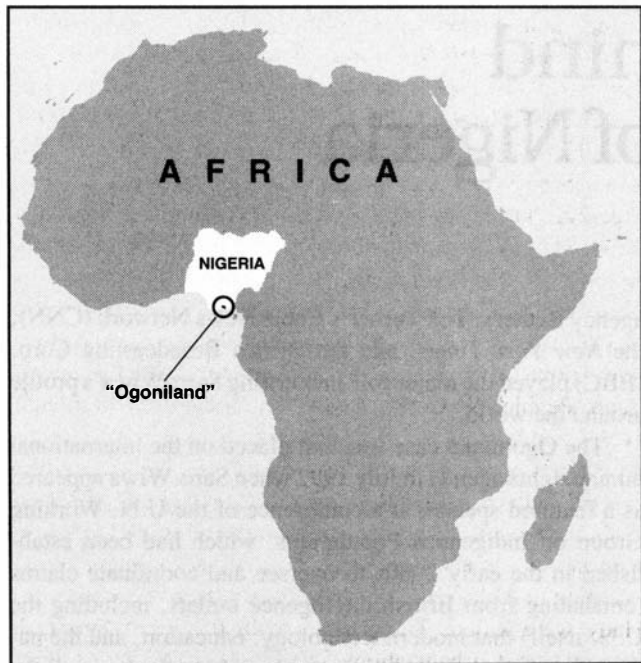


Location of Nigeria's 'Ogoniland'



demning Royal Dutch Shell's role in Ogoniland, and organized protests against Shell throughout Europe and the United States. Then, Amnesty International "Urgent Action" bulletins led to the deployment of a fact-finding mission to "Ogoniland" in December 1994, which then issued a report condemning the Nigerian government. Similarly, Human Rights Watch sent a mission to Ogoniland in February 1995, and condemned the Nigerian government for systematic human rights abuse.

PEN International, the organization created by former British intelligence chief H.G. Wells, has also been active. It claims that Saro-Wiwa was a victim of repression. Bodyshop, a commercial venture spun out of Greenpeace, has also become an important force in the "Ogoniland" campaign.

Through the sponsorship of these NGOs, the Ogoniland issue has been presented before various U.N. bodies, including the Human Rights Commission, the Sub-Commission on Prevention of Discrimination and Protection of Minorities, the Committee for the Elimination of Racial Discrimination, and the World Group on Indigenous Populations. The U.N. Special Rapporteur on Extrajudicial, Summary, or Arbitrary Executions began an investigation in 1995 into the case.

At the same time, Saro-Wiwa and his London-based MOSOP were put on the covert payroll of these NGOs, with funds reportedly conduited by the UNPO, Greenpeace, and Bodyshop.

Outright racism may not be fashionable these days in justifying overthrowing the governments of former colonies, but such motives, and worse, can always be found lurking

around the human rights NGOs. A central implicit feature of their campaign is that indigenous people, so-called, would "prefer" crushing poverty, illiteracy, disease, and the early death of their children to industry, modern farming, and education. Ironically, some of the most powerful raw materials cartels can be found to covertly back such campaigns, in part because cartels are often looking for a pretext to shut down mines and oil fields, to maintain their choke-point cartel control.

This is how, for example, Greenpeace, run by Imperial Chemical Industries heir Lord Melchett, came to be a leading organizer of the Zapatista revolt in oil-rich Chiapas, Mexico (see *EIR Special Report*, "New Terror International Targets the Americas," Nov. 10, 1995). Greenpeace's targeting of oil exploitation in "Ogoniland" has provided Royal Dutch Shell a pretext for shutting down its oil production there. Ongoing efforts to organize a boycott of Nigerian crude, also tend very much to benefit British North Sea oil interests. Prince Philip's WWF was the mother organization of Greenpeace; Shell remains one of WWF's most powerful partners and funders.

The UNPO has a similar profile. Formed in 1990 by Michael van Walt, the son of Dutch diplomats, UNPO is a sister organization of the Washington, D.C.-based Institute for Asian Democracy run by Elsie Walker, the cousin of former President George Bush. In 1992, van Walt and Walker helped oversee an Anglo-American effort to overthrow the government of Thailand. Both have coordinated the international operations of the Dalai Lama, the would-be theocratic ruler of Tibet, aimed at the breakup of China. The UNPO has also been of critical importance in providing western support for bloody insurgencies in Abkhazia, Georgia and Chechnya, Russia, which have blocked the extraction and transport of oil from the vast oil fields of Azerbaijan.

Kenule Saro-Wiwa: London's pawn in action

by Lydia and David Cherry

With a powerful supporting cast centered in London, playwright Kenule Saro-Wiwa functioned as an effective recruiter and director of London's plans for the destruction of Nigeria. While Saro-Wiwa was lavishly supported by the Unrepresented Nations and Peoples Organization (UNPO), Amnesty International, Human Rights Watch—Africa, TransAfrica, Greenpeace, and Friends of the Earth, a key but covert role was played by Royal Dutch Shell, a joint enterprise of the British and Dutch monarchies.

