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KAMPALA. A delegation of ambassadors from Western countries were among the few visitors allowed to meet Dr Kizza Besigye yesterday at his home as police maintained a blockade on the presidential candidate for the eighth day.

The delegation that comprised ambassadors from the United States, the European Union, Britain and France, arrived at the politician's home at about 1.30pm. They were initially blocked from accessing Dr Besigye's home and had to wait for close to 30 minutes in their vehicles until the police human resource director, Mr Felix Kaweesi, arrived to let them in.

Even then, they were not allowed to drive into Dr Besigye's home and had to leave their vehicles about half a kilometre away, walking the rest of the distance on the dusty road that leads to the FDC presidential candidate's house.

Unanimous message

By press time, the foreign envoys were still in talks with Dr Besigye. It was not clear what message they had brought to him or what they were discussing with him. The EU and Commonwealth election observer missions have maintained that the February 18 elections fell short of democratic benchmarks. This position has been echoed by the US, Canada, EU, and the United Nations.

Earlier, Kampala Lord Mayor Erias Lukwago, FDC party spokesperson Ibrahim Ssemuujju Nganda and several lawyers had been allowed to access Dr Besigye's home, which police besieged eight days ago.

Others who attempted to access the home were, however, promptly arrested. Those arrested include a pastor identified as Wilson Talemwa, who said he was from Ntungamo District and had come to deliver his mes-

EU ambassadors meet Besigye



Left to right: British High Commissioner Alison Blackburne, French Ambassador Sophie Makame, Ireland Ambassador Donal Cronin, Dr Kizza Besigye and the European Union head of delegation in Uganda Ambassador Kristian Schmidt chat after a meeting with Dr Besigye at his home in Kasangati yesterday. Below: Police human resource director Andrew Felix Kaweesi watches as the ambassadors arrive at Dr Besigye's home. PHOTO BY ABUBAKER LUBOWA

sage to Dr Besigye. He was bundled into a police van and taken to Kasangati Police Station, where he and others remained detained by press time.

Police commanded by Kasangati police commander James Kawalya maintained a heavy presence around Dr Besigye's home, vetting every visitor and arresting more than 40 others by press time. Asked why they were



arresting Dr Besigye's visitors, Mr Kawalya simply said "you will know" and went mute.

With less than three days left to the

constitutional deadline to challenge the results of the just concluded presidential election in court, Dr Besigye's lawyers have accused the police of

blocking their efforts to file a successful election petition by restricting their client's mobility.

"We are still pursuing the option of filing a petition but as you know in 2001 and 2006, you had to prove that there were substantial irregularities, which means we have to go out and swear affidavits, go countrywide and look out for evidence. Dr Besigye as an individual has to fund this process but he cannot do it because he is constrained by police in his house. We are finding hurdles but the option of challenging what was declared by the Electoral Commission remains on the table," Mr Yusuf Nsibambi, one of Dr Besigye's lawyers, said yesterday.

Mr Nsibambi said the legal team had overwhelming evidence which can cause the Supreme Court to nullify the election results. He said they have evidence on intimidation of voters, ballot stuffing, forging the results declaration forms and changing the number of registered voters but added that cannot be done unless their people swear affidavits in support of the petition.

He said the more than 40 lawyers they have assembled to prosecute the petition, require more than Shs100m to facilitate the petition process, money which he said cannot be raised by their client who is under police confinement and is arrested every time he attempts to leave his home.

THE BACKGROUND

The Electoral Commission (EC) chairman, Dr Badru Kiggundu, on February 20 declared President Museveni as the winner of the presidential elections with 60.8 per cent of the vote. However, the Opposition and election observers – both international and local – have questioned the poll's credibility, citing massive irregularities and saying the whole electoral exercise cannot be accused of being free and fair.

Church of Uganda to have no...

their position on offering "marriage" to same-sex couples.

"In other words, the Primates' decision will have no impact on TEC,"