

Police arrest pastor over worshipper's death

Sesan Olufowobi

THE Lagos State Police Command, on Monday, arrested the General Overseer of a pentecostal church in Ajao Estate, Lagos, for alleged complicity in the death of a church member and the setting ablaze of another.

The reverend, who in the past few weeks has been having a running battle with his flock, was arrested by the police a few minutes after midnight.

A senior police officer in the command told our correspondent that the pastor was arrested based on petitions from some church members that he was actively involved in the tragedy that befell the two church members.

The source added that the

clergyman was subsequently taken to the State Criminal Investigation Department, Pantí, Yaba for interrogation.

When our correspondent visited the SCID, the suspect was seen giving statement to the police in the full glare of some of his church members.

The Deputy Commissioner of Police in charge of the SCID, Mr. Yinka Balogun, who rejected our correspondent's request to speak with the suspect, said the police were still investigating the matter.

According to him, the pastor denied that the people were set ablaze.

"He said it was not true that they were set ablaze. He said the generator exploded and the people got caught in the ensuing fire. So we need

to check all of this out. We are still getting his statement. Until we conclude our investigation, you can't speak with him," Balogun said.

The command's spokesman, Mr. Olubode Ojajuni, a deputy superintendent of police, said the police needed to resolve some issues before making any comment on the arrest.

He said, "But I can tell you that it is true we arrested him and we have him at Pantí.

"The arrest is based on some petitions and complaints we received about certain development concerning the death of his church member and another who sustained burnt injuries from her chest downwards, and has now been admitted in hospital."