



Niger Delta Dialogue

CONTACT GROUP MEETING REPORTS



Academic Associates PeaceWorks

Niger Delta Dialogue

Contact Group Meetings

**Warri July 13th - 14th, 2016
Port Harcourt 19th - 20th, 2016**



**ACADEMIC ASSOCIATES PEACEWORKS
WITH SUPPORT FROM**

EUROPEAN UNION



European Union



Academic Associates PeaceWorks

PART A

Niger Delta Dialogue

**Contact Group Meeting
Held**

**13th and 14th July, 2016
Best Western Hotel, Udu, Warri,
Delta State.**

PROGRAMME OF EVENTS FOR JULY 13TH - 14TH

Programme for Day 1	Programme for Day 2
Opening Prayer	Opening Prayer
Introduction	Recap from Previous Day
Opening Remarks	Key Outcomes
Goodwill Comments	Discussion
Report and Feedback	Development of Work Plan
Developments around the region	Presentations
Working Agenda and Programme	Closing

INTRODUCTION



One of the resolutions drawn out from the Uyo meeting of the Niger Delta Dialogue held on June 10, 2016 was that the dialogue should continue by setting up a contact committee to mediate between the Niger Delta agitators, communities and the federal government of Nigeria with the involvement of the International community. The Niger Delta Dialogue Contact Group was set up, taking some participants from the Uyo meeting, along with some new members to include previously unrepresented constituencies. A two-day meeting was held on 13th and 14th of July 2016 at Best Western Wetland Hotel, Warri to draw up the agenda and discuss the strategy and operation of the group.

In addition to the Contact Group members, international observers were present from the EU, British High Commission, American Embassy and Dutch Embassy.



OPENING AND GOODWILL MESSAGES



Chairman – HRM King Alfred Diete Spiff

HRM King Alfred Diete Spiff informed the gathering that the meeting is a follow up from the last one held in Uyo on 10th June 2016. He said the essence of the two-day meeting is to give details of what has been done since the last meeting and to formally inaugurate the Niger Delta Dialogue Contact Group to interface between the ND communities/agitators and the federal government as suggested in the last meeting. He informed the group that the communiqué generated from the last meeting held in Uyo has been published in one of Nigeria's national dailies while the comprehensive report of the meeting was circulated to all participants and also handed over to the

Presidency. He observed that the various actions of the youths in the Niger Delta region is 'a clear handwriting on the wall that if nothing is done and the youths are not engaged, the effect may be too disastrous for Nigeria as a country'. He therefore emphasized that there is a need to intervene by bringing government and aggrieved persons to dialogue. He implored the Contact Group to act and give it their best.

The Chairman Rivers State Council of Traditional Rulers, **HRM King Dandeson Jaja of Opobo**; the Chairman Akwa-Ibom State Council of traditional Rulers, **HRM Owong (Dr.) Effiong Bassey Achianga JP**;

and the Orodje of Okpe Kingdom Delta State **HRM King Major Gen. Felix Mujakperuo** (Rtd.) corroborated the Chairman's speech and urged the people of Niger Delta to work towards peace in the region.

Chief Dr. Judith Burdin Asuni

The Executive Director of Academic Associates PeaceWorks acknowledged the accessibility of the royal fathers especially that of the Chairman - HRM King Alfred Diete Spiff - who has used his personality and goodwill to facilitate the meeting with the President of Nigeria. She explained that this meeting is a follow-up and a fulfillment of one of the items under immediate actions recommended during the Uyo meeting that the dialogue should continue by setting up a committee to mediate between the Niger Delta agitators, communities and the Federal Government with the involvement of international community as observers.

She said the members of the Niger Delta Dialogue Contact Group were individually picked, taking into consideration several factors such as variety of ages, constituency represented, etc. She also stated that the report emanating from the Uyo meeting has been delivered to every participant and also to the presidency in Abuja. She explained that during the meeting of the three-man team with the President of Nigeria, the President promised that a government representative would be nominated to work with the Contact Group. She acknowledged the challenge of funding for the Group and expressed hope that the international community and government will continue to support the Contact Group with funding. She concluded by saying that subsequent meetings of the Group will be announced and communicated earlier for members to prepare early to attend.



ISSUES REQUIRING IMMEDIATE ATTENTION

1. Nigeria Maritime University
2. Invasion of the Gbaramatu
3. Body language of the federal government
4. Surveillance contracts
5. Outstanding debts on surveillance contracts
6. Ceasefire
7. Awareness of responsibility of Niger Delta Itself
8. Amnesty Programme Issues
9. Engaging governors of Niger Delta State
10. Managing the key players in the Conflict
11. Funding

NEXT/SHORT TERM ISSUES

These are issues that can be attended to in the long run to promote sustainable settlement of the Niger Delta crisis.

