

Pastor accused of killing woman, 60, in Ondo

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A Pastor at Ode-Irele in Irele Local Government Area of Ondo State, Elijah Taiwo, has been accused of killing a 60-year-old member of his church, Mrs. Ajisomo Lawson.

Taiwo, who is the founder of CAC Oke Oluwa Sekun Mi Derin, allegedly killed the woman for ritual reasons.

Mrs Lawson's body parts were allegedly removed after her death.

It was gathered that Taiwo invited the woman at the weekend – from Liseri village, via Ode Irele, where she lived, for a spiritual programme.

The Nation also learnt the pastor arranged for a motorcycle to take her back to her village after the spiritual programme, but she did not get home.

Sources said Mrs Lawson's family became curious when she did not return home from the pastor.

The development reportedly prompted them to raise a search team, which found her body in a bush inside a palm plantation on Irele-Ore Road.

A source said the deceased's private part, breasts and eyes were removed by her suspected killers.

The family's efforts to know her whereabouts from the pastor were unsuccessful.

Taiwo was said to have fled the town when the death occurred.

One of the children of the deceased, Seyifunmi, recalled that her mother was invited to Irele by Pastor Elijah for a revival, initially scheduled to hold on Friday but cancelled.

She said: "Mama told pastor of her interest to return to her village since she was not prepared enough to stay longer than necessary at Ode Irele. The pastor promised to arrange an Okada (commercial motorcycle) rider to take her back the following morning.

"Our mother left with the Okada rider at 7 a.m on Friday. Unfortunately, she did not get to her village."

Police spokesman Femi Joseph, a Deputy Superintendent of Police (DSP), said it was not clear yet if the deceased was killed by ritualists.

He said: "We cannot say for now if it was a spiritual killing because before the deceased was found, her body was already decomposing. So, one cannot say yet if parts of her body were removed.

"But we are waiting for the result of autopsy to determine the cause of the death."

The police spokesman said a member of Taiwo's church had been arrested in connection with the killing.