Malawi teacher charged with trying to sell albino girl for $10,000

BLANTYRE, Malawi: A Malawian teacher suspected of attempting to sell an albino schoolgirl for $10,000 was arrested Tuesday, police said, as the country battles to stop albino killings fueled by superstition.

Primary school teacher Phillip Ngulube was with the girl when he was arrested in the northern city of Mzuzu and has been charged with abduction with intent to murder, police spokesman Maurice Chapola told AFP.

Ngulube was "caught by police on his way to selling the girl to an alleged Tanzanian businessman for six million Kwacha ($10,000)," said Chapola, adding it was likely she would be killed for her body parts.

The suspect told police the high school student was his girlfriend.
Malawi teacher charged with trying to sell albino girl for $10,000 | News, World | THE DAILY STAR

Albinos have white skin and yellow hair, a result of an hereditary genetic disorder that causes the absence of pigmentation in the skin, hair and eyes. They are killed regularly in some African countries for their body parts - which are used in witchcraft rituals.

The plight of people with albinism has worsened in recent years, according to UN and police figures, with concerns that the October election in Tanzania this year will prompt more attacks as politicians seek luck at the ballot box.

A complete albino skeleton is said to be worth as much as $75,000, according to the Red Cross.

Since a surge of attacks against albinos in December, the UN estimates that nine have been killed in Malawi.

In June, Malawi launched a probe to establish the root causes of albino killings and identify who buys the body parts in the country and in neighboring Tanzania and Mozambique.

The results of the probe have yet to be published. Several Malawians are awaiting trial in connection with albinorelated crimes, including killings, abductions and possession of albino bones.

Comments

Your feedback is important to us!

We invite all our readers to share with us their views and comments about this article.

Disclaimer: Comments submitted by third parties on this site are the sole responsibility of the individual(s) whose content is submitted. The Daily Star accepts no responsibility for the content of comment(s), including, without limitation, any error, omission or inaccuracy therein. Please note that your email address will NOT appear on the site.

Alert: If you are facing problems with posting comments, please note that you must verify your email with Disqus prior to posting a comment. Follow this link to make sure your account meets the requirements. (http://bit.ly/verifyDisqus)

comments powered by Disqus
Malawi teacher charged with trying to sell albino girl for $10,000 | News, World | THE DAILY STAR

Malawi teacher charged with trying to sell albino girl for $10,000

Malawi teacher charged with trying to sell albino girl for $10,000 | News , World | THE DAILY STAR

Assad's foes are facing their own wars

David Ignatius
How can America use its power in a creative way?

Tanya Demaika
Removing the blind spots