

## National News

# Murder Agnes Wanjiru was only 21 when she was reportedly killed by a British soldier in 2012 Hope for justice in woman's killing

The extradition of Purkiss faces many hurdles, especially in Britain

BY NYABOGA KJAGE AND MWANGI NDIRANGU

Esther Njoki, whose aunt was reportedly killed by a British soldier in 2012, landed in Kenya from the United Kingdom with renewed hope of justice yesterday.

During her four-days visit, Agnes Wanjiru's niece held talks with British Defence Secretary John Healey, MPs in the House of Commons and activists in an effort to have the murder suspect flown to Kenya to face trial.

"There is hope and we commend the Secretary of State for Defence for his determination to ensure justice is served," Ms Njoki told the *Daily Nation*.

"We will also pressure the Kenya and UK governments to speed up the extradition of the suspect. He must be punished for that crime."

The suspect was unmasked as Robert James Purkiss, 38, who

was among a group of soldiers last seen with Wanjiru on the day of her disappearance.

Wanjiru's body was found in a septic tank at Lion Court Hotel, Nanyuki, weeks after she went missing.

The murder has become a painful symbol of injustice and strained diplomatic ties between Kenya and the UK.

Mr Healey met Wanjiru's family in Nanyuki in April – becoming the first British minister to do so since the killing.

However, the second encounter in London carried new weight: the man long suspected of killing Wanjiru has already been named and charged by Kenyan authorities.

"I was pleased to welcome Esther to London to reiterate our government's steadfast support for her family's long and painful fight for justice," Mr Healey said after the meeting.

"We have seen significant progress with the case file now in the hands of prosecutors and a charging decision made. Our government will continue to do everything we can to support the Kenyan investigation and help bring peace to her family."



Wanjiru's niece, Esther Njoki, when she appeared before the National Assembly Defence team. DENNIS ONSONGO / NATION

For Ms Njoki, the meeting was emotional and necessary. "The loss of my aunt left a scar on our family," she said.

"We are still far from justice. The family urges the UK government to ensure he is flown to Kenya and charged with murder with-

out further delay." She said the meeting with MPs went on well. "British lawmakers now understand better what victims of soldiers' atrocities go through. This is due to the failure of systems and also about the conduct

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John Healey, UK Defence Minister



of their troops while in foreign countries," Ms Njoki said.

Wanjiru's story began in March 2012 in Nanyuki, a garrison town that hosts the British Army Training Unit Kenya (Batak).

The 21-year-old mother of one was last seen at the hotel soldiers from the Duke of Lancaster's Regiment were drinking. Several witnesses said she left the hotel with a British soldier.

The family buried her without answers. In 2019, an inquest in Kenya ruled that Wanjiru had been killed and that British soldiers were responsible. Still, no one was arraigned for murder.

In 2021, an investigation by *The Sunday Times* reignited the case, revealing testimony from British soldiers who said a colleague had boasted about killing a woman and shown others where her body was.

There was outrage in both countries, leading to the Directorate of Criminal Investigations (DCI) looking into the case.

Purkiss was a medical worker with Batak at the time. A warrant of arrest against him has since been issued by the Director of Public Prosecutions.

The Wanjiru case has tested the Kenya-UK ties. Britain says it will cooperate fully with Kenya on the case while respecting local legal processes.

For many Kenyans, though, the case symbolises a broader unease about the conduct of foreign soldiers stationed in the country.

For years, residents of the areas near Batak training grounds in Laikipia and Samburu have complained about impunity and lack of redress when soldiers are involved in crime.

Extradition can take years and Britain must navigate legal and political sensitivities.

"Justice for my aunt means justice for every Kenyan woman whose pain has been ignored," Ms Njoki said after meeting the minister.

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## MURANG'A COUNTY GOVERNMENT



### PUBLIC RE-ADVERTISEMENT

#### INVESTMENT OPPORTUNITIES: REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS (RFP) FOR LAND ALLOCATION

##### BACKGROUND

Murang'a County is committed to industrialization, job creation, and value addition for its agricultural produce. Following the successful inaugural Investment Conference held on 19th-20th June 2025, the County now provides these detailed opportunities to realize its development goals.

Pursuant to Section 12(1)(a) of the Land Act, Cap 280, the Murang'a County Land Allocation and Leases Management Act, 2023, and its attendant Regulations (2024), the Murang'a County Government invites interested investors to submit proposals for the allocation of land for development in the following designated zones.

##### AVAILABLE OPPORTUNITIES & RESERVE PRICES (PER ACRE)

###### 1. MURANG'A INDUSTRIAL PARK - OPPOSITE MAKENI

| Zone                                                  | Stand Premium (Kshs)               | Annual Rent (Kshs) |
|-------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------|--------------------|
| i. Commercial                                         | 8.4 Million                        | 1.28 Million       |
| ii. Industrial                                        | 7.0 Million                        | 1.4 Million        |
| iii. Recreation                                       | 8.4 Million                        | 1.28 Million       |
| iv. Affordable Housing                                | 8.4 Million                        | 1.28 Million       |
| v. Bus Park                                           | 8.4 Million                        | 1.28 Million       |
| vi. ICT Hub                                           | 8.4 Million                        | 1.28 Million       |
| vii. Primary School                                   | 8.4 Million                        | 1.28 Million       |
| viii. Secondary School                                | 8.4 Million                        | 1.28 Million       |
| ix. Infrastructure (Roads, Sewers, etc.)              | To be evaluated based on proposals |                    |
| x. 41-acre parcel (Subdivision of L.R. No. 102/27/90) | 8.4 Million                        | 1.28 Million       |

##### 2. GIKONO LANDFILL

- Proposals will be evaluated on a per-acre basis.

