



Nigeria - Researched and compiled by the Refugee Documentation Centre of Ireland on Thursday 10 April 2014

Information on MEND including:

Current activities; Areas of operation; Government/State response; Availability of state protection

A report issued in November 2013 by the *Jamestown Foundation* states that:

“Currently, MEND and similarly motivated groups appear to be assuming an increasingly political stance in their activity” (Jamestown Foundation (14 November 2013) *Militancy in the Niger Delta Becoming Increasingly Political – A Worry for 2015*).

This report also notes:

“The capability of MEND and other disgruntled militants remains highly questionable, as evidenced by their inability to fulfill their threats against Chevron or perpetrate other violent acts as promised...MEND is too weak and disjointed to conduct a focused campaign against energy installations for the foreseeable future” (ibid).

A document published in November 2013 by the *International Criminal Court* states:

“In the oil-rich Niger Delta, the struggle for control and impact of the oil production in the region, as well as access to resources, have been among the primary root causes of the violence. One of the most prominent armed groups in the region is the Movement for the Emancipation of the Niger Delta (MEND), whose activities reportedly include the kidnapping of both foreign and Nigerian oil workers and the attacking of oil infrastructure in the region” (International Criminal Court (November 2013) *Report on Preliminary Examination Activities 2013*, p.46).

Rhythm FM in November 2013 notes:

“The Movement for the Emancipation of the Niger Delta [MEND] on Sunday claimed responsibility for the killing of two soldiers and a policeman in Port Harcourt, the Rivers State capital. MEND, in a statement by its famous spokesman, Jomo Gbomo, also claimed responsibility for the attack on Afam Gas Plant on November 2, 2013, thereby sabotaging gas supply to Shell Afam Station” (Rhythm FM (19 November 2013) *Nigerian militant group claims killing policemen, soldiers in Port Harcourt*).

In March 2013 the *Daily Trust* states:

“The Movement for the Emancipation for the Niger Delta (MEND) has claimed responsibility for the armed attack on the oil facilities belonging to the Shell Petroleum Development Company (SPDC) and the Nigerian Agip Oil Company (NAOC) in Delta and Bayelsa State” (Daily Trust (27 March 2014) *Nigeria: MEND Bombs Shell and Agip Oil Installations in the South*).

In May 2013 the *United States Institute of Peace* points out that:

“The umbrella militant group, MEND, has included elements ranging from those who want independence for the Delta, to those who want all or a larger portion of the oil resources, to those who want recompense for environmental damage, to those who would be satisfied with an east–west road system linking the Delta with Lagos, and to those who demand that oil companies provide more community development facilities. In cases where there have been overt challenges to the Nigerian state, the military has responded with force, mainly through the Joint Task Force” (United States Institute of Peace (13 May 2013) *Midterm Challenges in Nigeria: Elections, Parties, and Regional Conflict*).

No further information on this issue could be found among sources available to the RDC.

References

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This response was prepared after researching publicly accessible information currently available to the Refugee Documentation Centre within time constraints. This response is not and does not purport to be conclusive as to the merit of any

particular claim to refugee status or asylum. Please read in full all documents referred to.

Sources Consulted

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BBC News
Electronic Immigration Network
European Country of Origin Information Network
Freedom House
Google
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Immigration and Refugee Board of Canada
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