1. Oil Blocs
2. Local Content/Community Content
3. Fiscal Federalism
4. Confab Report

OVERARCHING ISSUES

These are the issues that affect the whole of Niger Delta people. These issues as discussed in the meeting are:

1. Petroleum Industry Bill (PIB).
2. Funding of the interventionist agencies.
3. Infrastructural Development of the Niger Delta region
4. Transparency and Accountability on the part of ND states
5. Headquarters of International Oil Companies
6. IDP crisis in Bakassi



Group A

- a) HRM King Alfred Dieta Spiff
- b) HRM Owong of Akwa-Ibom
- c) HRM Dandeson Jaja of Opobo
- d) HRM Drodje of Okpe
- e) Chief Iduh Amadhe
- f) Pastor Power Aginlghan
- g) Felix Tuodolo
- h) Morris Idiorwha
- i) Senator Helen Ewuene

Group B

- a) TK Ogoriba
- b) Ani Esin
- c) Ben Donyegha
- d) Morris Idiorwha
- e) Dan Ekpebide
- f) Annklo Briggs
- g) Chief Godspower Gbenekama
- h) Chief Anabs Sara Igbe



BODY LANGUAGE OF THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT

The people of the Niger Delta perceive the body language of the federal government to be anti-Niger Delta. Clues of negative body language of the Federal Government towards the Niger Delta region were taken from actions of federal government such as the termination of the Nigerian Maritime University Okerenkoko, skewed federal appointments, to mention a few. This feeling has reduced the confidence the people have in the government. The federal government should show goodwill to the people to correct the negative

impression. The followings were recommended:

- a) Mr. President should pay courtesy visit to Niger Delta.
- b) Government officials, especially federal government political appointees, should avoid making inflammatory statements.
- c) Government should avoid making contradictory statements.
- d) Government should follow official statements with immediate action
- e) Government appointments at the federal level should be inclusive.

NIGERIAN MARITIME UNIVERSITY

One of the issues raised for discussion by the group was the Nigerian Maritime University in Okerenkoko. A short presentation was made on the University by Pastor P.Z Aginighan to enable the Contact Group to fully understand its significance to the entire Niger Delta region and the extent of infrastructural development of the University before it was closed down. It was disclosed that the idea of the Maritime University located in Okerenkoko was mooted by President Olusegun Obasanjo but implemented by President Jonathan. It was also disclosed that principal officers - Vice Chancellor and Registrar of the University - were appointed by the Jonathan administration as approved by Ministry of Education since the University did not yet have a constituted board. Allowing the University to continue will bring immense benefit to the Niger Delta communities and the Nigerian state. This includes manpower development, increased economic activities in the riverine communities, and increased development in the area such as link roads;

establish Federal presence in the creeks of the Niger Delta. The closure of the university was identified as a key issue that brewed the renewed armed insurgency in the Niger Delta and it was recommended that the federal government must take urgent action towards re-opening the University to immediately de-escalate tension. The following were recommended to the federal government:

- a) The federal government should consider making a U-turn on its decision to close the Nigeria Maritime University in Okerenkoko as soon as possible.
- b) Federal government should also announce the take-off date of the University.
- c) The re-opening of the University should be backed-up with an Act of Parliament like other Universities in Nigeria.
- d) The training of the Amnesty Programme beneficiaries should be integrated into the University.
- e) Visual presentation should be made to Mr. President on the extent of infrastructural development of the University before its closure.

INVASION OF GBARAMATU KINGDOM

Soldiers deployed to Gbaramatu kingdom to apprehend members of Niger Delta Avengers (NDA) used brute force on civilians such that it resulted in refugee crisis in the kingdom. Furthermore, people of the kingdom bitterly complained of arbitrary arrest of youths, desecration of religious and traditional places and loss of religious objects. It is recommended that government should:

a) Demilitarise Gbaramatu kingdom.

b) Send relief materials to the displaced persons.

c) Reduce pressure on Tompolo

d) Government should investigate allegation of theft of religious and traditional objects such as the Golden sword of Egbesu delty, royal boats of the King of Gbaramatu Kingdom, etc. by the soldiers and ensure that these items are returned to the people.

CEASEFIRE

The ceasefire declared by the federal government should continue and should also be reciprocated by the aggrieved youths/agitators by desisting from continuous attacks on oil infrastructure. The soldiers should be committed to the ceasefire declared by the federal government and refrain from harassment of the citizens.

FISCAL FEDERALISM

The group reiterated that it is extremely expedient that federal practice in Nigeria be restructured such that states are allowed to control resources in their domain and pay royalty and tax to the federal government. It is only under this arrangement that sustainable peace and development can be attained in Nigeria and the Niger Delta region specifically.



