OGONI UNEP REPORT: A PANACEA FOR CONFLICT RESOLUTION IN THE NIGER DELTA.

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Abstract
This study attempts to explore the current challenge of the non-implementation of the UNEP report on Ogoniland. It argues that the commencement of the remediation of impacted sites in Ogoniland by the State and the oil companies have continued to be illusive and treated with levity and disdain. It reveals that the State is demonstrating nonchalant political will towards the implementation of the UNEP report on Ogoniland in spite of the health, social and economic implications of the environmental degradation on the people, which is likely to generate severe consequences on the livelihood of the people and the fragile peace prevailing in the region. It contends that the full commencement of the clean-up of Ogoniland would have given hope to the Niger Delta people who are suffering the same environmental degradation and translate to sustainable industrial harmony and even resumption of oil production in the area. It argues that the continuous “despoliation” of Ogoni’s natural resources, environmental degradation, and persistent poverty due to deprivation of livelihood means, is an utter disregard for the colossal damages caused by oil exploration to the eco-system. It concludes that the delay in the implementation of the UNEP report to the latter is responsible for the growing poverty rate among the rural populace and persistent agitations. It recommends a sincere display of commitment towards the clean-up of oil impacted sites in Ogoniland as a strategy of reaffirming government commitment and a possible way of re-negotiating for the resumption of oil exploration and creating a robust economic empowerment and stimulating development in the area.

Keywords: Conflict, Conflict resolution, Peace-building, Environmental degradation, Exploration.

Introduction
Decades of oil exploitation, exploration, and production activities in the Niger Delta have led to severe environmental degradation that has created complex problems in the region. Environmental exploitation has been a major point of contention between the Nigerian government, multinational oil companies (MOCs) the Shell Petroleum Development Company (SPDC) in particular and the communities. Many years of struggle between Ogoni communities and Shell to clean up oil spills impacting sites resulting from their operations have brought practically no change of the 27 United Nations Environment Program (UNEP) specific recommendations including change in regulatory framework, monitoring, operational, technical, and public health, only three have been partially implemented (World Bank Dev. Report 1982).
Of utmost importance, were the eight emergency measures requiring urgent necessary action, and for which UNEP specifically assigned priority framework for redress. They were meant to address such matters as immediate supply of drinking water especially for people of Nsisioken Ogale community, whose drinking water supply was detected to have been contaminated with benzene at levels 900 times above World Health Organization’s (WHO’s) recommendation ANSD (1990). Although a 2013–2014 study suggests that provisions for portable water were made at certain locations, supply was however epileptic and short-lived. Community members resorted to purchasing water from retailers and using rainwater. For the poor who could not afford it, they resorted to use of the polluted water, seeing they had no alternative. In fact, at some point the water tankers responsible for dispensing drinking water to Ogale and Obolo communities were observed to be empty. Some of them were perpetually parked at some other locations within Eleme. Sequel to this, Boele, Fabig, and Wheeler, (2001), Investigations revealed that some households spent about 150–200 Naira to get daily clean water supply. This constitutes a substantial strain particularly in a country where approximately 60.9 percent of the population lives in “absolute poverty” and about 100 million live on less than $1 per day (Okhumode, 2017). Much worse for Ogoni and other affected communities, is the fact that dwellers suffer heightened deprivation of livelihood means due to severe oil pollution and associated consequences. Both the Nigerian government and Shell have paid little attention to the cry of these people whose ecosystems, ecology, and consequently, means of livelihood have been severely impacted. However, the UNEP report on the activities of oil exploration in Ogoniland for over Fifty years seems to be treated with disdain and levity. This could be attributed to lack of political will by the State to actually commence the remediation of oil impacted sites, which could serve as a model for conflict resolution in the Niger Delta and a source of hope for the depressed people whose environment suffer degradation and devastation due to oil activities.

