



PhotoMail is an occasional picture newsletter for those with an interest in photography, nature and the environment, travel, Africa, Zambia, African life and current affairs.

And especially for those who just like looking at pictures.

Send your feedback - PhotoMail will be developed in line with what its subscribers want to see. PhotoMail is available for free subscription by emailing me at [wildfoto@wildfotoafrica.com](mailto:wildfoto@wildfotoafrica.com)

The Story Behind the Pictures:

## Life in the Shadows 1:

### CLOUD'S STORY

Almost every aspect of the daily life of African people with albinism is dictated by their rare and unfortunate condition - a quirk of genetics which means they lack normal pigmentation in their hair, skin and eyes. It makes for a life which most of us would find agonizing, even unbearable.

Most media coverage of Africans with albinism is centred on the news-grabbing extremes of their physical abuse, mutilation and even murder. Such coverage makes little mention of the adversities they face every day - including stigma & extreme discrimination, isolation & exclusion, serious health & vision problems, and public ridicule. And all this every day, day-in, day-out.

So this story, from the new reportage project 'Life in the Shadows: Albinism in Africa', is about the ordinary: the ordinary daily story of African people with albinism, a story that few of us know about.

Accompanying the exhibition photographs are the subjects' own stories of their daily lives, in their own words.

In this PhotoMail, the story of a young African boy with albinism and his determination to go to school, against all odds. His name is Cloud and he features in the recently launched online exhibition 'Life in the Shadows: Albinism in Africa' (see website address and Exhibition Visitor News below).



Cloud's mother related his story (translated from an interview):

"Cloud was born in 2002 as an albino and then the father denied that he cannot have such kind of a baby and he divorced me for having an albino child. So Cloud and me were being kept by grandmother and grandfather."



"When he was four years he started having sores like herpes zoster [shingles] and became worse that we cannot walk with him. He was having ringworms, sores all over his face. And a sight problem - the eyes were itching and he developed short sight."



"Members of the family were scared of him because they said when he comes to their house, all the food will disappear and, in the farm, crops cannot grow because of him. People were laughing at him and calling names. They were stoning him saying he's a curse."



"When he started school he was being kept alone they didn't want him to be associated with others. If they saw him they were spitting saliva on their shirts thinking they can turn into albino if they don't spit on their shirts. He stopped school because he was being laughed at. This is the fifth time to go back to school. This time he's used to be in school and he has accepted the whole situation and the people are used to see him too."

#### Exhibition Visitor News:

Since the online launch of the exhibition 14 days ago on

[www.wildfotoafrica.com](http://www.wildfotoafrica.com),

visitor numbers now

total over 27,000 from

101 different countries.

To see the exhibition, or

to see more of it, please

go to:

[www.wildfotoafrica.com](http://www.wildfotoafrica.com)

>NEW Work.



ONLINE EXHIBITION

PHOTOGRAPHY: STEPHEN ROBINSON  
WORDS: BY THE SUBJECTS THEMSELVES

**WARNING - Some may find some of the exhibition content graphic and disturbing**

#### CAN YOU HELP?

A number of exhibition visitors have asked how they can help the cause of Africans living with albinism. If you want to help, please contact me via the this website's email contact link (without any obligation) and I'll put you in touch with a direct action group now being formed to assist. Thank you.

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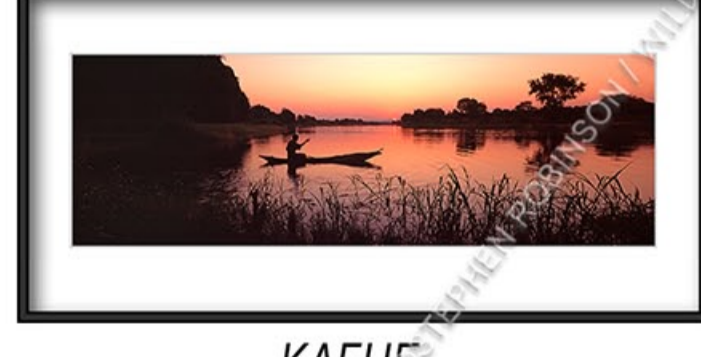
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#### PHOTOGRAPHER FOR HIRE

Stephen Robinson is a photographer operating from his Zambia base. He undertakes photo assignment work in the corporate, industrial, mining, donor-aid project and environmental fields, including the production of photo based communications, advertising and promotional media. Medium format panoramic photography and aerial work are specialities.

This commercial work supports his nature photography speciality, including landscape, environment, conservation and wildlife work - and including his well-known panoramic photography project and exhibitions on the remote landscape, peoples and environment of Zambia.

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More life stories from 'Life in the Shadows'

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In the Footsteps of Artists

More Landscape Africa B&W

and the stories behind the pictures

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