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# Country Fact Sheet NIGERIA August 2007

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## 1. GENERAL INFORMATION

### Official name

The Federal Republic of Nigeria.

### Geography

Nigeria is located in Western Africa . Bordering the Gulf of Guinea, its neighbouring countries are Cameroon to the east and southeast, Benin to the west, Niger to the north, and Chad to the northeast. The Niger, West Africa's largest river, passes through Nigeria and empties into the Gulf of Guinea.

Nigeria has a total area of 923,768 km<sup>2</sup>. The country's topography is diverse with swampy coastlands

and tropical forests in the south, hills and plateaus in the centre, grassy plains and semi-desert in the north, and mountains in the east. Nigeria's climate is also varied: it is arid in the north, tropical in the centre and equatorial in the south. Average maximum temperatures range from 33°C to 35°C in the north to 30°C to 32°C in the south.

### **Population and density**

Nigeria is Africa's most populated country.

Population: 140 million (2006 census data).

Density: 152 persons per km<sup>2</sup> (2006 census data).

### **Principal cities and populations (based on 2006 census data)**

Lagos 15 million; Abuja (capital <sup>i</sup>) 6 million; and Ibadan 5 million. There are at least eight other cities, including Kano and Kaduna, with populations exceeding 1 million.

### **Languages**

There are over 500 known languages in Nigeria. Nigeria's official language is English. The other most commonly used languages are Hausa, Yoruba, Igbo (also referred to as Ibo) and Fulani. Edo, Efik, Adamawa Fulfulde, Idoma, Central Kanuri and Yoniba are also widely spoken.

### **Religions**

Muslim 50%, Christian 40%, traditional beliefs (e.g., animism) 10%.

Northern Nigeria is predominantly Muslim, while the south is largely Christian. Predominantly Muslim states include Adamawa, Bauchi, Borno, Gombe, Jigawa, Kano, Katsina, Kebi, Nawarawa, Niger, Sokoto, Yobe and Zamfara. Mainly Christian states include Abia, Akwa Ibom, Anambra, Bayelsa, Cross River, Delta, Ebonyi, Edo, Ekiti, Enugu, Imo, Ondo and Rivers. Mixed Muslim and Christian populations are found in Benue, Kaduna, Kogi, Kwara, Lagos, Ogun, Osun, Oyo, Plateau and Taraba.

### **Ethnic groups**

There are over 250 ethnic groups in Nigeria. Major ethnic groups include the Hausa and Fulani (29%), the Yoruba (21%), the Igbo (also referred to as the Ibo, 18%) and the Ijaw (10%).

The Hausa and Fulani live mainly in the north of Nigeria, the Yoruba in the southwest, the Igbo in the east and the Ijaw in the Niger Delta region in the south.

### **Demographics**

Population growth rate: 2.38% (2007 estimate).

Infant mortality rate: 95.52 deaths/1,000 live births (2007 estimate).

Life expectancy at birth: 47.44 years (2007 estimate).

Fertility rate: 5.45 children born per woman (2007 estimate).

Literacy: 68% of people 15 years of age and older can read and write (2003 estimate).

## Currency

Nigerian Naira (NGN).

NGN 120.01 = CAD 1.00.<sup>[1](#)</sup>

## National holidays

2007: 1 January (New Year's Day); 31 March (Mouloud, Birth of the Prophet); 6-9 April (Easter); 1 October (National Day); 13 October (Id al-Fitr, end of Ramadan); 20 December (Id al-Kabir, Feast of the Sacrifice); 25-26 December (Christmas).<sup>[ii](#)</sup>

## Head of state and government

President Umaru Yar'Adua (since 29 May 2007).

## Form of government

Nigeria is a federal republic with a presidential system and a bicameral parliament. Executive powers are held by the president who is also the head of state, chief executive of the federation and commander-in-chief of the country's armed forces. The president can serve a maximum of two four-year terms. The president nominates the vice-president from within his or her political party and also nominates the country's ministers, subject to the Senate's approval.

At the state level, executive power is held by a governor, who serves a four-year term.

Within the states, there are 768 local government areas. Local governments are involved in economic planning and development within their jurisdiction.

## Legislative structure

Nigeria's National Assembly is bicameral, consisting of a Senate and a House of Representatives. Nigeria's Senate has 109 seats: there are 3 senators for each of Nigeria's 36 states and one additional senator for the city of Abuja. The country's House of Representatives has 360 seats, with the number of seats per state allocated based on population. Members of the National Assembly are elected by universal suffrage for four-year terms.

