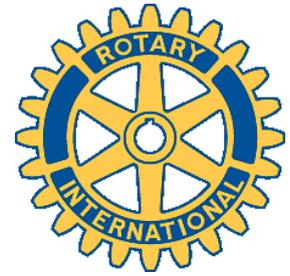


ROTARY AT THE HEART OF A DIVIDED COMMUNITY, WHERE SOME LIVE UNDER THE SHADOW OF DEATH (GLOBAL GRANT 1414791)



Supported by Rotary Districts 1040, 1990, 5000, 1730, 1780, 1970, 9211 and Clubs of Mirfield, Moshi, Genève-Lac, Kihei-Wailea, Maui, Lahaina Sunrise, Genève, Mysore West and Rotarian Action Group for prevention of Blindness

A BBC report on 18 February 2015.

Tanzanian albino boy found mutilated

An albino toddler missing since Sunday has been found dead in northern Tanzania with all his limbs hacked off.

Yohana Bahati, aged one, was snatched from the house of his mother, who was cut with a machete. His body was found a few miles away. Two people have been arrested in connection with the killing.

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/world-africa-31518397>

Two days later, the Daily News, a Tanzanian newspaper reported from Mwanza (a town on the shores of Lake Victoria).

REGIONAL Commissioners in the Lake Zone plan to meet and chart out strategies against attacks and abductions of people with albinism and subjecting them to torture, physical disabilities and even killings.

Geita Regional Commissioner (RC), Ms Fatuma Mwasa, told the 'Daily News' that although it was too early to disclose details of the initiative, the leaders have decided to meet and brainstorm on the best strategies to protect people with albinism against the attacks.

She said: "A lot of sensitisation campaigns on the safety and security of these people was important now where the abduction incidents are slowly increasing."



A complete albino "set" - ears, tongue, nose, genitals, all four limbs - can sell for \$75,000. As a result, many of Tanzania's 17,000 albinos have been hidden away by the government.

This story puts into context the ambitious Rotary project led jointly by the Rotary Clubs of Moshi (Tanzania, D9211) and Mirfield (UK D1040), supported by Rotarians from different parts of the world and the Rotary Foundation.

The kidnapping of Yohana happened whilst a Rotary team was touring the affected districts and meeting with community leaders and members of the Albino community.

The team of six – four from the UK and two from Sweden – met with Moshi Rotarians and held a series of meetings with People with Albinism (PWA) in Moshe and Kilimanjaro.

From there the team went to Musoma (Photo: Rotarians with PWAs in Musoma) to take part in peace building workshops and to launch a scheme to start a microcredit programme. This will be backed by a systematic training programme.



The primary aims of the microcredit programme in Musoma are
to provide training to the PWAs in business and entrepreneurship
to provide skills in specific areas to improve their earning potential
to provide capital through microcredit finance

The secondary aims are
to help PWAs to improve their self-confidence and pride in their own ability to overcome obstacles
to work alongside and jointly with non-Albino members of the community
to send out a powerful message that they are equal stake holders in the community, determined to claim their rightful place in the society, without fear or discrimination

The team then went to the island of Ukerewe, where there is an ongoing project to build a resource centre for the Albinos.

In Ukerewe, the team worked alongside local Rotarians providing water filters for safe drinking water to over 5000 pupils, improving health facilities, supplying spectacles, re-usable sanitary pads and supporting a well-established microcredit and bee keeping programme.



CHRIS PHILIP TALKING TO A SCHOOL ASSEMBLY. WE ARE LOOKING FOR HELP TO PROVIDE COMPUTER TRAINING HERE



MY SON IS JUST A NORMAL BOY – I LOVE HIM. PLEASE DO NOT HARM HIM



ALBINOS AND NON-ALBINOS ARE ALL JUST ORDINARY NORMAL PEOPLE. PRESIDENT ELECT MUSOMA RC - JOSEPH

THE ROTARY FOUNDATION GLOBAL GRANT 1414791 – WHAT IS IT FOR?

Village education and Peace building – through a series of meetings, at the heart of the community, where there has been high incidence of violence against the PWAs, Rotary and its partners will seek to change beliefs and myths about Albinism. Several meetings have already taken place in the Mara region. In many places the response from the local community have been beyond all expectations. One village leader in Chitari said: ‘We’ll not tolerate any attacks on the Albinos. They are our brothers and sisters’.

Improved Health care – Rotary will work with local health providers to provide for PWAs accessible and affordable skin cancer screening and eye care. Discussions are taking place with the Regional Dermatology Training Centre in Moshi to train dermatologists and health care staff to offer skin cancer screening to PWAs.

Vocational Training and Microcredit – Rotary will provide training opportunities to PWAs to improve their skills, acquire new skills and to improve their earning potential. Musoma Rotary club has launched a training programme and microcredit project to help PWAs.

TO GET INVOLVED IN THIS CHALLENGING ROTARY PROJECT CONTACT:

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