THE GLOBAL NETWORK OF RESISTANCE

♦Restoration ♦Accountability ♦Justice



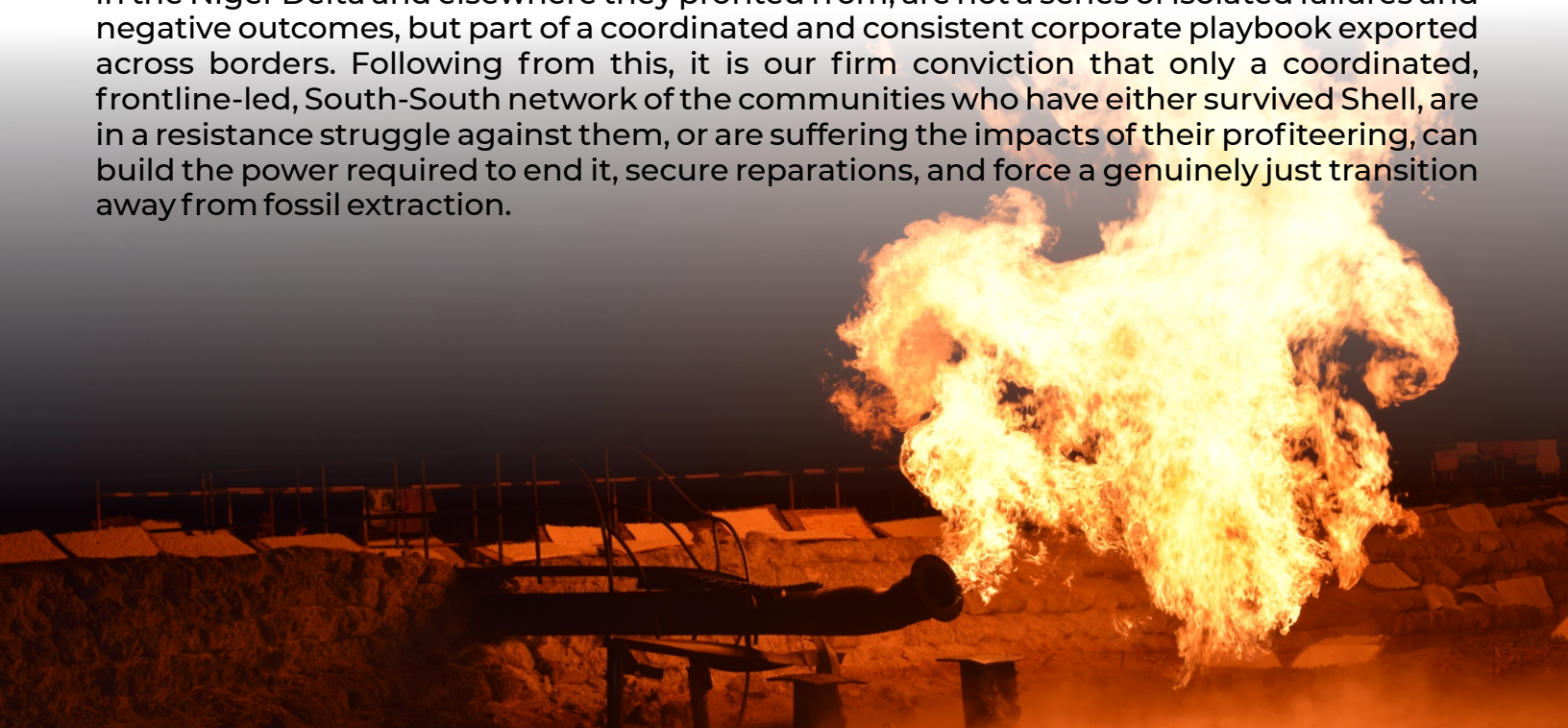
The Global Network of Resistance

Introduction

By 1953, Shell had dumped 1.5-2 million tonnes of asphalt waste into the mangroves of Curaçao, poisoning an entire coastline, and simply walked away, after securing a legal bloc of any present or future prosecution. In 1990, Shell mobilized Nigerian security forces to invade the peaceful protesting community of Umuechem, killing scores of people and burning houses. Despite being indicted, they were never held to account. In 1995, Shell masterminded atrocities in Ogoniland, leading to the killing of hundreds of Ogonis and the judicial murder of Ken Saro Wiwa and 8 of his compatriots who were protesting Shell's ecological destruction. Despite overwhelming evidence of their complicity, the company has never been held to account. Everywhere it operates, Shell is still walking profitably away, from oil spills it will not clean, from abuses it will not answer for, and from damages it will not repair. The question is not whether Shell will cause harm again. It already has, for over a century, on every continent it has touched. The question is how many more communities must be sacrificed before that harm is confronted by a resistance as global as the company that produces it.

For seventy years, communities across the Niger Delta have lived with the consequences of Shell's oil extraction: poisoned water, dying farmland, gas flares that fills the lungs with poison and turns the rain to acid; and the emerging crises of climate change eroding livelihoods and driving people from their homes. Today, that same company is turning its attention to the Wild Coast of South Africa, proposing seismic surveys and offshore drilling in waters that indigenous coastal communities depend on for food, culture, and spiritual life. Shell insists and pledge that these operations are safe. But the people of the Niger Delta know from seven decades of lived experience, exactly what that pledge is worth.

It is on the strength of this shared, hard-won knowledge that We the People and the Amadiba Crisis Committee convened the Nigeria–South Africa Learning Exchange in September 2025 and April 2026, and from that exchange launched the Global Network of Resistance to Shell. Our position as a movement network is clear: the harms caused by Shell in the Niger Delta and elsewhere they profited from, are not a series of isolated failures and negative outcomes, but part of a coordinated and consistent corporate playbook exported across borders. Following from this, it is our firm conviction that only a coordinated, frontline-led, South-South network of the communities who have either survived Shell, are in a resistance struggle against them, or are suffering the impacts of their profiteering, can build the power required to end it, secure reparations, and force a genuinely just transition away from fossil extraction.