## Administrative divisions

Nigeria has 36 states and a Federal Capital Territory (FCT) located in Abuja. The country's states are organized in the following six geo-political zones:

Northwest: Jigawa, Kaduna, Kano, Katsina, Kebbi, Sokoto and Zamfara.

Northeast: Adamawa, Bauchi, Borno, Gombe, Taraba and Yobe.

Middle Belt (lower north): Benue, Kogi, Kwara, Nasarawa, Niger, Plateau and FCT.

Southwest: Ekiti, Lagos, Ogun, Ondo, Osun and Oyo.

Southeast: Abia, Anambra, Ebonyi, Enugu and Imo.

South-south: Akwa Ibom, Bayelsa, Cross River, Delta, Edo and Rivers.

## Judicial system

Nigeria has a plural legal system based on English common law, statutory law (legislative law), customary law and Islamic law. While statutory law and English common law are applied in federal and state-level courts, local courts may use Islamic or customary law. Sharia law has been adopted in twelve states in northern Nigeria, including Bauchi, Borno, Gombe, Jigawa, Kaduna, Kano, Katsina, Kebbi, Niger, Sokoto, Yobe and Zamfara.

At the federal level, Nigeria has a Supreme Court, a Court of Appeal and a Federal High Court. At the state level, there is a High Court as well as a Sharia Court of Appeal and a Customary Court of Appeal. The National Judicial Council recommends the nomination of chief judges. The president appoints Supreme Court judges.

## Elections

Nigeria has universal suffrage for individuals aged 18 years and older.

The president of Nigeria is elected for a four-year term and may be re-elected for a second term. Members of the National Assembly are elected for four-year terms. State governors are also elected for four-year terms.

President Umaru Yar'Adua won the presidential elections held on 21 April 2007 and was inaugurated on 29 May 2007.

Top candidates in the 21 April 2007 presidential elections included Umaru Musa Yar'Adua of the People's Democratic Party (PDP) (24,638,063 votes), Muhammadu Buhari of the All Nigeria People's Party (ANPP) (6,605,299 votes), Atiku Abubakar of the Action Congress (AC) (2,637,848 votes), Orji Uzor Kalu of the Progressive People's Alliance (PPA) (608,803 votes) and Attahiru Bafarawa of the Democratic People's Party (DPP) (289,324 votes).

National Assembly seats: President Umaru Yar'Adua's party, the People's Democratic Party (PDP) won the majority of seats in both the Senate and the House of Representatives. Information on the distribution of National Assembly seats by party could not be found among the sources consulted by the Research Directorate.

The next presidential and legislative elections are scheduled for April 2011.

## Defence

In August 2005, Nigeria's armed forces had 78,500 personnel: 62,000 in the army, 7,000 in the navy and 9,500 in the air force. Nigeria's paramilitary force has an estimated 82,000 personnel. Military service in Nigeria is voluntary, with the age of eligibility set at 18 years. Nigeria's defence budget in 2005 was 111,000 million Nigerian Naira [approximately CAD 920 million<sup>2</sup>].

## Media

The constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria, adopted in 1999, affirms freedom of expression and the press. State-run radio and television services operate in most parts of the country and there are more than 100 national and local newspapers.

Newspapers: *The Champion* is a Lagos-based daily; *The Comet* is a private daily; *The Daily Sun* is a Lagos-based daily; *The Daily Times* is a Lagos-based government daily; *Daily Trust* is an Abuja-based

daily; *The Guardian* is a privately-owned national daily; *New Nigerian* is a government daily; *Newswatch* is a weekly magazine; *The Punch* is a privately owned daily; *Tell* is a weekly magazine; *This Day* is a Lagos-based daily; *Vanguard* is a private Lagos-based daily.

The main news agency is the government-run News Agency of Nigeria (NAN). Several foreign agencies also have offices in Lagos.

In 2003, there were approximately 8.6 million television receivers, 900,000 personal computers and 750,000 Internet users in Nigeria.

### **United Nations Human Development Index (HDI) and Country Rank<sup>iii</sup>**

Value: 0.448/1 (2004).

Rank: 159 out of 177 countries (2004).

### **United Nations Gender-related Development Index (GDI) and Country Rank<sup>iv</sup>**

Value: 0.443/1 (2004).

