



NEAR EAST UNIVERSITY  
GRADUATE SCHOOL OF SOCIAL SCIENCES  
INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS PROGRAM

**CIVIL SOCIETY ORGANIZATIONS ROLE ON HUMAN  
SECURITY ISSUES IN NIGER DELTA**

OLUWADARE ADEDOKUN SALAKO

MASTER'S THESIS

NICOSIA  
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## DECLARATION

I Oluwadare Adedokun Salako, hereby declare that this dissertation entitled 'Civil Society Organizations Role on Human Security Issues in Niger delta' has been prepared by myself under the guidance and supervision of 'Assist. Prof. Dr. Emine Eminel Sulun' in partial fulfilment of the Near East University, Graduate School of Social Sciences regulations and does not to the best of my knowledge breach the Law of Copyrights and has been tested for plagiarism and a copy of the result can be found in the Thesis.

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## **DEDICATION**

I dedicate this thesis to the almighty God who has been my strong pillar throughout the entire programme. I also dedicate this work to my wonderful parents Mr/Mrs Waheed & Rachael Salako whose financial support and words of encouragement has made it possible for me to give all my best to complete that which i started. My final dedication goes to my siblings Olalekan Salako (Brother), Oluwashola Salako (Sister) and Damilola Salako (Sister) who have always affected me in all positive ways. May God in his infinite mercy continue to be with you all.

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## ÖZ

### SİVİL TOPLUM ORGANİZASYONLARI, NİJER DELTA'DA İNSAN GÜVENLİĞİ KONULARINDA ROL

Nijerya petrol üretimi ve bu anlamda elde ettiği gelir anlamında büyüyor olsa da, özellikle de Nijer Deltası'nda yaşayan insanlar daha da fakirleşmektedirler. Nijer Delta'sında yaşayan insanlar bölgelerinde petrol çıkartılmaya başlandığından bu yana bir çevre felaketinin ortasında kalmış durumdadırlar. Bu felaketin arka planında petrol sızıntıları yer almaktadır. Özellikle de toprak ve su anlamında petrol sızıntıları büyük sıkıntılara yol açmaktadır. Hem bölge insanların hem de bölgede yaşayan diğer tüm canlıların hayatları tehlike altındadır. Çiftlikler, nehirler ve su kanallarının tahrip edilmiş olması petrol sızıntılarının ana sebeplerindedir. Bu nedenle bölgede yaşayan insanların bir çoğu göç etmek zorunda kalmıştır. Son dönemlerde sivil toplum örgütlerinin giderek artan düzeyde yönetime katıldıkları gözlemlenmektedir. Bu anlamda devlet politikalarını etkiledikleri görülmektedir. Özellikle de çevre ile ilgili sorunlarla ilgilenen sivil toplum kuruluşlarının aktivitelerinde bir artış söz konusudur. Aktiviteleri ile hem yerel hem de küresel aktörlerin dikkatini bu çevre felaketine çekmeyi başardıklarını söyleyebiliriz. Kendilerinden bu anlamda devletin geri kaldığı noktalarda çevre ile ilgili programlar ve hareket planları geliştirmeleri beklenmektedir. Bu çalışma bir anlamda bu alanda nelerin eksik olduğunu ve sivil toplumun petrol sızıntıları ve çevre korunması ile ilgili yapabileceklerini ortaya koymaya çalışmaktadır. Çalışma, Nijerya Federal Hükümeti'nin çevre korunmasına ilişkin mevcut yasaları gözden geçirmesi gerekliliğini vurgulamaktadır. Sivil toplum örgütleri, özellikle de Nijerya Federal Hükümeti'nin boru hattı yasalarına uymayanlara ilişkin gerekli cezaları uygulaması anlamında baskı ortaya koymalıdır.

**Anahtar Sözcükler:** Çevre güvenlik, İnsan güvenliği, Petrol sızıntıları, Nijer Delta Bölgesi, Sivil Toplum Örgütleri.





**1.2.3 Funding Civil Society****1.2.4 Empowering Civil Society Activities in International Environmental Issues.****CHAPTER 2****LITERATURE REVIEW****2.1 Oil Spillage****2.1.1 Environmental Damage****2.1.2 Economic Threat****2.1.3 Threat to Health****2.2 Addressing Oil Spillage****2.2.1 Managing Environmental Degradation****2.2.1.1 Technical Control****2.3 Civil Society Organization and Environmental Degradation in Niger delta****CHAPTER 3****ANALYZING CIVIL SOCIETY ROLES ON ENVIRONMENTAL DEGRADATION IN NIGER DELTA****3.1 Amnesty International****3.1.1 Amnesty International Circle of Actions****3.1.2 Amnesty International on Environmental Degradation Issues in Niger Delta****3.2 Movement for the Survival of the Ogoni People****3.2.1 MOSOP on Environmental Degradation Issues in Niger Delta****CHAPTER 4****DATA ANALYSIS AND FINDINGS**





















Because of the agitation and conflict rising from the locals, many MNCs have been forced to leave the country and some have closed their production stations in some parts of the region just to stay alive. The agitators are armed and their protest sometimes if not properly coordinated usually lead to killing of anyone who comes their way. No doubt, this activity has created platforms for some unscrupulous individuals with criminal mindset to hide under this umbrella and perpetuate their criminal activities some have been involved in kidnapping, illegal oil extraction, cobbering of high tech.

The people of the region have accused the government of not having any clear cut plans or policies to raise the standard of living of the people in that region. They believe that the Federal government has not made any plans to secure their lives and properties or maintain the environment in a situation of degradation or pollution, people are not rewarded or granted any form of assistance having suffered from the effect of the toxic and contaminated environment.

The government in its bid to have absolute control of the resource in the region without direct interference of the locals of that region promulgates different laws and decree which include the 1978 land use Act, petroleum decree No. 51 of 1969, petroleum production and distribution decree of 1975, oil terminal dues act 1965 and oil royalties, rent and revenue allocation among others without effort to amend any of the acts to suit global practices and demand. All these and many others have been the challenge to human security in the Niger Delta region of Nigeria.

From the above stated situation, there is a direct relationship between security and the activities of oil extraction and distribution in the Niger Delta region. This activity has been a major challenge to the communities in the region and little or no effort has been done or guaranteed from the Federal government to come to the aid of the communities. These communities are forced out of their will to suffer from activities of the Nigerian state institution that they do not benefit from. The environment is polluted, local industries shutdown, lives are lost, all because of the extensive oil extraction activities going on in the region.

Because of this various challenges especially human security, the Niger delta people are not willing to have oil production platform setup in their communities. They are of the opinion that setting up this production platform will only amount to more suffering for them than good. However, jobs at these various oil production companies are allocated in an unfair manner. There is no equal opportunity of the chance of getting a better position in the oil companies especially indigenes of that community. Lucrative and highly paid position jobs are reserved for the foreigners while positions that do not attract better remuneration are given to indigenes which include gate post attendant. The communities suffer from lack of good road, water system are polluted, the health sector is left unattended to, schools are not equipped with recent books, electricity supply is not guaranteed and all these poses as threat to the communities and causes upraise among the people leading to the breakdown of security in the region.

The continued spillage of oil leading to constant pollution of water bodies, farmlands and forest system is a threat because animals loss their lives on a daily bases and the gas flame remain toxic as they continue to be the order of the day. According to Phenson Ufot Akpan (2014) "In Akwa-Ibom State of Nigeria, communities like Ikot-Ada Udo in Ikot Abasi Local Government Area, Ikot Ebidang in Onna Local Government Area, Ibeno in Ibeno Local Government Area, Esit Eket Local Government Area, Eket in Eket Local Government Area and communities along the coastal oil belts of Eastern Obolo Local Government Area and the Bonga off shore oil wells of Mbo Local Government Area, are experiencing similar protracted security challenges arising from oil-related security and environmental problems". One can willingly say that the human security and insecurity in the Niger Delta region has an intrinsic relationship with the oil exploitation going on in the region.

### **Aims and Objective**

The purpose of this study is to explore how environmental degradation in the Niger Delta region of Nigeria affects human security and the role of civil society organization in addressing these issues. According to Andrew Ovienloba (2009), "human security risk in the Niger Delta is created by the

years of intensive oil spillage". Different scholars have argued that as the continued oil exploration gains momentum, as the natural environment continues to degrade. The uncontrolled activities of oil MNCs in the region have had devastating effect on the lives of the people in Niger Delta. The objective of this study is to explore various scholarly materials and available documents and fact to examine what civil society organizations are doing or has done to address this human security challenges faced by the people of Niger Delta in Nigeria.

