

NAMBALIRWA WAS LATER RESCUED BY THE VILLAGE CHAIRPERSON

**BUIKWE**

By Emmanuel Balukusa

# Ex-BoU worker found bleeding as crime wave grips Njeru

Police in Buikwe district have launched a manhunt for a domestic worker accused of attempted murder after he allegedly attacked his employer, a retired Bank of Uganda employee, leaving her critically injured in a chilling incident that has heightened fear among residents.

The victim, Ruth Babuwe Nambalirwa, 64, was brutally assaulted at her home in Triangle village, Njeru division on March 17.

The suspect, identified as Gerald Kiwewa, is said to have turned against his employer, attacking her with a machete and inflicting multiple deep cuts on her before tying her up and abandoning her inside the house where they had lived together for over four years.

**ONE MAN'S JOB**

Before striking, Kiwewa allegedly locked the gate and cut off the electricity supply by severing power cables, plunging the home into darkness and isolating the victim from any possible rescue.

Nambalirwa was later rescued by the area village chairperson, Damian Buregeya, together with the police officers, who found her unconscious and lying in a pool of blood.

She had sustained deep cuts on the head and hands. Her legs were tied with sisal ropes, while her mouth and neck had been covered with cloth to prevent her from raising an alarm.

Her son, Ephraim Batambuze, said he became suspicious when he failed to reach his mother by phone on March 18.

"I called her several times, but she did not answer," the deceased's son said.

Batambuze added that Kiwewa later contacted him, claiming he had quit his job and returned to Masaka, but did not provide any explanation and immediately switched off his phone.

"I contacted my aunt and asked her to check on my mother. When she reached home, the gate was locked. She alerted Buregeya, who involved the Police. They broke into the house and found my mother lying

unconscious in a pool of blood," he said.

He now suspects that Kiwewa may not have acted alone, pointing to signs that suggest the involvement of accomplices.

According to him, the attackers appear to have climbed onto the building and cut multiple electricity wires in the ceiling, an act that required co-ordination.

Buregeya also described the scene as indicative of a violent and possibly co-ordinated attack.

"We found blood stains throughout the house,

including in the bathroom, and footprints indicating that there could have been more than one attacker," Buregeya said. Family sources revealed that the victim has four children, two living in Kampala, one in the US and another in the UK.

**GROWING CRIME**

The incident has further exposed growing insecurity in Njeru and surrounding areas, where residents say crime has escalated in recent weeks. Grace Nantambi, a resident of Naminya, said at least three incidents had been recorded within a week.

"A mobile money agent, Umar, was robbed while returning home from work. In another incident, a man identified as Ben Kamezi was attacked in a bar and cut on the head. The attackers, who were on a motorcycle, robbed him of sh30,000 before fleeing," she said.

Ndawula Kato, a local defence secretary in Kyabaggu cell, confirmed that cases of house break-ins, street robberies and armed attacks are on the rise.

Preliminary investigations indicate that crime hotspots include Kasanja, Naminya, Naluwerere, Kiira zone, Kyabaggu, Wampala, Nakibizzi, Jinja-Mpya and Nava villages.

In a separate incident, four youths on March 9 attacked Helen Namagare, 35, as she was heading to work at Nile Breweries.

The attackers robbed her handbag and, in the process, pushed her into the path of a speeding vehicle on the Jinja-Kampala Highway, killing her instantly.

Her husband, Israel Lubaale, said CCTV footage capturing the incident was handed over to the Police.

"We are frustrated by the delays in justice, the suspects who were arrested confessed and confirmed they engaged in killing and robbing of my wife," Lubaale said.

Ndawula reported that thieves recently broke into St Stephen's Anglican Church-Njeru and stole iron bars meant for construction work.

"In another case, a suspected armed robber attempted to raid a hardware shop but fled after being detected, abandoning a firearm that was later handed over to the Police," Ndawula added. Residents are now calling for urgent intervention, saying they are living in constant fear.

"We need stronger security and quick justice," one resident said.

The Ssezibwa regional police spokesperson, Helen Butoto, confirmed that Kiwewa is wanted for attempted murder.

Former BOU staffer Nambalirwa

