approach and those who wanted to use militant methods. Those who did not want this violent method have dissociated themselves from the present MFSO as constituted and led by Ken Saro-Wiwa. So it was these people who had dissociated themselves who were targeted and killed.

EIR: When the Ogani situation is brought up in western news reports, it has the flavor of the Nigerian government violating the rights of the Ogoni.

Komo: It is a propaganda campaign that Saro-Wiwa has been using for quite some time. Let me give one example. They make so much about the petroleum produced there, and claim the federal government is in collusion with Shell, persecuting the Oganis. But even in River State, the Ogani total output is at maximum only 4%, compared to what River State produces. Since last year, not a single barrel—I repeat, not a single barrel of oil—has been lifted from Ogani land. The whole issue is so overblown, as if the Ogani area were the only part of this country that has petroleum. You remember that the Oganis attacked Shell installations operating in Ogani land.

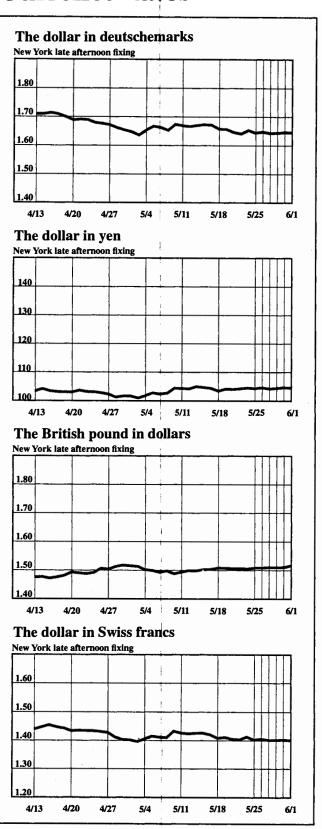
EIR: The whole United Nations apparatus is causing great grief in country after country.

Komo: Precisely. In the case of the Andoni-Ogani conflicts which took place last year, it was the Oganis that attacked the Andoni people and destroyed their houses, killed many of them, and then the Andonis retaliated. At that point, the Oganis themselves asked the federal government to send troops in to save their people. But then what did we see? Later the same Ken Saro-Wiwa's MFSO turned around to claim that the federal government was carrying out genocide against their people, when troops had been sent in to protect them.

This year on Easter Sunday, while Christians were in church worshipping, the Ogani people, led by Ken Saro-Wiwa's MFSO, attacked Andoki village, which is a largely Ibo-speaking community, and destroyed their houses there. Troops were sent in to protect and restore order. But then what do we see in the international scene? Ken Saro-Wiwa's MFSO turned that around to say that the federal troops had gone in and burned Ogani houses, and that this represented the war of genocide against the Oganis.

What is needed are some neutral media coming over here to go and visit the locations, to interview the people directly—both the Oganis and the other side. Then the picture can be cleared up. I think it is a big joke to see Ken Saro-Wiwa as a human rights campaigner, when under his leadership, they have caused so much havoc and so much pain. It should be noted that Ken Saro-Wiwa has no family on Ogani land itself. His children and his wife are all in London. He has two houses in London. He doesn't share in the grief of the Ogani people at all. And yet it is he who makes all the noise, who gets the aid from the foundations; and who knows if any of this ever gets to the Ogani people or not?

Currenct Rates



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