed Ms. Kadidjatou Moumouni, leader and founder of the PWA group in Niger; ANAN Niger - [anan2013.niger@yahoo.com](mailto:anan2013.niger@yahoo.com))

**Nigeria, 10 reports: (PFI 111 of 180) 4 killings / 1 missing / 3 asylum / 1 kidnapping / 1 attempted kidnapping**

**Most recent killing: 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. (Source: TheGuardian Nigeria, Friday, April 19, 2013, 19:32; From Abiodun Fagbemi, Ilorin)

**Missing report: In April of 2013** a woman with albinism went missing according to her relatives. She was a resident around Saw Mill area in the city of Ilorin, Kwara State, Nigeria. (Source: TheGuardian Nigeria, Friday, April 19, 2013, 19:32; From Abiodun Fagbemi, Ilorin)

**Most recent asylum report: On December 13, 2014**, a man with albinism from Nigeria was granted asylum in Phoenix, Arizona. (Source: Lawyer Ravindar K. Arora, Esq., 1441 E. McDowell Rd Ste. A, Phoenix, AZ 85006, P: 623-313-1232, F: 888-413-4183, E: [rarora@aroralegal.com](mailto:rarora@aroralegal.com))

**Rwanda, 1 report: (PFI 161 of 180) 1 grave robbery**

**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. (Source: Online media: Ciel d'Afrique – Article published on July 03, 2013 <http://oeildafrique.com/le-cadavre-dun-albinos-vole-au-rwanda/> ; IGIHE.com Published on 3-07-2013 <http://en.igihe.com/news/body-of-albino-stolen-from-grave.html>)

**Senegal, 9 reports: (PFI 71 of 180) 3 alleged killings / 4 survivors / 2 asylum**

**3 alleged killings:** 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 Abdoulaye Wade but apparently not at the same time:

- In 2012 during the electoral campaign, President Abdoulaye said before the steering committee of his own political party (the Senegalese Democratic Party PDS): **“Some people told me that Pape DIOP killed a PWA they brought from Mali”**. (Source - Article: “Another GRAVE revelation from Wade”, Wednesday, May 30, 2012, <http://www.rewmi.com/> & Article: “MEETING OF THE STEERING COMMITTEE OF THE PDS: Wade accuses Pape Diop of killing an albino”, Wednesday May 30, 2012, <http://www.walf-groupe.com/> )
- In July of 2010 Abdoulaye Wade accused the regime of his predecessor Abdou DIOUF and his political party, the Socialist Party (PS), **“of the mysterious deaths of two young female albinos whose disappearance was never clarified”**. (Source - WikiLeaks, December 17, 2010)

**Most recent survivor: On September 8, 2014**, an 8 year old boy with albinism by the name of Mohamed Diop 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 ending up stopping and throwing the boy out. Mohamed was then taken to his mother by the taxi driver. (Source:



Report received by UTSS on Friday, January 16, 2015 from Mr. Mouhamadou Bamba Diop, Chairperson of the Senegal PWA Group - association nationale des albinos du Sénégal – ANAS)

**Asylum: 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. (Source: His lawyer at Fried, Frank, Harris, Shriver & Jacobson LLP, One New York Plaza, New York, NY 10004; [friedfrank.com](http://friedfrank.com))