Impunity is Shell's Global Operating Model

Shell was not built as a national company that happened to expand abroad. It was built, in 1907, from the merger of two colonial trading entities: Royal Dutch, which secured drilling concessions in Sumatra under Dutch colonial rule from 1890, and Shell Transport, founded in London in 1897 on imperialist trade networks built and protected by the British Empire. From its founding, Shell's business model has depended on the same thinking and infrastructure that built colonial repression and extraction. These are proximity to state power, willingness to deploy that state's coercive powers when needed, and the ability to treat the lands and waters of indigenous communities as economic assets to be taken, and destroyed at will.

That model has produced a strikingly consistent playbook, visible in every geography this network represents and where Shell has dipped its feet. In the Niger Delta, an estimated 240,000 barrels of crude oil are spilled every year- more than 14 million litres, the equivalent of 429 fully loaded oil tankers dumped annually into rivers, farmland and mangroves that communities depend on for their sustenance. Alongside the regular spills, Shell flares an estimated 2.5 billion cubic feet of associated gas each year, exposing communities to toxic pollutants that have been medically linked to cancer and respiratory disease. In Ibaa community, Rivers State, a Shell underground pipeline leak has contaminated the water table so completely that residents' wells and other water sources now produce oil instead of water. In Ogoniland, Shell did not merely pollute, they did so in grand style. The United Nations Environment Programme, said cleaning up the pollution that Shell bequeathed to that community may become the largest environmental remediation exercise ever attempted. Shell's atrocities- straight from its playbook- extend to rights abuses. Credible evidence reveal that the company provided transport, logistics and payment to the Nigerian military unit responsible for the killing of Ogoni protestors and the 1995 execution of Ken Saro-Wiwa. Despite irrefutable evidence of their complicity, Shell has never been held accountable for that role- again, true to their playbook.

