

# JINJA FAMILY WANTS JUSTICE FOR DAUGHTER

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**E**ight months after the death of 23-year-old Agnes Nayiga, a former student of at Kampala University, Jinja branch in Jinja town, relatives and friends are still seeking justice.

The family says the Police have failed to establish the motive of the murder. According to the family, there appears to be a deliberate attempt by some people within and outside the Police to frustrate the case, after a file that was opened went missing at Njeru Police Station.

Even when the second file was opened by the family at Jinja Police Station, the Police have done little to help track down or interrogate the people the deceased was last seen with on the fateful day of December 29, 2016, when she met her death. Key statements have also not been recorded from prime suspects who could help shed more light on what exactly transpired.

## EVENTS

According to the deceased's mother, Ezeza Babirye, on December 27, 2016 Nayiga left her parents' home in Buijowali in a jolly mood at around 11:00am to report back to university for studies. The campus was located at Mailo-Mbili along Jinja-Iganga road. Babirye says her daughter was in her final year. That was the last time her family members would see her alive. As soon as she reported to campus, Nayiga reportedly moved into her boyfriend's rented house on Gabula Road.

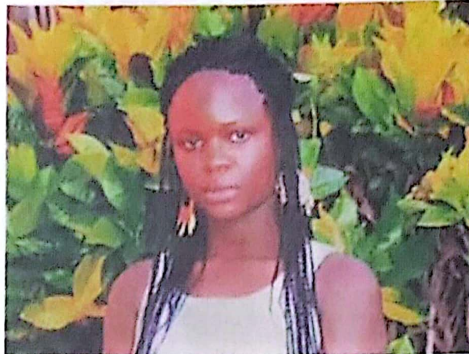
On December 28, her father, Lawrence Bukenya, received a phone call from her male friend who wanted to speak to Nayiga's younger sister Rachel Birabwa. "He asked me to send Birabwa to look after her sister because she was not feeling well," Bukenya says.

By then, little was known about her condition and her family sent her sister to take care of her, but when she reached Jinja, where Nayiga was staying, she was told Nayiga had been rushed to Jinja Hospital in a critical condition.

**A**nurse at the hospital, who preferred anonymity, said by the time Nayiga was brought in, she was unconscious. She also appeared to have lost a lot of blood and was weak.

The family would later be told by the man she was staying with that Nayiga had attempted abortion. The family, however, disputes this and believes Nayiga's boyfriend used abortion as an excuse to hide the truth from them.

The deceased's mother, Babirye, told *Sunday Vision* that when she received her daughter's body, it had deep wounds on her left hand and



Nayiga died last year under unclear circumstances

neck. It remains unclear what may have caused the wound. Did the two fight and the boyfriend attempted to strangle her? If it was an abortion, why were there wounds on her neck?

## STATEMENTS PIN EX-BOYFRIEND

Two different statements made at Jinja Police Station by the late Nayiga's friends and relatives, that *Sunday Vision* saw, all indicate that the deceased's boyfriend was the one who called them on phone asking them to come and look after her because she was sick.

"He is the one who made the calls that fateful day, telling us that Nayiga was sick and wanted her relatives to come and attend to her," her mother said. She said Nayiga's boyfriend did not notify them what had befallen her and by the time they turned up, he had fled and Nayiga had been brought to hospital. Why did he run away? Could he have run away because he wanted to hide something?

Neighbours at Gabula Road, where the two lived, said they often had quarrels and fought. Could fights have left Nayiga in the condition that forced her to go to hospital on that fateful day?

"All I want is for the Police to help me establish the truth. I want my daughter's boyfriend arrested and interrogated so that he can help explain why she was brought to hospital in that condition. If it was as a result of an abortion that went wrong, I need him to reveal who that doctor was so that I can get the truth of the matter," Babirye said.

She added that when Nayiga's body was brought home, the family demanded that it is taken back to the hospital for a post-mortem examination. However, she said the Police from Njeru rejected the request, saying the body had already been in the hospital and would not be taken back.

"Why did they deny me the right to do a postmortem examination on my daughter? Were they covering up for the killers?" Babirye wonders. The relatives want the Police to investigate the matter and get the culprits to courts of law. And if possible, Nayiga's body

disappeared at Njeru Police after the case was reported on December 30, 2016, before the burial of their daughter on December 31.

**B**abirye is concerned that although some clues have been given, no arrests have been made by the Police. "I and my family have reached a conclusion that these people (Police) were compromised by the key suspect," she says.

In an interview with *Sunday Vision*, Diana Nandaula, the Kiira regional Police spokesperson, said suspicion alone cannot be a basis for the arrest or conviction of someone, especially in such sensitive cases.

Nandaula, however, said the file had not been forwarded to the state attorney to give guidance before any arrest is done.

She added that the Police have started the process of getting a court order to exhume the body of the late Nayiga for post-mortem examination.

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