

The Shell case in Nigeria

São Paulo, April 24th, 2001

<http://archive.greenpeace.org>

Since Shell began drilling in Nigeria's Niger Delta, it has wreaked environmental havoc on the land of the Ogoni, the predominant native group in Nigeria.

Nigeria accounts for 14% of Shell's global oil production. At the same time, 40% of Shell's oil spills worldwide between 1976 and 1991 have occurred in this country. In the Niger Delta there were 2,976 oil spills during these years.

In the 1970s spillage totalled more than four times that of the 1989 Exxon Valdez tragedy. Shell has contaminated farmlands and water sources, besides releasing gases meters away from the houses where the Ogoni live. Shell thus promotes acid rain, mass killing of fish and the suffering of people due to health problems from water and air pollution.

A short-lived World Bank investigation found levels of hydrocarbon pollution in water in Ogoni land more than sixty times US limits and a 1997 Project Underground survey found petroleum hydrocarbons in one Ogoni village's water source to be 360 times the levels allowed in the European Community, where Shell originates.

Owens Wiwa, a physician, has observed higher rates of certain diseases like bronchial asthma, other respiratory diseases, gastroen-

teritis and cancer among the people in the area as a result of the oil industry.

Responding to claims for environmental justice, Nigerian military forces have used terrorism as a means of intimidating and stopping the environmental demands. Since the Rivers State Internal Security Task Force began working, it has been held responsible for the deaths of more than two thousand Ogonis and for the destruction of 27 villages. Nine pacifist leaders were hanged after trials in military courts. Two witnesses that accused them later admitted that Shell and the military had bribed them with promises of money and jobs at Shell. Shell admitted having given money to the Nigerian military, who brutally tried to silence the voices which claimed justice.

In March 2001 the US Supreme Court approved a lawsuit filed against the company. The attorneys defending Shell and its subsidiary Shell Transport & Trading argued that the US could not authorise a lawsuit for crimes which happened in other countries, even if they involved international law. Relatives of Ken Saro-Wiwa and John Kpuien, leaders of the protests against oil drilling in Ogoni land, Nigeria, presented the case in 1996 at a New York federal court. As a result of the protests against Shell, the military government that ruled Nigeria repeatedly tortured the two activists. Saro-Wiwa and Kpuien were hanged in 1995, after being found guilty of murder.

Toxic Substances and Technologies Campaign, Greenpeace Brazil

www.mayogasinfo.com

Researched facts and figures on Corrib

www.nigerdeltaawareness.com

Oil and gas impact in the Niger Delta

www.londonrisingtide.org.uk

Battling climate change and fossil fuels

www.publicinquiry.ie/reports.php#ld196

"The Great Corrib Gas Controversy"

www.transparency.org

Measuring corruption worldwide

LINKS & RESOURCES

www.indymedia.ie/mayo

Open forum news and analysis

www.shelltosea.com

Campaign website

www.mayococo.ie/en/News/GasTerminal/

Mayo County Council Corrib info

www.corribgas.com/

Shell's pro-Corrib website

Shell To Sea

28 March 2008

Community Information - Erris, County Mayo, Ireland

Shell Investigated for Corruption By Department of Justice

<http://online.wsj.com/>
March 26, 2008

By BENOIT FAUCON
The Wall Street Journal

LONDON — The U.S. Department of Justice is examining corruption allegations in the use of a freight-forwarding firm by Royal Dutch Shell PLC, the company said in regulatory filing published last week.

A probe by the Securities and Exchange Commission is also under way, it said.

In its annual report with the SEC, the Anglo-Dutch oil company said it was contacted in July by the Department of Justice regarding its use of a unit of Panalpina World Transport Ltd., a Swiss-based shipping and logistics-management company.

Shell said in the filing the Justice Department was looking at potential vio-

lations of the Foreign Corrupt Practices Act as a result of such use. Shell declined to comment beyond the filings Wednesday.

Panalpina said in May that U.S. authorities had requested documents related to its services to Nigeria, adding the review had been extended to Kazakhstan and Saudi Arabia.



Eleven oil and oil-service firms received a July 2 letter from the Justice Department's criminal-fraud section asking them to detail their relationship with Panalpina, people familiar with the matter said last year. Last year, Houston-based oil-services companies Transocean Inc. and Schlumberger Ltd. said they received inquiries from the department related to the Panalpina investigation.

Corruption on a corporate scale is an everyday fact of big business, and all major companies have to deal with the problem; the larger the business, the more opportunities for bribes or "facilitation payments".

According to "The Shell Sustainability Report 2006" there were 321 separate "proven" incidents of "bribery and fraud" within the scope of Royal Dutch Shell PLC activities since 2003... that's an average of over two cases every single week for three straight years.

