

Residents protest suspects' release

RUKIGA

By Job Namanya

Angry residents of Kahunyira cell, Nyarurambi parish in Rukiga district on Monday morning stormed the office of Kabale resident state attorney demanding an explanation for the release of two suspects accused of murdering a 49-year-old crime preventer.

Deus. Twinomugisha was on September 8 murdered by unknown people and his body was found lying on a path to his home.

Four suspects; Barrack Ntegyereize, Ambrose Mugabirwe, Desire Mwebaze and Gerald Karugaba were arrested in relation to the incident.

Residents were shocked over the weekend to see two of the suspects, Ntegyereize and Mugabirwe, at a bar in their area. This sparked anger, leading to their protest.

Bonekosiira Tumuhimbise, one of the locals, said the release of the suspects has caused fear that they (suspects) might attack more.

"These suspects could have a



Mugabirwe, one of the suspects, after his arrest

clue on the death of our friend. They should be kept locked up as investigations continue. Their release creates tension and we are afraid of their next move," Tumuhimbise said.

Calist Tumuranze, another resident, said the release of the suspects has left them in fear since these suspects are believed to have a connection to Twinomugisha's death.

Eddy Mugisha, the Rukiga district interim vice-chairperson wondered why the suspects were released without explaining to residents.

"It would have been good for the authorities to explain why these suspects were released," Mugisha said.

However, the Kigezi regional Police spokesperson, Elly Maate, said the suspects were set free on instruction of Directorate of Public Prosecution (DPP) in Kabale, saying their file lacks enough evidence. He added that locals should provide enough evidence so as to have them re-arrested.

"As Police, once the office of the DPP has instructed us to release somebody because of lack of incriminating evidence, we cannot hold him any longer," Maate said.

Addressing the angry crowds, the Kabale resident district commissioner, Darius Nandinda, directed the Police to re-arrest the suspects immediately since they are being investigated over a serious case.

"We cannot treat murder suspects as chicken thieves. They should be re-arrested immediately because we need them closer as investigations continue," Nandinda said.

Gloria Inzikuru, the Kabale district state prosecutor, said if more evidence was offered, the suspects would be re-arrested and charged accordingly.