

I am writing to express my grave concern for the people in the oil-producing Niger Delta region of Nigeria. There is an urgent need for the government and multinational oil company Shell to ensure a regular supply of safe water to people in the oil-producing Niger Delta region of Nigeria. Their right to water continues to be violated as they are forced to drink dangerously polluted water or buy water at unaffordable prices.

The multinational oil company Shell and the government of Rivers State, in southern Nigeria, have failed to provide residents in Ogale, an area outside of the state capital, Port Harcourt, with a regular source of safe water. Most people must either buy water or drink groundwater, which a United Nations study published in 2011 found to be dangerously contaminated.

I am urging the Rivers State government and the Federal Ministry of Water Resources to take necessary steps to expedite the repair of the Eleme Regional Water Supply Project. Until this is done, they must immediately provide sufficient and safe water to affected communities who currently lack it, including by trucking it in if necessary.

They should also be called on to urgently carry out a health assessment of the Ogale Community and others that have been forced to continue to drink polluted water.

Shell should be ordered to disclose the steps it is taking to ensure that communities, which continue to be affected by oil contamination from its pipelines, have access to safe water for personal and domestic uses.

Your attention on this matter would be highly appreciated.

Sincerely,