

**PRESENTATION OF THE NIGER DELTA WOMEN' S MOVEMENT
FOR PEACE AND DEVELOPMENT (NDWPD) BY
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**Theme: "Promoting transparency and effective engagement of Major
Groups and Stakeholders: Developing new models of participation in
UNEP"**

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INTRODUCTION

- **I am Caroline Usikpedo-Omoniye**
- **Founder / National President of the Niger Delta Women's movement for Peace and Development, Nigeria**
- **Ambassador of Goodwill for Nigeria (International Human Rights Commission)**
- **One of the Women Major Group representative.**

BACKGROUND

THE NIGER DELTA, NIGERIA

- The Niger Delta is located in the Atlantic Coast of southern Nigeria.
- it is the **largest wetland** in Africa.
- The region is highly susceptible to adverse environmental changes occasioned by climate change because it is located in the coastal region of the world.



HUMAN RIGHTS AND ENVIRONMENT IN THE NIGER DELTA

- Human Rights Violations are real in Niger Delta Oil Producing Communities.
- The ECOWAS Court judgment orders government to punish oil companies over pollution in the Niger Delta Nigeria. The Niger Delta Women and Communities welcomed this juridical action after decades of environmental maltreatment.
- It is only by holding the polluter accountable for its pollution, and making the polluter pay, that we can finally make steps to protect human rights in our countries.
- The centre of Nigeria's human rights crisis has been the treatment of the minority and indigenous peoples of the Niger Delta River where the nation's exploration and exploitation of crude oil takes place.

HUMAN RIGHTS AND ENVIRONMENT IN THE NIGER DELTA - 2

- The Niger Delta Region has over twenty million in population and its people have suffered maltreatment through political and economic marginalization, violence and environmental degradation.
- The denial of basic rights of Niger Delta communities, and violence against them, worsened as oil became the dominant income earner for the country accounting presently for almost 85% of public revenue.
- The fundamental freedoms and human rights stated in Nigerian Constitution are non-justiciable thus rendering its noble objective on equality nugatory. The Constitution of Nigeria is silent on Environmental Law.

Economic, Environmental, Social and Cultural Rights

- The underdevelopment of the Niger Delta and what we believe to be criminal neglect over decades by successive Nigeria governments and oil exploitation has made the zone a graveyard for Economic, Environmental, Social and Cultural Rights.
- Especially the rights to health, water, food, and sustainable livelihood are not being respected. Also the right to life is dependent upon a healthy and safe natural environment, are also not being respected.
- The activities of the oil companies operating in the Niger Delta such as gas flaring, are affecting the integrity and wellbeing of most individuals in the Niger Delta. The gas flaring has caused life diseases and unimaginable environmental hazards - affecting basic human rights.
- The triple legacy of gas flaring, oil spills and effluent discharges by oil companies has make life in many part of the delta, where the Ogoni people live, impossible..

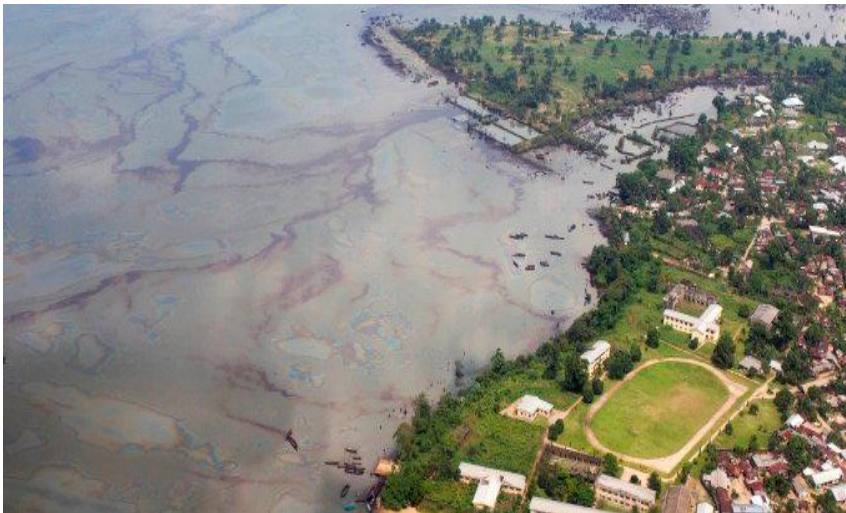
IMPACT OF OIL IN THE NIGER DELTA, NIGERIA

OGONILAND

OGONILAND

- The environmental restoration of Ogoniland could prove to be the world's most wide-ranging.
- Drinking water, land, creeks and important ecosystems to be brought back to full, productive health in a Life Time.

UNEP REPORT Abuja, 4 August 2011.



OIL SPILLS

- Several years on ... fishing boats lie abandoned in oil-polluted waters in the Niger Delta, Nigeria



IMPACT OF OIL IN THE NIGER DELTA, NIGERIA

GAS FLARRING

GAS FLARRING..... A MONUMENTAL WASTE



GAS FLARRING TESTIMONIES

- Nigeria flares enough gas per year to power a good portion of Africa.
- Residents of the Niger Delta region, where gas flow stations are located, say gas flaring is ruining lives and livelihoods.
- While many villagers may not be familiar with the concept of climate change, they complain that the air around them is hotter and foul-smelling because of the gas flares ----Mrs. Tintin

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