

How man stabbed 4 toddlers at daycare

There are several unanswered questions about the incident, which has drawn widespread condemnation from parents, educators, security personnel and leaders.

BY BENSON TUMUSIIME

Was it premeditated or an act on the spur of the moment? No one, not even the school administrators nor the police can yet say but the act of a 34-year-old man yesterday left four minors dead at daycare centre in Ggaba, Makindye Division, south of Kampala City centre.

The man reportedly stabbed the four toddlers to death at noon at Ggaba Early Childhood Development Programme.

Residents said the suspect posed as a parent to get into the school, chatted briefly with the administrator before attacking the children, only aged between two and three.

Several witnesses said the killer first entered the office of one of the school administrators and paid Shs180,000 as admission fees for his child. He reportedly got out, encountered the toddlers happily playing on the compound, pretended to join them in their game and suddenly attacked them.

"The killer first came to this daycare centre two days ago to inquire about the admission process. No one then knew his intentions and this is very bad for us," a witness said.

Neighbours yesterday said the killer then tried to escape from the scene but was quickly apprehended by the community.

"We alerted Ggaba Police Station and it responded quickly and stopped the residents from lynching the culprit, who they whisked away to the Kabalagala Police Station for interrogation," a neighbour said.

The police had to fire into the air to disperse the angry crowd.

"It is heartbreaking to see this horrific attack at a daycare centre near Ggaba Community Church, where innocent children lost their lives at the hands of a machete-wielding attacker.

"We thank the area residents, the police and other security agencies for their swift response in bringing the situation under control. We continue to pray for the souls of the children we have lost, and for comfort and strength for their families," the witness said.

Mr Abas Byakagaba, the Inspector General of Police, and other senior officers visited the crime scene yesterday.

Police detectives, who visited the scene, informed this publication that the bodies had severe sharp object injuries to the chest, neck and abdomen.

Mr Kitumba Rusoke, the police spokesperson, confirmed the incident in a press statement yesterday. He said the police responded to a distress call that reported an individual who allegedly attacked children at the daycare centre.

The police said four toddlers, one female and three males, died in the incident. The bodies were taken to the



Suspect went to the school two days before yesterday's incident, in the guise of seeking admission for his child. ILLUSTRATIONS/CHRIS OGON



Suspect at the school's gate.

Police arrest the suspect.

WITNESS ACCOUNTS

se Alungat, 2; Gideon Eteki, 2; Ignatius Sserwange, 2; and Ryan Odeke, 2.

Mr Kitumba said the suspect is currently under interrogation as investigations continue to establish the motive of the attack, and other relevant circumstances surrounding the vicious attack.

"The Uganda Police Force extends its deepest condolences to the affected families and assures the public that all efforts are underway to ensure a thorough

investigation and justice for the victims, further updates will be provided as more details emerge," Mr Kitumba said.

Mr Balaam Barugahara, the State minister for Youth and Children Affairs, urged the security agencies to investigate the matter thoroughly to establish the motive of the attack and ensure justice is served.

Mr Barugahara expressed his grief in a post on X, formerly Twitter, saying:

"We continue to pray for the souls of the children we have lost, and for comfort and strength for their families. I also urge that this matter is thoroughly investigated so that the motive is fully understood and justice is served. No child deserves such senseless violence."

The Ministry of Education and Sports (MOES) condemned the incident, saying: "The savage incident that occurred at the Ggaba early childhood centre is the most unfortunate. We look forward to

centre

They say...



Dalaam Barugahara, Youth minister

This matter must be thoroughly investigated so that the motive is fully understood and justice is served. No child deserves such senseless violence.



Gen Muhoozi Kainerugaba, CDF

The suspect in the Ggaba horrific attack against children has already been apprehended. We shall push for the death sentence for this criminal.



Ronald Baimwaza, Lord Mayor-elect

Heartbreaking to hear about the tragic loss of innocent lives in Ggaba. My thoughts are with the families and the community during this painful time. May they find strength and justice prevails.



Robert Kyagulanyi, NUP president

My wife Barbie and I have no words for what has happened to four young children at their infant school in Ggaba today. We mourn with the parents... May God ease your pain.



Derrick Nyeko, Makindye East MP

Such cruelty against innocent children is not only inhuman but an attack on the very fabric of our community. This tragedy must also serve as a wake-up call. I urge all institutions no matter how small, to prioritise safety, vigilance, and proper safeguards.



Thomas Taya-bwa, Deputy Speaker of Parliament

My heartfelt sympathies to the families of these innocent souls, the school community and all those affected. My prayer is that we don't take this as a mere isolated incident but rather a reminder to revise safety measures at our schools.

the investigations report by the responsible security services and possible recommendations on how the standards of safety and security in institutions of learning can be enhanced so that such ugly incidents are prevented.

"As a ministry, we commiserate with the bereaved families and the school community of Ggaba Early Childhood Centre," it added.

Growing trend

The 2025 Police Annual Crime Report, indicates that 4,238 homicide cases were reported in 2025, compared to 4,329 cases reported in 2024.

The report shows victims were killed through assault, poisoning, arson, shooting, domestic violence and mob action, with a total of 4,268 deaths reported last year, with 3,397 listed as male adults, 550 female adults, 173 male juveniles, and 148 female juveniles.

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