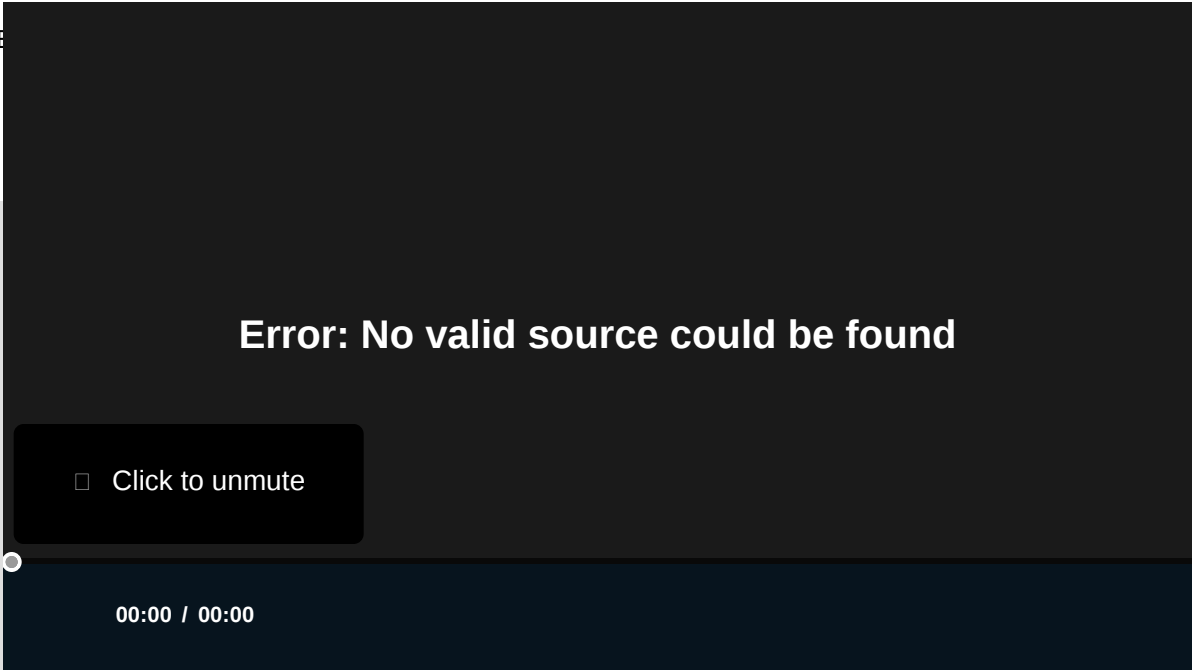




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Tanzanian Woman With Albinism Gets New Arms

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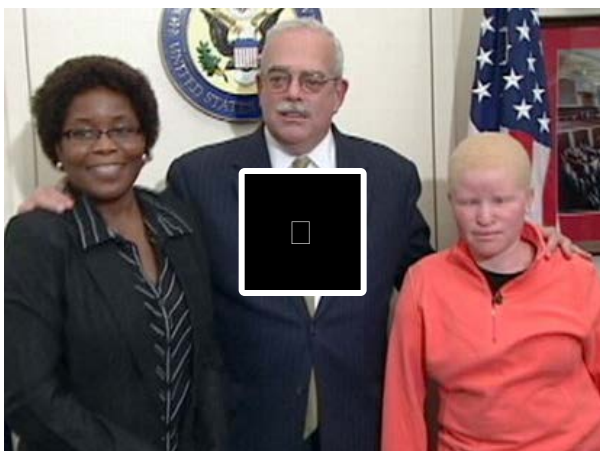
Randy Sager/ABC

[WATCH](#) | Tanzanians with Albinism Hunted



On a cold winter evening, a soft-spoken, 28-year-old single mother from rural [Tanzania](#) stepped off a plane at Dulles International Airport outside Washington D.C., with high hopes. The goal of her trip: a shot at life.

It was 28-year-old [Mariamu Stafford](#)'s first time outside of Tanzania; but as she approached customs, an agent wouldn't let her through, claiming she refused to be fingerprinted. It wasn't that she wouldn't, but that she couldn't.



Tanzanian With Albinism Visits Capitol Hill

A year ago, both of Stafford's arms were chopped off -- part of a brutal campaign of death in her native country. Men armed with machetes stormed Stafford's hut while she was sleeping, she told ABC News, and began cutting at her arms in a gruesome attempt to amputate them.

[Click here to find out how to help Tanzanians with albinism](#)

[Persons with albinism](#), like Stafford, are being hunted down and murdered; their bodies sold on the black market and used in witchdoctor potions, all because of a superstitious belief that the limbs of albinos possess special powers. Nearly [60 albinos have been murdered](#) in the last three years.