Representatives of Gbaramatu Kingdom



PeaceWorks Team with King Diote Spliff

NIGER DELTA DIALOGUE CONTACT GROUP (NDDCG) ACTION PLAN JULY 14, 2016

S/N	ITEMS	What Action	When	Expected Outcomes
1	Nigerian Maritime University	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reinstatement of the University and announcement of take-off date of academic activities. • The establishment of the University should be supported with an Act of Parliament like other Universities in Nigeria. • The trainees of the Amnesty should be integrated into the University • The president should be informed of the level of infrastructural development of the University with visual evidence. 	As early as possible	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • People of the Niger Delta will have more confidence in the federal government and this will help build peace. • The project will bring more of federal presence to the creeks of Niger Delta region especially Gbaramatu kingdom. • It will boost the economy of the local communities around the University.
2	Body language of Fed Govt (plus State Govts)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Advice government against making inflammatory and contradictory statements. • The President should initiate a move to visit the Niger Delta region. • Government should match their words with actions. • Engagement with Presidency, National Assembly and State Governments. • Presentation to the Governors Forum. • Government appointments at the federal level should be inclusive. • Disconnect between Government and the communities. 	As early as possible	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Confidence is built on government. • Niger Deltans are appointed into key federal positions.
3	Deal with the Gbaramatu Issues	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reinstate the Nigerian Maritime University 	As early as possible	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Deployment of relief material and eventual
4	Surveillance Contracts	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Award contracts to the indigenes of the Host Communities. • All outstanding debts owed to former surveillance contractors and other contractors by government and intervention agencies should be paid. 		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Niger Delta youths are engaged.
5	Cease Fire	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Both the federal government and the agitators should embrace ceasefire. - Before we can achieve cease fire from the freedom fighters, we need to see some action from the FG. • Government should desist from harassing ordinary citizens. 		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Truce is achieved.
6	Responsibility of the Niger Delta Region	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Acknowledgment of huge criminality in the Niger Delta region and separation of criminality from the actual struggle. • Denounce cultism, sea piracy and oil theft immediately. • The law should take it full course on the criminals. • There is a need for disarmament. 		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Attitude of responsibility becomes a norm in the Niger Delta.
7	Amnesty Issues	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Only the DDR aspect of the Amnesty Programme has been implemented by the government. Other sides of the programme such as divestment, remediation programme and infrastructural development neglected. • More allocation should be allotted to the Amnesty Office to be able to function appropriately. • The Amnesty Programme should be broadened to a more inclusive 		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Human capital development of Niger Delta youths is attained. • Proper exit strategy is developed.

NIGER DELTA DIALOGUE CONTACT GROUP MEETING REPORTS

8	Operational Headquarters of oil companies	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Presidency should be followed up to ensure that they act upon ensuring that oil companies have operational headquarters in the Niger Delta. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> More income is generated for Niger Delta states. Oil companies are more committed to their CSR
9	Engagement of State government and the issues of transparency and accountability to the communities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Niger Delta governors should be visited by a delegation of the Niger Delta Dialogue Contact Group. All the Niger Delta States should create intervention agencies. Niger Delta State governments should be connected and committed to their people through responsibility, transparency and accountability. 13% derivation should go to the people at the community directly. Niger Delta State governors should adopt the 23 point agenda on Financial Sustainability plan as a working instrument for building transparency and accountability in the region. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Good governance is promoted.
10	Role of International Partners	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Encourage government to dialogue Encourage government to engage the Niger Delta Dialogue Contact Group in dialogue. Help bring in experts. Link the Contact Group up with other available funding opportunities. Encourage government to adopt, imbibe and obey international treaties and policies. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Contact group is given recognition and enabled.
11	Funding	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> State governments of the Niger Delta state should be approached for funding. Federal government agencies such as NDDC, Amnesty Office, Ministry of Niger Delta, etc should also be approached for funding 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Contact Group is able to function and implement its action plan.



PART B

Niger Delta Dialogue

Contact Group Meetings

Held

19th and 20th September, 2016

Elkan Terrace Hotel, Port Harcourt

Day 2**Table II: Adopted Agenda for Day-Two of the Third Working Meeting of NDDCG**

S/N	Programme of Event	Anchor Person
1	Welcome Address	His Majesty King Alfred Diete-Spiff
2	Introduction to the NDDCG	Chief Dr Judith Burdin Asuni
3	Progress Report on the Action Plan <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Group A • Group B 	Amb. Nkoyo Toyo
4	Comment/Question on NDDCG	Amb. Igali
5	Report by Pa EK Clark-led Group	-
6	Comments/Question on EK Clark Group	
7	Comments by Government Officials	
8	Comments by International Partners	
9	Analysis of Collective Effort to date	Chief Dr Judith Asuni
10	Analysis of Emerging Issues	Amb. Nkoyo Toyo
11	Analysis of Upland Attacks in Delta State	Hon. Morris Idiovwa, Chief Iduh and Uche Ifukor
12	Ogoni Update	Legborsi Saro Pyagbara
13	Cross River/Akwa-Ibom Militancy	Chief Ani Esin, Michael Ekpo and resource persons from Bakassi
14	Bakassi IDPs	Chief Ani Esin
15	Next Steps	Amb. Nkoyo Toyo



PROGRESS REPORT ON THE JULY ACTION PLAN

Ambassador Nkoyo Toyo reviewed the action plan of the Group with a view to updating the PNDG that was joining the Contact Group for the first time. She explained that the Uyo meeting took an overview of the region and developed a comprehensive report. The Warri meeting distilled the issues that came up from the Uyo meeting and prioritised them into issues requiring immediate attention, medium term issues and the overarching issues. The immediate issues were used in developing the action plan for the group. The work plan was distributed to all present, and additional suggestions from the new members were accepted. An update on the activities of the sub-groups was also given by their leaders, also with a view to carrying the new members along. In the report of the activities of the PNDG,

the leader of the delegation expressed that the group has been doing similar thing as NDDCG. He therefore adopted the action plan of the NDDCG as the working document of the partnership.

PROGRESS SINCE JULY MEETING

1. **Ceasefire from the Niger Delta Avengers:** One of the successes of the Niger Delta Dialogue Contact Group is the declaration of ceasefire by the leadership of the Niger Delta Avengers. This was a collective effort of our Group B along with other stakeholders in the region.
2. **Successful hosting of successive meetings:** A major achievement of the NDDCG is the successful hosting of three meetings in Uyo, Akwa-Ibom State, Warri,

Delta State and now Port Harcourt, Rivers State. These meetings have afforded the group the opportunity to plan and strategise effectively. The Warri meeting also resulted in analysis of key issues of the region and development of an action plan to address them.