Rank: 120 out of 136 countries (2004).

### **Population below the national poverty line**

34.1% (2003).

### **Transparency International's Corruption Perceptions Index (CPI)<sup>v</sup>**

Score: 2.2/10 (2006).

Rank: 142 out of 163 countries surveyed (2006).

### **Transparency International's Global Corruption Barometer (GCB)<sup>vi</sup>**

Political parties 4.5, parliament/legislature 4.1, business/private sector 3.7, police 4.9, legal system/judiciary 4.1, media 3.2, tax revenue 3.5, medical services 3.4, educational system 4.3, military 3.7, utilities 3.8, registry and permit services 3.3, NGOs 3.0, religious bodies 3.0 (2006).

**[Information compiled from: African Elections Database 5 June 2007; BBC 29 May 2007; Canada 13 July 2007; CSIS Mar. 2002; EIU 21 May 2007; *Ethnologue* 2005; *The Europa World Year Book* 2006 2006; Factiva 23 Feb. 2007; Nigeria 1999; *PHW* 2007 Oct. 2006; Reuters 29 Dec. 2006; TI 7 Dec. 2006; *ibid.* 6 Nov. 2006; UK 12 June 2007; UN Feb. 2007; *ibid.* 2006; *ibid.* 2005; US 19 July 2007; *ibid.* June 2006]**

<sup>i</sup> Nigeria's federal capital moved from Lagos to Abuja in December 1991. [\[back\]](#)

<sup>ii</sup> Some holidays may vary by a few days, depending on the Islamic lunar calendar. [\[back\]](#)

<sup>iii</sup> The HDI is a composite measurement of human development in a country, based on life expectancy, levels of literacy and education, and standard of living. Values are: 0.800 and higher (high human development), 0.500-0.799 (medium human development) and 0.500 and under (low development index). Countries are ranked in descending order by their HDI value.

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<sup>iv</sup> The GDI adjusts the rating of the HDI to reflect inequalities between men and women. [\[back\]](#)

<sup>v</sup> The Transparency International CPI is based on composite survey data from 16 polls and 10 independent institutions. The data reflects the perceptions of resident and non-resident business people and country analysts. Scores range from 0 (highly corrupt) to 10 (highly clean). According to their score, countries are ranked in order from least corrupt (1) to most corrupt (163). [\[back\]](#)

<sup>vi</sup> The Transparency International GCB is a public opinion survey used to gauge people's perceptions of corruption within their own state. Scores range from 1 (not at all corrupt) to 5 (extremely corrupt). [\[back\]](#)

## 2. POLITICAL BACKGROUND

Nigeria gained its independence from Britain on 1 October 1960.<sup>3</sup> In 1966, Nigeria experienced its first military coup, after which the country witnessed a series of military governments and a civil war, which claimed the lives of approximately 1 million civilians.<sup>4</sup> Periods of civilian rule since Nigeria's independence include: 1960-1965, 1979-1983 and 1999 to the present.<sup>5</sup>

In 1999, Olusegun Obasanjo of the People's Democratic Party (PDP) was voted into power, winning a large majority of the vote.<sup>6</sup> In legislative elections held in the same year, the PDP won close to two-thirds of the seats in both the Senate and the House of Representatives.<sup>7</sup> On 29 May 1999, Obasanjo was sworn in to office and Nigeria's new constitution came into effect.<sup>8</sup>

In 1999, Zamfara State in northern Nigeria became the country's first state to implement Sharia law.<sup>9</sup> By 2001, 11 other northern states had followed suit,<sup>10</sup> including Bauchi, Borno, Gombe, Jigawa, Kaduna, Kano, Katsina, Kebbi, Niger, Sokoto and Yobe.<sup>11</sup> The introduction of Sharia law has resulted in tensions and violent clashes between Christians and Muslims,<sup>12</sup> and caused thousands of Christians to flee from the north.<sup>13</sup> Since the introduction of Sharia law, punishments prescribed by Islamic law, such as amputations, have reportedly occurred; however, there have been no reports of death-by-stoning sentences being carried out.<sup>14</sup>

