

What's Wrong With Shell Oil?



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You can be sure of Shell to have only one interest - money - making profits from whoever and whatever they can. They pollute the environment, collude with repressive regimes, exploit people, censor their critics and spout propaganda to ensure maximum profits. By avoiding Shell, you avoid supporting their activities, and the activities of those they fund.

REMEMBER BRENT SPAR?

Shell had the government's permission to dump an massive oil storage platform at sea. If protests and consumer boycotts hadn't forced them to drop the idea, other oil companies would now be free to do the same with hundreds of other similar oil installations soon to be decommissioned. The success of the campaign demonstrates the influence that ordinary people can have.

DAMAGING THE ENVIRONMENT

Although guilty environmental damage throughout the world, Shell Oil is infamous for it's exploitation of Nigerian oil reserves; laying pipelines through villages, creating frequent oil spills, destroying once fertile land, polluting rivers, and increasing respiratory diseases. The Ogoni people of the oil rich Niger delta organised themselves in peaceful protest and successfully forced Shell to virtually abandon Ogoni in 1993.

ROBBING THE POOR

Shell makes over \$300 million a year from Nigeria and is about to begin work on a \$4 billion natural gas joint venture with the military regime. While these huge oil deals benefit the corrupt Nigerian dictators, the people of Ogoni remain among the poorest in Africa, lacking running water, electricity, or adequate schools and healthcare. The people have endured 25 years of military rule. Oil provides 90% of Nigeria's foreign income, and 80% of its military revenue. About half of this comes from Shell.

MURDER AND TORTURE

In May 1994, after a secret meeting with Shell, the Nigerian Head of Internal Security called for "ruthless military operations". The results? Dozens of villages destroyed, thousands of people made homeless and hundreds massacred. Shell even admitted that it had supplied guns for the 'security operations'. In an attempt to end the growing international protests, nine key campaigners were arrested. Shell offered to help secure their release only if they called off the global campaign. On the 10th November 1995, despite international condemnation, the campaigners were hung. The brutal oppression continues, and nineteen other campaigners are being detained in appalling conditions and face execution.

EXPLOITING WORKERS

Shell also played a leading role in the de-recognition of oil workers unions. Even after the Piper Alpha oil rig disaster, demands for improved safety rights, were refused and non-union labour employed.

BOYCOTT SHELL

An embargo of Nigerian exports and a boycott of Shell Oil may help to end the environmental and human rights abuses in Nigeria. Tell Shell what you think about their disregard for the environment and tolerance of injustice - and demand that they compensate the Ogoni people.
Freepost: Shell Centre, London SE1 7YY
Freephone: 0800 414414

For further information about Shell and Nigeria, contact: the MOVEMENT for the Survival of the Ogoni People: (tel. 0181 563 8614) Suit 5, 3-4 Albion Place, Galena Rd, Hammersmith, London W6 0LT or the Peoples Embargo for DEMOCRACY in Nigeria: (tel: 0171 924 9033) PO Box 256, London SE11 5TH or Delta: (tel. 0116 255 3223) Box Z, 13 Biddulph Street, Leicester LE2 1BH

BUT ITS NOT JUST SHELL

What's wrong with Shell is also wrong with other companies; causing massive environmental devastation and abuse of human rights in their quest for greater profits. British Petroleum, Texaco, Total, Mobil, ELF, and Esso are among the other companies with interests in Nigeria and other oppressive regimes.

Total and Texaco, operate in Burma where the military dictators are using slave labour to clear rainforest for oil companies. BP has invaded aboriginal land in Australia and has recently been accused of environmental vandalism and collusion with security forces in Columbia. Texaco devastated areas of ecologically sensitive Amazonian rainforest and forced indigenous peoples from their homes.

FUELLING THE CAR CRISIS

Whilst train and bus travel decline - car sales continue to rise resulting in more roads, increasing pollution, and deaths. Motor vehicles burn half of world's fossil fuels and account for more air pollution than any other human activity. In Britain: one in seven children now suffer from Asthma, 130 people are seriously injured, and ten killed by motor vehicles every day. We don't have to be dependent on cars and fossil fuel. Most car journeys are of only a few miles and can be made using alternative methods. You could try to keep your car for essential journeys only, share car journeys with others, use public transport or sustainable alternatives such as cycling, or walking.



WHAT YOU CAN DO - Together we can fight back against the institutions and the people in power who dominate our lives and our planet, and we can create a better society without exploitation. Workers can and do organise together to fight for their rights and dignity. People are increasingly aware of the need to think seriously about our dependence on fossil fuels and cars. People in poor countries are organising themselves to stand up to multinationals and banks which dominate the world's economy. Environmental and human rights protests and campaigns are growing everywhere. Why not join the struggle for a better world. Talk to friends and family, neighbours and workmates about these issues. Please copy and circulate this leaflet as widely as you can.

*People and nature,
not
profits and cars!*



*Respect and condolences to the families and friends of;
Dr Barinen Kiobel, John Kpuinen, Baribor Bera, Saturday Dobe, Felix Nuate, Nordu Eawoh, Paul Levurah, Daniel Gbokoo and Ken Saro-Wiwa - murdered by Shell's silence -we will not forget!*

This leaflet has been created by independent activists, to mark the anniversary of the deaths of Ken Saro-Wiwa and the other eight Ogoni campaigners murdered by Shell's silence. The information comes from various sources including: GreenPeace, Amnesty International, Sierra Club, newspapers and the McSpotlight Internet site (<http://www.mcspotlight.org>)

We believe all people have the right to a healthy environment, the right of free speech, the right to assemble and to organise themselves without oppression from authority. We are opposed to all forms of militarism and imperialism. We reject the concept of state borders and believe people should be free to travel unhindered. We believe war and oppression can only ever come to an end when people take control of their own lives and reject notions of nationality, property and 'leaders'. In the mean time, we demand the release of all political prisoners, an end to the arms trade and compensation to Ogoni people for the devastation of their environment, their homes, and for the murder of their friends and families. We urge people to organise for a better world where resources are shared, and people, animals and the environment are not exploited.

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