### **Significance of Study**

"Oil, Blood and Fire", 1996 in the history of Nigeria and Oil exploration in the Niger Delta saw a different range of activity, this time it was the government of Nigeria under the military dictatorship of later General Sani Abacha. A high profile violent attack ensued between members of the Ogoni community who are part of the ethnic minority in oil rich Niger Delta region and Shell Petroleum Development Company. The government of Nigeria supported the Shell Company and executed nine human rights activists in Ogoni land after undue trial. The government thought that by killing the activists, there will be silence in the region but this only worsened the problem. After the death of Abacha, angry individuals in the region took up to bear arms and took control of major oil wells and drilling stations in the region, killing thousands of oil workers both foreign and local. The oil production plant in Nigeria was in total shutdown, foreign workers of the oil companies were abducted for ransom, this caused some of the oil companies to begin to withdraw their activities in the region and relocating back to their home. At this period of time there was "Less Oil, More Blood and More Fire".

This conflict and crisis lasted for over seven years. During this period of oil exploration by the oil companies, environmental system has been damaged, the government nor the oil cooperation showed little or no interest in addressing issues of oil spillage and how they affect the livelihood of the people in the region, this has made a lot of people fled from their ancestral place to seek shelter elsewhere as strangers. Some portion of the region is not conducive for human to live in and the state of the environment is









## **CHAPTER 1**

### **THEORETICAL BACKGROUND OF THE STUDY**

#### **1.1 HUMAN SECURITY**

The issue of security has been a topical issue over decades. However, among the most debated topic on security, human security leads the chart. The new focus of security called human security can be attributed to the transforming nature of the international system and globalization. According to Richard (2006) human security called for more attention to be paid on man's existence as a fundamental issue. Human security is an instrument to safe guide 'individual' security and not the security of state. Restoring the security of the persons and group is paramount. Ramesh (2004) emphasizes that human security is "human centric" and "security oriented"; its human centric nature means that attention is on the protection of individuals and groups, and also to ensure that there is "freedom from fear".

##### **1.1.1 Approach to Human Security**

The quest of more attention to be given to the security of human and not state spurred in the recent years by research made by United Nations Development program. According to Taylor Owen (2004), Mahbub UI Haq is the foremost scholar to have worked on the concept of human security whose frame of work had great influence several other scholar like Ramesh Thakur and Edward Newman (2000) etc. Issues of human security are not just the concern of scholars; other actors like NGOs, states, research institute/center have also made contribution to this area of human existence. In 2004 a research program was organized by "Security Dialogue and Peace Research Institute, Oslo (SDPRIO)". During this program experts of security











to square, disintegrate, or destroy the social and political organizations, and related participatory components, that are so imperative to tranquil administration of social, political and economic change. Threats to human Security are accordingly the human advancement problem (Faleti, 2012). Naidoo (2000) also acknowledges that government's responsibility is to provide security for its citizens, protect its territories and guarantee peace of the state. Without human security development would be elusive in any society. The major concern for any responsible government has to be human security. According to Sato (2004), there is a bond between peace and development instigated by human security. In 1995 during the Copenhagen Declaration on Social Development, the UNDP stated that human security acknowledges social disparity and injustice as a problem that is structural in nature and this poses as nightmare to development. Only the state that's capable of making reasonable deals with her citizens and takes into appropriate thought the exigency to give power supply, water supply, and correspondence systems, value in income portion, great environmental condition, and protection and give business openings that will win her citizens trust (Enu and Ugwu, 2011).

### **1.1.5 Achieving Human Security**

It is seen that achieving full scale human security is a complex effort. One must identify the various security threats, only then can a possible solution be carried out to achieving it. Threat to individual has a spillover effect on the community in so many ways. Personal threat are sometimes caused by how the regime operate which may include; direct attack, criminal activities, ethnic dispute. According to a report by Human Security Centre, act of criminal attack, terrorism, and wars are the highest form of threat against security of individual. People are deprived from basic needs, food, water, primary education. This denial of basic needs cause for movement of people from their location to another in search of better life, and this migration puts pressure on the receiving society.

Achieving human security requires multiple tools. There are a number of ways to achieve human security. According to the Commission on Human













**Expertise Function:** Civil society can act as experts in different areas. They provide expert advice to government and strategies that can help solve problems.

**Competent challenge to the government:** Civil societies are better equipped with skills and tools to handle and respond to issues faster than the government would do.

**Public Influence:** Civil society has the capacity to influence the public because they are made up of mostly members of the public who share same idea. Through this manner, civil society organizes outreach programs, public mobilization, and free tutorial to the public.

**Voice of the common-man:** Common-man on the street does not have the capacity to attract government attention. Civil society through its channels and support can act as a voice to the common-man who is suffering as a result of government actions or inactions. Civil society uses their platform to represent the common-man and influence government decisions during policy making.

**Watchdogs:** Civil society plays the watchdog role on issues of international policies. Civil society ensures that government implements the content of the policy. They can monitor the compliance and assess the effort of the government in regards to its actions.

According to Hemmattic (2001), the involvement of civil society has broadened government's policies and expanded the areas of focus. Civil society extends government concern to areas or region that ordinarily the government may not pay so much attention to. With the involvement of civil society on policy making, the idea of decisions and policy has become more "global" than it used to be.

For some scholars the involvement of civil society causes more setbacks than progress. Several arguments have arising from both ends on the issue of civil society and their benefits to government. Some argue that civil society form groups that act in such a manner that disturbs government policy



formalized non-state appraisal forms and inter-organizational administrative systems. These network groups collaborate to work effectively and efficiently. At this level of corporations, civil society and other non-profit bodies like "academic and research institution" plays a major role by drafting reports and analyzing data. On issues of data assessment and analysis, it requires large funding. Civil society are always bedeviled by funding and support from some organizations like the UNF (United Nations Foundation), this foundation support civil society activities on issues on research that concerns the global environment and their support has gone a long way in achieving success on issues bothering the environment.

Funding the numerous activities of civil society has always been an issue for both the organization and the authenticity of their work. Some scholars argue that the funding barrier can cause their work to be compromised and freedom to carry out their research on a fair ground becomes an issue of doubt. There is huge concern that the financial dependence of the civil society on government is not an issue that can be separated. But other argues that even if the dependencies exist, there should be freedom and transparency in their job.

#### **1.2.4 Empowering Civil Society Activities in International Environmental Issues**

Civil society has the potential of working in active relations with the government and contributing positively in assisting the government to solve issues of humanitarian concerns. Civil society is always driven by strength, will, flexibility, vision and ability to think outside the box, these and many more has distinguished civil society from government agencies and makes it indispensable in government programs and policy consultant. Civil society can contribute immensely to the revival of global environmental problems. The contribution that civil society can provide on global environmental issues can be discussed below;

Data Base Function: civil society has a lot to bring to the table by way of data analyses and distribution. Previous reports have seen that civil society can





policies. The watchdog function of civil society must not go unnoticed. They have been on the top of informing the government on any issue of global concern. Issues of the environmental and human related have been made public and loud through the help of civil society, and these issues are made prominent to the general public. According to Humphreys (1996), issues of forest and forestry and the cut down of trees was made a concern through the help of civil society, by provide inherent human and environmental dangers of deforestations.

***Investigating and Checkmating:*** Gaer (1996) said that civil society are engaged in investigating and check mating performances of government on environmental issues and this could lead to holding decision makers accountable for their actions or inactions. According to Thomas Weiss, civil society have the capability to contribute sensitively on crucial matters that concern the environment, Weiss believes that government agency maybe not be able to contribute in the magnitude that the civil society would, because of the over dependence on different government institutions for support or resources.

***Crusade for Justice on issues that affect the environment;*** for the past years, civil society especially in developing countries, have advocated effectively on issues of environmental degradation. They highlight the sector of the society that bears the more consequences of environmental effect. Also, civil society has been active on issues of justice and litigation. Several cases on environmental issues have been taken to court for readdress and enforce of the law.

***Civil Society can build strong capacity among local people;*** Civil society plays a major role in creating strong capacity within the local people so that they can have the courage and skill to care for their environment within government guidelines and regulations. According to Banuri et al (2002; 27), for any suitable growth to be achieved, the people of the community must be educated, so that they will actively partake in the cleaning and protection of the environment. Civil society in the past has provided expert knowledge to educate and empower the local communities. On ways of protecting the









Nigerian oil industry and that there were 6,817 oil spill incidents in Nigeria between 1976 and 2001 and over 70% of the spilled oil were not recovered and very few of these spill sites were not remediated till date".