In April 2003, Obasanjo was re-elected for a second presidential term.<sup>15</sup> In the legislative elections, the PDP again won a majority of seats in both the Senate and the House of Representatives.<sup>16</sup> Although the elections were generally deemed free and fair by international monitors, there were reportedly some irregularities, including ballot tampering and voter intimidation.<sup>17</sup> The main opposition candidate Muhammadu Buhari contested the results of the election; however, Buhari's legal challenge was rejected by the Federal Court of Appeal and Obasanjo was sworn in on 29 May 2003.<sup>18</sup>

While in power, President Obasanjo tried to implement a number of economic reforms.<sup>19</sup> Although Nigeria is one of the world's largest oil producers, the population has not benefited.<sup>20</sup> Years of military rule, rampant corruption and mismanagement of resources are said to be responsible for the country's failure to benefit from the oil sector.<sup>21</sup> In the oil-producing Niger-Delta region, armed groups seeking greater regional autonomy and compensation for environmental damage caused by oil companies have carried out a number of attacks on oil production facilities and have kidnapped foreign oil workers.<sup>22</sup>

During his presidency, Obasanjo also made efforts to combat corruption,<sup>23</sup> notably by establishing the Economic and Financial Crimes Commission (EFCC) to investigate corruption.<sup>24</sup> The EFCC is reportedly investigating 31 of 36 state governors for "graft."<sup>25</sup> Although sitting governors are immune from prosecution, in July 2007, two ex-governors under investigation by the EFCC were arrested and appeared in court on charges of corruption and money laundering.<sup>26</sup>

In May 2006, a campaign by Obasanjo supporters to make a constitutional amendment that would allow him to run for a third presidential term was defeated in parliament.<sup>27</sup> In April 2007, Umaru Yar'Adua of the PDP was elected Nigeria's new president.<sup>28</sup> The PDP won the majority of seats in both the Senate and the House of Representatives.<sup>29</sup> Foreign and domestic observers reported irregularities, including voter intimidation;<sup>30</sup> violence;<sup>31</sup> ballot-paper shortages in opposition strongholds;<sup>32</sup> large-scale vote rigging,<sup>33</sup> and ballot-box stuffing.<sup>34</sup> Opposition candidates initially challenged the results of the elections in court; however, some have reportedly withdrawn their cases after being offered positions in the Yar'Adua government.<sup>35</sup> The election of Yar'Adua represents the first transfer of political power from one civilian government to another since Nigeria gained its independence.<sup>36</sup>

### **Boundary dispute**

In 2002, the International Court of Justice (ICJ) ruled that the Bakassi Peninsula, a disputed territory in the southeast of Nigeria, belonged to Cameroon.<sup>37</sup> Nigeria initially refused to comply with the ICJ ruling.<sup>38</sup> However, in 2006, Nigeria handed over the territory to Cameroon.<sup>39</sup> The northern part of the peninsula is under Cameroonian control, while the rest of the area will be under Nigerian civil administration until 2008.<sup>40</sup> Many residents of the area have reportedly expressed their intention to leave the peninsula, rather than live under Cameroonian rule.<sup>41</sup>

## **3. POLITICAL PARTIES**

In August 2007, the number of National Assembly seats won by political party and the percentage of the vote won by presidential candidates in the April 2007 elections could not be found among the sources consulted by the Research Directorate.

**The People's Democratic Party (PDP):** The PDP is the ruling party of Nigeria.<sup>42</sup> Established in 1998 by former opponents of General Sani Abacha's government, the PDP first came into power in 1999.<sup>43</sup> The party's leader at the time, General Olesegun Obasanjo, became president following the 1999 presidential elections.<sup>44</sup> In 2003, The PDP won a majority of seats in the Senate and the House of Representatives in legislative elections, with 76 of 109 seats in the Senate and 223 of 360 seats in the House of Representatives.<sup>45</sup> During the 2003 presidential elections, Obasanjo won a second term, with 62 percent of the vote.<sup>46</sup> In April 2007 elections, the PDP again won the majority of seats in both the Senate and the House of Representatives.<sup>47</sup> The party's presidential candidate, Umaru Yar'Adua won the 2007 presidency.<sup>48</sup> The PDP is led by Ahmadu Ali.<sup>49</sup>

