

# ETHNIC NATIONALITIES MOVEMENT (ENM)

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## The "Final Solution" to the Niger Delta Problem

As faulty and fraudulent as the Nigerian Constitution is, the Government and Mr. President have revealed that they intend to retain and work with that document for the obvious reason that it serves "their" purpose. This position is in utter disregard of the fact of the fact that the same Constitution is antithetical to the interest of the majority of Nigerians and in particular to the people of the Niger Delta. Mr. President appears to listen but neither take notice nor reacts to what people say. Yet still, even when he pretends to react, the process is slow. It is therefore instructive that Alhaji Musa Yar'Adua's Administration which hitherto promised a service/people oriented leadership in the servant/leader philosophy seems to profess it only as a decoy.

We make the above statement, based on information at our disposal that outlines government's plans and intentions to solve the Niger Delta Problem militarily. We are also made to understand that governors of the Niger Delta were faced with a fait accompli and left with no option but to acquiesce to the military option when consulted on the issue. We hasten to add that this scenario is not new.

As the umbrella body of Ethnic Nationalities in our country, we wish to state for the benefit of Nigerians that the following actions are being contemplated by government against the Ethnic Nationalities of the Niger Delta in order to ensure the unrestricted and unhindered exploration and exploitation of the mineral wealth of the region. Government is embarking on this enterprise in utter disregard of the consequences to both human and material losses that these would occasion in the Niger Delta. Some of these measures include:

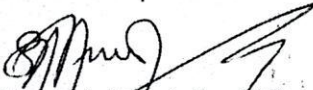
- a. A military build-up, especially by the Navy and the Air force designed to accomplish a federal government's "final solution" to the legitimate agitation of the youth of the Niger Delta who deliberately, were labeled militants. It is even more frightening and criminal that the actions being contemplated are designed in a manner that does not distinguish between old and young, men and women, children and even livestock etc. These measures only go to prove the desperation of the Federal Government of Nigeria and its attitude of leaving nothing to chance in its attempt to "sanitize" the region once and for all and leave it open to reckless exploitation.
- b. It has been established that even though the Niger Delta supplies the bulk of the nation's resources, the region and its people have been programmed for 'pacification' as was the case with Ndi' Igbo and Ogoni in order to make them pliable and helpless in resisting the exploitation of their God given wealth. The hope is that once the exercise being contemplated is accomplished, the perennial agitation of the people for a more equitable and humane treatment will end. Again, we hasten to say that this ploy like others before it is doomed to fail as nothing can be done to silence the will of the people as the Ibo and Ogoni experiences have clearly demonstrated.
- c. It is ironical that Israeli Special Forces to train the trainers have been contracted for the programme. We wonder why the Israelis who themselves have suffered the worst genocide in the history of mankind are getting involved in such genocidal scheme which only purpose is to subjugate the people of the Niger Delta for their oil.
- d. The Nigerian government is calling a people yearning for freedom miscreants and this has since been spread to mean all indigenes of the Niger Delta, so that when they kill them they would only be seen as only taking out miscreants. We are also not unaware that certain leaders are being targeted.
- e. We are indeed aware of both the British and the U.S. Government who in order to ensure the continued flow of oil from the

Niger Delta region of Nigeria have elected to collaborate with the Federal Government of Nigeria by supplying logistics and training support in this enterprise in which they are involved border on the abuse of the fundamental rights of our people. We also wish to state that we will hold them responsible for every drop of blood spilled in the unholy exchange for oil. In the same vein, we also serve Aso Villa notice of the existence of the International Criminal Court (ICC) that can prosecute civilians found guilty of mass murder. This is particularly important because what is being contemplated for the Niger Delta if executed would certainly end up with the International Criminal Court (ICC). We therefore pray that God would soften the hearts of hawks in Aso Villa to have a rethink. Furthermore, we like to remind Britain and the U.S. that the people look up to them for understanding and support against the mindless oppression of their people. In particular, we seek to remind the British that the problem of Nigeria even as they are in the present, is of their making and this is why we expect that they will help to ensure equity, fairness, and true federalism in our country.

The British need to be reminded that they created the political problems that have refused to allow for progress in Nigeria. Their bias for the North as against the South at Independence created the unfair advantage now being exploited by the North even when the resources of the country are generated solely from the Niger Delta region. Since independence, Nigeria has been surviving and serving the interest of that leadership only, that is, those who were installed by the colonial masters. The Struggle in the Niger Delta is indeed a struggle for the survival of the country as a nation. Nigeria must survive and move from being a "mere geographical expression" and away from the "mistake of 1914" to become a nation state truly federal with Ethnic Nationalities as federating units. Our ultimate concern as a people is peace and tranquility in our country, this, no doubt cannot be achieved with the strategy being contemplated by the government. We therefore like to emphasize that we remain resolute in our desire to ensure that Nigeria becomes a country where equity, justice and fair-play become sacrosanct. It is therefore important for all those in authority in Nigeria to contemplate the following issues:

- a. In a space of a few months, the price of oil fell from over \$140 per barrel to \$65 per barrel. By "tomorrow" when oil becomes virtually worthless, who from other parts of the country will be willing to use their regional resources to develop such a difficult terrain as the Niger Delta?
- b. The ice caps of the world (the Arctic and Antarctic) are melting, threatening to dump six meters of water into the oceans and seas. Nowhere in the Niger Delta is land as high as six meters above current sea levels. When all the homesteads of the Niger Delta are submerged, who in Nigeria would accommodate the people of the Niger Delta as bona fide indigenes of their ethnic space?
- c. The Nigeria we want is a place of peace, where equity, justice and fair-play reigns. Without justice there can be no peace and without peace there can be no development. We advise President Umaru Musa Yar'Adua to get the order right this time around.

We therefore appeal to the Nigerian government, Britain, U.S. and Israel to seriously reconsider their decision to decimate and conquer the Niger Delta region, because as we all know, history is always on the side of the oppressed. Finally, we wish to advise that we do not need to create a Darfour or a Rwanda in Nigeria before we come to terms with the reality of Nigeria.

  
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