On the South African Wild Coast, a chapter from the same playbook is being deployed. Shell's public messaging insists its proposed seismic surveys and plans for oil extraction are harmless to marine life and the livelihoods of coastal communities, an assurance that echoes, almost word for word, the same pledges and assurances communities of the Niger Delta were given before seven decades of thoroughly documented ecocide. Disinformation is not incidental to Shell's model; it is one of its primary tools.

The pattern that connects Curaçao's Asphalt Lake, Ogoni's crude-soaked farmlands, Ibaa's poisoned wells and the Wild Coast's disputed offshore oilfields is not coincidence. It is method. A corporation that operates with the same impunity and falsehood in Indonesia, the Caribbean, West Africa and Southern Africa cannot be confronted country by country, court by court, community by community. If Shell's impunity is organized transnationally, resistance to it must be organized transnationally too. This is commonsense. This is strategy.



Frontline Solidarity Builds Global Power

The Network of Resistance to Shell is, by design, not an NGO programme delivered to communities, but an alliance built between them. It is convened by frontline organizations and communities beginning with We the People in the Niger Delta and the Amadiba Crisis Committee on the Wild Coast, and supported in solidarity by the People's Health Hearing Collective, growing out of the founding partnership behind the 2023 People's Health Tribunal. Its character is deliberately horizontal: comrades and communities that have felt the impacts of Shell's ruthlessness, that have lost their fishing livelihoods, watched their water turn to oil, experienced abuses, and endured climate change induced floods, they sit at the core of the network's strategy, not at its margins.

This is the tradition and framework that the Global Network of Resistance to Shell positions itself within. It is a global, radical environmental justice framing that treats land and rivers not as resources to be mindlessly mined for profit, but as living relations that sustain culture, spirituality and survival. The Network's core principles follow directly from that framing that the polluter must pay for the full and independently verified cost of the harm it has caused through its extractivism and profiteering. This is not the price Shell deems appropriate, or the price of compensation it negotiates with powerless communities. The Network's principles affirm that communities hold sovereignty over their land and rivers, and no government has the right or license to sign that sovereignty away without their free, prior and informed consent. That colonial-era extraction, accumulation and human/ecological destruction demands commensurate reparations, not charity, not philanthropy and certainly not 'corporate social responsibility'. That resistance must be anti-imperialist and defiant in character and action, boldly rejecting the condescending notion that the Global South exists only to be mined, drilled and plundered for economies of the Global North. That frontline communities who exist daily in the context of that expropriation and pollution must design and lead every aspect of the response.

The major objective that follows from these principles is to build a global network that starts in Africa and expands to Asia and Latin America, that gathers Shell's operational tactics across every phase of extraction, including how they manage to manipulate governments, spin disinformation, abuse community rights and avoid accountability. This is to ensure that no community facing Shell for the first time has to face it without the accumulated knowledge of those who came before them.



The Network also purposes to establish a chain of solidarity across all frontline communities where Shell has negatively impacted, linking with their struggles, providing a global supply of solidarity, and amplifying their struggles and concerns globally. Shell's greatest asset has been that the communities they so mindlessly abuse are too powerless to confront them outside their localities. Shell continues to deploy its vast PR machinery to spin disinformation that depict these communities as demanding and destructive. In the Niger Delta, Shell's disinformation spin claims that it is the same communities being poisoned and losing livelihoods on account of oil spill that are responsible for those spills. A key objective of the Network is to counter Shell's disinformation from community to community in the Global South; and from boardrooms and newsrooms in the Global North.

This is already how the network works in practice, not only in principle. In September 2025, eight Amadiba Crisis Committee and Wild Coast delegates travelled to the Niger Delta, visiting Otuabagi community in Bayelsa State where oil extraction in Nigeria began in 1956; and Ibaa community, where they saw sources of drinking water that now produce oil rather than water. In April 2026, eight Niger Delta community activists travelled in the other direction, hosted by the Amadiba Crisis Committee, holding town hall meetings where they explained directly to Wild Coast residents what offshore extraction has meant for Niger Delta communities that have lived through it. This is the kind of knowledge exchange which the Network promotes -comrade to comrade, and community to community. It is precisely this model of knowledge sharing based on trust and solidarity that has sustained notable resistance movements against fossil company abuses that this network draws on.



