



Sacha Journal of Human Rights

Volume 4 Number 1 (2014) pp. 32-43

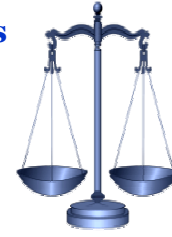
ISSN 2045-8398 (Print)

ISSN 2045-8517 (Online)

Publishers: Sacha & Diamond, England

www.sachajournals.com

Current Cumulative Impact Factor: 30.7



HUMAN RIGHTS IMPLICATIONS OF THE RIGHT TO SAFER ENVIRONMENT AND DRINKING WATER IN OGONI LAND: A LEGAL INVESTIGATIVE APPROACH

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ABSTRACT

Water is essential to life. Even a casual appraisal of this statement will reveal a content and meaning that are widely ignored, but nonetheless represents a harsh reality in many parts of the world, Nigeria inclusive. The truth is that fresh water and access to drinking water have always been a crucial factor in the viability and success of civilizations. The extent to which the availability of this vital element contributes to both social well-being and economic productivity is still too often ignored, although many economic and social activities depend on a supply of good-quality drinking water. It is against this background that we investigated the human rights implications of the right to a safer environment and drinking water in Ogoni communities in the Niger Delta of Nigeria. By adopting the legal investigative approach, we affirmed the previous studies that suggested that the Ogoni people are alienated people, ignored and neglected by both private oil and gas corporations and the government of Nigeria. We conclude that, a concerted effort channeled towards saving Ogoni land is an effort directed towards saving the habitat, our global heritage.

Keywords: Ogoni, Human Rights, Environment, Water Safety, Nigeria.