

Milieudéfensie activities directed at Shell headquarters since 2005

In the last several years, Milieudéfensie¹ has been asking Shell headquarters to take its responsibility for the problems caused by Shell's activities in Nigeria. This document gives an overview of Milieudéfensie's activities since 2005.



May 9th 2008

Milieudéfensie, Environmental Rights Action and four Nigerians hold Shell headquarters in the Netherlands liable for the damage that oil spills are causing in Nigeria via a legal procedure.

July 4th 2007

The Advertising Code Commission rules a Shell advertisement, in which flowers appear from the chimneys of a refinery, misleading.

May 15th 2007

Milieudéfensie shows shareholders Shell's unpaid bills in Nigeria at Shell's annual shareholder meeting in The Hague.

May 8th 2007

Milieudéfensie files a complaint with the Advertising Code Commission about a Shell advertising campaign. The advertisement shows an industrial complex, with flowers appearing from the chimneys.

May 3th 2007

Milieudéfensie lights a 15-metre high flare in front of the headquarters of Shell in The Hague. Milieudéfensie calls on Shell to stop gas flaring in Nigeria.



¹ Milieudéfensie is the Dutch division of Friends of the Earth.



April 19th 2007

Milieudefensie parodies Shell commercials, using advertisements in Dutch newspapers and radio spots between April 19th and May 15th.

March 2007

Almost 7,500 people write a letter to Shell on the situation in Nigeria. They ask Jeroen van der Veer to stop gas flaring, clean up the oil spills and pay compensation to the people who suffer from the damage.

February 1th 2007

Shell announces its 2006 annual profit: 25 billion dollars. This is Shell's highest profit ever made. Milieudefensie places a two-page advertisement in the Dutch daily newspaper *de Volkskrant*. In this advertisement thousands of people from all over the world call on Shell to invest in cleaning up the mess caused by Shell's activities worldwide. The advertisement also appears in the British newspaper *The Guardian*.



May 12th 2006

At a Milieudefensie action during Shell's annual shareholder meeting, butlers serve gas flares and oil spills, to request that Shell clean up their mess in Nigeria.



May 2006

Almost 7,500 people write a letter to Shell on the situation in Nigeria. They ask Jeroen van der Veer to comply to the demands of local environmental and community groups (who visited Jeroen van der Veer in December 2005).

February 3th 2006

Shell announces its annual profit of 22 billion dollars for 2005, their highest profit ever made. Milieudefensie calls on Shell to spend it on solving their environmental problems worldwide.

December 8th 2005

Milieudéfense and community groups from all over the world meet with Shell's CEO Jeroen van der Veer. In this meeting, Milieudéfense and its Nigerian sister organisation Environmental Rights Action urge Shell headquarters to take responsibility for its problems in Nigeria. Van der Veer refuses and states that its Nigerian department SPDC should solve the problems.

November 7th 2005

Memorial action at Shell headquarters in The Hague to commemorate the ten year anniversary of the execution of Ken Saro Wiwa by the Nigerian Government. Milieudéfense calls upon Shell to stop the pollution in Nigeria.



June 27th 2005 Milieudéfense action during Shell's annual shareholder meeting. Huge billboards of places worldwide where Shell's activities cause problems are shown. Activists urge Shell headquarters to take responsibility for its problems worldwide.

June 21th 2005 Milieudéfense launches an alternative annual report together with victims of Shell's activities worldwide.



Environmental Rights Action activities:

Since 2005 Environmental Rights Action (ERA) has worked with communities bringing court cases against oil companies and the Nigerian government to demand that flaring of gas in Nigeria is stopped. In the leading case, a judge ruled in 2005 that flaring is unconstitutional and that Shell must stop. Shell has filed several motions against the judge and his ruling. Shell has not stopped the flaring, even though the ruling of illegality stands. See for chronological order of the flaring case: <http://www.climatelaw.org/cases/country/nigeria/media/2007May2/>