

BIOGRAPHY OF ANSLEM DORNUBARI JOHN-MILLER

Anslem Dornubari John-Miller was born on August 28, 1970, in Kono Town in Ken Khana Kingdom of Ogoni, Rivers State, Nigeria. He had his primary and secondary education at Army Children's School Bori and Birabi Memorial Grammar School, Bori, respectively between 1976 and 1986. In 1990, I was admitted into University of Port-Harcourt where I studied Economics and Psychology and bagged a Bachelor of Education (B.Ed) Degree after the completion of a four year program in 1995. During my undergraduate years, I belonged to several organizations and held leadership positions. Between 1994 and 1995, I served as the Chairman of the National Caretaker Committee of the National Union of Ogoni Students (NUOS), the umbrella students' body of all Ogoni students in tertiary institutions in Nigeria as well as the students' organ of the Movement for the Survival of the Ogoni People (MOSOP), the parent body under which the Ogoni non-violent struggle environmental and social justice is being carried out. During my tenure as leader of the National Union of Ogoni Students, several enlightenment and mobilization activities and programs were organized and the success of my efforts coupled with my commitment and dedication to the MOSOP non-violent struggle led to my persecution and that of my entire family. My parents, brothers, sisters and relatives were harassed and severally detained by Nigerian security operatives. As the persecution intensified, I fled Nigeria in February 1996 to neighboring Benin Republic to seek protection with the United Nations High Commission for Refugees (UNHCR).

During my brief stay in the refugee camp in Benin Republic, I founded the National Union of Ogoni Students (NUOS Benin Republic). Under the auspices of the organization, we educated, and enlightened and the public on the situation in Ogoni as well as drew attention to the plight of Ogoni refugees who were predominantly students and youth. Seven months later, precisely on September 17, 1996, I was resettled in Chicago, United States of America. On arrival in the United States, I joined mobilized Ogoni students and was instrumental to the formation of the National Union of Ogoni Students (NUOS International, USA) and became the first President of the organization. Under my leadership, the organization organized various educational and awareness events to draw the attention of the public and especially the United States government to the plight of Ogoni refugees in Benin Republic and the general situation in Ogoniland and Nigeria. My efforts resulted in the resettlement of over about 1000 Ogoni families in the United States during the height of the Ogoni refugee crisis. In recognition of my untiring efforts to seek justice for the Ogoni people, I was nominated 3 times of the prestigious students' peace prize in Norway and has received various local awards in his native land Ogoni. In 2002, I mobilized Ogoni students and others and in our quest to seek justice for the role of Shell in the human rights and crimes from 1990 to 1996,

we filed a historic class action lawsuit against Shell in a federal court in the Southern District of New York.

This historic case is the same case popularly known as *Kiobel, et al vs. Shell*, which was argued before the United States Supreme Court via-a-vis the Alien Tort Claims Statute before the Supreme Court on February 28, 2012. At present, Anslem John-Miller is the founder/leader of the Council of Ogoni Professionals, an umbrella organization of all Ogoni professionals (COP International, USA, with headquarters based in St. Louis, Missouri. COP International, USA is one of the units of the Movement for the Survival of the Ogoni People (MOSOP). The objective of the group is "To promote skills, technology, and scientific innovations and increase the professional capacity of Ogonis". The goals of the organization include "(1)To provide professional support to Ogonis in order to enhance human capital development; (2)To critically analyze the root causes of underdevelopment and other related problems in Ogoni and Nigeria's Niger Delta and proffer professional, practical and meaningful ways to prevent, manage and resolve such problems, challenges and conflicts; (3)To embark on projects and programs that will enhance the educational, social, economic, political, cultural, scientific and technological development of Ogoni and (4) To serve as a think-tank on issues of sustainable development, peace, democracy and human rights in Nigeria and the entire African Continent. Finally, Anslem John-Miller is the Chairman of the MOSOP-Chicago Chapter's Fundraising and Advocacy Committee. More details on MOSOP and COP International, USA can be obtained from the internet.