Conceptual Clarification

Conflict: There is no single definition for the term conflict. Coser, (1968) defines conflict as a struggle over values or claims to status and scarce resources, in which the aim of the conflicting parties is not only the desired values but also neutralizes, injures or eliminate their rivals. Nader, (1968) conceptualized conflict as an inevitable phenomenon in human society’s sphere of life since the entire life of humankind is manipulated by the prevalence of conflict within the society, when people set opinion against opinion, run interest against interests. Conflict can be understood as “Encasement in a fight or possible confrontation between two or more parties aspiring towards incompatible or competitive means or ends. In the other hand as to the definition availed by Montagu, (1968) conflict is a condition of disharmony in an interaction process and usually occurs as a result of clash of interest between the parties involved in some form of relationship. Clash of interest could occur because either they are perusing their incompatible goals to peruse their chosen goal. Shyam, (2008) on his part defines conflict as “a relationship between two or more parties who have or think they have incompatible goals. Conflict is defined as disagreement between two or more parties. It manifests itself as either structural or violent. According to Galtung, (1996) he clearly states that structural conflict emanates from conditions in which structures of society deny people the full realization of their potential. Further highlighting, if structural conflict is not controlled, it leads to overt violence, in which the highest apex of violence is war. Galtung (1996) as among initial scholars of peace and conflict studies, theorized conflict in successive subdivisions, which are; Symmetric and asymmetric this symptomatically can either be classified as structural, cultural or direct violence, in which case, if not adequately responded to, structures into Negative or positive peace. Symmetric conflict could be viewed with contradiction. In which case, contradiction signifies an underlying conflict situation that can either be actual or perceived, based on the parties in conflict. This is because, contradiction in a symmetric conflict is defined by the parties. It can be influenced by the parties’ interest and the clash of interest between them. Asymmetric conflict which is also viewed through a contradiction lens, expounds its contradiction to parties’ relationships and their conflict of interests integral in the relationship.
Conflict is inevitable in society. It manifests through social change, psychological development, economic differentiation, cultural formation and political organization. It is usually escalated or de-escalated by parties to a conflict which are or perceived to be incompatible. The transition of violence into war habitually results into an intervention. The intervention can either patent itself as peacekeeping missions, peacemaking mission, peace building, or peace enforcement missions. These interventions in peace studies are also known as conflict resolution.

Conflict Resolution: Conflict resolution also referred to as reconciliation is theorized as means and practices involved in enabling the peaceful ending of conflict and reprisal. This process is actualized by group members involved in the conflict and are committed to resolve the conflict. It encourages group members to openly and clearly communicate their motives and ideologies in regards to the ensuing conflict including engaging in collective negotiations. Conflict resolution is the ability to restore the society back to normalcy from long-term or deep rooted conflict. While conflict resolution is the ability to absolutely resolve conflict, it goes beyond simply satisfying interests of parties’ in conflict. This is because conflict resolution endeavors to adequately respond and understand underlying causes of conflict, while conflict management simply ensures a dispute has been settled amicably (Wendy, 2016).

Principles to conflict resolution are summed in three guidelines, this are: peacemaking, peacekeeping and peace fostering. All conflict resolution/management methods are decided upon based on this three guiding principles. It aids in adequately choosing what methods or technique to adapt in which situation and at what stage of the conflict. Peacemaking is usually the first step towards conflict resolution, and it involves the very first methods/techniques which will ensure that this process begins. In order for conflict resolution practitioners to decide on which technique they shall use in the very early stages of a conflict situation, they consider the following nine evaluation principles in order to attain success in their peacemaking mission. In order to realize actual and absolute peace, peacemaking has to consider dignity, freedom, security and justice. Peace-building underpins the work of peacemaking and peacekeeping by addressing structural issues and the long-term relationships between conflictants. It can be suggested that peacemaking aims to change the attitudes of the main protagonists, peacekeeping lowers the level of destructive behaviour, and peace building tries to overcome the contradictions which lie at the root of the conflict (Galtung, 1996).