The attack rendered Stafford an invalid. Unable to feed or clothe herself, or care for her young son, she yearned for independence.

[SLIDESHOW: Woman Gets Ne...](#) [more +](#)

"I'm a grown person, but I can't do anything," she told "20/20." "I used to be able to rely on myself, but now my mother must tend to my every need."

Stafford thought her future was bleak. After meeting her last year, "[20/20](#)" helped mobilize a group of volunteers, who affectionately became known as "Team Mariamu," to bring Stafford to the U.S. Leading the team was Vicky Ntetema, a Tanzanian journalist-turned-advocate, who bravely first exposed Stafford's tragedy.

Eventually, a customs manager, who saw "20/20's" initial report about the grotesque phenomenon of albino killings, allowed Stafford into the country.

Stafford's first stop was an appointment with Elliot Weintrob, the president of the Orthotic Prosthetic Center in Virginia, who would build a [custom set of prosthetic limbs](#) for Stafford -- free of charge.

"You can't turn the other way when you see something like [Stafford's gruesome attack]. You got to say, 'What can I do here to help?'" Weintrob said. "I don't think I had a choice. I see and hear a lot of things, but this went right to the top."

New Limbs, New Hope

Weintrob and his staff donated their time to make Stafford a custom set of prosthetic limbs. It's a painstaking process of measuring and readjusting, where precision is a must. Double amputations, typically the fallout of war, are rarely seen in this county, but Weintrob and his team begin to recreate what was taken from Stafford.

Weintrob built a basic prosthetic with hooks on the end to give Stafford the most functionality. She must use the muscle in the stump of her arm to control the hooks.

When Weintrob was putting on the final touches, Stafford asked him through an interpreter: "Are these my real arms or are you still testing?"

"These are the arms you will take home," he replied.

No translation was needed; Stafford broke out in dance and song. After 14 months of misery, it was everything she had waited for.

"The arms will me do things I never thought I could do again," she said. "I'm going to be independent!"

[CLICK HERE](#) to see photos of Stafford through her journey.

Learning How to Use Her New Arms

To help her become independent again, Stafford visited Rashaan Holley, an occupational therapist at the National Rehabilitation Hospital and another angel on Team Mariamu.

Stafford had only a few days to master what most people learn over the course of months. Just learning how to put the prosthetics on seemed virtually impossible. At first she struggled, but eventually was able to put them on without assistance.

Her sessions went beyond the mechanics of her artificial limbs, testing the limits of her stamina and the depths of her determination. She had to relearn how to do everything -- even the most simple, everyday tasks including picking up objects, using utensils, opening doors, getting dressed, and above all, learning again how to feed herself.

The process was grueling, but Stafford never complained, celebrating every small accomplishment.

"I'm very happy and so grateful for everything," she told ABC News' Juju Chang. "The arms don't hurt, but even if I feel pain I will through it because I know that these arms can help me."

Stafford Finds a Surrogate American Family

During her ten day trip, Stafford and her nurse, Joyce Kigembe, and Ntetema, were welcomed into the home of Kitty DeWitt, a member of NOAH, a national albinism organization, who raised two now-adult children with albinism. The group quickly became a family, spending evenings singing and dancing. Kigembe said Stafford has done more for them, than they for her.

"I'm not a forgiving person. I carry a grudge, but after all Mariamu went through in life and she still forgives, it's really touched my heart and made me see life differently," said Kigembe.

Between appointments, Staford partied with the local albinism community; she tried new foods with mixed results -- French Fries and hot chocolate were a thumbs up, but donuts and cheesecake were less appealing.

"She has this sense of humor that's extraordinary given the trauma that she's endured," DeWitt said of Staford, whom she calls her "binti," or daughter.

Spreading Awareness on Capitol Hill

While in the U.S., Staford became a powerful advocate spreading awareness at the highest level -- Capitol Hill. Along with Ntetema and NOAH members, Staford met with Congressman Gerald Connolly, D-Va., to lobby the U.S. government to take action to prevent the albino killings in East Africa.

Less than three months later, Staford's cause made it to the floor of Congress. The House passed a resolution condemning the attacks and called for swift action to end the murders. Only one member voted against the measure.

With seven suitcases bulging with clothes, books and toys -- presents from her new American friends to help her regain some of what she's lost -- Staford's miraculous adventure came to end and she returned to Tanzania a new woman.

With her new arms, Staford is able to write and do housework. She has enrolled in school to become a professional seamstress. Her entire demeanor has changed.

