

TV West journalist assaulted over service commission row

BUSHENYI

By Vision Reporter

Members of the media fraternity in the western region have condemned the attack on a Vision Group journalist Abraham Muganzi.

Muganzi, who reports for TV West and other Vision Group platforms, was assaulted in a hotel in Bushenyi town on Tuesday as he took breakfast. He lost consciousness and was rushed to Kampala International University Teaching Hospital (KIU) from where he was referred to Mayanja Memorial Hospital in Mbarara.

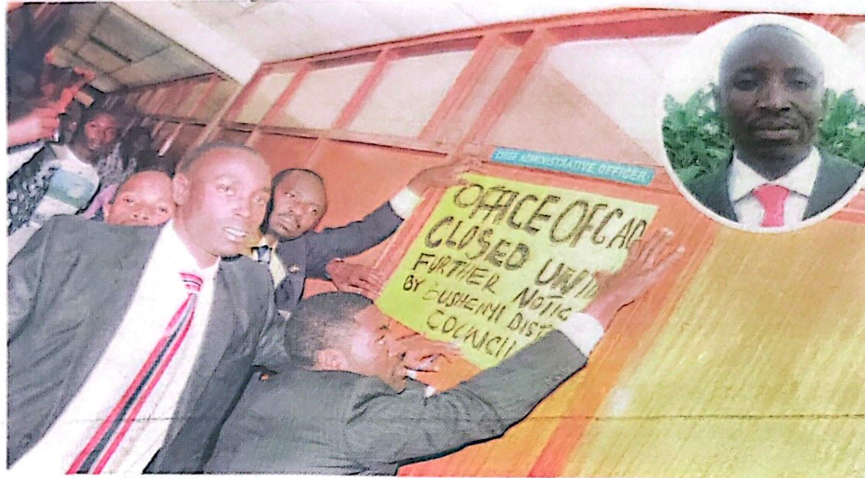
Eyewitnesses said Muganzi got embroiled in an argument with his friends and differed in opinion with a civil society activist, a one Lee Apollo Kakonge, who then pushed him and he hit his head against the wall.

Sam Amanyire, the Southwestern Uganda Journalists Association president, described the incident as unfortunate, saying they never expected such treatment from Kakonge, a supposed ally who professes commitment to championing the rights of others.

"As the president of the western region media practitioners and on behalf of all my colleagues in the profession, I strongly condemn the use of force by Kakonge on a journalist," Amanyire said.

Service commission row

Currently, there is a row between Bushenyi district political leadership and a cross-section of residents, who have formed a pressure group, dubbed Make Bushenyi Great Again, which is headed by Kakonge, over the absence of a district service commission for one and half years. The issue has caused stalemate in the district and has sparked



Councillors closing the chief administrator's office. Inset is Muganzi. Photo by Chris Mugasha

THE CONFLICT

The conflict in the district originates from the district council's refusal to approve some members of the district service commission who were appointed by former Bushenyi district chairperson Willis Bashaasha's district council.

a number of misunderstandings in the district to the extent of a group of district councillors closing the office of the district chief administrative officer.

Amanyire urged the Police to act professionally when investigating the incident so that the perpetrator is brought to book.

The Bushenyi Journalists and Media Association (BUJOMA)

chairman, Chris Mugasha, also condemned Kakonge's action, saying: "We did not expect a civil rights activist to react in such a manner."

Mugasha asked Kakonge to apologise to the media fraternity.

Muganzi is currently undergoing treatment at Mayanja Memorial Hospital where doctors said he is steadily recovering from the concussion. Vision Group's lawyers have taken up the case.

Asked for a comment, Kakonge said he did not have a personal grudge with Muganzi. "Muganzi is one of my personal friends with whom I have worked for years," Kakonge said.

The conflict in the district originates from the district council's refusal to approve some members of the district service commission who were appointed by former Bushenyi district chairperson, Willis Bashaasha's district council.

The current district chairperson, Jaffari Bassajabalaba, says Bashaasha's council that approved Lydia Rwakishaya as the district service commission chairperson, Nathan Behangana and Julius Ishungisa as commission members did not have the required quorum.

Describing the Bashaasha commission as illegal, Bassajabalaba went ahead to nominate other members to serve during his term of office, who include Scholar Ndyagambwaki, Joram Tibasiimwa, Susan Mbabazi and Ishungisa, but it cannot serve since the Public Service Commission had approved the Bashaasha commission.

Kakonge sued the district over the matter, where a High Court judge recently ordered the district to constitute the district service commission without dropping Rwakishaya, Ishungisa and Behangana.

Aneyo w

Boy ope

KAMPALA

By Joe

Eight-year-old Aneyo speaks normally because that (esop) It years accid gastr: subst the f "H neig user and che: Alir Vis He Mu A rec on ch lir le ea y

Police officer seeking