The Ogoni Dilemma and State Response

Undoubtedly, the history of oil operations in the Niger Delta is one characterized by continued dispute among the people and the oil industry, on the one hand, and strong discord between the people and the government, on the other. This led to a morbid atmosphere of animosity, buck-passing, and distrust over the years. The situation was further fueled by a military dictatorship ruling at the time. Amidst the continued “despoliation” of Ogoni’s natural resources, anthropological environmental degradation, persistent poverty due to deprivation of livelihood means, and utter disregard for culture and tribal language, the Ogonis presented the “Ogoni Bill of Rights” (OBR) to the government and people of Nigeria in 1990. The same bill was concomitantly presented as an appeal to the International community through MOSOP mainly demanded political autonomy of the Ogoni people as a recognizably separate division to partake in the dealings of its “Republic”, assuring direction, and exercising restraint politically over the affairs of the Ogonis. It was also suggested that this autonomy would authorize the use of a significant portion of Ogoni economic resources for the development of Ogoniland, acceptable delegation in national institutions in terms of rights, and of utmost importance, the prerogative to preserve the ecology and environment from additional destruction. This was presented against the backdrop of the huge economic benefits (30 billion USD, at the time) that the Nigerian state has gained from Ogoniland, yet the people gained nothing, lacking basic amenities including pipe-borne water, electricity, job opportunities, federal government projects, and representation in federal government institutions.

Whilst the Ogoni(s) dilemma remains dominant particularly in the international context, questions of human rights, the environment and role of Transnational Corporations (TNCs) are not circumscribed to the Ogoni(s). Neighbouring communities here mentioned share in the same dilemma. In a wider context, the Ogoni(s) resistance is encased in the broader minority question in Nigeria. The Ogoni people have been
victims of human rights violations for many years. Exclusion or the lack of equitable distribution of political and economic resources is central to claims of Ogoni minority in Nigeria. Nevertheless, description of minorities in the Nigerian context is problematic; they are defined strictly in numerical and ethnic terms; social, religious, linguistic or even geographical perceptions of the term are lacking. For instance, ethnic groups like the Hausa, who numerically fall without the accustomed Nigerian perception of minorities, may indeed become minorities in a geographical location in which they are outnumbered (Oche, 2017). Also peculiar but not limited to Nigeria, is the “minority” within “minority” situation. The Ogoni(s) readily becomes a reference point in this sense, especially in comparison with the Ijaw, Itsekiri and Urhobo, themselves minorities but of numerical superiority.

The Ogoni(s) resistance among other things typifies the broader struggle by ethnic minorities in Nigeria. Much is known about the paradoxical situation in which they find themselves. Amidst plenty yet denied basic human rights to life, food, water, shelter, health as a result of devastation suffered by oil exploration by Trans-national Corporation (TNC) Shell in collaboration with the Nigerian Government. Beneath these rests a legitimate claim for self – determination, though not in its hegemonic state – centred perception but in its embryonic internal manifestation. Even then the boundaries of internal self – determination under international law remain unclear and in this context unhelpful. Domestically, the failed attempts in the resource control law suit and political reform conference of 2005, both bringing to the fore the questions of greater autonomy and control over resources are indicative of the inadequacies of internal constitutional and other mechanisms to this end. (Oche, 2017).

In recent times, though starting with the unfortunate hanging of Ken Saro Wiwa in 1995, violence has remained the dominant means of agitation. A plethora of armed groups, such as the Niger Delta Peoples Volunteer Force (NDPVF) and Movement for the Emancipation of the Niger Delta (MEND) have emerged, resorting to the use of terrorists tactics in expressing their dissatisfaction with the state of affairs in the region. On the other hand, the Nigerian Government itself has on several occasions resorted to militarization leaving thousands of women and children to bear the brunt. With these turn of events, the Niger Delta region was embroiled in crises and insecurity and this effected socio-economic and political activities.

