

*Letter of the Leader of the
Opposition to the President
of Atrocities**

Opposition Office
National
Assembly,
Parliament House
PO Box 122
KAMPALA

4th August, 1982

H.E. The President,
Dr A.M. Obote
Parliament Building

KAMPALA

Dear President Obote,

**KILLING IN KASANJE
AND NAKAWUKA**

This is the third time I write to you in connection with loss of lives in the Gombololas of Kasanje and Ssisa, apparently at the instigation of UPC activists, notably Mr Edward Kabira UPC Chairman Mpigi South East Constituency, Lusimbo Nyindozaminya, Local UPC leader and Muluka Chief of Nakawuka, Kigwana, Ssonko, (Militia) Lwanga, Muluka chief Bulwanyi and the father of Ssonko.

In my first letter I called on you to set up a commission of inquiry into the killings of so many people in the area, who, at that time, were estimated around twenty (20). In the second letter I reported to you that according to information which reached me after my first letter to you; the number of people killed was then estimated to be about sixty (60). I have since received more information from the area and according to the latest information the number killed at the hands of some members of our army (UNLA) is anything between eighty (80) and one hundred (100).

According to the information reaching me a large number of people were arrested at Kasanje during and after the public meeting organised and addressed by Mr Edward Kabira. Apparently at least as many as forty-three (43) of those arrested were subsequently killed and their dead bodies left in different places as follows: (a) Twenty-one (21) at Bimbye between Kasanje and Nakawuka; (b) Eighteen (18) at Kabwa between Kasanje and Bubebbere; (c) Four (4) at Kamunye between Kasanje and Mpigi.

Among those killed in Kasanje were the following:

- a) Nelson Ssabavuma, a well known singer;
- b) Kulanima Sserwange, an old man aged over seventy years;
- c) Ludoviko Nkugwa, leader of the Christian Lay Movement in Buyege Catholic Parish;
- d) Nkugwa, Headmaster of Kasanje Primary School;
- e) Haruna Kivumbi, Teacher at Kasanje Primary School;
- f) John Kistu, Pork trader at Kasanje;
- g) Matovu, better known as Laale who used to sell water on a wheel barrow;
- h) Deogratus Kasirye, a businessman with a shop at Kitoro, Entebbe;
- i) Kiggundu, Assistant Secretary of DP branch at Kasanje;
- j) A certain Nnalongo;
- k) A certain Francis X, Ssali of Bbaale.

Over forty (40) people in the Nakawuka areas were killed apparently at the instigation and/or at the hands of the Leaders of UPC in the area, who included Lusimbo, Ssonko and Lwanga. As stated in my second letter to you, an estimated number of seventy (70) UNLA soldiers with the assistance of the above named persons arrested a large number of people at Nakawuka Trading Centre on 12th July, 1982 and severely assaulted them before carting them off for execution. The majority of these people were picked up on the basis of their tribal background. They were mostly Westerners notably Banyankore and Banyarwanda. Here again dead bodies appear to have been deposited in different places.

Seventeen (17) such bodies were found at Tema Estate, at Lumpewo, between Kasanje and Kisubi. Twenty-three (23) other bodies were found at Kalandazi, between Nakawuka and Kasanje. Those killed in Nakawuka area and subsequently identified included the following:

- a) Peter Kiggundu who used to cut down trees for preparing charcoal;
- b) Misiga who used to collect and sell water on a wheel barrow;
- c) Misiga Kiiza who used to make charcoal;
- d) Richard Nkugga also called Malevu because of his beard;
- e) Kanyabere Ssalongo who used to prepare charcoal;
- f) Yosefu Kajabangu who used to sell pork;
- g) Richard Katende a nephew of Lusimbo but who had on several occasions confronted his uncle (Lusimbo) over the latter's conduct;
- h) Ssematimba an official in the Veterinary Department in the area.

I also understand that the UPC leader and Muluka Chief for Bulwanyi, Mr Lwanga, arranged the arrest and execution of two people, apparently both Westerners, *viz*: Bakuuse Nditufugo (a Murundi) and Marceli Kabokomuwaawo (a Mukiga). The total number of persons killed whose dead bodies were found as indicated above is eighty (80). It is however believed that it could be much bigger, probably around one hundred (100).

A large number of UNLA soldiers and Special Force personnel are reported to have been stationed in these Gombololas of Kasanje and Ssisa. It is further reported that many of them are engaged in looting and assaulting innocent civilians. As a result of this reign of terror, large numbers of innocent civilians have been forced to flee the area and abandon all their things.

It is still my hope that you will, dear President, treat this matter as a very serious one which calls for your prompt attention and action.

Yours Sincerely,

Paul Ssemogerere