

**EXTERNAL (for general distribution)**

**AI Index: AFR 44/11/93**

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**UA 268/93 Extrajudicial executions**

**10 August 1993**

**NIGERIA: At least 35 members of the Ogoni ethnic group from the town of Kaa in Rivers State, including Mr Nwiku and three young children**

Amnesty International is gravely concerned by reports that at least 35 people in Kaa town in Rivers State have been extrajudicially executed by armed men, some of whom are believed to have been in navy and police uniforms, on 4 August 1993. The victims, who are from the Ogoni ethnic group, are believed to include at least three young children and the husband of Maria Nwiku, who was herself injured in the attack.

Local government officials maintain that the attack was part of an ethnic clash between the Ogoni people and the neighbouring Adoni people, from whose lands the attackers came. However, the removal of all Ogoni policemen from the region three weeks prior to the attack and the military's failure to restore order in Kaa strongly suggest that the attack had the support of the military.

Amnesty International deplores the apparently deliberate extrajudicial execution of members of the Ogoni ethnic group. It is calling on the Nigerian government to halt these killings and to conduct an immediate, thorough and impartial investigation to determine whether the security forces were involved, and with a view to bringing all those responsible for the killings to justice. Amnesty International also calls on the Nigerian authorities to safeguard the security of all Ogoni people, including those who have fled the area.

#### **BACKGROUND INFORMATION**

The Ogoni community has been campaigning against the environmental damage to their homeland in Rivers State and the destruction of their land and crops caused by the extraction of petrochemicals by oil companies, including Shell and the Nigerian National Petroleum Corporation (NNPC), for which they have received no compensation. The Movement for the Survival of the Ogoni People (MOSOP) has been active in defending the rights of the Ogoni community and in raising awareness of their plight.

Ken Saro-Wiwa, spokesperson for MOSOP, was arrested on two separate occasions in April 1993 and again on 21 June 1993 with N.G. Dube and Kobari Nwile, both active members of MOSOP. All three were charged on 13 July 1993 under the Criminal code of Eastern Nigeria in connection with their activities on behalf of the Ogoni community (see UA 238/93, AFR 44/07/93, 20 July 1993). Ken Saro-Wiwa was released on bail because of a heart condition in the week beginning 26 July 1993 and is believed to still be in hospital. The other two are believed to still be in detention.

**RECOMMENDED ACTION: Please send telegrams/telexes/express and airmail letters either in English or in your own language:**

- expressing grave concern at reports that at least 35 members of the Ogoni ethnic group, including the above-mentioned individuals have been extrajudicially executed by armed men, some of whom are believed to have been in navy and police uniforms, on 4 August 1993;

- calling on the Nigerian authorities to halt these killings and to conduct an immediate, thorough and impartial investigation, with a view to bringing those responsible to justice;

- calling on the Nigerian authorities to ensure that the safety of all members of the Ogoni ethnic group is guaranteed.

**APPEALS TO**

1) General Ibrahim Babangida  
President and Chairman of the National Defence and Security Council  
State House  
Abuja, Federal Capital Territory  
Nigeria

**Telegrams: President Babangida, Abuja, Nigeria**

**Telexes: [0905] 91529 or  
91530 EXTNAL NG (via Ministry of Foreign Affairs)**

**Salutation: Dear President**

2) General Sani ABACHA  
Chief of Defence Staff and Minister of Defence  
Defence Headquarters  
Ministry of Defence  
Abuja, Federal Capital Territory  
Nigeria

**Telegrams: General Abacha, Ministry of Defence, Abuja, Nigeria**

**Salutation: Dear General Abacha**

3) Mr Rufus Ada George  
State Governor  
Government House  
91000 Port Harcourt  
Rivers State, Nigeria

**Telegrams: State Governor Rufus Ada George, Port Harcourt, Nigeria**

**Salutation: Dear Governor**

4) Alhaji Aliyu I. ATTAH  
Inspector-General of Police  
Ministry of Police Affairs  
Defence Headquarters  
Moloney Street, Lagos, Nigeria

**Telegrams: Inspector-General Attah, Ministry of Police Affairs, Lagos, Nigeria**

**Salutation: Dear Inspector-General**

**COPIES OF YOUR APPEALS TO:** any of the following newspapers:

Nigerian Star  
PMB 73, 97 Aggrey Road  
Port Harcourt  
Rivers State  
Nigeria

PMB 21340, Ikeja  
Lagos, Nigeria

National Concord  
POB 4483  
Ikeja  
Lagos, Nigeria

Daily Times

The Guardian

PMB 1217, Oshodi  
Lagos, Nigeria

Newswatch  
PMB 21499, Ikeja  
Lagos, Nigeria

and to diplomatic representatives of Nigeria accredited to your country.

**PLEASE SEND APPEALS IMMEDIATELY.** Check with the International Secretariat,  
or your section office, if sending appeals after 21 September 1993.