



Refugee Documentation Centre (Ireland)
LEGAL AID BOARD

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Information on the murder and subsequent investigation relating to the death of Malawian Anti-Corruption Bureau (ACB) Deputy Director Issa Alu Tayub Njauju

In July 2015 the *Nyasa Times* points out that:

“The Anti-Corruption Bureau (ACB) director of corporate services Issa Njauju whose body was discovered half-buried on Saturday in the capital Lilongwe as the victim of a “savage and brutal attack”, Malawi police have said. Njauju's Toyota D4D vehicle was found burnt to ashes at Kauma in Lilongwe” (Nyasa Times (4 July 2015) *Malawi anti-graft official killed in 'savage and brutal attack'*).

A document published in July 2015 by *Malawi 24* states that:

“Malawi Police have launched investigations into the mysterious death of Anti Corruption Bureau (ACB) Director of Corporate Services Issa Njauju whose body was found two days after he had gone missing in the capital Lilongwe. Malawi24 understands that Njauju was found dead metres away from security base, Kamuzu Barracks and the Kamuzu Palace” (Malawi 24 (5 July 2015) *Malawi: ACB Official Found Dead Near State House*).

In July 2015 *Malawi 24* notes that:

“There is an apparent controversy over what might have led to the mysterious death of Malawi's Anti Corruption Bureau (ACB) Director of the Corporate Affairs, Issa Njauju who was found dead dumped behind government buildings over the weekend. Malawi24 investigations had initially indicated that police and ACB were both in closed doors mapping the way forward on the matter. It is said that the law enforcers believed that Njauju was shot dead in relation to ACB related work he was doing on some unknown cases, something which the ACB threw to the ground” (Malawi 24 (9 July 2015) *Malawi: Issa Njauju's Death Stirs Controversy*).

A report published in July 2015 by the *Nyasa Times* points out that:

“Njaunju was found dead on 4 July 2015 with his body half-buried near Lilongwe River and his Toyota Hilux double-cabin vehicle burnt to ashes behind the presidential villas in Lilongwe. Police said no arrests have so far been made and that investigations were still in progress” (Nyasa Times (10 July 2015) *Malawi police say criminal gang targeting journalists, rights activists*).

Malawi 24 states in a publication issued in July 2015 that:

“The Malawi Police says its investigations on the horrific murder of the Anti-Corruption Bureau (ACB) director of corporate services Issa Njauju have hit a wall. The Malawi police says it has failed to carry out arrests related to the case because its investigation has not progressed at the expected speed” (Malawi 24 (13 July 2015) *Malawi Police Hit a Wall On Njauju's Death*).

The *Nyasa Times* in July 2015 notes:

“Malawi Police have finally admitted that the brutal murder of Anti-Corruption Bureau (ACB) director of corporate services Issa Njauju is connected to cashgate investigations. Police said investigations shows cashgate could be the reason to Njaunju's savage murder” (Nyasa Times (16 July 2015) *Malawi: ACB's Njaunju Murder Linked to Cashgate – Police*).

In September 2015 the *Nyasa Times* states:

“Malawi Police have arrested and charged Frank John with murder offence relating to the senseless killing of Anti-Corruption Bureau (ACB) director of corporate services Issa Njauju. Police spokeswoman Rhoda Manjolo confirmed the arrest of the suspect and that he is on remand at Maula Prison” (Nyasa Times (15 September 2015) *Malawi: Police Arrests Suspect in Njaunju Murder*).

The *Nyasa Times* in November 2015 notes that:

“Malawi Police say investigations into the murder of a senior official at the graft busting body, the Anti-Corruption Bureau, Issa Njaunju is progressing well and asked people to be patient as the matter will get to logical conclusion. Gondwa: Investigations still going on. Deputy police spokesman Nicholas Gondwa said one of the suspects was already netted by police and appeared in court as required by law” (Nyasa Times (13 November 2015) *Malawi Police Say Njauju Murder Investigations Are Still Going On*).

In December 2015 the *Middle East and North Africa Financial Network* noting comments by the Malawi Human Rights Commission which state that:

“The commission said it is following the matter with keen interest as investigations on his death are underway. But he said if in any case the investigations are being delayed deliberately the commission will have no Choice but to take to task on why those who were supposed to investigate the matter are not investigating” (Middle East and North Africa Financial Network (10 December 2015) *MHRC Says Malawi on Track in Defending Human Rights as it keeps tabs on the investigation of Issa Njaunju Death*).

