

PROTEST OVER LAND SEIZURE IN Ogoniland ON 16TH ANNIVERSARY COMMEMORATION OF THE MURDER OF KEN SARO-WIWA & OTHERS.

In what was described in many quarters as a very successful event, Ogonis, in their thousands took to the street of Port Harcourt to protest what they see as another attempt by the Rivers State Government of Nigeria to dispossess over 3000 peasant farmers in Ogoni of their farm lands.



COMRADE CELESTINE AKPOBARI-NOVEMBER 10, 2011; SPEAKING TO THE MEDIA AT THE FEDERAL HIGH COURT IN PORT HARCOURT ON A SUIT INSTITUTED AGAINST RIVERS STATE GOVERNMENT FOR LAND SEIZURE IN Ogoni.

Ogoni local farm owners working in concert with the Ogoni Solidarity Forum-Nigeria (OSF), Social Action Para legal Centre- Bori, Environmental Rights Action (ERA), Ogoni Civil Society Platform and SERAC, had filed a suit against the Rivers State Government challenging the forcefull acquisition of over 200, 000 hectares of arable farmland to enable a Mexican investor, *Union De Iniciativa S.A De C.V* undertake a commercial banana plantation project.

To prevent Ogonis from focussing on activities planned for the 16th anniversary of the murder of their leaders, the first hearing of this case was tactically fixed for November 10, 2011, a date that means somuch to every Ogoni at home and abroad.

The week long event which started last Sunday the 6th November with prayers in churches and candlelight vigil in several Nigerian cities and villages on the eve (November 9) of the main event, ended on Thursday November 10, 2011 with appearance of thousands of Ogonis at the Federal High Court in Port Harcourt.



COMRADE CELESTINE AKPOBARI LEADS A PROTEST ON THE STREET OF PORT HARCOURT AGAINST LAND GRAB IN OGONI LAST NOVEMBER 10, 2011

Upon the first adjournment of the case, farm owners and others led by Comrade Celestine AkpoBari, Jaye Gaskia, Ken Henshaw, Michael Karikpo, Aluzim Emmanuel etc, took to the street of Port Harcourt and ended at the Rivers State Assembly complex where they succeeded in presenting petitions to members representing Ogoni constituencies and a representative of the speaker after the initial lock out by stern looking security operatives at the gate of the Assembly.

The people later proceeded to Algate Hotel Congress in Port Harcourt where a Symposium with theme: **REBUILDING THE BROKEN WALLS OF OGONI SOLIDARITY** was held to review

and do a critique of the recently released UNEP report. Jaye Gaskia, present Convener of the United Action for Democracy (UAD), gave the Keynote address entitled “Ken Saro-Wiwa; A prophet and his prophecies’



DR UCHE URUAKPA SPEAKING AT A SYMPOSIUM “REBUILDING THE BROKEN WALLS OF OGO NI SOLIDARITY” FOR REVIEW AND CRITIQUE OF RECENTLY RELEASED UNEP REPORT LAST NOVEMBER 10, 2011 AT ALGATE HOTEL CONGRESS, PORT HARCOURT.



COMRADE CELESTINE AKPOBARI ADDRESSING STATE ASSEMBLY REPS.



RIVERS STATE ASSEMBLY OFFICIALS LISTEN ATTENTIVELY TO Ogonis ON PROTEST AGAINST LAND GRAB LAST NOVEMBER 10, 2011

The anniversary which took place at Port Harcourt, Bori, the traditional Headquarters and several other cities of Nigeria led to the shutting down of businesses and every market in Ogoniland to mark the 16th year remembrance of their 13 fallen heroes.

OGONIS ARE AMONG OTHER THINGS, DEMANDING THE FOLLOWING:-

- That the Federal Government of Nigeria accepts responsibility for the judicial murder of Ken Saro-Wiwa and eight others, and offer public apology for the criminal atrocities committed by its agents, **sHELL** and other oil companies operating in the Niger Delta region;
- Immediate payment for the 35 years of oil theft from Ogoniland by shell and the Nigerian government ;
- Quash the murder conviction of ken saro wiwa and eight others;
- Immediate implementation of the recently released UNEP Report on Ogoni starting decommissioning by **sHELL**;
- Accede to the legitimate demands of Ogoni people as enshrined in the Ogoni Bill of Rights;
- Just compensation to the families of the ogoni martyrs;

➤ **LEAVE Ogoni OIL UNDER THE GROUND;**

- That the Rivers State Government issues a public notice that fully explains why a commercial venture undertaken by a private foreign investor should satisfy the requirements of an “overriding public purpose” under the land use act so as to warrants the substantial negative impact on so many subsistence farmers;
- That the rivers state government immediately produce and prosecutes policemen who murdered Mr John Eenee Dambani and Mr Goteh Keenam-two young men from Sogho community in Ogoni who were murdered on June 12, 2011 during a peaceful demonstration against land seizure by the rivers state government;
- That the Rivers State Government stops further attempt to impoverish the economically disempowered and politically marginalised Ogoni people.

Presently, Ogoni communities provide space and accommodation to more than its fair share of military and paramilitary facilities and large scale government owned farm estates. there are three big military and paramilitary facilities at Onne (Naval College and barracks), Nonwa (Police Training College) and Saakpenwaa (Mopol 56)

Other farm lands already acquired in Ogoniland by the government of Nigeria includes:-

- 1) School to land farm, Bori/Wiyaakara in Khana Local Government Area
- 2) School to land farm, Kpaa/Daen in Khana Local Government Area
- 3) Agricultural demonstration farm, Taabaa in Khana Local Government Area
- 4) Risonpalm Oilpalm plantation, Okwale in Khana Local Government Area
- 5) Niger Delta Basin Authority farm, Kpong in Khana Local Government Area
- 6) 258.954 hectares for a new town at Beerri/Nyokuru in Khana Local Govt. Area
- 7) Fish pond Nonwa in Tai Local Government Area
- 8) Songhai farm project, Bunu in Tai Local Government Area
- 9) IITA Onne in Eleme Local Government Area

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