Pastor allegedly rapes, kills nursing mother in Ondo

By From Adewale Momoh, Akure

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A thirty-seven-year-old pastor, Kayode Salami, has been arrested by operatives of the Ondo State Police Command for allegedly raping and killing a nursing mother inside his church.

He was accused of committing the crime, yesterday, at his church, known as Oke-Irapada, in Alade, Idanre Local Council of the state.

The deceased, Adejoke Oloje, was said to have left home with her 11-month-old baby in January, to stay in the church, where she met her untimely death. She allegedly arrived at the church in the company of her cousin, identified as Aderonke.

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While stressing that after a series of inquiries on her whereabouts, she found her in the church, but her daughter refused to leave the church despite her situation.

She said: "I called her line to ask about her whereabouts, but she didn't pick her calls. So, one day, some people told me they saw her in Alade with her cousin, Aderonke. I collected Aderonke's phone number. I called her, but she said Adejoke was staying in the church, not her place.

"I called my daughter's phone number, and she picked. I asked for a description of where she was staying, and she obliged me.

"I went to the church and eventually found her. She complained about foodstuffs, and I promised to bring some for her the following day. I also pleaded with her to leave the place, but she declined, and I left.

"The next day, when I got to the church around 5.00 p.m., I heard her child crying profusely. So, I moved close to see what happened. I found the door closed. So, I forced it open. To my utmost dismay, I found my daughter on the floor, with her pants already removed down her legs. I shouted for help."

The victim's mother said they immediately took her to the hospital, where she was confirmed dead, adding that the case was immediately reported at the police station in Idanre, and the policemen swung into action to apprehend the pastor.

"When the pastor was arrested, we noticed that his trouser was torn and he wasn't wearing any underwear.

"It is a painful story and a sad moment for our family." She was with an 11-month-old child before she met her untimely death.

"The culprit must not go unpunished."

On his part, Salami, who denied his involvement in the death of the nurse, explained that she knew the deceased through her sister, Aderonke.

According to him, a day after the first worship, Adejoke came back to seek accommodation in the church, pending when she would get a place to stay.

"I gave her one room out of the two rooms in the church. I did not ask her what happened between her and her sister, Aderonke. I gave her the gas cooker to cook.

"There is only one door linking my room and the room given to her to stay. So, I used to pass through her room. And I always informed her whenever I was going out or coming in.

"We did a vigil together in the church, and the next morning, I saw her before going to work, since I am a welder. She later came to my place of work to charge her phone around 2 p.m. and came back to collect it around 4 p.m.

"I make use of the room when I have programmes in the church. My family and I rented an apartment outside. I did not rape her, and I can't explain how she died."

Confirming the incident, the police Public Relations Officer in the state, SP Funmilayo Odunlami, said the case has been transferred to Akure for further investigation.

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