
New report: Counting the Cost

Today, [The Guardian](#) features Platform's new research on Shell in Nigeria, which sheds further light on the company's complicit role in the Niger Delta conflict.

You can add your voice to the campaign. In a few moments, you can help spread the word by sharing this email, using facebook, twitter or posting a blog. *The Guardian* website currently has the report as its Top Story - help us keep it [there](#) by tweeting & sharing the article.

SAMPLE TWEETS:

New research reveals Shell paid militants who destroyed Nigerian towns: <http://j.mp/oiXriT> @PlatformLondon via @guardian_world

Shell's divisive practices have led to daily human rights violations in the #Niger Delta: <http://j.mp/qHAPr5> @PlatformLondon

"we're paying in so much, but the money isn't going into the right hands", Shell official, #Niger Delta: <http://j.mp/qHAPr5> #YouNeedToStopt

"Shell never cared that people were dying. They never did anything to call the crisis to order." Matt Chizi, #Niger Delta <http://j.mp/oiXriT>

If you're inspired and have the time, why not write a blog? You can use the sample blog post below:

SAMPLE BLOG:

New report finds Shell complicit in human rights abuses

Shell fuelled human rights abuses in Nigeria by paying huge contracts to armed militants, according to a new report published today by Platform and a coalition of NGOs and featured in [The Guardian](#).

The report, called [Counting the Cost](#), uncovers how Shell's routine payments to armed militants exacerbated conflicts, in one case leading to the destruction of Rumuekpe town where it is estimated that at least 60 people were killed.

Shell also continues to rely on Nigerian government forces who have perpetrated systematic human rights abuses against local residents, including unlawful killings, torture and cruel, inhumane and degrading treatment.

What writer and activist Ken Saro-Wiwa dubbed the "slick alliance" between oil multinationals and the Nigerian military is alive and harmful as ever. Shell's operations remain inextricably linked to human rights violations committed by government forces. The Nigerian government, driven to keep oil revenues flowing and working in close partnership with oil multinationals, has heavily militarised the Delta. Shell alone has hired over [1,300](#) government forces as [armed guards](#). For communities, the impacts have been devastating and are in addition to ongoing environmental damage from oil spills and gas flaring.

Commenting on the report, Nnimmo Bassey of Friends of the Earth International said: “Shell’s obligations are clear: it must clean up after decades of devastating oil spills, end the illegal practice of gas flaring and compensate the victims of human rights abuses in Nigeria. It is unacceptable that Shell continues to deny responsibility, while pushing communities deeper into poverty and fuelling destructive conflicts.”

“Shell’s divisive practices have led to daily human rights violations in the Niger Delta,” added Geert Ritsema from Friends of the Earth Netherlands. “Many of the victims have no access to justice and cannot afford to take the oil giant to court. Lawsuits in Nigeria can take decades to resolve and the remedies are often inadequate. Yet Shell must be held accountable for its environmental destruction and complicity in human rights abuses in Nigeria, and home governments like the UK and Netherlands must ensure that remedies are available and accessible to the victims.”
