

# Ex-SSS chief seeks destruction of Alakyo's shrine

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IF Abdulahi Mohammed, a retired Maj.-Gen. and former Director-General of the State Security Service (SSS) had his way, the Alakyo shrine in Nasarawa State would be destroyed.

Over 45 policemen and 10 SSS operatives, who were deployed to demolish the shrine, were killed on their way, when they ran into an ambush by members of the Ombatse cult group.

Gen. Mohammed, who was the pioneer head of the SSS, spoke in Abuja at the weekend when a candle light procession was held in honour of the slain operatives at the SSS headquarters.

Bemoaning the killing of the operatives, the former SSS chief said the service had never recorded tragedy of that magnitude in one single operation since its inception.

He wondered why the human rights community had not spoken out against the incident as they would have done if civilians were at the receiving end.

Gen. Mohammed said: "I talk about the sorrow, I talk about the anger, I talk about the hope; the anger, if a soldier is killed, it is just a number. If a policeman is killed, it is just a number. If a member of the Service is killed, it is just a number.

"But if any of the terrorists is killed, you see all these human rights people coming out to say all kinds of things, as if these people have no families. I wonder why the shrine has not been leveled."

According to him, the sins of the cult group is unforgivable, even though some of the families of the slain operatives said they had forgiven the killers.

He said the perpetrators will pay for their sins either now or in the hereafter.

Among the security chiefs present at the solemn event were: SSS Director-General Mr. Ita Ekpeyong, Chief of Defence Staff (CDS), Admiral Ola Sa'ad Ibrahim, Commandant-General of the Nigeria Security and Civil Defence Corps (NSCDC), Dr Ade Abolurin, Corps Marshal and Chief Executive of the Federal Road Safety Corps (FRSC), Osita Chidoka.

They all demanded punishment for the killers of operatives.

Also yesterday, the police authorities declined to join issues with the leader of the Ombatse cult, Baba Lakyo over his recent comments.

Lakyo told reporters yesterday that neither the police nor the Nasarawa State government had invited him for questioning over the May 7 killing of over security operatives en route his community.