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Police arrest herbalist over alleged murder of client in Lagos

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By Evelyn Usman

Lagos—The Lagos State Police Command weekend, arrested a 55 year-old herbalist in connection with the alleged murder of a 62-year-old woman, who was declared missing last month, at Olodi Apapa area of Lagos.

Recovered from the suspect identified as Isiaka Akanbi, who also claimed to be a Muslim cleric, were the deceased's personal effects which were exhumed in his shrine.

The deceased, Raliatu Kareem, reportedly visited the herbalist in his shrine located on Lawani Street, Olodi Apapa, on October 25, 2014 before her mysterious disappearance. The late Kareem, who resided at 15 Ope-Ewe street in Ijaiye Agbado area of Lagos was said to have gone on a visit a relative who had a baby at Salubi Street, Olodi Apapa.

However on her way back, she reportedly informed her relative that she was going to the herbalist's place.

But apprehension set in two days later, after the undisclosed relative got a call from Agbado Ijaye, demanding for the whereabouts of Mrs Kareem.

Policemen from Tolu division were contacted, consequent upon which the herbalist was arrested. Police sources hinted that the herbalist eventually confessed weekend, disclosing that he dumped Mrs Kareem's remains at Marine beach.

"But when we went to where he claimed to have dumped the corpse, we did not find it. During interrogation, he said he did not kill his client but that she slumped and died while in his shrine which he claimed doubles as a healing home.

"He collected the deceased's personal effects which included handset, bangles and ring and buried them behind his compound so as not to leave any trace. But the lid was blown because the relative who the deceased went to visit was aware of the visit to the alfa's home. We are still searching for the corpse. Its recovery will form another phase in our investigation," police sources hinted.

Contacted, Lagos State Police Public Relations Officer, Kenneth Nwosu confirmed the arrest of Akanbi, saying

investigation was still on.

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