For the Ogoni(s), the wrangling leading to Saro Wiwa’s death and resultant factions within the Movement of the Survival for the Ogoni People (MOSOP), dealt a strong blow to the credibility of the Ogoni(s) cause in the perception of Nigerians. However, with an apparent end of hostilities through Nigeria’s Government’s “Ogoni reconciliatory initiative”, peace seems to have prevailed within and between the Ogoni(s), Government and Shell. In terms of the debilitating conditions in Ogoniland, it is expedient that an attentive effort on the part of the Nigerian Government to uplift the Ogoni(s) from the doldrums of poverty, unemployment, lack of electricity and education, with considerable investments to this end electricity and education, with considerable. Nonetheless, a lot still remains to be done, for instance, water is still lacking. Whilst much of the blame rightly rests on Shell and the Nigerian Government especially in its role as vanguard of human rights, it equally suggests that the component federal units in the State and Local Governments Councils made up of local indigenous politicians are equally complicit. Ogoniland and indeed most of the Niger Delta is not an exception to the seeming lack of prudent management of allocated resources that plague most of the countries today. This perception, in our opinion is responsible for the failed attempts at various political fora to properly address the question of “resource control”. Despite the huge revenue accrued to the various tiers of Government, the State had failed to take the necessary steps to ensure delivery of essential socio – economic services in line with its core international human rights obligations.

However, violence unfortunately remains the primary means of expression in the Niger Delta, which only suggests the absence of concrete legal, constitutional or other mechanisms of protest. At present, although a relatively feeble truce appears to be in place with the creation of the socio – economic development council, a well thought out demobilization strategy must also exist alongside it to disarm the hundreds of ‘insurgents’ in the Niger Delta. Only then can any real benefits accrue from any efforts. The ensuing years of Shell’s eviction from Ogoniland was marked with various unfruitful negotiations and protests, no proffered solution seemed to work, either to favor or meet the prospects and demands of any of the parties involved (Olsgard, and Gray, 1995). Consequently, the people persistently agitate and engage the State/oil multinationals for
the implementation of the UNEP report and provide an all-inclusive structure that will enhance economic participation and development of the rural people.

**UNEP REPORT AND GOVERNMENT INTERVENTION**

In 1956, four years before Nigerian Independence, Royal Dutch/Shell, in collaboration with the British government, found a commercially viable oil field on the Niger Delta and began oil production in 1958. In a 15-year period from 1976 to 1991 there were reportedly 2,976 oil spills of about 2.1 million barrels of oil in Ogoniland, accounting for about 40% of the total oil spills of the Royal Dutch/Shell Company worldwide (Crayford, 1996). The Ogoni people mobilized campaign both locally and internationally to draw attention to the degradation of their land by oil multinationals. Sequel to this, the United Nations Environmental Programme (UNEP) intervened at the request of the Nigerian State and conducted an environmental study on oil impacted sites in Ogoniland.

Following its initial investigations, UNEP identified 69 sites for detailed soil and groundwater investigations. In addition, samples of community drinking water, sediments from creeks, surface water, rainwater, fish and air were collected throughout Ogoniland and in several neighbouring areas. Altogether more than 4,000 samples were analyzed, including water drawn from 142 groundwater monitoring wells drilled specifically for the study, and soil extracted from 780 boreholes. The UNEP project team also examined more than 5,000 medical records and staged 264 formal community meetings in Ogoniland attended by over 23,000 people (UNEP Report on Ogoniland).

A two year study was conducted in Ogoniland and its report was published by the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), it was revealed that impacts of the 50 years of oil production in the region extended deeper than previously thought. Because of oil spills, oil flaring, and waste discharge, the alluvial soil of the Niger Delta is no longer viable for agriculture. Furthermore, in many areas that seemed to be unaffected, groundwater was found to have high levels of hydrocarbons or were contaminated with benzene, a carcinogen, at 900 levels above WHO guidelines (UNEP Report on Ogoniland).

