



Outreach Newsletter

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UN General Assembly Adopts a Resolution Tabled by Somalia on the Rights of People with Albinism

On 18 December 2014 the Third Committee of the UN General Assembly overwhelmingly passed a historic resolution tabled by Somalia. The resolution is about declaring 13 June of each year as International Albinism Awareness Day. The adoption of this resolution stunned the whole world particularly the members of the United Nations, as Somalia is still emerging from years of conflicts and multifaceted challenges. Somalia, in response to discrimination and attacks faced by people with albinism in some parts of the world, was instrumental in bringing the issue to the attention of the UN Human Rights Council and sponsoring a resolution adopted by the UN General Assembly recognizing June 13 as the International Albinism Awareness Day. Somalia is currently persuading the United Nations to appoint a global Special Repertoire for Albinism in order to protect the human rights of people with Albinism.

Ambassador Yusuf Mohamed Ismail Bari-Bari, Somalia's Permanent Representative to the UN Geneva led the presentation and negotiation of the draft resolution. The resolution calls on all stakeholders to use this day to take action that will end discrimination, stigma and attacks against persons with albinism worldwide.

What is Albinism?

Albinism is an inherited genetic condition that reduces the amount of melanin pigment formed in the skin, hair and eyes. Albinism occurs in all racial and ethnic groups throughout the world. In the U.S., approximately one in 18,000 people has some type of albinism. In other parts of the world, the occurrence can be as high as one in 3,000. Most children with albinism are born to parents who have normal hair and eye color for their ethnic backgrounds. A common myth is that people with albinism have red eyes.

Although some people have reddish or violet eyes, most have blue eyes and some have hazel or brown eyes. There are different types of albinism and the amount of pigment in the eyes varies; however, all forms of albinism are associated with vision problems that are not correctable with eyeglasses and many have low vision.

It's the abnormal development of the retina and abnormal patterns of nerve connections between the eye and the brain that cause vision problems. The presence of these eye problems defines the diagnosis of albinism. The degree of impairment varies with the different types of albinism. such as reading, riding a bike or fishing. Some have sufficient vision to drive a car.

Although people with albinism may be considered "legally blind" with a corrected visual acuity of 20/200 or worse, most learn to use their vision in a variety of ways and are able to perform innumerable activities... See P. 3

...International Albinism Awareness...

Global State of People with Albinism:

In the United States and other developed western countries, most people with albinism live a normal life and have the same types of general medical problems as the rest of the population. In underdeveloped countries, however, individuals with albinism are at risk of isolation because the condition is often misunderstood. Social stigmatization can occur, especially within communities of color, where the race or paternity of a person with albinism may be questioned.

There are human rights abuses against people with albinism in many parts of the world, including East Africa. People with albinism face stigma and discrimination. This is specially the case in East Africa, where people living with albinism struggle with a culture of magic and superstition. People with albinism are seen as people who are outcast and cursed.

In Tanzania, there is a whole system that trades on the body parts of people with albinism. People with albinism are killed for their body parts which are believed to possess magical properties including the cure for HIV and cancer. This trade of body parts affects neighboring countries such as Kenya where people are abducted and taken to Tanzania for profit.

PERSONS WITH ALBINISM IN TANZANIA FACE SEVERAL MAJOR CHALLENGES:

The horror of a rapidly growing industry in the sale of albino body parts.

This unimaginable evil is driven by the belief (in some areas of the country) that the body parts of PWA possess magical powers capable of bringing riches if used in potions produced by local witchdoctors. Leaders in the albinism community believe that many of the attacks and killings remain undocumented and thus the numbers are likely much higher than records show.

While Tanzanian police first started documenting them in 2006, it is widely known that these witchcraft related assaults against PWA have been going on since time beyond memory. Reports also indicate that albino body parts are being exported outside of Tanzania. In one instance, a Tanzanian trader was caught traveling to the Democratic Republic of the Congo with the head of an infant with albinism in his possession. He told police that a businessman there was going to pay him for the head according to its weight.

Widespread social discrimination fueled by powerful myths

In sub Saharan Africa, there has been a long standing and widespread lack of public awareness about albinism. Powerful myths surround albinism, including these:

... International Albinism Awareness ...