3. Active Engagement with Federal Government: Similarly, one of the major achievements of the group is that the Group has actively engaged with the federal government since inception. Members of the group met with the President on 30th of June 2016 and with Hon. Minister of State for Petroleum on 4th and 25th of August, 2016.

4. Proposed Establishment of the Inter-Ministerial Dialogue Team: Another major achievement of the Contact Group so far is the proposed establishment of government dialogue team to work with the Contact Group. This was attained mainly owing to the engagement of the King Diette-Spiff-led team with the Presidency. The President has assented to the establishment of inter-ministerial team to work with the NDDCG and has directed the Chief of Staff to constitute the team. However, the formation of the team by the Chief of Staff is still being awaited.

5. Proposed Niger Delta Summit: An additional major achievement of the Contact Group and its sub-committees is the proposed Niger Delta summit. While conception and formation of the Summit may not have been directly influenced by the Contact Group, the peace advocacy of the Group since July 2016 obvious is a

major voice that necessitated the formation of the Summit. Furthermore, the invitation of members of the Group to the Summit is a recognition of the Group's effort to broker peace in the Niger Delta region. It shows the credibility, relevance and legitimacy of the Group among other self-styled groups.

6. Release of the 10 Gbaramatu boys and return of looted properties: Some of the royal boats reportedly looted by the invading military personnel in Gbaramatu Kingdom have been released. The 10 boys who were reported to have been tagged members of the Avengers, arrested and detained have also been released owing largely to the efforts of the Contact Group so far.

7. Outreach to Other Stakeholders: The Group has also actively engaged and collaborated with other stakeholders who have similar interest to engender peace in the Niger Delta especially with Pan Niger Delta Coastal States Stakeholders Consultative Forum (PNDCCSCF) led by Chief EK Clark. The collaboration between the Contact Group and these groups has resulted in active engagement with aggrieved youths and agitators and has led to the declaration of ceasefire by the Niger Delta Avengers.





Chief Francis Doukpola reporting on work of the Pan Niger Delta Coastal States Stakeholders Consultative Forum (PNDCCSCF)

Cementing the Partnership of NDDCG and PNDCCSCF

Day two of the programme started by 9 am with the introduction and familiarization of the PNDCCSCF with the NDDCG. The Chairman of NDDCG, His Majesty King Alfred Diete-Spiff welcomed PNDCCSCF. He spoke on the significance of synergy and collaboration between the two groups to form a formidable force to broker peace in the Niger Delta region. He implored the two groups to see the collaboration as a necessity to douse the brewing tension in the Niger Delta region and to save Nigeria from impending calamity.

The head of the delegation of PNDCCSCF, Chief Francis Doukpola, acknowledged that the concern of PNDCCSCF falls in line with that of NDDCG which is to broker peace in the Niger Delta region. He informed the gathering that the group also made sure that all oil-bearing communities are included in the membership of the group which was formed in Benin, Edo State. He submitted that the partnership and collaboration of the Group with NDDCG is welcomed and

that the working plan of the NDDCG has been adopted in the partnership.

CHALLENGES

1. Declaration of "Operation Crocodile Smile": It was noted that while efforts are continuously made to make the aggrieved agitators shun bombing of the oil facilities and toe the line of dialogue, the Nigerian Army has declared Operation Crocodile Smile and unleashed military hardware on the people of the region. Jet bombers are seen flying at low range within the communities, thus reminding the people of the days of Biafra War. This is further jeopardizing the fragile peace in the region.

2. Lack of Coordinated Response from the Federal Government: Government has responded to the renewed insurgency in the Niger Delta region from many fronts without coordination. For instance, while the Presidency is making effort through the Office of the Vice President and Special Advisers, other government agencies such as Minister of State for Petroleum, Office of the National Security Adviser and various other agencies of government and functionaries are making efforts but they are largely uncoordinated. This is making the people think that the federal government is not serious about dialoguing with the people and it is thwarting the effort of the Contact Group.

3. Fear of Renewed Bombing: Another major challenge is that government is not making effective and good use of the declaration of ceasefire by

the Niger Delta Avengers to commence the process of dialogue by setting up its mediation team. Once the ceasefire elapses, bombing may re-commence. Seeking another round of ceasefire then may be difficult.

4. Proliferation of Bodies seeking relevance: It was also acknowledged that there is proliferation of many groups seeking relevance and legitimacy to negotiate on behalf or participate in the propose dialogue between the Niger Delta people and the federal government. This has also affected the ability of the people of the region to speak with one voice.

5. Resurgence of Militancy in the Upland Delta: Another challenge militating against the peace effort of the Niger Delta Dialogue Contact Group is the resurgence of militancy in the upland areas of Delta State, particularly in Isoko, Urhobo and Ndokwa areas.

SUGGESTED WAYS FORWARD

1. The Chief of Staff should hasten to form the team of Federal Government representatives to address Niger Delta issues.
2. The Contact Group should be wary of conflict entrepreneurs who may want to sabotage its peace efforts.
3. Engagement with the presidency must be sustained. The group should work effectively with the Federal Government to make sure that the government makes effective utilization and full advantage of the ceasefire declared by the NDA to build sustainable

peace in the Niger Delta.