Saro-Wiwa professed to hate the oil companies, especially Royal Dutch Shell, and his terrorist youth movement de-

stroyed a great deal of Shell's equipment." The oil companies were accused of destroying the environment. For its part, Royal Dutch Shell professed no love for Saro-Wiwa and his movement. But the truth is more complex.

To fragment Nigeria, it was only necessary to achieve the breakaway of a single region—others would then follow. When one that is rich in one or more raw materials is targeted, the job of the multinational raw materials extraction companies, human rights organizations, and environmentalist movements is then to create an insurgent movement in the region. The minimum requirements for such a movement are: that it foresee a future for its region as an independent "country"; that it oppose the international raw materials companies; that it also oppose the country's central government; and that it be willing to resort to arms to get free of central government control.

The strategy is to build up the insurgent movement as a "worthy opponent" of the companies, so that "negotiations" between the companies and the movement appear credible. The raw materials companies will eventually obtain contracts much more favorable to themselves if they are negotiated with a mini-state rather than with a strong central government, such as Nigeria. So, the two parties work in parallel to break up the former national sovereignty—the precondition for the "Africa of the tribes" demanded by British intelligence outlets such as historian Basil Davidson (see his *The Black man's burden: Africa and the curse of the nation-state* (New York: Times Books, 1992).

A successful experiment in this strategy was carried out by Armand Hammer's Occidental Oil Company, which built up the National Liberation Army (ELN) in Colombia from a minor threat to a major narco-terrorist capability. In July 1985, Hammer told the *Wall Street Journal*, "We are giving jobs to the ELN. We give them work as suppliers . . . and they in turn protect us from other guerrillas."

This strategy defines Kenule Saro-Wiwa. In 1994, he had created a bloody confrontation over the construction of an oil pipeline in Ogoniland by the U.S. company Willbros International, a subsidiary of Shell under contract with the Nigerian government. He succeeded in halting the work, and wound up being paid \$50,000 (through one of his companies in London) by the Nigerian National Petroleum Corp. on Jan. 25, 1994, to carry out an environmental impact study for the project. (Nigerian sources say he never carried out the study.) Saro-Wiwa was in the process of positioning himself with respect to the Nigerian government and the oil companies. A leading member of his organization, Ledum Mitee, a barrister, is chief of security for Willbros.

Saro-Wiwa's rise to dictatorship

Where and when was Ken Saro-Wiwa "picked up" and put on a trajectory for such international prominence? He was educated at Nigeria's premier university, the University of Ibadan, described by some Nigerians as a "cesspool"; Saro-Wiwa then continued his studies in England. The Uni-

versity of Ibadan is the one Nigerian university with extensive funding from the Ford, Rockefeller, and Carnegie Foundations—some of the same foundations that created and sustain such "human rights" entities as Human Rights Watch-Africa and Randall Robinson's TransAfrica. While at Ibadan, Saro-Wiwa spent most of his holidays with Chief Edward Kobani, later a founding member of the Movement for the Survival of Ogoni People (MOSOP), the organization for which Saro-Wiwa was the first publicity director. Indeed, Nigerian sources say that it was Chief Kobani who fed Saro-Wiwa and gave him transportation and pocket money while he was at Ibadan. Later, Chief Kobani apparently got in Saro-Wiwa's way; Kobani was on Saro-Wiwa's late-1993 "News Flash" list as a "vulture" to be "eliminated" by Saro-Wiwa's MOSOP youth brigade called the National Youth Council of Ogoni People (NYCOP). And Chief Kobani was murdered by this youth corps on May 21, 1994.

Saro-Wiwa had organized his own Council of Ogoni Traditional Authority (COTRA) as a tribunal to sentence to death all those who got in the way, including those poor Ogoni who refused—or simply were unable—to meet the demands of extortion and blackmail. NYCOP carried out the sentences. Many were killed. The parallel with the Ibero-American narco-terrorist organizations and Pol Pot-style movements around the world is exact. (See, for example, "In Colombia, Life under Narco-Terrorist Dictatorship," *EIR*, Nov. 10, 1995, pp. 48-50.)

By at least the summer of 1993, Saro-Wiwa's youth wing had emerged as a problem. In June, the governor of Rivers State, in which Ogoniland is situated, had voiced the military's concern that 14-year-olds were being given military training in forest hideouts for guerrilla warfare. Saro-Wiwa had quite a youth following, particularly after schools were burned to the ground, law enforcement pulled out, and Ogoniland became more and more a land of anarchy (see p. 58). A police affidavit written by Dr. Garrick Leton, the first president of MOSOP who later resigned and left the country for a while because of fear for his life, noted that "between 3-4,000 youth were put through bizarre initiation rites and blood oaths of loyalty to the 'President of the Ogoni Nation' which, according to Saro, would have materialized by 31st of December 1993, but for the perfidy of the Elders who took billions of naira in bribes from the enemies of Ogoni in order to betray the Ogoni revolution."

Saro-Wiwa established total personal authority over the organizations he took over. He promised his followers that the U.N. would give Ogoniland independence by Dec. 31, 1993. When this did not materialize, he told them that it would not happen until the traditional leaders ("vultures") were physically "eliminated."