"Mariamu has not come back with new arms. She has come back with a new spirit, with new zeal. She is a completely new person!" said Anna Nyamubi, a Tanzanian District Commissioner who took Staford into her home after she was evicted from her government-owned home. "Mariamu is ready to face the world!"

When "20/20" first interviewed Staford last year, she had just one ultimate wish: to hold her son. Now, with her new arms, she can proudly lift and hug her 3-year-old boy, Nio.

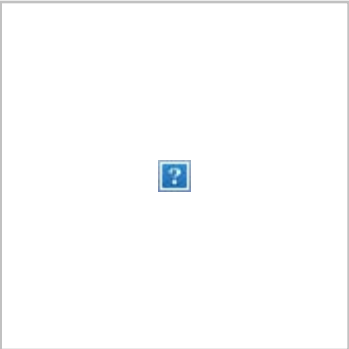
"Its hope for every person with albinism that even when you lose your limbs, you

shouldn't give up," said Ntetema.

Click here to find out how to help Tanzanians with albinism

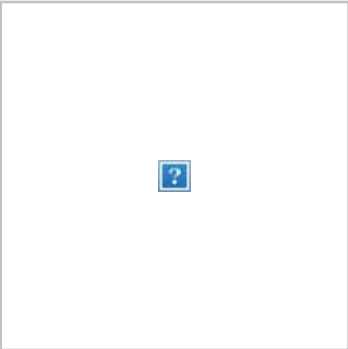
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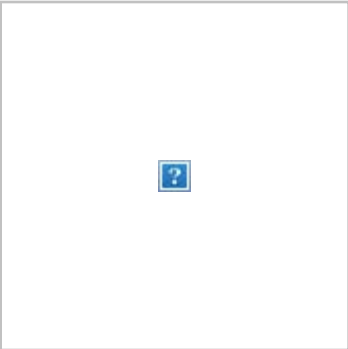
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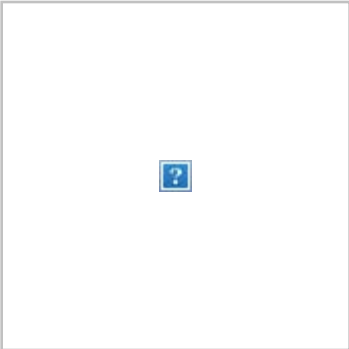
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As Trump visits Iowa, farmers warn 'patience is wearing thin' on tariff fight



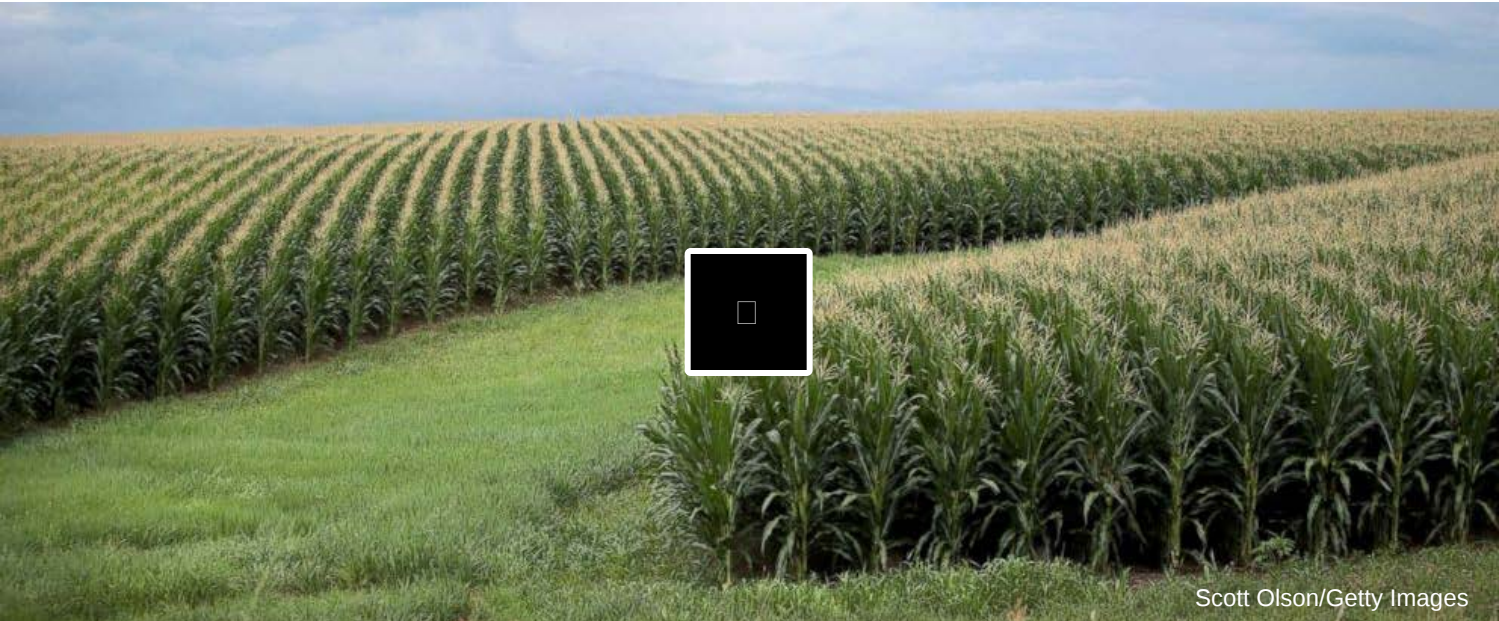
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By **ALEXANDER MALLIN**