UNEP estimated that it could take up to 30 years to rehabilitate Ogoniland to its full potential and that the first five years of rehabilitation would require funding of about US$1 billion. After the submission of the UNEP report on Ogoniland, the then Nigerian Minister of Petroleum Resources, Deizani Alison-Madueke, announced the establishment of the Hydrocarbon Pollution Restoration Project in 2012, which intends to follow-up the UNEP report suggestions on Ogoniland to prevent further degradation (Edino, 2016). To many Nigerians, such plan to embark on the cleanup of Ogoniland was a global consensus, though processes and activities were local, regional and international in approach. However, the federal government was in the forefront by inviting United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) and to mobilize the local populace to buy into the study process of the cleaning exercise of the Niger Delta region. To this end, President Muhammadu Buhari made a firm commitment and launched the clean-up scheme on 2nd June 2016 and reaffirmed his promise thus:

*"When I came into office on May 29, 2015, one of the first tasks I carried out was to authorize the implementation of the recommendations of the United Nations Environmental Programme for the clean-up of Ogoni land."* (Cornelius, 2016).

The UNEP report shows that there are at least 10 Ogoni communities where drinking water is contaminated with high levels of hydrocarbons. That is not all; public health is also seriously threatened, according to UNEP assessment. Scientists found 8cm (three inch) layer of refined oil floating on the groundwater that serves their wells in the areas. In one of the communities, Nisisioken Ogale, in Eleme Local government area of Ogoni kingdom, people are drinking water from well tainted with benzene, known as carcinogen, 900 times above World Health Organization guidelines. Against this background, the UNEP recommends that the contamination warrants emergency action ahead of all other remediation efforts.
Speaking at the flag-off of the cleaning exercise, President Muhammadu Buhari said that the official take off of the implementation of the United Nations Environment Programme, UNEP report on Ogoniland was a key evidence that Ken Saro-Wiwa and others who fought hard for environmental justice did not die in vain. Vice President Yemi Osinbajo who stood in for Buhari, expressed concerned about the widespread environmental devastation of the Niger Delta region.

"The beginning of this clean-up exercise is key evidence to restore economic, wealth, health of the people. Let this day mark the beginning of the restoration, not just of the Ogoniland, but of peace and prosperity to Ogoni people and that of the Niger Delta region".

"We are determined to put right the wrongs of the past, where the people of this land were treated unfairly and their environment unduly degraded. Today, we are in Ogoniland, at the heart of Niger Delta to fulfill our promise to you and to bring justice and succour to our people"

"A lot is taken from Ogoniland and, relatively, a little is brought back in return. I assure you that an APC-led Federal Government will fulfill all its promises in Ogoniland."

Osinbajo maintains that:

"the cleanup of this land will require change on the path of those who deal with the environment particularly the oil companies and our communities. The administration is laying a solid foundation for the restoration of the fragile ecosystem of Ogoniland and the rest of the Niger Delta."

Also speaking, the then Minister of Environment, Amina Mohammed said the take-off of the scheme marked a new dawn for the people of Ogoni and the entire region. The event of today is a collective responsibility and Supreme Council of Ogoni Kingdom should see it as a battle fought and won, though it took several decades to achieve the cleanup project. Equally, the Rivers State Governor, Nyesom Wike regretted that the Ogoniland and other communities have experienced environmental degradation, damage ever experienced by mankind in this part of the world. "They have lived all along with them until now when justice was done."

According to Wike, only environmental justice will sustain the economic growth of the people through international partners and this should be through advocacies to ensure a just and clean Ogoni and Niger Delta. In similar vein the Managing Director of Shell Petroleum Development Company, Osagie Okunbor, in his goodwill message, gave assurance that other joint partners would support the clean-up project by contributing their counterpart fund for the implementation of the UNEP report. The UNEP Executive Director, Achim Steiner maintained that UN was committed to the struggle of the Ogoni people and would ensure that what was promised at the launch of the project was actualized, including the implementation of the report (Cornelius, 2016).

