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Digging Deeper: Can NEITI contribute to conflict management in the Niger Delta region?

by Uche Igwe

Wherever one looks in the world, accountability deficits are compounding or creating deeply rooted social environment and social, environmental and economic problems. These deficits are directly affecting the lives of every person, today and in the future.

Anwar Ibrahim, Honorary President

The conflict in the oil-bearing Niger Delta region has adversely affected oil production, which is at the heartbeat of our nation's economy. Since the implementation of the amnesty by the federal government of Nigeria in October 2009, the region has witnessed relative peace and oil production figures have been on a gradual increase. As we look at the post amnesty Niger Delta, it is important to begin to ask questions that will bring suggestions and strategies to consolidate the peace already achieved.

NEITI (Nigeria Extractive Industry Transparency Initiative) may contribute positively to the reduction of conflict in the Niger Delta region. In advancing this position, I anchor my argument in the findings of the NEITI audit reports (1999–2004 and 2005). These two reports had many findings in common including the fact that Nigeria still does not know the amount of oil it produces to date. It is estimated that about 70,000–500,000 barrels of oil get lost every day from the Niger Delta region and find their way to the international market. Without making precise conclusions, it is obvious that the conflict in the Niger Delta is a resource conflict and so the route through which these thousands of barrels of oil leave everyday is the same route

through which sophisticated small arms and light weapons find their way into the Niger Delta. As mentioned in several sections of the reports the vested beneficiaries of the so-called bunkering are the same group of persons who want the crisis to continue perpetually. The NEITI audit reports recommend the installation of precision meters at flow stations and terminals so that the real amount of crude produced and lost can be determined and so that oil theft fueling the crisis can be brought to an end.

The Nigerian fiscal federalism is such that all the earnings from crude oil are paid directly into the federation account and then distributed to all federal states according to a particular formula. There is also an additional 13 percent derivation paid to the Niger Delta states where the oil is found to encourage additional infrastructural development. It is also a fact that the amount of money that has accrued to the region especially through the derivation process is not commensurate to the amount of infrastructural development in the region. Another possible contribution of NEITI will be the mandate given to NEITI by the Act to Monitor the Effective Application of Revenue Derived from the Extractive Industry. This therefore means that NEITI and organizations working with it have a responsibility to monitor government expenditure at state and local government levels. The lack of infrastructure has often been given as one of the reasons for unrest which metamorphoses to militancy; it is therefore my argument that adequate budget monitoring and value-for-money audits of all the revenue spent on projects in the Niger Delta region will deliver value for money and increase infrastructural development, which will reduce conflict.

Other aspects of the Niger Delta conflict are the issues of ecological deficit and environmental degradation. The NEITI audit report observed that the gas flare penalty is currently being deducted as cost by companies and so encourages rather than penalizes gas flaring, which is part of the agitations in the region. To date, 80 percent of gas

associated with oil production is still being flared contrary to practices of the oil industry in other parts of the world. The resulting huge flames are a public nuisance exacerbating the possibilities of respiratory problems, acid rain and contribute to worldwide carbon emissions. The NEITI audit report recommends that regulatory agencies need to scale up capacities especially in these areas.

The implementation of EITI has begun to stimulate sub-national structures at the state levels employing the multi-stakeholder approach. A case in point is the Bayelsa Expenditure and Income Transparency Initiative (BEITI). These structures are capable of complementing national level EITI and by so doing overcoming the constitutional constraints of NEITI as a federal institution.

Another important impact of NEITI in the Niger Delta region is the amplification of the voice of civil society through the multi-stakeholder approach. Through NEITI, government and civil society now sit around the same table discussing government policy. In the EITI era, the 'us and them' dichotomy that used to exist between government and civil society has reduced considerably. The inclusivity of youth groups, women groups, faith-based organizations, the physically challenged, etc. has also reduced possible complaints of marginalization by many of these groups based in the Niger Delta.

However, EITI as it is currently implemented internationally is very limited. Revenue transparency is necessary but not sufficient for conflict management and poverty reduction, especially in the Niger Delta region. We need to dig deeper. The NEITI Act 2007 offers us an opportunity to expand the initiative in line with sub-national realities and context.

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Staff Spotlight



Liane Heinz

Liane Heinz (Germany) has been at BICC since 2005. Originally, she was employed as support for the administration; however, in 2005 she also became responsible for the running of the library.

BICC's library is member of the German Information Network International Relations and Area Studies, a group of 13 renowned German and international foreign-, security and development policy research institutes. The joint database, World Affairs Online, is one of the largest social sciences literature databases in Europe. The library is accessible to members of the network, researchers at BICC and external researchers and students alike.

Liane's tasks are the purchase of publications and their cataloguing as well as the cataloguing of conference and research reports (so-called grey literature) of other institutions. At the same time, she makes sure that the numerous professional journals that BICC subscribes to are kept up to date and organizes research literature for her colleagues via inter-library lending.

After having trained as restorer, Liane Heinz completed her studies of history of arts. After graduation, she was active in the art trade, the art education and in art exhibitions for many years. Before she came to BICC, she was the chair of the Society for the Promotion of the Fine Art (*Kunstverein*) in Brühl and organized exhibitions with works from contemporary artists while also acting as the press and public relations officer.

Due to her travels and diversified reading, Liane has developed a keen interest in the cultures and living conditions in other countries.

Since her studies she has loved ballet, jazz- and modern dance. She enjoys dancing in her free time, goes on hikes with her partner and visits art and cultural exhibitions.