Arlington, Iowa — Jul 26, 2018, 12:28 PM ET



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Pig prices are plunging – so, too, those of American soybeans.



America's heartland farmers, in states



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largely supportive of President [Donald Trump](#), say they are starting to feel real financial pain from a tit-for-tat trade war Trump once promised will be “easy to win.”

“We have loss of confidence in our products and we have loss of price,” said hog farmer Gregg Hora of Fort Dodge, Iowa. “Pig farmers are currently losing about \$25-30 per pig.”



Gregg Hora, president of the Iowa Pork Producers Association, says a trade war wit... [more +](#)

After Trump slapped steep new tariffs on imports of foreign steel and aluminum earlier this year, China, Mexico, and the European Union imposed retaliatory tariffs on billions of dollars US goods – from bourbon, Harley Davidson motorbikes and orange juice to dairy products, soybeans and pork.

“Patience is wearing thin on U.S. pork producers because the next six months of market prices – there’s a lot of red ink,” Hora said. “We need the administration to come to these deals quickly.”

While Wall Street expressed relief Wednesday with word from the White House that a trade fight with Europe would not escalate, many farmers remain anxious. Existing tariffs still remain in place and the announcement did not resolve Chinese sanctions on American pork and soy which have had the biggest bite.



Iowa pig farmers say they are losing \$25 to \$30 per pig because of plunging prices r...[more +](#)

"I think it's a sign of progress," corn and soybean farmer Mark Recker of Arlington, Iowa, said of the president's announcement on E.U. talks. "We need more details with these things because it's so much in flux and they change from day to day."

President Trump visited Peosta, Iowa, just west of Dubuque on Thursday to tour a community college and host a panel on workforce development. But it was not clear how much face-to-face time he would get with farmers like Recker who say they're already feeling the pinch from Trump's trade war.

"There's no doubt the tariffs have had a very powerful effect to the downside on our

prices,” said Recker, who serves as president of the Iowa Corn Growers Association.



Mark Recker, president of the Iowa Corn Growers Association, says his corn and so... [more +](#)

Farmers face a nearly 20 percent drop in the price of soybean harvests this year and more than 15 percent drop in the price of corn, according to the Association. The new tariffs are seen as the primary cause.

The White House this week announced a \$12 billion emergency aid package of direct payments to farmers impacted by the trade war and indirect support through government purchase of surplus inventories.



Gregg Hora of Fort Dodge, Iowa, says farmers are anxious about the financial impa... [more +](#)

“It’s a handout, it’s not something we earned,” said Rick Juchems, a corn, soybean and hog farmer in Plainfield, Iowa. “I would just as soon have access to free markets and let’s earn what we get.”

Juchems, who says he didn’t vote in the 2016 election, gives President Trump leeway to resolve the crisis – but says his patience is not unlimited.



Farmers face a nearly 20 percent drop in the price of soybean harvests this year an... [more +](#)

“I’m not opposed to what he’s doing. It’s just really hard when you’re trying to make a living,” Juchems said. “I think it would be healthy in the long run, in the short run it may be a little tight.”

As Trump looks to shore up support for a re-election bid, Recker says Iowans will want to see results from the president’s promise that farmers will gain financially from the trade negotiations.



The White House this week announced a \$12 billion emergency aid package of dire... [more +](#)

"This is what he campaigned on and this is what he's talked about as being president -- that he's going to disrupt trade," Recker said. "And I think farmers have been willing to give the president latitude as far as how he handles trade. But now it's hitting close to home, the reality is here, lower prices, we're going into the fall with a larger crop it looks like and we're going to have questions about where are our opportunities for profitability coming now?"

ABC News' Devin Dwyer contributed to this report.

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