- PWA never die - They simply vanish - They are not human - They are ghosts.
- PWA are born to black women who have slept with a white man, or a European ghost. (Most women giving birth to a baby with albinism are abandoned by the father of the child. In most cases, neither parent knows that the father always carries the gene as well as the mother.)
- A PWA is a curse from the gods or from dead ancestors. As a result, touching a PWA will bring bad luck, sickness or even death.

As a result of these and other myths, many families do not bother to educate their children with albinism. Also, employers avoid hiring a PWA due to fears that their customers and staff will "catch" the condition, or that food would be contaminated.

Sadly, in some social settings, many PWA are not offered the same kind of social & physical contact, due to this kind of misinformation.

1. Lack of low vision aids

There is a considerable lack of glasses, magnifiers and specialized vision sensitive computer equipment in Tanzania. This results in tremendous difficulty completing educational programs, increasing the likelihood of dropping out and subsequent unemployment.

2. Epidemic Rates of fatal skin cancer

The lack of, or reduced levels of, melanin in the skin of a PWA creates high risk for skin cancer due to sun exposure. Combine this with the profound lack of protective sunscreens, wide brimmed hats and proper clothing in Tanzania and you find epidemic rates of skin cancer in all ages. As a result, the average life expectancy for a PWA in Tanzania is 30 years, with only 2% living beyond 40 years. In countries and circumstances where adequate health care is provided and widely known, PWA have the same life expectancy as the general population.

What can you do?

In order to change the human rights situation of people with albinism, there is need to take action.

- Hosting the international albinism awareness day in your local community on June 13th.
- Inviting a local organization of persons with albinism to address your institution.
- Creating discussion forums in your workplace on how we individually and collectively contribute towards the discrimination experienced by persons with albinism through our own belief systems.
- Speaking to your member of senator, member of congress, state legislator, councilmember or other elected official about the rights and aspirations of people with albinism.
- Sponsoring a local television, radio or print media campaign on 13 June to raise awareness about the rights of persons with albinism.

SomaliCAN is willing to provide technical support for people with albinism in Ohio who would be interested in leading an advocacy campaign to educate the public about the condition. Please send us an e-mail at info@somalican.org to join the global movement to improve the condition of people with albinism.

Qarammada Midoobay oo Qaadatay Qaraar ay ka Keentay Soomaaliya Xuquuqda Dadka Qaba Albinism

18kii December ayay aheyd markii uu fadhiistay Golaha loo dhan yahay ee QM ee fadhigiisu yahay magaalada New York in uu go'aan ka gaaro qaraarkan ay Soomaaliya soo gudbisay.

Natiijadan iyo meel marintan ayaa ka yaabisay caalamka oo dhami ayadoo aan marnaba la fileyn in dalka Soomaaliya oo kasoo kabanaya dhibaato lixaad leh uu hormuud u noqday waqtigan in qaraar ahmiyadaan leh la meel mariyo.

Qaraarkan ayaa waxaa hormuud ka ahaa Danjire Yusuf Maxamed Ismaaciil Bari Bari oo Soomaaliya u fadhiya QM iyo hay'adaha caalamiga ah ee fadhigoodu yahay magaalada Geneva ee dalka Switzerland kadib markii Golaha Xuquuqul Insaanka ee QM uu meel mariyay 27 June 2014 qaraar uu Danjire Yusuf Bari Bari u gudbiyay Golaha Xuquuqul Insaanka in maalinta caalamiga ah ee dadka jirkoodu cad-cadyahay (Albinos) la sameeyo.

Waxaa xusid mudan in Danjire Yusuf Bari Bari tan iyo billoowgii sanadkii 2013 uu aad iyo aad uga dhex olooleyey Golaha Xuquuqul Insaanka ee QM si loo ansixiyo seddaxda qaraar ee lagu cambaareyey dilalka iyo meel ka dhaca loo geeysto xuquuqda dadka Albinoska ah.