**All Nigeria People's Party (ANPP):** The ANPP is Nigeria's main opposition party.<sup>50</sup> Established in 1998, the party was formerly the All People's Party (APP), a center-right party formed by about 14 Igbo and Hausa-Fulani political associations.<sup>51</sup> The party has strong support in central and northern areas of Nigeria.<sup>52</sup> In April 2003 elections, the party won the second largest number of seats in the Senate and the House of Representatives, winning 29 seats in the Senate and 96 seats in the House of Representatives.<sup>53</sup> Its presidential candidate, Muhammadu Buhari, had the second largest number of votes, winning 32.2 percent of the vote.<sup>54</sup> During the 2007 presidential elections, Buhari again had the second largest number of votes behind the PDP candidate, Yar'Adua.<sup>55</sup> Following the 2007 elections, the ANPP contested the victory of Yar'Adua and the PDP; however, in June 2007, the ANPP reportedly agreed to participate in the Yar'Adua government.<sup>56</sup> Presidential candidate Buhari, on the other hand, has not withdrawn a court case he filed challenging the election results.<sup>57</sup> The leader of the party is Alh

Modu Sherif.<sup>58</sup>

**Action Congress (AC):** The AC party was formed through the merger of several opposition parties, including the Alliance for Democracy (AD) in September 2006.<sup>59</sup> The party has support from across the country.<sup>60</sup> Its presidential candidate in the April 2007 presidential elections was Atiku Abubakar, who received the third highest number of votes.<sup>61</sup> The AC contested the results of the 2007 elections and has refused to participate in the Yar'Adua administration.<sup>62</sup> The leader of the AC is Hassan M. Zurmi.<sup>63</sup>

**Alliance for Democracy (AD):** Formed in 1998,<sup>64</sup> this leftist nationalist party is dominated by members of the Yoruba ethnic group.<sup>65</sup> In the 2003 legislative elections, the AD won the third largest number of seats in the National Assembly, winning 6 seats in the Senate and 34 seats in the House of Representatives.<sup>66</sup> The AD did not have a candidate in the 2003 presidential elections as a result of a leadership dispute and a consequent split in the party.<sup>67</sup> In September 2006, the AD merged with other opposition parties to create the Action Congress (AC) alliance.<sup>68</sup> In the April 2007 presidential elections, AD candidate Pere Ajuwa placed seventh.<sup>69</sup> The leader of the AD is Mojisoluwa Akinfewa.<sup>70</sup>

**All Progressive Grand Alliance (APGA):** The APGA was formed in 2002.<sup>71</sup> Though initially branded as an "Igbo party," the party's founders argued that the party was established to represent "all the marginalized people of Nigeria."<sup>72</sup> The APGA presidential candidate, Chukwuemeka Odumegwu Ojukwu placed third in the 2003 presidential elections, winning 3.29 percent of the vote.<sup>73</sup> The party won 2 seats in the House of Representatives, but did not win any seats in the Senate during the 2003 legislative elections.<sup>74</sup> In the 2007 presidential elections, Ojukwu placed sixth.<sup>75</sup> The leader of the APGA is Chief Chekwas Okorie.<sup>76</sup> However, a faction of the party is led by Chief Victor Umeh.<sup>77</sup>

**National Democratic Party (NDP):** Created in 2002, the NDP is a nationalist centrist party that aims to "create and sustain a durable, democratic, cultural and political order in an indivisible Federal Nigeria."<sup>78</sup> The NDP was formed through the merging of several political groups and has been described as a "pan-Yoruba" party.<sup>79</sup> In the 2003 legislative elections, the party won one seat in the House of Representatives and no seats in the Senate.<sup>80</sup> NDP presidential candidate, Ike Nwachukwu, placed seventh in the 2003 presidential elections, winning 0.34 percent of the vote.<sup>81</sup> The leader of the NDP is Alhaj Habu Fari.<sup>82</sup>

**United Nigeria People's Party (UNPP):** Formed in 2001, the UNPP was previously called the United Nigeria Democratic Party (UNDP), but changed its name in 2002 to avoid confusion with the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP).<sup>83</sup> The party was formed by former PDP members and supporters of former Nigerian president Ibrahim Babangida.<sup>84</sup> In the 2003 legislative elections, the UNPP won 2 seats in the House of Representatives, but did not win any seats in the Senate.<sup>85</sup> In the 2003 presidential elections, the UNPP candidate Jim Nwobodo won 0.43 percent of the vote.<sup>86</sup> Information on the UNPP in the 2007 legislative and presidential elections could not be found among the sources consulted within time constraints. The leader of the UNPP is Mallam Selah Jambo.<sup>87</sup>