**South Africa, 5 reports: (PFI 39 of 180) 2 killings / 1 missing / 1 survivor / 1 grave robbery**

**Most recent killing: On August 5, 2015**, Ms. Thandazile Sqongwani Mpunzi, a 20 year old woman with albinism who was also a Grade 6 student at Sibongiseni Primary School, went missing in Phelandaba in Kwa-Zulu Natal, South Africa. **On August 16, 2015**, her remains were found in a shallow grave with most of the body parts and her skin missing. On the day of Thandazile's disappearance, she had received a call from one of the suspect to meet at Phelandaba, and by that evening she was not reachable on her cell phone. The family reported her missing on two occasions to the local police but they were ignored both times. Thandazile's mother then reported the matter to the local chief and ward council and a search was launched. They worked closely with the community and the police forum and were taken to a house where the community thought the murder might have taken place. A woman who lived there indicated that she had slaughtered a goat and not killed anyone, but with further interrogation the community found some clothing which was identified by the victim's mother. Several young men also present at the house then revealed a shallow grave where they had buried Thandazile's remains. Four suspects have been arrested; Mr. Siyabonga Gwala 18, Mr. Lindokuhle Khumalo 19, Mr. Mandla Mabuza 19 and the archbishop of New Star Church in Zion, Mr. Bhekukufa Gumede, who is the alleged mastermind behind the killing. Khumalo and Mabuza have already been jailed for 20 years after confessing to their part in the murder. Gumede and Gwala are still on trial as of January 30, 2016. (Sources: Nomasonto G. Mazibuko, National Director of the Albinism Society of South Africa, 187 Lara's Place, Bree Street, Johannesburg, 2000, Tel: [+2711 838-6529](tel:+27118386529), Mobile: [+2782 755-3884](tel:+27827553884), Email: [mazibukong@gmail.com](mailto:mazibukong@gmail.com), [www.albinism.org.za](http://www.albinism.org.za); News24, Albinism victim's family lives in fear, by Amanda Khoza, August 26, 2015; <http://m.news24.com/news24/SouthAfrica/News/Albino-victims-family-lives-in-fear-20150826>; Sowetan LIVE; *False love used to lure Albino woman*; By Sandile Motha; January 30, 2016; <http://www.sowetanlive.co.za/news/2016/01/30/false-love-used-to-lure-albino-woman>)

**Most recent survivor: On February 22, 2013**, a 6 year old girl with albinism by the name of Ntandane Kgomotso went missing at Sandy River near Hazyview in Mpumalanga, South Africa. She was abducted while playing in the yard on Friday afternoon. The community pulled together and combed the bushes and after hours of searching, found Ntandane unhurt in the bushes. She was tired and hungry and her mother fears the kidnapper may try again. The incident was reported to the police (Source: NewsBites, November 5, 2013 <http://www.zimkasi.com/index-id-news-zk-14983.html>)

**Swaziland, 10 reports: (PFI 155 of 180) 3 killings / 7 survivors**

**Most recent killings: On September 26, 2015**, a man with albinism by the name of Magidi Mlambo was brutally killed and dismembered on a mountain of Mambane, Swaziland, where he was said to have been lured to collect herbs with the accused. Two traditional healers, Tikhali Majozini Mango (65) and Mbongeni Sibusiso Buthelezi (35), have been arrested for the murder and subsequently confessed to killing him, saying they actually wanted an albino. The Mambane area witch doctors made the confession before Magistrate Joseph Dlamini on Tuesday. According to the charge sheet the accused were acting in furtherance of a common purpose, wrongfully, unlawfully and intentionally killing Magidi by hitting him with an axe on the head, resulting in his death. They further confessed intentions to sell the body parts to third traditional healer who also doubles as a Zion prophet at Hlutse. The accused said the healer, who is popularly known as umthantazi, placed a very specific order for the hand of a man with albinism genes. The murderers charged the umthantazi an amount of E2 000 for the hand which has since been recovered by police. The two "butchers" also confessed to cutting off a leg of the deceased and selling it to



a fourth traditional healer. The remaining parts of the body were recovered from a forest after they led police to the scene of crime on Monday. During their appearance in court, the accused rights to legal representation were explained and they both elected to engage the services of an attorney. The Crown, represented by Prosecutor Philisiwe Msibi, filed an application to have the accused remanded into police custody pending further investigations. The application was granted and they were ordered to return to court the following day. (Source: SwaziOBSERVER; “*TINYANGA CONFESS; WE WANTED AN ALBINO*”; October 15, 2015; By Wonderboy Dlamini; <http://www.observer.org.sz/news/76626-tinyanga-confess-we-wanted-an-albino.html>)

**Most recent survivors: 4 SURVIVORS OF THE SAME ATTACK: On September 02, 2013,**

4 men with albinism were attacked and seriously injured in the town of Mankayane next to Manzini, in Swaziland. Mr. Vilakati received this information from the victims’ families and reported it to UTSS. He was able to visit 2 of the 4 victims in hospital; one called Thulane (19) and the other Ndzinisa (24); the other 2 remain unidentified. (Source: Mr. Dalton Vilakati, a PWA and recently appointed Member of Parliament in Swaziland - Phone number: +268-763-604-80)

