

Police arrest suspected killer of bricklayer who disappeared after visiting 'Alfa' for divination in Kogi

② Yekini Jimoh | Lokoja

THE Kogi State police command on Tuesday confirmed the arrest of the suspected killer of a bricklayer, Samond Akeju Ogunrinde, who left Ekiti State to consult an Islamic cleric identified as Olaitan (surname withheld) for divination at Iyara in Ijumu Local Government Area of Kogi State.

According to information, the deceased 36-year-old father of two hailed from Iwoye-Ketu in Ogun State, but lived in Ekiti State with his wife and children.

His elder brother, Muideen, in Abeokuta, the Ogun State capital, said

Ogunrinde had informed the family of his arrival at the alfa's residence on March 25, with the assurance of returning to his base the same day.

He said the family members were shocked when the bricklayer could later not be reached on phone for hours, which then rolled into days and weeks.

Muideen said: "When we contacted the alfa to ask about our brother's whereabouts, we were surprised to hear him say that our brother did not come to his house.

"The matter was immediately reported to the police at Iyara Divisional Head-

quarters."

Muideen explained that when the police stormed the alfa's residence, he had taken to his heels, but the operatives arrested his father.

The deceased's elder brother said police operatives later arrested the alfa, and found the mobile phone of his brother in his possession, adding that despite this, he still denied knowing the bricklayer's whereabouts.

The family's lawyer, Amos Oghinan, while speaking on the case, said the suspect had been transferred to the state police headquarters in Lokoja, adding that he had,

however, remained adamant.

Oghinan expressed worry about the police's delay in charging the suspect to court.

The lawyer said: "Already, the alfa is overstaying his detention at the police headquarters and any human rights organisation can complain about unlawful and long detention, so to avoid this, the police should charge the case to court."

Meanwhile, the state police spokesperson, William Aya, while reacting to the development on Tuesday, said the suspect had been arrested and would soon appear in court.