→ For further information please contact Liane Heinz at library@bicc.de

Understanding wartime rape

From 11–12 March, BICC held a workshop entitled “Understanding Wartime Rape: Some current research questions.” The purpose of the workshop was to bring together a small group of researchers and practitioners working on wartime rape, and to share different research efforts and questions that remain unanswered to date. The workshop took place within the framework of a research project on wartime rape at BICC, which is generously funded by the German Federal Ministry of Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ). Research at BICC is focused on creating a typology of wartime rape in order to better understand the observed variation of this form of violence in war and its post-war consequences.

Around 15 researchers, practitioners and policy-makers attended the workshop. Discussions were based around the presentations of seven speakers: Suk Yun Chun (PRIO) outlined the problem of sexual exploitation and abuse (SEA) by UN Peacekeepers based on work co-authored with Inger Skjelsbaek, followed by a presentation by Dr. Rita Schaefer (Independent Researcher) on masculinities and wartime rape in Sierra Leone. Dr. Maria Stern (University of Gothenburg) presented the findings of her joint research with Dr. Maria Eriksson Baaz on the



motivations of perpetrators of wartime rape in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC), while Jocelyn Kelly (Harvard Humanitarian Initiative)

presented research on the economic and social consequences of wartime rape in Eastern DRC. Jill Trenholm (Uppsala University) explored some of the factors that contribute to the silence surrounding sexual violence in conflict, followed by Dr. Ananda Millard's presentation of research with Elvan Isikozlu at BICC on typologies of wartime rape. The final presentation was given by Dr. Virginia Bouvier (USIP) who discussed the context in which funding decisions are made for research on gender-based violence, particularly in the United States.

The workshop resulted in an open and fruitful exchange of ideas, knowledge and current challenges facing research on wartime rape. A workshop report will be available soon.

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The protection of civilians in peace operations

From 8 to 12 February 2010, a training course entitled: “The Protection of Civilians in Peace Operations” was organized by BICC and UNITAR (United Nations Institute for Training and Research) in the Wissenschaftszentrum Bonn. It was the first time UNITAR engaged in Bonn.



Peter J. Croll, Director BICC, and Evariste Karambizi, Manager Unitar (f. l. t. r.)

Twenty participants from eleven countries took part in the five-day course, which also dealt with the protection of women and children during peace operations. Assistance for internally displaced persons (IDPs) as well as the responsibility to protect were other topics discussed in this course. One of the case studies investigated were the experiences gained by the United Nations – African Union Mission in Darfur (UNAMID). Panelists were trainers from NUPI (Norwegian Institute for International Affairs), ICRC (International Committee of the Red Cross), and UNITAR.

UNITAR was established in 1965 as an autonomous body within the United Nations with the mandate of enhancing the effectiveness of the work of the United Nations and its Member States in the fields of environment, governance, and peace and security, and further on with the aim of supporting the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals.

BICC und UNITAR intend to stabilize their cooperation by entering into a Memorandum of Understanding on 8 April 2010, which will contain the framework for the exchange of research, training and capacity-building.

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New BICC Publications

Guesnet, Lena. 2009. " 'We were promised development and all we got is misery' – The influence of petroleum on conflict dynamics in Chad." *brief 41*. Bonn: BICC, December. <http://www.bicc.de/>

At the international conference "The EU's support for peace in Chad and Sudan—Staying involved" in Brussels on 11 March 2010, Lena Guesnet participated in the panel "The regional dimension of the conflicts in Chad and Sudan: From a comprehensive to a distinct political approach".

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BICC Notes

On 23 February 2010, the US Consulate General in Dusseldorf and BICC organized a talk with following discussion on the topic: "On the way to Global Zero? Chances and Problems". Speaker was the renowned US disarmament specialist and independent consultant Dr. Lewis Dunn who consulted the Obama administration during the preparation of the coming Review Conference of the Non-Proliferation Treaty in May this year.

On 26 January 2010, BICC presented its *brief 40* "Natural Resources in Côte d'Ivoire: Fostering Crisis or Peace? The Cocoa, Diamond, Gold and Oil sectors", which was followed by a panel discussion. Panelists were Lena Guesnet, author, Dr. Matthias Basedau, expert at the German Institute of Global and Area Studies (GIGA) and Lutz Neumann, consultant to the German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ) as well as Peter J. Croll, Director BICC, as facilitator.

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Ute Meyer, Lewis Dunn and Jerry Sommer (f. l. t. r.)

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On 8 February 2010, a dialogue forum entitled "Retos que la problemática de Género presenta al proceso de DD&R" (The challenges gender poses in the DD&R process), was conducted in Bogota, Colombia. It was a joint Friedrich Ebert Stiftung en Colombia (FESCOL), GTZ-Colombia and BICC effort. This is part of the technical cooperation in DD&R in the Colombia project, which is funded by the German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ), through the German Technical Cooperation (GTZ), and led by Dr. Ananda S. Millard at BICC.

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On 23 March 2010, leading representatives of five security organizations from Kyrgyzstan (Ministries of Interior and Defense, Security Council, Border Guards and Prison Services) visited BICC in the framework of the NATO-Kyrgyz-Resettlement and Conversion program. After a welcome by BICC's Director, Peter J. Croll, Lars Wirkus gave a presentation on conversion of military sites in Germany, followed by Andreas Heinemann-Gruder's presentation on security sector reform experiences in post-socialist countries and their applicability to Central Asia, particularly Kyrgyzstan. NATO's Defence and Security Economics Directorate and BICC agreed to resume their past cooperation on conversion and SSR issues with respective study tours.



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