

Security personnel climbed the wall at 3am, says witness

BY ALEX ASHABA

KAMPALA. A source at the residence of outgoing Speaker of Parliament Anita Among has said heavily armed security personnel raided the premises in the early hours of Saturday morning, sparking a violent confrontation with guards attached to the residence.

According to the source, the operation started at around 3am after soldiers reportedly scaled the perimeter wall instead of entering through the main gate.

The source, who spoke on condition of anonymity, said the guards who had just taken over security at the residence were caught off guard and attempted to respond after noticing unusual movements within the compound.

"The guards thought the residence was under attack, and there was an exchange of gunfire," the source claimed, adding that the soldiers, who were reportedly in large numbers, overpowered Ms Among's guards and took control of her residence.

It is said that during the confrontation, police officers attached to the Ms Among's security detail were assaulted, while others sustained injuries and were rushed to the hospital.

"No one at the time was allowed to leave the residence, including the outgoing Speaker herself. We are hearing that she may remain under house arrest until the voting for Speaker is concluded," the source said.

The source also claimed that all escorts attached to the outgoing House Speaker were disarmed during the



A police officers approaches the gate of the residence of the outgoing Speaker of Parliament, Ms Anita Among, during a joint security search led by CID at her home on Saturday. PHOTO/ ABUBAKER LUBOWA

operation.

"I had just gone to sleep when I tried to get out, they grabbed me. I identified

myself and showed them my identification card. The other police officers from the counter-terrorism units were severely beaten," the source said.

Lawyers representing Ms Among later arrived at the residence before security personnel commenced a search operation that reportedly went on throughout Saturday and ended on Sunday morning.

The source claimed several sections of the residence were broken into during the search and some household property was vandalised.

Lawyers present reportedly documented the alleged damage.

"They humiliated her enough. I think she will drag them to court. I don't think they found what they were looking for. They kept talking about a car, but after searching everywhere, it was not found there," the source claimed.

The source further alleged that photographs circulating on social media showing suspected cash recoveries were not taken from the residence.

"The pictures circulating on social media showing money may have come from somewhere else, not here," the source said.

Staff at the residence were later allowed to move in and out during the daytime on Saturday.

By press time, neither the UPDF nor the Uganda Police Force had issued statements regarding the alleged raid. Efforts to obtain a comment from security officials were futile by press time.

On Saturday, the State had to first obtain a search order signed off by a magistrate at Buganda Road Chief Magistrates' Court before officials could embark on the search at the home of the outgoing Speaker, who holds the third position on the National Order of Precedence.

The developments come amid heightened political tension surrounding the ongoing Speaker and Deputy Speaker races in Parliament.

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BY SIMON

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