

Ugandan sentenced to life in UK for killing two Britons

Court heard that the convict recorded a voice note six days before the attack in which he appeared to suggest his neighbours deserved to die.

BY BBC

A 32-year-old evicted Ugandan national, who started a huge fire that killed two Britons as an act of revenge, has been jailed for life in the United Kingdom.

Court found that Hakeem Kigundu ignited the flames at the block of flats in Rowe Court, Reading, on December 15, last year.

Kigundu is said to have been "consumed with rage" about being ordered

to leave the building over his persistent anti-social behaviour.

He had pleaded guilty to the murders of Richard Burgess, 46, and Neil Morris, 45, who died in the blaze.

Joel Richards, who was seriously injured in the fire and managed to escape by jumping out of a first-floor window, was among the victims to attend the sentencing hearing on October 6.

The court was told Kigundu had regularly made his neighbours' lives a misery by having music on full volume all night, his TV blaring and slamming doors.

This led to him being served with an eviction notice shortly after he lost his job as a BT engineer because of his "erratic behaviour in the workplace".

Court also observed that Kigundu who entered the UK illegally, recorded a voice note six days before the attack in which he appeared to suggest his neighbours deserved to die.

He bought 50 litres of petrol from



Hakeem Kigundu

three different fuel stations around Reading that he went on to splash around the communal areas of the building he had been living in.

Kigundu drove to Reading police station as residents desperately tried to es-

cape the burning building, confessing to his crime and claiming he had been "full of fury" but now regretted his actions.

While passing sentence, Reading Crown Court judge Holgate said he was "sure this was a premeditated attack made by the defendant in revenge".

"He planned to commit the attack at night because that would reduce the chances of a resident finding the huge amounts of petrol," the judge said.

"That would also substantially increase the chances of causing death and serious injury."

He added: "I do not accept that any real remorse has been shown - acceptance of guilt, yes, but not remorse."

Kigundu had also pleaded guilty to arson with intent to endanger life and two counts of causing grievous bodily harm.

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Kenyan gets two-year jail term for stalking DPP

BY JULIET KIGONGO

KAMPALA. Court has sentenced a Kenyan national to two years imprisonment for offensive communication and cyber stalking the Director of Public Prosecutions (DPP), Justice Jane Frances Abodo.

Buganda Road Court chief magistrate Gladys Kamasanyu yesterday ruled that Jared Oloo Akumu, a resident of Nyangoma Division, Bondo District, Siaya County, Nyanza Province in Kenya, will also serve nine months for offensive communication.

Ms Kamasanyu said Akumu, who has been on remand for eight months, will serve both sentences co-currently.

She added that although the convict was a first-time offender, many people have increasingly used computers to harass others and they go unpunished yet at times the damage occasioned to the victims or complainants cannot be reversed.

"I also note that the convict has not been remorseful throughout the trial and hence a custodial sentence is appropriate to enable him change," Ms Kamasanyu said.

"You hence deserve a punishment that will help you reform and deter any other person from committing the crime again because when you threaten the DPP, I will do to you something that will never keep you doing the same to any other person," she added.

During hearing of the case, Justice Abodo, who was the chief witness, told court that between September 15, 2021 and November 2, 2021, while in unknown places, Akumu willfully and repeatedly used his email address akumu4036@gmail.com to harass her by sending threatening e-mails and attachments to her official email address.

She said Akumu threatened to print

out her photos and pin them on billboards across East African countries to show everyone that she is corrupt.

Court records show that Justice Abodo reported the case at Central Police Station in Kampala before detectives arrested Akumu after he crossed into Uganda to follow up on his car case.

According to the court documents, Akumu allegedly borrowed Shs5 million from a money lender and put up his truck as security.

However, he disappeared to Kenya for five years, which prompted the money lender to sell off the truck in order to recover his money.

Sentence. "You hence deserve a punishment that will help you reform and deter any other person from committing the crime again because when you threaten the DPP, I will do to you something that will never keep you doing the same to any other person," **Gladys Kamasanyu, Buganda Road Court chief magistrate**

It is further indicated that Akumu resurfaced after five years and opened up a case of theft of his car at Law Development Court, which led the money lender to petition the Office of the DPP.

Justice Abodo perused through the file and found that the accused had no case and consequently she closed the file thus advising Akumu to open up a civil matter if he was not satisfied.

But the latter instead began sending her threatening messages that she was bribed.

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Jared Oloo Akumu, a Kenyan national, in the dock at Buganda Road Chief Magistrate's Court, Kampala, yesterday. PHOTO/ABUBAKER LUBOWA

Who are the new UHRC members?

BY FRANKLIN DRAKU

PARLIAMENT. Parliament on Monday vetted three members of the Uganda Human Rights Commission (UHRC) whom President Museveni appointed in September.

They include Mr Simeo Nsubuga, the former police spokesperson and Kasanda South MP, Col (Rtd) Steven Basaliza, a one-time commissioner and former Burahya MP, and Mr Omara Apita, the former commissioner for physical education.

Unlike Col Basaliza, who has previously served with the commission, Mr Nsubuga is a new entrant.

Shortly after being vetting by the Appointments Committee of Parliament on Monday, Mr Nsubuga told journalists that he would work to protect the rights of all Ugandans.

"You are aware they quoted a number of annual reports of the commission where they mention police as the lead agency in violating the rights of Ugandans, but I have assured them (committee) that considering my experience and qualifications...I will be at the forefront of protecting, defending, and observing the rights of Uganda," he said.

Col Basaliza said the members of the security forces found culpable for human rights abuses should be held personally liable for their indiscretions.

"We should intensify our work and ensure that errant officers in security forces are brought to book. I promise the country that we shall not leave any stone unturned. We shall go for those people who are misbehaving under the pretext of the forces they are serving," he said.

"It may not be the general force but individuals, and they will be punished accordingly. There is a law which was passed in 2019 - the human rights enforcement law which says an individual must be held liable, not and institution so we cannot allow that," he added.

Col Basaliza holds a Masters degree in human rights law and a bachelors degree in management.

Mr Apita joined the Ministry of Education and Sports in 1994 as an assistant secretary and rose through the ranks, retiring at the level of Commissioner for Physical Education and Sports.

If approved, the trio will join Mr Crispy Kaheru, Ms Shifrah Lukwago, Ms Jacklet Atuhairu Rwabukurukuru, and Ms Mariam Fauzat Wangadya (chairperson) at the commission.



Mr Simeo Nsubuga

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