

Kabamba barracks attack suspects appeal to court

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KAMPALA. Fourteen suspects on remand over the failed attack on Kabamba Army Barracks in Mubende District have complained to the Military Court that they are not allowed

to meet their lawyers.

Lt Col Philip Frank Eguma, one of the suspects, told the General Court Martial at Makindye: "My Lord, at Makindye Military Barracks special rooms where we are on remand, they (authorities) do not treat us like other prisoners. Our lawyers are not

allowed inside and at the same time, we are not allowed to use mobile phones to contact them."

Lt Col Eguma is jointly charged with Capt Hillman Bosco Aleper, formerly of the Armoured Warfare Training School in Mubende, Lt Ronald Waibi Mwavu, a junior officer formerly from the 4th Division, Pte Kenneth Sekajja, formerly of Air Defence in Nakasongola and Sgt Ndugga Musaazi Nama. Others are Ali Mukiibi, 68, a retired air force pilot, Salongo Lumala (businessman), Herbert Biyimbwa (herbalist), Fran-

cis Kaheru Kiwanuka (businessman), Solomon Matovu (businessman), Peter Kibirige (electrician), Marvin Kato Ssemogerere (a mechanic) and Patrick Kibuuka (casual worker).

The group appeared before the Military Court chaired by Maj Gen Levi Karuhanga last Friday for hearing of prosecution witnesses but the lawyers representing the accused persons were not present.

Maj Ronald Iduuli, who was holding brief for the accused persons' lawyers, told court that the lead lawyer, Mr Jude Mbabaali, was not in court

because he had been declared a new Masaka District boss.

But the lead prosecutor, Maj Raphael Mugisha, told court that: "My lord, it appears like the defence lawyers want to delay this trial. In the last court sitting, we agreed that hearing was to commence in the evening but the defence counsel did not come despite the commitment he had made in court." However, Maj Iduuli dismissed the claims saying the accused persons consist of both elderly and sick persons, who do not want to have their trial delayed.