Saro-Wiwa seemed to believe that the battle for an independent Ogoniland did not just concern Ogonis. A letter from Saro-Wiwa to Albert Badey, another "vulture," dated Oct. 7, read: "You will do well to keep your prejudices in the background and work patiently for the triumph of Ogoni."

And please remember that the Ogoni issue is not merely local or national; international bodies are also involved in it and have given a lot of their time and energy to the cause. Their views matter!"

Some Ogoni elders say the UNPO (to whose National Assembly Saro-Wiwa was elected vice chairman) made the decisions. Dr. Leton noted that "Saro returned from his May overseas trip [on May 31, 1993] with a decision from UNPO that we boycott the June 12 Nigerian elections, and [he] proceeded to organize his NYCOP boys to see that this was achieved, despite the overwhelming opposition from the elders. The so-called decision to boycott the elections was reached on the night of June 1, 1993, by 11 votes for and 6 against. The 11 votes were mainly from youths, many of whom were not members of the steering committee. . . . History will record that it was his attempt to use the NYCOP boys to enforce this boycott that is the root of all our woes ever since. Saro, as usual, had left the country after making the arrangements for the destruction and terror which his lieutenant Goodluck Diigbo and his vandals unleashed on the Ogoni people on June 12, 1993."

It was at this point that then-president of MOSOP Dr. Leton, and Saro's earlier mentor, Chief Kobani, resigned from MOSOP in protest. On July 6, Saro-Wiwa elected himself the new president of MOSOP. On July 9, over 100 Ogoni people were reportedly murdered by the bordering Andoni tribe, beginning the Ogoni-Andoni war that continued through October. It is believed that this Ogoni-Andoni war was also the result of Saro's NYCOP vigilante band running roughshod over the neighboring Andoni tribe. Once a peace treaty was negotiated, Saro-Wiwa managed not to sign it by "making his exit through the State Executive Council Chambers toilet. His brother, Dr. Monday Wiwa, was to stealthily—likely by pre-arrangement—take Saro's things to him outside," writes Dr. Leton. Later Saro-Wiwa criticized the treaty and refused to follow it.

Concluded Leton in his police testimony: "The behavior of Saro-Wiwa appears to defy all rational analysis mainly because his actions and utterances do not fit into the norms of any civilized society. . . . Many have tried to explain away the unnatural behavior of Saro. Some say he is stark mad; others feel he is simply a sadist. . . ."

Saro-Wiwa attempted to stop every single development project attempted in Ogoniland. For example, he wrote a letter to the Oil and Minerals Producing Areas Development Commission (Ompadec), in which he stated that Ogoni people did not want any Ompadec project unless it was approved by Saro-Wiwa himself. He directed his boys to disrupt all ongoing Ompadec projects in Ogoni to the extent that a contract for Kaa was cancelled by Ompadec. Saro-Wiwa also wrote to the Federal Ministry of Works, warning that Ogoni did not want the Baen-Kpaen, Andoni-Bonney Federal road to pass through Ken-Khana. Because his men were not awarded the Chara-Dere-Bomy-Kpaen road contract, he condemned the road as of no consequence to the Ogoni, whereas

Ogoni leaders had fought for the construction of the vital road for years, Dr. Leton noted.

On May 14, 1994, the former leadership of MOSOP published the Giokoo Accord, which calls for the Gokana people within the Ogoni tribe to leave MOSOP. On May 21, four Ogoni leaders who had published the accord, Albert T. Badey, Edward Kobani, Samuel Orage, and Theophilus Orage, were brutally murdered, burnt, and partially eaten by members of NYCOP. On May 22, Ken Saro-Wiwa, Ledum Mitee, and others, were arrested for the crime. Ken Saro-Wiwa and nine others were convicted on Oct. 30 and 31, 1995, of murder by a Nigerian non-military tribunal that sat for eight months. On Nov. 10, Saro-Wiwa and his eight co-defendants were summarily hanged. Undoubtedly, few tears were shed for Saro-Wiwa in London. But the execution of their pawn, coming on the eve of the British Commonwealth heads-of-state summit, provided a new impetus for British intelligence's crusade to bring down the Abacha government, and to destroy Nigeria.

From A Saro-Wiwa Underling

'We run the operation from London'

The following is an interview with Lazaras Tamana, president of the Ogoni Foundation in London, and head of the Ogoni Community Organization in the U.K. The interview, on Nov. 20, was made available to EIR.

Q: What is the Ogoni Foundation?

Tamana: The Foundation was set up fairly recently. We have a history of neglect. We set up this Foundation about three months ago to see what we can salvage out of the remaining people in Ogoni now.

Q: So some of the people trained under Ken Saro-Wiwa in Ogoni, established your Foundation?

Tamana: Yes. Myself being the president of the Ogoni community association here, we decided to set up a Foundation to . . . take care of the sympathy in terms of general donations for the victims.

Q: Did you work directly with Ken Saro-Wiwa? How long have you been in London?

Tamana: I was last in Ogoni in 1992, and then after that, it was not possible for me to go there, because I was a missionary, to publicize what the Nigerian government and Shell were doing in Ogoni.