#### **Other parties:<sup>88</sup>**

There are over 30 other parties registered in Nigeria, including: Accord, Action Alliance (AA), Action Party of Nigeria (APN), Advanced Congress of Democrats (ACD), African Democratic Congress (ADC), African Political System (APS), African Renaissance Party (ARP), All Peoples Liberation Party (APLP), Allied Congress Party of Nigeria (ACPN), Better Nigeria Progressive Party (BNPP), Citizens Popular Party

(CPP), Community Party of Nigeria (CPN), Congress for Democratic Change (CDC), Democratic Alternative (DA), Democratic Peoples Alliance (DPA), Democratic Peoples Party (DPP), Fresh Democratic Party (FRESH), Hope Democratic Party (HDP), Justice Party (JP), Labour Party (LP), Liberal Democratic Party (LDP), Masses Movement of Nigeria (MMN), Movement for Democracy and Justice (MDJ), Movement for the Restoration and Defence of Democracy (MRDD), National Action Council (NAC), National Advance Party (NAP), National Conscience Party (NCP), National Majority Democratic Party (NMDP), National Reformation Party (NRP), National Solidarity Democratic Party (NSDP), National Unity Party (NUP), New Democrats (ND), New Nigeria Peoples Party (NNPP), Nigeria Advance Party (NAP), Nigeria Elements Progressive Party (NEPP), Nigeria Peoples Congress (NPC), Peoples Mandate Party (PMP), Peoples Progressive Party (PPP), Peoples Redemption Party (PRP), Peoples Salvation Party (PSP), Progressive Action Congress (PAC), Progressive Peoples Alliance (PPA), Republican Party of Nigeria (RPN), United Democratic Party (UDP).

#### 4. ARMED GROUPS AND OTHER NON-STATE ACTORS

**Arewa People's Congress (APC):** The APC was created in 1999 to protect the interests of northern Nigerians.<sup>89</sup> The APC is active in the northern states of Nigeria, populated by the Hausa-Fulani ethnic group.<sup>90</sup> The armed militant group recruits unemployed youths, generally from local mosques.<sup>91</sup> Its sources of financing are believed to include retired as well as active army officers.<sup>92</sup> The leader of the APC is a former army officer named Sagir Mohammed.<sup>93</sup>

**Bakassi Boys:** The "Bakassi Boys" is the term commonly used to identify the armed vigilante groups that have been operating in southeastern Nigeria since 1998.<sup>94</sup> They are also known as the Abia State Vigilante Service, the Anambra State Vigilante Service and the Imo State Vigilante Service.<sup>95</sup> The Bakassi Boys are officially outlawed in Nigeria;<sup>96</sup> however, it is believed that the group is still active, although underground, in the country.<sup>97</sup>

**Movement for the Actualization of the Sovereign State of Biafra (MASSOB):** Formed in 1999, the MASSOB is a group that advocates an independent state of Biafra for the Igbo people of southeastern Nigeria.<sup>98</sup> Although the MASSOB maintains that it is a peaceful organization,<sup>99</sup> the government has accused the group of planning and engaging in violent activities.<sup>100</sup> The leader of the group is Chief Ralph Uwazurike.<sup>101</sup> In 2005, Uwazurike was arrested and charged with treason.<sup>102</sup>

**Movement for the Emancipation of the Niger Delta (MEND):** MEND was created in 2006 and is one of the most active militant groups in the Niger Delta region.<sup>103</sup> The group has been responsible for a series of attacks on oil production facilities and for kidnappings of foreign oil workers.<sup>104</sup> MEND has made demands for oil companies to pay compensation for environmental damage in the region and has also demanded the release of Mujahid Dokubo-Asari, the leader of the militant Niger Delta's People's Volunteer Force (NDPVF).<sup>105</sup> Some country analysts believe that MEND may have developed out of the NDPVF.<sup>106</sup> MEND is believed to fund its activities through large-scale oil bunkering.<sup>107</sup>

**Movement for the Survival of the Ogoni People (MOSOP):** MOSOP was established to defend the rights of the Ogoni people in the oil-producing southeastern region of Nigeria.<sup>108</sup> The group non-violently advocated for the government to share the oil wealth with the local populations.<sup>109</sup> In 1994, the group's leader and well-known author, Kenule Saro-Wiwa was arrested on charges of murder, which he vehemently denied.<sup>110</sup> In 1996, Saro-Wiwa and eight of his supporters were found guilty of the charges and were hanged, prompting an international outcry.<sup>111</sup>

