Title of Article: The Niger Delta Crisis: Challenges and Prospects for Peace and Stability

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Abstract: The Niger Delta region of Nigeria is indeed a convergence of squalor in abundance. It holds some of the world’s richest Oil deposits, yet, Nigerians living there are poorer than ever. The land and water have been greatly polluted, the people are hungry, violence, murder and hostage taking has become very rampant. There are no infrastructural facilities in most parts of the region as what are easily noticeable are dense, garbage-heaped slums stretching for miles. Villages and towns cling to river banks, little more than heaps of mud-walled huts and rusty shacks. Groups of hungry, half-naked children and sullen, idle adults wander dirt paths. There is no electricity, no clean water, no medicine, and no schools. Also, their means of livelihood, farming and fishing, have been destroyed by decades of Oil pollution. The crisis in the Niger Delta poses intractable problems to the survival of the country, just as the situation in the region is deteriorating. Today, there is increased violence, threats, kidnapping and demands by the militants against government officials, their families and the Oil companies. This has drastically affected Oil production. There is an urgent need on the part of government, the Oil companies and privileged citizens from the region to provide jobs for its impoverished populace. With declining revenues from crude oil and domestic fuel shortages coupled with increased violence in the region, this paper attempts to proffer solutions that will guarantee peace and stability in the region.