

**STATEMENT BY THE AFRICA ALBINISM NETWORK CONDEMNING
RECENT ATTACKS AGAINST PERSONS WITH ALBINISM IN MADAGASCAR
AND MALAWI**

The Africa Albinism Network (AAN) expresses deep sorrow and concern over the reported attacks against persons with albinism in Madagascar and Malawi. These cases once again remind Africa and the international community that persons with albinism continue to face extreme forms of violence, including abduction, mutilation, trafficking in body parts, and killings, often driven by harmful myths, superstition, stigma, and organised criminal networks.

1. In Madagascar, AAN is deeply alarmed by the reported kidnapping of an 18-month-old child with albinism in the city of Toliara. According to reports, the child was taken from his home at around 2 A.M. On 28 May 2026, while his father was injured during the assault after trying to resist the attackers. This grave incident raises serious concerns about the safety and protection of children with albinism in Madagascar and calls for urgent action to secure the child's safe recovery, protect the affected family, and bring all perpetrators and accomplices to justice. This incident follows a recent attack on a 14-year-old child and represents the third reported attack in Madagascar in the past five months.
2. In Malawi, AAN is deeply saddened by the killing of a 36-year-old man with albinism from Lilongwe District, who had reportedly been missing since 9 March 2026. His remains were later recovered in May and buried. According to the Malawi Police Service, a suspect was arrested after allegedly attempting to sell human remains, and preliminary investigations suggest that the killing may be linked to the illegal trade in human body parts.

AAN extends its deepest solidarity and sympathy to the families affected in Madagascar and Malawi, to the national albinism movements in both countries, and to all persons with albinism across Africa who continue to live with fear, trauma, and insecurity. These attacks constitute serious violations of fundamental human rights, including the right to life, dignity, equality, security of a person, liberty, protection from violence, access to justice, and freedom from cruel, inhuman, and degrading treatment.

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AAN recalls that both Madagascar and Malawi are members of the Southern African Development Community (SADC), whose [Declaration on the Protection of Persons with Albinism](#) recognises that persons with albinism in the region are often targeted by organised crime syndicates and subjected to kidnapping, abduction, grievous bodily harm, trafficking, and murder as a result of erroneous beliefs, myths, and superstitions.

Call to Action

To the Government of Madagascar

AAN calls on the Government of Madagascar to urgently:

1. **Ensure the safe recovery of the kidnapped child**

Treat the reported kidnapping in Toliara as a matter of national urgency by mobilizing all available law enforcement, intelligence, and child protection mechanisms to locate and safely recover the child.

2. **Protect families, witnesses, and communities**

Provide urgent medical care, psychosocial support, protection, and legal assistance to the affected family. Ensure that witnesses, including family and community members who may assist in investigations, are safeguarded from intimidation, retaliation, and further harm.

3. **Adopt and implement a National Action Plan on Albinism**

Urgently develop, resource, and implement a **National Action Plan on Albinism** aligned with the [African Union Plan of Action to End Attacks and Other Human Rights Violations Targeting Persons with Albinism in Africa \(2021–2031\)](#). Ensure the Plan includes Prevention and community awareness; Protection and early warning systems; Access to justice and legal aid; Psychosocial support; Inclusive education and health care; Robust data collection and monitoring systems.

4. **Strengthen child protection and reporting systems**

Utilise the [ACERWC Guiding Note on Reporting on the Rights and Welfare of Children with Albinism in Africa](#) to strengthen reporting, investigations, protection measures, and policy reform.

To the Government of Malawi

AAN acknowledges the steps already taken by the Malawi Police Service in arresting a suspect in connection with the killing of Laston Chipiliro and in recovering the victim's remains. We encourage continued consistency, urgency, and professionalism in the handling of this case.

AAN calls on the Government of Malawi to:

1. **Complete investigations and prosecute all perpetrators**

Ensure all persons involved, including planners, direct perpetrators, facilitators, sponsors, and buyers of human body parts, are identified, arrested, prosecuted, and held fully accountable.

2. **Maintain consistency in law enforcement and prosecution**

Sustain progress by ensuring that every case is thoroughly recorded, investigated, prosecuted, and followed through to final judgment and enforcement.

3. **Renew and strengthen the National Action Plan on Persons with Albinism**

Use the planned June 2026 renewal as an opportunity to consolidate progress, strengthen prevention and protection measures, and ensure adequate resourcing and alignment with the African Union Plan of Action to End Attacks and Other Human Rights Violations Targeting Persons with Albinism in Africa (2021–2031).

4. **Implement the Southern Africa Development Community (SADC) Declaration on the Protection of Persons with Albinism**

As a SADC Member State, Malawi should continue to implement the SADC Declaration by strengthening preventive measures, protective measures, accountability mechanisms, equality and non-discrimination, public education, law enforcement, and support to families affected by attacks.

5. **Address the role of relatives and close community members in facilitating attacks**

The Government of Malawi must ensure that investigations are not limited to unknown external attackers but also examine whether any

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family member, relative, neighbor, or close associate facilitated, supported, concealed, or benefited from these crimes.

To SADC, African Union and United Nations

1. **The Southern Africa Development Community** must urgently support Madagascar and Malawi in the full implementation of the 2024 SADC Declaration on the Protection of Persons with Albinism, including enhanced regional coordination, stronger cross-border law enforcement cooperation, public awareness, and accountability for attacks against persons with albinism.
2. **The African Union** must intensify continental action to end attacks against persons with albinism, including the effective implementation of the AU Plan of Action on Albinism, stronger monitoring of attacks, and support for national protection measures.
3. **The African Committee of Experts on the Rights and Welfare of the Child** must urgently engage the Government of Madagascar to ensure the protection of children with albinism and to encourage child-sensitive measures to prevent abductions, violence, trafficking, and killings.
4. **The United Nations Office of the High Commission for Human Rights** must strengthen its engagement with Madagascar and Malawi to support compliance with human rights obligations to protect persons with albinism, support awareness-raising, strengthen child protection, and promote justice for victims and affected families.

Governments must act. Regional bodies must act. The African Union must act. The United Nations must act. Families and communities must act.

People with albinism have the right to live in safety, dignity and freedom from fear.

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