The neglect and negligence of the Nigerian Federal government and oil companies operating in these communities in the Niger Delta region has stirred mixed feelings of anger, these have resulted into violent reactions from youths in this region, calling on the government to address the root causes of the human security challenges they face as a result of the oil extraction activities undertaken by the oil companies, of which only the government and a few individuals enjoy the proceeds from the oil. According to a 2005 report of Amnesty International, oil companies operating in these communities where oil spillage threatens human security have refused to take responsibilities of the human security challenges faced by host communities and are not willing to pay restitution to these communities for damages they face. As a form of defense by some oil companies in the Niger Delta region Exxon Mobil Nig. and Shell Producing Development Company have come to air to reject responsibilities of oil spillage, they claimed that the challenges are as a result of deliberate damages done on the oil channels by the host communities. However, the host communities who continue to suffer the brunt of the oil spillage have denied the claim against them by the oil companies, linking them to be damaging the oil pipes which caused the oil spill, these communities in their quest continue to demand compensation from the Nigeria government and the various oil companies for having caused harm to their farmlands and water bodies. These harms, they claim, have made some members of their communities flee from their homes, some have died as a result of the poor environmental conditions, the economic situation in the region has deteriorated and it has affected farming and occupation in the region.

Karl (1991) argues that accountability is the acknowledgement and assumption of responsibility for actions, decisions and policies, including administration, and implementations, the obligation to report, explain and be answerable for resulting consequences". Karl believes that in the Nigeria oil

sector, the administrative body lacks the principle of accountability. Nigerian citizens have in their minds and thinking that there is lack of transparency in the oil sector, the production and sales of the oil have never been transparent, and so the citizens see the administrative operative of the oil industry as a 'dark chamber' filled with monsters. In the opinion of Pezerworski (1998), the pivotal fact of any true democratic state is the ability to have all institutions of state cultivate the spirit of transparency and accountable to the people. By this, the leaders can be held responsible for their actions or inactions while in control of public affairs, the citizens can also use the power of the ballot to remove such a leader from public affairs. Pezerworski (1998) also argues that especially in Nigeria, the oil cooperation's operating in the country does not account to host region or communities where they operate. Pezerworski (1998) believes that corruption and conniving with some top government personnel who lacks dignity caused the lack of oil cooperation's been accountable to their host communities. In 2009 Shell Petroleum Development Company (SPDC) in its year report made public that Shell Cooperation made a profit of \$31 billion dollar. According to the report, 10% of the cooperation's global revenue comes from oil exploration in Nigeria oil industry.

As at 2000, the World Bank Report on unemployment rate in Nigeria claims that there huge amount of unemployment rate in Niger Delta region among graduates. According to Karl (2007) Venezuela, Nigeria and Angola who rely on revenue generation of crude oil, always have huge unemployment and corruption in the state system. Oil exploration and production have induced environmental degradations that have had consequences on oil loss; exacerbated poverty and caused occupational dis-orientation, social conflicts, population displacement and violations of human rights amongst indigenes of oil producing communities in the Niger-Delta region and elsewhere in the world (Ikporukpo, 1983; Ikein, 1991; World Bank Reports, 1995). Okaba (2005) argues that crude oil cooperation in the Niger Delta have been under the high protection of the Nigeria government, and this has permitted the cooperation's a huge playing ground to flout environmental protection laws and operate without due process thereby affecting the lives and properties of





and 1,481 wells. In a report titled, "Ways of Using Oil Boom for Sustainable Development", published by the African Development Bank (ADB) (1997) Nigeria had generated up to at least \$600 billion (or about 84 trillion) from crude oil in the past years.

CSOs play political roles but are not political organizations. They are in the third sector of civil society and generally independent of government influence and non-profit. Adonis & Abbey (2017) observes the role of the civil society organizations in the Nigeria's Niger delta region due to the oil going conflict of resource allocation, control and exploitation. The study found out they made lot of progress and urge the Federal government to provide them with a conducive environment in order to carry out their functions effectively and efficiently. Okechukwu Ibeanu (2006) highlighted the role of the civil society organizations in managing conflicts within the Nigeria's Niger delta region, the challenges they faced and made recommendations on the way to better ensure peace in the region. Obi, C. (2017) explains the role that the civil society organizations & pro-democracy groups such as Revenue Watch International (RWI), the Nigerian Extractive Industries Transparency Initiative (NEITI), Environmental Rights Action (ERA), Stakeholder Democracy Network (SDN) and the Movement for the Survival of the Ogoni People (MOSOP) plays in influencing the oil policy in Nigeria by setting debates through public statements, newspaper announcements, television programmes, public demonstrations, press releases, presentations at workshops and position papers presented to government agencies and international organizations, through social media such as Facebook, and by mobilizing people through public demonstrations. Kponee, K.Z., Nwanaji-Enwerem, J.C., Fu, X., (...), Weisskopf, M.G., Jia, C. (2018) Explained the effort of the United Nations Environmental Programme to (UNEP) report to monitor Volatile Organic Compounds (VOC) across water, soil and air in Ogoni-land and found out several health condition and predicated cancer risk and hazards due to inhalation exposure to VOCs. The study concluded that corruption and mismanagement of oil continues to limit the influence of the masses despite the huge effort and grievances expressed by the civil-society organizations through activism and the media. Anugwom, E.E., Anugwom,

K.N. (2009) examines the effort of women in fighting against socio-economic privation by pooling together in groups and associations to tackle the everyday challenge of living in the Niger delta region despite the structural and cultural limitations imposed on women. The study shows that women plays a significant & active socio-economic role in the Niger Delta environment in sustaining group and individual development but their associational life as seen in the formation of their various socio-economic groups has not been valuable in the Niger delta region development.

Their role and "doing good" has been both romanticized and strongly questioned. This study presents a critical investigation of the role of civil society organizations in ensuring stability, how they operate within the Nigeria's Niger-delta region and their limitations amidst the Human security challenges in the area.

## **2.1 OIL SPILLAGE**

Oil spillage has been a devastating problem especially in areas where oil extraction activities takes place. In Nigeria today, the Niger Delta region suffers from oil spill, and this has resulted with different forms of damages and challenges. Oil spillage can cause different forms of damages like environmental damage, health damage, and economic damage. According to Worgu (2009), the environment is usually being affected as a result of Oil spill coming from oil exploration activities which is a great risk to the biological, physical and aesthetic value of the economic life as well as the indigenous people's health.

### **2.1.1 Environmental Damage**

Oil spillage in the Niger delta region in Nigeria has caused grave damage to the environment and this has affected the people living in that region. When oil spillage occurs, the soil is damage, the suitability of the soil been able to be used for farming is reduced, the land becomes infertile for cultivation (Worgu, 2000). When this oil spills on the top layer of the earth which is the soil, the toxic from the crude affects or contaminates the oil and renders it



water bodies have all been affected by the oil. When resort centers are close and not functioning, this will in turn affect the tourism in that region. Tourism is a source of revenue for both the government and the people operating tourist resort centers. The beaches are polluted; the rivers are polluted so no one would want to risk his or her life to visit a region with a polluted environment and facilities. When the environment is polluted and water bodies are contaminated as well, it becomes very difficult to attract tourists into the region. Individuals who had business intentions of setting up resorts and hotels cannot afford to do so because the pollution done to the environment will ruin their business, and this is a major loss to the government.

According to Owabukeruyele (2009), people living in regions where there is oil spillage are always at the fear of survival, because the environment and water bodies are means of their livelihood, and so if these facilities are in danger or damaged as a result of oil pollution there they face grave danger. The damage done by oil spillage has caused the people living in those communities to struggle for portable and clean water, some people even lost their jobs and have to take up another job that is not of interest to them.

In a situation where no remedies are done by either the government or the oil co-operations, the people in the communities will have no option but to consume the contaminated water and will have to live in the environment that is polluted with toxic gas. When a situation like this becomes the order of the day, members of the affected communities take up to protest and criticize the government, asking for remedies and redress but when the government or the oil co-operations does not act in a manner to help their situation, they may result to a security breach.

### **2.1.3 Threat to Health**

The importance of health cannot be over emphasized, in situations where there is oil spillage, a lot of species and living organisms are affected. When oil spill pollutes the environment the land, some plants cannot survive, when it pollutes the water bodies, some living organisms that are important to the water

may not be able to survive and stand the risk of extinction. There are reports about people who suffer from some forms of diseases and physical damages. Health evidence has proved that these damages are consequences of polluted environment (water and air). In the Niger delta region of Nigeria, the prevalent sick or disease in that region are Malaria, Typhoid, Cholera, and all these diseases are caused by polluted water.

When the people in the communities do not get clean portable water to drink or use for cooking, they are left with no choice than to consume what is left for them, which is the polluted water. In some communities in the Niger Delta, the river is the only source of water for them, they demand on the river to get water for their daily use, under the river is the channel of oil pipes transmitting oil to another destination, in a situation where there is damage to the oil pipe, the river is contaminated and the people are in danger of been exposed to different forms of disease should they consume the water. Oil spillage that affects the environment can also cause skin diseases, like skin irritations and dermatitis. So the people living in the region even the oil cooperation workers stand the chance of been affect too, the air they breathe and the direct contact of their body to the weather can affect their skin.