For a company that continues to produce record-breaking profits year on year (€18,800,000,000 after tax just for 2007) the likelihood of further bribery will unfortunately be present every day. **S2S**

SEC widens Nigeria bribery probe with Shell subpoena

October 13 2005

<http://search.ft.com/nonFtArticle?id=051013000916>

The US Securities and Exchange Commission has subpoenaed documents from Royal Dutch Shell and several other international companies as part of a widening international probe into a \$170m alleged bribery case at a Nigerian gas plant.

The case, which is seen as an important test of rich countries' commitment to tackling alleged corporate bribery, is being probed in France, the US and Nigeria.

The companies involved have denied wrongdoing and said they are not themselves under investigation for participating in bribery. Shell said it was co-operating voluntarily with the SEC investigation.

The SEC declined to say if the Shell subpoena indicated it was looking into the activities of the consortium that owns and operates the plant on Bonny Island. Shell is the largest private shareholder in the project, in which its partners are Total of France, Italy's Eni and the Nigerian government.

Investigations have so far centred on the ac-

tivities of TSKJ, the plant's main building contractor. TSKJ is an international consortium that includes a subsidiary of Halliburton, the oil services company formerly headed by Vice-President Dick Cheney of the US.

... The company said the notes showed the building consortium had "considered payments to Nigerian officials" ... "They are a contemporaneous account dating back to the earliest days of who, what, when and how the bribery may have occurred," the person [with knowledge of the probe] said.

... One section raises questions on whether the consortium developed a plan to offer bribes to Nigerian officials including directors of the gas plant, which is quarter-owned by Shell.

The minutes of a December 1993 "cultural meeting" list seven people - including Don Etiebet, Nigeria's then petroleum minister - next to the phrase: "cover directly". Beneath, four other surnames - including those of gas plant directors Victoria Ihonde, Olutoyin Olakunri and Hamman Tukur - are listed next to the words "already covered".

... Mr Etiebet said he was never offered a bribe by the consortium, whose officials he met only twice while he was minister. Shell said it had no evidence of improper behaviour by the former directors or other gas plant officials.

By Thomas Catan and Michael Peel
Financial Times

Landslide group on the rocks

exclusive By Frances Toner

Wednesday, March 26, 2008

THE Dooncarton Landslide Committee, set up in the aftermath of the devastating 2003 north Mayo landslide, is set to be dissolved amidst a storm of controversy.

It has emerged the majority of the committee have resigned over a €10,000 funding allocation from Shell E&P Ireland under its local grants scheme to erect safety barriers along a dangerous stretch of road overlooking the cliffs of Broadhaven Bay between the villages of Glengad and Seanbhaile.

"This application for funding was not put to the committee because I knew there was no point"

Chairman of the group, Mr. Gerard McDonnell, told The **C o n n a u g h t** Telegraph that he applied for the funding without committee consent

and this has caused a furore, leading to the resignation of five of the group's seven members.

However, joint treasurer, Mr. Gerry Sheeran, said the committee was in fact dissolved entirely at an emergency meeting, not attended by the chairman, on Friday.

The voluntary committee has been toiling tirelessly for almost five years to rebuild the local cemetery that was swept away on September 19, 2003, when a sudden downpour of rain caused 200,000 cubic metres of debris to hurtle down the Dooncarton mountainside.

The disaster swept homes, livestock and five human remains from the local cemetery out to sea.

Mr. Sheeran said he is saddened the group has come to such an abrupt and contentious end but said the committee were not consulted ahead of this funding application and he was quite sure they would never have approved such an application had it been put to them.

He is now calling on the Corrib Gas Partners to withdraw their funding allocation on that basis.

"This application for funding was not put to the committee because I knew there was no point," said Mr. McDonnell on Monday.

"I decided to take the initiative and get the money to erect safety barriers on what is a very dangerous stretch of road, where a young motorist was lucky to escape with his life after his car went off the road there in very recent months.

"Unfortunately, some people aren't happy the money is coming from the Corrib Gas Partners.

"Of course it is regrettable five people have resigned but it is understandable due to the controversial nature of the Corrib gas pipeline in north Mayo.

"Sadly, this kind of controversy is a fact of life for a lot of committees in the parish of Kilcommon."

"It's a pity it ended this way," agreed Mr. Sheeran. "But we're not going to be used by Shell, who are manipulating voluntary groups to buy local support.

"This idea of funding for local groups only came when their backs were against the wall and we don't want any part of it."

Responding to calls from former committee members to withdraw the funding allocation, Mr. Colin Joyce, communications advisor with Shell

"..we're not going to be used by Shell, who are manipulating voluntary groups to buy local support"

E&P Ireland, said: "We haven't been made aware of changes in structure of the Dooncarton Landslide Committee.

"When we are we will review this funding allocation."

Mayo County Council have agreed to match the Corrib Natural Gas Local Grants Programme allocation, amounting to €20,000 in total, to erect 300 metres of safety barrier in 2008 with a further 300 metres to be erected in 2009.

"This is a project which will benefit the entire community who use this stretch of road and provide enhanced protection to local residents, walkers and traffic users," explained Mr. McDonnell.

The *Connaught Telegraph*

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