4. The group should participate in the forthcoming Niger Delta Summit but should adopt an effective strategy which will address the Niger Delta crisis holistically. It should incorporate other groups involved in similar efforts and ensure that everybody speaks with one voice at the Summit.
5. Blaming and shaming approach should also be adopted to influence the federal government into making use of the ceasefire.
6. A press statement stating the achievements and strategy for advancing forward for the group should be released after the meeting.

ISSUES THAT HAVE EMERGED

The meeting noted that other issues have emerged challenging the peace and security of the Niger Delta region, thus requiring urgent attention. The issues are:

1. Ogoni Clean-up
2. Legal framework for extractives
3. Rising militancy and violence in the upland areas
4. Climate change
5. Flooding
6. Food security

The resolution taken on these issues is that two more sub-committees should be established. One is to see to the issues connected with rising tide of militancy, violence crimes in the upland areas and governance while the other one will also see to the issue of the environment (including climate change, food security and other related issues) and the on-going

clean up in Ogoniland. The essence of the formation of these sub-committees is to generate issues and data that will allow the Group present a very strong view that will influence government policies.

COMMENTS BY GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS

There were various government officials present. However, only two spoke because of the direct relevance of their offices to the Niger Delta region. The Special Adviser to the President on Niger Delta Affairs, Brig. Gen. Paul Boroh spoke on the entire amnesty programme and the effort of his office to douse the tension in the region. He expressed that the Federal Government of Nigeria is yet to fully implement the amnesty package. He said the disarmament, demobilisation and reintegration aspect of the amnesty programme has reached the integration stage. He expressed his delight in the partnership between PNDG and NDDCG. He noted that human capital development and infrastructural development are key to lasting peace in the Niger Delta region and that the present government of the Federal Republic of Nigeria under President Buhari is committed to ensuring that these two problems are solved. He concluded by thanking the participants for contributing their quota to the development of their region and the Nigerian state when it matters most.

Senator Babafemi Ojodu, the Special Adviser to the President on Political Matters, sent the greetings of President Buhari to the participants and informed them of the forthcoming Niger Delta Summit to be held in Abuja. He urged them

to honour the Summit with their presence. He also informed the gathering of agriculture intervention funds, which according to him have been accessed by a number of states of Nigeria but yet to be accessed by Niger Delta States. Lastly, he urged the meeting to come out with recommendations and positions on the issues causing tension in the Niger Delta in the forthcoming Summit.



SENATOR BABAFEMI OJUDU
Political Adviser to the President



BRIGADIER GEN. PAUL BOROH RTD.
SA to President on Niger Delta
& Co-ordinator, Amnesty Programme
Interacting with the press at the
end of the meeting



COMMENTS BY INTERNATIONAL PARTNERS

The members of the international community present in the meeting showered accolades and encomium on the participants of the meeting, especially the bold step taken by both groups to partner for the purpose of brokering peace in the Niger Delta region. They maintain that the

issues of the Niger Delta region are paramount to the international community and that they will continue to do all that they can to help douse the tension in the region. They encouraged the group to ensure that gender is mainstreamed by ensuring that women are given more space and voice in the activities of the group.



SUMMARY OF CASE STUDIES PRESENTED AT THE 3RD WORKING MEETING OF THE NIGER DELTA DIALOGUE CONTACT GROUP

In-depth analyses of conflicts in Omoku and Ogoni in Rivers State; Bakassi in Cross Rivers State and Akwa-Ibom State; and the upland area of Delta State were conducted. This was done with the specific purpose of enabling participants have good knowledge and understanding of the conflicts, the actors involved and to identify possible entry points to deescalating the conflicts.

(A) RISING CRIMINALITY IN OMOKU COMMUNITY

The presentation by Livingston Membere and Stanley Worahu showed that there are several well armed groups in Rivers State, especially in Mbiama, Ahoada, Omoku, Emohua and Kalabari that have the potentials of transmogrifying into dreaded militant groups like the Niger Delta Avengers (NDA), but they have been kept out of militancy for now because of the current political climate in the state and the patronage they enjoy

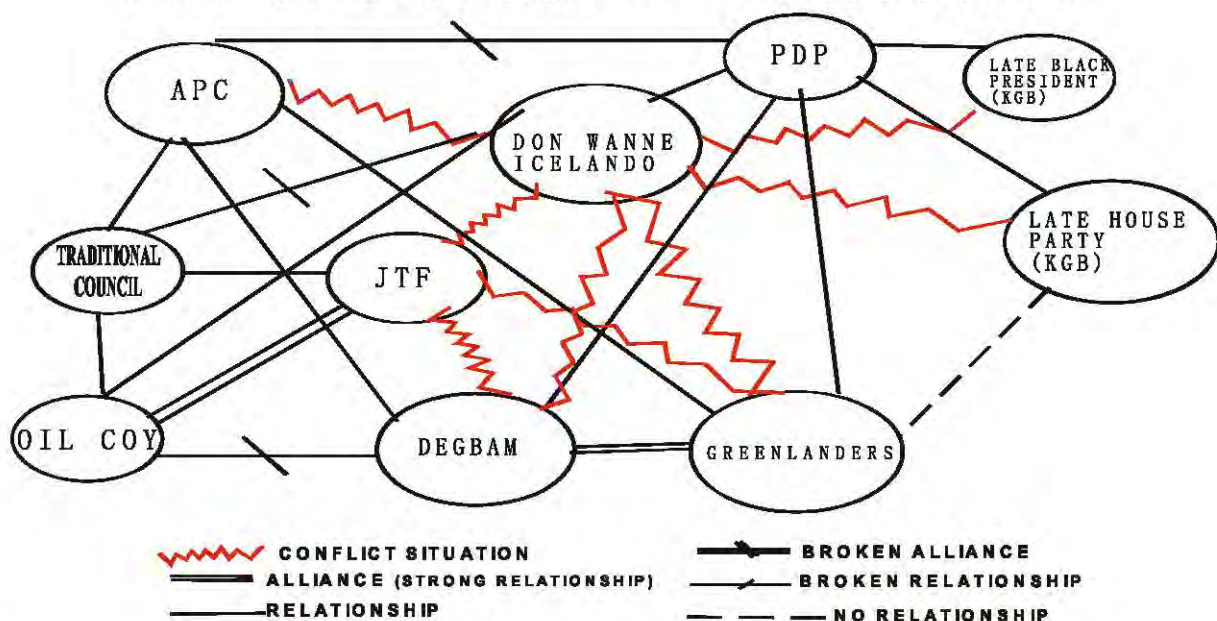
from oil companies. However, they are involved in sundry criminalities like:

1. Kidnapping
2. Attacks on community vigilante groups
3. Robbery
4. Oil theft and illegal artisanal refining

Causes of Rising Criminalities in Omoku Community

1. Loss of control of communities by traditional rulers.
2. Widespread poverty
3. Unpalatable government policies such as demolition of waterfront areas in Port Harcourt by the immediate past regime in Rivers State. This led to the dispersal of armed groups to the creeks which led to sharp increase in oil bunkering and kidnapping.
4. Cornering of opportunities like scholarship, employment, etc by community leadership and elites in Omoku.
5. Disbandment of Omoku Youth Council by the government. This took away the voice of the youths.

OMOKU STAKEHOLDERS MAPPING



6. Perception that armed insurrection commands more respect and is a source of income
7. Patronage of armed groups by community leaders, politicians, elites and oil companies

PARTIES/ACTORS

1. Don Wannie Group.
2. Deegbam.
3. The Icelanders
4. Greenlanders.
5. Igbudu Group.
6. Killer Gang Bureau (KGB).
7. Political Parties (Especially People's Democratic Parties and All Progressives Congress).

Action So Far and its Effectiveness

There is an on-going amnesty programme that is being implemented by the Government of Rivers State. However, this programme has not led to meaningful reduction in criminality. There is still

widespread increase in robbery, kidnapping and other various crimes in Omoku community and the entire Rivers State.

Suggestions

1. The conflict in Omoku and other places in Rivers State should continue to be studied for adequate understanding.
2. The Niger Delta States' governments should be approached and advised to take necessary steps to address rising tide of violence in their respective states.

(B) UPLAND MILITANCY IN DELTA STATE

This case study presentation by Hon. Morris Idiovwa, Chief Iduh Amadhe, and Uche Ifukor revealed the issues involved in the resurgence of militancy in upland areas of Delta State especially around Isoko, Urhobo and Ndokwa areas. It focused on the emergence of a new dreaded group domiciled in the upland areas of Delta State known as the Niger Delta Greenland Justice Mandate (NDGJM). The presentation traced the beginning of the



Hon. Morris Idiovwa, Chief Iduh Amadhe and Uche Ifukor Analyzing the Upland Conflict in Delta State

conflict to the over-concentration of amnesty largess on the riverine to the neglect of upland communities. This was further triggered by the commencement of militancy by the Niger Delta Avengers.

Issues in Militancy in Upland Communities

1. Exclusion of second and third phase ex-militants (who are basically from upland communities) from the amnesty programme.
2. Award of pipeline surveillance to non-indigenes of oil bearing communities.
3. Lack in the upland communities of well structured community surveillance networks like those of the riverine areas
4. Denial of ex-militants of upland areas the opportunity to handle pipeline

security/intelligence surveillance contracts like their riverine counterparts.