In Defense of Our Model

A passive objection to the Network's approach for resistance is that justice is best pursued through established channels of redress including national courts, regulatory frameworks, or holding Shell by its own pledges to clean up or transition. On this view, nothing is farther from reality. Experience has shown that Shell functions by subverting the independence of national regulators, heavily influencing courts and making pledges it never intends to keep. This objection assumes erroneously that the channels it recommends do actually function as designed. They do not. In Nigeria, decades of litigation have shown that state institutions, including the judiciary, will rarely rule against oil companies or enforce sanctions against them. Communities describe this as total, complete state capture. In South Africa, that capture is not yet complete, but the independence of institutions including the judiciary is actively narrowing, as post-apartheid legislations protecting indigenous land rights and the environment are now being reviewed and weakened.

Drawing straight from a chapter in its playbook, Shell's 'divestment' from onshore Niger Delta assets, being presented as both a response to community sabotage and a strategy on the road to transitioning to cleaner energy, is deliberate con. It feeds on a disinformation campaign by Shell to present abused communities as criminals, and Shell as saviors of the planet. In fact, it is precisely the mechanism communities fear will let Shell and its partners walk away from decades of pollution without ever paying for the clean-up, just as it walked away from Curacao's Asphalt Lake.

None of these however means that litigation, regulation or other forms of pressure will be jettisoned. It simply means that the Network will not restrict itself to any 'prescribed' or 'acceptable' approach to campaigning. It will use every one of these tools – and more- where they can be made to work. To close the accountability gap and bring the right measure of pressure to bear, the Network will campaign by any means necessary and legitimate. The Network will bring to the global audience, documented, cross-border evidence of a repeated pattern of abuse by Shell, through the narratives of communities who can recognize Shell's tactics because they have already lived through them.



Call to Action

Shell's impunity is a business model, originating from colonial trading concessions and sustained ever since by the same partnership between corporate power and state protection, an illicit wedlock deployed viciously in Ogoniland, Umuechem, Rumuekpe, Ibaa and Ikarama; and waiting to be deployed in the Wild Coast and elsewhere. Against such imperialist and ruthless model built to operate across borders while keeping resistance contained within them, the Global Network of Resistance to Shell exists to do the one thing Shell's playbook depends on communities not doing: connect. This corporate playbook repeats itself with striking precision across countries and communities. To confront and disable it, what is needed is a frontline-led, global alliance built on solidarity and grounded in reparative and anti-imperialist environmental justice principles.
On this basis, the Global Network of Resistance calls for:

- An immediate halt to Shell's proposed seismic surveys and offshore drilling on the Wild Coast of South Africa.
- Full, independently verified remediation and reparations for Niger Delta communities harmed by seventy years of oil spills and gas flaring, funded by Shell and its partners.
- Recognition that Shell's divestment from onshore Niger Delta assets does not discharge its liability for decades of pollution, and legal frameworks that hold divesting companies accountable for the damage they leave behind.

The struggle of impoverished and poisoned Niger Delta communities to hold Shell accountable and the struggle of the Wild Coast communities to resist Shell's plan to destroy their homestead are not two stories. They are one story, perpetrated by one system, but told in two places. The Global Network of Resistance to Shell exists to make sure they are never told in isolation again.

From Ibaa, Curaçao, and Ikarama to the Wild Coast- Accountability, Restoration and Justice!





WE THE PEOPLE

AMADIBA CRISIS COMMITTEE

ACC

PEOPLE'S HEALTH TRIBUNAL

THE PEOPLE OF AFRICA VS. SHELL & TOTAL ENERGIES