

NEWS COUNTIES

PROBE ON

Gun drama as activist Booker shoots, injures intruder at his Syokimau home

CYRUS OMBATI/ An activist claims his life is in danger after he shot and injured an intruder in his house in Syokimau, Machakos county.

Booker Omole said he was asleep on Saturday night when he heard a commotion.

He woke up and noticed eight men had invaded his home.

They also held a female relative hostage.

Booker, who is a licensed gun holder, rushed for his pistol and fired twice at the men.

He said he hit one of them, prompting the gang to escape.

It is not clear what they

wanted but police said they are investigating burglary and attempted robbery.

Police visited the scene and established the gang gained entry into the house through a window.

The team also noticed bloodstains, indicating one of the suspects was injured.

A red muffin cap believed to belong to one of the intruders was recovered.

Police said two empty 9mm cartridges were recovered.

The team later took the pistol from Booker as part of probe into the shooting.



Activist Booker Omole /FILE



A nurse takes blood samples from a patient for HIV testing in one of CFK Africa's clinics in Kibera /HANDOUT

BEHAVIOURAL CHANGE

Football at centre of Kibera lobby's war on spread of HIV

Data from MoH says HIV prevalence rates in Kibera are higher than the national average

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Using sporting activities and community messaging, a non-profit organisation has become a warrior of hope in Kibera in the fight against HIV.

CFK Africa has several initiatives which seek to end the spread of the disease in Kibera slum.

The organisation was founded in 2001 by American social entrepreneurs Rye Barcott, Salim Mohamed and Tabitha Festo. Festo has since died.

Kibera is among areas in the country with high prevalence of HIV, with Ministry of Health data saying its rates are higher than the national average.

Latest figures say the prevalence rate is six per cent while some independent researchers claim the rates are as high as 12 per cent.

Jeffrey Okoro, executive director of the organisation, says CFK has been using football to reach out to the youth.

Reports say young people between the ages of 14 and 19 are the most affected with rising new infections.

"We know the sport is a unique unifier and provides an avenue for building momentum for behavioural change and living safely and responsibly," he told the Star in an interview.

And not just sports, CFK runs the Tabitha medical clinic which is a level 3 medical installation that has been key in giving HIV-related health interventions.

Its Tabitha Maternity Home and

youth friendly centres are also key pillars. The health installations run VCT services, counsels individuals and families and put the sick on healthy living paths.

CFK Africa has also partnered with the Ministry of Health and other entities to put the infected on monitored anti-retroviral therapies.

The international lobby also conducts community health outreach, including home health visits and health education as part of the campaign.

Okoro says Tabitha Medical Clinic serves 35,000 patients every year.

Patients who test positive for HIV receive ARVs at the clinic, with 3,578 on treatment for the past five years.

Over 1,000 patients are currently on treatment.

Recently, the Ministry of Health approved the Dapivirine Vaginal

Ring (DPV-VR), a long-acting HIV prevention product that the World Health Organization recommends for women who are at substantial risk of contracting the virus.

Meanwhile, an injectable version of the Pre-Exposure Prophylaxis HIV prevention drug will be expanded in other parts of Africa through Usaid programmes.

"These newer preventative treatments have the potential to help reduce HIV rates in Kenya and other countries even more significantly," Okoro says.

"When paired with our existing efforts of raising awareness and expanding healthcare, we may be on the cusp of a new era in HIV prevention in Africa."

A 2021 study says Kibera is home to 170,000 people living in an area of approximately 2.5 square kilometres.

YOUNG PEOPLE BETWEEN THE AGES OF 14 AND 19 ARE THE MOST AFFECTED WITH RISING NEW INFECTIONS

