Man arrested over Valentine's Day killing transferred

BY BENSON TUMUSIIME

KAMPALA. The 41-year-old man, who was last week arrested in Gulu for allegedly killing Martin Bukenya, his daughter's boyfriend, on Valentine's Day, has been transferred to Matugga Police Station in Wakiso District.

Kampala Metropolitan Police spokesperson Racheal Kawaala confirmed yesterday that Herbert Lumu Musasizi will be taken back to the scene of crime for reconstruction today as detectives gather evidence and prepare the file for submission to the Resident State Attorney for legal advice.

"We are recording statements from various witnesses. We shall also record the charge and caution statement from the suspect before he is taken to court. He is currently detained at Matugga Police Station," Ms Kawaala said.

The suspect was tracked and arrested by detectives from the Directorate of Crime Intelligence as confirmed by Maj Gen Christopher Damulira on Saturday.

"We have tracked and arrested the man who killed a young student in Matugga for being in love with his daughter on Valentine's Day. He was arrested in Gulu City. Details will follow from the spokesperson," Maj Gen Damulira said.

Preliminary investigations indicate that Musasizi allegedly assaulted Bukenya, 18, between 8pm and 10pm, resulting in his death. Bukenya, an S5 student of Hillside Secondary School in Matugga and a resident of Kirinyabigo in Nabweru Division, Wakiso District, is reported to have been killed after delivering a flower to his girlfriend, on Valentine's Day.

Area Vice Chairperson Robinah Nalugya clarified that Musasizi's daughter had turned 17 only four months ago. Earlier reports had incorrectly stated she was 14 and in Senior Two at the same school as Bukenya.

Residents condemned Musasizi's actions, stressing that teenagers need guidance rather than violence.

"When you find teenagers in such a situation, you guide them. Both boys and girls in their teenage years need guidance. He should have sat them down and guided them," said Ms Christine Sserunjjogi.

Ms Sarah Namuddu also faulted neighbours for allegedly failing to intervene even as Bukenya cried for help for nearly two hours before succumbing to his injuries.

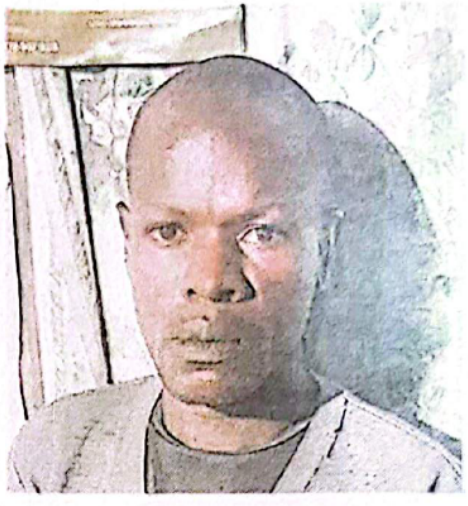
Area defence secretary Hamis Kizito noted that the deceased had previously been warned not to return to the home after an earlier incident, which had been resolved with his mother's involvement.

Musasizi had reportedly been working in Gulu City at the time of his arrest, while his wife is said to have relocated to Canada.

Bukenya was laid to rest last week in Kinoni, Lwengo District.

GROWING TREND

Police records show that 1,339 murders resulting from assault were reported in 2024, compared to 1,142 in 2023, a 17 percent increase. Of these, 1,340 people were reportedly assaulted to death: 1,091 male adults, 156 female adults, 69 male juveniles, and 24 female juveniles.



Herbert Lumu Musasizi

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