



# **MOVEMENT FOR THE SURVIVAL OF THE Ogoni PEOPLE (MOSOP)**



6 Otonahia Close (By Kia Motors), off Olu Obasanjo Rd., Port Harcourt; Rivers State, 17 Kenule Street, Bori – Ogoni  
P.O Box 10162, Port Harcourt, Tel: 234-84-233907, 230250, Fax: 234 – 84 - 240124; e-mail: [mosop@phca.linkserve.com](mailto:mosop@phca.linkserve.com)

*May 20, 2007*

## **Press Release**

### **MOSOP CONDEMNS INVASION OF HER INFORMATION OFFICER'S RESIDENCE**

The Movement for the Survival of the Ogoni People (MOSOP) is deeply worried that few days after threats and incitement against MOSOP and its leadership were inflicted on the organisation, unidentified gunmen numbering about four had broken into the Port Harcourt residence of Mr. Bari-ara Kpalap, the Information Officer of MOSOP at about 2 am on Saturday, May 19, 2007.

Information available to MOSOP indicate that the gunmen suspected to be assassins forced themselves into the house through the kitchen door at the back of the house. They were said to have broken into the children's bedroom, the children put at gunpoint whilst they demanded to see their father and forced the kids to take them to his bedroom. When the children responded that their father had traveled out of town, they were beaten. Mrs. Baridi Kpalap (Bari-ara Kpalap's spouse) on hearing shouts and cries of her kids opened the room and were instantly put at gunpoint and forced back into the master's room by the outlaws.

They demanded to see the husband and her reply that he was not at home did not go down well with the gunmen. She was beaten and bodily injury inflicted on her especially as their search in the master's room and other parts of the house for their target failed. She sustained injury on her right leg as well as suffer severe body pains and headache. Interestingly, they left without taken anything from the house but left the message that they would be back. The matter has been reported to the police.

MOSOP vehemently condemns the act, which seems targeted at silencing perceived focal point of opposition to camouflaged arrangements aimed at undermining the position of our people. The resort to extra-judicial approach no doubt shows desperation by certain interests that are bent on imposing themselves and their positions on the people. We are convinced that Mr. Kpalap is being persecuted because of his courageous views and stance on attempts to undermine our collective interest. It is our view that there are civilise channels of seeking redress if anyone feels hurt by the position of the other. Even if Mr. Kpalap has offended anybody, we

do think the unfortunate approach is the best there is. Whilst we call on all lovers of peace and justice to unequivocally condemn this act, we urge the police to speed up investigation on the matter with a view to bringing the culprits to book.

We want to make it very clear that MOSOP has an obligation to the Ogoni people and other communities of the Niger Delta, and no amount of intimidation, harassment or even threat of death will sway us otherwise. MOSOP will continue to champion the agitation for the rights of the Ogoni people and other Niger Delta communities until our legitimate demands are met.

We therefore call on the Ogoni people to realize that mortgaging your conscience for parochial purposes, as well as implementing the agenda of external manipulators whose love for Ogoni is hate, cannot in any way enhance our survival.

MOSOP recognizes the fact that the task ahead is enormous as the devious forces against the interest of Ogoni are huge. However, we are strengthened that since similar callous and murderous Nigerian regimes in slick alliance with Shell could not break our resolve, the opposition we now face will surely fail.

Signed:

**Moses Damgbor**

***Acting Secretary-General***