

The duo is accused of killing a woman and allegedly cooking parts of her body.

BY ANDREW BAGALA

Two men suspected of engaging in cannibalism were lynched by an angry mob in Kyankwanzi District after residents reportedly found human body parts of a female sex worker in their house.

The two suspects, believed to be Rwandan nationals, were beaten to death by residents on Thursday at Kiryanongo Village in Bananywa Sub-county after they were accused of killing a woman, only identified as Vensi, and allegedly cooking parts of her body.

According to tWamala Region Police spokesperson Lameck Kigozi, the deceased suspects were identified as Ssemasaka and Hakiza Damaseni.

"The scene has been visited by police under the command of Kyankwanzi District Police Commander. The bodies of the three deceased have been taken to Ntwetwe Health Centre IV. Inquiries in the case of murder and mob justice are ongoing. We appeal to the public to desist from acts of mob action on suspected criminals," Mr Kigozi said.

Police said the incident followed the disappearance of the woman, which raised suspicion among residents, as it was unusual for her to go missing without informing anyone, given her known lifestyle.

After several days without seeing her, residents reportedly checked her residence but did not find her, prompting further concern.

Investigations indicate that on Wednesday, a neighbour to the two suspects detected a foul smell emanating from their house and alerted other residents.

"The neighbour informed other people in the village, and they agreed to conduct an impromptu search in the house where the unusual smell was coming from. When they entered the house, they found a horrific scene with

Two men lynched over suspected cannibalism



An illustration of people lynching a suspect. PHOTO/FILE

a human body parked in a sack with the right leg protruding out, chopped human flesh was also found in the saucepan waiting to be cooked," Mr Kigozi said.

The discovery reportedly enraged the residents, who turned on the two men and lynched them on suspicion of murder and cannibalism.

After the mob attack, the

assailants fled the scene before police arrived. Authorities said the area local council chairperson later informed security personnel, who responded but found the suspects already dead.

The three bodies, including that of the woman, were transported to Ntwetwe Health Centre IV mortuary for post-mortem examinations as investigations

continue.

Police have since launched a manhunt for individuals involved in the mob killing, even as inquiries into the woman's death continue.

Mr Kigozi warned that mob justice remains a criminal offence regardless of the allegations against suspects.

He said: "The scene has been visited by police under the command of Kyankwanzi District Police Commander. The bodies of the three deceased have been taken to Ntwetwe Health Centre

BACKGROUND

While confirmed cases are extremely rare, allegations of cannibalism occasionally surface in Uganda, often linked to ritualistic beliefs or mental health issues. Police caution that such claims require thorough investigation to establish the truth.

Mob justice is a criminal offence under Ugandan law, regardless of the crime a suspect is accused of committing. Police say individuals who participate in lynching can be charged with murder, which carries severe penalties, including life imprisonment.

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Authorities say both incidents—the suspected murder of the woman and the subsequent lynching—are being treated as separate criminal cases.

While cases of alleged cannibalism are rare in Uganda, police note that isolated incidents and claims have occasionally been reported.

Meanwhile, law enforcement agencies continue to express concern over rising violent crime in the country.

Police crime reports indicate that 4,329 homicide cases were registered in 2024, representing a two per cent increase compared to 2023.

Investigations into the Kyankwanzi incident are ongoing.

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4,329
HOMICIDE
CASES