



## National Organization for Albinism and Hypopigmentation



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

10/1/09

NOAH calls for East African governments to be held accountable for albino massacres

EAST HAMPSTEAD, New Hampshire – Albinos in East Africa are being mutilated and murdered for body parts. Although each week brings news of more bloodshed, courts in Tanzania have been very slow to conduct the prosecutions of these heinous crimes, citing a lack of funds. Since 2007, 53 children and adults with albinism (commonly referred to as “albinos”) have been slaughtered by people who believe that potions and charms made from the body parts of people with albinism can be used to ensure wealth and good fortune. Many others have been left to die, with arms and legs cut off.



“NOAH is horrified by the reports that people with albinism, including children, have been butchered in East Africa,” said National Organization for Albinism and Hypopigmentation (NOAH) president, Michael McGowan. “Although we are heartened by the recognition of these atrocities by governments around the world, we strongly assert that more must be done to stop these crimes against humanity.”

Among the objectives that NOAH and other albinism advocacy groups are fighting for are the swift prosecution of the killers and instigators by African authorities, the condemnation of these atrocities by world governments and human rights organizations, and the confrontation of the unacceptable underlying social, medical and political circumstances that lead to a decreased quality of life for individuals with albinism living in Africa.



NOAH ([www.albinism.org](http://www.albinism.org)), the national support group for people living with albinism is working in collaboration with Positive Exposure ([www.positiveexposure.org](http://www.positiveexposure.org)), a nonprofit organization dedicated to attacking public fear of difference through positive images and stories, to speak on behalf of the African albinism community in order to fight for positive change and a greater acceptance and understanding of the condition around the world.



**ABOUT ALBINISM:** Albinism is a genetic condition that is often misunderstood by the general public and medical professionals alike and is frequently misrepresented by the media. Albinism is an inherited condition that affects about one in 17,000 people worldwide; in East Africa where prevalence of the condition is much higher, it is estimated that one in 3,000 individuals is affected. Albinism occurs in all ethnic groups. In addition to noticeably reduced pigment in the skin and hair, all people with albinism have uncorrectable low vision because of a problem in the development of the retina. Many people with albinism are considered legally blind.



**ABOUT NOAH:** Founded in 1982 in Philadelphia, Penn., NOAH is the world’s largest nonprofit albinism support organization. Staffed almost entirely by volunteers, NOAH provides a national network, resources and support for people with albinism, parents of children with the condition, their families and friends and the professionals who work with them.

**ABOUT POSITIVE EXPOSURE:** Positive Exposure is a nonprofit organization whose innovative programs challenge stigma associated with difference, celebrating the richness of human diversity. Insults, fear, discrimination and hatred based on genetic differences plague our society. The organization is a unique partnership between visual arts, genetics, mental health and human rights driven by former fashion photographer Rick Guidotti.

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