

Chevron Knew The Nigerian Kill and Go Police Would Deliver Chevron's Message to Protesting Villagers

Chevron used the notorious Nigerian military and mobile police, known locally as the kill and go, in the attack on the Parabe platform that is at the heart of the *Bowoto v. Chevron* case. In its public face, Chevron pretends that it had no idea that the Nigerian forces would open fire on the unarmed villagers. The evidence in the case tells a different tale, however, as noted by the federal judge in deciding that the case could go to trial:

1. "The Court finds that plaintiffs have submitted sufficient evidence to raise a genuine issue of fact as to whether the GSF [Nigerian police and military] engaged in a pattern of violent repression of civilian oil protestors during the 1990s, resulting in the death of at least hundreds, and the injury of thousands."
2. "The Court finds that a jury could reasonably infer from this evidence that [Chevron Nigeria] knew the GSF intended to, and would, commit the torts at issue here."
3. "[P]laintiffs present evidence that [Chevron Nigeria] personnel knew that [Nigerian police and military] were prone to use excessive force."
4. "Thus the act of seeking help from, or providing help to, law enforcement, under circumstances where doing so 'might increase the danger' to those to whom a duty is owed, might constitute negligence."

—Federal Judge Susan Illston, August 14, 2007



Village in the Niger Delta near Chevron's operation
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Chevron's Knowledge

"Many villages were burned by soldiers in that place ... They burned villages all the time, you know, when they're doing their task force going around doing whatever they're doing. They bombed villages. In Nigeria they do that ..."

— Chevron Nigeria's Security Officer (in deposition)

"The old method of controlling the problem was to burn down villages in the area and make mass arrests but this is becoming politically unacceptable."

— Chevron internal security review

“Nigerian forces are **‘out of control’ and ‘uncontrollable,’** not properly trained, had injured or killed Chevron personnel and civilians without provocation on numerous occasions, and that expatriate employees felt unsafe in their presence and/or thought they caused much more harm than good.”

—Chevron Nigeria internal security review

“[The military killing of a teacher at a protest] should be seen as a wake-up call that something must be done about the MOPOLs [Mobile Police]. **They are uncontrollable** and a threat to Chevron and contract staff... We should consider using rubber bullets... [The MOPOLs] have been a **much greater threat** to our people than anything that the communities might try to do.”

—July 1997 email from Chevron Nigeria supervisor to Chevron Nigeria executives.

Chevron Nigeria **“exercises reasonable control”** over Nigeria forces used by Chevron Nigeria.

—1999: Chevron Nigeria managing director to Human Rights Watch

More Incidents Known to Chevron

- **May 1994:** Nigerian forces attacks protesters, sinking sixteen boats, killing three people by drowning and causing other injuries.
- **April 1996:** Nigerian forces beat protesters who attempt to enter Chevron Nigeria property
- In **1996**, Chevron Nigeria employees tell Chevron that Nigerian forces increase violence in confrontations with villagers.
- **February 1997:** Nigerian forces fire 30 cannisters of tear gas into village.
- **June 1997:** Employee of CNL contractor beaten with gun butt by Nigerian forces guarding Chevron Nigeria facility.
- **June 1997:** Nigerian forces beat up Chevron Nigeria engineer.
- **July 1997:** Villager killed by Nigerian forces when his group stopped a Chevron Nigeria barge as part of a protest against Chevron Nigeria.
- **September 1998:** email from Chevron Nigeria Official to other Chevron Nigeria employees: “Over the last week we have reported thefts from the rig involving Mobiles, Mobile police firing weapons in local communities, and intoxication.”
- **October 1998:** email inside Chevron Nigeria: “The military who came in over the weekend have a more aggressive stance than we would like — last night ten of the MOB/Navy took one of our CFB’s to the Ijaw village — Okerenkoko — for no specific reason that we can discern — chased some Ijaw youths in a canoe — fired at least one shot over their heads to get them to stop which then resulted in arousing the villagers who in turn attacked the CFB - injured the pilot and captain and smashed up our boat.”
- **January 7, 1999:** Chevron Nigeria employee: “Three army and two mobiles threw a smoke grenade into the cab of the Dowell pick-up at the airport when expats refused to give them a ride. They pointed a gun at one of them and kicked in the tail light.”