

4.4 Along a section of two kilometres of the Shell road in Babbe kingdom, a wall enclosure adjacent to the road is the remnant of an abandoned fishery project. The vast area of agricultural land enclosed had been expropriated without compensation to the proprietors. The land has not been reopened to agricultural use.

4.5 The Eleme Housing Estate Project of the federal government has been partly accomplished, but abandoned. No one has had the opportunity to enter one of the houses. The area had been enclosed and expropriated without compensation to the prior land owners. A similar project was accomplished in Abuja.⁵⁰

4.6 The Ogonis consider it as very offensive that Shell has announced the described projects (see 4.2) as progress in Ogoni land, but doesn't complete them. The "Shell village" is considered as a symbol for Shell's neglect of its community development programme relative to its own housing facilities.⁵¹



Eleme Gas Turbine Power Station, Eleme Housing Project, Shell residential area ("Shell Village") in Port Harcourt.

Pictures: Max Mader

4.7 Petrochemical, the major oil refinery in Eleme near Port Harcourt, gave a cow worth 45,000 Naira and 15,000 Naira cash as a Christmas present to the Eleme village in 2002. As a gesture of compensation, support in establishing drinking water sources and schools would have been preferred. For the population that suffers from respiratory problems and pollution from the sustained gas flaring of Petrochemical, this Christmas present is so ill-related to the costs inflicted upon the community that it is recognised as offensive appeasement.⁵²

5.0 THE ASYLUM SEEKERS IN BENIN

5.1 As is well known, large-scale armed attacks against the Ogoni communities happened in 1993/94. After Ken Saro-Wiwa had handed in the Ogoni bill of rights followed by a reminder one year later, armed groups that were recognised as Shell soldiers and supported by the military government came from Andoni, intruded Ogoni, and destroyed thirteen villages in the Ibadan area. Ken Saro-Wiwa's father Chief Pa Jim Saro-Wiwa gave a description of the events.⁵³ The international media are in accordance with this description, although it is difficult to correctly assess the mutual involvements. Since these events, the Republic of Benin had become the predominant West African destination for refugees who escaped persecution by Nigerian government authorities.