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Police nab 2 clerics for alleged ritual killing

From **Laide Raheem**,
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TWO clerics have been arrested by the police in Ogun State for allegedly killing a woman for ritual purposes.

The duo, a self-acclaimed prophet and bricklayer, Akindele Olushola, and a pastor in charge of the Lion of Judah Church of Christ, located on Robiyan Avenue, in the Agbado area of the state, Ayodele Bamiduro, were reported to have conspired to kill Olushola's girlfriend, simply identified as Iya Aanu.

The suspects were said to have severed the head and arms of the victim, and buried them behind a make-shift bathroom at the back of Ayodele's church, while the torso of the body was dumped in an uncompleted building behind Olushola's house.

According to the Commissioner of Police in the state, Ahmed Iliyasu, who was at the scene of the crime, a complaint was lodged at the police division in Agbado area of the state on August 10 by the Baale of Igbo-re Robiyan town, that the headless decomposing body of a woman was discovered in an uncompleted building in the community.

Iliyasu explained that, upon the complaint, the DPO in charge of Agbado Division, CSP Olatunji Omonijo, was ordered to unravel the mystery behind the killing and the dismembering of the corpse. He added that, through technical intelligence, the suspects were apprehended.

"On interrogation, Olushola Akindele, who claimed to be a prophet in a church, confessed that the victim was his woman friend, who he simply identified as Iya Aanu. He stated further that they have been dating for two years. On that fateful day, the deceased came to visit him, as usual, and, after they made love, he surreptitiously brought out a cudgel and smashed her head.

"He later cut her head and arms, after which he dumped the remains in the uncompleted building behind his residence. The severed head and two arms of the victims were buried at the back of the Lion of Judah Church of Christ at number 13, Robiyan Avenue, belonging Ayodele Bamiduro," Iliyasu said.

While fielding questions from our correspondent, Olushola confirmed that Iya Aanu was his lover. He added that he carried out the dastardly act after sleeping with her.

On why he killed her, the suspect, who was mumbling incoherently during the interview, could not give any reason for killing and dismembering the woman.

In his own statement, Ayodele said he knew Olushola in the locality and he used to assist him financially. He, however, denied sending him to kill the woman, but agreed that Olushola brought the head and arms to him to buy.