

Police investigations and medical assessments found Okello mentally sound.

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The prime suspect in the gruesome killing of four toddlers at a day-care centre in Ggaba, a Kampala City suburb, allegedly killed the children in pursuit of wealth through human sacrifice, according to a summary of evidence presented in court by the Director of Public Prosecutions (DPP).

Christopher Okello Onyum, 38, was yesterday committed to the High Court by the Makindye Chief Magistrate's Court to stand trial for the murder of the four toddlers in what has become one of the fastest murder committal proceedings in Uganda's recent criminal justice history.

In court, the DPP told the presiding Chief Magistrate, Ms Sarah Basemera, that police investigations and medical assessments found Okello mentally sound and capable of understanding his actions.

His thought process was found to be normal, but he believed in wealth by human sacrifice and was able to explain the reason for killing the children as fortune hunting or enrichment, part of the DPP's summary of evidence read.

The country was thrown into mourning last Thursday after Okello, allegedly disguised as a parent seeking admission for a child, entered Ggaba Early Childhood Development Programme and fatally attacked four toddlers aged between one and three years using a sharp kitchen knife.

Not mentally ill

According to the indictment, Okello claimed during police interrogation that he had a history of mental illness.

However, a police medical examination conducted on April 7 found him to be of normal behaviour.

"He was found to be a male adult aged 38 years, with some abrasions and lacerations to the forehead and abdomen. He was also found to be of normal behaviour, calm, cooperative, with coherent speech, intact memory, and exhibit-

Ggaba attack suspect killed in search for wealth - DPP

ed good judgement," the DPP stated.

Court documents further revealed that a psychiatric report recovered from his residence in Kyanja in Kampala, issued by C-Care IHK and dated December 30, 2025, had earlier certified him as mentally fit.

The report, addressed to the Immigration Department under the Ministry of Internal Affairs, stated that Okello had no established mental disorder and was mentally fit to live and work in Uganda.

Premeditated?

Prosecution says the suspect meticulously planned the killings days before.

Investigators told the court that on March 31, Okello rented a Toyota Rav4.

On April 1, the eve of the attack, he allegedly drove from Kyanja to Ggaba through Ntinda, Nakawa, Kibuli, Kabalagala, and Bunga to survey the day-care centre.

At the centre, he reportedly posed as a prospective parent and sought information about admission requirements from one of the caretakers, Ms Phoebe Namutebi.

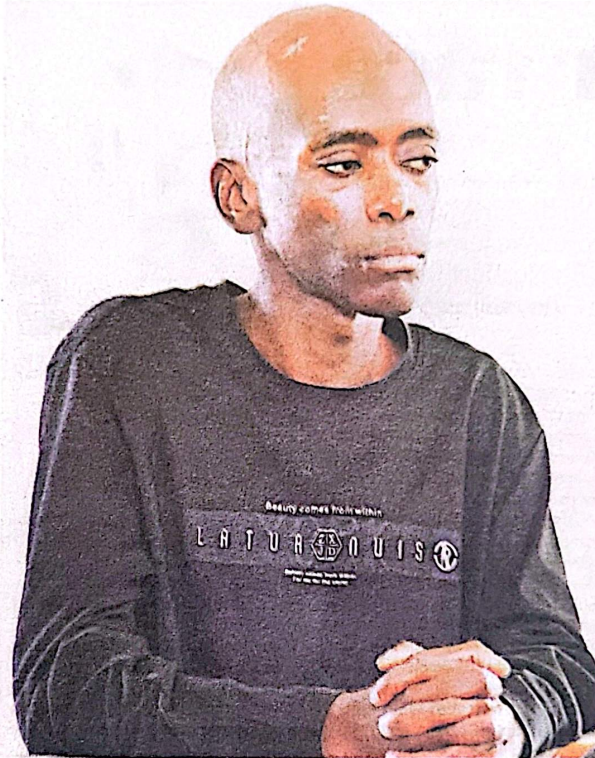
On the morning of the attack, prosecutors said he returned to the centre after paying Shs195,000 (previously reported as Shs180,000) via mobile money to the daycare's head, Ms Annet Odong Agoe.

"The accused exited the office and immediately initiated a violent assault on the children playing in the compound," the DPP's evidence summary states.

The prosecution alleges that when caretaker Namutebi attempted to intervene, Okello threatened to kill her before continuing the assault.

He was later subdued by security personnel and members of the public.

Police said during his arrest, Okello attempted to dispose of the bloodstained knife used in the attack, while two additional knives fell from his pockets as he was being escorted to a police patrol vehicle.



Christopher Okello Onyum in the dock at the Makindye Chief Magistrate's Court in Kampala yesterday. PHOTO/ ABUBAKER LUBOWA

Severe injuries

The DPP also informed the court that Okello confessed to the killings in his charge and caution statement.

Post-mortem findings indicate that the children died of hypovolemic shock resulting from deep neck wounds.

The injuries were described as severe, cutting through the skin, neck muscles, trachea, oesophagus, major blood vessels and nerves, with fractures to the C5

vertebra and complete transection of the spinal cord.

Among the victims, Gideon Eteku and Ignatius Sseruyange each suffered 14-centimetre deep neck wounds, while Kelsha Agenorwoth Otim and Ryan Odeke sustained nine-centimetre cuts.

Three of the children were rushed to Wentz Medical Centre but were pronounced dead on arrival.

PLAN FOR GGABA TRIAL

Earlier this week, the Principal Judge, Justice Jane Frances Abodo, said President Museveni had directed the Judiciary to expedite the trial and hold it within the Ggaba community under the newly-launched mobile courts system. The move, she said, is intended to allow residents to witness justice being dispensed in the very community where the killings occurred.

By press time, the Judiciary had not yet announced the date for the mobile court session.

Evidence recovered

A police search at Okello's residence in Katumba Village, Kyanja, on April 3 yielded two American passports in his name, two mobile phones, two laptops, a psychiatric report, an American driving permit, and a Certificate of Good Conduct.

Frequent travels

The DPP further told the court that Okello frequently travelled in and out of Uganda, with immigration records showing his last entry on February 9, 2026, through the Busia border.

The prosecution also said the suspect holds a valid driving permit issued in Virginia, United States, and maintains bank accounts with dfcu and Stanbic banks.

Okello was further remanded to Luzira prison until the next convenient trial session of the High Court.

He also has the constitutional right to apply for bail before the High Court, which has the discretion of granting him or not.

If convicted, Okello faces the maximum death penalty.