

1 [Judicial Review of the Ogoni Nine]

2

3 **Resolution urging the United States Government to urge the Government of Nigeria to**  
4 **conduct a full judicial review of the trial of the Ogoni Nine, make reparations to the**  
5 **survivors of the Ogoni Nine, increase social spending for the Ogoni and the Niger**  
6 **Delta as a whole, ensure that all members of the security forces receive training in**  
7 **international standards on the use of force and firearms, in particular the 1979 UN**  
8 **Code of Conduct for Law Enforcement Officials and the 1990 UN Basic Principles on**  
9 **the Use of Force and Firearms by Law Enforcement Officials.**

9

10       Whereas, on November 10, 1995, Ken Saro-Wiwa, Nigerian writer, environmental  
11 activist and nominee for the Nobel Peace Prize, and eight colleagues were hanged by the  
12 military government of Nigeria, condemned of trumped-up charges by a biased military  
13 tribunal; and

14       Whereas, the Ogoni Nine had been non-violently campaigning for improved social  
15 conditions and a clean environment for the Ogoni People, whose Niger Delta land, air and  
16 water was, and remains, severely polluted from oil extraction and whose standard of living,  
17 despite the great mineral wealth their land has yielded since the early 1960s, is among the  
18 lowest in the world; and

19       Whereas, the international condemnation that followed the executions included the  
20 suspension of Nigeria from the Commonwealth; and

21

22       Whereas, in 1996 a United Nations mission to Nigeria found the military tribunal in  
23 contravention of international and domestic law, and recommended financial relief for the  
24 survivors of the Ogoni Nine, and improvements in the socio-economic conditions of the Ogoni  
25 and other minorities in the Delta; and

1           Whereas, ten years later none of the UN recommendations have been implemented,  
2 and the environmental and social situations have deteriorated for the Ogoni and other Delta  
3 communities; and

4  
5           Whereas, the Ogoni Nine remain convicted of a crime of which they were unjustly  
6 accused and unfairly tried; and

7  
8           Whereas, Ogoniland remains profoundly polluted and gas flaring continues unabated;  
9 and

10           Whereas, security and stability in the Niger Delta is threatened by a proliferation of  
11 small arms, armed gangs and illegal oil bunkering; and

12  
13           Whereas, despite these pressures, Ogoniland remains an island of non-violence and  
14 the Ogoni voted in high numbers in the 1999 elections; and

15           Whereas, stability in the Niger Delta is vital to prevent a spike in global oil costs; and

16  
17           Whereas, in the interest of stability and the protection of human rights in the Delta,  
18 redress should be given the Ogonis and their non-violence rewarded; now, therefore, be it

19  
20           RESOLVED, That the Board of Supervisors of the City and County of San Francisco urges  
21 the United States Government to urge the Government of Nigeria to conduct a full judicial  
22 review of the trial of the Ogoni Nine, make reparations to the survivors of the Ogoni Nine,  
23 increase social spending for the Ogoni and the Niger Delta as a whole, ensure that all  
24 members of the security forces receive training in international standards on the use of force  
25 and firearms, in particular the 1979 UN Code of Conduct for Law Enforcement Officials and

1 the 1990 UN Basic Principles on the Use of Force and Firearms by Law Enforcement  
2 Officials; and be it

3 FURTHER RESOLVED, That the Board of Supervisors further urges the United States  
4 Department of State to urgently ensure that companies operating in the Niger Delta comply  
5 with the Voluntary Principles for Security and Human Rights; and be it

6 FURTHER RESOLVED, That the Board of Supervisors urges international donors to  
7 increase education, health, and social services aid in the Niger Delta, in full consultation with  
8 local communities; and be it

9 FURTHER RESOLVED, That the Board of Supervisors urges international oil companies  
10 operating in the Delta to establish a fund from oil profits, earmarked for increased education,  
11 health and social services, and environmental cleanup, and administered by local  
12 communities; and be it

13 FURTHER RESOLVED, That the Board of Supervisors urges the Secretary General of the  
14 United Nations to constitute a ten-year follow-up mission to Ogoniland and Delta areas.  
15  
16  
17  
18  
19  
20  
21  
22  
23  
24  
25