**World Press Freedom Index Trend for Tanzania:**

**2008 – 70 of 173**

**2009 – 62 of 175**

**2010 – 41 of 178**

**2011 & 12 – 34 of 179**

**2013 – 70 of 179**

**2014 – 69 of 180**

**2015 – 75 of 180**

**Tanzania, 160 reports: (PFI 75 of 180)** *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.*

**76 killings**

**65 survivors; all are deeply traumatized and most are severely mutilated**

**1 abduction**

**16 grave robberies**

**2 failed grave robbery attempt**

**Most recent killing: On Tuesday, February 17, 2015,** the mutilated remains of a 1 year old baby boy with albinism by the name of Yohana Bahati were discovered by police in Shilabela Mapinduzi Sub-Village, a few kilometers from his home in Isabilo Sub-Village of Ilemelema Village, Iparamasa Ward of Chato District, Geita Region, Tanzania. Both of Yohana’s arms and legs were hacked off. Two days earlier five unidentified men armed with machetes attacked the homestead. Three of them seized Misalaba (father) while two of them forced their way into the house where Ester (mother) was preparing the evening meal. Misalaba managed to fight off the attackers and ran away leaving his wife behind with two children with albinism, one year old Yohana and his 3 year old sister Tabu. One of the assailants slashed Ester’s face and body rendering her unconscious while the second grabbed little Yohana and ran away. Ester remained in serious condition in Bugando Referral Hospital in Mwanza City even after doctors operated on the machete lacerations sustained while trying in vain to protect her baby boy. A police search is underway and Yohana’s father is being held in remand prison. No other arrests have been made at the time of this report. (SOURCE: UTSS interviews with Deputy Director of Public Prosecution Ms. Neema Ringo in Dar es Salaam and Iparamasa Ward Executive Officer (WEO), Christopher Mabuba who confirmed the attack.)

**Most recent survivor: On December 08, 2015,** a 70 year old woman with albinism by the name



of Ester Togolai Maganga was attacked by five men in her home where they hacked off her left thumb in Mlalo Bongoi Village, Mlalo Ward of Lushoto District, Tanga Region, Northeastern Tanzania. Ester, a widow who lived alone, said that while she was preparing dinner the assailants charged into her kitchen, attacked her, held her legs, covered her eyes and mouth, chopped off her thumb and then fled. She managed to scream for help but while neighbours came to her rescue, the attackers had already vanished. Mlalo Bongoi Village Chairperson, Robert Bendera, attended the crime scene at which point he took Ester to the police station and from there she was taken to hospital. Bendera then joined a police team led by Inspector Joram Byamungu in search of the assailants. During the search the team met a stranger to the area who was held for questioning. The man, Hemed Abbas Hasan, admitted to police that he was one of the five attackers who cut off Ester's thumb. Another man by the name Hamis Mohamed was also arrested. Police continued searching for the remaining three attackers. Ester has since been discharged from hospital and now lives with her daughter and son-in-law in a relatively safe area. She has five children without albinism and six siblings, three of whom also have albinism. (Source: On December 20, 2015, UTSS First Response Team visits with Ester and interviews other related parties during their investigation of her attack.)

**Second most recent survivor: On October 21, 2015,** a 35 year old man with albinism by the name of Mohammed Saidi who served as the Tanzania Albinism Society's (TAS) District Secretary was attacked at his home in Mkuranga town, about 42km from Dar es Salaam City Centre, Tanzania. He sustained serious injuries to the right side of his head and ear. In conversation with UTSS First Response Team from his sick bed, Mohamed recounts that "Three men wearing balaclava broke into my home and attacked me with machete's. I put up a fight but was overpowered. They tied a piece of cloth around my neck and put another one into my mouth to stop me from raising an alarm. Then they tried to hold my legs wide apart and were talking of mutilating my genitals." At this point he heard the voice of a third man from outside, who the two criminals referred to as "Boss", saying; "If you can't get the genitals, get flesh from any part of the body!" Then the so called "Boss" entered the room and used a machete to chop off some flesh from the right side of his head and ear. The attackers then ran into the darkness leaving him bleeding profusely. Mohammed managed to remove the gag and cry for help. Neighbours, including his landlord, Athuman Suleiman (44) rushed to his rescue. The District Medical Officer, Dr. Paulina Mbezi, said that Mohammed had been received at the Mkuranga District Hospital with serious head wounds on Wednesday night. She went on to say that "When he was brought here his condition was critical and he had lost a lot of blood". According to Dr. Mbezi, Mohammed was treated immediately and given a blood transfusion. She was satisfied with his condition saying "He is stable and improving". The OCD of Mkuranga Police Station, Mayenga T. Mapalala, confirmed the incident and said the police force has begun investigations into the incident. (Source: On October 22, 2015, Under The Same Sun's First Response Team visited all relevant parties including the victim in Mkuranga District Hospital.)

