



PRESS RELEASE

STATE OF EMERGENCY (FROM ECOCIDE TO SYSTEMIC GENOCIDE) IN BILLE KINGDOM, RIVERS STATE; FOLLOWING THE PREVENTABLE DEATH OF GAS-EXPLOSION VICTIM, MISS JOY AMOS.

PORT HARCOURT, NIGERIA SEPTEMBER 22, 2026

The Niger Delta Environmental Justice Lawyers' Network (NDEJLN) receives the news of the tragic passing of Miss Joy Amos with profound grief and outrage.

Miss Amos succumbed to severe, extensive burns sustained during a devastating gas explosion in her residence on September 3, 2026, in Bille Community, Degema Local Government Area, Rivers State. The explosion devastated her residential structures and shattered the glass windows. Her death cannot be dismissed as a domestic accident. It is the direct, fatal consequence of systemic negligence and persistent corporate and state inaction on the persistent oil and gas pollution occurring daily in the Niger Delta region in Nigeria.

A FOREWARNED CRISIS: THE COST OF INSTITUTIONAL INACTION

For over a year, the people of Bille Kingdom have been forced to coexist with volatile gas seepages and hazardous emissions bubbling through their soil, water sources, and residential areas. Despite months of documented warnings from community members, scientific reports highlighting critical levels of methane gas, and sustained advocacy





from civil society organizations, the response from Nigerian regulatory bodies has been inadequate.

During a recent fact-finding mission embarked on by Members of this Network, on September 17, 2026, experts observed extensive ecological destruction: waterways saturated with toxic pollutants, fire explosions, and a population breathing poisoned air and accumulating toxic gases in their bodies.

Despite a Federal Government delegation visit in July 2026 promising immediate intervention and emergency infrastructure, these commitments remained empty promises as at the time of this unfortunate incident.

The September 3 2026 explosion was the predictable outcome of this systemic failure. How many lives must be sacrificed before the crisis in Bille is treated with the urgency it demands?

DECLARATION OF A COMMUNITY EMERGENCY

The situation in Bille is no longer a localized environmental hazard; it is a full-blown human rights and environmental disaster. The continued refusal of regulatory bodies and oil operators to isolate and seal the source of the gas emissions constitutes active endangerment of human life and a violation of constitutionally guaranteed fundamental rights.





NIGER DELTA ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE LAWYERS' FORUM

Clean Environment | Justice for Communities | Sustainable Future

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OUR DEMANDS

The Niger Delta Environmental Justice Lawyers' Network hereby demands that the Federal Government of Nigeria, the Rivers State Government, **Nigerian National Petroleum Company Limited (NNPC Limited)** and the Nigerian

Upstream Petroleum Regulatory Commission (NUPRC) execute the following actions immediately:

- a. Independent Forensic Investigation:** A full medical autopsy and forensic inquiry into the death of Miss Joy Amos to ascertain direct liability for the explosion.
- b. Containment and Technical Audit:** Immediate deployment of specialized technical teams to identify, isolate, and permanently seal the source of the gas seepage.
- c. Emergency Evacuation and Humanitarian Relief:** The immediate, safe temporary relocation of affected residents, alongside the provision of portable water, relief materials and emergency healthcare.
- d. Ecological Remediation and Public Health Tracking:** A comprehensive environmental restoration program and a health impact study for the residents of Bille Kingdom.





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The time for administrative promises has passed.

We demand compensation for the Family of Late Miss Joy Amos and other affected persons in Bille Kingdom.

The protection of Bille Kingdom and other areas in the Niger Delta affected by unprecedented oil and gas pollution require immediate, decisive intervention!

SIGNED:

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SECRETARY**

For: The Niger Delta Environmental Justice Lawyers' Network (NDEJLN)

