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Impact of Niger Delta Crisis and National Security in Nigeria: Appraisal of the Amnesty Programme Granted

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Abstract: The fragility of the nation's take-off, as the historical antecedent, created Nigeria's socio-economic, cultural and political woes. The Nigerian historical developments are better explained by the adage that says "when a fowl perches on the rope, it and the rope automatically become unsettled." This largely remains so till this moment in Nigeria's history as the various events portend particularly in the Niger Delta region. The character and attitude of the Federal Government to the agitation in the region is well known and documented. The use of force to keep the people down and exploit their oil and gas resources could not resolve the crises. In spite of the fact that we now have a 'stable' and 'fraudulent' democratic government in place, the country is yet to be freed from disturbing socio-economic, cultural and political developments. Today, it is innocuous to state that Nigeria is still without a properly consolidated political system. It is a known fact that with the proclamation of the amnesty there seems to be relative peace and national security have since returned to the region. However, the Federal Government is still trying to restore peace in some places with the aim of restoring peace and safety of the nation's economy.

Keywords: Niger Delta Crisis, National Security, Nigeria, Amnesty Programme