Ismail Orot. say they are not capable. For us structures in the northern and Police officers who arrested them.

Court allows independent medical examination for Kaweesi murder suspects

By Farooq Kasule

The High Court has ordered the African Centre for Treatment and Rehabilitation of Torture Victims (ACTV) to carry out a medical examination over claims of torture on 19 men suspected of murdering former Assistant Inspector General of Police (AIGP) Andrew Felix Kaweesi following claims of torture.

High Court Judge Margaret Oguli-Oumo, made the directive yesterday following an application in which the 19 suspects alleged that they were tortured while in Police custody at Nalufenya Police Station in Jinja district, but have been denied treatment since.

The suspects were arrested in March, immediately after the murder of Kaweesi in the city suburb of Kulambiro, Nakawa division on March 17. He was shot dead together with his bodyguard Kenneth Erau and driver Geoffrey Mambewa.

The suspects further told court that they had not received sufficient medical attention, those with broken legs had not been offered wheelchairs, while those whose sight has been affected had not received treatment.

BETWEEN THE LINES:

In her ruling, the judge said the only way for court to find the truth on the allegations of torture by the accused persons was to subject them to a medical examination by independent doctors.

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Oguli noted that since doctors at Luzira prison medical facility work for the Government, court was not sure that they would give objective reports.

She further noted that apart from Hassan Tumusiime, who was allegedly taken to Mayfair clinic in Wandegeya for treatment on the orders of the Inspector General of Police, Kale Kayihura, over worsening medical conditions, there is no evidence to show that the suspects were treated since there was no medical report produced in court.

She directed ACTV to furnish court with a detailed medical report within two weeks from yesterday.

"The doctors must give the diagnostic method used, attach photographs, opinion, recommendations and their medical qualifications," Oguli ordered.

Ladislaus Rwakafuuzi and Martin Okumu Masiga represented the accused, while state attorney Philip Mwaka represented the Attorney General.

The applicants are Abdu-Rashid Mbaziira, Aramanzan Noordin Higenyi, Yusuf Mugerwa, Burhan Balyejjusa, Umar Maganda, Ahmad Senfuka, Hassan Tusiime, Ibrahim Kissa, Osman Mohamed Omarite and Hamidu Magambo.

Others are Abdu Majid, Joshua Kyambadde, Sheikh Musa Ntende, Shafique Kasujja, Abdullah Kaala, Sinani Hibwagi, Ali Mugoya, Asuman Mugoya and Swalleh Ddamulira.



Umar Maganda walking with crutches while leaving court on Monday. Photo by Alice Namutebi

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