Title of Article: Poverty and Ethnic Militia Activities in the Niger Delta, Nigeria: A Critical Appraisal

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Outlet: A Paper Presented at the International Conference on Conflict Management and Peace Building in Africa. Delta State University, Abraka,

Date: 2006

Abstract: The challenges of petroleum pipeline vandalization have become more frequent and very disturbing. This is due largely to the extent of human lives and properties that are lost due to such occurrences. The understanding here is that the perpetrators of these acts are mostly young persons who ordinarily belong to the active labour force but suffer from severe lack and want due to excruciating levels of poverty and unemployment. The economic situation in the country has gotten worse as the gap between the rich and the poor has widened. What have emerged across the country are agitated youths who desperately need to survive. With scarcity and hoarding of petroleum products and the flagrant increases in the prices of petroleum products coupled with the insensitivity on the part of government to the plight of the masses, people have resorted to unlawful acts to get what they want. This paper therefore examines the role government and organizations interested in ameliorating the sufferings of the masses must do to address the challenges of poverty and unemployment with the hope that it will help reduce petroleum pipeline vandalization and bring sanity to the society.