

**THE UNITED STATES WARNS ITS CITIZENS:  
STEER CLEAR OF NIGERIA, PLEASE !**

While The Movement for the Emancipation of the Niger Delta of Nigeria, steps up actions against the foreign oil workers of the country, claiming that the Government of Nigeria is corrupt and that the indigenous peoples of the Niger Delta are starving due to bigwigs in the Nigerian Government, skimming off the cream from oil revenues, leaving little for the people of the country, the US Government has, outwardly, concurs with some, if not all, of the allegations of this Movement.

Nigeria, under normal conditions, exports about 2.60 million barrels of crude oil per day, making it the eighth largest exporter of oil in the world and, definitely, the largest oil exporter of the African Continent, but The Movement for the Emancipation of the Niger Delta wants to stop all oil exports from the country in order to give it the trump card, during negotiations with the Nigerian Government.

Recently, the US Government, via The Department of State, put out, what it calls, a '*Nigeria Travel Warning*'.

The Nigeria Travel Warning was sent to select people and organisations, only, and states, inter alia, that there is a '*lack of law and order in Nigeria*', which poses a severe threat to travellers.

The Warning goes on to state:

*'Violent crime committed by ordinary criminals, as well as by persons in police and military uniforms, can occur throughout the country. In recent months, Lagos has witnessed a spike in crime. Some expatriates have been robbed in the outlying Lagos suburb of Lekki. In a working class section of mainland Lagos, an October 2005 clash between police and residents left several dead. Even Victoria and Ikoyi Islands, which are generally safer than other parts of Lagos, have experienced attempted bank robberies, and have seen an increase in smash-and-grab car robberies, including some involving expatriates.'*

In the Niger Delta, where The Movement for the Emancipation of the Niger Delta operates, The US State Department stated:

*'Security conditions in the Niger Delta region have continued to deteriorate. Armed local groups have attacked oil-company facilities, resulting in several deaths. In this area, the threat to expatriate oil workers of kidnapping for ransom or other objectives remains high.'*

*'Religious tension between some Muslim and Christian communities results in occasional acts of isolated communal violence that could erupt quickly and without warning. The states of Kano and Kaduna are particularly volatile. Rival ethnic groups have clashed violently in the Niger Delta region around Warri city and in Southeast Plateau State. Senior al-Qaida leadership has expressed interest publicly in overthrowing the government of Nigeria.'*

*'Links also were uncovered connecting Nigerians to al-Qaida in 2004.'*

Even taking a taxi in Nigeria is to be avoided, the US Government warned:

*‘Road travel is dangerous. Robberies by armed gangs have been reported on rural roads and within major cities. Travelers should avoid driving at night. Because of poor vehicle maintenance and driving conditions, public transportation throughout Nigeria can be dangerous and should be avoided.*

*‘Taxis pose risks because of the possibility of fraudulent or criminal operators, old and unsafe vehicles, and poorly maintained roads.’*

The US Government’s warning is, clearly, a precursor to action, being planned by The State Department or other organs of the US Government, either overtly or covertly, since it appears to fit into the US Government’s avowed attempts to be proactive in its war against international terrorists, with emphasis on the al-Qaeda (sometimes spelt, al-Qaida) organisation, which is headed by the most-wanted man in the world: Osama bin Laden.

But what is very obvious, also, is that the US Government realises that the Government of Nigeria is, in fact, extremely corrupt and, as such, it is warning US citizens to steer clear of the country – because the US Government, at this point in time, is almost helpless to assist one of its citizens in this African country in the event that the Government of Nigeria takes umbrage at the actions of the United States or of one of its citizens, who happens to be in the country.

With Iran’s Government, being openly defiant of the United Nations (UN) and being insistent in its determination to proceed with its nuclear research, which could well lead to this Islamic, fundamentalist country, manufacturing weapons of mass destruction, including but not limited to nuclear weaponry, and since Iran is the fourth largest exporter of crude oil in the world, should that country, along with Nigeria, stop exports of crude oil, it would mean that about 17 percent of the exports of oil from the cartel of The Organisation of the Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC) would be halted.

The Iranian Government, on Wednesday, January 18, 2006, warned the US that, should the UN impose sanctions on the country due to Iran’s decision to continue with its nuclear ambitions, the price of crude oil could well rise to record levels, levels which, in the past, were not thought possible.

The official statement from the Iranian Oil Ministry was very clear and was, without question, a threat to the US Government.

Crude oil, today, is an international currency, which is being jealously guarded; and, the Western World is unlikely to sit back and be held to ransom by Iran or any other nation.

Clearly, the US Government is watching, carefully, in order to determine whether or not Iran/al-Qaeda will try to form a coalition with The Movement for the Emancipation of the Niger Delta as a type of counter-measure against the UN and the United States.

The US Government’s warning about the way that it sees the situation in Nigeria is very explicit: It pulls no punches.

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