Although, some institutional structures have been set in place after the official declaration of the commencement of the clean-up exercise, actual remediation of impacted sites and interventionist measures to prevent the effect of the environmental pollution on the people is yet to fully commence. This has given concern to the people on the sincerity of the State towards addressing this perennial problem.

THE UNEP REPORT AS A PANACEA FOR CONFLICT RESOLUTION MODEL IN THE NIGER DELTA

The United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) released its Environmental Assessment of Ogoniland in August, 2011. The report, delivered to the Federal Government, recommends to the government, the oil and gas industry, and communities to begin a comprehensive clean-up of Ogoniland, restore polluted
environments and put an end to all forms of oil contamination in the region. The flag-off ceremony of cleanup of Ogoniland has reawakened the hope of the people of the community that their environment could be liveable again. The Ogoni people adopted a peaceful approach that has now paid off. Ogoni project remains an experiment that would create a model or calls it a template for oil exploration related conflict resolution in Nigeria.

A damning report, released by Friends of Earth Europe, Amnesty International, Environmental Rights Action, Platform and the Centre for Environment, Human Rights and Development (CEHRD), exposes a shocking lack of action by Shell and the Nigerian Government to clean up the widespread pollution in Ogoniland, despite recommendations made by a major UN study group saddled with the responsibility of environmental regulation (Godwin, 2014). The clean-up is expected to last 30 years and an initial $1 billion was required for the project. However, no verifiable effort was made in that line until 2015 when President Muhammadu Buhari promised to start the implementation of the UNEP report. It took exactly five years after the report was submitted to the Federal Government before acceptance of responsibility by Shell Oil Company and the Federal Government. With pressure from civil society groups, the clean-up exercise proper was flagged-off in 2016 in Bodo City, Rivers State, by Vice President Yemi Osinbajo.

The expectation that greeted that ceremony, which had the Ogoni people and hundreds of civil society groups in support, has however dimmed barely two years after, as the promised clean-up exercise is still bogged down in bureaucracy and controversies. The plan for the clean-up is still shrouded in secrecy and has not been formally subjected to public scrutiny. The execution of the Governing Council to provide for an institutional framework to drive the process, no verifiable progress has been made as, according to the organization, “not a drop of oil has been cleaned from Ogoni (Nicholas, 2017). While these go on, the environment and people of Ogoni are at the receiving end. They suffer impoverishment and misery. The pre-clean-up emergency relief measures recommended by UNEP such as access to clean water, rather than the benzene-polluted water sources they rely on, has not been addressed. Similarly, healthcare delivery and compensation for lost livelihoods continue to suffer neglect and inaction. Poverty is rife in Ogoni and the life expectancy of the people (reportedly put at 41 years) now considered the shortest in Nigeria.”

According to ERA as the clean-up remains in limbo, damning disclosures of willful exposure of oil-producing communities to hazards continue to mount against Shell, which continues to operate with impunity in the Niger Delta. In view of the foregoing, the Federal Government and relevant agencies are mandated to, among others:

- Draw up and publish firm timelines through a participatory and transparent process, and publicize the step-by-step of the planned implementation of the clean-up process in conjunction with all interested parties.
- Abrogate or amend the HYPREP (Hydrocarbon Pollution Remediation Project) gazette to provide the legal backing to the clean-up process. To this end, (they should) establish the Ogoni Environmental Restoration Authority as a means of empowering the Ogoni as recommended by the UNEP report.
- Commence emergency relief measures and ensure the clean-up process is comprehensive, including environmental remediation such as biodiversity restoration, and compensation for loss of livelihoods.
- Set up a new structure called Technical Partners Unit headed by UNEP and other interested institutions with expertise in complex multi-disciplinary clean-up process.
- Empower NOSRA (National Oil Spill Environmental Agency) that currently lacks the capacity to detect spills, to be able to conduct proper clean-up process, or monitor clean-up independently through the joint investigation visits currently dominated by the oil companies.
- While the UNEP report had recommended a $1 billion initial restoration fund for Ogoni, ERA/FoEN recommends $100 billion clean-up and restoration fund to cover the entire Niger Delta. This will pave way for conflict resolution in the Niger Delta (Mashe, 2017).
CONSEQUENCES OF NON IMPLEMENTATION OF UNEP REPORT

