

Kaweesi murder case: Suspects demand medical examination

Wish. The suspects want court to order for their unconditional release from detention at Luzira prison.

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KAMPALA. The High Court has set July 24, as the day to determine whether the 19 suspects accused of murdering the former Assistant Inspector General of Police (AIGP) Andrew Felix Kaweesi will need medical examination to prove they were tortured from cells.

The suspects appeared yesterday before the High Court judge Margaret Oguli Oumo.

The suspects through their lawyer Ladislous Rwakafuuzi, claim that they were arrested from their homes and taken to military custody where they were tortured and later charged in court before they were remanded to Nalufenya Police Station where they claim were again tortured.

Mr Rwakafuuzi asked court that before hearing of the main application commences, his clients should be examined by the African Center for Treatment and Rehabilitation of torturg victims and furnish a report to court because their "medical condition is appalling."

The suspects and HUREF, a human rights organisation filed the suit against the Attorney General.

"The accused people have not received sufficient medical treatment for the wounds, those with broken legs have not been offered wheel chairs whereas those whose sights and hearing capacities were impaired have not been attended to at all," Mr Rwakafuuzi submitted.

Court also heard that upon the arrest of the accused people, the military and police took away their property which includes motorcycles and cash without exhibiting them at police.



Defence. Human Rights lawyer Ladislous Rwakafuuzi (second right) speaks to suspects at the High Court in Kampala yesterday. PHOTO BY ABUBAKER LUBOWA.

Mr Rwakafuuzi also told court that the detective senior superintendent of police Johnson Olal Dale was not the right person to swear an affidavit in reply since he did not know what had happened to the accused people.

"A medical personnel from Luzira prison would have been the right person to comment about the health of the accused people," he added.

However, State Attorney Philip Mwaka asked court to dismiss the application saying the suspects can access medical treatment from Luzira prison which is equipped with professional doctors and other medical staff.

He also contends that there is no evidence by Mr Rwakafuuzi showing that the suspects have ever sought medical treatment while in Luzira prison.

"It is the duty of the lawyer to ob-

tain evidence then file his case," Mr Mwaka stated.

Mr Mwaka also read out to court the affidavit in reply sworn by detective senior superintendent of police Olal who says he is the lead investigator in the Kaweesi murder case and denied subjecting these suspects to any form of torture.

"The accused people have not received sufficient medical treatment for the wounds, those with broken legs have not been offered wheel chairs whereas those whose sights and hearing capacities were impaired have not been attended to at all," LADISLOUS RWAKAFUUZI, LAWYER

However, the trial judge agreed with that the suspects' lawyer that their medical aspect is paramount

and said she will pronounce herself on it on July 24 before conducting a full hearing of the application.

The suspects in additional want court to order for their unconditional release from detention at Luzira prison, arguing that the continued detention without medical care is a violation of their constitutional rights to which they also claim for compensation from government.

The applicants are Abdu-Rashid Mbaziira, Aramanzan Noordin Hig-enyi, Yusuf Mugerwa, Bruhan Balyejjusa, Umar Baganda, Ahamada Senfuka, Hassan Tusiime, Ibrahim Kissa, Osman Mohamed Omarite, Hamidu Magambo.

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