

STOP SHELL HELL

Nigeria 1995 - Ireland 2005

In November 1995, Nigerian writer and activist Ken Saro-Wiwa and 8 of his colleagues were executed by the then military regime for campaigning against the devastation of the Niger Delta by Shell. Following the executions, Shell's public image was so badly tainted by the struggles and damage in Nigeria, that the company launched a campaign to 'greenwash' its image. Its new slogan became 'Profit & Principles'.

SHELL'S 'PROFIT & PRINCIPLES' in 2005

After 5 years running roughshod over local communities on the northwest coast of Ireland, a giant Shell consortium is poised to transform a remote conservation area of outstanding natural beauty into an environmental disaster zone with serious public health & safety implications. In collusion with corrupt State ministers, a dangerous on-shore pipeline and massive refinery has been approved that will poison the area, endanger residents and further add to climate change.

SHELL VS. THE ROSSPORT FIVE

The Irish State used compulsory acquisition orders on Shell's behalf, giving Shell workers access to local people's lands to build the pipeline. As the people of County Mayo resist, the High Court has passed injunctions preventing them from protecting their homes and families. On the 29th June 2005, five Rossport residents were jailed indefinitely for contempt of court. Shell lifted the injunctions on 30th September, after 3 months of demonstrations across Ireland and damage to their public image. On release, the 5 issued a press statement calling for their supporters to "intensify the campaign for the safety of our community and families." Willie Corduff, jailed farmer & father of six said, "We will do anything to save our land and our livelihoods, we are desperate and we are weary but we won't give up."

ENVIRONMENTAL DISASTER

The pipeline itself will carry raw, odourless gas at five times the usual pressure over unstable bog land with a history of landslides and through villages and small farmland to a massive refinery to be built just two miles from the region's water source, Lake Carrowmore. The line will also carry electric cables, hydraulic fluids, cleansing acids and waste. The refinery itself will have nine chimneys releasing carbon dioxide and methane into the atmosphere. It will be constructed on unstable bog using untried methods to stabilise the bog surface. There are 16 houses within 2 km of the plant. Construction will displace 160,000 cubic meters of peat bog, and the wastewater storage sump is liable to overflow into Lake Carrowmore despite EU and UN protected status.

Toxic waste will pump into Broadhaven Bay and due to tidal patterns much of it will remain in the bay, contaminating important bird, whale, dolphin and fish habitats. In Shell's environmental impact statement, they omitted to mention the site was of importance to wildlife despite its status as a special area of conservation under EU regulations, and their own commissioned study showing the area as an important breeding and rearing area (which recorded over 220 sightings of seven species of whales and dolphins, two seal species, basking sharks, and sea turtle). The area also provides livelihoods to local communities through fishing.

www.shelltosea.com

SHELL HELL CONTINUES AROUND THE WORLD

"If multinationals can behave in this way in Europe, what chance have the African people got?" (Dr. Owens Wiwa, brother of the murdered Nigerian

anti-Shell activist Ken Saro-Wiwa)

www.remembersarowiw.com

Today the Niger Delta is on the brink of disaster. Its people endure poverty, pollution and conflict despite the billions in oil revenues that have been extracted from their land. The facade of corporate social responsibility is exposed as a sham. Shell pays lip service to respecting human rights and promoting sustainable development whilst continuing with business as usual - from the Niger Delta and fenceline communities

around the world living in the shadows of Shell's operations, to the West of Ireland teetering on the verge of destruction.

www.shellfacts.com, www.corporatwatch.org.uk