**Third most recent survivor: On June 16, 2015,** a 6 year old girl with albinism by the name of Margareth Khamis was rescued from abduction after she went missing several days earlier in Kona Nne Village, Ugembe Ward of Nzega District in the Tabora Region of western Tanzania. Margareth lives with her three siblings and her mother Joyce Mwandu, who also has albinism. After she went missing, Margareth's mother raised the alarm and villagers started a search. Acting Tabora Regional Police Commander ACP John Bwire told the media that good Samaritans informed them of a man who was looking for a buyer willing to purchase Margareth. The police set a trap, rescued the little girl, re-united her with the family and arrested her 44-year old uncle, Masanja Mwanamila, who is now in custody. (Source: ITV News at 20:00 hrs, Tuesday, June 16, 2015; UTSS Phone Conversation with IPP Media Reporter, Kabendara Simon, in Tabora)

**Most recent survivor of rape:** In February of 2014 a 17 year old woman with albinism by the name of Masalu Masanja was gang-raped by five men on her family farm in Gasuma Village, Bariadi District of Simiyu, Region, in north-western Tanzania. She contracted 2 STDs and became pregnant from the rape. Government officials brought Masalu and her three brothers with albinism to Buhangija Center for displaced PWA in Shinyanga where she was treated for the STD's and in November of 2014 gave birth to a baby girl without albinism. She does not know who the father of her child is and suffers from deep



physical and psychological trauma as a result of the attack. Her ordeal was made worse by the fact that Masalu is also speech impaired, with minimum ability to make audible sounds, rendering her unable to cry for help. (Source: On June 6, 2014, UTSS staff first met and conducted a personal interview with Masalu during a routine visit to Buhangija, a key government center housing displaced persons with albinism in Shinyanga Town, Shinyanga Region, Northwest Tanzania.)

**Most recent abduction: On December 27, 2014**, a 4 year old girl with albinism by the name of Pendo Emmanuel 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: Pendo'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 Pendo. (Source: UTSS interview with Tanzanian police and Ndamhi Village Executive Officer as well as newspapers reports including: <http://www.dailymail.co.uk/wires/afp/article-2903078/UN-demands-investigation-albino-girl-abduction.html>; <http://allafrica.com/stories/201501080704.html>; <http://dailynews.co.tz/index.php/dailynews/39960-proven-albino-killers-must-be-severely-punhed>; <http://www.dailynews.co.tz/index.php/local-news/40153-rc-gives-mwanza-village-five-days-to-find-msing-albino-girl>; <http://www.ippmedia.com/frontend/index.php?l=76048>)

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

#### **Uganda, 5 reports: (PFI 97 of 180) 5 survivors**

**Most recent survivor: In July of 2014** a 26 year old woman with albinism by the name of Elizabeth Kwagala began to fear for her life when her husband started bringing strange looking men to the house. Elizabeth recalls the afternoon when two men arrived in tinted cars. While preparing food in the kitchen she overheard parts of their conversation from the living room conspiring to kill her. She immediately grabbed her two children and hid. When they failed to find Elizabeth, the two men turned on her husband Sebbi and started beating and accusing him of foiling their plans of getting rich. They eventually left the house, leaving Sebbi moaning in pain. When Elizabeth finally came out of hiding she says "he slapped and kicked me hard before calling me an evil spirit. He then demanded that I leave his house immediately with the children after claiming that they were not his." Unbeknown to her husband, she was already three weeks pregnant with his third child. With no work or anyone else to turn to, the next year found Elizabeth destitute and alone with the only treasure in this world, her three children. Since then she has encountered a few good Samaritans who are helping her turn her life around. (Source: allAfrica/The Monitor; *Uganda: Father of My Children Plotted to Sacrifice Me*; DECEMBER 13, 2015; By Esther Oluka; <http://allafrica.com/stories/201512142092.html> and *Uganda: Thank You Good Samaritans*; JANUARY 10, 2016; By Esther Oluka; <http://allafrica.com/stories/201601111100.html>)