## **2.2 ADDRESSING OIL SPILLAGE**

According to Salu (1999) there are different measures that have been put in place to address the issue of oil spillage especially in the Niger Delta region affected areas. Different laws have been enacted, and different civil society organizations have been set up and some have come from outside the country to assist the community and also advice the government on better measures to manage and address the problem. Nigeria has a law called Federal Environmental Protection Agency of Nigeria (FEPA). This agency is empowered by law to oversee the protection of the environment and how oil corporations operating in the country carry out their activities. FEPA has in it power different laws which include;

- a. Endangered Species Decree Cap 108 LFN 1990, b. Federal Environmental protection Agency Act Cap 131 LFN 1990, c.

Harmful Waste Cap 165 LFN 1990, d. Petroleum (Drilling and Production) Regulations, 1969, e. Mineral Oil (Safety) Regulations, 1963, f. International Convention on the Establishment of an International Fund for Compensation for Oil Pollution Damage, 1971, g. Convention on the Prevention of Marine pollution Damage, 1972, h. African Convention on the Conservation of Nature and Natural Resources, 1968, i. International Convention on the Establishment of an International Fund for the Compensation for Oil Pollution Damage, 1971.

According to the Nigeria system, FEPA is a branch of the Ministry of Environment. The Ministry of Environment has the obligation to maintain the Nigeria environment, ensure that the environment is clean and safe for people to live in. In 1981, because of the constant oil spillage and environmental damage caused by the oil spill, group of Oil corporations in Nigeria formed an association called Clean Nigeria Association (C.N.A). This association was form by eleven oil cooperation operating in Nigeria and it included Nigeria's on oil cooperation, Nigeria National Petroleum Cooperation's (N.N.P.C).

The main objectives of C.N.A was to ensure that waste are properly disposed and that their oil convening pipelines are safe from been sabotaged. In 1992, another decree was promulgated called "Environmental Impact Assessment decree No 86 of 192". This decree was promulgated to help ensure that the environment is well protected and threat to the environment is adequately dealt with in accordance with the provisions of the law. According to Ntukekpo, and Olagoke (1996), the EIA was obliged to oversee oil activities that may have serious damage on the environment. The decree will also ensure that activities of oil cooperation do not affect the people and the environment and that oil cooperation act within the frame work of law obliged to them by law. In 2002, the government of Nigeria directed all oil corporations operating in the country to adhere restrict to the provisions of the law guiding oil extraction activities and the protection of the environment.

These regulations include “Environmental Guidelines and Standards for the Oil Industry”, which was passed by an agency of the NNPC “Department of Petroleum Resources (DPR)”. According to the regulations, any corporation that fails to adhere to the guidelines will be punished by the Nigeria government in accordance with the provision of the law guiding oil operation in the country.

Available records for the period of 1976 to 1996 indicated that approximately 6%, 25%, and 69% respectively, of total oil spilled in the Niger Delta area, were in land, swamp and offshore environments. Also, between 1997 and 2001, Nigeria recorded a total number of 2,097 oil spill incidents (Nwilo and Badejo, 2005, p.5). Some scholars have argued that the bulk of the issue on environmental degradation in the Niger Delta region of Nigeria is not much on the oil spillage, but how the various laws put in place regulates and guides the activities of oil cooperation to avoid oil spill and in situations where there are oil spill, the mechanism for a cleanup. The inability to proffer a better management plan for oil spill and cleanup have created in the minds of the communities a bias treatment on them by the government and the oil cooperation, and these has led to several human security threat in the region. For a long time in the Niger Delta region, ethnic groups like the Ogoni and Ijaw have grouped and regrouped themselves to fight the course on human security threat posed by the oil extraction activities of oil cooperation and the inability of both the government to effect strategize a plan to redress their problem. These ethnic groups have taken to arms to protest against the oil cooperation.<sup>1</sup>The more recent travails of the Ijaw, the largest oil minority ethnic group are yet to be broadly captured. Yet, their case also exemplifies the pattern of demands for restitution being ignored by the state and its “partners” the oil multinationals. Ultimatums for redress given by aggrieved oil minorities popular movements have been met by state repression, violence and extraction, thus feeding into a cycle of increasingly popular protests and resistance by these social movements which themselves express pent up

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### ***Manner Technique***

According to Adelana et al (2011) this is a technique that can manage water's edge if pollution occurs. This technology involves vanishing, corrosion that can instigate the oil management and control process when a spill occurs.

## **2.3 CIVIL SOCIETY ORGANIZATIONS AND ENVIRONMENTAL DEGRADATION IN NIGER DELTA**

The idea of preserving the environment includes managing the interactions that exist between humans and their environment. This means both living and non-living things of the environment can live while human needs are been catered for every day. The word environment include both bio-physical and human components; the biophysical components are "climate, air, topography, geology, soils vegetation, ground water and surface water, while the human components include; land, people, socio-political and economic needs" (Nhamo & Inyang, 2011). The relationship between living beings and the environment should be adequately sustained and managed, in order to preserve the gift of nature available to us. For a healthy and sustainable environment for living beings, there must be what is called environmental sustainability.

In Nigeria, the presence of unpopular governments for more than 20 years has been a major reason for the emergence of non-state organizations that aims to challenge the wrongness of policy, programmes and ultimately the existence of this government. It is important to point out that the existence of these organizations gave room for people that has been regarded as the voiceless to express their opinions but on the other way round, some civil society organizations who seem to be opportunistic and self-centered have also taken advantage of this character negatively whereas the significant assumptions that imply legitimacy to the emergence of civil society organizations is that they are expected to be knowledge driven which simply means that actors must be able to investigate the problems of the society,

recommend solutions and develop plans to facilitate buy on, by other segment of society and government. The Civil society organizations CSOs can be described as set of voluntary organizations outside of the family in which people get to organize themselves to pursue shared interests in the public. These organizations range from small, informal and community-based organizations to the large, high-profile, INGOs such as village associations, environmental groups, women's rights groups, farmers' associations, faith-based organizations, labour unions, cooperatives, professional associations, chambers of commerce, independent research institutes and the not-for-profit media operating through local partners across the developing countries with governance and direction that are coming from citizens which are free from the control of the government and management. The Civil Society Organizations basically serves as the spokesperson for the citizens on fundamental issues that are affecting the society at large, mostly in the case of policies and ideas that might poses threats to the peaceful co-existence of the people and the socio-political underdevelopment of the society. However, civil society organizations (CSOs) play an important role in making it possible for people to claim their rights, in promoting rights-based approaches, in shaping policies that will enable development and partnerships, and also supervising their implementation. In some democratic setting, these institutions introduce things like voting and help citizens shape their politics, economies and culture. Despite the fact that CSOs have a common focus on how to empower the citizens to decide their own future development, they seem to be heterogeneous in nature with different views and clashing interests and their structures of governance varies from each other. The development body of CSOs critical studies observed that certain CSOs doesn't even aim to support or actively encourage the common good by serving as representatives for the citizens that has been regarded as voiceless. Non state actors such as CSOs are active social entities with agency or ability to act. Yet, drawing on critical realism, I see the social world and its processes not only as results of human perceptions and action but also and mainly produced in interplay of mechanisms and the context. Some parts of the social world and some mechanisms may exist independent of subjective thinking or actions. Another relevant trend that could be thought to













build up its activity for the security of the displaced people and reinforce the aggressor base of its association.

### **3.1.1 Amnesty International Circle of Actions**

The circle of activity of Amnesty International is unmistakably characterized and alludes to the security of human rights all over the world. Explicitly this association battles i.e. key regions of activities:

1. Women Protection;
2. Protection of children;
3. Ending the torment and execution of individuals
4. Protection of prisoners of still, small voice (opportunity of inner voice and opportunity of articulation, furthermore, the arrival of all detainees of still, small voice);
5. Protection of displaced people;
6. Protection and defeating the phenomenon of human rights infringement that are identified with his physical and mental uprightness;
7. Annuling capital punishment, torment and other savage treatment towards prisoners.
8. (Reasonable and quick) preliminaries for prisoners
9. Defeating the phenomenon of separation on any grounds: sexual orientation, race, religion, language, political supposition, national or social root, and others.
10. Guideline of the worldwide arms exchange.

