

Police are trying to determine why he returned to Uganda

GGABA MURDER: SUSPECT DISAGREED WITH HIS FATHER OVER FARMING

BY STUART YIGA
AND CHARLES ETUKURI

As the Police continue to probe the motive behind the murder of four children at Ggaba Early Childhood Day Care in Kampala, it has emerged that the suspect, Christopher Okello Onyum, had just returned from the US.

“He had just returned from the US, where he spent over 20 years. Upon his return in November 2025, he tried to live a simple life at his parents’ home in Bunga, a Kampala city suburb in Makindye division, before he relocated to Nwoya district, from where he returned a few days ago,” a senior detective, working on the case, told *The Weekend Vision*.

On Friday, Onyum recorded a statement. The Police have also interviewed his father, who, detectives said, managed to provide them with details regarding his son.

“It seems he has been living a disgruntled life ever since he returned to Uganda. We are also trying our level best to ascertain the circumstances under which he returned to Uganda,” a detective said, adding that deportation is the main clue they are pursuing about his abrupt return to Uganda last year.

Detectives told *The Weekend Vision* that Onyum was forced to travel to the US by his father.

“His father wanted him to stay in America with his siblings. However, while in America, he kept complaining, saying he wanted to return to Uganda and farm. However, his father declined. So, he devised means to return home,” a detective, quoting from Onyum’s statement to the Police, said.

“When he returned home, he first stayed in an apartment in Bunga. This apartment was being paid for by an embassy in Uganda.

“After some time, Onyum visited, his father, who was shocked to see his son in Uganda. When his father asked him why he had returned to Uganda, the suspect told him he wanted to do farming. So, the next day, his father drove him to Nwoya, and they established a farm on the family land



Four babies were hacked to death at a daycare centre in Ggaba, a Kampala suburb, on Thursday



Gideon Eteko



Ignatius Sserunyange



Keisha Otim



Ryan Odeke

there. After a week, his father returned to Kampala, leaving his son to manage the farm.”

According to Onyum’s statement, after spending some time in Nwoya, he returned to Kampala and rented an apartment in Kyanja.

One of the detectives told *The Weekend Vision* that: “He also told us that during his stay in the USA, he was working as a nursing assistant with a specialised homecare service, CARE WITH LOVE, in Northern Virginia.”

“He relocated to Kyanja from Nwoya two weeks ago. He also has dual citizenship – Ugandan and American. His father is Asuman Onyum, a retired senior accountant. The suspect has no child,” the detective added.

MURDER SCRIPT

On Thursday, detectives said, the killer

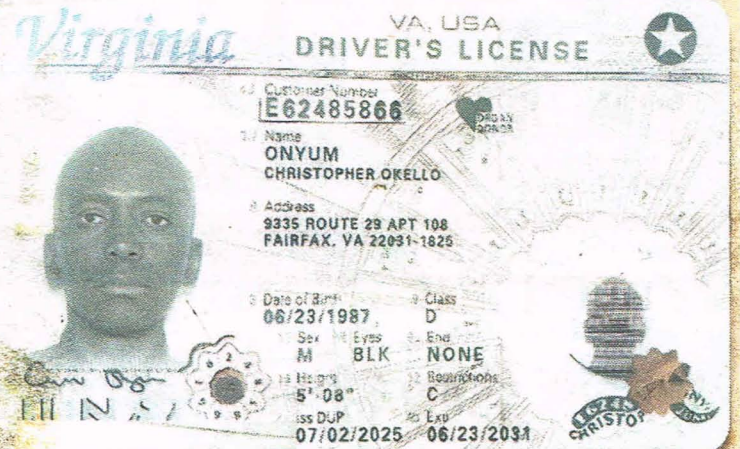
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HE WAS WORKING AS A NURSING ASSISTANT IN THE US.

paid an admission fee of sh180,000 to the school administration via mobile money services. He also bought two big padlocks before embarking on the journey to the school on Thursday morning.

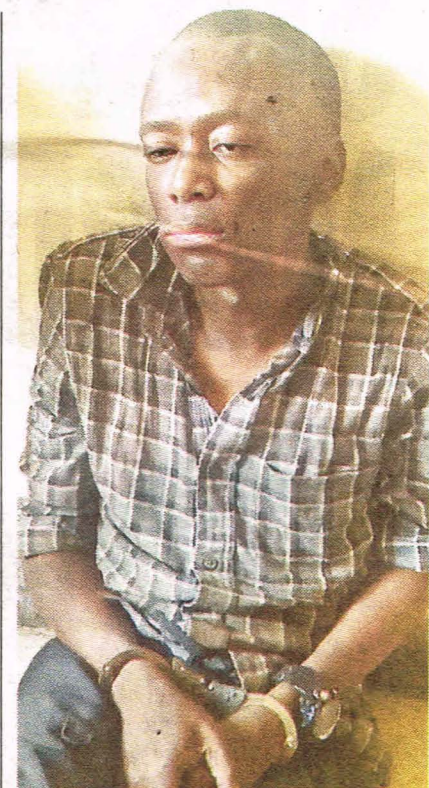
The accused had visited the school premises on Tuesday evening seeking a vacancy. However, when he returned on the fateful day, he unleashed terror instead of actualising the admission request for his child.

Those killed in the Thursday early morning attack include Ryan Odeke (1.5 years old), Keisha Otim (2 years old), Gideon Eteko (2.5 years old) and Ignatius Sserunyange (2.5 years old).

Detectives said Onyum first locked the main gate and the main school administration block before hacking the babies. As he travelled from Kyanja, Onyum stopped over at the Old Taxi



Onyum's US driving permit. He was working in Northern Virginia before



Onyum is in police custody

Park, where he bought three knives.

Several unanswered questions have also emerged as detectives try to establish his mental health status and also probe the circumstances surrounding the killing.

“If the accused had a mental problem and came to the school on Tuesday to seek admission, he wouldn’t have returned to the same venue on Thursday. It is possible this was a premeditated murder. He was at the school on Tuesday to survey, find out how it operates,” a detective said.

Detectives said Onyum allegedly killed his stepbrother in a similar manner. The case was reported at Kwania Police in 2017. However, no one knows how he was left scot free. Mental disorder resulting from sickle cell disease is linked to the murder as of now.