#### **Zambia, 6 reports: (PFI 113 of 180) 5 killings / 1 survivor**

**Most recent killing: On December 22, 2015**, a 36 year old man with albinism by the name of Jeffrey Sikanyai was attacked & killed in Mandevu, Lusaka's Zani Muone West area, Zambia. He was left to die after his right forearm was cut off, most likely with an axe, for what appears to be ritual purposes. His body was found on the roadside the morning after his attack. Jeffrey was well-known in the area, and his family and friends said they were shocked by the death as he was very friendly. "We wouldn't say he had any enemies. He was friendly with most people. Also, his movements and whereabouts were predictable." (Source: Zambia Daily Mail; *Albino killed, arm chopped*; by Online Editor KELVIN KACHINGWE, Lusaka; Posted in Editor's Choice, News on December 24, 2015; <https://www.daily-mail.co.zm/?p=53668>)



**2<sup>nd</sup> most recent killing: On May 26, 2015**, a 37 year old woman with albinism by the name of Charity Zulu was killed during a ritual attack at her home in Kalumbu Village, Chief Magodi's area, Lundazi District, Zambia. The couple had just settled down to sleep when they heard a knock at the door. When Charity's 42-year-old husband Robin Nyirongo opened the door, four men pushed their way in and stabbed him before going for his wife while he lay unconscious. Grabbing Charity, they cut off both of her hands and forcibly extracted several teeth from her mouth before fleeing. Her bother-in-law rushed to the house after hearing shouts for help; arriving just in time for her to narrate the ordeal before passing away. Eastern Province Police chief Eugene Sibote said they have launched investigations. Charity's body was brought to Lundazi District hospital mortuary while her husband was brought to the same hospital for recovery. District Foundation coordinator, Dylan Chifita, of the Lundazi District Albino Foundation has appealed to police to ensure that those behind the murder are arrested and prosecuted. (Source: allAfrica; Zambia: Albino Murdered; by Julius Phiri; May 29, 2015; <http://allafrica.com/stories/201506011441.html>; Also: <https://www.daily-mail.co.zm/?p=31345> And response by the NHRI: <http://www.lusakatimes.com/2015/06/03/hrc-condemns-albino-murder/>; <http://www.lusakatimes.com/2015/06/02/human-rights-commission-condemns-killing-of-albino-in-lundazi/>)

**Survivor: On June 3, 2013, a twenty year-old man with albinism** by the name of Yohane Kamwendo from Machinjiri, Blantyre, Malawi, escaped his traffickers in Chipata, Zambia. He was tricked through Facebook saying "I come from Malawi and went to Zambia after a friend (Mr. Banda), who I met two weeks ago on Facebook, told me that there was a job opportunity in Zambia with good pay. Yohane fell for the trap after telling Mr. Bamda about the struggle to raise fees for education because his family members showed no interest in helping due to his albinism. Yohane learned that he was being trafficked from a guard at the place in Zambia where Mr. Banda had told him to wait outside as he went in to meet the boss. While waiting, the guard informed Yohane that there was no job and that "when albinos arrive at "that place" they are sold or some fishy business happens to them because when they enter the house they never come back". The guard then gave Yohane some travel money and told him to use routes where he couldn't be traced because they would come looking for him. Yohane explained his horrific ordeal to the Police and spent a night at Mchinji Police Victim Support Unit. A private organization then provided transport back to Blantyre where he will be staying. (Source: TAAM MALAWI - [albinismassociationmw@gmail.com](mailto:albinismassociationmw@gmail.com); & Mwana Mission Project, Inc., P.O. Box E571, Post Dot Net, Blantyre, Malawi - <http://www.mwanamissionproject.com/#!/the-gift-project-albino-care--refuge/c1uf8>)

**Zimbabwe, 2 report: (PFI 131 of 180) 1 killing / 1 asylum**

**In 2011 the severely mutilated body of a 26 year old woman with albinism was discovered.**

Professor John Makumbe 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. (Source: Professor John Makumbe, a professor of political science at the University of Zimbabwe and president of the Zimbabwe Albino Association (Zimas))

**On November 29, 2012**, a woman with albinism from Zimbabwe was granted asylum in Atlanta, Georgia. (Source: UTSS served as expert witness in this case)