

Among those in the queue kept postponing treatment She explained that in many homes around Walukuba, for dental examinations...

KASESE

By Andrew Musinguzi
and Samuel Amanyire

After the expiry of the six months mandatory remand period for the 102 accused November 1, Rwenzori attackers, preparations are in final stages to commit the suspects to the High Court for trial on charges of terrorism, treason, murder and financing terrorism.

The suspects were arrested six months ago from the districts of Kasese, Bunyangabu, Kabarole, Bundibugyo and Kagadi before being remanded to Maluku Government Prison in Mbale as investigations continued.

Court, presided over by George Mfutindinda, the Chief Magistrate of the Kasese Chief Magistrate's Court, on Friday adjourned the matter to June 17, as the state finalises preparations to commit the accused to the High Court to answer to the charges.

"I have taken consideration of your plea to ensure the resident state attorney expedites investigations

Rwenzori attackers await committal to High Court

WHAT RELATIVES SAY

**Nziwa Sasiyo,
Kasese municipality**

We want court to expedite investigations and commit them to High Court. If found guilty, they should be tried and innocent ones released. It is now six months on remand without trial. This is unfair because we know some issues stemmed from land wrangles.

**Gedi Kabugho, Hima
Town Council**

It is unfortunate that my only sister, Biira Josephine, was picked from the garden over land wrangles in the village. We

were surprised to hear that she is among the Rwenzori attackers. We want the state to investigate this matter well so that the innocent ones are released.

**Beatrice Rukara,
Nyahuka Town Council**

My son, Nickson Baluke, was also taken under unclear circumstances. Let investigations be conducted well so that the innocent ones are released. We have conflicts at village level, and some politicians used the Rwenzori attacks as an excuse to implicate some of our relatives.

**Vanisi Biira Jegejege,
Kasese municipality**

My son, Nathan Muhindo, was arrested from our home under unclear circumstances. We ask court to prevail justice to innocent ones.

Some are sick and need medical attention, and Mbale is very far. We cannot afford transport costs.

**Nickson Muhindo,
Karugutu Town**

Although we have been able to access them via Zoom, we are seeking justice for our relatives.

into the matter so that the accused are committed to High Court for trial as the mandatory remand period expires," Mfutindinda ruled.

"But I advise counsel Tinkasiimire to apply to court with an affidavit for

committal of offenders to High Court for trial of those found guilty and release of innocent ones."

On November 1, last year, at around 5:00am, the armed militants allegedly used guns, catapults,

pangas, machetes and spears to simultaneously attack Rwenzori East Central Police Main Barracks in the heart of Kasese municipality, Kasese Central Police Barracks, Malindi and Kakuka Uganda People's Defence

Forces (UPDF) detachment Bundibugyo district.

Another group allegedly Canon Apollo Core Primary Teacher College and Nyakasura School in Portal.

The attacks reportedly left and security personnel including RA 306897 Private San Kwesiga, RA 307056 Private Twongirwe and civilian Ann Nayebara.

The attackers are also accused torching 26 grass-thatched houses robbing a 12.5mm weapon and burning one AK47 rifle.

Barnabas Tinkasiimire, an advocate representing the accused on behalf Biira Josephine Vs Nyahabasa, told court that the mandatory remand period of 180 days, equivalent to months, had elapsed.

He said he had filed an application seeking committal of those found guilty to the High Court with innocent suspects should be released.

Relatives of the accused expressed concern over the lengthy remand period and called on court to expedite investigations so that justice prevail.