



Mr Kofi Annan

Battered journalist sues government

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KAMPALA. Mr Andrew Lwanga, the WBS journalist who was allegedly assaulted by suspended DPC of Old Kampala Joram Mwesigye, has sued the Attorney General seeking compensation.

Mr Lwanga, in a suit filed before the High Court on February 15, states that following his brutal assault by DPC Mwesigye in January last year, he has since been incapacitated and can't make ends meet. However, he does not specify how much money he wants in damages, leaving the same to be determined by court.

"The plaintiff's (Lwanga) claim against the defendant (AG) is for special, general, exemplary and punitive damages for wrongful arrest, unlawful imprisonment, torture and grievous bodily injury," reads in part Lwanga's complaint before court.

Court records that this newspaper has seen show that on January 12 last year while in the employment of WBS TV, Lwanga was badly assaulted by DPC Mwesigye as he covered the unemployed youths who were set to march and meet the Inspector General of Police Gen Kale Kayihura and present to him their grievances.

Further, the court records state that at Bakuli junction, Kampala, four men led by DPC Mwesigye, while driving in privately registered car, pursued the demonstrating youth.

In the process, DPC Mwesigye fell on the ground and when he stood up, he recklessly operated his motor vehicle and lashed back at the journalists who were covering the demonstration. Mr Lwanga was a victim of his wrath as he used a shepherd's cane to beat him up.

Mr Lwanga states that the DPC went on to destroy his camera.

The journalist adds that as a result of the assault, he suffered head injuries, and a later diagnosis revealed a fractured spinal vertebrae and other chronic conditions that require urgent and costly medication.

The filing of this suit comes barely a week after President Museveni came to the aid of Mr Lwanga and footed all his medical bills at Kololo hospital in Kampala where he was to undergo spinal cord surgery.

Likewise, DPC Mwesigye is facing criminal charges before Buganda Road Court for having assaulted the journalist. The case is still on trial.