

I was forced to drink hot water – Kaweesi murder suspect

By Farooq Kasule

A suspect in the murder of former Police spokesperson Andrew Felix Kaweesi has claimed that army officers forced him to drink hot water when he refused to confess to the murder.

Yusuf Nyanzi's claims are contained in a suit filed yesterday at the Civil Division of the High Court in Kampala. He filed the case together with Sauda Ayub, the only female suspect in the murder of Kaweesi, against the Attorney General.

The duo want court to order for their independent medical examination and treatment, arguing that ever since they were tortured, they have not been offered treatment. They also want court to unconditionally release them from jail since their rights were violated by police.

Through Rwakafuuzi and Company Advocates, Nyanzi, 46, alleges that army officers attached to the Chieftaincy of Military Intelligences (CMI) headquartered in the city

suburb of Mbuya, orchestrated his torture.

Nyanzi, a resident of Kyanja in Kawempe division in Kampala was arrested on March 18 in Zzana, Kampala by army men and other plain clothes security officers. He had gone to visit a friend, Herbert Ssebanalya.

Nyanzi asserts that the officers insisted that he admits having conspired to the killing of Kaweesi and Maj Muhammad Kiggundu to regain his freedom.

"The officers told me that the only way to save my children from becoming orphans is by accepting that I killed Kiggundu and Kaweesi. However, when I refused their proposal, they continued to beat me for over two weeks until I was charged in court," Nyanzi claims.

He further claims that he was also hit with a cable wire, ordered to lie on his back and officers poured water in his nose and mouth on top of holding his throat to confess to the murders.

"I was compelled to confess to the

Nyanzi says the officers forced him to admit to killing Andrew Felix Kaweesi and Maj. Muhammad Kiggundu

murders and being in possession of a gun that was used to kill Kaweesi and Kiggundu to save my life, though I was lying," Nyanzi says.

Nyanzi also claims that officers forced him to sign the charge and caution statement without reading its contents.

His co-suspect Sauda, 50, claims that officers at CMI tied up her fingers with sticks using rubber strings and pressed them for one day when she denied renting a gun to Kaweesi and Kiggundu assailants.

Police alleges that Sauda killed a police officer in the city suburb of Bwaise and grabbed his gun, which she allegedly rented to assailants.

"My fingers are swollen and they have never normalised since then," Sauda contends.

Sauda was arrested together with her husband Abbas Fikiri on April 7 in Mbarara district. However, her husband's whereabouts are not known to date.

He has never been charged in court though his relatives claim that he was picked by the Police over Kaweesi's murder.

Kaweesi murder suspects are slated to appear before Nakawa Grade One Magistrate Noah Ssajjabi today to know the status of the inquiries in their case.

Doctors seek more seven days
Meanwhile doctors at the African Centre for Treatment and Rehabilitation of Torture Victims (ACTV) that were recently ordered by High Court judge Margaret Oguli-Oumo to carry out medical examination on 19 Kaweesi murder suspects over torture allegations, have asked court for seven more days to complete the exercise.

According to ACTV CEO Samuel Herbert Nsubuga, eight days out of the 14, which court granted them to examine the suspects, were spent in obtaining clearance from prison authorities.

Nsubuga said the suspects have already been subjected to medical and psychological examination.

"Our team of medical doctors, clinical psychologists and legal officers completed the medical examination of the suspects on Monday and they are now compiling a detailed report to be submitted before the court," Nsubuga said.