



Attacks of PWA in Africa

By Under The Same Sun (UTSS) Canada & Tanzania

DATE OF THIS REPORT: April 24, 2013

PWA = Person(s) with Albinism

PFI = Press Freedom Index for 2013 (179 countries surveyed)

(PFI for Canada = 20 & USA = 32)

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

In Tanzania, 123 reports: (PFI 70 of 179) *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.*

72 killings

34 survivors; most are severely mutilated

15 grave robberies

2 failed grave robbery attempt

The most recent killing: On January 31st, 2013, Lugolola Bunzari, a 7 year old boy with albinism was brutally murdered in Kanunge Village, Kinondoni Hamlet, Ulyankulu Division, Kaliua District in Tabora Region. The attackers slashed his forehead, right arm, left shoulder and chopped off his left arm just above the elbow disappearing with it in the dark. Lugolola's grandfather (95yrs) was also killed as he tried to protect his grandson. His father and grandmother survived with serious injuries.

The most recent survivor: On February 15, 2013 Mwigulu Matonange, a 10 year old boy with albinism was attacked and his left arm chopped off above the elbow by two unidentified men in Msia Village, Sumbawanga Rural District of Rukwa Region in western Tanzania. Mwigulu asked his father to find another school; "a school where the bad men cannot find me and chop off my other arm". UTSS promised Mwigulu to find a good school for him where he would be safe. Three men have been arrested in connection with the attack.

The 2nd most recent survivor: On February 11, 2013 at 2:00 AM, Maria Chambanenge, a 39 year old woman with albinism narrowly escaped death after 5 armed men (including her husband) chopped off her left arm while she was asleep with 2 of her 4 children. Rukwa Regional Crime Officer, Peter Maganga Ngusa, told UTSS that the incident occurred in Western Tanzania in Mkowe Village, Miangalua, Sumbawanga Rural District, Rukwa Region. He went on to say that five men have been arrested and on February 15th the police recovered Maria's arm, which was buried near a bridge by a small river.

The 3rd most recent survivor: On February 5, 2013 just before 9:00 PM, a 7 month old baby boy, Makunga Baraka, narrowly escaped death as armed men attacked his home in Simiyu Region near Lamadi. Villagers chased the attackers and surrounded the house to protect him. Makunga and his mother Jane Daudi were taken to the police station the following morning and given temporary sanctuary.

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

In Burundi, 19 reports: (PFI 132 of 179) 16 killings in Burundi, 1 Burundian abducted and killed in Tanzania, 2 survivors.

The most recent killing: On May 6, 2012 between 12:30 and 1:00 AM, a 19 year old girl with albinism by the name of Chantal Ngendakumana was murdered in Bunjumbura Rural, Kabezi Ward in Burundi. Two kilometres from the home where Chantal was abducted she was beheaded, her legs and arms were chopped off and what remained of the girls' body was thrown into a ditch by the criminals.

The most recent survivor: On October 18 to 19, 2012, a girl and a boy with albinism, ages 12 and 16, narrowly escaped death in the Province of Ruyigi, Burundi after being attacked by a gang of 5 armed men. The young girl had already fallen into the hands of the criminals when they decided to return and kidnap the boy who was still in the house. The parents shouted to alert the neighborhood. In the confusion that followed, one of the attackers accidentally shot and killed one of his colleagues, mistaking him for the father. This forced them to flee the scene of the crime without the children. Three of the five criminals were later apprehended by police and discovered to have involvements in PWA murders recorded in 2008-2009. (Source: ASF – Burundi PWA Association)

In Kenya, 10 reports: (PFI 71 of 179) There have been at least 7 killings and 3 near death episodes.

The most recent killing: 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.

The 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: Citizen News, March 15, 2013; by Patricia Wambui)

In Swaziland, 3 reports: (PFI 155 of 179) 2 killings / 1 survivor

The most recent killing: On Thursday, August 19, 2010 - Two 11-year-old children were killed in August of 2010.

The most recent survivor: In April, 2011, Dalton Muntfungaye Vilakati, a 32- year-old man with albinism 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.

In Guinea, 3 reports: (PFI 86 of 179) 2 killings / 1 survivor

The most recent killings: On Saturday, September 18, 2010 late at night, two young PWA were brutally murdered. Their bodies were found under the Kenyen bridge in the capital city of Conakry, Guinea with their throats slit and their eyes gouged out. (Source: Issiaga Camara (Fazo), Conakry for radio.kankan.com)

The 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.

