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WEDNESDAY 22 MARCH

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Ritualist who beheaded woman leads police to scene

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By Evelyn Usman

[LAGOS](#)—Toafeek Hassan, the 61-year-old man, who was arrested Monday with [the head](#) and other [body parts](#) of a woman, led policemen to a bush where he committed the act, yesterday.

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More of the dead woman's body parts were recovered near Ikoga River in Badagry area of Lagos.



Vanguard had reported that the victim, whose identity is still unknown, approached a Muslim cleric, Alfa, for spiritual cleansing in Sango Otta. The cleric was said to have taken her to a herbalist in Badagry, who in turn [brought](#) her to Ikoga community, where the supposed cleansing was expected to take place.

While waiting, Hassan allegedly sprayed her with a whitish substance, which put her to sleep. Thereafter, he dragged her into the bush where he butchered her.

Vanguard gathered that on reaching the river yesterday, the policemen and the suspect used a boat to cross to the other side and walked for about 15 minutes. The other parts of the woman—tongue, limbs, eyes and her waist, with a yellow and pink-coloured wrapper on it— were discovered near a cocoyam plant.

The recovered parts, according to Hassan, would be sold to herbalists and other clerics for money rituals and other concoctions for the cure of [strange](#) ailments.

The gory sight threw the community into shock as residents came out to have a [glimpse](#). Some of them expressed disappointment over the arrival of policemen when Hassan was arrested, saying he deserved to be killed without being taken to the station.

They rained curses on Hassan as he was whisked away with the exhibits in the police vans.

Investigation, according to the Lagos State Police Public Relations Officer, ASP Olarinde Cole- Famous, was still ongoing.

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