Other than the exercises in these areas, Amnesty International represents security in zones of furnished strife, ending political killings and guaranteeing jail conditions by worldwide human rights measures, giving free education to all children on the planet, breaking enrollment of youngster fighters. Amnesty international goes about as a defender of human rights everywhere

throughout the world and its activities are supercilious for governments as well as and for all non-legislative associations, foundations and people. It doesn't bolster and contradicts any administration or political framework. Amnesty International as mass development for the human rights protection works on the standards of worldwide solidarity, worldwide security, human rights comprehensiveness, unprejudiced nature, freedom, popular government and common regard. Amnesty International act through her deliberate participation, which represents the suspension of human rights infringement, by putting weight on governments, equipped gatherings, government associations, to regard the law and to apply universal measures of human rights, sorted out an arrangement of instructive exercises on human rights and energizes all non-administrative associations, people and social foundations to help and regard human rights. It is their work to find the infringement of human rights by utilizing cluster strategies, for example, by sorting out different activities running from open exhibitions to composing letters, from human rights education to shows to expand assets from individual interests for assistance for explicit cases to worldwide battles for some specific models. In spite of every single expressed direct research association actualities, orderly and fair individual cases, examples of human rights infringement through talking unfortunate casualties, watching preliminaries, working with human rights activists and every one of these discoveries it distributed in the media, in letters or its site, It additionally issues a periodical, reports, instructive materials for the privileges of man and other rights-defensive writing. In these distributions are distributed instances of infringement of human rights in the world and their peruses. By taking the above activities by Amnesty International give great outcomes in the battle for human rights. Amnesty International on its work and exercises submits authority reports at the end of each year and through them send messages to all the world's administrations to guarantee better than average, tenacious, regard and acknowledgment of human rights at anyplace on the planet.







spill. Subsequent to this observation by AI, an alternative efforts was made to ensure that the observations are collaborated with evidence, AI and CEHRD gathered information from one of the oil companies and analysis them, however based on the evidence available, one of the oil companies claimed to have clean-up those areas it operate and that are polluted but the investigation and evidence gather proved that the claim by the oil company was false.

### **3.2 MOVEMENT FOR THE SURVIVAL OF THE OGONI PEOPLE (MOSOP)**

The Movement for the Survival of Ogoni People (MOSOP) is a Nigerian indigenous, non-regulatory, non-political zenith affiliation supported by Kenule Beesom Saro-Wiwa commonly called Ken Saro-Wiwa in 1990 with the order to fight calmly to propel vote based care; secure the Ogoni People's environment; search for social, money related and physical improvement for the region; guarantee the social rights and practices of the Ogoni people; and search for appropriate benefits of confidence for the Ogoni people. He was a writer, distributor, operator and human rights crusader. MOSOP was the principle formed and the most strident quiet intellectual of the Nigerian Federal government's dismissal of the oil-making Niger Delta region, particularly the tolerant Ogoni people whose interests it addresses. Saro-Wiwa transformed into an image of the human and common rights development in Nigeria. He was similarly famous all-inclusive as a ecological lobbyist, for his steady fight towards an unrivaled life and a cleaner environment for all. Saro-Wiwa won a couple of honors at home and abroad during his life time. He was also given grant after his death due to MOSOP's serene method to manage & fix the regular contamination in Ogoni land principally brought about by Shell activities in the region. MOSOP transformed into a family name over the globe when he and eight other men were hanged by the Nigerian Federal government. MOSOP continues going about as a genuine model for an elective method to manage authoritative issues firearms. MOSOP is a representative of the Ogoni people's right to pick the usage of our property and its advantages. They have suffered being









against Saro-Wiwa, he and his eight co-litigants were condemned to death on October 31, 1995.

In November 10, Ken Saro-Wiwa alongside eight different activists were hanged, with riot police and tanks administering the execution. In light of the killings and continuous mistreatment of the Ogoni individuals, that equivalent day Nigeria was suspended from the Commonwealth of Nations. This suspension was energized by Nelson Mandela, who spoke to South Africa in the Commonwealth. Supporters of the Ogoni people held challenge marches at Nigerian embassies and Shell workplaces around the globe. Numerous world heads required an oil ban, financial authorizes, and bans on arms deals.

In 2015, MOSOP called on the attention of the Nigeria government to show the needed commitment and concern towards environmental justice towards human security. According to a report made by the MOSOP leader, Legborsi Saro during the 2015 "World Environment Day", Development in the Niger delta's agricultural sector and sustainability have tentatively been traded off by environmental degradation hereby adversely affecting other circles of the community's prosperity. He argued that the continuous and heavy exploration of oil activities going on in the Niger Delta has not only presented a devastating human security threat but also to the survival of green land vegetation, water bodies and also economic activities. This pollution has caused major problems like food insecurity, decline in the standard of living, and these threat amounts to serious threat to the right to life that every person is entitled to. The MOSOP leader argued that even if the Federal Government of Nigeria has showed willingness to find a solution the pollution taken place in the region by explaining concern based on the UNEP reports on the pollution in the region, the leader argues that the government has not supported their concern with action. The leader "warned that politicizing issue of environmental degradation would be opposed the general population of the Niger delta, because substantial evidence have been unveiled that the moribund Hydrocarbon Pollution and Restoration Project (HYPREP) was about to be restored which is completely contrary to the of wish of the people









act are still showing a high level degree of carelessness. By making an already difficult situation even worse is how the two Oil giants appear to release information about the justification of spill and level at which it has degraded the environment.

### **What Decoders did**

Decoders gathered data about the substance of the reports that Shell and Eni publish whenever they visit any of the oil spill site. These reports detail the reasonable reason, affected areas and damage level, and are regularly followed by photos as proof. They are significant on the grounds that oil companies pay remuneration to people living in an affected area as a result of this data. A research carried out in the past by Amnesty International uncovered that the data in Shell & Eni reports are usually erroneous. In the case of Bodo, Amnesty International revealed that Shell greatly downplayed the measure of oil spill but with their assistance, the Bodo people group in the long run made lawful move, constraining Shell to concede the genuine sum and pay £55 million in remuneration. In order to assist other various affected communities & towns like Bodo, Amnesty International decided to break down and made the information about oil spill report freely accessible to the people and enrolled activists from around the globe to help. A sum of 3,545 individuals, from 142 nations, participated in Decode Oil Spills. They responded to 163,063 individual inquiries concerning reports and photos and worked 1,300 hours which is what might be compared to somebody working all day for eight months.

### **What Decoders found**

Decoders work helped Amnesty International affirm two major things

1. Shell and Eni were publishing deluding information about Oil spill & the damage degree.

Based on investigation, it was gathered that the oil company only revealed 1,010 incident of spills, including oil that vanished in the pipelines system which amounts to 110,535 barrels (or 17.5 million liters) as well Oil-wells where it works while a total of 820 oil spills incidents was only revealed by







the Niger delta are in danger. According to Amnesty International, the complain of the Niger delta region occupants concerning the issue of gas flaring which genuinely tends to harm their personal satisfaction and also present a hazard to their wellbeing is something long overdue, yet nothing have been done by both the Nigerian state and the Oil companies to address and take a gander at people's wellbeing.

The objective of Eyes on Nigeria was to make a move focusing on the Nigerian state and the Oil companies by organizing up to 3 million activists across the globe in order to have the accessed gas flares that are unchecked to be permanently closed down because this for quite a long time have not just affected the Niger delta people's health but also the entire environment.

The science for Human rights program chief, Dr. Scott Edwards posited that the general Nigerian population is being confronted by lots of squeezing issues regarding human right abuses therefore the project of Eyes of Nigeria is a comprehensive one. He hoped that what they discovered during their request for a fundamental respect for human by working together with the Nigerian individuals through the Eyes on Nigeria project will enlivened individuals on the other parts of the world. He believes that other activist across the globe will as a result of this dispatch be courageous to take a step towards the Commencement to Flares Out. In these regard, the American Association for the Advancement of Science's Geospatial Technologies and Human rights project, a nonprofit, objective logical association rendered a specialized help. However, every occurrence of gas flares was found and mapped in the district by the Eyes on Nigeria project. It also had the effect on encompassing communities with high temperatures, exhaust and raised level of sound brought about as a result of flared gauged. According to Susan Wolfinbarger, the senior program partner at AAAS, the Eye on Nigeria project worked on the day by day information that was gathered in each districts where there's flares through the use of satellite sensor to decide the expanded air temperature influencing occupants as well as rural generation within a couple of kilometers. According to the AAA's exploration, it was confirmed that about 41 gas flares were dynamic toward the finishing of 2010 in the Niger delta.



flaring kept occurring Shell and ExxonMobil blamed their inability to accomplish zero flares on the insecurity and violence going on within the Niger delta region. According to (Bassey, 2008: 2; ERA, 2008: 2; Dung et al., 2008: 297) because of the fact that Nigeria had not invested enough in infrastructure such as Liquefied Natural Gas projects to re-inject the gas for energy use, the country lost over \$2.5 billion yearly between 1970 and 2006. According to (Ibeanu, 2000: 22), the exportation of Liquefied Natural Gas (LNG) started in 1999 in Bonny, however this action is as yet debasing the environment with bad health effect on the people. Ibeanu believed that aside the loss of income, they deliberately cause environmental damage which tends to affect the health of people in the process.

