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Okello searched about beheading online - witness

BY ANTHONY WESAKA & JULIET KIGONGO

KAMPALA. Unsettling evidence presented before the ongoing community mobile High Court yesterday revealed that Christopher Okello Onyum, the prime suspect in the Ggaba daycare killings, conducted disturbing online searches related to terrorism, weapon acquisition, and execution methods prior to the attack.

Testifying before Justice Alice Komuhangi Khaukha, Assistant Superintendent of Police Kenneth Henry Angulo, a digital forensic analyst, said the analysis of the suspect's electronic devices uncovered searches linked to the extremist group Islamic State of Iraq and Syria (ISIS).

"Under search 40, he searched for ISIS-beheading," Angulo told the court, drawing audible shock from members of the public attending the community trial.

The court heard that the suspect also researched how to acquire a firearm in Uganda, including queries on how long it takes to obtain a gun licence. This was under search term 39.

However, prosecutors did not indicate the exact motive behind those searches.

In addition, the forensic analyst revealed that Okello had downloaded a digital copy of *The Art of War*, a historic military strategy text attributed to Sun Tzu.

The book was reportedly saved on one of the flash disks recovered from his rented house in Kyanja. From his analysis, the witness said Okello saved that book on his flash disc on November 6, 2025, at 1:32 am.

The prosecution argues that the combination of these searches points to premeditation and deliberate planning ahead of the April 2 attack that left four toddlers dead at Ggaba Early Childhood Development Programme.

Unconfirmed reports indicate that investigators may seek further court orders to interrogate the suspect over possible links to extremist ideologies, following the revelations.

This publication could not verify the reports.

Earlier testimony from a prosecution witness indicated that at least six kitchen knives were recovered from Okello's residence in Kyanja upon his arrest.

However, during cross-examination, defence lawyer Richard Kumbuga dismissed this as ordinary, arguing that knives are common household items and that his client had intended to use them for farming activities in Nwoya District.

Last week, Ms Phoebe Namutebi, a caretaker at the facility, testified that she initially thought the Okello was beating a child when she saw him through a window.

"I thought he was beating the child... but when I rushed there, I found one child in a pool of blood," she told the court.

She added that the attacker, armed with a knife, moved swiftly from one child to another during the incident.

The trial continues to draw intense public attention as more evidence emerges detailing the events leading up to the brutal killings. Okello has denied all four murder charges.

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