##### 3. SME PARKS

- Locations: Maragua (9 plots), Kiharu (7 plots), Kangema (1 plot), Kandara (2 plots), Kigumo (3 plots).
- Rate: Kshs 12 million (Stand Premium), Kshs 240,000 (Annual Rent) per acre.

##### 4. EXPORT PROCESSING ZONE (INDUSTRIAL)

- Rate: Kshs 7.0 million (Premium), Kshs 1.4 million (Annual Rent) per acre.

##### SUBMISSION DETAILS

Interested and qualified investors must:

- Pay a Non-Refundable Application Fee of Kshs 20,000.
- Account Name: Murang'a County Investment Conference
- Bank: Equity Bank Limited, Murang'a Branch
- Account No.: 02020833578
- M-Pesa Paybill: 01626237 | Account Number: Your Company Name

- Alternatively, use Paybill 247647, Account 02020833578
- Complete and Submit the Official RFP Form available exclusively on the official county website: [www.murangakc.go.ke](http://www.murangakc.go.ke) on or before 23rd October 2025 (Close of Business).

##### KEY TERMS & CONDITIONS

- Allocation will be on a "First Fully Paid-Up, First Served" basis, subject to meeting all set criteria.
- Submission of an application signifies an irrevocable commitment to pay for the land if allocated, as per the advertised price. (Note: The National Land Commission reserves the right to adjust prices before final allocation).
- Successful applicants will be granted a 30-year lease, renewable.
- Full payment must be made within 4 weeks of notification of award.
- Development must commence within 6 months of allocation, with at least one project phase completed within 12 months. Failure will result in repositioning.
- All development must conform to the approved master plan.
- Lessees shall not sublet, lease, or use the lease as collateral without written permission from the County.
- The County is pursuing registration of the Industrial Park with the Special Economic Zones Authority (SEZA), which will offer successful allottees benefits like tax reliefs.

NOTE: For Export Processing Zone (EPZ) opportunities, the County will recommend investors to the Export Processing Zones Authority (EPZA) for its own vetting.

Murang'a County Government had advertised on the Daily Nation and Standard Newspapers on Tuesday 7th October 2025 and Wednesday 8th October 2025 respectively hence this is a re-advertisement after the public demanded for an extension of time due to the RFP requirements and criteria. The organizations that had applied through the advertisements are advised not to re-apply but those who had expressed interest immediately after the investment conference are advised to apply.

##### FOR CLARIFICATIONS (On or before 23rd October 2025)

- Trade & Industrialization: Mr. Paul Mugo, CECM | Email: paulmugo@murangakc.go.ke | Phone: 0722 985 453
- Lands Department: Mr. James Gatuna, CECM | Email: jamesgatuna@murangakc.go.ke | Phone: 0719 640 930
- Director, Trade: Ms. Rose Mwangi | Email: trade@murangakc.go.ke

Visit our website [www.murangakc.go.ke](http://www.murangakc.go.ke) for the full RFP form, detailed evaluation criteria, and authenticated survey maps (available at the CECM Lands Office, County Headquarters). Unlocking Murang'a as an Industrial Hub.



## ADVERTISEMENT

### INVITATION TO BID (ITB)

TradeMark Africa (TMA) is a leading African Aid-for-Trade organisation, founded in 2010, with a mission to grow intra-African trade, increase Africa's share in global trade, and make trade more pro-poor and environmentally sustainable. Our focus on reducing the cost and time of trading across borders through enhanced trade policy, better trade infrastructure, standards that work for businesses, greater use of digital innovations and a focus on creating trade access for vulnerable groups, has contributed to substantially lower cargo transit times, improved border efficiency, and reduced trade barriers. TMA has expanded in recent years to operate in 14 countries across East, West and Southern Africa as well as the Horn, with registration underway in a further six countries. TMA operates on a not-for-profit basis and is funded by 12 institutional and philanthropic development partners. TMA works closely with regional and continental organisations, national Governments, the private sector and civil society organisations to deliver results that drive shared prosperity and reduce poverty.

For more information, please visit: [www.trademarkafrika.com](http://www.trademarkafrika.com)

TMA would like to invite interested and qualified firms to participate in the following tender opportunities:

- Prequalification for design and construction of 2 jetties at the Port of Ntoroko on Lake Albert in Uganda - [Tender Number: PRQ20250465]; and
- Request for Proposal for consultancy to carry out capacity building of cross border traders' organizations and implementation of a business sustainability model for cross border traders - [Tender Number: PRQ20250384]

Tender document can be obtained at: <https://www.trademarkafrika.com/procurement/>. All queries quoting the above Tender Title and Number should be emailed to: [procurement@trademarkafrika.com](mailto:procurement@trademarkafrika.com). The closing date for submission is per indicated in the respective tender documents.

Interested, qualified and eligible bidders should submit bids in line with the bidding instructions in the tender document.

**TMA cannot answer any query relating to this tender 7 days or less prior to the submission deadline.**