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social justice in health

CEHURD CONDEMNS THE BRUTAL MURDER OF OLYMPIAN REBECCA CHEPTEGEI BY HER EX-BOYFRIEND

This is a dark week for women and girls of Uganda, Africa and the entire world. The alleged brutal murder of Rebecca Cheptegei, the Ugandan Olympian, by her ex-boyfriend over a dispute on property is the experience and story of so many girls and women. This is a manifestation of the gender injustices that continue to prevent girls and women from living their dreams. Despite all efforts made to end Gender based violence, this problem persists.

In addition to her life being ended in a brutal way, Rebecca has been denied several other rights including the right to health, life, motherhood, make a family and nurture her children, owning property, and to contribute to the development of this country especially through her vocation of athletics. Rebecca has been a role model for many girls and women, not just in Uganda but Africa and the world at large.

The murder of Rebecca is representative of many women who have lost their lives or have been maimed and are suffering physically and mentally. Her death is a wake-up call for all to condemn the act of gender-based violence.

We at the Center for Health, Human Rights and Development join the rest of Ugandans, women and girls to mourn the loss of Cheptegei. We are calling upon the relevant officials including police to have the matter investigated to its logical conclusion. We are calling upon duty bearers to ensure justice prevails but also that interventions are made to change the trajectory of handling Intimate Partner Violence (IPV) for all women in all its forms including personal space intrusion and denial to owning property. Further, with such atrocities happening, there is need for governments to increase investment in the implementation of policies, legislations and commitments aimed at the realization of a gender just society.

We must collectively end gender injustices among women and girls. We deeply condole with the family of Rebecca Cheptegei and continue to hope that Justice will prevail.

Rest in power Rebecca.
Center for Health, Human Rights and Development