In Nigeria, 4 reports: (PFI 115 of 179) 3 killings / 1 missing

The 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)

The most recent 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)

In South Africa, 3 reports: (PFI 52 of 179) 1 killing / 1 missing / 1 grave robbery

The most recent killing: On November 11, 2010, Mr Sithole, a priest with albinism was killed. Belonging to the Assemblies of God Church, he was killed and then burnt on his way to church in Kwagafontein Village.

The most recent survivor: Since May 1, 2011 Sibusiso Nhatave, a 14 year old boy with albinism has been missing. He is a Grade 8 boy from the north coast of KwaZulu-Natal - witchcraft feared.

In Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC), 5 reports: (PFI 142 of 179) 4 killings / 1 survivor

The most recent killing: On July 21, 2010, the murder of a young man with albinism occurred in the capital city of the Kasai Oriental Province. After Police arrested the criminals, they admitted killing 2 other PWA including a 3-year-old girl. (Source: DRC's National Broadcaster- RTNC)

The most recent survivor: In January of 2011 in DRC an 18-year-old PWA girl narrowly escaped the pursuit of several men who had just brutally killed her older sister. (Source: Justice Acts – an International NGO)

In Zambia, 1 reports: (PFI 72 of 179) 1 killing

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).

In Namibia, 2 reports: (PFI 19 of 179) 1 survivor / 1 killing

The 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)

The most recent survivor: On Thursday, 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 Iingumu 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)

In Ivory Coast, 11 reports: (PFI 96 of 179) 5 killings / 4 survivors / 2 missing

The most recent killing: On March 10, 2011, three PWA, including a woman, were abducted

in the town of Duékoué (Western part of the country). Mr. Bamba, a local representative of the NGO BEDACI, who lives in the town of Touba (located at 176 Km North side to Duékoué) later confirmed the murder of all 3. (source: A PWA NGO by the name of BEDACI from Ivory Coast)

The most recent survivor: In September of 2012 a 3 year old child with albinism survived an attempted abduction in the region of Man in the west of the country (Posted Wednesday, January 16, 2013 by Le Patriote, a major paper in Ivory Coast).

Another survivor account: In May of 1991, Amadou Diallo, a 16 year old teenage boy with albinism narrowly escaped abduction at the *Lycee Sainte Therese* of Koumassi in Abidjan, Ivory Coast. A man in a 4x4 with dark tinted windows was attempting to solicit Amadou to get into his vehicle under the pretence of trying to find the Mayor's office. As he was about to climb into the vehicle Diallo says "My life was saved by a woman who shouted at me from across the street, warning me to flee and not get in."

In Burkina Faso, 2 reports: (PFI 46 of 179) 1 killing / 1 abduction

The 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)

In Mali, 1 report: (PFI 99 of 179) 1 killing

In July of 2007 the mutilated and decomposing body of an unidentified man with albinism was discovered on a hillside overlooking the ward of N'Tomikorobougou in the district of Bamaka. His head and the big toe of his right foot were missing. The officials estimated his age to be 25 and immediately launched an investigation and attempted to find his family. (Source: Kabako, July 19, 2007)

In Zimbabwe, 1 report: (PFI 133 of 179) 1 killing

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))

In Senegal, 1 report: (PFI 59 of 179) 1 survivor

On February 21, 2012, Georges Ndecki, a boy with albinism narrowly escaped abduction in the country of Senegal at *Sara Ndiougari*, in the suburbs of the city of *Kaolack* in the South- East of Dakar. Criminal politicians are suspected in this crime as the electoral campaign takes a mystical turn. The criminals were driving a "4x4" vehicle and, according to the victim's father, these individuals had been following his son over the past 4 days. Georges managed to escape the kidnapping because he was sleeping at the neighbors on the night the criminals knocked down the door of his home. He was subsequently relocated to Dakar by his parents. (Source: Seneweb.com Video is from The Radio TV Walfadjri - February 22, 2012)

NOTE 1: Countries known to be involved in the cross-border trade of PWA and their body parts: Tanzania, Burundi, Kenya, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Mozambique, South Africa, Swaziland,

NOTE 2: 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.