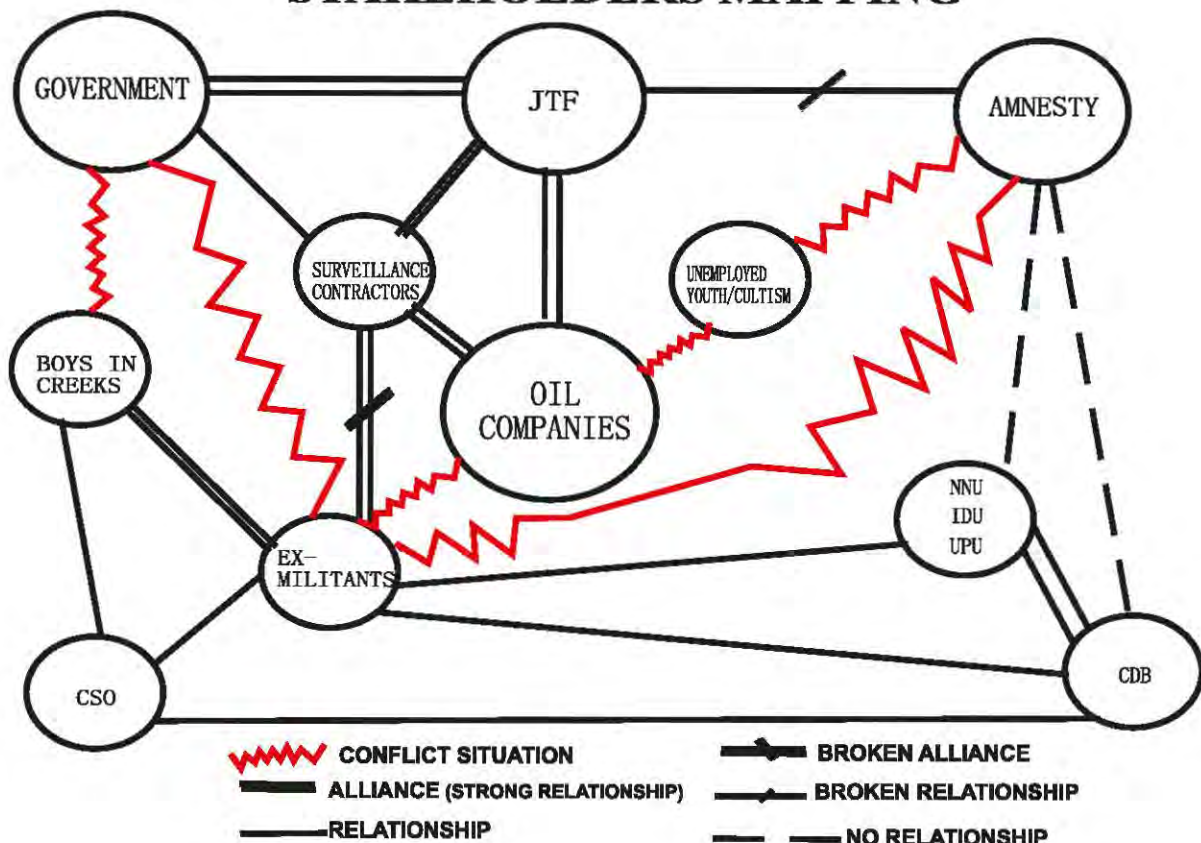
Manifestations of the Conflict

1. Bombing of oil assets.
2. Bombing of Isoko Development Union Secretariat.
3. Strain in the relationship between the Ijaw and the upland ethnic groups in Delta State.

Actors/Parties

1. Joint Task Force
2. Government
3. Second and third phase ex-militants in upland areas of Delta State.
4. Cluster Development Board.
5. Amnesty Office.

STAKEHOLDERS MAPPING



6. Surveillance Contractors.
7. Civil Society Organisation (such Isoko Development Union, Ndokwa Neku Union and Urhobo Development Union).
8. Cluster Development Board
9. Youth-at-risk.

Recommendations

1. Pipeline security and intelligence surveillance should be given to indigenes/communities to handle.
2. Amnesty should embark on a reparation programme that will absolve and compensate the neglected ex-militants especially the 2nd and 3rd phase ex-militants.
3. Joint Task Force should be disbanded and oil surveillance given to communities to manage.

(C). BAKASSI ISSUES

This presentation by Chief Ani Esin, Michael Ukanga Ekpo and 2 community resource persons from Bakassi showed that the ceding of Bakassi to Cameroun owing to the judgment of the International Court of Justice and the signing of the Green Tree Agreement has transformed the Bakassi conflict. As a result, new conflict issues have emerged. These are:

1. Creation of safe havens for hiding of armed groups to plan and unleash violence against the state as a result of lack of government presence
2. Displacement of Bakassi people due to transfer of the territory to Cameroun
3. Disruption of the Bakassi people from fishing which constitutes a major means of livelihood, thus resulting in economic crisis for the people.
4. Environmental degradation resulting in loss of means of livelihood of the people.

Outcomes of Hiding of Armed Groups in Bakassi

1. Militants are taking over control of local governments in Cross Rivers State in situations not directly related to oil exploitation. For instance, it was reported in Nigerian newspapers on July 10 that militants identified as Bakassi Strike Force seized control of Bakassi and Akpabuyo Local Government areas which are two LGAs that share maritime boundary with Cameroun.
2. Orchestration of Coup d'état in states around the Gulf of Guinea. For instance, these armed groups were hired by some soldiers in Equatorial Guinea to invade the state and take over government.
3. South East militants also use the place as a base.
4. Increase in oil bunkering in the area, leading to exposure of the environment to degradation. This has had significant impact on fishing activities which are the strongest means of livelihood of the people.
5. Anarchy and failure of the state.
6. Displacement of people and development of humanitarian crisis.
7. Increase in kidnapping, armed robbery, gender-based violence.
8. Disruption of economic activities in the areas.

Recommendations

1. The issue of the Green Tree Agreement must be revisited to allow for the inputs of the Bakassi people.
2. The armed groups operating in Bakassi are better engaged not by military operation but by a well orchestrated disarmament programme.

(D) Ogoni Clean-Up Update

This presentation by Legbori Saro Pyagbara, the president of MOSOP, outlined the following.

Significance of the Clean-Up

1. It contributes to the process of peacebuilding in Ogoniland and the entire Niger Delta region.
2. It is a remediation process for the environment that is already degraded.

Challenges

1. Politicisation of the clean-up programme.
2. Struggle among actors over the control of the remediation and clean-up process.
3. Increased security problems, crimes and conflict in Ogoniland.
4. Recurrent militant insurrection.

Issues requiring Urgent Attention

1. Water scarcity.
2. Decline in public health of the people.

Recommendations

1. A comprehensive health study of the inhabitants of Ogoniland should be embarked on.

2. Address water crisis as urgently as possible
3. Control and ownership of resources should be given to state rather than federal government.

