Kiboga shooting: Three victims buried in Kigezi

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BY ROBERT MUHEREZA & JULIUS HAFASHA

A somber mood engulfed the Kigezi Sub-region yesterday as three victims of the Kiboga Central Prison shooting were laid to rest in separate ceremonies held in Kisoro and Rukiga districts.

The late Sarah Ayebare, 35, and her one-year-old son, Salmon Nuwagaba, were buried at Omunkore Village in Nyabubare Cell, Rwenyangi Parish, Kamwezi Sub-county, Rukiga District. The burial service was led by Rev Johnson Tugumizemu.

On the same day, Principal Officer I Akishuri Bright, 33, was laid to rest at his ancestral home in Rwingwe, Nyakabande Sub-county, Kisoro District, following a funeral service at Matinza Church of Uganda officiated by Muhabura Diocese Sub-Dean, Canon Philip Muhire.

The three were among four people who were allegedly shot dead by prison warder Moses Anguyo, who reportedly opened fire before fleeing the scene. The fourth victim was Assistant Superintendent of Prisons Hope Catherine, the deputy officer-in-charge of Kiboga Central Prison.

During Akishuri's burial, the Uganda Prisons Service accorded him a ceremonial three-gun salute in honour of his service. In his sermon, Canon Muhire urged security personnel and political leaders to return to God and remain steadfast in their faith, noting that many in the Forces and political offices had drifted away from religious practice.



Prison officers accord a gun salute to the late Bright Akishuri during the burial ceremony at his ancestral home in Rwingwe Village, Nyakabande Sub-county, Kisoro District yesterday. PHOTO/JULIUS HAFASHA.

> **Peace.**
> Let us pray that those with violent hearts are restrained before committing such offences. We also pray that the suspect in the Kiboga shooting is exposed, arrested and brought to book- Mr Oscar Akampurira

At the Rukiga burial, mourners described Sarah Ayebare as a God-fearing, loving and hardworking woman whose death came unexpectedly.

Rukiga District Council speaker Oscar Akampurira, who also served as the Master of Ceremonies, called for the suspect's arrest and urged residents to maintain peace ahead of the upcoming LC1 and LC2 elections.

SP Ivan Nuwagaba, husband of the late Ayebare and father of the deceased child, said he never imagined losing his wife and child in such circumstances.

"We had never quarrelled since our wedding in 2019. We shared everything. On Sunday, we attended church together, and the new priest prayed for us at the altar. I did not know that by Monday, my wife would be no more," he said.

He described his wife as a close confidant and pillar in their family, praying for the souls of his loved ones to rest in peace.

Assistant Commissioner General of Prisons Robert Munanura asked the family and mourners to pardon the Uganda Prisons Service for the tragic loss.

At Akishuri's burial, Commissioner Apollo Ankunda, representing Commissioner General of Prisons Johnson Byabashaija, expressed deep regret over the incident, describing it as a tragic loss in the line of duty.

He assured the bereaved family that justice would be pursued.

Friends and relatives described Akishuri as a young, hardworking and respectful officer who treated everyone with dignity.

Akishuri is survived by his wife, Joy Ingabire Akishuri, and three children. Ayebare leaves behind her husband, Ivan Nuwagaba, and three children.

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