The UNEP report recommended that the federal government and Shell take steps to remediate and restore the environment, in addition to the payment of compensation to the people of the affected communities for years of destruction of their environment. But, following the failure by government to implement the recommendations of a review committee, the Ogoni had threatened serious consequences against both Shell and government. There have been series of protest from the communities in Ogoniland, the recent protest was where the protesters blocked access to major oil facilities in Ogoniland. Hundreds of indigenes of communities in Ogoniland made good their threat to disrupt operations of oil companies in Rivers State as they blocked all routes leading to major oil facilities in the area. Celestine Akpobari a member of Social Action group who is also an environmental rights activist disclosed that the people decided to embark on the blockade of oil facilities in the area on following the expiration of a 90 days deadline. Mr. Akpobari said though the action was in its first day, all roads leading in and out of major oil facilities in the area, including refineries and petrochemical plants were effectively blocked and their operations shutdown (Nicholas, 2017).

The Ogoni case had attracted international outrage following the indictment of foreign multinational oil companies operating in the area, particularly, Shell Petroleum Development Company, SPDC, Nigeria’s largest producer, over environmental devastation of the communities in over five decades of oil operations in the country (Nicholas, 2017). The systemic failure of the Nigerian government and oil giant Shell to clean up the horrendous oil pollution in the Niger Delta has been branded “shameful” by a group of Nigerian and international organizations. The Ogoni issue seems to be a model for the peaceful resolution the conflictual social relations of production in Niger Delta and other impacted oil sites in Nigeria. With the seeming display of lack of political will to implement the recommendations of this report, other oil bearing communities in the Niger Delta will develop stiff resistance to oil exploration activities due to the approach adopted towards the Ogoni case and will feel a replication towards their community. Since the beginning of the crisis in Ogoniland with the State and oil multinational, which led to the eventual execution of Ken Saro Wiwa and other martyrs, oil production and exploration activities were shutdown. However, several efforts have been put in place to resume oil exploration and production in Ogoniland but were continually resisted by the people. The Ogoni people have been faced with the challenge of hopelessness regarding the treatment melted on them since the discovery of oil in their land. However, their hope was seemingly restored with the conclusion of UNEP study in Ogoniland but later dashed when a government headed by a Niger Deltan could not kick-start its implementation therefore subjected the people to resort to divine intervention. The full implementation of the UNEP report could restore hope and confidence for the resumption of oil production and exploration in the area. This is possible because the implementation of the report will create a new vista of relationship and economic relations which is capable of stimulating economic growth and infrastructural development of Ogoniland. This will change the perception of the people and create an enabling environment and enduring robust partnership in the oil industry.

Conclusion: The crisis that ensued between the Ogoni people and the Nigerian State/Shell arising from the economic disequilibrium and environmental damages has caused colossal damages to both the Ogoni people, Shell /Nigerian State. According to Achim, (2011) the history of oil exploration and production in Ogoniland is a long, complex and often painful one that to date has become seemingly intractable in terms of its resolution and future direction. It is also a history that has put people and politics and the oil industry at loggerheads rendering a landscape characterized by a lack of trust, paralysis and blame, set against a worsening situation for the communities concerned. The reality is that decades of negotiations, initiatives and protests have ultimately failed to deliver a solution that meets the expectations and responsibilities of all sides. The UNEP report seemingly brought some relief and hope for the restoration of the crisis and the degraded environment. Therefore the politicization of the implementation of the UNEP report is tantamount to the extermination of the Ogoni nation. So it is expedient for the State to resolve all bureaucratic bottle-
neck that is impeding its implementation to pave way for the full clean-up of contaminating sites else no resumption of oil exploration and production would take place in the area.

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