Sida nidaamka caalamiga ah dhigayo, Golaha loo dhan yahay ee QM ee New York ayaa ah Golaha kaliya ee go'aanka kama dambeeysta ah ka gaari kara in maalinta caalamiga ah la aqoonsado. Ergada Joogtada ah ee Soomaaliya u fadhida xaruunta QM ee New York ayaa si weyn ugu istaagtay sidii ay gacan u siin laheyd Danjire Yusuf Bari Bari una meel mari lahaa qaraarkan taarikhiga ah.

Danjire Celmi Axmed Ducaale iyo Ku-Xigeenka Ergada Joogtada ah ee Soomaaliya u fadhida Jimciyada QM Cawaale Cali Kulane ayaa si wanaagsan ula shaqeeyey jaalkooda Danjire Yusuf BariBari waxeeyna si wada jir ah ugu guntadeen in taageero loo raadinaayo qaraarkaan waxeeyna ku guuleeysteen in ay qanciyaan dalalka xubnaha ka ah QM badankooda si ay taageero buuxda u siiyaan qaraarkaan.

Danjire Yusuf Bari Bari ayaa kasoo jeediyay khudbaad aad u dheer oo aad iyo aad loo soo dhoweeyey taasoo ugaga hadlay sababta keentay in Soomaaliya ay soo bandhigto qaraarkan ayadoo kor loogu qaadayo xaalada ay ku nool yihiin dadka qaba cudurka cad-cadaadka ee Albinos.

Qaraarka ay Soomaaliya u soo bandhigtey dalalka caalamka oo dhan oo ku bahoobey Jimciyada QM waxaa inta aan cod loo qaadin si buuxda u taageerey 47 dal. Balse caalamka oo dhami waxaa la yaab ku noqotay sida ay u dhaqantay dowladda Tanzania oo ah mid ka mid ah dalalka caalamka ay ku badan yihiin dadka Albinoska.

Dadka Albinoska ayaa ah kuwa si xun oo ka baxsan bani'aadannimada loogula dhaqmaa dalka Tanzania. Dad ay ku jiraan siyaasiyiin iyo maalqabeeno Tanzania u dhashay ayaa la sheegaa in ay caado ka dhigteen in ay cunaan ama cabaan dhiiga dadka Albinoska.

... Ka Warqabka Dadka Qaba Cadcaddaadka ...

Ergada Joogtada ah ee Tanzania u fadhida xaruunta Jimciyada QM ee ku taal magaalada New York waxeey geed gaaban iyo mid dheer u fuushey in ay hor istaagto qaraarkan oo uunan meel marin. Saacado ka hor inta aanan loo fariisanin ansixinta qaraarka diblumaasiinta Tanzania waxay qoraal u direen dhamaan Ergada Joogtada ah ee caalamka u fadhiya Jimciyada QM ee New York waxayna ogeeysiiyeen in dalalka Soomaaliya, Mareykanka, Midowga Yurub, Canada iyo dalal kale ay isku raaceen in qaraarkii ay Soomaaliya soo bandhigtey lagu daro qodob cusub ay Tanzania soo jeedisey . Farrintaas waxeey noqotay been cad oo dalalkii caalamka oo dhami ka horkeentay dalka Tanzania. Soomaaliya ayaa codsatay in cod loo qaado qodobka aan la isku raacin oo ay soo jeedisay Tanzania. Qodobka ay Tanzania wadatey waxaa taageeray 17 dal oo kaliya, waxaana kasoo horjeestay 66 dal, waxaana ka aamusay 75 dal.

Arrintan ayaa ku noqotay fool xumo iyo bah dil aad u weyn oo soo wajahdey Ergada Joogtada ah ee dalka Tanzania oo aanan marna rabin in qaraarkan uu meel maro.

Balse Ergada Joogtada ah ee dowladda Tanzania ka socotay ayaan intaasi ku istaagin waxaana ay dalbadeen in cod loo qaado gebi ahaanba qaraarka ay Soomaaliya soo bandhigtey maadaama wax ka badalkii ay soo jeediyeen uunan meel marin, ayadoo fileyso in uunan heli doonin wax taageero ah sida qodobkoodi fashilmay.

