

68th ORDINARY SESSION
AFRICAN COMMISSION ON HUMAN AND PEOPLES' RIGHTS
14 April to 4 May 2021

AFRICAN ALBINISM ALLIANCE¹ STATEMENT ON THE SITUATION OF PEOPLE WITH ALBINISM IN AFRICA

Mr/Madame Chair,

Distinguished Member States,

On behalf of The African Albinism Alliance (AAA), a newly formed consortium of organizations working in Africa to promote the implementation of the AU Plan of Action on Albinism²,

We extend our gratitude to the Commission for its support in calling upon Member States to adopt the Regional Action Plan on ending violence and related human rights violations against persons with albinism on this continent through resolution 373 of 2017. This Regional Action Plan, was later adopted by the AU Executive Council during its 2019 35th ordinary session as a continent-wide policy and re-named the Plan of Action to end attacks and other human rights violations targeting persons with albinism in Africa.

We remain concerned about the ongoing reports of violence against people with albinism, particularly in Malawi, Mozambique, and Zambia. In the period of 2020-2021 there has been 12 reported attacks in the three states. These include murder, mutilation of body parts, abduction, human trafficking, and desecration of graves. Half of these involved children between the ages of 0 to 12. In Malawi, two children survived abduction, while most recently on March 26 2021, a 20 month-old toddler was abducted from her mother. In Mozambique one boy was murdered, another went missing, and an eight month old baby survived trafficking by his parents. In Zambia, a man who was a father of 3 children was murdered.

To date, no mastermind behind these violent crimes has ever been unmasked, prosecution remains slow and accused persons are being killed in custody particularly in Malawi. This leads

¹ A newly formed consortium of organizations working in Africa to promote the implementation of the AU Plan of Action on Albinism. For more, see actiononalbinism.org

² The Plan of Action (2021-2031) replaces the Regional Action Plan (2017-2021)

not only to additional violation of human rights but also loss of potential evidence for prosecution.

We call upon the Governments of Malawi and Mozambique and Zambia, to immediately put in place protection measures by adopting and implementing a national action plan guided by the AU plan of action on albinism. These plans must have a multi-year budget and must include concrete and effective measures to protect persons with albinism against these hate crimes.

Thank you