WHAT NEXT

The meeting also identified a number of steps/actions to be taken after the meeting. It was agreed that:

1. The work of the sub-groups should continue.
2. The two new sub-groups should swing into action immediately, namely on Environment and on Governance.
3. More funding opportunities should be explored.
4. The secretariat should arrange with the planner of the forthcoming Summit to see how they can be partnered for the success of the Summit.
5. A direct meeting should be arranged with the Presidency- President or Vice President- after the Abuja Summit.

The meeting ended around 4:13 pm. This was followed by a press conference.



Press Statement Issued at the End of the third Working Meeting of the Niger Delta Dialogue Contact Group Held in Port Harcourt on Monday 19th and Tuesday 20th September, 2016

1. The third working meeting of the Niger Delta Dialogue Contact Group (NDDCG) took place at Elkan Terrace Hotel Port Harcourt from Monday 19th to Tuesday 20th September 2016, under the Chairmanship of HRM King Alfred Diete Spiff Chairman, Bayelsa Council of Traditional Rulers. In attendance were HRM King Dandeson Jaja of Opobo, Chairman Rivers State Council of Traditional Rulers; HRM Owong Dr. Bassey Achianga JP, Chairman of Akwa Ibom Council of Traditional Rulers; Prince Yemi Emiko representing the Olu of Warri; HRM King Elder Captain Joseph Timiyan, the Ebenanaowei of Ogulagha, Delta State; as well as other members of the contact group. The meeting was also attended by the representatives of the Pan Niger Delta Coastal States Stakeholders Consultative Forum (NDCSSCF) led by Chief E.K Clark, as well as representatives of development partners –EU, US, UK, France and the Netherlands. A high level federal Government team led by Brigadier Gen Paul Boroh, Special Adviser to the President on Niger Delta Affairs and Coordinator of the Amnesty Programme, and Senator Babafemi Ojodu, Political Adviser to the President also participated in the meeting.

2. The meeting reviewed the general security situation in the Niger Delta and afforded participants the opportunity to make valuable contributions on strategies towards attaining sustainable peace and development in the region. It was noted amongst other things, that the activities of the NDDCG have greatly contributed to creating a broad platform for effective engagement with the Government and other stakeholders regarding peace building in the Niger Delta. It was restated that the group remains focused on providing a forum for various concerned groups to engage in

fruitful dialogue and consensus building in a bid to deescalate hostilities and conflicts in the Niger Delta.

3. Participants at the meeting especially noted some of the achievements recorded so far as including:

- a. Successful hosting of the Niger Delta Dialogue in Uyo, Akwa Ibom State on the 10th of June 2016 and the second meeting held in Warri, Delta State 13 and 14 July 2016.
- b. Active engagement with Government including meetings with Mr. President on the 30 June 2016, Hon Minister of State Petroleum on the 4th and 25th of August 2016, and SA on Niger Delta on the 7th of September, 2016.
- c. Outreach to other stakeholders, in particular the Pan Niger Delta Coastal States Stakeholders Consultative Forum led by Chief E.K Clark and the decision for joint collaboration, partnership and close interaction with this group in particular. The meeting commended the contribution of the PNDCSSCF in successfully hosting series of meetings including the August 19 2016 meeting held in PTI Warri.
- d. Active contact and engagement with other stakeholders especially the aggrieved groups in the Niger Delta and the teamwork with all other relevant parties leading to the declaration of 60 days ceasefire by the Niger Delta Avengers (NDA) and other groups.

4. Going forward, the meeting resolved the need to consolidate on these achievements by focusing on a number of activities:

- a. Further strengthening of collaboration and synergy with the PNDCCSCF and work to produce a blueprint of fundamental issues for dialogue and measures to secure and sustain peace.
 - b. Undertaking all needed follow-up and close monitoring of the ceasefire.
 - c. Working with the FG to ensure that full advantage is taken to consolidate peace during this period of ceasefire - in this respect the meeting expressed concern that a clear-cut Federal Government negotiation team is yet to be put in place.
 - d. The meeting noted regrettably that at a time when peace is being canvassed for, the Nigerian Army launched the so-called 'Operation Crocodile Smile'. This has not helped to advance the spirit of confidence building and teamwork, which is needed to bring stability and peace to the region.
 - e. The meeting also stated the resolve to participate effectively in the forthcoming Niger Delta Summit being organized by the office of the Vice President to be held in Abuja 26-27 of September, 2016, this is notwithstanding the fact that the summit is being planned to hold outside the Niger Delta, which as a confidence building measure should have been the right venue. The meeting therefore recommends to government a need to change the venue to a location in the Niger Delta.
 - f. Working with state and local governments to address the worsening linkages between criminality, militancy, violent crimes and economic sabotage.
 - g. Setting up a sub group to accelerate the process of understanding and possibly engaging with stakeholders connected with other emerging challenges to peace and security in the region including the upland areas and the rising tide of violent crimes and its overall impacts on regional peace and development.
 - h. The setting up of another sub group to commence work on the issue of the legal framework for extractives, environmental matters including follow-up activities on the ongoing Ogoni cleanup being undertaken by the FG and its replication in other parts of the Niger Delta, climate change and food security.
5. Realizing that peace building and conflict management efforts require sustained dedication of time and resources, the NDDCG restates its commitment towards following through with the process to its full realization.





Niger Delta Dialogue

A World of Peace

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