**Niger Delta People's Volunteer Force (NDPVF):** The NDPVF is an ethnic Ijaw militant group in the Niger Delta region.<sup>112</sup> The group has been responsible for a number of attacks on oil installations in the region and kidnappings of foreign oil workers.<sup>113</sup> In 2004, the group was outlawed and, in 2005, its leader Mujahid Dokubo-Asari was arrested on charges of treason.<sup>114</sup>

**O'odua People's Congress (OPC):** The OPC is a Yoruba nationalist group that was formed in 1994.<sup>115</sup> The militant group was banned by the Nigerian government in 2000;<sup>116</sup> however, it is believed that it continues to operate.<sup>117</sup> The OPC has two factions: one led by Frederick Faseun and the other by Ganiyu Adams.<sup>118</sup>

**Other groups:** Campaign for Democracy (CD);<sup>119</sup> Hisbah;<sup>120</sup> Iduwini Youths;<sup>121</sup> National Democratic Coalition (NADECO);<sup>122</sup> National Liberation Council of Nigeria (Nalicon);<sup>123</sup> United Democratic Forum (UDF)<sup>124</sup>.

## ENDNOTES

<sup>1</sup> Xe.com 1 Aug. 2007. [\[back\]](#)

<sup>2</sup> Xe.com 2 Aug. 2007. [\[back\]](#)

<sup>3</sup> *PHW 2007* Oct. 2006, 914; *Europa* 2006, 3294. [\[back\]](#)

<sup>4</sup> UN Feb. 2007; ICG May 2007. [\[back\]](#)

<sup>5</sup> ICG May 2007; *Europa* 2006, 3294, 3298; UK 12 June 2007. [\[back\]](#)

<sup>6</sup> African Elections Database 5 June 2007; *Europa* 2006, 3298. [\[back\]](#)

<sup>7</sup> African Elections Database 5 June 2007; *PHW 2007* Oct. 2006, 916. [\[back\]](#)

<sup>8</sup> *PHW 2007* Oct. 2006, 916. [\[back\]](#)

<sup>9</sup> *Europa* 2006, 3299; Factiva 23 Feb. 2007. [\[back\]](#)

<sup>10</sup> Factiva 23 Feb. 2007. [\[back\]](#)

<sup>11</sup> Canada 13 July 2007; CSIS Mar. 2002. [\[back\]](#)

<sup>12</sup> *Europa* 2006, 3299; *PHW 2007* Oct. 2006, 916. [\[back\]](#)

<sup>13</sup> BBC 29 May 2007; *Europa* 2006, 3299. [\[back\]](#)

<sup>14</sup> UK 12 June 2007. [\[back\]](#)

<sup>15</sup> *Europa* 2006, 3300; African Elections Database 5 June 2007. [\[back\]](#)

<sup>16</sup> African Elections Database 5 June 2007. [\[back\]](#)

<sup>17</sup> *PHW 2007* Oct. 2006, 919; see also *Europa* 2006, 3300. [\[back\]](#)

<sup>18</sup> *Europa* 2006, 3300. [\[back\]](#)

- <sup>19</sup> Factiva 23 Feb. 2007; EIU 23 July 2007. [\[back\]](#)
- <sup>20</sup> UN Feb. 2007; UK 12 June 2007. [\[back\]](#)
- <sup>21</sup> UN Feb. 2007; UK 12 June 2007. [\[back\]](#)
- <sup>22</sup> *Europa* 2006, 3301; *PHW* 2007 Oct. 2006, 919. [\[back\]](#)
- <sup>23</sup> Factiva 23 Feb. 2007; EIU 23 July 2007. [\[back\]](#)
- <sup>24</sup> UN Feb. 2007. [\[back\]](#)
- <sup>25</sup> UN Feb. 2007; see also BBC 13 July 2007. [\[back\]](#)
- <sup>26</sup> BBC 13 July 2007. [\[back\]](#)
- <sup>27</sup> Factiva 23 Feb. 2007; BBC 16 May 2006. [\[back\]](#)
- <sup>28</sup> BBC 29 May 2007; African Elections Database 5 June 2007; EIU 21 May 2007. [\[back\]](#)
- <sup>29</sup> EIU 21 May 2007. [\[back\]](#)
- <sup>30</sup> CBC 22 Apr. 2007; HRW 25 Apr. 2007. [\[back\]](#)
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