According to (Ndubuisi and Asia, 2007: 20; Nkwocha et al., 2008), gas flares in the Niger Delta which is described as a major source of carbon, NO<sub>x</sub>, SO<sub>x</sub>, and particulate issue emanations all have broad climate change contributions and implication on the human respiratory system. According to an interview carried out by (Benson and Etesin, 2008) with a group agent of the Iduwini people in July 2009, Acidic downpour is also connected to gas flares with occupants griping about consumed rooftops, lower quality soils for agriculture, surface and ground water, and skin irritation.

#### **4.1.2 Expertise Function**

One of the significant impacts of the Amnesty International in addressing the issues of human security within the Niger delta region was by filling in as an expertise by giving beneficial advices to the Nigerian Federal government after series of investigations. For example, in 2015 Amnesty international prompted the Federal government to initially attempt a critical audit of how NOSDRA operates to remediation. Build a dedicated website that will be like that of the "Nigerian Oil Spill Monitor" site that conveys data on oil spills cases in order to host this information. AI also implore the Nigerian state institution make all reports uninhibitedly accessible to any individual who solicitations them until the websites are available. Furthermore, they included the following advices.





of the Niger Delta in their progressing battle to get equity after more than half a century of contamination.

According to AI, great deficiency exist in the procedures of carrying out investigation about oil spill incidents in Nigeria and as a matter of fact, investigations concerning oil spill is driven by shell itself from its facilities hereby making a conspicuous irreconcilable situation.

#### **4.2 THE MOVEMENT FOR THE SURVIVAL OF THE OGOINI PEOPLE (MOSOP)**

Since the early 1990s, protest and repression in the Niger delta community's conflicts have signaled activism. The rise of MOSOP especially as a peaceful movement brought about positive developments in the area which makes it more important. The approach of MOSOP towards the handling of critical issues is a tactical one which resulted into positive outcomes in accomplishing their goals through campaigns and negotiations. Several other movements who carried the same ideology with MOSOP began to emerge but these movement coupled with their youthful component seem to poses more radical approach in their demands as well as decision making process. Even though these organizations have included both men and women, the disputes and antagonism that have existed for a long time among the communities didn't just return but came with whole lots of violence in the area. The challenging and questioning of the status quo can be regarded as the basic nature of these conflicts. Under the distressing economic conditions of the post adjustment era, the common people under the distressing economic conditions of the post-adjustment era wished to bypass the mechanism of resource distribution as sustained by governments and those in power. In the Niger delta, both the local and the youth have made the oil companies the main targets of their direct actions in an attempt to gain direct access to the source of wealth. Oil company's personnel were held hostage by activists and also had their production facilities occupied. As a result of this, a statement was issued by the Nigerian federal government stating its strong commitment towards ensuring the protection of oil companies and







unfortunately there were allegations of funds mismanagement that were allocated for community projects. According to Shell the company spent more than \$2 million in building projects for the community in the Ogoni area between 1987 and 1992, yet it could be argued that although without decades of Ogoni action these gestures were unlikely to have been considered, the inadequacy of the provisions since 1992 in relation to such widespread environmental exploitation supports the claims that SPDCs humanitarian activities in Ogoni-land are merely 'token gestures' as part of communities. Those who are not in support of the MOSOP's bill of right, and other instances of legislation passed in response to the organization's protest, argue that these are ineffective actions by a government which still represses civic protest, and that the fragile relationship between the state and local communities is exploited by oil companies in an attempt to blame the problems in the region on conflicts among the tribal & ethnic groups. The Nigerian state made further efforts by establishing the Niger Delta Development Commission and the production of several reports. However, the then outgoing MOSOP's president, Ledum Mitee argues that there is a history of reports, which he believe are enough to provide solutions to critical issues in Nigeria, rather than gathering dust on the shelves. Despite the initial resurgence in the numbers of MOSOP supporters in response to violent state repression, and the continued existence of MOSOP as an organization, numerous analysts accept that the organization has never recouped from the inner factionalism among radicals and conventional reformists that prompted Saro-Wiwa's capture and execution, and the ensuing outcast of a considerable lot of the initiative after 1995. Also, whilst the baton of resistance has indeed been passed to other Niger Delta communities, in some places the failures of several years of peaceful engagement resulted to violent resistance, such as the creation of the Movement for the Emancipation of the Niger Delta (MEND), which propelled an activist crusade against oil against giants operating in the delta. Given Ken Saro-Wiwa's emphasis on peaceful direct activity, the usage of violence by another Niger Delta group is not the responsibility of MOSOP. But for those who believe in the power of non-violent movements to cause effective change, MEND's actions could be a disappointing development in the anti-oil struggle.

Examining the issue of environmental degradation and the activities of Oil Corporations in Niger delta today, it is easy to say that MOSOP somewhat failed to prevent the pollution of the land from the extraction of resources. Despite the continued global attention from environmental and human rights NGOs on both the geographical area and the legal cases against Shell, the efficacy of the company's responses to pollution has been woefully inadequate. According to a report by the UNEP, it identified that pipelines in Ogoni-land which are no longer used but are yet to be decommissioned are not properly maintained, which has led to deterioration and spillages, and calculated that in the last five decades, the Ogoni-land have experienced over 546 million gallons of oil spill. Also, to the existing pollution from the previous history of oil extraction prior to the cessation of activities in 1993, in 2011 the Ogoni Star announced that the Nigeria Petroleum Development Company (NPDC) planned to commence production from the 30 oil fields belonging to the SPDC in Ogoni-land. Despite the response from the community of opposition to this planned production, the announcement symbolizes that there is a far greater appetite for resource extraction than environmental protection (as it has been possible to move far more swiftly to re-start production in Ogoni-land than mobilizing efforts to clean up the existing degradation). It also demonstrates that the value of Niger Delta oil reserves to the Nigerian state is greater than the value of the Delta people's livelihoods.

Furthermore, the study founded the success of individuals involved with MOSOP which include the financial settlement from a couple of court cases filed against SDPC in the United Kingdom and the United States for their alleged involvement in the execution of the Nine Ogoni people and other human rights abuses to bow down Ogoni anti-oil activism. According to the complainant, the case can be described as a step ahead towards bring the Oil corporations that are operating in Niger delta to book for the sake of complicity in the violations of human rights wherever they may be committed and part of the settlement fund which amounts to \$15.5 million will be used for the development of the community in Ogoni-land. The above stated successes can be said to have been limited in their scope or longevity. At this

junction, it can be said that the violent repression of Ogoni activities and citizens in the wake of widespread peaceful mobilization strengthened MOSOP's case against the state and contributed to mobilization by breeding resistance described as the "paradox of repression", but ultimately the repression resulted in the death and injury of hundreds of people.

The success of MOSOP stirred interest of other local CSO's in the Niger delta region which includes the Movement for the survival of the Izon Ethnic Nationality (MOSIEND) that was set up by the Ijaw speaking people in 1992. MOSIEND seemed to follow the example of MOSOP quite conscientiously. According to the Human Rights Watch (1999, p. 129), irrespective of sharing similar name with MOSOP, it is imperative to say that MOSIEND proclaimed an 'Izon People's Charter' which was directed at the Nigerian Federal government and the people. However, since national independence and the allocation of revenue formulae depended on the income from oil, part of the charter objective was an extensive discussion in creating a state. In the favor of the Ijaw speaking people's territory, it also demanded compensation for the oil revenues that's being generated based on agreement in the course of constitutional discussions which led to independence as well as on pre-colonial agreements with the British. The Ogbia, an Ijaw subgroup made a similar attempt. In November 1992, due to the concerns of the traditional rulers of the communities they signed the Charter of Demands of the Ogbia People. Part of their demands was the constitutional repeal provisions giving ownership of mineral resources to the Nigerian federal government and a restoration of Ogbia people's rights to a minimum of 50 percent of the Oil revenues that's being derived from their land. However, they also demanded the payment to the landlords of the area of all rents and royalties from the revenue the Nigerian institution generated from their crude oil since 1956 when the first Nigerian oil well started production on their land.

A rough estimate of the money they demanded amounted to €226.5 billion. Also, an extra payment of €35 billion was demanded as restitution for their environment damages, and for any further development as well as protection that might be required to be done as regard oil exploitation that might occur in future. At this point, it is not difficult to find similarities between these

movements because ethnically based organizations, the charters, and the demands directed at the Nigerian federal government and the oil companies were common attributes among the movements that followed the Ogoni and MOSOP. They also seemed to share a historical legacy from the nationalist movement during the struggle for independence. Each of the movement's establishment involved a set of goals and priorities, together with the strategy required to attain them therefore there's no doubt that that MOSOP and its activities had eventually become the frame of reference for these subsequent movements and that MOSOP had positively impacted to the organizational structure in the formation of these movements.

