

RIGHTS ABUSED

Shell's failure to address oil spills quickly and effectively, and the Nigerian government's lack of regulatory enforcement, have seriously impacted the economic, social and cultural rights of hundreds of thousands of people in the Niger Delta, particularly the poorest.

For example, the pollution caused by the Bodo spills has endangered people's health, destroyed their livelihoods and undermined their access to clean water and food. Food relief was not provided by Shell until months after the first spill and was wholly inadequate.

Those affected by pollution rarely receive justice for the abuses suffered. More than three years after the first spill at Bodo, the community is still waiting for a remedy, including a clean-up.

Shell claims that most oil spills are caused by acts of sabotage; however, the basis for this claim is a flawed investigation process. Moreover, Shell is obliged to clean up spills, regardless of how they were caused. The 2008 Bodo oil spills were the result of equipment failure.

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WHAT LIES BENEATH THE SHELL?

Shell portrays itself as a "responsible" company which is doing its best in the Niger Delta. However, Amnesty International's and CEHRD's research and the UNEP report tell a different story. There is often a stark difference between Shell's statements and the reality on the ground:

IMAGE: Shell "responds immediately" to reports of oil spills.

REALITY: UNEP found there is always a delay in dealing with oil spills. The two spills at Bodo in 2008 both gushed oil for weeks after they were reported – and clean-up has still not taken place.

IMAGE: When Shell cleans up oil spills it "restores the land to its original state".

REALITY: UNEP noted that Shell's clean-up of oil contamination frequently did not even comply with the company's own standards. The UN found that, in several cases, the difference between sites described as "cleaned-up" and "awaiting clean-up" was not always obvious.

Shell is not the only actor responsible for the pollution problems in the Niger Delta. But Shell has failed to adequately prevent and address pollution for decades. It's time for Shell to OWN UP, PAY UP and CLEAN UP.

Dead periwinkles covered in oily mud from Bodo creek, May 2011.

STRUGGLING TO MAKE ENDS MEET

Christian Lekoya Kpandei, 50, is a pastor from Bodo. Before the 2008 oil spills, he had a flourishing fish farm and employed around 10 staff.

“On August 28, I was called that there was an oil spill. And when I came there, I saw that it was beyond my imagination. As the tide came with the crude oil, it entered and covered all the fish ponds. I saw all of my fish dying, in one day. Everything we put in, all the labour for quite a long time, all just in a moment disappeared.”

Christian Lekoya Kpandei lost his business. He says that he asked Shell for compensation, but was met with silence. “Shell did not talk with us. Yes, we made a claim. Since then – nothing. I have never got a reply from Shell.”

He is now struggling to make ends meet. “There are no other jobs here, because there is no industry in Ogoniland where people can get a job. All the fish, all the sea is polluted so you can't go fishing.”

-> WATCH Pastor Christian's video testimony:
<http://ow.ly/5UWaM>

“I used to help people. Now I am dependent on other people's help.”

Pastor Christian Lekoya Kpandei, Bodo, May 2011



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Pastor Christian Lekoya Kpandei at his fish farm in Bodo, May 2011.

SIGN HERE FOR HUMAN RIGHTS

The UN Environment Programme has outlined steps required to clean up pollution in Ogoniland, as well as systemic changes necessary to prevent further pollution and human rights abuses. In its 50th year, Amnesty International is mobilizing its supporters around the world to seize this opportunity to achieve real change for the Bodo community and for people across the Niger Delta.

Pledge your commitment to this issue – sign below to add your name to a petition calling on Shell to contribute US\$1 billion to the fund the UN identifies as necessary to establish a clean-up fund for Ogoniland.

Name:

Country:

Email:

For further information, see the full report *The true “tragedy”: Delays and failures in tackling oil spills in the Niger Delta*, at: <http://snipurl.com/2hth4h>

PLEASE RETURN THIS TO YOUR LOCAL AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL OFFICE. IF THERE IS NO OFFICE IN YOUR COUNTRY, PLEASE RETURN TO THE BUSINESS AND HUMAN RIGHTS TEAM AT THE INTERNATIONAL SECRETARIAT.

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