

Verdict on murder of Columbia varsity student out today

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KAMPALA. The High Court in Kampala is today expected to deliver a judgment in a case where two men are accused of murdering a Columbia University student outside Kampala Serena Hotel on New Year's eve of 2015, shortly after he had watched fireworks.

The accused are Ronald Mutebi and Geoffrey Lubwama, alias Jeff.

They are accused of murdering 19-year-old mechanical engineering student Andrew Gatare.

About a fortnight ago, the court assessors in the case, Ms Bogere Betty and Ms Rehema Babirye, advised court to convict the duo.

They said the prosecution evidence had squarely placed the accused at the scene of crime and sufficiently proved its case against the duo.

Not binding

However, the assessors' opinion does not bind the judge to concur with their opinion.

Murder attracts up to a maximum death sentence on conviction.

It is alleged that on the New Year eve of 2015 New Year, Gatare left their home in Kololo to watch fireworks at Kampala Serena Hotel.

Prosecution states that after watching the fireworks at Serena at around 2am, he left and crossed to Nile Avenue as he headed home.

While he walked to catch a boda boda, two men pounced on him and robbed him of his mobile phone and wallet.

He was left unconscious and later died.

The suspects were later arrested by police.