

MUHANGI WAS ADMITTED TO FORT PORTAL HOSPITAL BEFORE BEING ARRESTED AND TRANSFERRED TO BOMBO

UPDF officer dies from injuries

NTOROKO

By Wilson Asimwe

The former commanding officer of the 3rd mountain battalion in western Uganda, Lt. Col. Richard Muhangi, was on Monday pronounced dead after sustaining injuries in an exchange of gunfire with suspected arms dealers in Ntoroko district last month.

The Uganda People's Defence Forces spokesperson, Brig. Richard Karemire, confirmed the death.

Karemire said the deceased had had his limbs amputated and was recovering steadily at

Bombo Hospital.

"Muhangi passed away at Bombo Hospital, where he had been receiving treatment but under arrest, pending investigations on charges of murder," Karemire said.

He added that Muhangi had been arrested over alleged involvement in the recent murders which occurred in Ntoroko.

Background

Trouble started when, on June 23, Ntoroko intelligence officers received information that dealers had pitched camp in the district and intended to buy arms from the area.



Richard Muhangi

The Police and military officers from the 3rd Mountain Battalion then lay a trap using 10 guns and six loaded magazines to nab the suspects.

The operation led to the arrest of suspects, but during

the scuffle, two suspected gun traffickers were shot dead, while Muhangi was shot in the leg and other security operatives were arrested.

Muhangi was briefly admitted to Fort Portal Regional Referral Hospital, before being transferred to Bombo.

On July 7, the Fort Portal Magistrate's Court remanded the five security officers accused of murder of two people in Ntoroko.

Arrests

Gerald Atuhaire, the Ntoroko district Police commander and Brian Babishanga, the district Internal Security Officer, were

BETWEEN THE LINES:

It is alleged that the suspects shot Irumba and Kanyoro at close range using AK47 rifles before taking money from them.

charged with murder and three accounts of aggravated robbery.

Others included Police officers Abdul Kyarimpa, Ivan Bakasaba and Irema Saulo Balimpa.

Prosecution told court that on June 23 at Kibuku trading centre in Ntoroko, the suspects murdered Erasmus

Irumba, a resident of Nyakasenyi village and Richard Kanyoro of Budiba.

It is alleged that the suspects shot Irumba and Kanyoro at close range using AK47 rifles before taking money from them.

According to the prosecution, the suspects took off with sh25m and two phones belonging to the deceased.

Kwizera did not allow the suspects to enter any plea since court lacked jurisdiction over capital offences.

The officers had since June 24 been in detention at Fort Portal Police Station, pending investigations.