



**UTSS REPORT: In Tanzania Four Persons With Albinism Were Attacked Between January 31 & February 15, 2013**

**FIRST ATTACK: Lugolola Bunzari on January 31<sup>st</sup>, 2013**



**On January 31<sup>st</sup>, 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 head, forehead, right arm and left shoulder, chopped off his left arm just above the elbow disappearing with it in the dark. Lugolola's grandfather, Zenga Buyanga Meli (95yrs) was also killed as he tried to protect his grandson. He was mutilated with machetes.

Tabora Regional Police Commander Anthony Ruta told UTSS Executive Director, Vicky Ntetema on the phone (01/02/2013) that eight men armed with machetes and shotguns invaded the homestead of pastoralist Bunzari Shinga (35yrs), the father of the victim shot him in the waist and left arm, left Lugolola's grandmother, Dama Zenga with a machete wound on her left

leg. The two have been admitted to Kitete District Hospital in Tabora. Ruta said that the family homestead is in a remote area where scattered neighbours could not come to the Bunzaris' rescue on the day of the attack. The police force has appealed to villagers to volunteer information that would lead to the arrest of the attackers.

May Lugolola and Zenga rest in eternal peace! Amen.

The news has also been broadcast on national TV channels. The following link is for Star TV news. The story begins five minutes into the program.

<http://www.jamiiforums.com/jukwaa-la-siasa/394432-mauaji-ya-albino-yaanza-tena-tanzania-mmoja-auawa-tabora-anyofolewa-mkono.html>

**SECOND REPORT:** 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. **NO PICTURE AVAILABLE**

**THIRD REPORT:** Maria Chambanenge on February 11, 2013



**On February 11, 2013** between 1:00 and 2:00 a.m., Maria Chambanenge, a 39 year old woman with albinism narrowly escaped death in Mkowe Village, Miangalua, Sumbawanga Rural District, Rukwa Region in western Tanzania. She told UTSS First Responder Team from her sick bed in Rukwa Regional Hospital that her husband Gabriel Yohana attacked her three times on her head with machete in her bedroom where she was sleeping with her five month old baby Emma and two-year old son Rahab. Her husband's accomplices, his elder brother Bernard Yohana and her cousin Linus, helped to chop off Maria's left arm. Maria who has four children (Shukuru 8 (f), Edron 6 (m), Rahab 2 (m) and Emma 5 months (f) described how her baby was crying and she was also crying in pain and asking for help. "I heard my husband saying, "Do not cry! Sorry!"

Her eldest child daughter Shukuru Gabriel (8) told UTSS that she was woken up in the middle of the night by her mother's screams and her baby sister's cries. She was sleeping next to her mother's bedroom where she could see what was happening from underneath her bed sheet.

"I saw two men in long dark coats and masks over their faces attacking my mother with machetes. The short one put my mother's arm against the wall. Then I saw my father coming out of the bedroom carrying the arm of my mother. A lot of blood came out of my mother's arm. A third man came inside and took my mother's clothes and used them to wrap my mother's arm. The three left the house. The other one looked like my uncle, although I could not see his face. I could tell from his physique, height and the way he walked. I heard our neighbour, my aunt Egneta calling my name from next door. My mother was quiet. Baby Emma was still crying and blood from my mother's wound went into her mouth. "Open the door from outside, Shukuru! My door is locked from outside!: I went to open the door with the key that she gave me from underneath the door. She called my mother and she did not respond. Then she ran to the other neighbours, my uncle and aunt, shouting for help. Aunt Egneta's husband, Frank Yohana who was sleeping at his first wife's house shouted from the inside that they have been locked in from outside. Aunt Egneta opened the door. Rahab and Edron were still sleeping when all this was going on. People thought that my baby sister Emma and kid brother Rahab were injured too because they were all covered by blood. Later on the Village Executive Officer Frank Chambika came to the house. And we children were taken to another house – where my two step mothers live. My father has three wives. The third one is my mother, Maria. They told me that my mother will be taken to hospital in Miangalua. I have not seen my mother again." Shukuru became very emotional and cried uncontrollably.

Meanwhile, Rukwa regional Crime Officer Peter Ngussa told UTSS that five men have been arrested. On 15<sup>th</sup> February, 2013 some of the men helped the police to recover Maria's arm, which was buried near a bridge by a small river between three and four kilometers on the road to Miangalua from Mkowe. Investigation is underway.

By the way, Mkowe (Maria Chambanenge's Village) and Msia (Mwigulu M's Village) are 150 km apart on the same stretch of the main rural road. They are about 8 villages apart.