## RESULTS

The effort of Amnesty International in combating the issues of human security (Environmental degradation) within the Niger delta region yielded positive outcomes. One of the steps taken by AI which is to educate the people about their rights brought about success as people began to stand up for their rights and sue the Oil companies to court over their activities in the region which has caused a huge damage to their water, farmlands and health. A major spill which occurred in Bodo area landed Shell in a UK court which resulted in favor of the occupants of the area. Shell Oil was driven to make a settlement of about £55m out of court following a legal action taken against the company in the UK six years after a two Bodo area oil spill occurred which damaged livelihoods of thousands of people occupying the area. This settlement was made in order to have the individuals and communities involved compensated. Of the total amount, about 15,000 people had a share of £35m while the remaining was remitted to the community.

The long awaited payment took a heavy toll on Bodo residents, due to the fact that lots of the victims farming and fishing business which is their source of livelihood had been destroyed as a result of the spill. Unfortunately, many have entered into abject poverty because they can't work and they also had to continue persevering by living with the environmental condition which is such a bad experience. According to Amnesty International's Director of Global Issue, Audrey Gaughran, despite the justice she was finally given to the people of Bodo that ended up losing their source of livelihood due to Shell exploration activities in the area, the people deserve more than what they got in getting a fair compensation because 6 years is way too long considering what they went through however, the settlement is a welcome development. He argued that, Shell was aware that the Bodo accident was something that would happen but out of the company carelessness, they never took any effective action to stop it instead; they went ahead to make claims that are misleading concerning the estimated oil that was spilt. According to him, the Bodo people would have been deprived of their rights

by the Oil Company if they were not made to bring out this information as part of the legal action that was taken against them in the UK.

Styvn Obodoekwe, the Director of Programmes of the Centre for Environment, Human Rights and Development (CEHRD), postulated that it is only when Shell Oil takes it upon itself as a responsibility to have the degraded and swampy areas cleaned up that justice can be said to have prevailed so that fishers and farmers who rely on that as source of livelihood may start building their lives, although the settlement also remained a great move in the course of achieving justice for the Bodo people.

Pastor Christian Kpandei, a Bodo resident and fisherman expressed his relief as Shell finally admitted to be responsible for their actions. Although the Oil Company have always admitted that the two Bodo oil spills that occurred in 2008 were as a result of the company's pipelines fault, yet misleading claims were often made publicly that the both spills were approximately 4,000 barrels of oil joint together despite the fact that it stayed continuously for a couple of weeks.

Another success by Amnesty International was in 2012 when the first oil spill in Bodo was estimated through the use of an independent video footage assessment and it was discovered that the spill outlay a hundred thousand barrels. This proof made Shell to admit to their false publication during the legal action in the UK. However Shell still refused to confirm the exact amount of oil that was actually spilt but the court ordered them to compensate the affected community.

Furthermore, they were made to also make confessions that they were not only aware of the fact that majority of the company's pipelines were already old since 2002 but some part poses great risk that's hazardous. Even though a published document by AI in 2002 pointed out that Shell's pipelines were due for a replacement and its imperative to act fast in changing them as soon as possible, the company ignored despite the fact that these information has been known to them years before the Bodo leaks. Investigation also revealed that one of Shell's internal email from 2009 contained information which

proved that they knew about the exposure to oil spills in Ogoni-land where Bodo happens to be located.

According to Audrey Gaughran, Shell Company's refusal to replace pipelines that are dilapidated is a great risk for thousands of people because there are tendencies for future oil spill that would degrade the environment.

MOSOP did a great job in bringing the Oil giant to book through legal actions taken against the SDPC both in the UK and United States over their alleged involvement in the execution of the nine Ogoni victims by the Nigerian state institution as well as other related human rights abuses which was aimed to suppress activism of Ogoni people about Oil pollution in the region. As a result, the Oil Company was forced to pay a sum of 15.5 million dollars to the families of those executed including the family of Ken SaroWiwa. The affected community representatives described the success as a way forward to holding the powerful corporations responsible for their actions especially towards the violation of human rights. Shell Oil Company facilities have remained idled since 2008 because of the Ogoni people's demand for their activities to be put to an end despite the fact that it still has license for oil extracting operations in the area. In support of the people, the Nigerian Federal government stipulated that whenever it's time to drill again, the discovery of an entirely new company will be a perfect option. Both Amnesty International & the Movement for the survival of the Ogoni People (MOSOP) recorded certain success in their plight towards tackling human security issues in the Niger delta region by making the Oil giants compensate the affected communities but that's basically not enough because despite the fact that Shell no longer operates in Ogoni-land, the pollution is still going on till date in several parts of the Niger delta. Finally, a sort of relief came at the end as Shell's active presence in Ogoni-land was suspended, although their pipelines still run through the communities.



## CONCLUSION

This study investigated the role of two Civil Society Organizations operating in the Niger Delta region of Nigeria, Amnesty International and MOSOP. According to Osuji (2004), Niger Delta has been a victim of environmental degradation since the exploration of crude oil, and the mastermind behind the degradation is oil spillage. Oil spillage has made this region suffer in great deal especially on two main areas land and water. Osuji further said that the worst form of environmental pollution is oil spillage which stands as a severe danger to the lives of people and the inhabitant of the natural environment. This region has suffered from oil spillage in decades as a result of damage done to their farmland, rivers, streams, and these has caused most people from this region to flee to another part of the country in search of safe heaven. Thousands of lives have been lost as a result of the effects of oil spillage.

Even as the government has the major blame on the damages done to the environment during oil extraction, the people are still not innocent from causing harm to them-selves. The people on some occasions engage in oil sabotage, in this process they destroy the channel(s) of this oil so that they can take from the oil for sale or personal use. Groups also embark on these illegal activities by deliberately damaging the pipes and installation devices so that they can be paid to rebuild and reconstruct it, and therefore they can make money from it (Mba, 2013.). These groups engage in this act all in the name of fighting for the equal wealth distribution of the nation. At first, the Nigerian state made use of force by sending troops to combat the people of Niger delta but instead, it resulted into more violence. In order to put an end to the violence that comes with the behavior of these groups, the Nigerian Federal government introduced the Amnesty Program in 2009 by engaging the Niger delta militants who basically destroy pipelines. The main objective of the programme was centered on the empowerment of the people, bringing about development economically and helping the ex-militants to be of positive use in their respective communities with a hopeful result of bringing peace to the Niger delta. However, this programme brought about peace in

the region as the people stopped damaging pipelines and oil channels but it didn't address the issue of Environmental degradation. The awareness and reactions from the people of this region can be said to have flamed resulting from reports and commentaries made by civil society organizations and some locals following the excess activities of oil explorations from MNCs and the government of Nigeria's negligence to scrutinize the activities of this MNCs which has caused damage to the lives of people in the Niger Delta region.

Civil society are usually concerned with issues that affect human and their existence, this life threaten issues maybe as a result of actions of the government or multinational cooperation operating in the country. The duties of civil society are expanded in nature, it include issues pertaining to the environment, poverty, human security and many other issues.

Civil society in states like Nigeria where there is low government institutional activities and program can help instigate programs and activities. Promote inclusive democracy and improve social activities. Through the activities of civil society, constructive dialogues are produced and information is shared among people and the public, issues of international concerns that have local implications are addressed and solutions are sometimes put forward to help the people. By and large, the contribution of civil society to sustainable development is huge, they contribute in research that concerns the environment, map out techniques to combat crucial crisis and threat, and some of them make resources available to carry out government functions effectively and efficiently.

Civil society organizations operating in the Niger Delta region of Nigeria have been effective on issues pertaining to environmental degradation in Nigeria. On several occasions they have conducted field investigation to see in practical terms how this oil spillage occurs and the height of damage it has done to the environment, like the lands, the water bodies and crops and food. Civil society organization in the Niger Delta region have also made effort to create awareness with the people of the region on issues regarding the pollution caused by the spill and educate the people on how to deal with such pollution when they occur.

In the Niger Delta region the level of harm done to the environment as a result of oil exploration is alarming therefore attracting the attentions of foreign civil society organization like Amnesty International. Amnesty International has been effective in ensuring that companies involved in this oil extraction that causes oil spillage are brought to book and adequate compensation is awarded to the victims in the region who suffers from the effect of damage.