Nasiib wanaag, qaraarkii Soomaaliya ayaa waxaa uu ku meel maray si aan weli la arkin ayadoo ay u codeyeen 160 dal, waxaa ka aamusay 16 dal halka aysan cidna diidin taasoo keentay in halmar loo wada istaago dalka Soomaaliya maadaama ay guul taariikhi ah kasoo hooyeen Jimciyada QM taasoo ah in maalin caalami ah oo caalamka oo dhami laga xusi doono ay keentay dalka Soomaaliya.

Diblumaasinta waxeey aad ula yaaben habdhaqanka iyo qar iska tuurka Tanzania sababtoo ah waxeey ku dhici waayeen in ay si cad ah uga soo horjeestaan qaraarkaa Soomaaliya maadaama ay ka aamuseen. Dhinaca kale isla diblumaasiinta waxeey il gaar ah ku eegayeen Ergada Joogtada ah ee dalka Konfur Afrika u fadhida Jimciyada QM. Hadaba Konfur Afrikan si cad beey uga hortimid qodobka ay Tanzania wadatey ka dibna codkeeda beey siisey qaraarka Soomaaliya. Sida la wada ogsoon yahay dalka Konfur Afrika waa dalka ugu muhiimsan urur goboledka loo yaqaan SADC oo ay ku bahoobeen dalalka qeybta konfureed kaga yaala qaarada Afrika.

... Ka Warqabka Dadka Qaba Cadcaddaadka ...

Sidee baad Dhibaatan Gacan uga Geysan Kartaa?

Si wax looga baddelo duruufta adag ee xuquuqda aadanaha dadka qaba albinism-ka, waxaa lama huraan ah in la qaado tallaabooyin, sida:

- Magaaladaada ku martigeli maalinta caalamiga ah ee ka warqabka albinism-ka oo ah 13 Juun.
- La xiriir hay'adaha degaankaaga ah ee albinism-ka la tacaala si ay uga hadlaan shaqadooda.
- Abuur goobo wadahal oo sida ay dadku ay uga eexdaan dadka qaba albinism-ka.
- La hadan xildhibaankaaga qaranka, gobolka, iyo dowladda hoose oo u sheeg arrimaha ku saabsan xuquuqda dadka qaba albinism.
- Abaabul olole saxaafadeed oo telefshinka, joornaalka ama raadiyaha ah 13ka Juun si wacyiga xuquuqda dadka qaba albinism sare loogu qaado.

SomaliCAN waxay diyaar u tahay in ay ka caawiso dhanka farsamada dadka qaba albinism ee reer Ohio ee doonaya in ay hormuud ka noqdaan olole dadka lagu fahamsiinayo xaaladdan. Fadlan noo soo dir email info@somalican.org si aad uga mid noqoto dhaqdhaqaaqa caalamiga ah ee lagu wanaajinayo duruufta dadka qaba albinism.



Central Ohio Community Resources

Police:

Emergency: 9-1-1

Non-emergency: 614-645-4545

Sheriff: 614-462-3333

Mental Health Crisis:

Netcare Access: 614-276-2273

Poison Control: 1-800-222-1222

Columbus Health Department

Free Clinic: 614-240-7430

Legal Matters:

Legal Aid Society: 614-241-2001

Child Abuse and Neglect:

FCCS: 614-229-7000

Housing:

CMHA: 614-421-6000

Information and Referral:

HandsOn: 614-221-2555 or 211

Somali Services

SomaliCAN

614-489-9226

www.SomaliCAN.org

The Omoleky Law Firm

614-441-5305

SOMALICAN SERVICES:

Health Communication and Literacy:

- Patient education
- Prescription access
- Cultural competency training
- Information & Referral

Community Education:

- Youth engagement
- Services in Schools
- Advocacy and Support
- Scholarships
- Annual Graduation
- Crime Prevention
- Disaster Preparedness

SomaliCAN Outreach Newsletter:

- Monthly bilingual newsletter
- Advertisements
- Articles
- Cultural Competency
- Research
- Legislation
- Developmental Disabilities

Immigration Services:

- Green card applications
- Citizenship applications
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Funded by the Ohio Developmental Disabilities Council under the Developmental Disabilities Assistance and Bill of Rights Act, Public Law 106-402.

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