The *Nyasa Times* in December 2015 states in a publication that:

“Malawi police have confirmed the arrest of a cop who works in Criminal Investigation Department (CID) in connection with the murder of Anti Corruption Bureau (ACB) Director of Corporate Affairs Issa Njauju...National Police Spokesperson Nicholas Gondwa confirmed the arrest of 43 year old Christopher Naphiyo. Naphiyo, a police criminal investigator at police headquarters in Lilongwe is the second person to be arrested after another suspect who was picked and charged with murder after he was found with Njaujus mobile phone” (Nyasa Times (18 December 2015) *Malawi Cop Naphiyo Nabbed Over Njauju Killing*).

A document issued in December 2015 by the *Middle East and North Africa Financial Network* notes:

"The Malawi Police have arrested their own colleague from prosecution department in connection with the killing of Anti-Corruption Bureau (ACB) Director of Corporate Affairs Issa Njauju in July this year 2015. Nicholas Gondwa Malawi Police National Spokesperson confirmed to the local press on Thursday December 17 the arrest of the cop from prosecution department but tight lipped for his identity for fear of jeopardizing investigations on the matter. The arrest of police officer comes barely three months after Malawi Police arrested Frank John as a suspect for killing the late Njauju and charged him with murder in September this year" (Middle East and North Africa Financial Network (20 December 2015) *Malawi police officer arrested as a suspect in connection with Mysterious death of ACB Director Issa Njauju*).

A document released in December 2015 by the *Nyasa Times* points out that:

"Police criminal investigations department officer Christopher Naphiyo was arrested by fellow law enforcers after he was overheard boasting at a drinking joint in Lilongwe that he knows assailants of former Anti Corruption Bureau (ACB) corporate affairs director Issa Njauju" (Nyasa Times (21 December 2015) *Malawi: Cop Naphiyo Knows Njauju Killers - Arrested for Boosting He Knows Assailants*).

This report also states:

"Naphiyo is the second person to be arrested in connection with the death of Njauju after the arrest of another man who has since been charged with murder after he was found with a mobile phone belonging to the graft busting body's third in command. ACB director Lucas Kondowe could also not give information on the arrest of Naphiyo only saying his organisation is closely working with the police to ring to book the murderers of Njauju" (ibid).

In January 2016 the *Nyasa Times* states:

"Malawi Police have confirmed a criminal investigations department officer who was arrested in connection with the murder of graft busting body, the Anti Corruption Bureau (ACB) corporate affairs director Issah Njauju, is now freed on bail. Police spokesman Nicholas Gondwa said Christopher Naphiyo was granted bail by the High Court following his appearance in the court two weeks ago...Naphiyo, who is a policer officer at Area 30 in CID, was arrested a few weeks ago after some people reported him to police for allegedly boasting at a drinking joint that he knew killers of Njauju. Njauju was brutally murdered in July, 2015 and the police are yet to identify his killers and the motive behind his murder...Just a few weeks ago, Inspector General of Police Lexten Kachama said the police investigations on the murder of Njauju are dragging because of lack of forensic equipment, saying law enforcers are doing the forensic manually which takes time" (Nyasa Times (14 January 2016) *Malawi: Suspected Njauju Cop Killer Gets Bail*).

The *Malawi Voice* in February 2016 notes that:

"Uncertainty surrounds the commencement of Issa Njauju murder case, with the Malawi Police saying they are waiting for the court to set dates while the judiciary says they do not have files for the case. Two people, who included a police officer, Christopher Naphiyo, were arrested some five months ago, in connection with the matter" (Malawi Voice (5 February 2016) *Police, Judiciary Contradict On Issa Njauju Case*).

A publication released in March 2016 by the *Nyasa Times*

“Malawi government has been criticised on why it is taking too long to investigate and act on the murder of Anti Corruption Bureau senior official late Issa Njaunju with Catholic Commission for Justice and Peace (CCJP) challenging the State machinery to find the murderers of Njaunju. Many critics have accused the government of taking a casual approach to the investigation of Njaunju just like the death of Polytechnic student activist Robert Chasowa. It is believed that Njaunju was murdered by regime thugs as was Chasowa” (Nyasa Times (13 March 2016) *Malawi: Catholic Demands Njaunju Justice - Find the Murderers, Ccjp Challenges Malawi Govt*).

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This response was prepared after researching publicly accessible information currently available to the Refugee Documentation Centre within time constraints. This response is not and does not purport to be conclusive as to the merit of any particular claim to refugee status or asylum. Please read in full all documents referred to.

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