Amnesty International which is an International civil society Organization with the aim to fight human right abuses across the globe played a critical role in addressing human security issues in Niger delta especially environmental degradation which occurred as a result of Oil spill an gas flaring. The organization carried out series of research to expose the true cause of environmental degradation in the region using Decoders, an AI innovative tool which monitors oil spill and determine the level of damage it has done to the soil and water bodies. After doing their investigation, they also served as expertise by giving the Nigerian state Institution advices that would be a way forward to solving the issue of environmental degradation in the region and also mobilize people by educating them about their rights which has brought about a huge success. With the help of Amnesty International, communities like Bodo were able to take legal action against the oil giants which they won. The study found that despite the great progress made by the organization, it is Important to mention that they have limitations which to a large extent affected their progress. Firstly is the fact that Amnesty International is a nongovernmental organization therefore most of their suggestions to the Nigerian state Institution on how resolve environmental degradation problems in the Niger delta region can only be expressed and not implemented if the state is not willing to do anything about it. Another issue is that critique of civil society organization have also expressed their opinion that AI doesn't seems to know its boundary because they believe that the organization was already acting more like the Nigerian state institution by taking up certain responsibilities upon themselves.

MOSOP which is an indigenous civil society organization also did a wonderful job in its battle against the human right abuse & environmental degradation problem in Niger delta by confronting both the Oil companies and the Nigerian Federal government. The organization created grass root awareness with its people and organized massive protest which drew the attention of the International community to the issue of Oil spillage in the Niger delta region. Part of the success recorded by the organization was the lawsuit filed against SDPC in the UK and US by the Ogoni's which earned the affected community \$15.5m after a court order.

Haven talked about the positive side of MOSOP it is Imperative to also say that the organization also have some flaws and it suffered some set back. No doubt that MOSOP did very well under the leadership of Ken Saro-Wiwa but since the Nigerian state Institution executed him alongside eight others who were regarded as very strong and vocal in the struggle, all in the aim to silence a good course, it seriously had a big effect on the activities/agitations of MOSOP as well as other nonviolent movements in Nigeria who has similar ideology with the organization but notwithstanding, the message that MOSOP brought to the people still spread like wild fire.

Despite the fact that the death of Ken Saro-Wiwa affected MOSOP, that's not the major problem with the organization as some people claim because it also lack of some leadership problems which include Vision, Choice and Resolve. Even prior the execution of Ken SaroWiwa, the Vice President of MOSOP at that time, Mr. Ledum Mitee, was given an appointment by the Federal Government after he was released from prison as well as the son of Saro-Wiwa himself who became a Special Adviser to the President including many others who ended up becoming government contractors. This whole action is absolutely against the philosophy of MOSOP and as a result, the organization leadership began to crack. Even though MOSOP couldn't do much in preventing the continued environmental degradation of Ogoni-land, and the lack of serious political reform or radical state policies to address minority concerns, the study regarded MOSOP as being a successful environmental social movement. Rather than being an overly-optimistic view

of the inspiration MOSOP has provided to other movements around the world. As MOSOP still remains an active part of a bigger struggle towards ending the exploitation of the Niger delta people, MOSOP has not completely failed, but yet to achieve its major goals. In these regard, other civil society organizations and movement has a challenging battle to fight.

The government of Nigeria has been reluctant in dealing and handling this oil spillage. Several cases have shown how nonchalant the Nigerian state institution could be when it comes to issues of oil spillage. The institutions of government created to oversee situations of oil spillage and ensure that a clean-up exercise if carried out within the stipulated time always compromise in their functions. The longer in delay to respond to the damages, the higher the level of damage caused. Although the Federal Government of Nigeria has been making series of pronouncements over the years with respect to specifically develop Ogoni-land as well as the Niger Delta as a whole but unfortunately the entire announcements were just used for political campaigns to gain the attention and votes of the people. The Nigerian state institution doesn't seem to be in any way concerned about the issue of oil spills which has resulted to the degradation of the Niger delta environment over decades. Based on report, about 1.5 million tons of oil has been spilled in the Niger Delta in the last fifty years with Ogoni-land being the most affected area, which by far supersedes the amount of the Exxon Valdez Disaster that occurred in 1989. According to the United Nations Environmental Development Programme, it would take nothing less than 30 years to clean up Ogoni-land with the financial implication of \$2 billion dollars annually. Investigation also shows that the life expectancy of an average individual in the rural areas of the Niger delta has reduced to as low as 40 years in the last three decades and it won't stop to decline due to the effect of the oil spills, still the Nigerian Federal government doesn't seem to care of take these problem serious. Amidst all these problems, this study concludes that since the Oil companies won't stop polluting the Niger delta region and Nigerian state institution is serious about taking action to resolve the environmental degradation problem in the region, the civil society organizations operating in the Niger delta such as Amnesty International and

MOSOP's effort would be limited in bringing about development. Therefore the only way to end the violation of fundamental human rights that has continued for a long time is to keep taking legal actions against the oil companies involves and getting compensated.

### **Recommendations**

Following the findings of the research, the researcher outlines the following recommendations to civil society organization in the Niger Delta region, the Nigeria government and the people;

- Civil society organisation, should intensify their effort to enlighten the people of the Niger delta region of the danger of oil spillage and how it has and can affect their life. They should also be educated on the negative effective that will be brought to them, when they engage in sabotage of pipeline. CSO should organise constant seminar at the local level with the local people using a medium of communication that the people can understand to teach them on the importance of the environment.
- CSO should work with the government to ensure that oil corporations operating in the region, uses the adequate technological equipment in the course of their extraction. CSO organisation should also ensure that the government builds infrastructures that are used in oil production. In a situation where there is pipeline leakage, there should be quick responsive measures, this should be encouraged and maintained in the oil production field, a more proactive measures to manage oil spillage should be a culture in order to prevent incidents of oil spillage.
- CSO should work hand in hand with the Nigerian state institution to train individuals that can manage issues of oil spillage using contemporary approach. Also CSO should organize workshops to educate individuals to engage in voluntary services in managing oil spillage and protecting the environment. CSO should also ensure that the departments of government responsible for managing oil spillage

conduct their inspectoral duties and enforcement with dignity and high level of competency.

- CSO organisation should implement an emergency call line that can enable individual's phone in, in-cases where there is oil sabotage or thief. This service should be cost free in order to give people the willingness to call even when they do not have call credit. This emergency call line is paramount in checking pipelines and events where there is damage or leakage.
- CSO should ensure that these emergency call line centres are controlled and handled by experts who can respond quickly in cases of pipeline damage. CSO should influence the government to ensure that the various agencies in charge of petroleum and environmental protection agencies are well educated on issues concerning oil spillage, and every agency should have an emergency team with clear duty and responsibilities. Involving the oil corporations on issues of clean-up should be a secondary issue, firstly there should be an emergency response team to maintain control of any pipeline damage, before the oil corporations can provide the resources for the clean-up. With this the damage will be reduced as in the case where all is left to the government and oil corporation to handle.
- Issues of oil spillage usually occur at the local areas, so CSO should influence the government to implement laws that can create agencies at the local and state level to enforce contingency plans when there is oil spillage.
- CSO should ensure that the government implements stiff punishment against oil saboteurs and damagers of pipeline. Punishment should include, fines, jail terms after trial, and compensation to affected regions.

When these recommendations are implemented, inhabitants of Niger Delta region will benefit a lot because there will be reduced oil spillage in the region which is mainly caused for damage done to pipeline because of poverty, these will save the environment and factors of the environment can be beneficial to the people of the region to use. When there is reduced oil

spillage, management of oil spillage in the region will be enhanced, and this will also save cost, and excess money allocated for clean-up can be used for infrastructural development in the region.

### **Recommendation for Future Study**

As a result of certain conditions and limitations during the course of preparing this study, there is need for further study to be conducted on areas of oil spillage that will help in managing the difficulties encountered by actors addressing issues related to human security in the Niger Delta region of Nigeria. Further study regarding environmental degradation in the Niger Delta region should ensure to deal on the following issues;

- The Role of the Nigeria Government in addressing issues of Oil Spillage in the Niger Delta Region
- The role of Oil Corporation in managing oil spillage and conducting clean-up exercises
- The difficulties encounter in managing oil spillage in unsecured areas of the Niger Delta Region.

Further study in this aspect will help manage issues of oil spillage and address environmental degradation because the demand for oil is expanding and on the increase, and this means that oil exploration activities will increase to meet demands. Further studies can also be handled in measuring the impact of civil society organizations' activities on shaping state policies and increasing public awareness in relation to environmental security issues.



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Dear Oluwadare Adedokun Salako

Your project “**The Role/Impact Of Civil Society Organizations İn Addressing Issues Related To Human Security İn The Nigeria's Niger-Delta Region.**” has been evaluated. Since only secondary data will be used the project it does not need to go through the ethics committee. You can start your research on the condition that you will use only secondary data.

Assoc. Prof. Dr. Direnç Kanol

Rapporteur of the Scientific Research Ethics Committee

*Direnç Kanol*

**Note:**If you need to provide an official letter to an institution with the signature of the Head of NEU Scientific Research Ethics Committee, please apply to the secretariat of the ethics committee by showing this document.