



# General Assembly

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## Human Rights Council

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Agenda item 4

Human rights situations that require the Council's attention

### **Written statement\* submitted by the Society for Threatened Peoples, a non-governmental organization in special consultative status**

The Secretary-General has received the following written statement which is circulated in accordance with Economic and Social Council resolution 1996/31.

[17 August 2017]

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\* This written statement is issued, unedited, in the language(s) received from the submitting non-governmental organization(s).

GE.17-15084(E)



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## **Better protection for people with albinism – action plan must be implemented**

There must be a more effective protection of people with albinism in African countries. According to police reports, two albino children were killed on 25 July 2017 in central Mozambique's Mulumbo district. The victims are a six-year-old boy and a 13-year-old girl with albinism.

Human traffickers pay large amounts of money for corpses of people with albinism, which – according to traditional beliefs – have great healing and magical powers. Since 2006, more than 600 people with albinism have been attacked and injured, especially in eastern and southern Africa. Dozens of them were killed in these attacks.

Most of the attacks take place in Malawi and Mozambique. In Malawi's Rumphi district, only ten days ago, criminals had tried to exhume the corpse of a woman with albinism, who had died in 2004, in order to sell the remaining body parts. Relatives of the deceased woman had watched them and then informed the police. In Mozambique, body parts of people with albinism can be sold for 75,000 Euros.

The Regional Plan of Action on Albinism in Africa, which focuses on the period until 2021, does not only involve more educational efforts and public relations work to combat the superstition that body parts of people with albinism have healing powers; it is also intended to contribute to more effective legal protection and a more consistent prosecution of attacks. On May 22, 2017, the African Commission on Human Rights had demanded the Action Plan to be implemented comprehensively and as soon as possible.

In the summer of 2017, the UN Expert on the Rights of People with Albinism, Ikponwosa Ero, had repeatedly called on the African states to step up the measures to combat discrimination and violence against people with albinism and to implement the action plan.

Society for Threatened Peoples calls on the Human Rights Council to:

- Urge African states to implement the action plan better protect people with albinism from attacks.