We are concerned about Shukuru's safety. We have advised the authorities including Rukwa Regional Commissioner Stellah Manyanya and the police to move Shukuru and her siblings from Mkowe Village to their maternal grandmother in Miangalua, seven kilometers from where they are now. - ENDS All photos by Emmanuel Kwitema (UTSS)

**FOURTH REPORT: Mwigulu Matonange on February 15, 2013**



**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.

He was attacked a day after Maria Chambanenge's left arm was recovered by the police with the help of information from the arrested men, including Maria's husband, Gabriel Yohana.

Mwigulu M, a standard Two Msia Primary School pupil is being treated at Mtowisa Health Centre, 32km from his home village. His father Gimbishi Lugwisha Magesse Matonange, was by his side blaming himself for 'failing to protect' his son and for not being there when Mwigulu M needed him the most.

On the fateful Friday, Mwigulu M left school earlier than normal because his neighbour, a standard Six student also named Mwigulu (17yrs) was feeling unwell asked his teacher to go back home before the end of the lessons. He also asked Mwigulu M's brother Didi to let him go

back home with his kid brother. Didi who normally escorts his kid brother to and fro the school allowed neighbour Mwigulu to do so.

On the way home, with his neighbour and cousin Luwilimila (12), Mwigulu M recalls to have seen two men by the first bridge, one in red coat with a red wooly hat and another in a white coat with a red wooly hat. The men walked behind them watching the three boys closely. They were walking too fast for the boys' liking. A kilometer on, the boys decided to split. Neighbour Mwigulu decided to continue with the main road and the two cousins took the shortcut through the maize fields. At the second bridge, where the shortcut met the main road, neighbour Mwigulu was nowhere to be seen. But the two cousins (Mwigulu M and Luwilimila) saw the two strangers as if they were waiting for them. They boys ran past them until they reached home.

After lunch and having finished a few house chores, Mwigulu M and his cousin Luwilimila decided to go and bathe in a tiny seasonal river, a kilometer away in a forest at the end of their family sesame, maize and millet farms.

They then saw cows crossing the river going towards the farms. They decided to chase them away into the forest. They suddenly came across the two strangers they had seen by the main road on the way from school. One of them asked the boys whether they have seen his red cow. They boys told the men that they have not come across such a cow.

Without any warning, one of the men grabbed Mwigulu M and the other was going for Luwilimila. The latter ran away down the hill towards the river. The men laughed and said that they were just teasing them. When Luwilimila approached his cousin who was still being held by one of the men, the second one tried to hold his hand once again. Luwilimila ran again and stood a few meters away. That is when he saw his cousin Mwigulu being dragged against his will up the hill into the bushes. He started running towards their home screaming for help. "Bad strangers have got hold of Mwigulu!" he shouted.

Uncle Mwigulu (a third Mwigulu in the family) who was weeding his maize farm was the first to hear Luwilimila's distress screams. He ran towards the river calling out his nephew's name. He climbed the hill and he heard the boy's voice. "I am here! Come here, they have chopped off my arm!" By that time Mwigulu M's mother and some more relatives came rushing to the forest. When she reached the river, she saw her son bleeding profusely from where his left arm used to be. She asked Uncle Mwigulu to put the child down on the sand and wrap his wound to stop the bleeding. Brave Mwigulu M told the family how he crawled away towards home from the place where they cut off his arm.

The village government officials took Mwigulu to Msia Dispensary where he was given first aid before rushing him to Mtowisa where doctors saved his life. He had lost a lot of blood.

When UTSS First Responder Team visited him at the hospital, courageous Mwigulu M narrated his ordeal. “The man in the red coat held me down and used his red hat to cover my face after the man in a white coat started hacking off my left arm with a machete. They left me there bleeding as they took my left arm with them and disappeared with it into the thick forest higher up the hill. I thought if I stayed up the hill and in the bush my family would never find me. I wanted to reach home and ask them to take me to the hospital. But I was feeling very weak and that is why I decided to rest where they found me.” Mwigulu M told his father, “Now that the bad men have cut off my hand, I cannot even scratch my right hand. Could you do it for me! When I get out of the hospital, I do not want to go back home. The bad men will come back and cut off my right arm. And then I will have no arms.” His father Gimbishi could not help shedding tears as his son looked on. We gave him some money for his hospital upkeep. “Please father, use the money to buy some socks so that I wear them with my school shoes and go to school. Find me another school away from Msia where I will not be going home after lessons. A school where the bad men cannot find me and chop off my arm.”

UTSS promised Mwigulu M to find a good school for him where he would be safe.

Three men have been arrested in connection with the attack. - END