

# Furore over 45-year-old female kidnap suspect allegedly tortured to death in DSS custody

From Linus Oota, Lafia

A 45-year old woman, Salamatu Adamu, arrested and detained over a case of kidnapping, has been allegedly tortured to death in custody by personnel of the Nasarawa State Command of the Department of State Security Services (DSS).

Salamatu, a mother of two girls and a boy resident in Tudun Kofa in Lafia, the state capital, was known to be working with a grains grinding machine operator in front of her residence.

Investigation revealed that a little boy in the area, whose details had not been ascertained at the time of filing this report, was abducted, and a man, whose identity was also yet to be ascertained, informed the DSS that Salamatu knew the whereabouts of the missing boy.

The man was said to have claimed in a statement to DSS that he was in a nearby mosque when he saw Salamatu chasing a number of children she felt were disturbing her with their play, adding that since the children left the scene to another location to continue playing, the little boy in question had not been seen.

The husband of the deceased woman Mr. Musa Shittu Mohammed and his family have, however, appealed to the Director General of DSS, Mr. Ahmed Abubakar Bichi, to ensure that the perpetrators of the "inhuman act" are brought to book.

Mohammed said: "We appeal to your good office, as a citadel of fairness, to intervene and order a discrete investigation on the perpetrators of this illegal and inhuman act and to ensure that justice is served for the peaceful repose of her soul."

"If not, we will be forced to explore legal arsenal against your establishment without notice," the husband said through his counsel.

An eyewitness, who did not want his name in print, confided in our correspondent that Salamatu was picked up by some fierce looking men dressed in all black, who forcibly dragged the deceased into a Sharon vehicle and asked her to kneel in the vehicle while some of other DSS personnel were busy beating her until they zoomed off.

A complaint letter written to the Director General of the DSS, National Headquarters, Abuja, dated 17th November, 2023 and signed by Abubakar Abubakar Dogara Esq and eight other practitioners of A. A. Dogara & Co, was obtained by our correspondent in Lafia, the Nasarawa State capital.

A. A. Dogara & Co, is a Lafia based law firm, engaged by the husband of the deceased, Mallam Musa Shittu Mohammed, to unravel the circumstances surrounding Salamatu's death and ensure that justice prevails.

The letter titled "Complaint against the Nasarawa State Office of the Department of State Security Services (DSS), on the unlawful detention and eventual murder of Salamatu Adamu of Tudun Kofa in Lafia, Nasarawa State," detailed how the deceased woman was arrested and tortured by personnel of the state

command of DSS.

The counsel to the deceased woman said: "It is our client's firm instruction that on the 7th day of November, 2023, at about 9am, while he was working on his farmland at the Federal University of Lafia in Lafia, Nasarawa State, he received a distress call from his wife (Salamatu Adamu), who in his considered opinion appeared and/or sounded to have been in some kind of danger and needed his help."

"However, due to the noise from the background, he couldn't fathom what was happening to her."

"Our client immediately switched off his call and placed a call across to her, but her number was no longer connecting, as the officers of the DSS had switched off her GSM handset."

"Our client consequently rushed back home only to be greeted with the devastating news from his daughter that his wife was picked up by some unknown men in a Sharon vehicle, whom upon further investigations, our client later discovered to be personnel of the Department of State Security Services, serving in Lafia, the Nasarawa State Command."

"Considering how disturbing the incident was, our client immediately swung into action and visited the Nigeria Police Force Area Command along Jos Road, the Nigeria Security and Civil Defense Corps (NSCDC), Lafia Command and all other Divisional Police Headquarters within the state capital, but there was no trace of her from the men that took her away from their residence."

"It was against this backdrop that our client reported the situation to the Madakin Lafia, Alhaji Isiaka Dauda, and the Madakin recommended that he should report the matter to the Divisional Police Officer in charge of "A" division in Lafia."

"It is our client's further brief that the following day being 8th day of November, 2023, our client then reported the matter to the DPO as recommended by the Madakin."

"Upon the said report, our client together with the DPO then visited the Department of State Services at Lafia and made the same inquiry about his wife, but they were told that the head of operations was not on seat, and they asked our client to drop his contact to enable them reach out to him for a possible appointment with their head of operations, which he gladly did."

"However, towards the late hours of the said day, our client got a call from them, asking him to come around tomorrow morning in respect of the case he reported."

"The next day, on reaching their office, our client was told that there was not any woman in their custody that matched his description; however, he could check her out at the Specialist Hospital."

"On reaching the said Specialist Hospital,



•Adamu

our client was also told that there was not any woman that matched his description currently on admission in the hospital unless our client would have to check the morgue."

"Our client reluctantly visited the morgue only to receive the shock of his life, finding the body of his wife lying lifeless without any explanation as to what happened to her, and how his healthy and vibrant wife ended up in a morgue without any lawful justification."

"He was however informed that her corpse was deposited by some personnel of the Department of State Services."

"Considering the mysterious circumstances surrounding her arrest, unlawful incarcerations and eventual murder, our client

and his family are devastated and constrained to take any legal actions against the perpetrators of this dastardly and heinous act."

Responding to the ugly situation, Mr. Muhammed Musa of the Department of State Services (DSS), said he could not speak on the matter unless he sought permission from the National Headquarters, adding that as soon as he got the permission to speak he would call our correspondent and speak on the issue. He had, however not called back at the time of filing in this report.

His words: "I am not authorised to speak on the matter. The petition is directly to the national headquarters and not the Nasarawa State Command of DSS."