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Stop killing albino babies, AFRIBABY pleads

on JUNE 16, 2011 · in FEATURES

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By Chioma Obinna



Mrs Olayinka Odiboh

A child friendly organisation, AFRIBABY Initiative has condemned the killing of an albino baby in Mbalagh Village, Benue State calling on government at all levels to urgently activate their information dissemination machineries to commence grassroots awareness campaigns against albino baby killing, general babycide and baby-brutality.

Reacting to the killing of the baby, Mrs. Olayinka Odiboh, the Executive Director and Secretary to the Board of Trustees AFRIBABY Initiative said they condemned in its entirety, the monstrous murdering of a defenseless, innocent baby and seriously frown at the sudden silence over the reported crime.

Her words, "To say that we, like millions of other Nigerians, are sad and angered, is an understatement. We are crying out loud on behalf of the late albino baby and other albino babies in our midst. We strongly demand the continuation and acceleration of the trial of Doowese Hembaur until justice is seen to have been delivered as a warning signal to other killers of albino babies".

It could be recalled that a woman was reported to have slashed off the head of three months old baby girl, on

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February 27, 2011 in Mbalagh Village, Benue State, North Central Nigeria, simply because she (the baby) is an albino, and despite the fact that she (Doowese Hembaur) is the biological mother. She has since been billed to appear at the Magistrate Court 1, North Bank, Makurdi, Benue State on April 19, 2011. Since then, nothing has been heard on the matter.

According to Odiboh, Hunters of albino babies in Burundi and its neighbouring Tanzania have pointed accusing fingers at other African countries including Nigeria, as places where albino killers are on the prowl. It will be recalled that a five months old albino baby was widely reported, early this year, to have been abducted and decapitated for ritual purposes in Burundi. Such an activity is going on in Nigeria unreported because the people concerned and their witchdoctors believe that albino babies are witches and wizards.

“We at AFRIBABY are embittered and seek to say it clearly that this act is a barbaric stereotypical profiling of our babies and it amounts to wasting human life and plundering our future. If it continues unchecked, other babies will soon become objects of ritual murder. We condemn all forms of babycide and baby brutality and promise to, henceforth, intervene aggressively on behalf of all maltreated or murdered babies through legal and constitutional means, in order to obtain justice for all affected babies”.

She warned that babies are babies, no matter the colour, sex, shape or source. They are the gifts of God’s omnipotence, the sources of joy to the family, the potential agents of positive change, and the hope that we have a future. Thus, they must be handled with equal love, care, kindness and protection.

She further called on well-meaning Nigerians, women associations, humanitarian groups, opinion leaders, traditional rulers, wives of State Governors, especially Her Excellency, wife of the President, Dame Patience Goodluck Jonathan to support the group in condemning this unwarranted and ill-motivated savagery against albino babies and babies in general adding that this killing must stop now.

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