

**United Nations Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues**  
**Sixth Session**  
**New York**  
**14<sup>th</sup> – 25<sup>th</sup> May, 2007**  
**Item 9-Future Work of the Forum**

Madam Chairperson,

I thank you for giving me this opportunity.

I am Legborsi Saro Pyagbara from the Movement for the Survival of the Ogoni People in Nigeria.

Madam Chair, I would like to inform you that since last September, 2007 when the Movement for the Survival of the Ogoni People (MOSOP) backed out of the government supported controversial Peace Process when the organization discovered that the Facilitator of the Peace Process was only working towards the predetermined outcome of returning Shell Petroleum Development Company to the Ogoni oilfields without any discussion on the issues of the Ogoni People, life has not been easy with the organization. The government, Shell and the facilitator has been working tenaciously to undermine MOSOP and cause conflict in the area.

The latest of such diabolical plan of the Facilitator happened just last week when under the guise of organizing a Spiritual Cleansing Church Service, the government and the facilitator had wanted to use the opportunity of the Service to sign a memorandum of understanding that had not been discussed with the Ogoni people between Shell, government, UNEP and the Ogoni people over a purported clean up exercise that is designed to bring back Shell to the area.

MOSOP resisted the attempt to force a memorandum of understanding on the Ogoni people and it was eventually dropped from the service.

However, following that incident, MOSOP officials have faced increasing threats on their life from the government and pro-Shell elements.

On Saturday, 19th May, 2007, the home of the MOSOP Information Officer of MOSOP was invaded by some unknown gunmen and the wife and children put at gunpoint when they discovered that MOSOP official was not at home.

Just last night, some Police officers invaded the home of the MOSOP Assistant Secretary General, Mr. Moses Damgbor and assaulted him. They left him on seeing the surge of community members who had gathered at the scene immediately.

Madam Chairperson, MOSOP is requesting your urgent action to the Nigerian government on this situation to protect the lives of members of the Movement for the Survival of the Ogoni People.

On the future work of the Forum, MOSOP would like to recommend the following:

1. That a special session be devoted during the next meeting of the Permanent Forum to discuss the role of U.N. agencies in promoting the rights of Indigenous Peoples. The experience we have had in Nigeria is such that we feel there is need for this discussion to hold so that we can understand what these organs are doing. The role of the United Nations Environment Programme and United Nations Development Programme in Nigeria calls for serious examination.
2. Recognizing the role of water in the life of Indigenous Peoples, we join those calling for discussions about water to form the theme of the next session of the Forum
3. MOSOP is of the view that instead of churning out more recommendations, during the next session of the Forum, a day should be devoted to discussions around all the recommendations that had come out of this forum since 2002 so that we can do a thorough examination of what had happened to them and design a proper follow up where necessary.

Madam Chairperson, dear brothers and sisters, thank you for listening and look forward to your anticipated action in support of the Ogoni people.

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